

# Pipelining Hydrogen:

- **Gas and Hydrogen: Promising + Perilous**
- **Total transformation by 2050:**
  - **Decarbonization, de-GHG-emission**
  - **Quickly, prudently, profitably**
    - **Prudently: disruptive; don't cripple economy**
    - **Profitably: large capital flows only to high reward-to-risk**

## “Hydrogen is hard” -- difficult

- Molecule
- Substance
- Moving
- Storing
- System: leaks, hydrogen embrittlement
- Business case

Bill Leighty, Director  
The Leighty Foundation

# Pipelining Hydrogen:

**Why ?**

**Gas or liquid ?**

**Blend with NatGas or high-purity ?**

**Repurpose old pipes or new-build ?**

**Free “packing” storage ?**

**Salt cavern storage access ?**

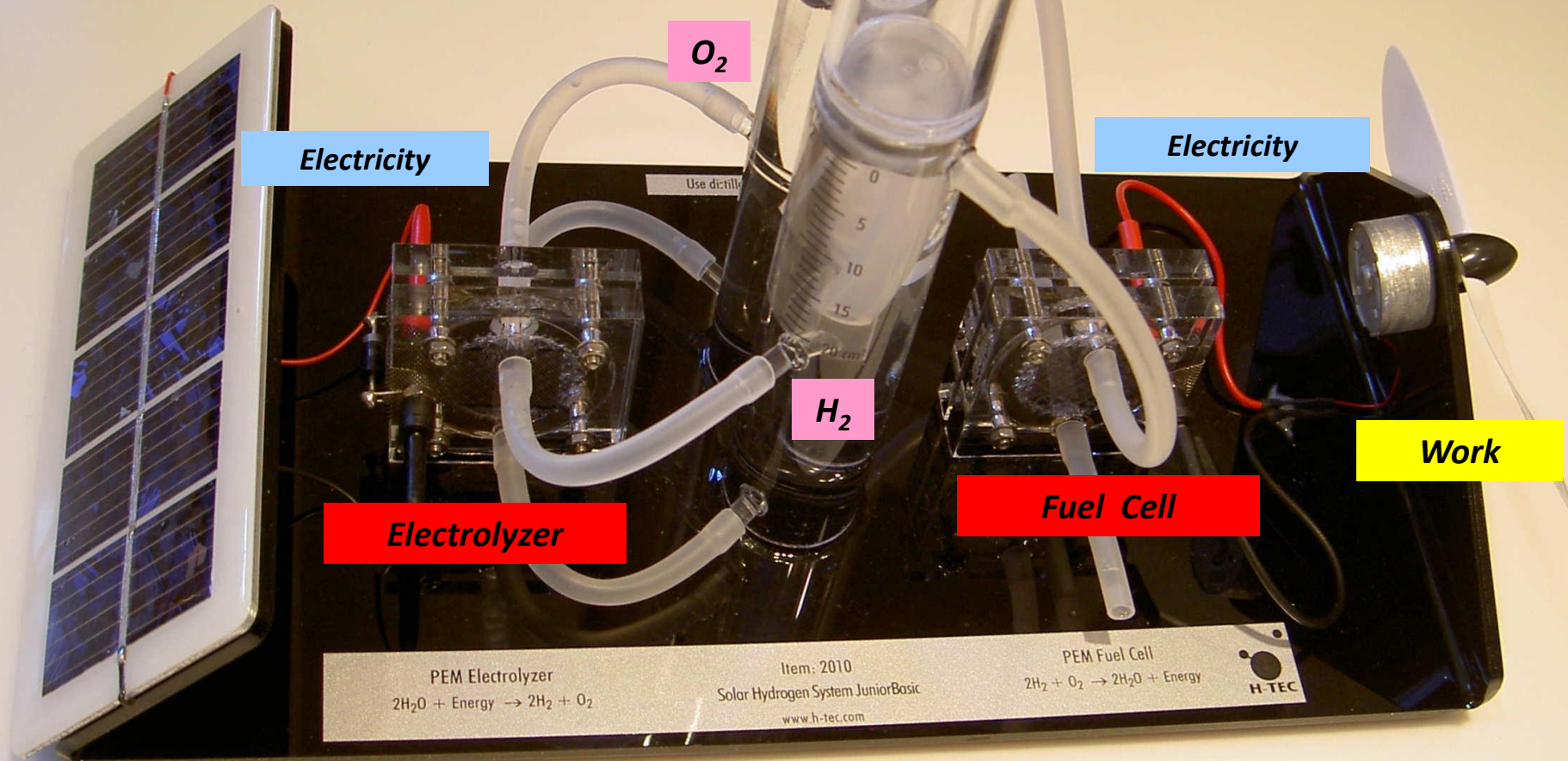
**Scale:**

- **Continental, global**
- **Total Energy + Industrial Feedstocks**
- **Total human enterprise**

Bill Leighty, Director  
The Leighty Foundation  
Juneau, Alaska USA

**“Hydrogen is hard” -- molecule, substance, system, business**

**Sunlight from  
local star**

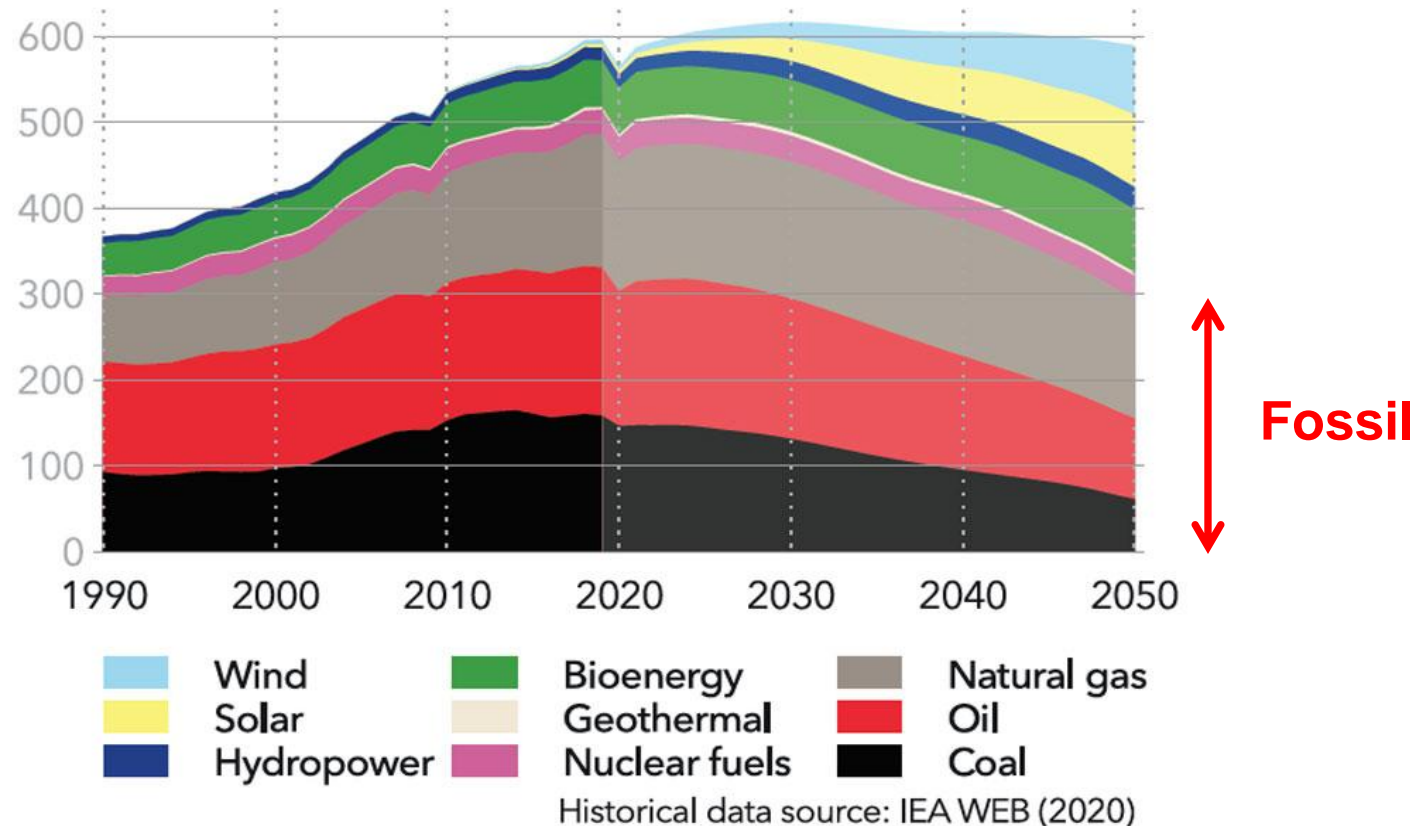


**Solar Hydrogen Energy System**

## World primary energy supply by source

Units: EJ/yr

Source: DNV Energy Transition Outlook 2021



**2050 :** Total De-carb, de-GHG-emission: anthropogenic  
Entire human enterprise: Energy + Industrial Feedstocks  
Fossil 50 % → Zero  
Geothermal insignificant  
Roles: Legacy Gas, Nascent Hydrogen ?  
Arrest: Climate catastrophe



# Pipelining Hydrogen:

- **“Total Systems” approach: humanity’s goals**
  - Total Energy + Industrial Feedstocks [E+IF]
  - Benign, firm, ubiquitous, competitive
- **Nascent Hydrogen vis-à-vis Grid ?**
  - Grid can’t: suboptimal
  - Trying delays total de-carb, de-GHG
  - Stop over-depending, over-investing
- **Need gas industry: H2 ? Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) ?**
- **Legacy gas assets: pipelines → NOW**

# Why pipeline H2 ?

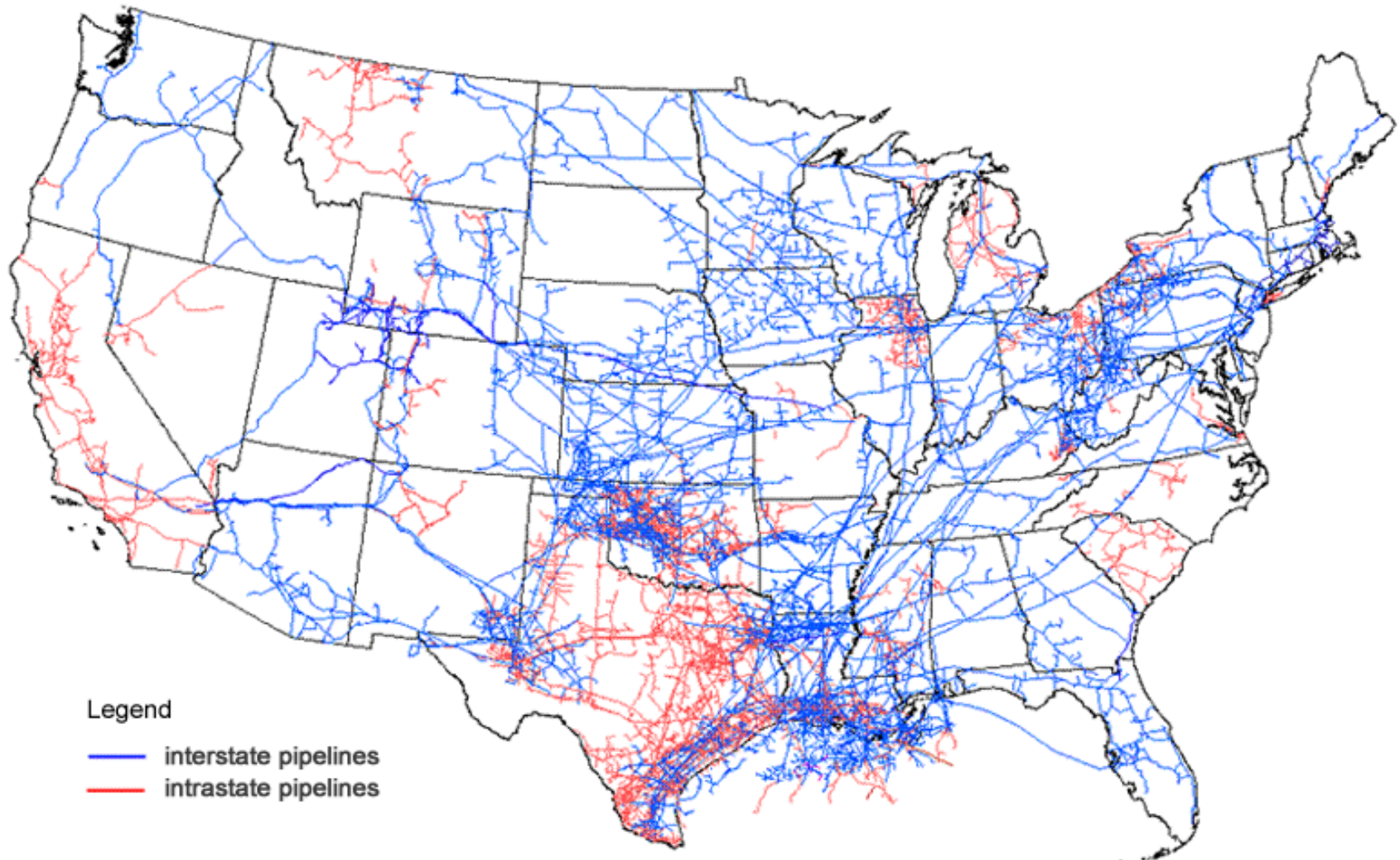
- Prevent catastrophic Climate Change
- Total de-carb, de-GHG-emission, entire human enterprise
- Carbon-free energy carrier, storage medium, fuel
- Transform world's largest industry
- Now: SMR to refineries
- Now: Blending in NatGas pipelines
- Access GHG-emission-free sources: “clean”, “green”
- Lower cost than electricity:
  - Transmission
  - Storage
  - Off-Grid H2 production
- “Whole system”: gather, transmission, storage, distribution
  - Resilient, Slow
  - Underground: safer, low O&M
  - “Free” storage by “packing”

# Why pipeline H2 ?

- Lower-cost:
  - Transmission
  - Storage
  - Off-Grid H2 production
- “Whole system”: gather, transmission, storage, distribution
  - Diverse, dispersed “renewables”
  - “Free” storage
  - Underground: safer, low O&M
- **Large legacy pipeline assets: “Ready “ ?**
  - **Repurpose for GH2, liquid NH3 ?**
  - **Modify, renovate ? How ?**
  - **Replace; use ROW ? With what ?**
  - **Safety first**

# NatGas pipelines

Map of U.S. interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines

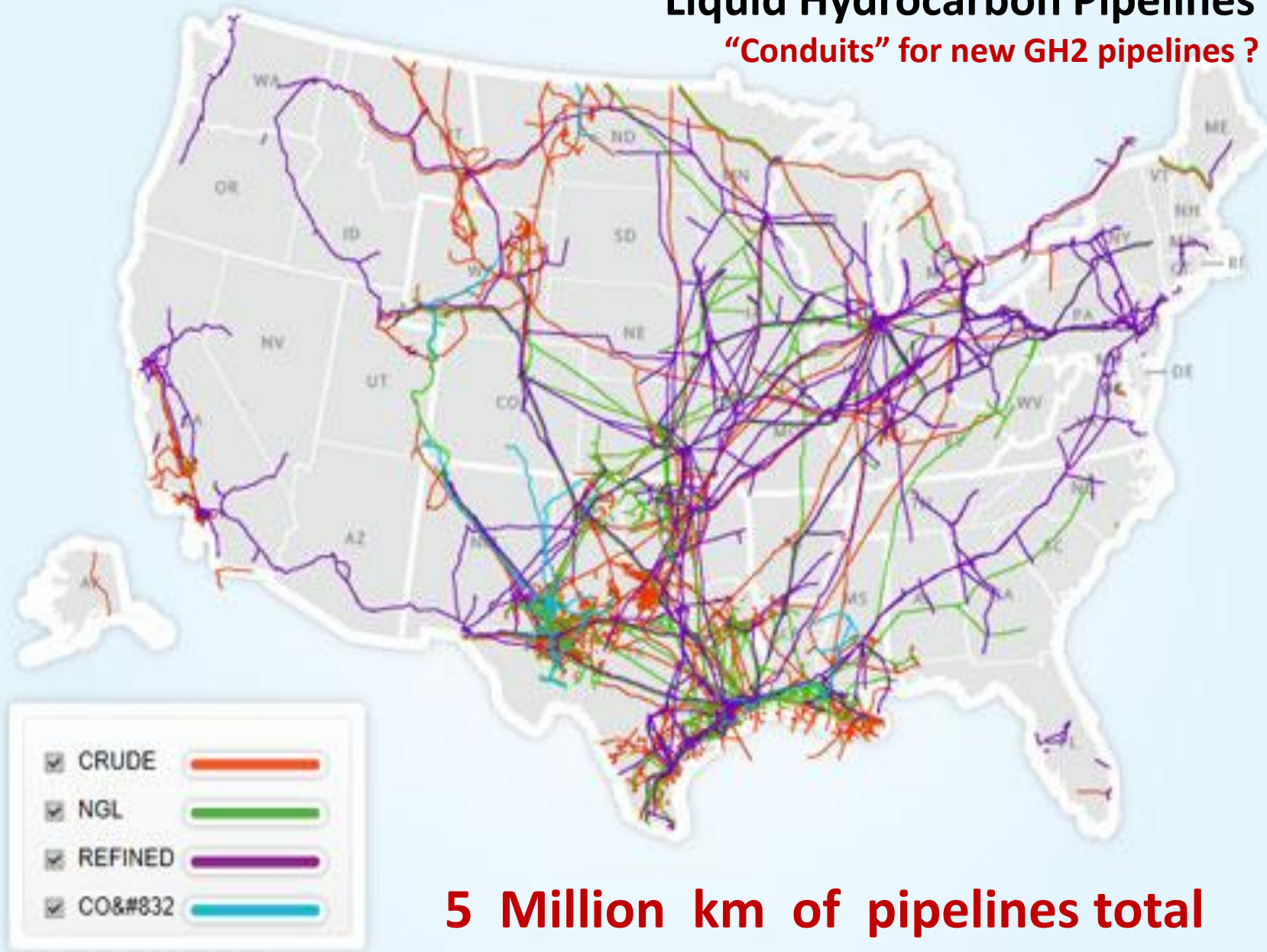


Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *About U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines*



# Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipelines

**“Conduits” for new GH2 pipelines ?**



**5 Million km of pipelines total**

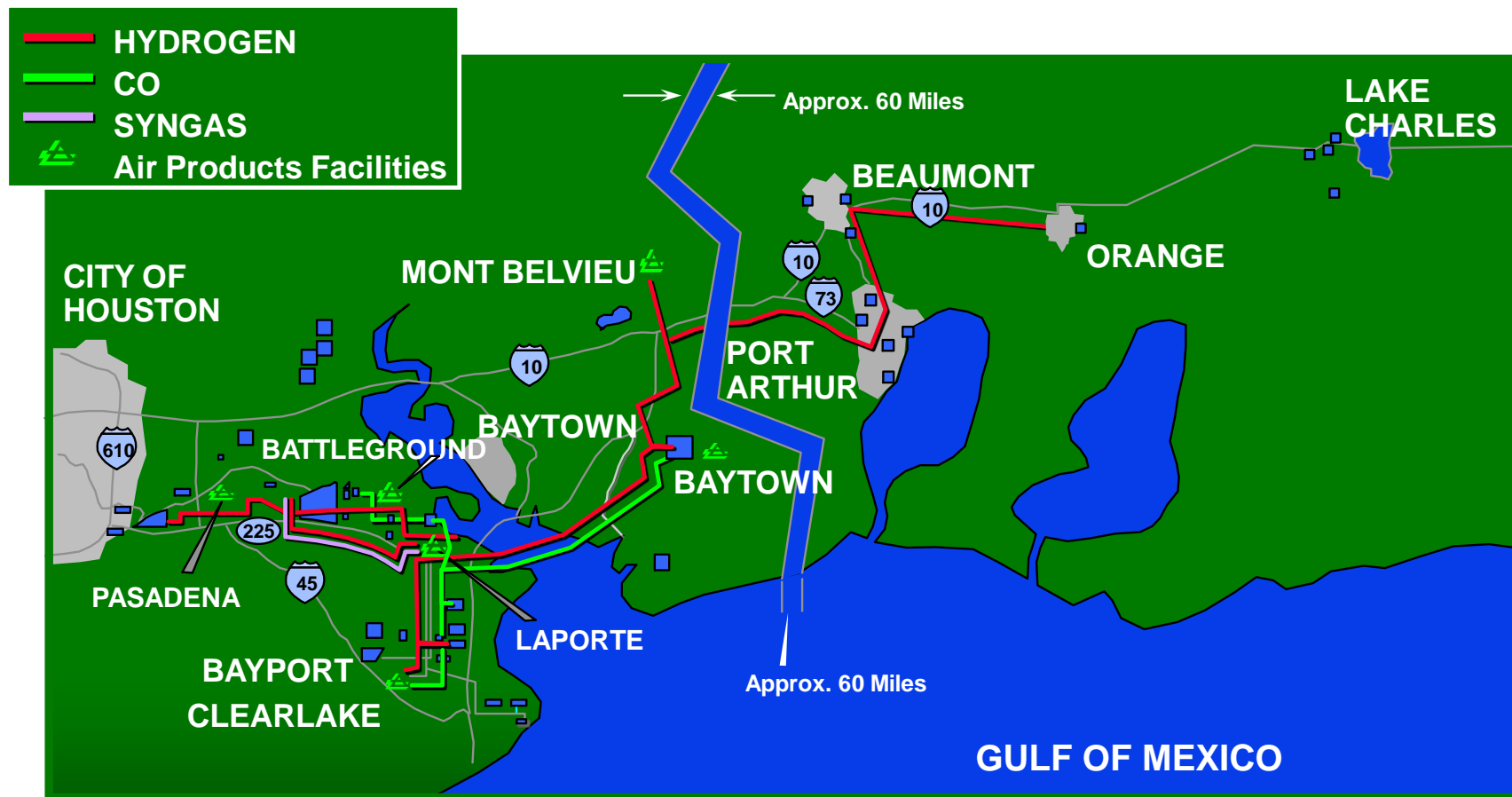
Source: American Energy Mapping (AEM) 2013

