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Drivers and Challenges of Producing Renewable Natural Gas in California

Securing California's Clean Energy Future
with Renewable Natural Gas
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Overview

- 1) What are the Market Drivers to Produce Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)?
- 2) Challenges to Produce RNG
- 3) Some Current Biogas Projects/Programs in California

What Are The Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

- 1) **Transportation Fuel** - When RNG is used as a transportation fuel from a qualified feedstock, credits can be generated and sold which increases the market value of RNG



Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) – program to reduce the carbon intensity of California’s transportation fuels by at least 10 percent by 2020

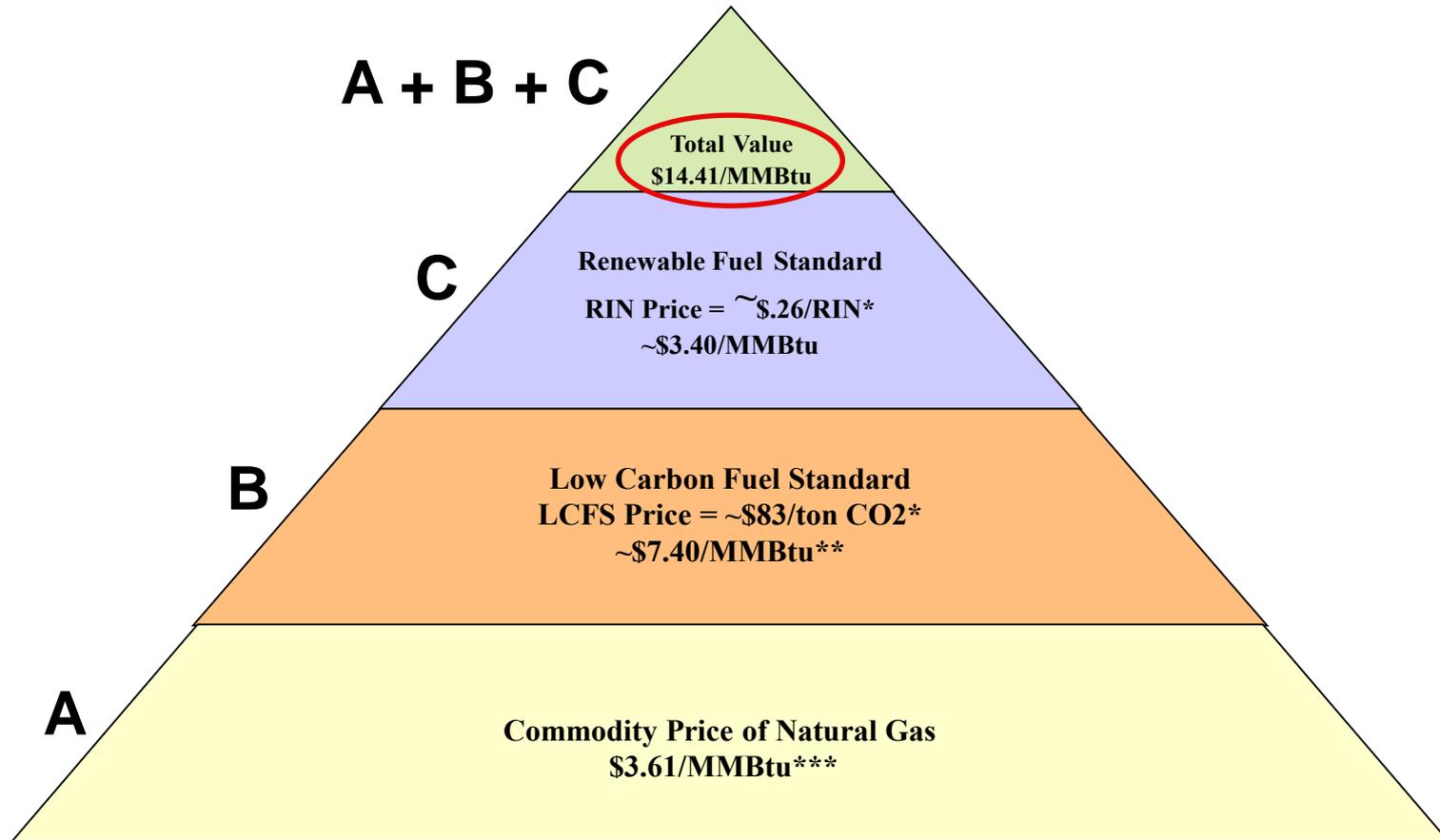
- Carbon Intensity Values*:
 - Dairy biogas = ~86% lower than gasoline
 - Natural gas = ~32% lower than gasoline



Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) – federal program that requires petroleum refiners and importers of gasoline to demonstrate that a portion of the fuel they sell is renewable

What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

Total Value of RNG When Used as a Transportation Fuel



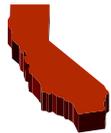
* Prices as of 11/14/13

** Assumes carbon intensity for dairy biogas

** Approximate Henry Hub Natural Gas Future Price – December 2013

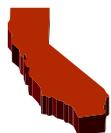
What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

