

Case Study. Snam: Pipeline pump-down for maintenance

Best Practice: Operational Repairs; Venting

The Issue

- During pipeline maintenance, pipe depressurisation required for safety
- Typical procedure to block section of pipe and vent
- Large pipelines cause substantial emissions (e.g. ~80,000 m³ for 48")

The Approach

- Commission mobile compressor to pull vacuum on pipeline prior to maintenance, and recompress to local sales line downstream



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Best Practice: Operational Repair; Equipment Leaks

The Result

- 13 interventions with mobile compressors were made in 2018 in the Snam transmission network
- ~5,400,000 m³ of saved natural gas, a 43% reduction of Snam potential vented emissions.
- Capital costs to recompress gas depends on the volume of gas; an average cost for an intervention with one compressor is 70,000 EUR.