# Already Pipelining Hydrogen

- ~ 100 MMT (million tons) per year, global
- ~ 5,000 km gaseous hydrogen (GH<sub>2</sub>) pipelines
- SMR \* → Oil refineries
- Methane CH<sub>4</sub> → H<sub>2</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub>
- GH<sub>2</sub> pipelines:
  - Low pressure ( ~ 20 – 30 bar)
  - Constant pressure
  - Low-alloy or carbon steel
  - Thick wall
  - Industrial corridors
  - Good monitoring and repair

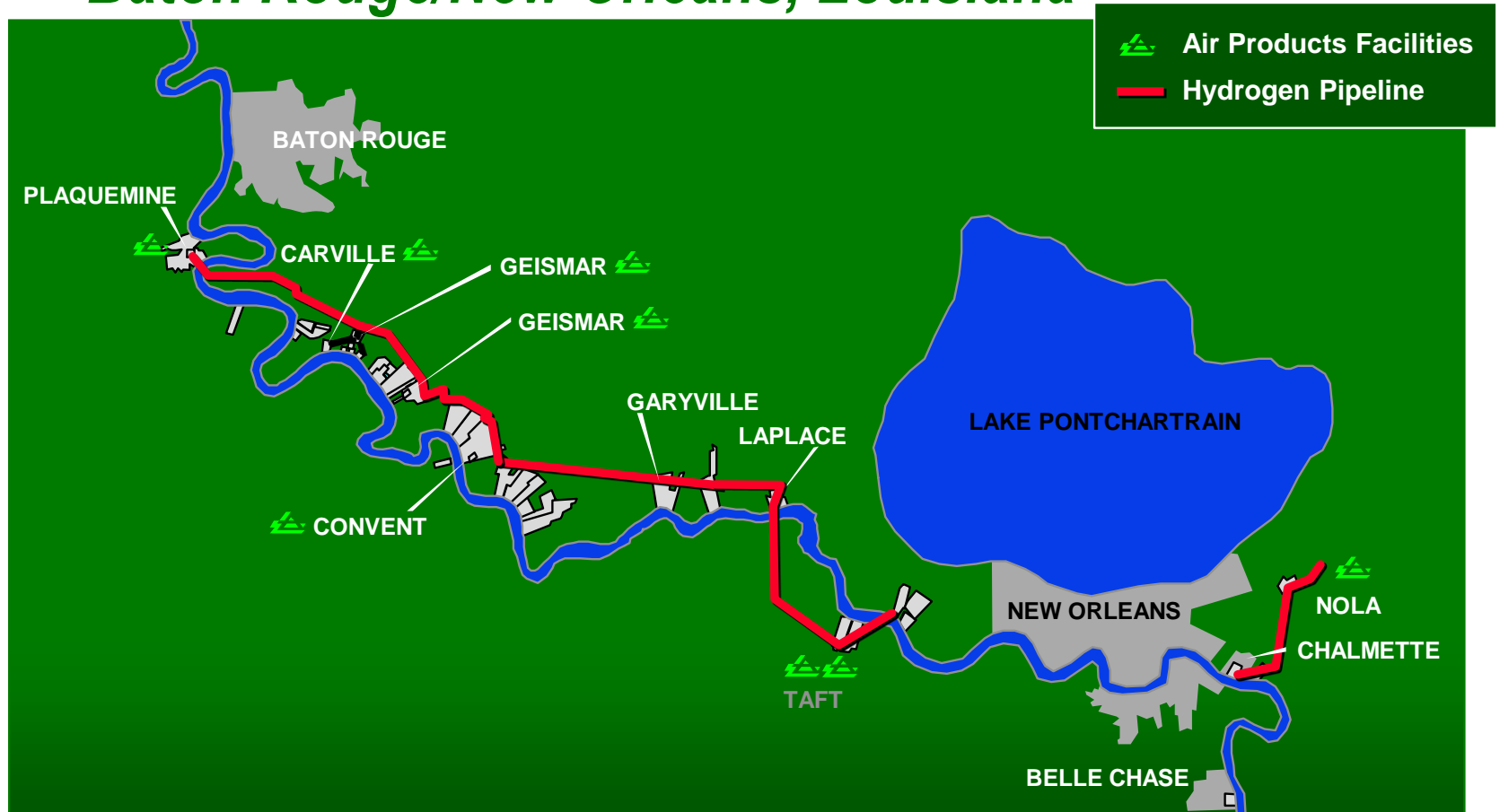
\* SMR = Steam Methane Reformer

# Air Products H<sub>2</sub> / CO Pipeline - Texas Gulf Coast



**Refinery Hydrogen Pipeline  
From SMR**

# Air Products H<sub>2</sub> Pipeline *Baton Rouge/New Orleans, Louisiana*

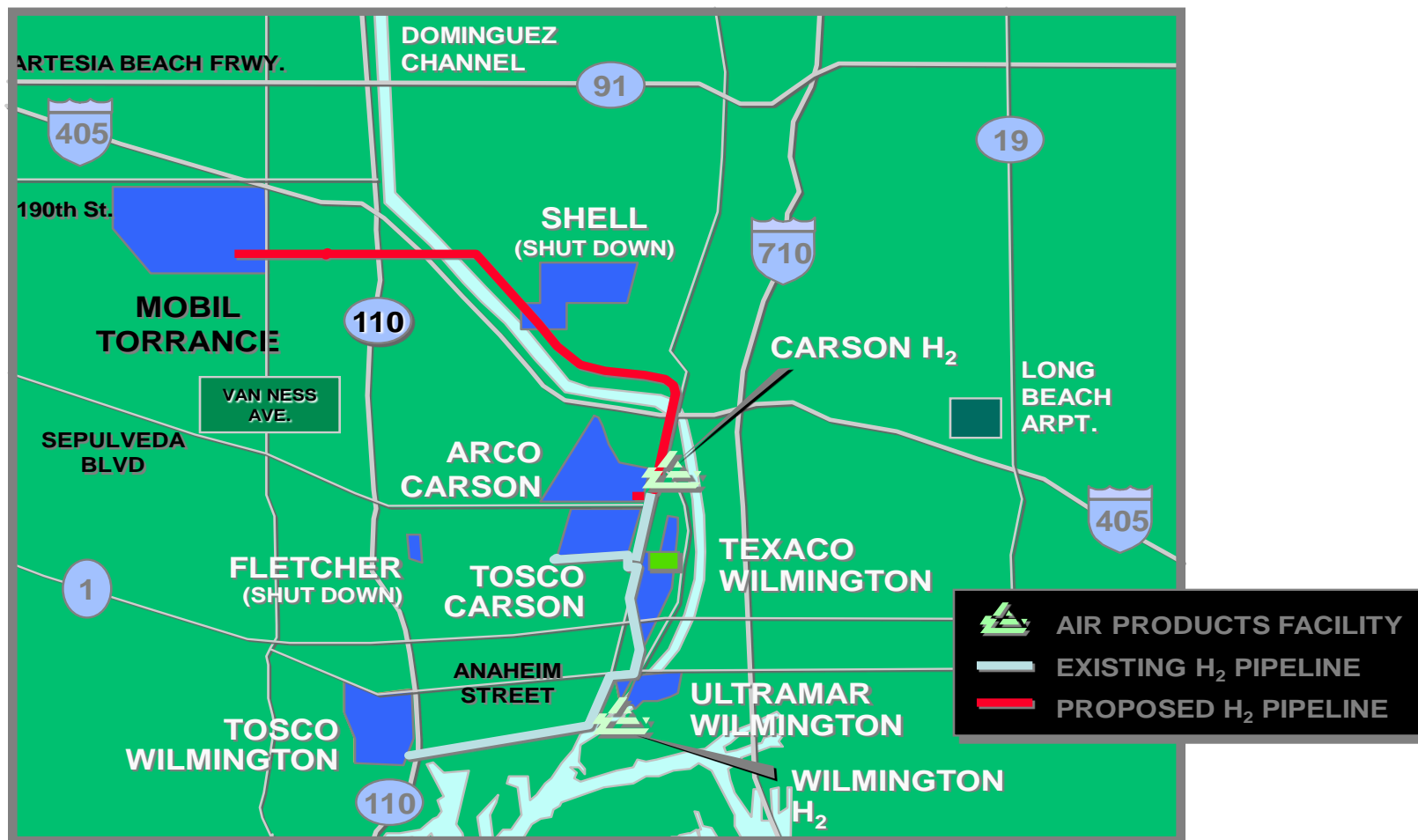


**Refinery Hydrogen Pipeline  
From SMR**

# ***Air Products Company***

## REFINERY ACTIVITY

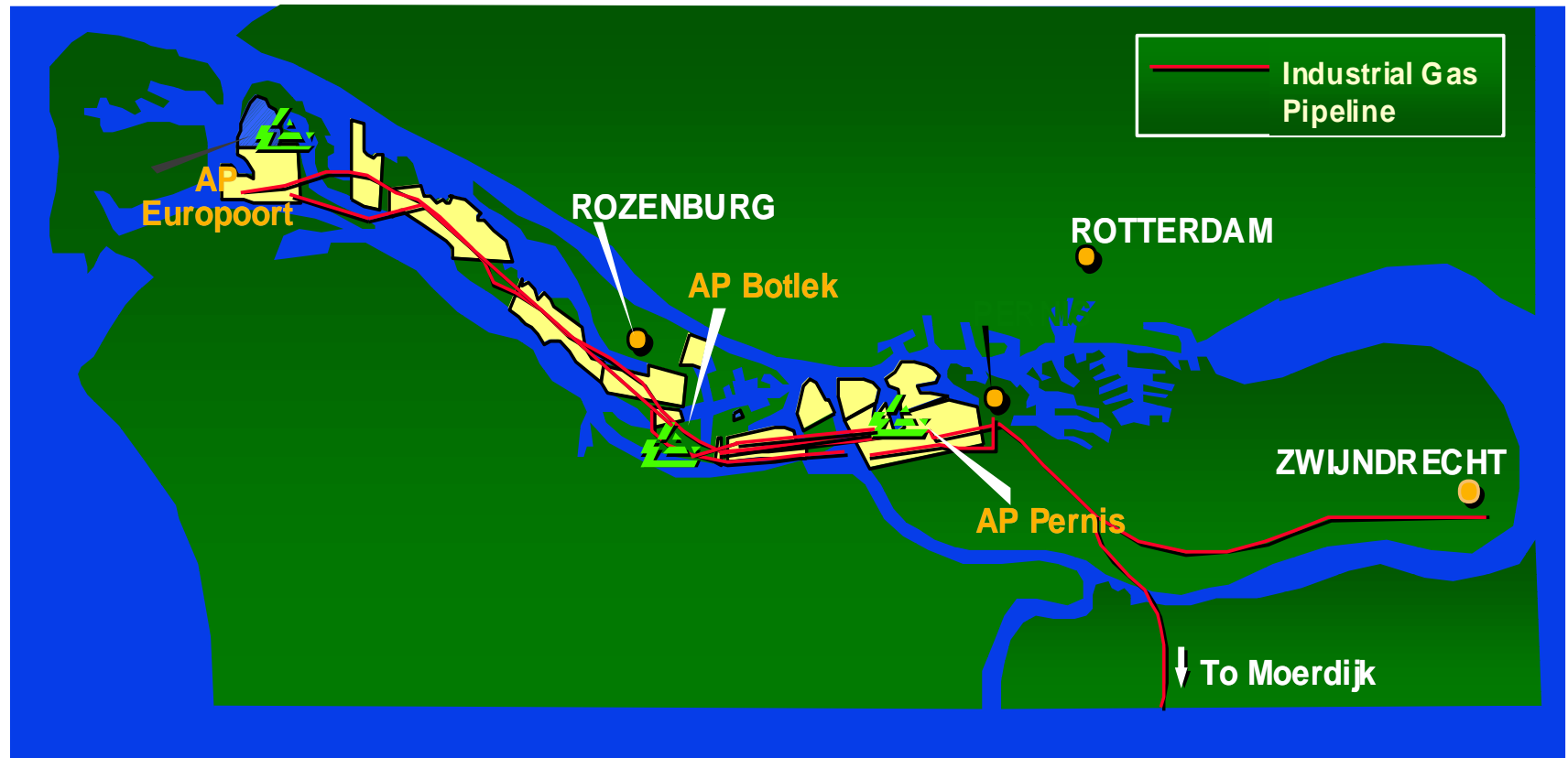
### LOS ANGELES BASIN, CALIFORNIA



**Refinery Hydrogen Pipeline  
From SMR**



# Rotterdam Pipeline System



hyco99ppt 4

Refinery Hydrogen Pipeline  
From SMR

# Dangers

**“Hydrogen is hard” -- difficult**

- Molecule
- Substance
- System
- Business
- Time, money

**Hydrogen Embrittlement (HE)**

**Hydrogen Corrosion Cracking (HCC)**

**Legacy “Refinery” pipelines:**

- Low-alloy steel
- High-quality steel: few flaws
- Low pressure
- Constant pressure
- Industrial corridors

Bill Leighty, Director  
The Leighty Foundation  
Juneau, Alaska USA

# Hydrogen Embrittlement (HE)

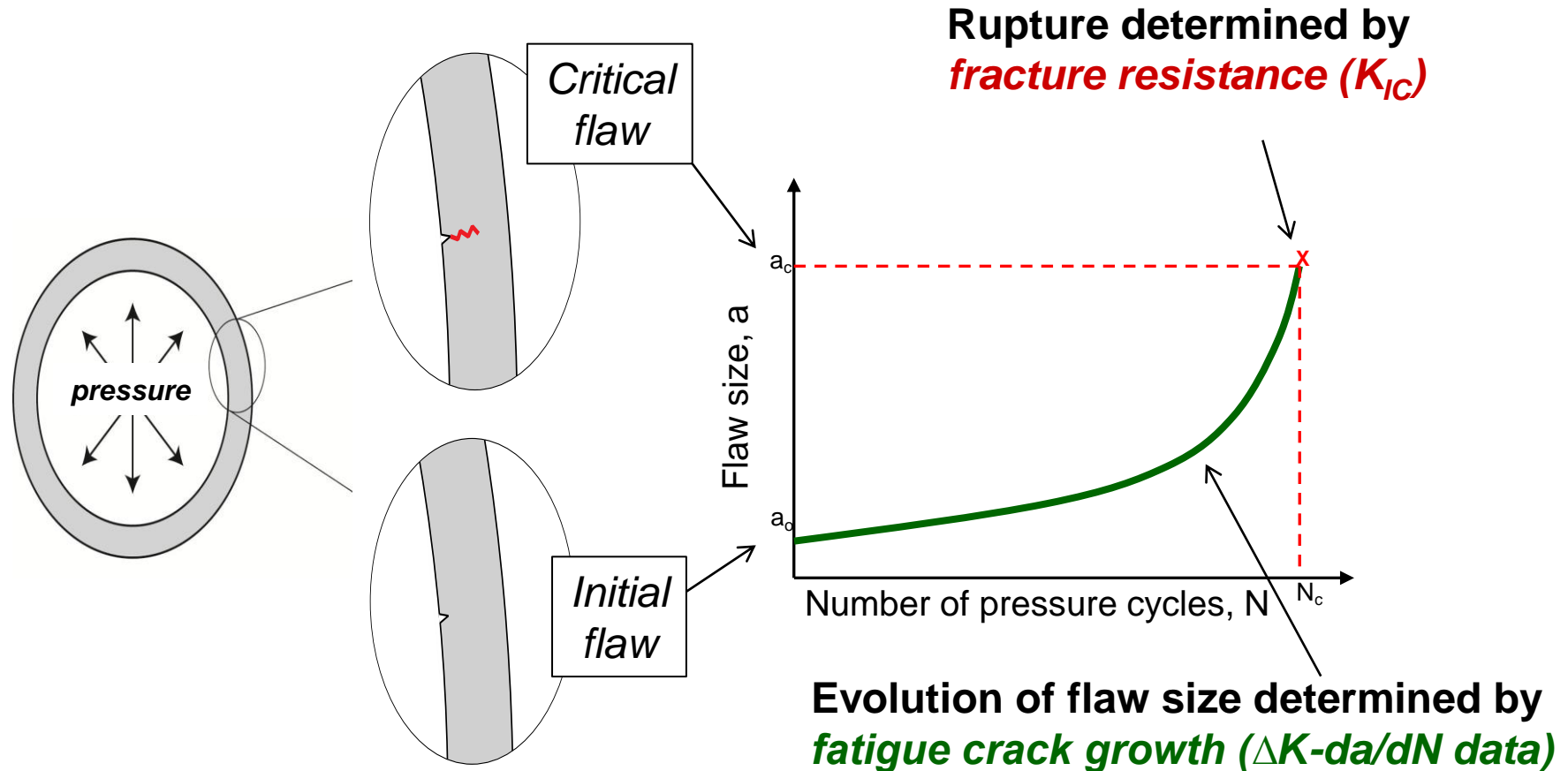
# Hydrogen Corrosion Cracking (HCC)

- Independent of steel type
  - Quality, welds important
  - Little variance with GH2 % in blend
  - Asset condition rules – flaws, damage, external stress
  - Control pressure cycling
- 
- How to inspect legacy pipelines to assess FFS ?
  - How to control P cycling in VER \* service ? Packing ?  
Magnitude, frequency
  - Legacy pipelines only as “conduits” for relining ?

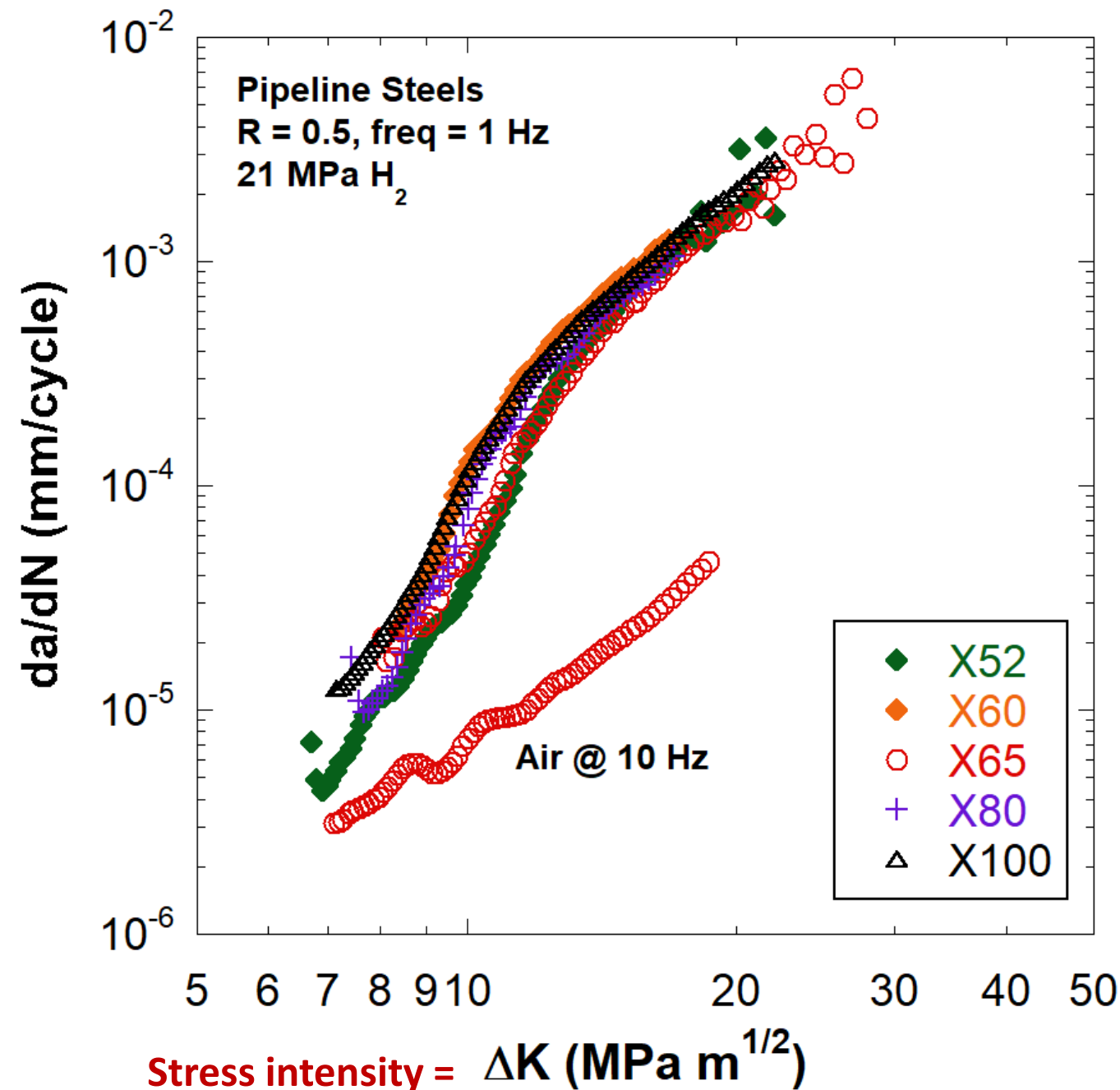
\* VER = Variable Energy Resource (wind, solar, etc.)