2) **Electric Generation** - RNG can be used as the fuel source to produce renewable energy (utility scale and distributed generation)



➤ **Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)** – RNG can be used to help achieve California RPS goals, 33% by 2020

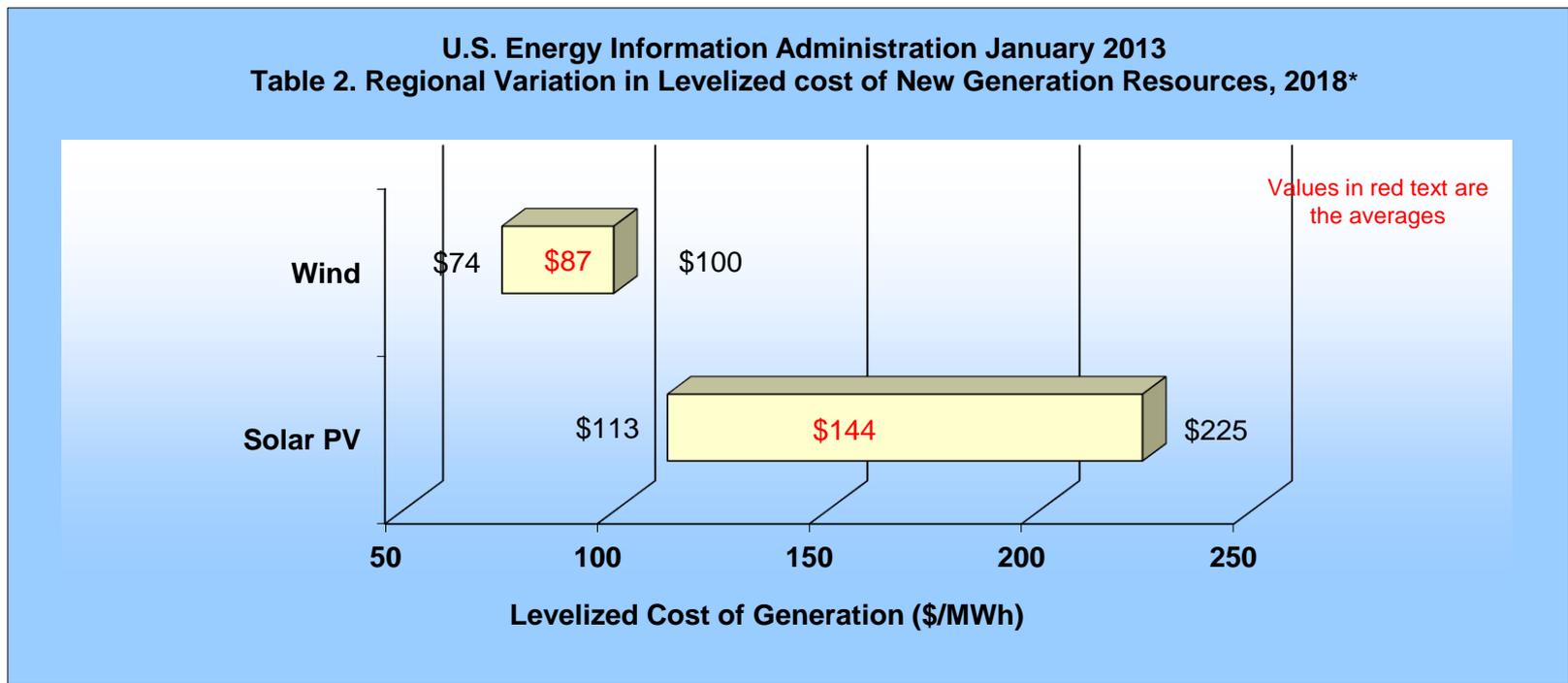
- RNG must show one of the following benefits in California:
 - Reduction or avoidance of any criteria air pollutants
 - Reduction or avoidance of pollutants that could have an impact on water quality
 - Mitigating any emission of odors



➤ **Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)** - California Public Utilities Commission mandated program providing incentives to support existing, new and emerging distributed energy resources

What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) – RNG can be used to help achieve RPS goal of 33% by 2020



What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)

The Following Technologies Can All Produce RPS Eligible Energy



Wind
(Avg \$87/MWh)

or



RPS Certified Production Facility Using RNG
(assuming \$110/MWh or \$15.89/MMBtu)

or



Solar
(Avg \$144/MWh)

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{Biomethane} & + & \text{Combined Cycle Power} & + & \text{Combined Cycle Power} & + & \text{Gas Transportation} & = & \text{RPS Certified} \\
 (\$X.XX/MMBtu) & & \text{Production Levelized} & & \text{Production Levelized} & & (\sim\$1.75/MMBtu) & & \text{Production Facility} \\
 & & \text{Fixed Cost*} & & \text{Variable Cost*} & & & & \text{Using RNG} \\
 & & (\$22.86/MWh) & & (\$4.04/MWh) & & & & (\$15.89/MMBtu) \\
 & & (\$3.30/MMBtu) & & (\$0.58/MMBtu) & & & & \\
 \end{array}$$

