

Article by Nola Z Valente

Williams working on emissions tracking project



Natural gas pipeline company Williams has partnered with Context Labs to develop an emissions tracking software, starting in the Haynesville shale, that they say could be a key tool in advancing the energy transition.

Williams and Context Labs, using the new software, will provide verified emissions profiles and capture the progress of greenhouse gas mitigation across the natural gas value chain by providing end-to-end measured, verifiable and transparent emissions data for decision making, according to Williams today at the LDC Gas Forum in Boston, Massachusetts.

Williams' first implementation of the technology is underway in the Haynesville shale region in Louisiana.

If it succeeds in Haynesville, Williams plans to implement the technology this summer on Transco and eventually move into its northeast assets. Once greenhouse gas emissions are measured, they can be reduced to meet Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments, according to Williams.

"We are looking forward later this year to demonstrating the first end-to-end, certified natural gas transactions connecting producers, Williams gathering, processing, transmission and ultimately utility buyers," Williams' director of business development Brian Vogt said.

Massachusetts-based Context Labs focuses on helping natural gas companies measure and document their emissions and make them digitally quantifiable and available for operational decision making.

The entire natural gas value chain must be monitored, measured and verified to secure natural gas' role in a

clean energy future, according to Williams and Context Labs. Williams this year plans to explore opportunities to partner with its customers and develop a pilot to certify an emissions path.

ESG ratings are mostly unclear for sustainable investors and it is crucial for the industry to be diligent in clearly telling the story of how natural gas fits into the energy transition, Vogt said.

About 46pc of investors surveyed by consulting firm Ernst & Young said there was a disconnect between ESG reporting and mainstream financial information. About 41pc said there is a lack of real-time information as well as information on how a company creates long-term value.

Williams plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and has about 15 projects related to batteries and storage in developing stages, a hydrogen pilot project underway in Wyoming, seven existing renewable natural gas (RNG) interconnections to Williams infrastructure and several projects in development focused on carbon capture.

RNG, also known as biomethane, is a more refined version of biogas that is captured at sites such as landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, food processing plants and dairy farms. It can be used interchangeably with conventional natural gas.

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