# Testing motivation:

## Structural integrity assessment, fracture mechanics



ASME B31.12 describes rules for hydrogen pipelines with reference to ASME BPVC Section VIII, Division 3, Article KD-10



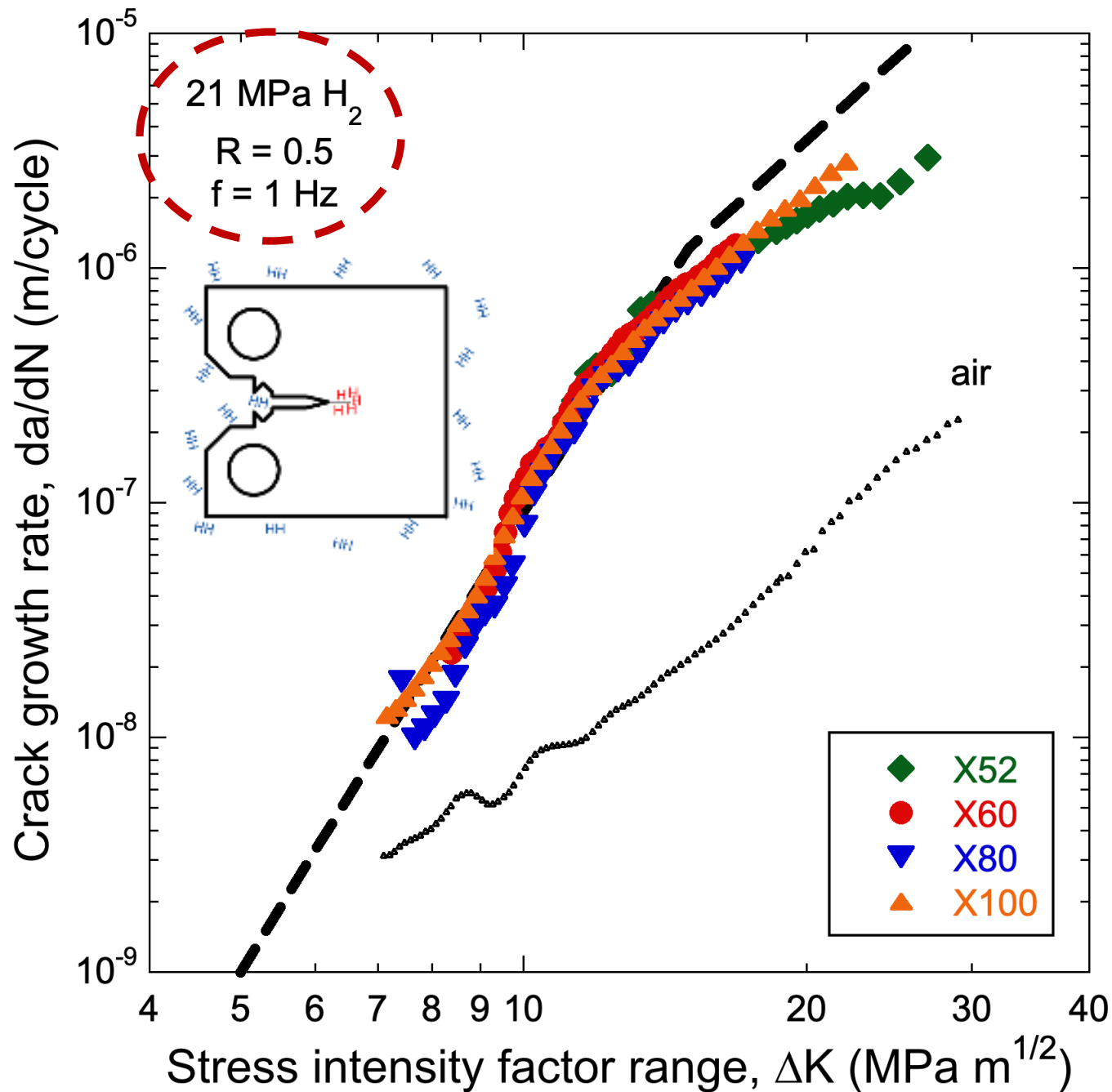
**Variety of  
pipe  
steels**

**Same fatigue  
response**

**crack growth  
vs  
stress intensity**

**High – P  
GH2**





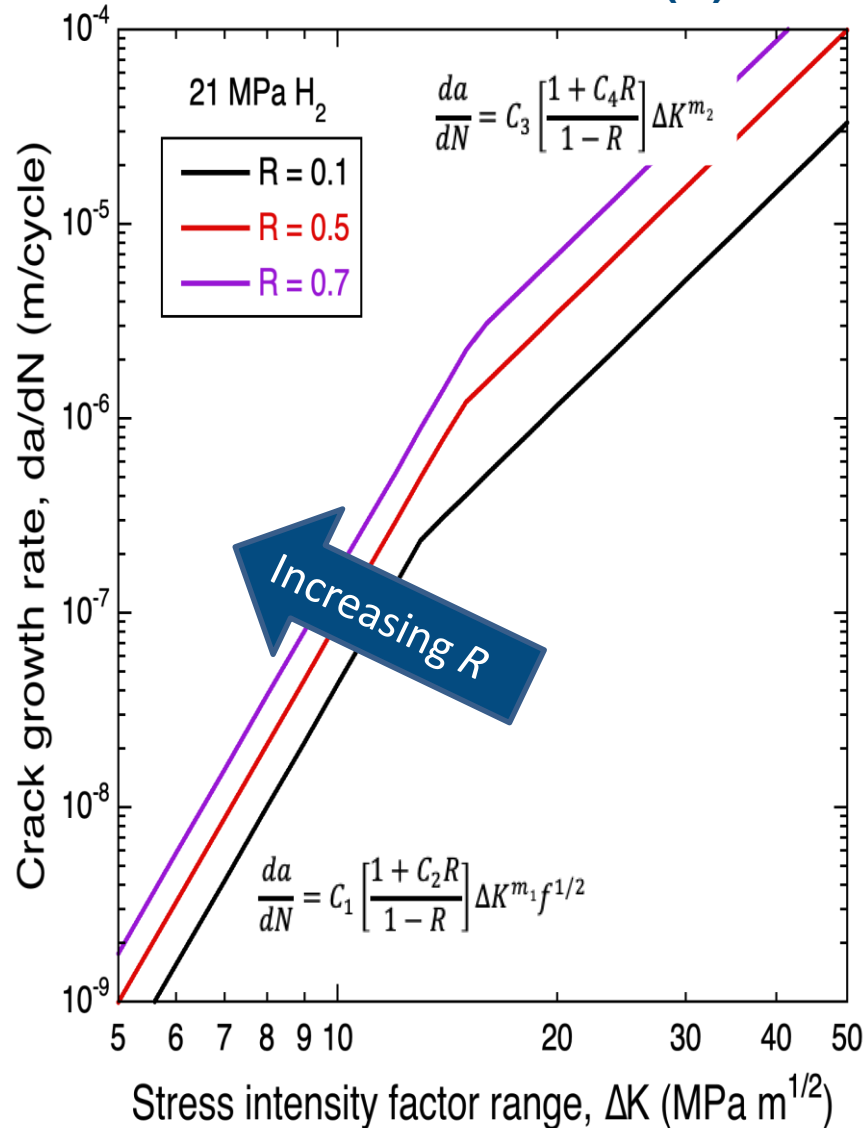
Pressure vessel  
design

ASME CC2938

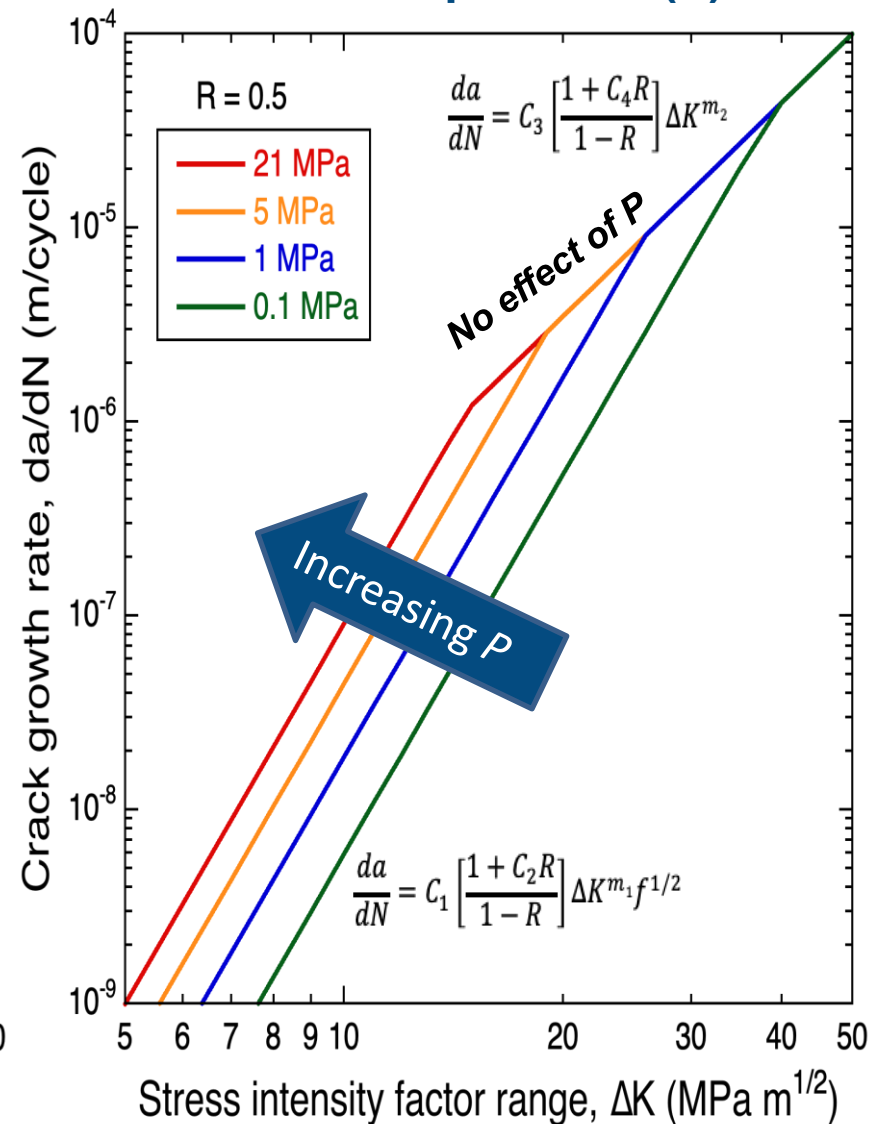
Effect of high-P  
 $H_2$  on  
Crack growth

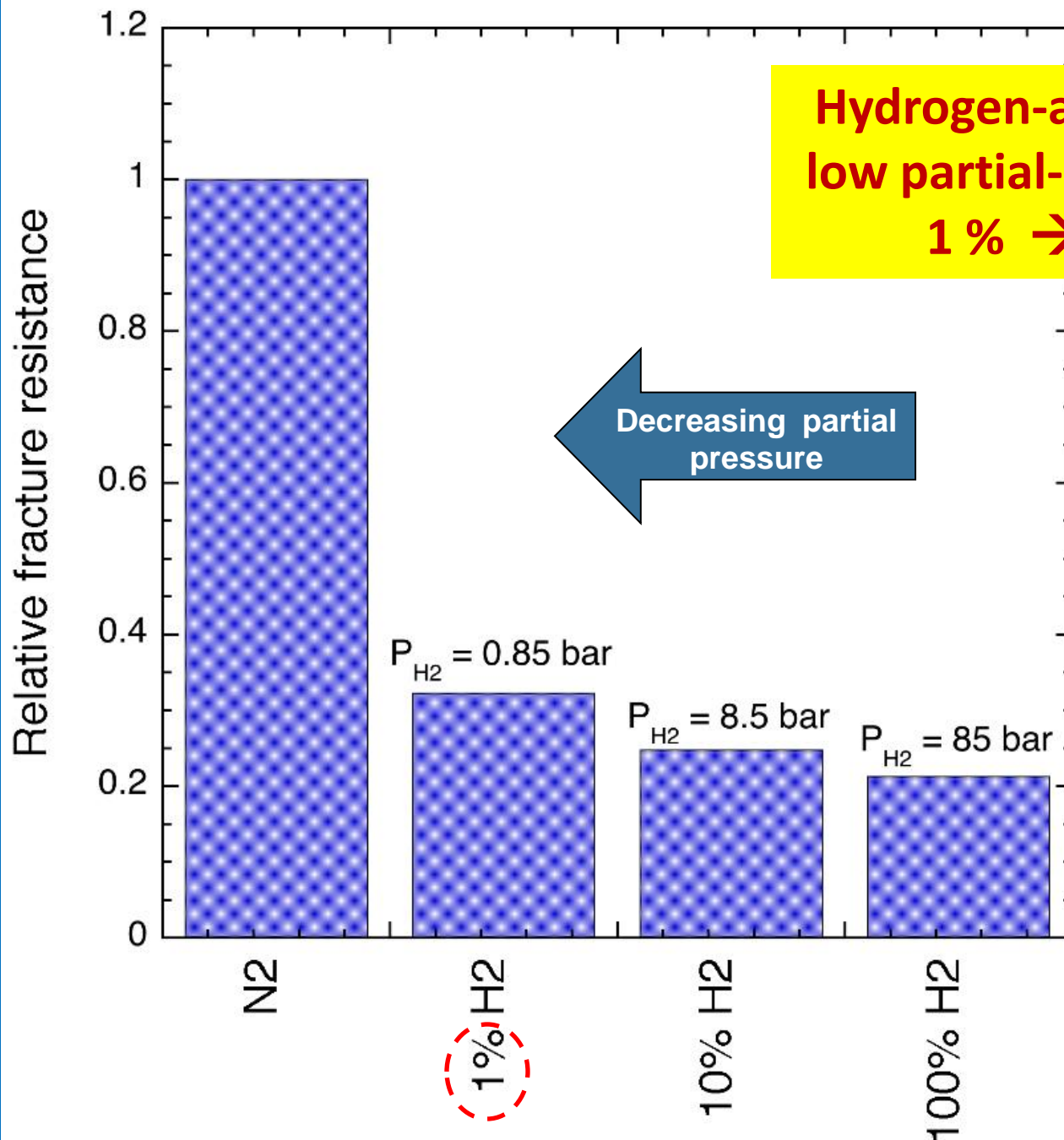
# Effects of Pressure and P-cycle Range

## Effect of load ratio (R)



## Effect of pressure (P)





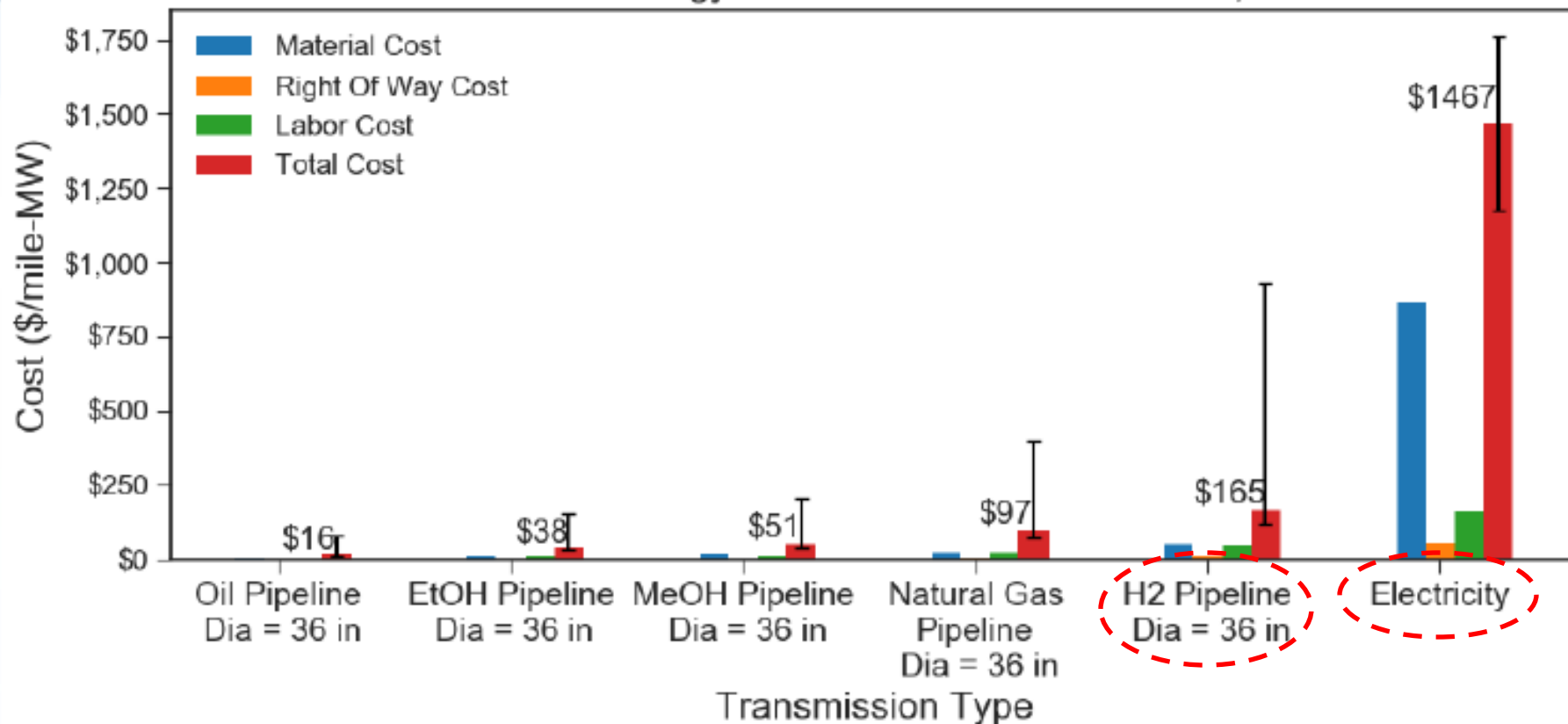
**Hydrogen-assisted fracture in  
low partial-pressure hydrogen  
1 % → 100 % GH2**

# Why pipeline H2 ?

- C-free energy carrier, storage medium, fuel
- Prevent catastrophic Climate Change
- Total de-carb, de-GHG-emission, entire human enterprise
- Transform world's largest industry
- SMR to refineries
- Blending in NatGas
- **Access GHG-emission-free sources:**
  - “clean”, “green”, renewable, CO2-emission-free
- **Low-cost:**
  - **Transmission**
  - **Storage**
  - **Off-Grid H2 production**
- **“Whole system”**: gather, transmission, storage, distribution
  - Slow
  - “Free” storage
  - Underground: safer, low O&M

# Transmission CAPEX per MW – mile, over 1,000 miles

Cost of Various Energy Transmission methods over 1,000 miles



- Liquid Pipelines :

- ▶ Least expensive
- ▶ High energy density, low pumping energy
- ▶ Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) not considered

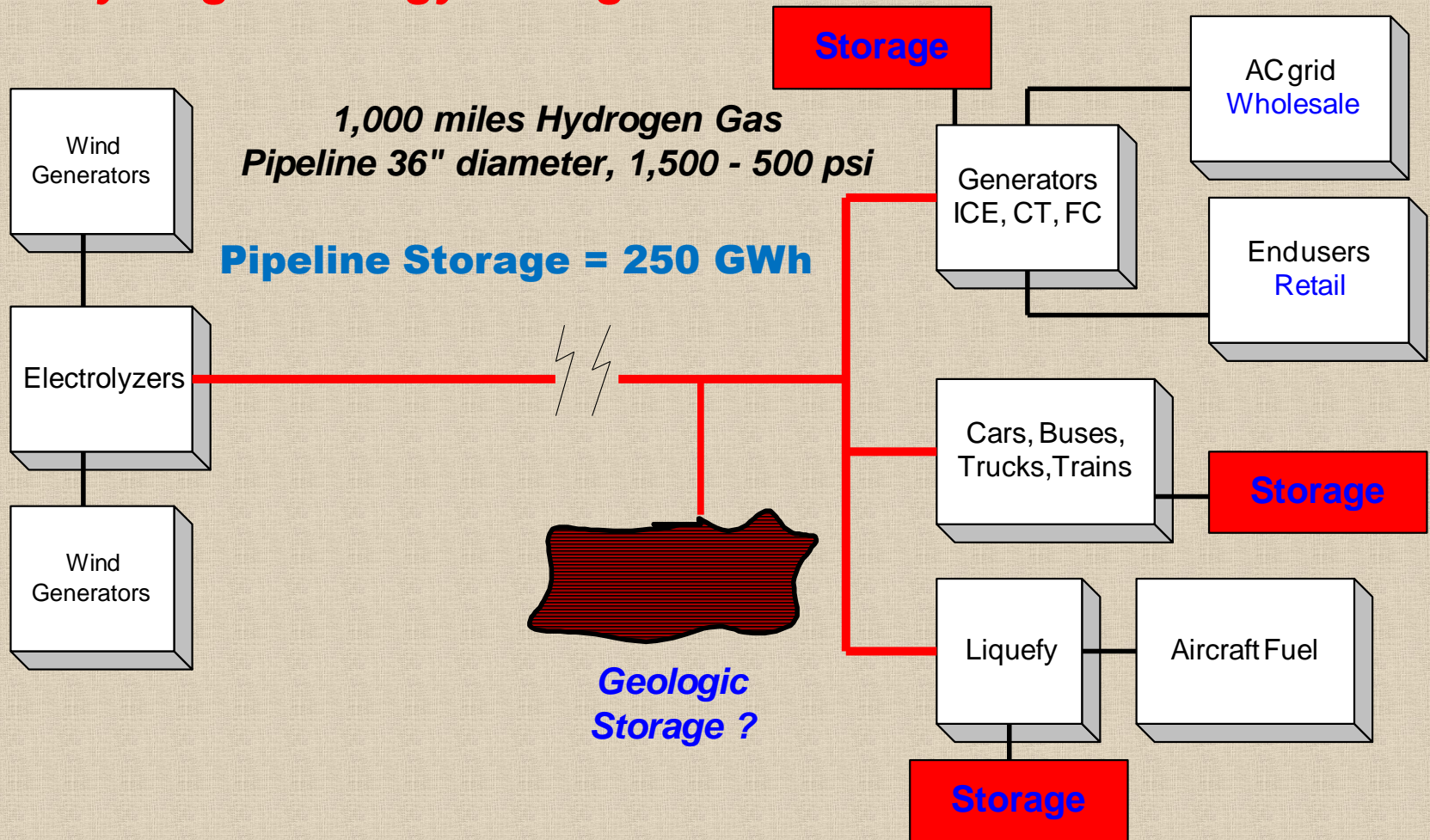
- Electrical :