Based on the illustration above, the potential market price of RNG is \$10.26/MMBtu

* Using 2011 CPUC Market Price Referent Model. Assumes project start date of 2018, 20 Year Contract, and average heat rate of 6,924 btu/kWh

What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) – California Public Utilities Commission mandated program providing incentives to support existing, new and emerging distributed energy resources

Technology Type	Incentive (\$/W)
Renewable and Waste Heat Capture	Onsite
Wind Turbine	\$1.19
Bottoming-Cycle CHP	\$1.19
Pressure Reduction Turbine	\$1.19
Conventional Fuel-Based CHP	
Internal Combustion Engine	\$0.48
Microturbine	\$0.48
Gas Turbine	\$0.48
Emerging technologies	
Advanced Energy Storage	\$1.80
Biogas	\$1.80
Fuel Cell – CHP or Electric Only	\$2.03

Challenges to Produce RNG

1) Policy Changes = Market Uncertainty

a) Past

- March 28, 2012 to April 30, 2013 – suspension of biomethane as RPS-eligible
 - September 27, 2012 – Signing of Assembly Bill 2196 modified the RPS eligibility requirements for electrical generation facilities using biomethane

b) Current

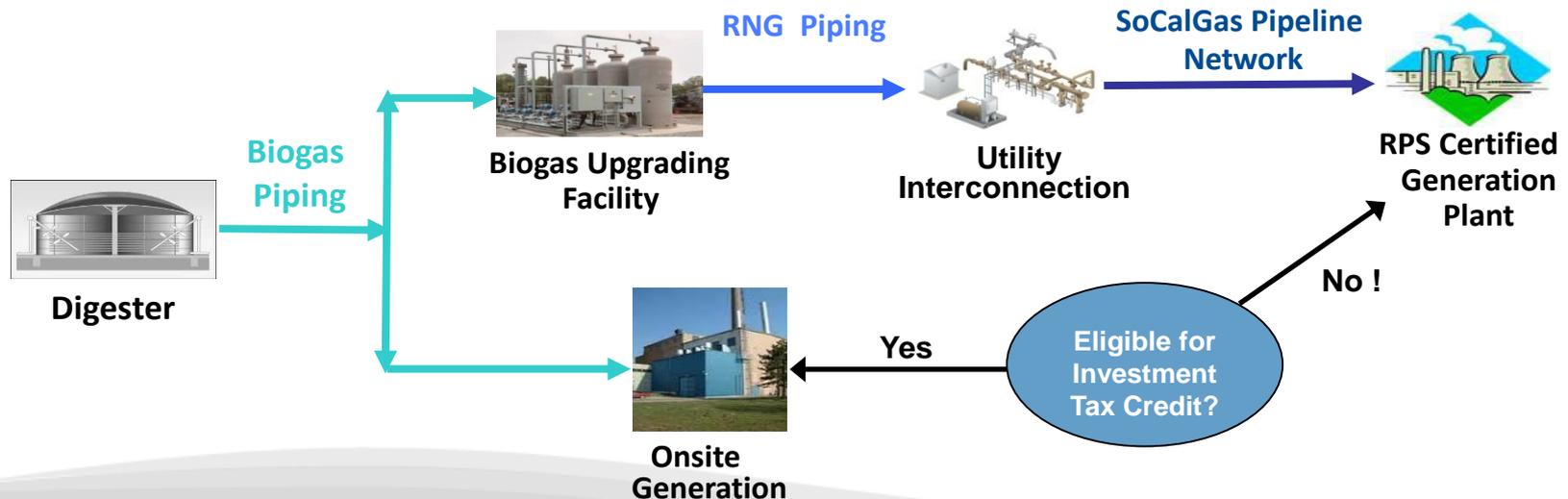
- September 27, 2012 – Signing of AB 1900 by the governor which will result in the CPUC adopting new pipeline quality gas specifications on or before December 31, 2013
 - Difficult to design a biogas upgrading facility based on an unknown pipeline quality gas specification
- Pending lawsuits against the LCFS and Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2)

Challenges to Produce RNG

2) Project Scale

- Small to medium scale biogas production facilities are not economical
- Minimum threshold is approximately 1.5 million standard cubic feet per day for favorable economics (including interconnection costs)
 - Based on RNG market price of \$9-12/MMBtu

3) Illustration: Incentives are uneven and needed for RNG production



Some Current Biogas Projects/Programs in California

1) Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Only project in California putting RNG into the utility pipeline

2) Redeem by Clean Energy

- Announcement made in October 2013 and will commercially distribute RNG vehicle fuel directly to fleets around the country and the 35 public Clean Energy stations in California

3) Hilarides Dairy

- Biogas is captured from a lagoon digester and used for: 1) onsite generation and 2) CNG for their milk trucks and pick-up trucks

4) Gil's Onions

- Takes onion waste to produce biogas and generate power onsite using fuel cells

5) SoCalGas' Proposed Biogas Conditioning/Upgrading Services Tariff

- Application filed on 4/25/12 with CPUC seeking authority to design, install, own, operate and maintain biogas conditioning/upgrading equipment on or adjacent to customer premises

Thank You

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