# TECHNICAL WORKSHOP & TRADE EXPO

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RNG Project Development: Integrating Environmental & Engineering Services to Reduce Project Timelines and Optimize Operational Flexibility

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#### **Presentation Goals**

- Air permitting requirements typical to RNG projects
- Regulatory hurdles that can affect project design and construction schedule
- Practical tips for minimizing regulatory requirements and optimizing operational flexibility
- An RNG developer's real-life experiences integrating environmental and project design considerations into dairy farm RNG projects





# **Environmental Drivers for RNG Projects**

#### Pre-construction approvals







ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW



**WETLANDS** 

#### Pre-operation approvals





WASTEWATER

STORM WATER





ACCIDENTAL RELEASE

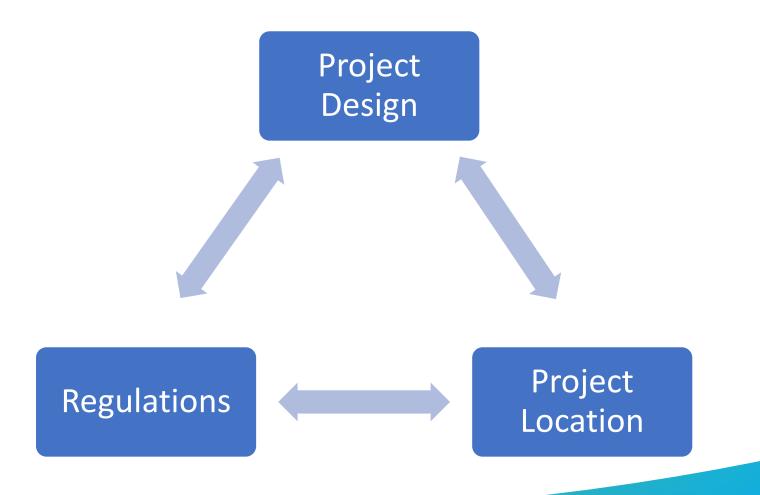
WASTE







# Air Permitting Considerations for RNG Projects







#### Project Design Factors on Air Permitting

- Project type:
  - Dairy farm RNG projects (animal waste digesters)
  - Other digestor RNG projects (food waste, wastewater)
  - Landfills (LFG to RNG projects)
- Key operating conditions:
  - Quantity and H<sub>2</sub>S content of generated biogas (hourly and annual)
  - Efficiency of emissions control equipment
  - Engine/turbine parameters if generating electricity
  - Support (boilers, generators, pressurized truck filling, etc.)
  - Property size and equipment layout







#### Regulations Affecting Air Permitting

- Major source status
  - Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) if SO<sub>2</sub>,
     NO<sub>x</sub>, or CO > 250 tpy
    - Best available control technology (BACT)
    - Air quality impact evaluation
    - Enhanced public participation on draft permit
  - Title V if SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, or CO > 100 tpy
- Minor source permitting requirements







#### Project Location Affecting Air Permitting

- Nuances between state permitting programs can result in unanticipated project delays, design changes, or construction costs
- State permitting differences:
  - Air modeling requirements can drive additional control, taller stacks
  - Air toxics programs may focus on H<sub>2</sub>S
  - Lack of experience with RNG projects (how to handle digester commissioning)
  - Public participation process
  - Construction waiver provisions
- Permit issuance can range from 3 to 12 months after application submittal







#### **Practical Air Permitting Tips**

- Evaluate state-specific permitting requirements
  - Exemptions for small emissions units (e.g., boilers)
  - Construction waiver eligibility
  - Permit processing timeline
- Conduct pre-application technical analyses early in the project
  - Modeling and control technology evaluations could affect final plant design
- Balance operational flexibility with regulatory triggers
- Engage the state regulatory authority early in the process







## Practical Air Permitting Tips (Cont.)

- Permit negotiation
  - Review similar permits issued by the state agency
  - Offer to draft permit conditions
  - Don't accept a condition that you can't comply with under all operating conditions
- Public participation
  - Know the state-specific policies and/or regulatory triggers
  - If adverse public comment expected, engage affected stakeholders before draft permit issued
    - Possible key issues: Odors, truck traffic, pipeline installation







- Nationwide developer of dairy Renewable Natural gas projects
- Two projects operational Q4 2023, Two under construction, Six starting construction 2024 stretching from South Dakota to Vermont
- Over 30 Novilla employees, with management team experience leading over 35 dairy RNG and Landfill Gas projects
- Internal Development, Construction, and Engineering using Novilla Employees
- Projects originated, permitted, developed, engineered, operated, and owned by Novilla RNG.

OVILLA RNG



Red Leaf RNG Project Saranac, MI

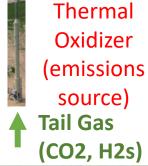


# How a Novilla RNG Dairy RNG Project Works

Boiler (emissions source)

















Manure collected in barns

Sand removed from manure

Digester RNG Upgrading Plant

Injection into natural gas pipeline









Lagoon or Screw Presses



# Why Air Permitting is the Most Important Part of Business Development

#### Air Permitting determines:

- RNG upgrading choice
- Site layout
- H<sub>2</sub>S removal
- Is the project financially feasible
- Timeline for construction





#### **Considerations in Air Permitting**

- Current herd size and future herd sizes
- Variations in  $H_2S$  out of digester (typically 2,000 ppm to 6,000 ppm)
- Variation in gas production
- Outages and extended flaring
- Contours of land and stack heights
- Startup of digesters produces low methane and high H<sub>2</sub>S levels





## Typical Mistakes Made in Air Permitting

- Involve operations in the air permitting process
- Extended outages will happen, are you permitted to allow months of flaring?
- What happens when your H2S treatment fails?
- Business Development takes the "easy route" and permits less SO<sub>2</sub> emissions than what will really occur
- Consider neighbors and light pollution
- Flares can fail to light
   — place in an area where venting will not create a safety issue





#### Novilla RNG Air Permits Received Across Multiple Regulatory Regimes



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Questions?