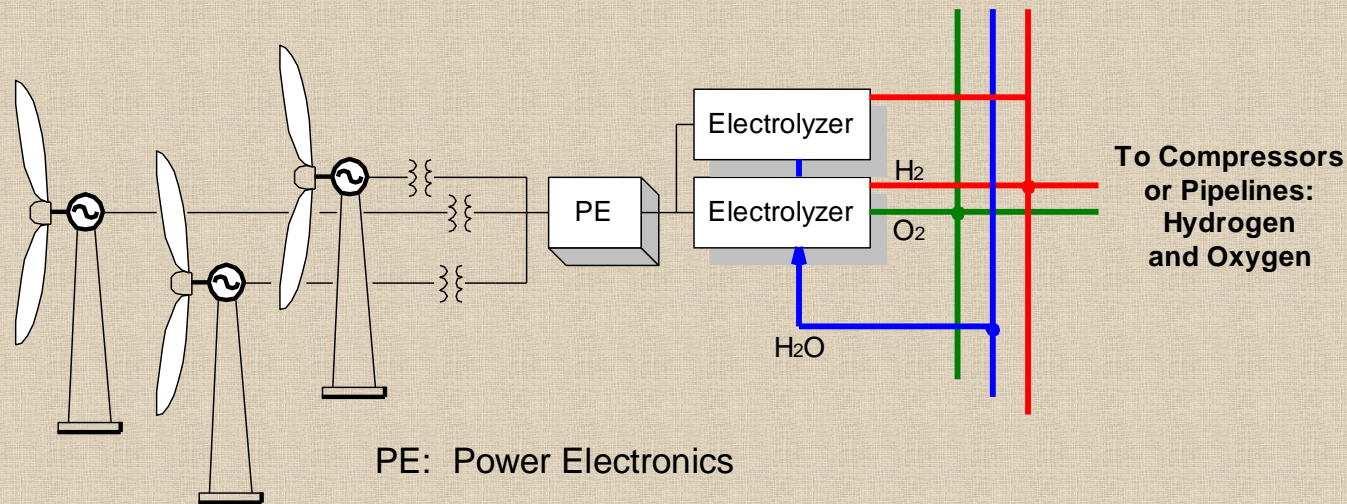
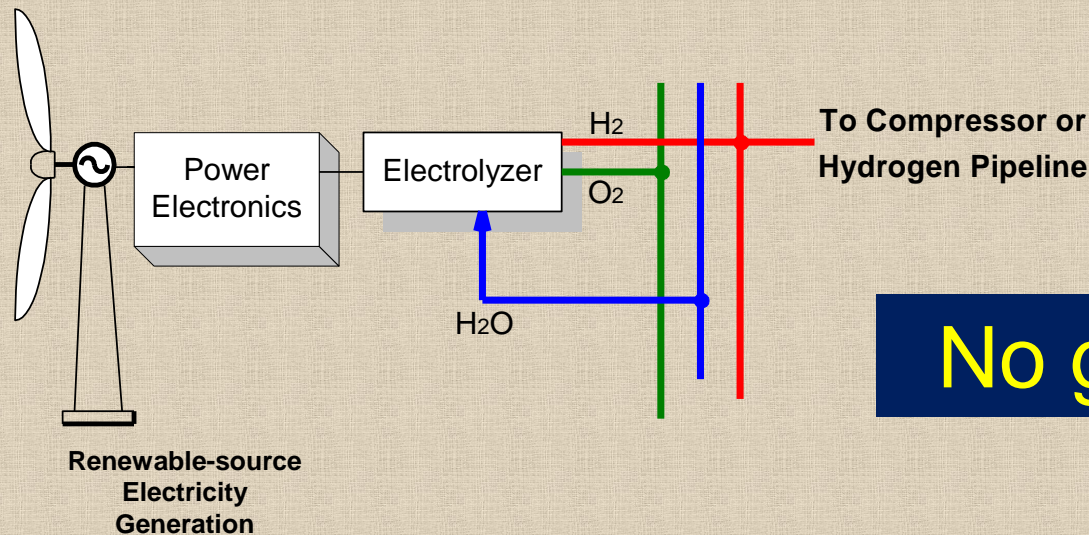
- > 10 x natural gas
- > 90 x oil



# Off – Grid and / or On – Grid

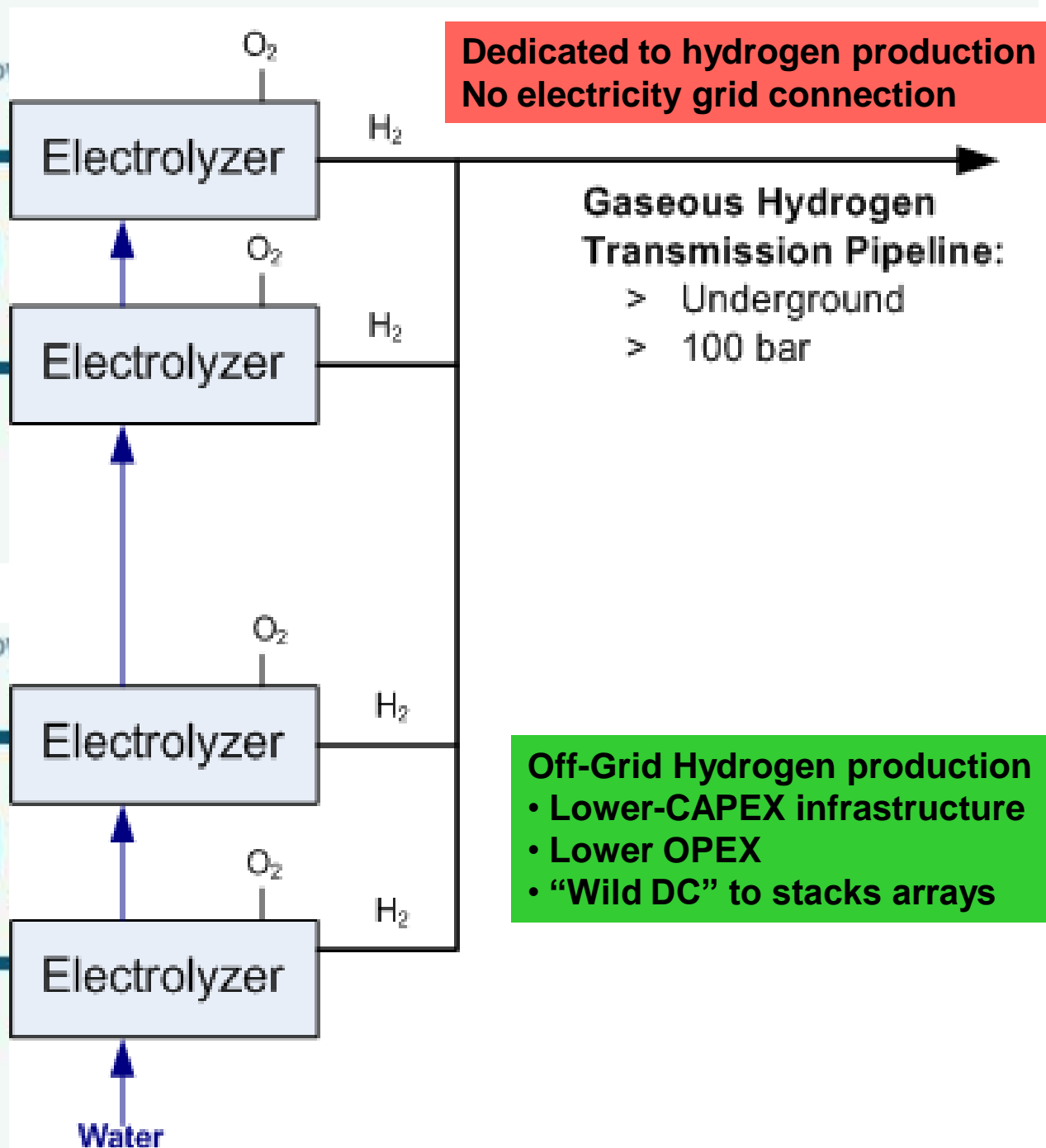
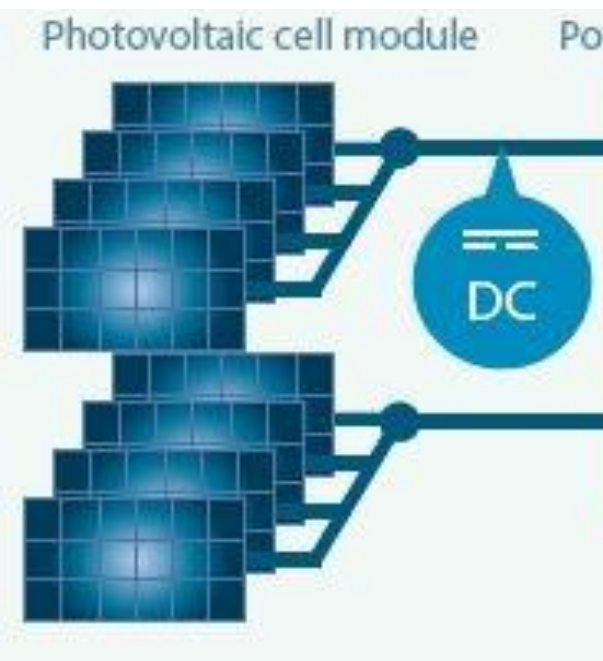
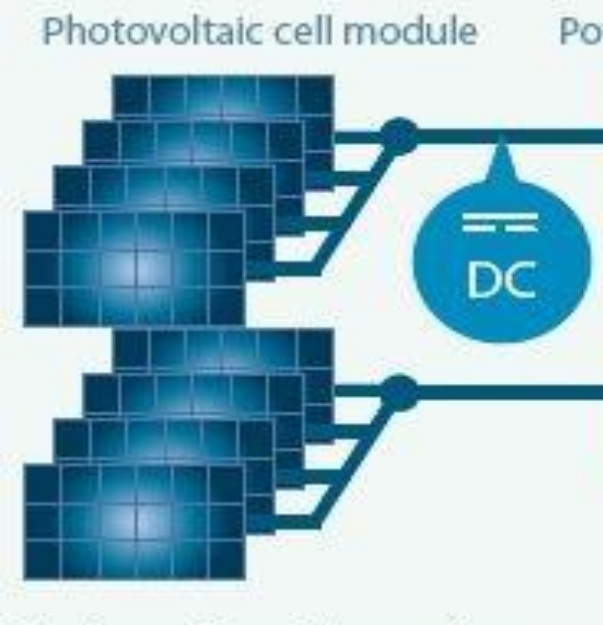
## Hydrogen Energy Storage

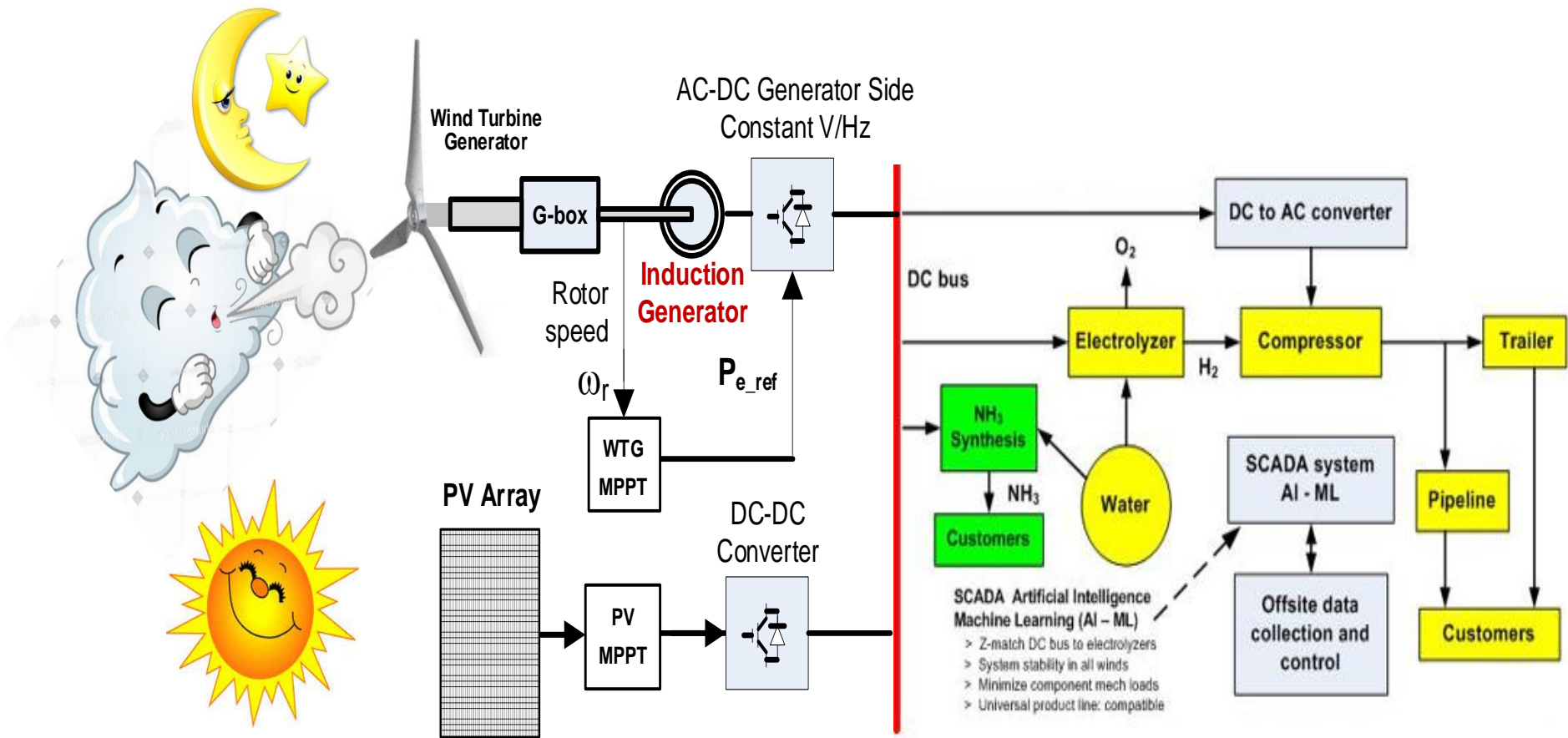




**Topology Options:  $H_2$  and  $O_2$  Production and Gathering from Renewable Energy Generation**

# System Configuration





## Synergistic wind + PV

- Co-located, co-generation, single plant
- No Grid connection; pipeline export
- Diurnal, seasonal
- Dedicated hydrogen, ammonia production



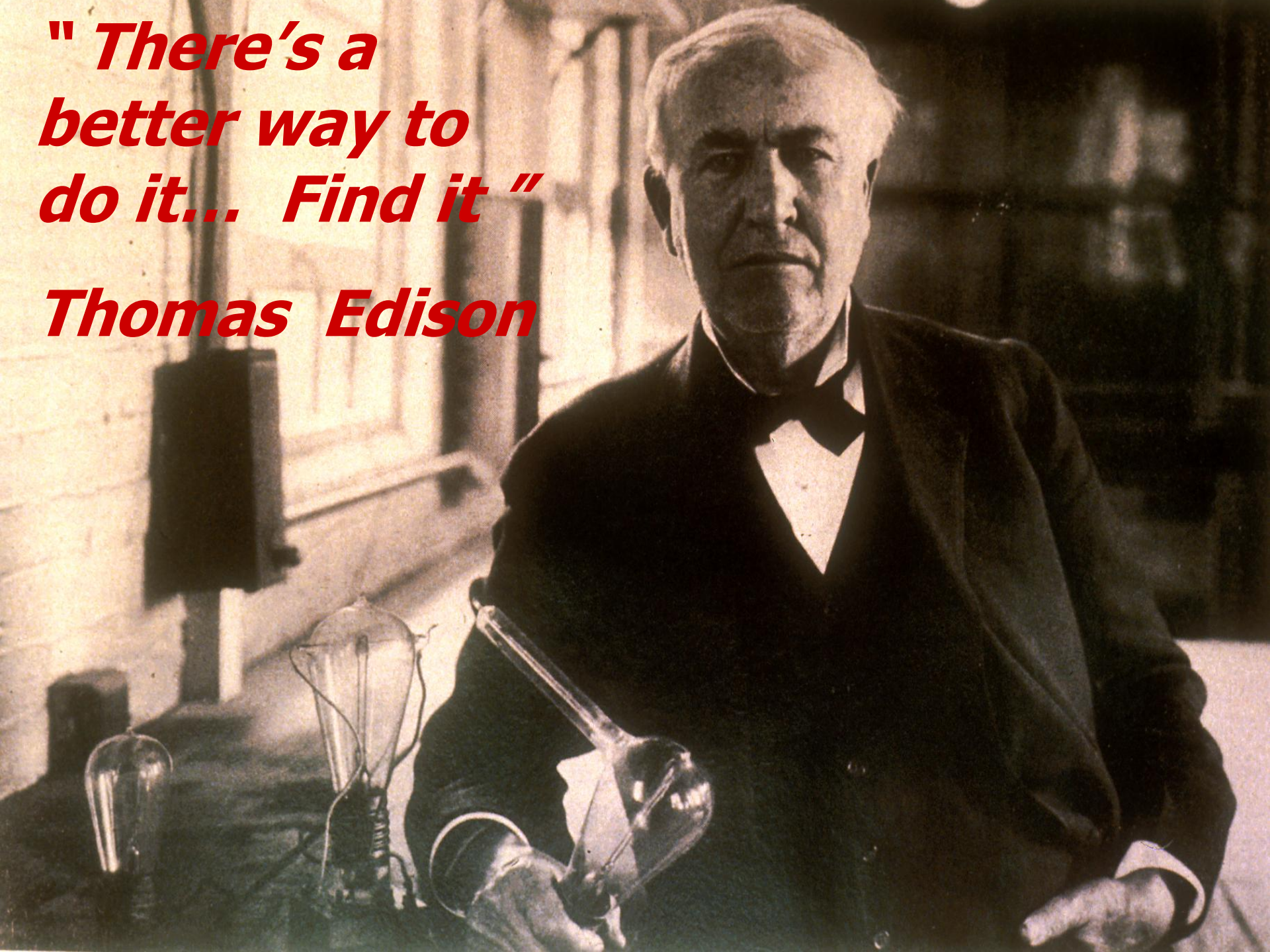


**Whole systems: Renewables, Electrochemical energy**



***" There's a  
better way to  
do it... Find it "***

***Thomas Edison***



# Why pipeline H2 ?

- C-free energy carrier, storage medium, fuel
- Prevent catastrophic Climate Change
- Total de-carb, de-GHG-emission, entire human enterprise
- Transform world's largest industry
- SMR to refineries
- **Blending in NatGas: “free” transmission + storage**
- **Access GHG-emission-free sources: “clean”, “green”**
- **Low-cost:**
  - **Transmission**
  - **Storage**
  - **Off-Grid H2 production**
- “Whole system”: gather, transmission, storage, distribution
  - Slow
  - “Free” storage
  - Underground: safer, low O&M

# **Pipelining Hydrogen:**

**Blend with NatGas or high-purity ?**  
**Free “packing” storage ?**  
**Continental scale ?**  
**Salt cavern storage access ?**  
**Repurpose old pipes or new-build ?**

Bill Leighty  
Director  
The Leighty Foundation

# Why Blending ?

< 20% gaseous Hydrogen (GH<sub>2</sub>) (vol, mass, energy ?)

