Case Story

Flow Generation for ILI Work in Sensitive Fire Conditions

Client:

The client is a Canadian natural gas utility responsible for the safe and reliable operation of transmission and distribution pipelines across Western Canada. Their operations often require balancing system integrity work with strict environmental and public safety considerations.

Challenge:

The client was undertaking an integrity management program involving approximately eight inline inspection (ILI) runs on a transmission pipeline in Alberta. The project was in a heavily forested region experiencing extremely dry conditions, with elevated wildfire risk across the province. Fire safety was a primary concern. The use of a traditional flare stack, with its open, visible flame, was deemed unsuitable in these conditions, particularly given the surrounding dry vegetation and the potential concern it could create for the public. At the same time, sufficient gas velocity was required to successfully propel the inspection tools through the pipeline. Natural line pressure alone could not achieve the necessary flow rates, and cross-compression was not a viable option due to the lack of a suitable destination for the gas.

TCI Solution:

To generate the required flow, the client deployed a TCI dual 4800 trailer-mounted enclosed combustion unit. The system achieved approximately 50 e^3m^3/day, which was sufficient to meet velocity requirements for all ILI runs. Its enclosed design eliminated visible flame, making it more suitable for the conditions. This allowed the client to complete the inspection program efficiently while aligning with fire risk sensitivity and public perception.

ELIMINATED THE FLAME

IMPROVED COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Discreet Combustion

- No smoke, odor, or visible flame for discreet combustion.
- Minimize impact to local communities and residents.
- No radiant heat concerns.
- Enhanced safety.

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