“Free” transmission

“Free” storage – “packing”

Build big market for “green” H<sub>2</sub>

Marginally decarbonize gas system → all downstream

But:

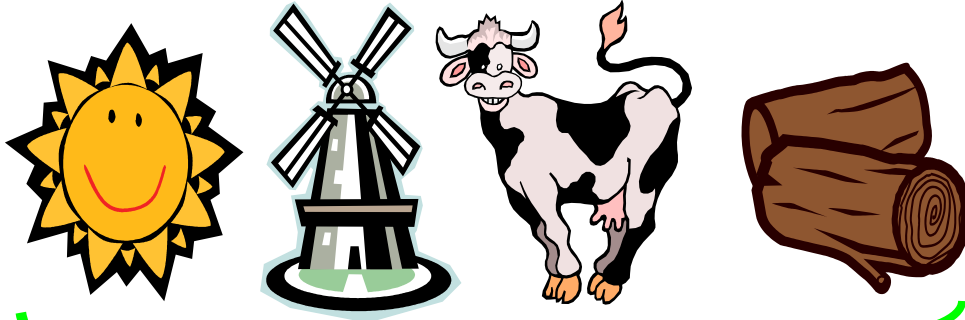
- Cannot recover high-purity
  - Cannot “send” to customer
  - Costly separation → “five nines” 99.999 %
- Utility charges
- Gov’t regulations
- Pipeline danger: HE, HCC
- Short-term strategy ?
- Need “RPS” for gas utility, as electric





**First: Power-To-Gas (PTG), Wind to Hydrogen, “Blending” in NatGas pipeline  
E.ON, Uniper, Falkenhagen, DE 2020**

# 2006: The NATURALHY approach: EC, R+D

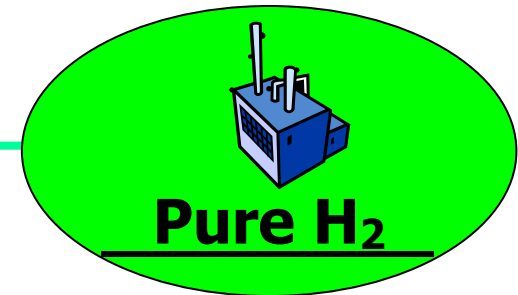


**“ Power – to – Gas ”**

**H<sub>2</sub>**

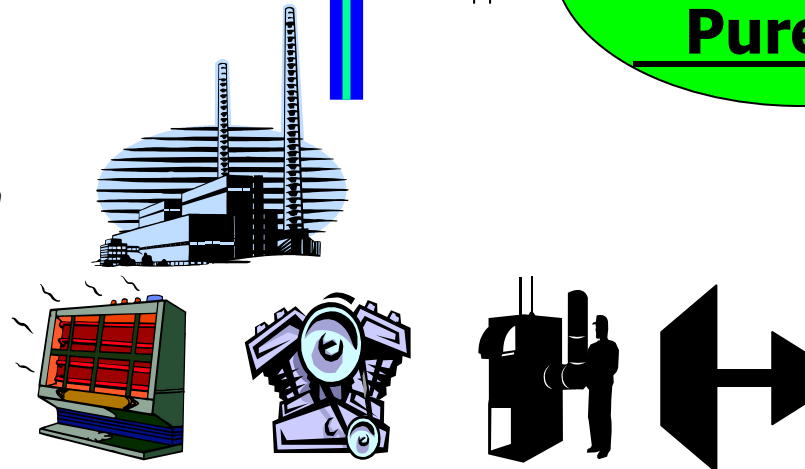


**NG**



**NATURALHY:**

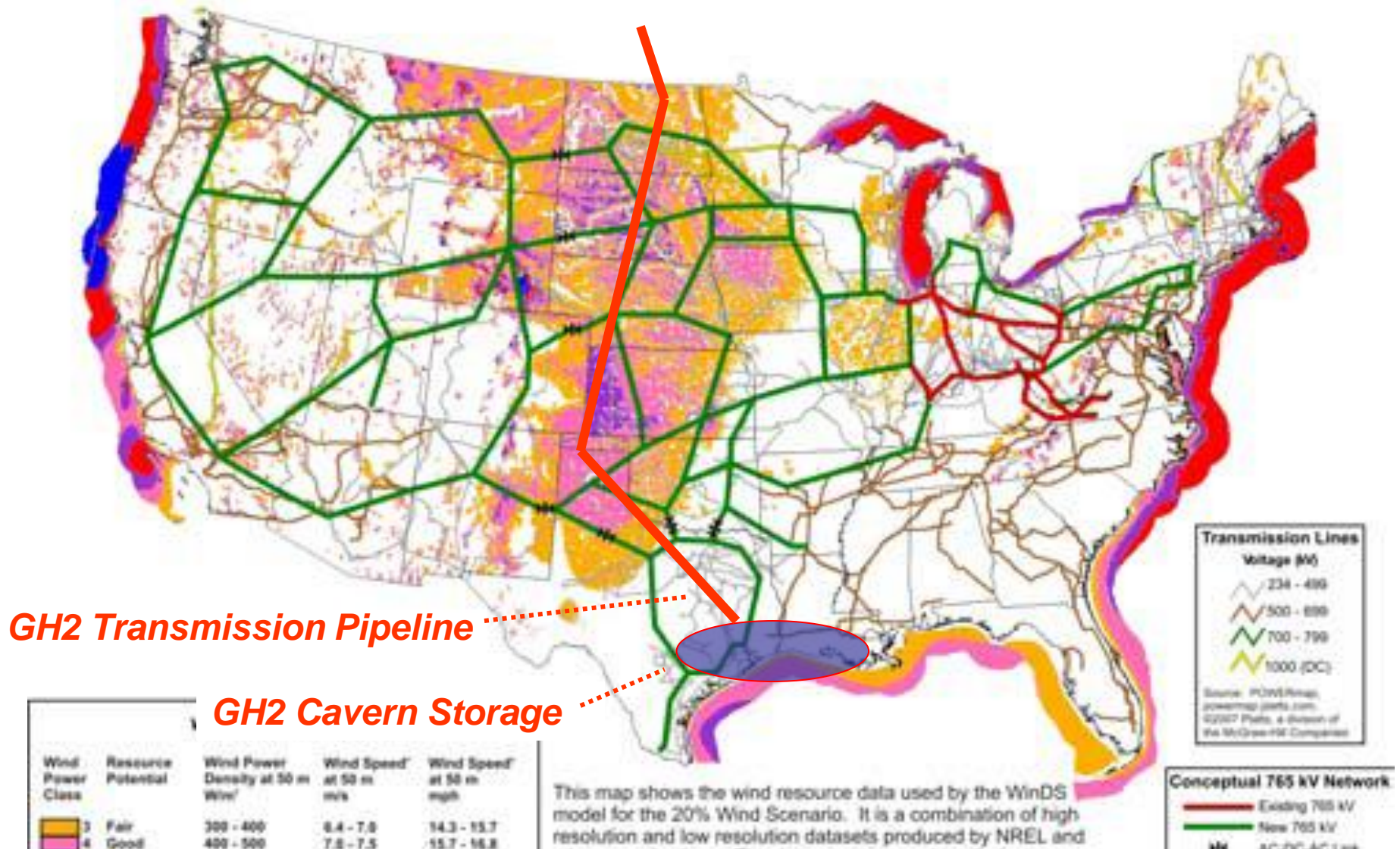
- *Breaks “chicken-egg” dilemma*
- *Bridge to sustainable future*





**Beyond blending**

**AWEA 20% Wind by 2030**



**Wind Potential  $\approx$  3,000 GW**

**12 Great Plains states**



# Domal Salt Storage Caverns





- **860,000 m<sup>3</sup> physical**
- **150 bar = 2,250 psi**
- **2,500 Mt net = 92,500 MWh**
- **\$15M avg cap cost / cavern**
- **\$160 / MWh**

## **Domal Salt Storage Caverns**

**Texas**

**"Clemens  
Terminal"  
Conoco  
Phillips**

**Praxair**



**Beyond blending**

***GH2 Transmission Pipeline***

***GH2 Transmission Pipeline***

***GH2 Cavern Storage***



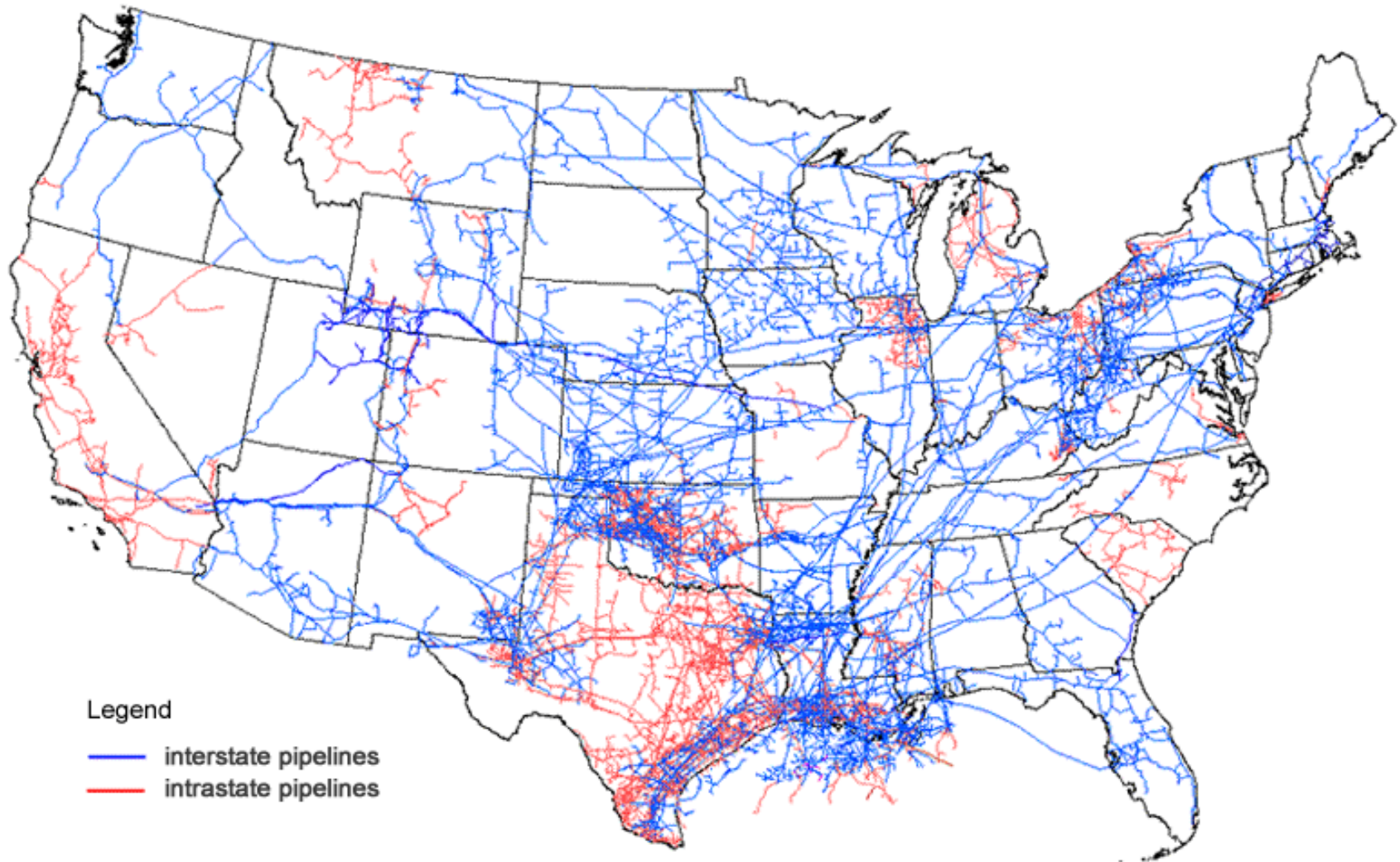
This map shows the wind resource data used by the WinDS model for the 20% Wind Scenario. It is a combination of high



***Wind Potential ~ 10,000 GW***  
***12 Great Plains states***

# NatGas pipelines

Map of U.S. interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *About U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines*

# Hydrogen Embrittlement (HE)

# Hydrogen Corrosion Cracking (HCC)

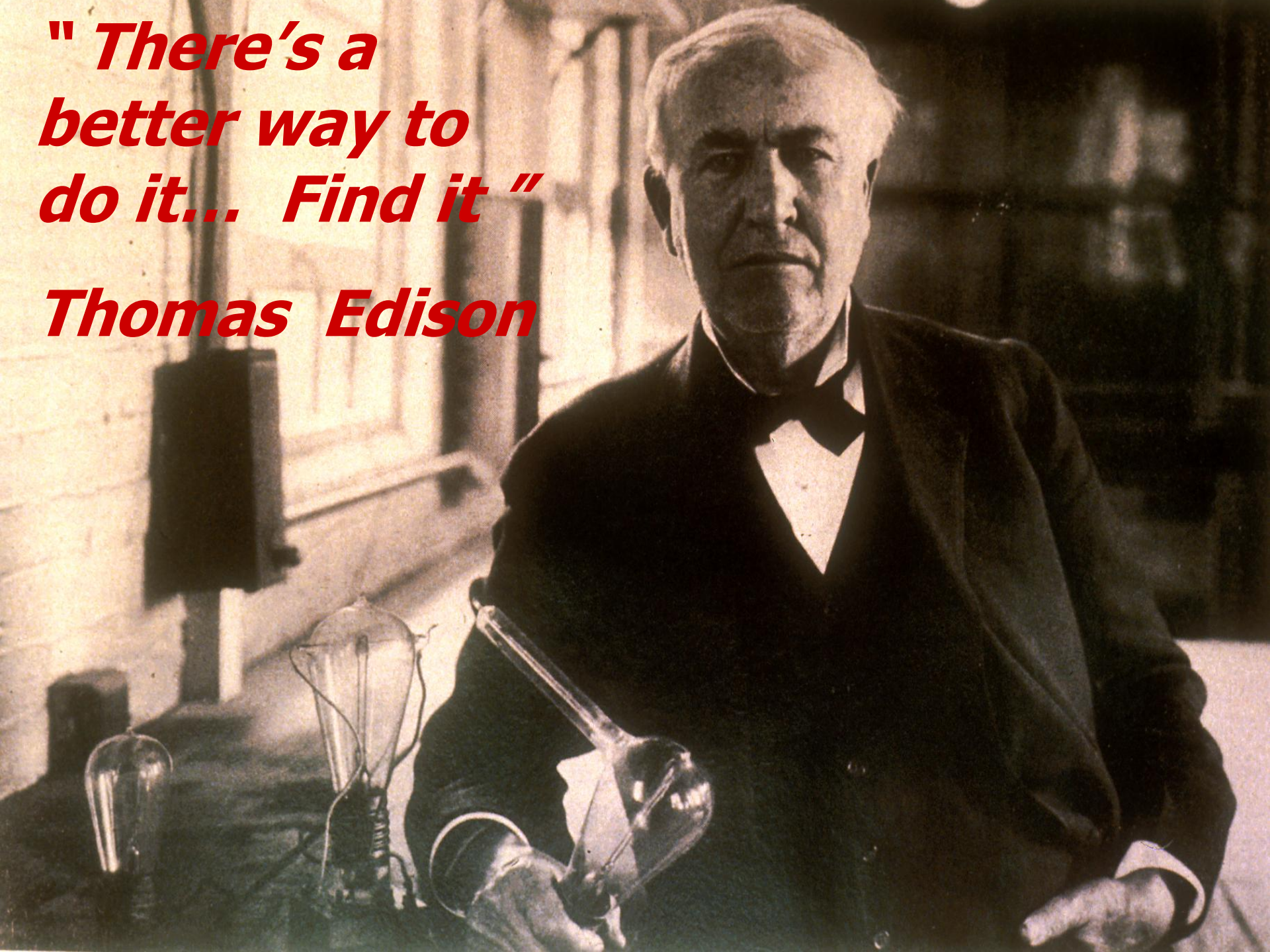
- Independent of steel type
  - Quality, welds important
  - Little variance with GH2 % in blend
  - Asset condition rules – flaws, damage, external stress
  - Control pressure cycling
- 
- How to inspect legacy pipelines to assess FFS ?
  - How to control P cycling in VER \* service ? Packing ?  
Magnitude, frequency
  - Legacy pipelines only as “conduits” for relining ?

\* VER = Variable Energy Resource (wind, solar, etc.)



***" There's a  
better way to  
do it... Find it "***

***Thomas Edison***





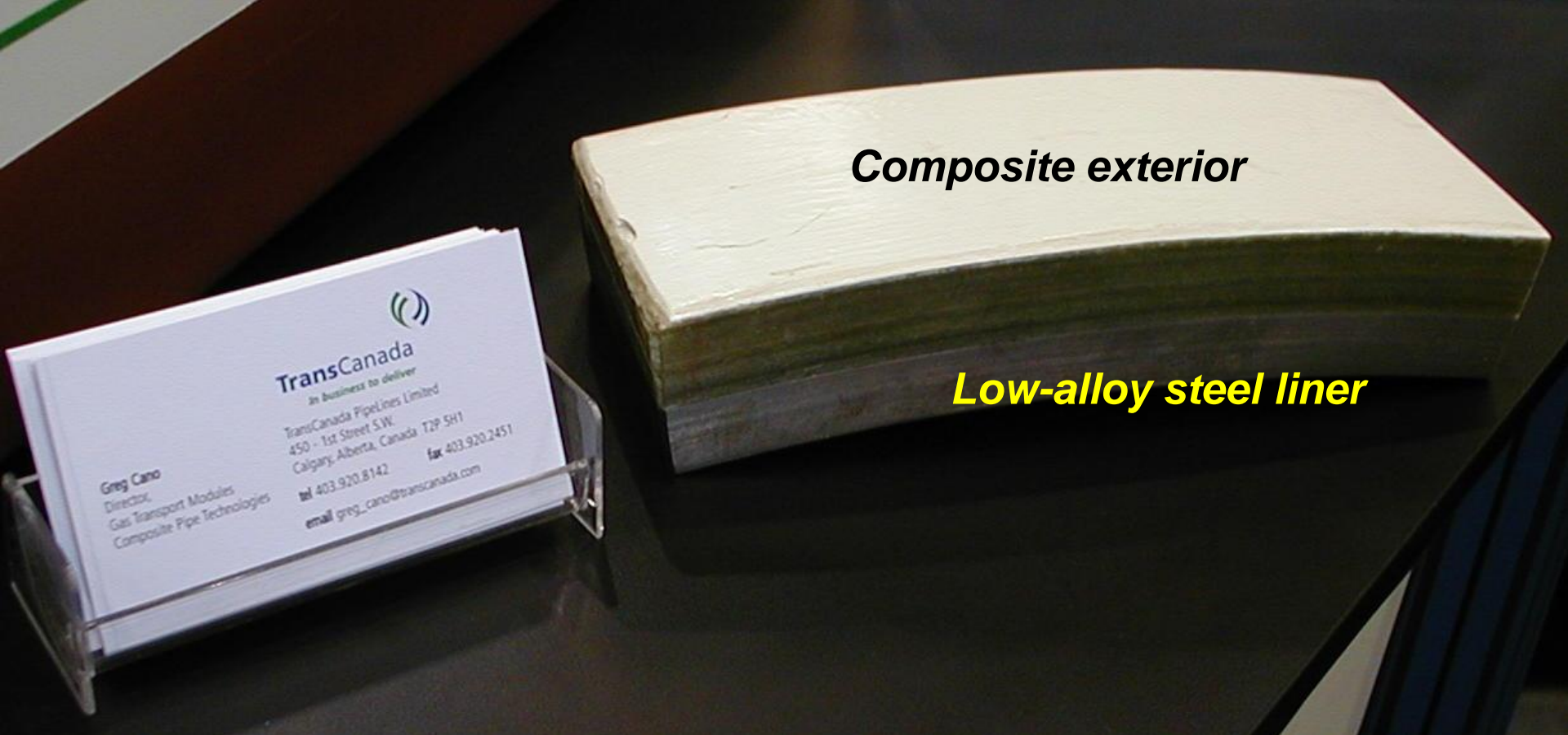


# ***Composite Reinforced Line Pipe (CRLP)***

***42" diameter  
3,400 psi  
.75" X70 steel  
.75" composite***

***NCF Industries and  
TransCanada Pipelines***

***ASME International Pipeline  
Conference and Exposition,  
Calgary, AB, Canada, October  
02.***



***Composite – Reinforced Line Pipe (CRLP)  
3,400 psi, .75" X70 steel plus .75" composite***

***NCF Industries and TransCanada Pipelines  
ASME International Pipeline Conference and Exposition,  
Calgary, AB, Canada, October 02.***





**Gaseous Hydrogen  
(GH<sub>2</sub>)**

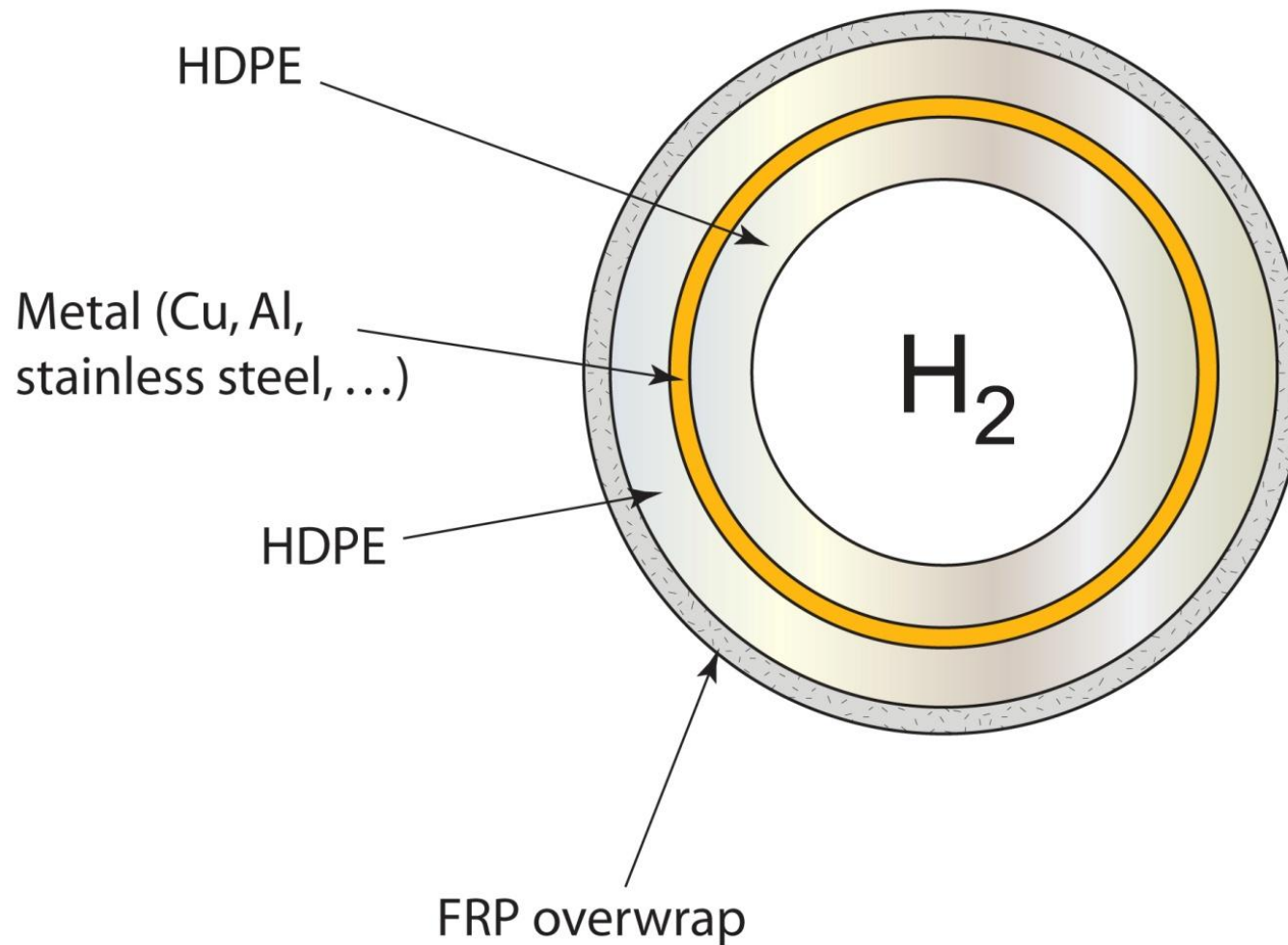
**36" diam,  
800 km  
No compression**

**8,000 MW**

CRLP™ is a trademark of NCF  
Industries, Inc.



**Engineering Concept Prototype  
Polymer – metal line pipe avoids GH2  
permeation and embrittlement**



**Polymer-metal linepipe avoids  
hydrogen embrittlement**





# Composite Pipe System For GH2 Delivery

## Portable Assembly Plant



Set up at Job Site

Continuously Produces Smartpipe® in Long Continuous Lengths

Approximately 1 Mile per Day





**Smart Pipe Company, Houston**

**On-site pipeline factory**

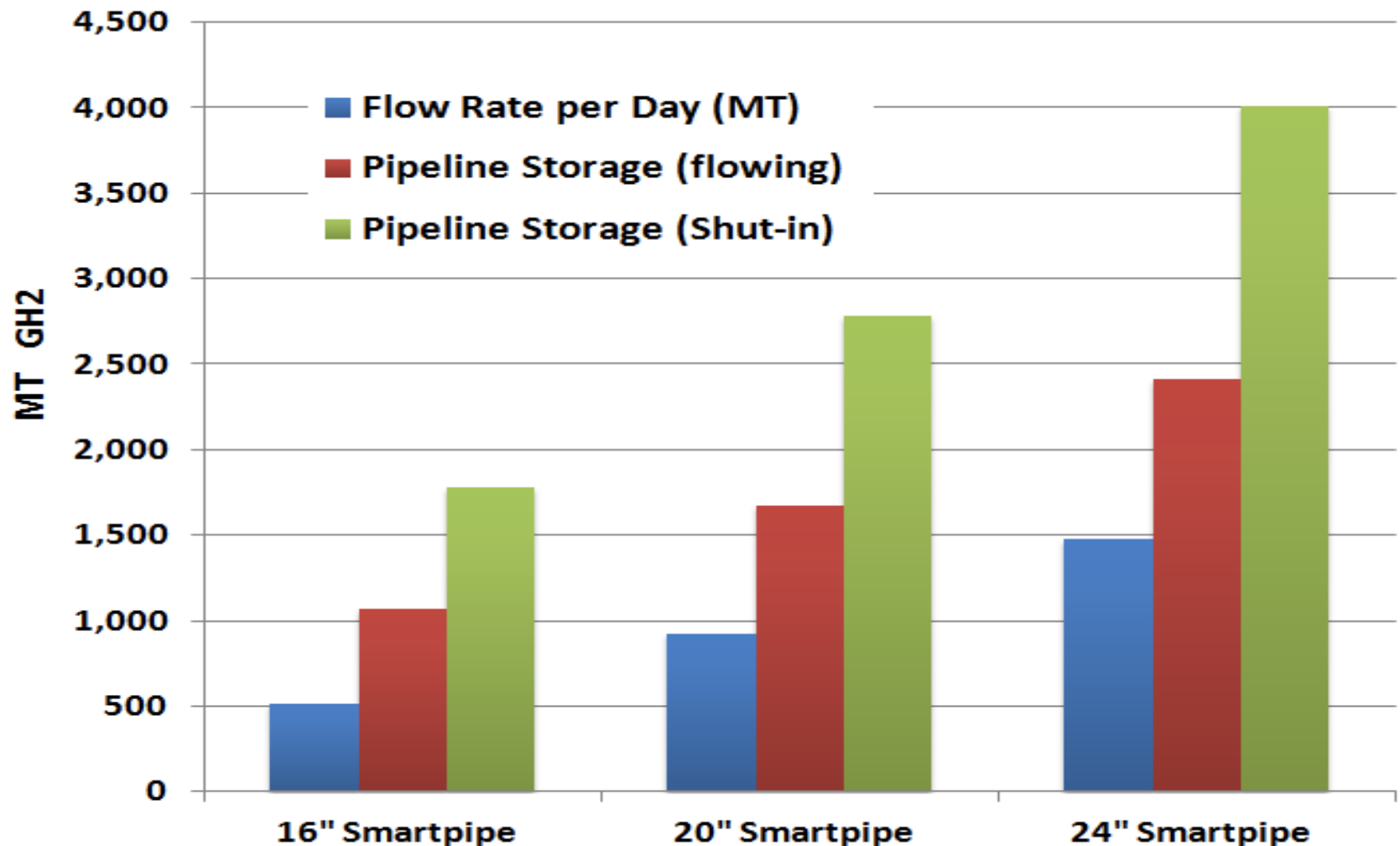
**Continuous process, unlimited length**

**Hydrogen-compatible: polymer-metal hybrid resists HE, HCC**

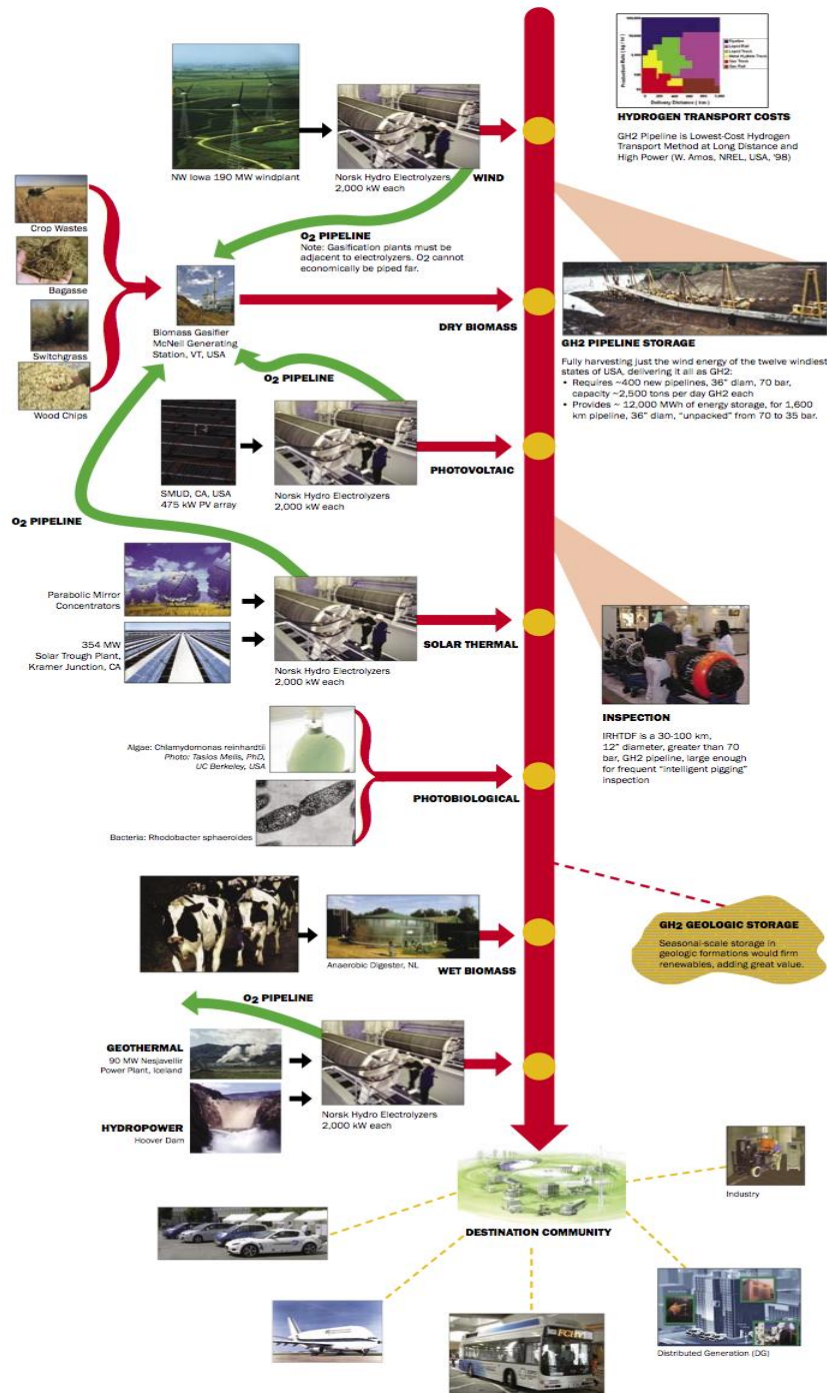
# Why pipeline H2 ?

- C-free energy carrier, storage medium, fuel
- Prevent catastrophic Climate Change
- Total de-carb, de-GHG-emission, entire human enterprise
- Transform world's largest industry
- SMR to refineries
- Blending in NatGas
- **Access GHG-emission-free sources: “clean”, “green”**
- **Low-cost:**
  - **Transmission**
  - **Storage → access salt caverns**
- **“Whole system”: gather, transmission, storage, distribution**
  - **Compression**
  - “Free” storage
  - Underground: safer, low O&M

**1,600 Km Smartpipe Gaseous Hydrogen (GH<sub>2</sub>) Pipeline,  
No Midline Compression  
Daily Flow and Total Storage MT H<sub>2</sub>**



**GH<sub>2</sub> pipeline flow capacity (MT / day), storage capacity (MT)**  
**MT = metric ton = 1,000 kg**

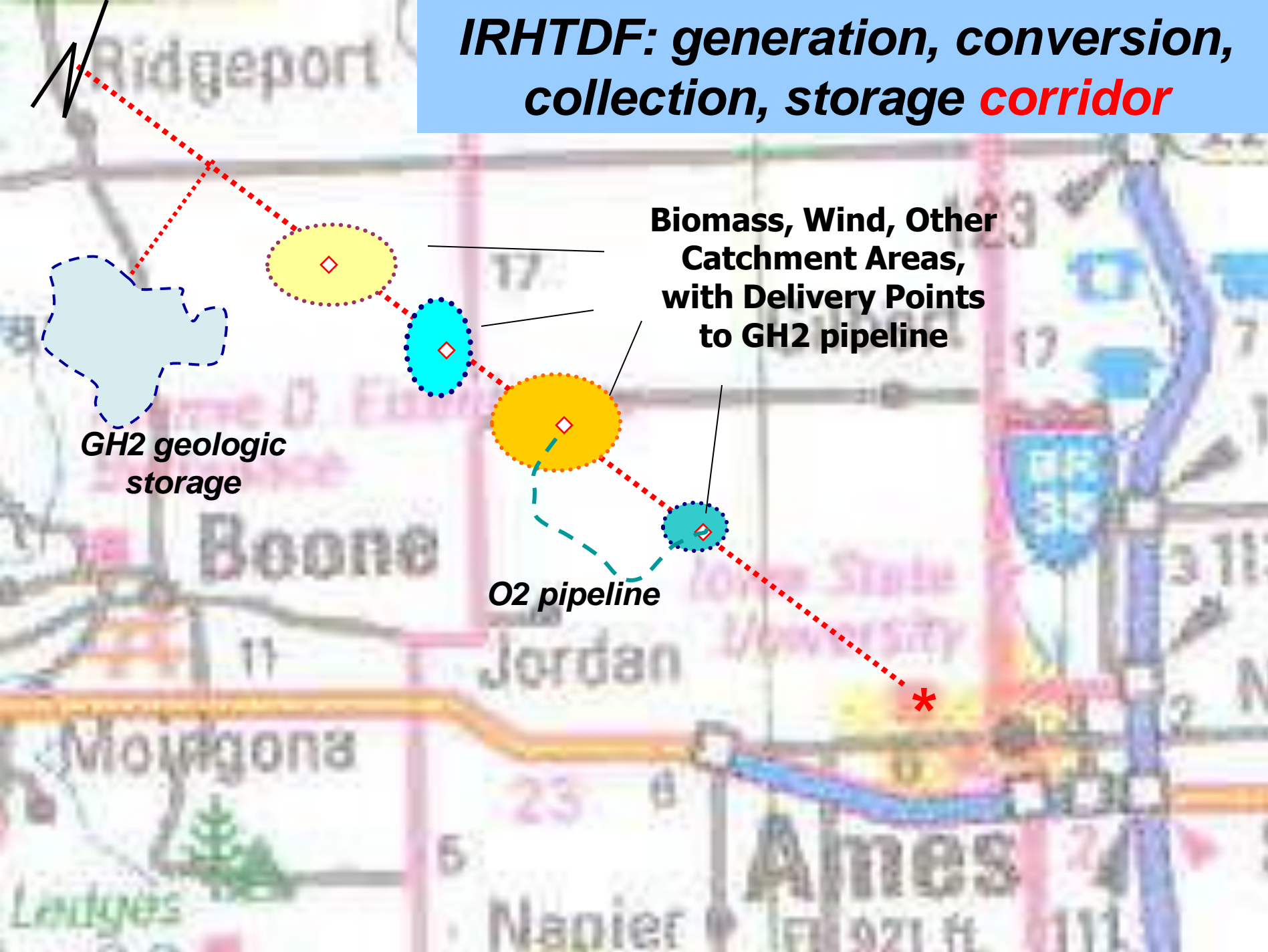


# International Renewable Hydrogen Transmission Demonstration Facility (IRHTDF) Pilot plant

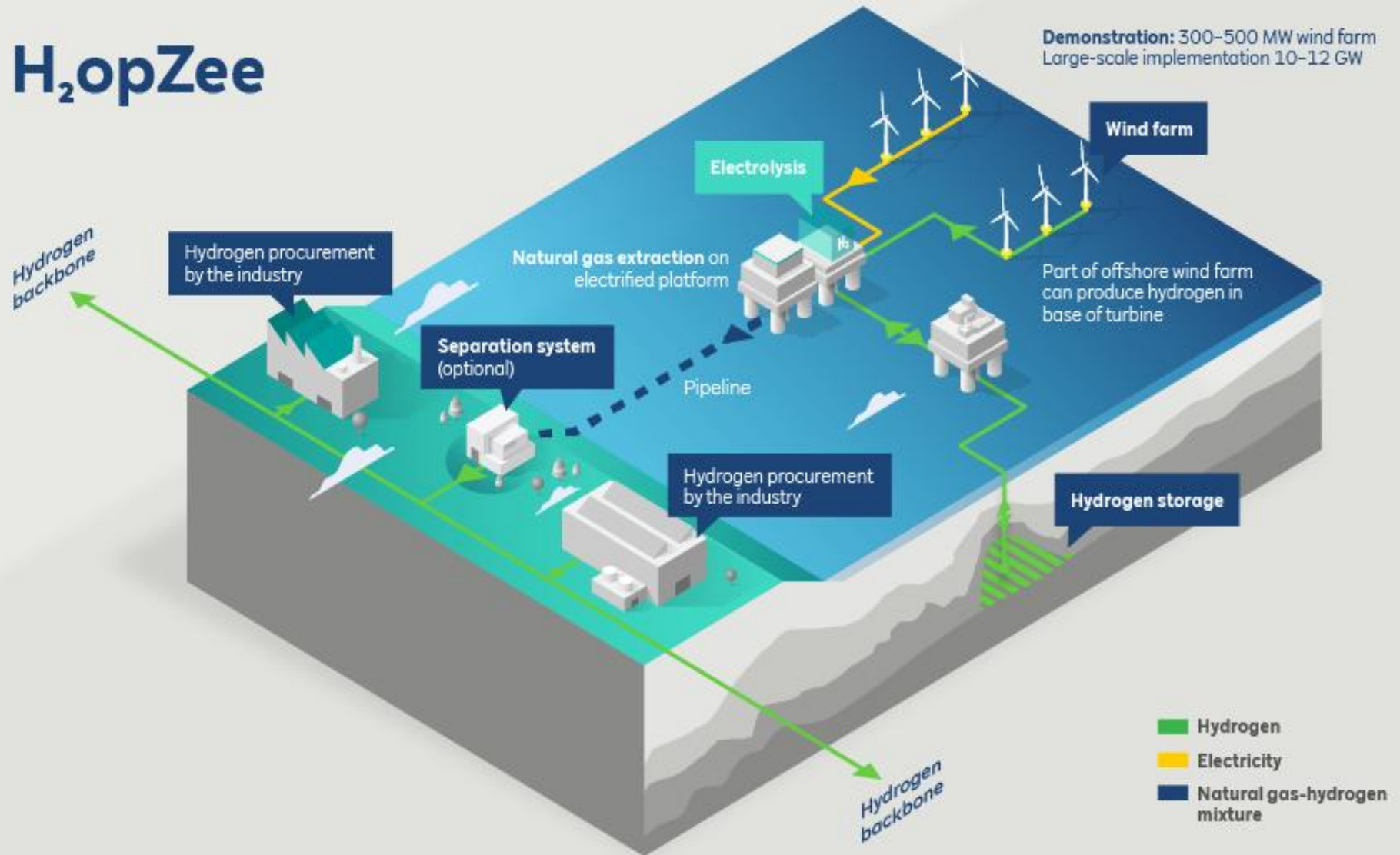
Global opportunity: IPHE project



# **IRHTDF: generation, conversion, collection, storage *corridor***



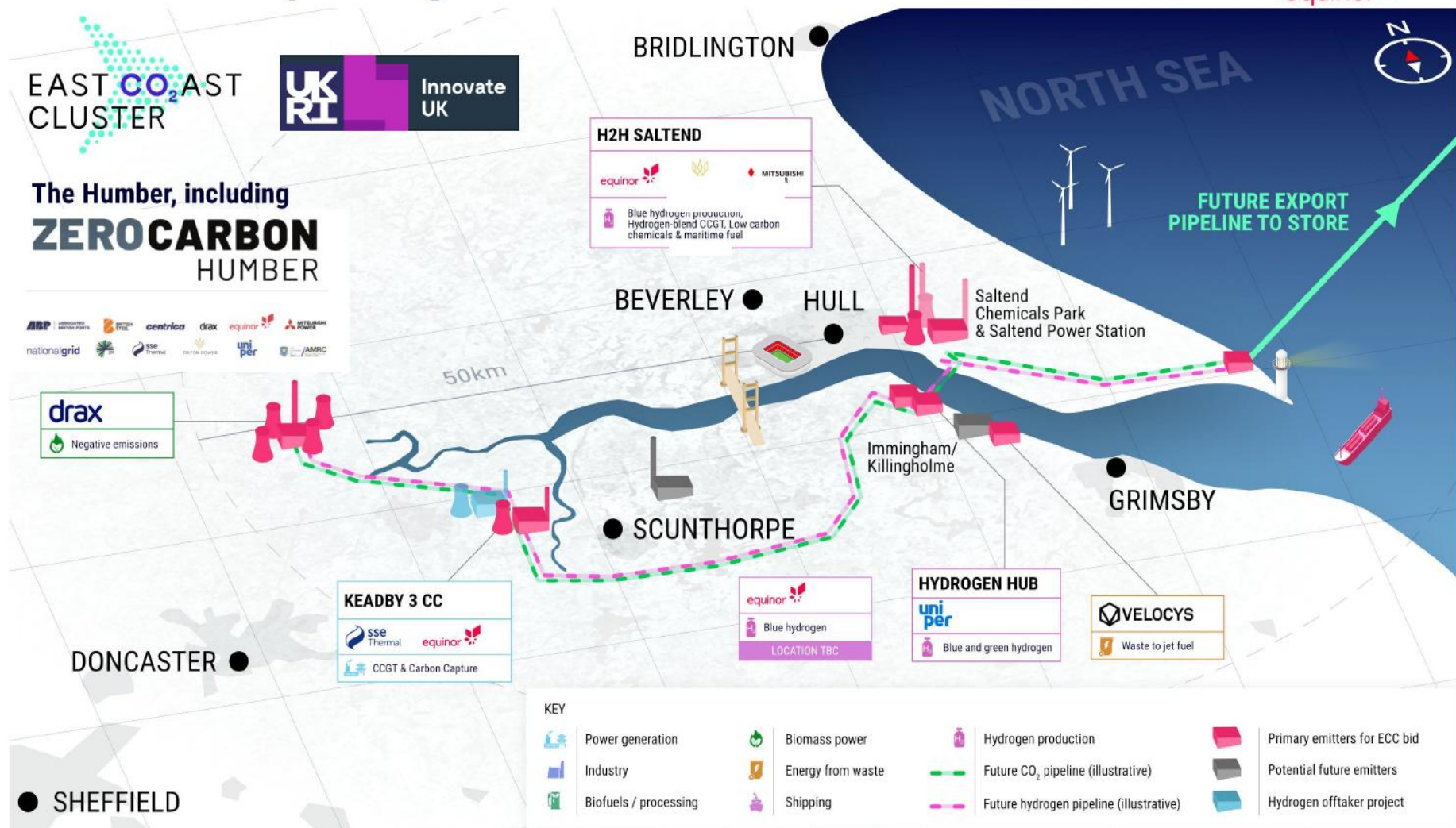
# H<sub>2</sub>opZee



**Netherlands Hydrogen from Offshore Wind**



# BEIS Cluster Sequencing Phase 1 - East Coast Cluster in the Humber



**North Of England**  
**“Blue” NatGas–source Hydrogen Hub**  
**North Sea CCS**

# Pipelining Hydrogen:

**Gas or liquid ? (LH2)**

**Blend with NatGas or high-purity ?**

**Repurpose old pipes or new-build ?**

**Free “packing” storage ?**

**Continental scale ?**

**Salt cavern storage access ?**

Bill Leighty  
Director  
The Leighty Foundation



## **Continental Supergrid – EPRI concept “Energy Pipeline”**

*~ 2005: Chauncey Starr, Paul Grant, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)*



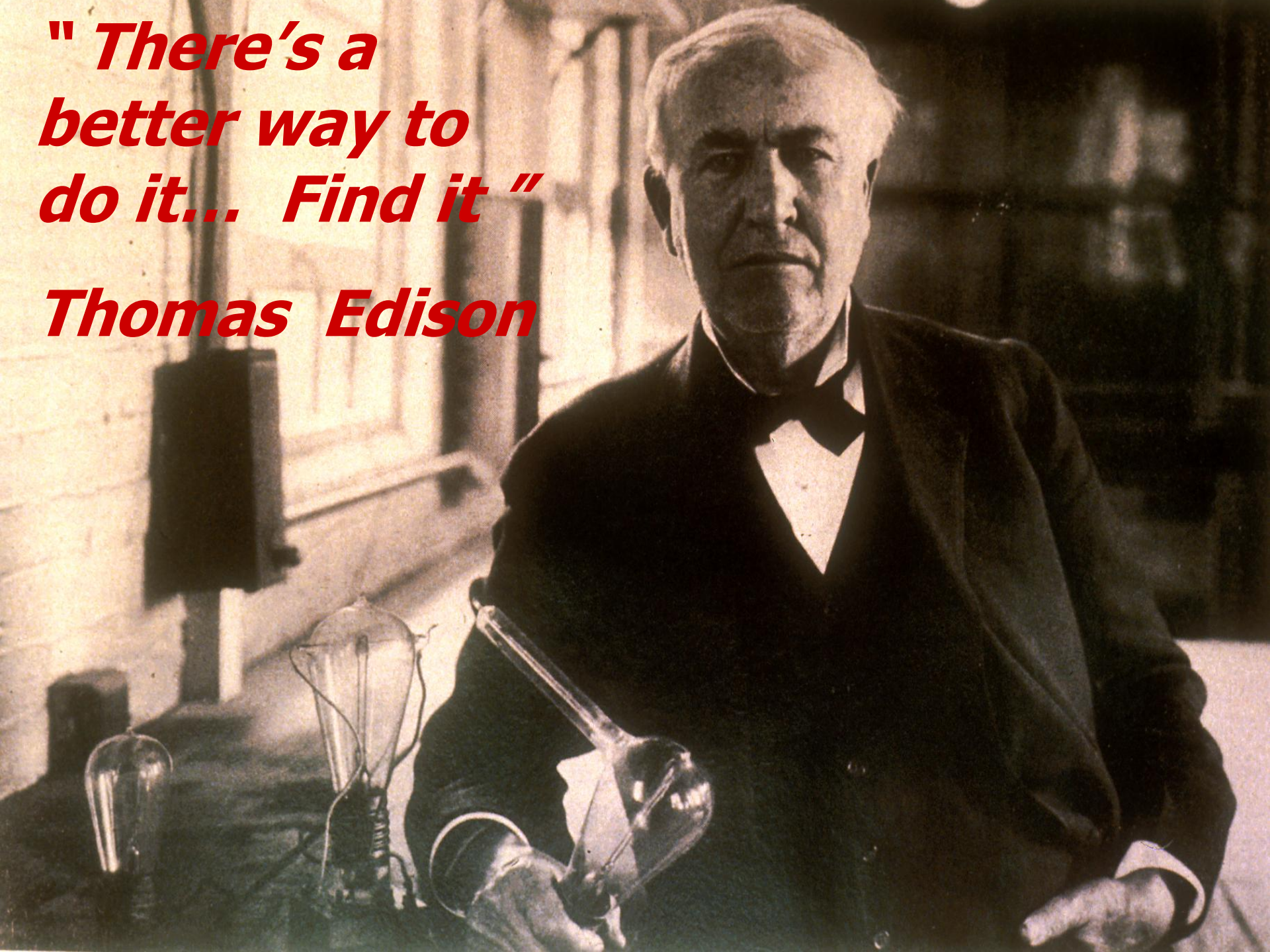


**NASA LH2 Rocket Fuel Cryo storage and pipeline**



***" There's a  
better way to  
do it... Find it "***

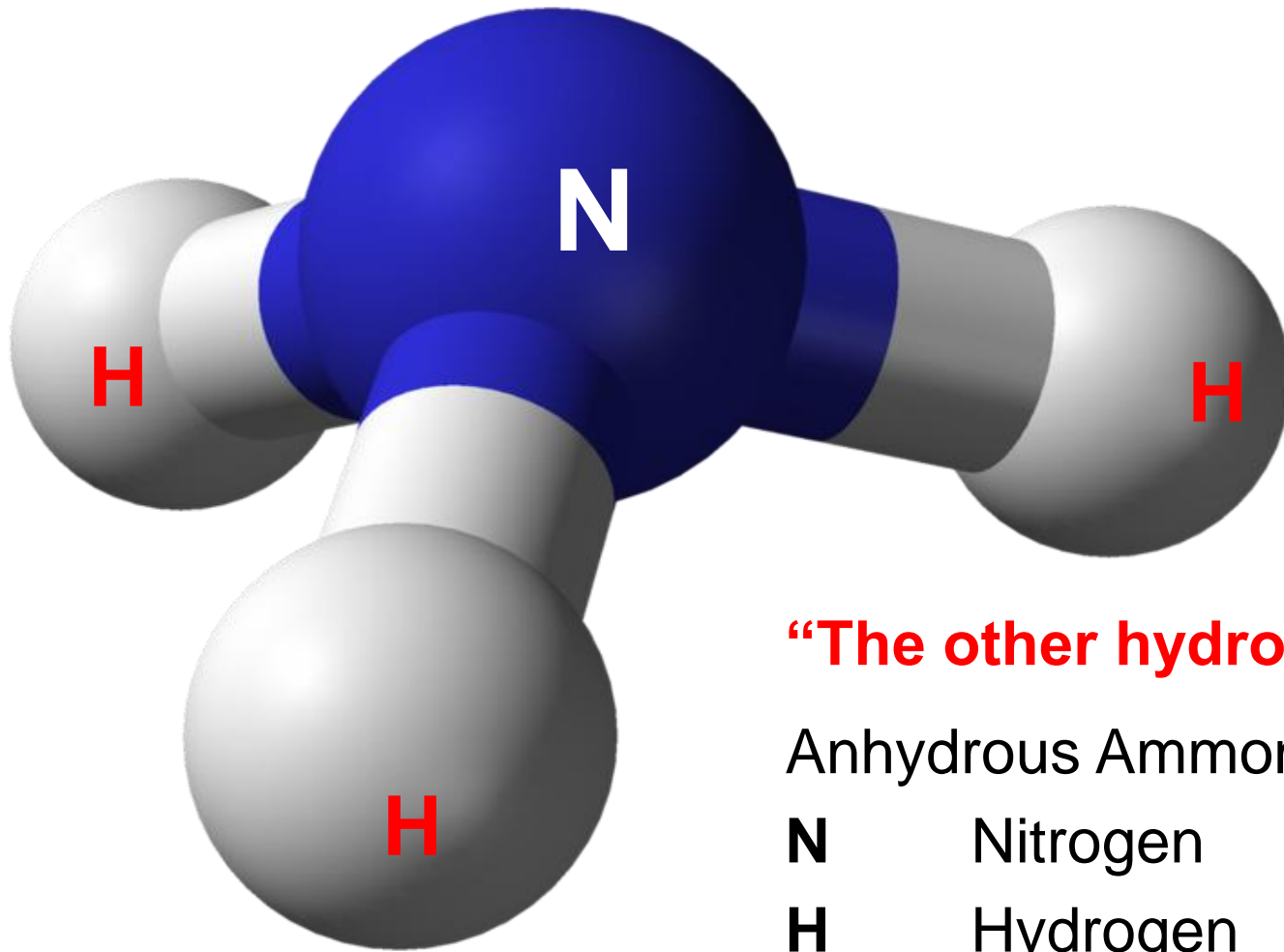
***Thomas Edison***



# Pipelining Hydrogen:

**Blend with NatGas or high-purity ?**  
**Repurpose old pipes or new-build ?**  
**Free “packing” storage ?**  
**Continental scale ?**  
**Salt cavern storage access ?**  
**GH2 or LH2 or liquid NH3 (ammonia) ?**

Bill Leighty  
Director  
The Leighty Foundation



**“The other hydrogen”**

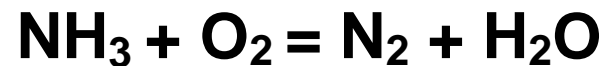
Anhydrous Ammonia  $\text{NH}_3$

**N** Nitrogen

**H** Hydrogen

Molecular weight = ~ 17

18% **H** by weight: “other hydrogen”





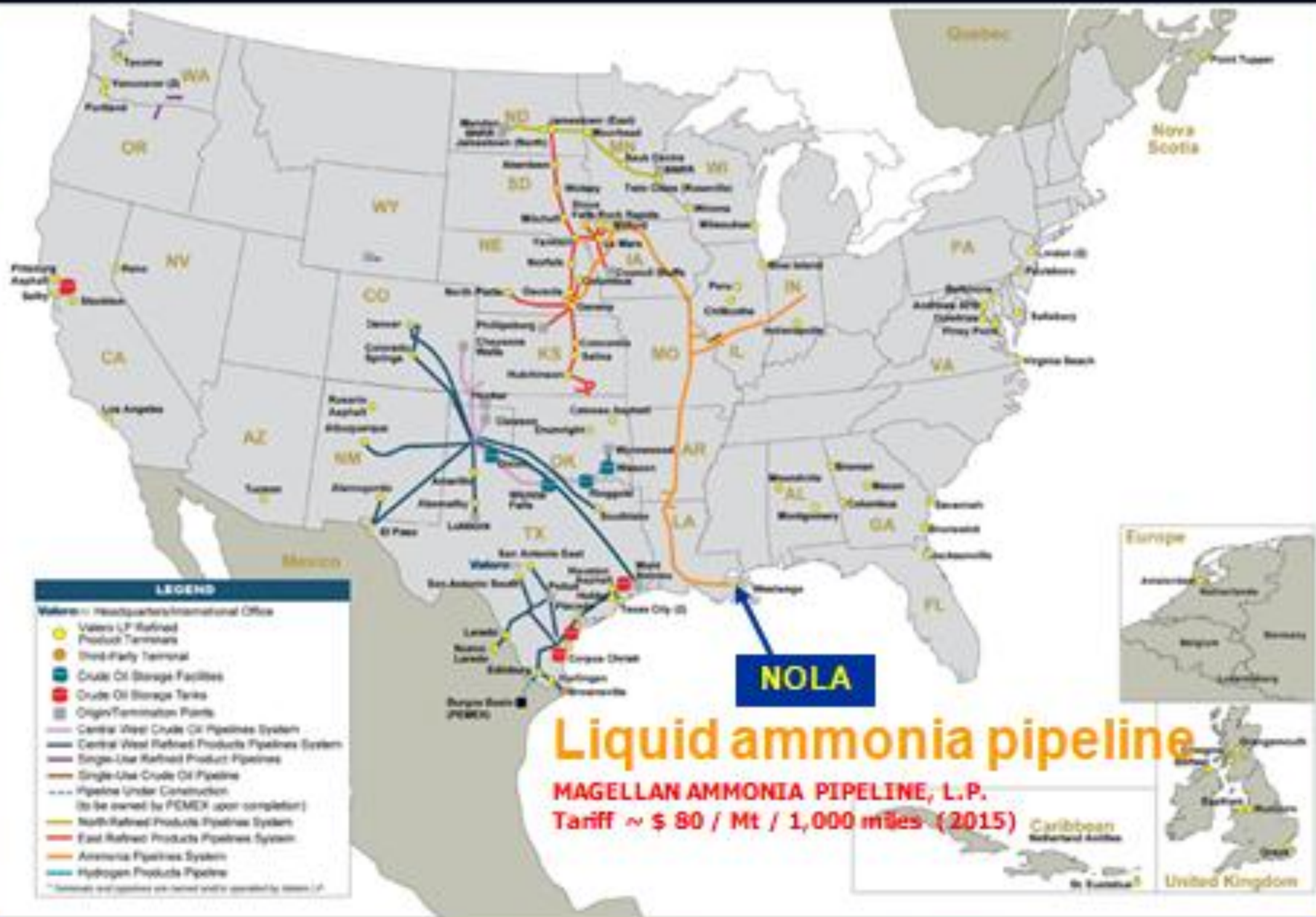


**Liquid Hydrogen –  $\text{LH}_2$**   
**100 H atoms**



**Liquid Anhydrous Ammonia –  $\text{NH}_3$**   
**170 H atoms**

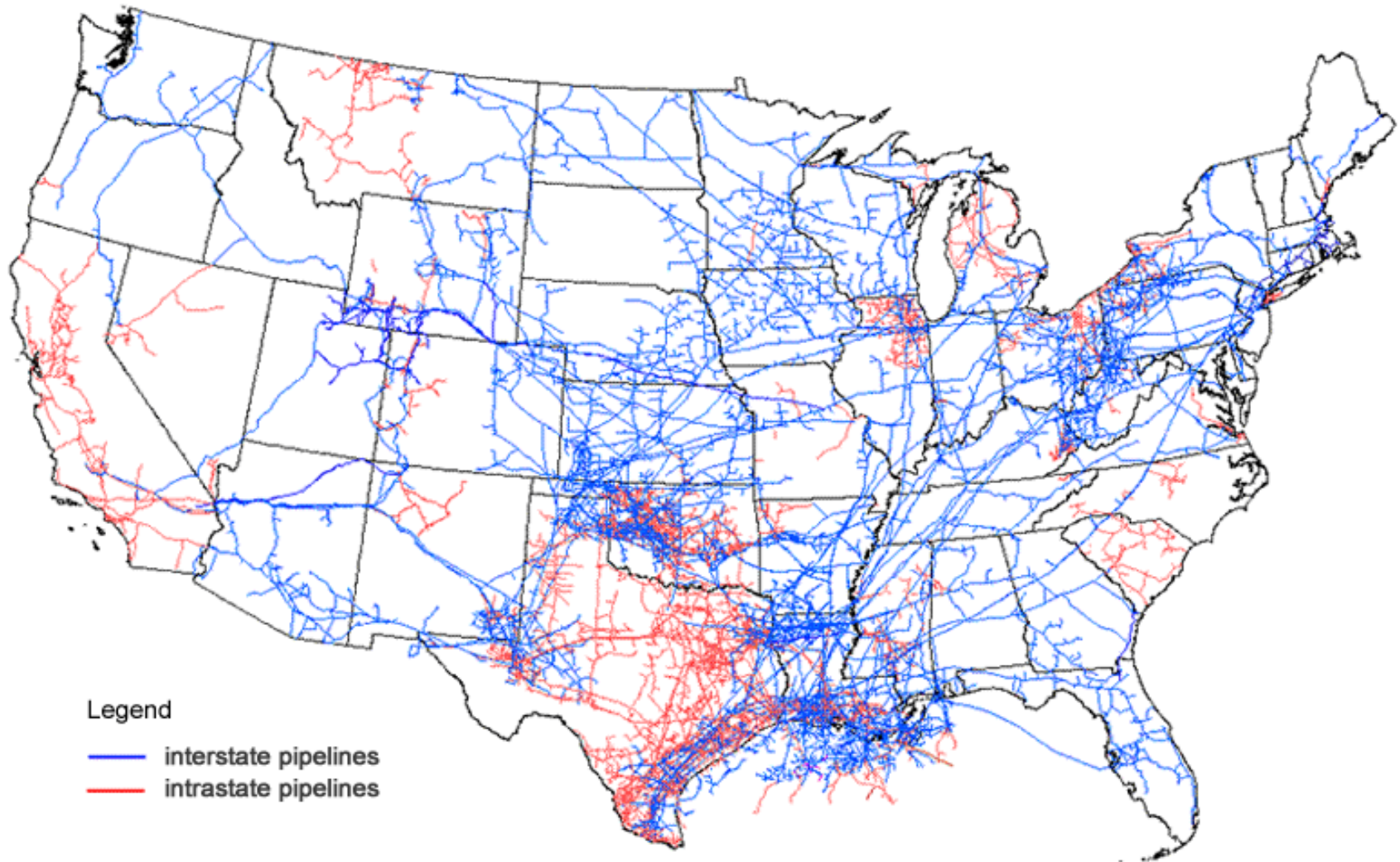




Valero LP Operations

# NatGas pipelines

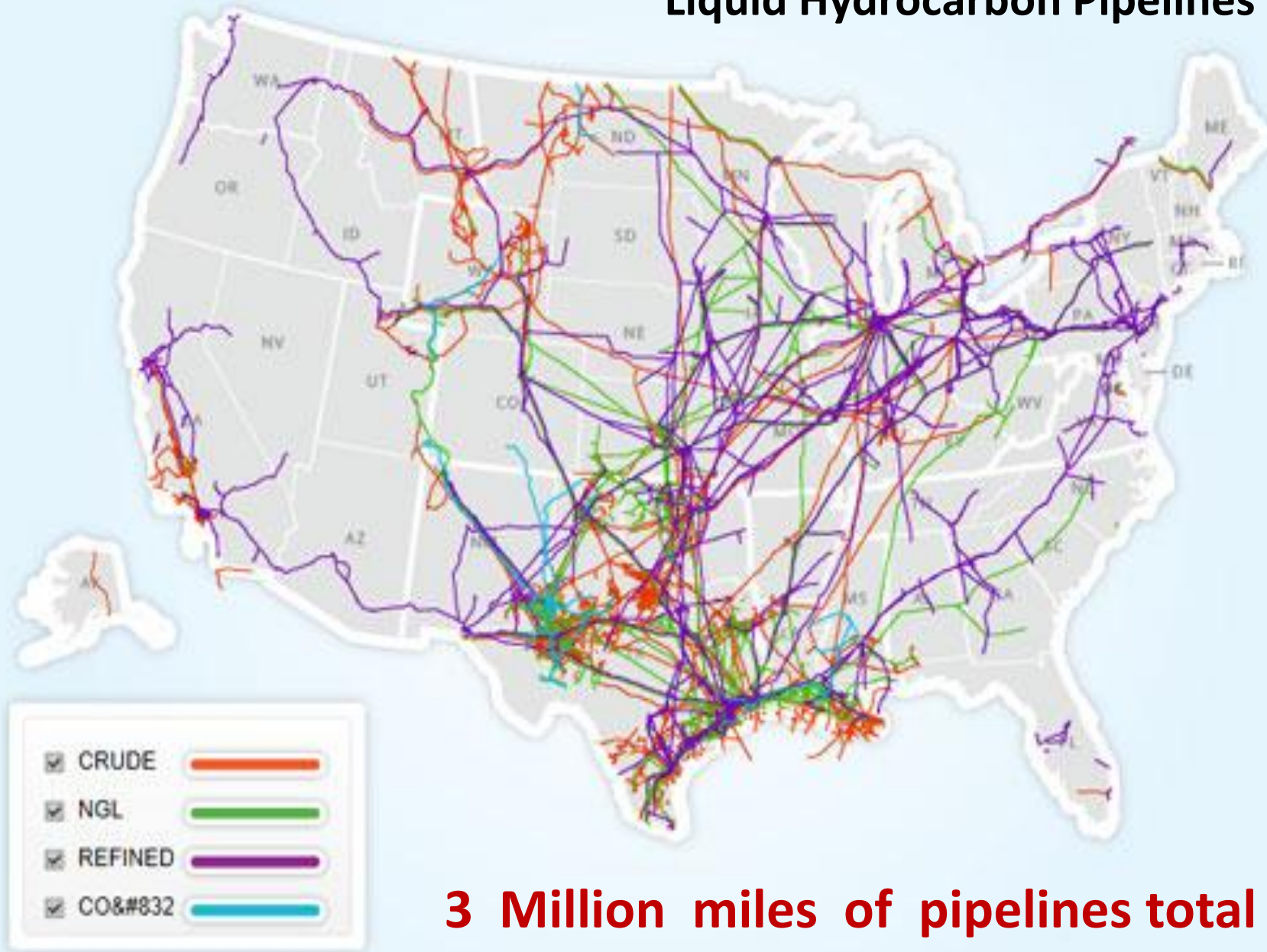
Map of U.S. interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *About U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines*



# Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipelines



**3 Million miles of pipelines total**

'09 ARPA-E "Grids" Goal: \$100 / kWh capex

Total storage = 380 GWh



Storm Lake, IA

***"Atmospheric" Liquid Ammonia Storage Tank (Corn Belt)***

***-33 C    1 Atm***

***Each: 30,000 Tons, 190 GWh    \$ 20 M turnkey***

***\$ 100 / MWh = \$ 0.10 / kWh capital cost***



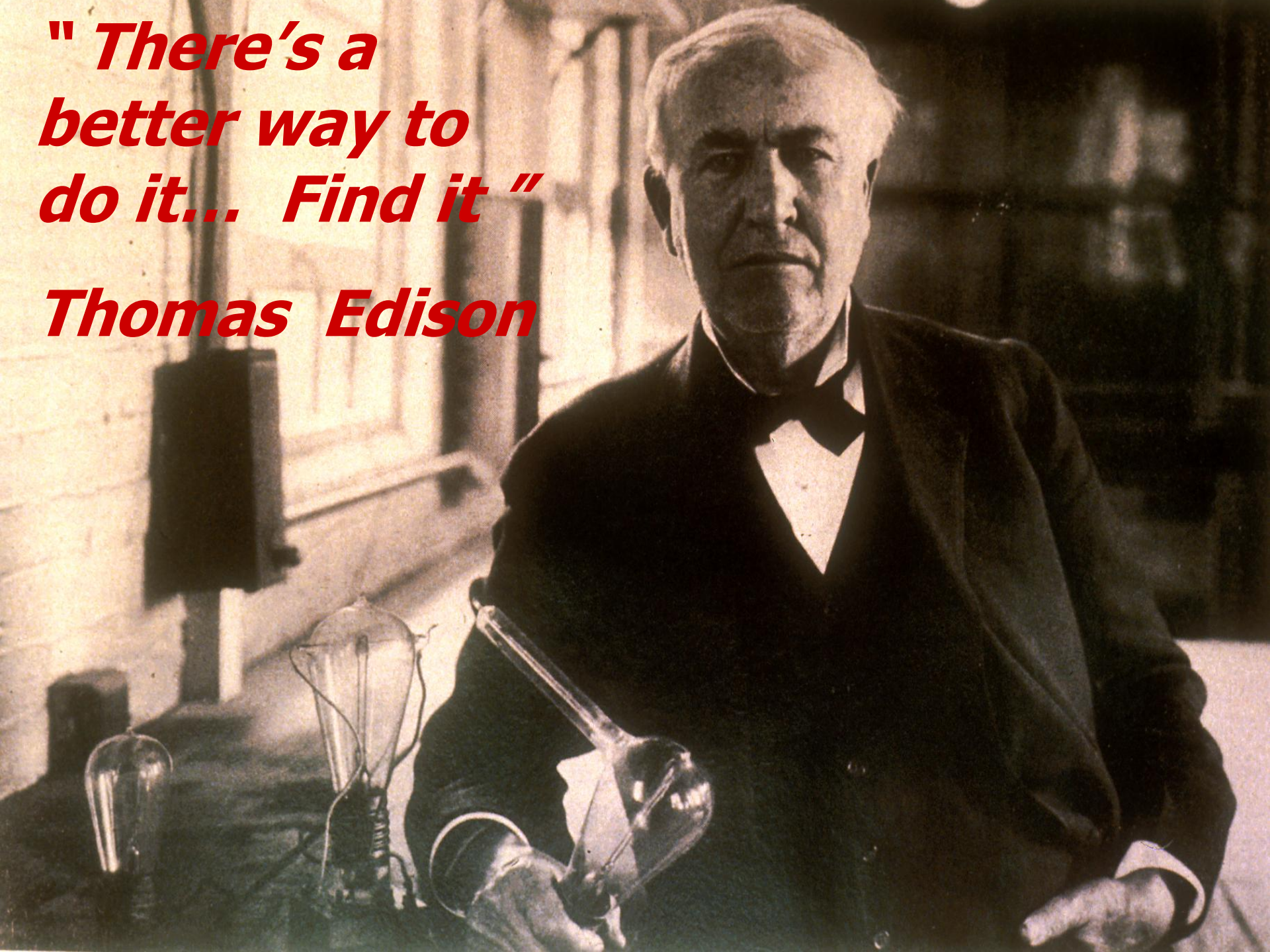
200 Ton “propane” tanks for liquid ammonia  
~ 10 bar pressure  
25 C





***" There's a  
better way to  
do it... Find it "***

***Thomas Edison***





**“Hydrogen is hard” -- too hard ?**



**IGU**  
**WGC2022**  
28th WORLD GAS CONFERENCE  
DAEGU, KOREA 23-27 MAY

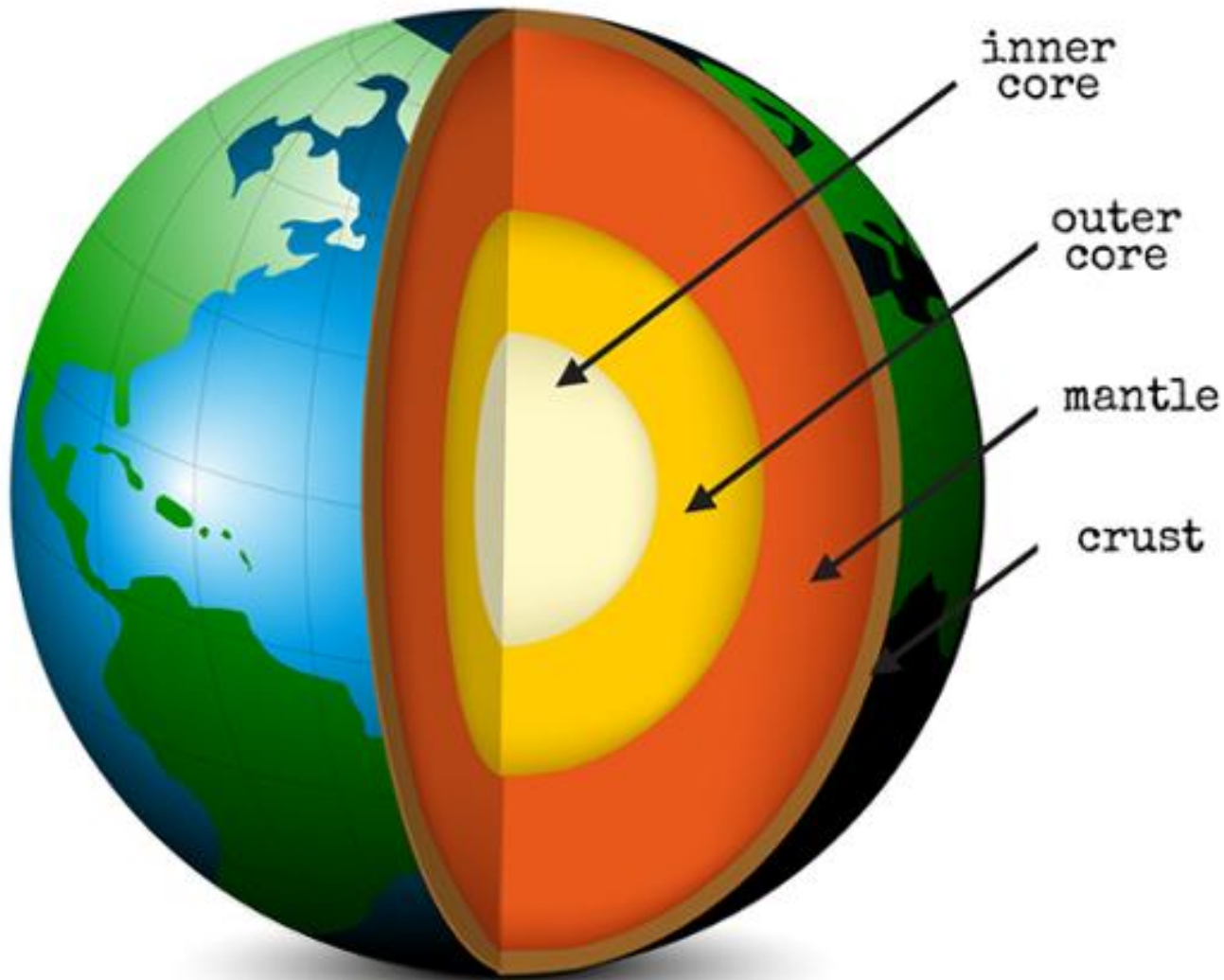
## **Pipelining Hydrogen:**

- Welcome disruption
- R&D&D success: complete system
- Energy + Industrial Feedstocks [E+IF]
- Entire human enterprise → Grid, energy
- Benign: GHG-emission-free
- Inexhaustible
- Baseload, firm, dispatchable
- Ubiquitous on Earth
- Equitable
- Affordable: competitive
- Free energy storage -- leave heat in ground

**Deep Hot Dry Rock Geothermal**

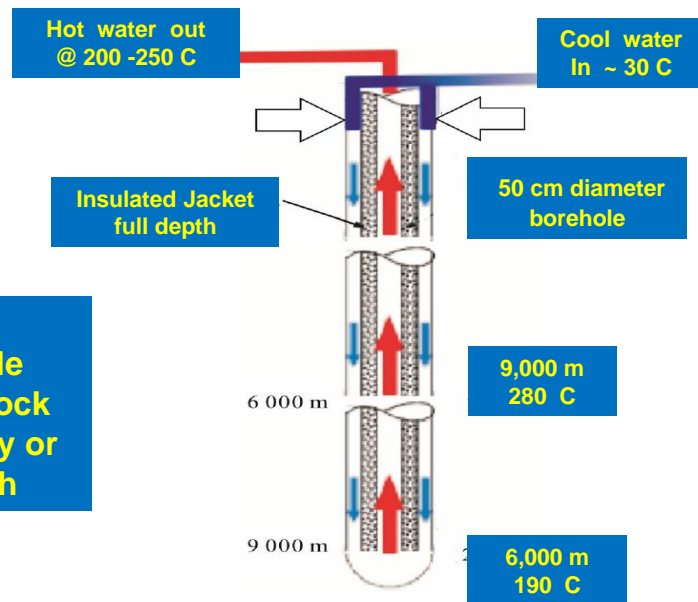


# LAYERS OF THE EARTH



**Deep Hot Dry Rock Geothermal**



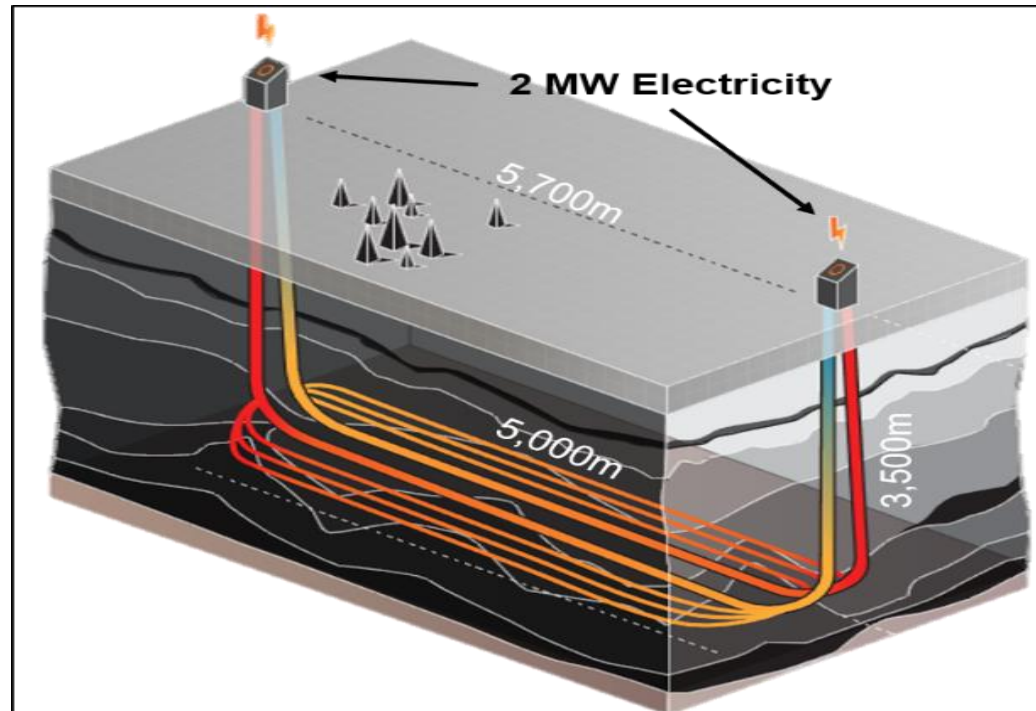


**Bore deep enough,  
cheap enough**

#### Electro Pulse Boring: EPB for DHDRG

- Deep geothermal heat: 240 C @ 8 km
- Electricity + DHS heat, anywhere
- Low-cost rock breaking, remote areas
- No rotary abrasive drilling; no drill rig
- Goal: \$ 150 / m, 50 cm diam, 5-10 km

- Benign
- Baseload
- Firm, dispatchable
- Inexhaustible
- Ubiquitous on Earth
- No transmission, storage
- Equitable
- Affordable

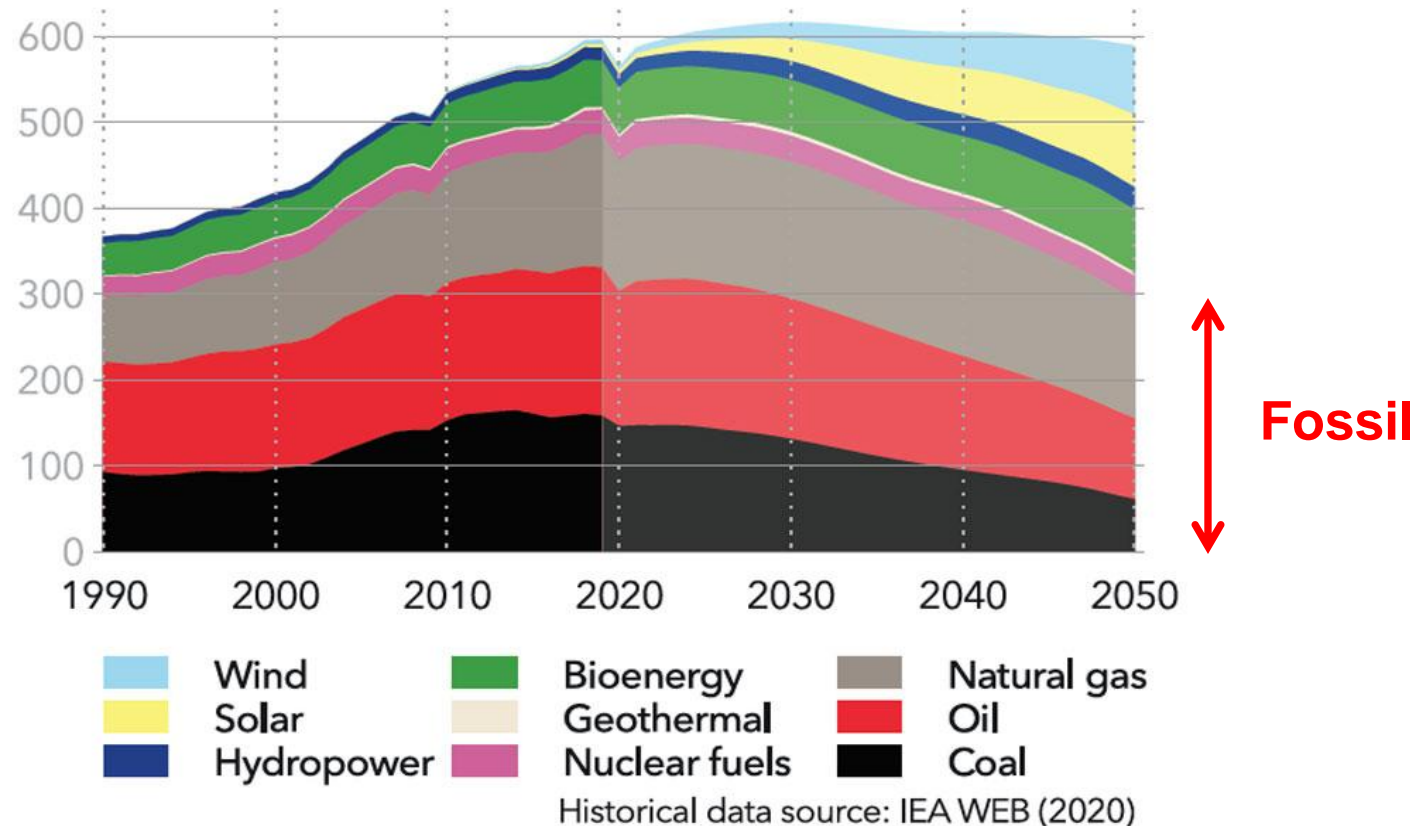


**Deep Hot Dry Rock Geothermal (DHDRG)**

## World primary energy supply by source

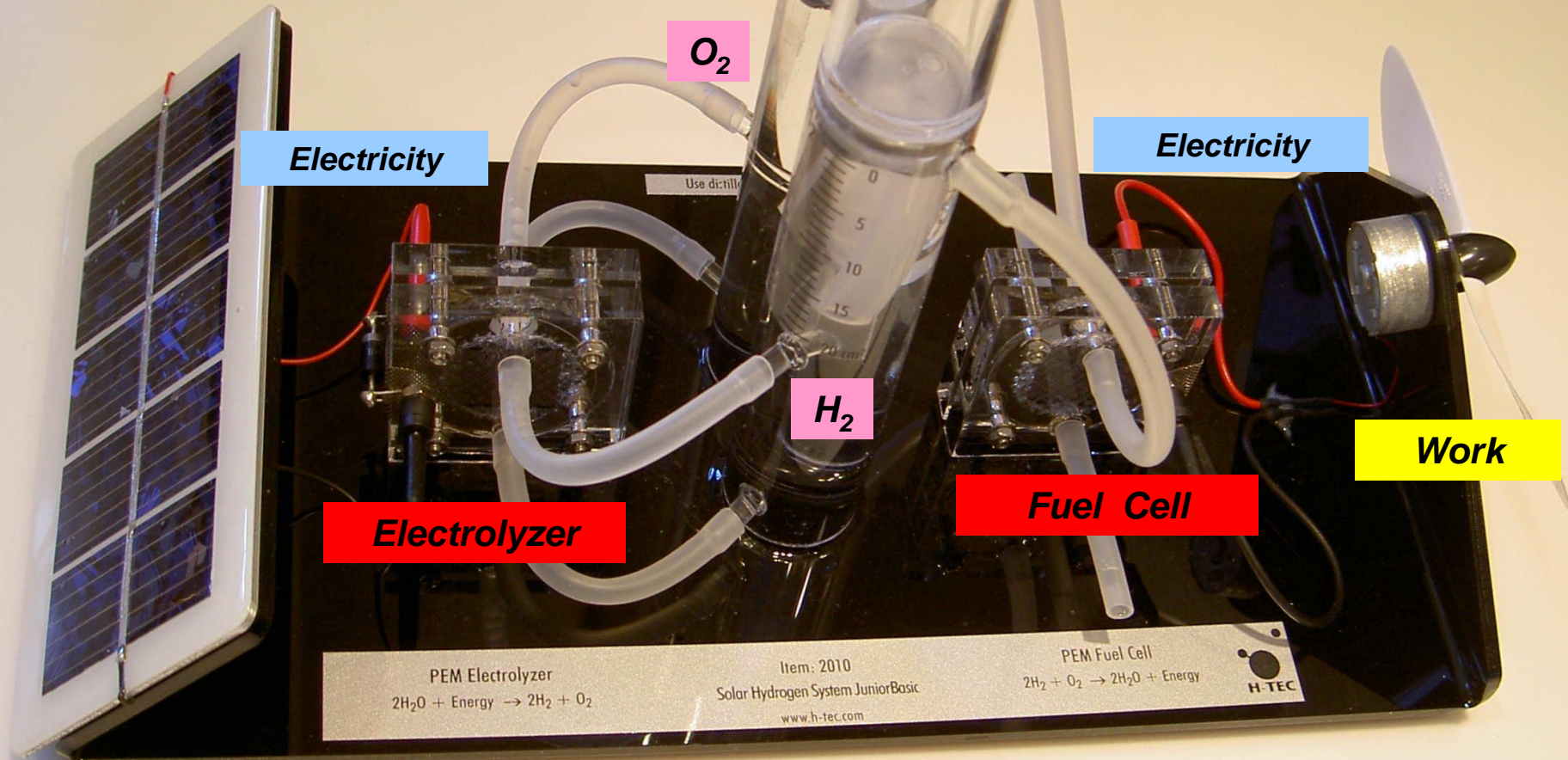
Units: EJ/yr

Source: DNV Energy Transition Outlook 2021



**2050 :** Total De-carb, de-GHG-emission: anthropogenic  
Entire human enterprise: Energy + Industrial Feedstocks  
Fossil 50 % → Zero  
Geothermal insignificant  
Roles: Legacy Gas, Nascent Hydrogen ?  
Arrest: Climate catastrophe

**Sunlight from  
local star**



**Solar Hydrogen Energy System**



# Pipelining Hydrogen:

**“Hydrogen is hard”**

**Why ?**

**Gas or liquid ?**

**Blend with NatGas or high-purity ?**

**Repurpose old pipes or new-build ?**

**Free “packing” storage ?**

**Continental scale ?**

**Salt cavern storage access ?**

**GH2 or LH2 or liquid NH3 ?**

**R&D&D now**

Bill Leighty, Director

The Leighty Foundation

*[wleighty@earthlink.net](mailto:wleighty@earthlink.net)*

**[www.leightyfoundation.org/Earth.php](http://www.leightyfoundation.org/Earth.php)**

**<https://vimeo.com/711824309>**