





Join a global community of over 150,000 chemistry professionals



Find the many benefits of ACS membership!

http://bit.ly/ACSmembership





## **Benefits of ACS Membership**



#### Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN)

The preeminent weekly digital and print news source.



#### **NEW! ACS SciFinder**

ACS Members receive 25 complimentary SciFinder® research activities per year.



#### **NEW! ACS Career Navigator**

Your source for leadership development, professional education, career services, and much more.

http://bit.ly/ACSmembership











@AmericanChemicalSociety

@AmerChemSociety

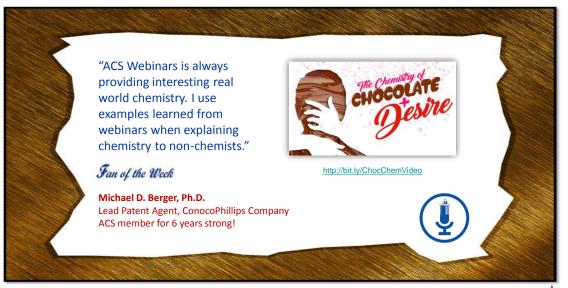


https://www.linkedin.com/company/american-chemical-society

Contact ACS Webinars ® at acswebinars@acs.org

#### How has ACS Webinars' benefited you?





Be a featured fan on an upcoming webinar! Write to us @ acswebinars@acs.org



**Learn from the best and brightest minds in chemistry!** Hundreds of webinars on diverse topics presented by experts in the chemical sciences and enterprise.

**Recordings** are an exclusive ACS member benefit and are made available to registrants via an email invitation once the recording has been edited and posted.

**Live Broadcasts** of ACS Webinars<sup>®</sup> continue to be available to the general public on Thursdays from 2-3pm ET!

www.acs.org/acswebinars

#### What is ACS on Campus?



ACS visits campuses across the world offering FREE seminars on how to be published, find a job, network and use essential tools like SciFinder. ACS on Campus presents seminars and workshops focused on how to:



- Publish in top journals
- Find a job
- Effectively use research tools like SciFinder® and ACS ChemWorx
- Communicate your science

- Write grant proposals
- Build industry partnerships
- Prepare for a changing employment landscape

http://acsoncampus.acs.org

#### #HeroesofChemistry **ACS Heroes of Chemistry Award**



Inspiring Hero Stories



The **ACS Heroes of Chemistry Award** is the Annual award sponsored by the American Chemical Society that recognizes talented industrial chemical scientists whose work has led to the development of successful commercialized products ingrained with chemistry for the benefit of humankind.

2018 Winners:









www.acs.org/heroes

# An individual development planning tool for you!





https://chemidp.acs.org





Meetings & Events Publications & News Programs & Outreach Careers & Advancement Advocacy & Policy

Advancing materials.

Improving the quality of life.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Apr 22 - Apr 26 2019 2019 MRS Spring Meeting

Apr 22 May 01 - May 01 2019 Webinar: Computational Design and Development of Alloys Мау **01** 

May 13 - Jun 13 2019 Abstract Submission—2019 MRS Fall Meeting Мау 13

https://www.mrs.org

## **Upcoming ACS Webinar**

www.acs.org/acswebinars





https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/drug-discovery/hit-finding.html

6









**WE MUST CONSERVE IT** 

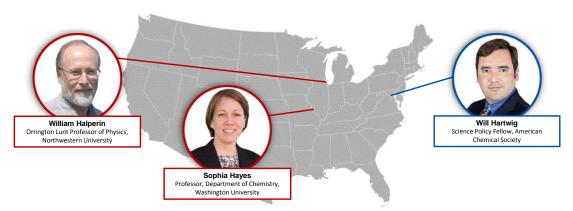


THIS ACS WEBINAR WILL BEGIN SHORTLY...

ACS Webinars



Helium: An Irreplaceable Resource and Why We Must Conserve It



Slides available now! Recordings are an exclusive ACS member benefit.

www.acs.org/acswebinars

This ACS Webinar is co-produced with ACS External Affairs & Communications, American Physical Society, and Materials Research Society



# An Irreplaceable Resource and Why We Must Conserve It

15

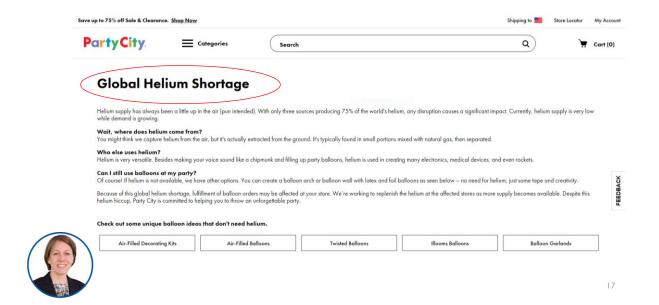
# Why are we here today?

- Supply Now and in the future
- Price Now and in future
- · What can we do?





# Early warnings of a helium shortage to the public...

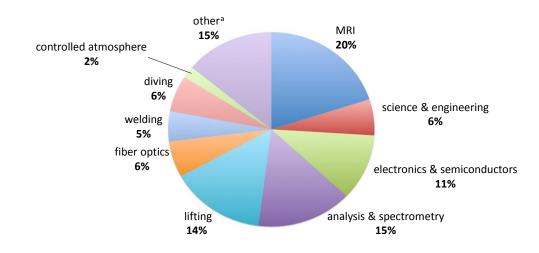


Early warnings of a shortage amongst scientists...

"Hey, are you guys getting helium? Our vendor just delayed all shipments."

 AMMRL listserve (Association of Managers of Magnetic Resonance Labs)

# End-uses for Helium worldwide (2015)

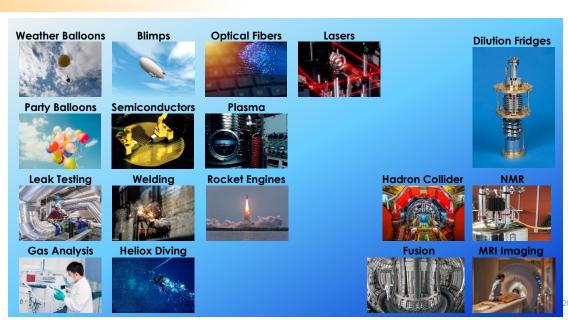




Data provided by Intelligas Consulting in <a href="https://www.aps.org/policy/reports/popa-reports/helium-crisis.cfm">https://www.aps.org/policy/reports/popa-reports/helium-crisis.cfm</a> a Includes leak detection, pressurization, purging and other uses.

# Helium Touches Many Industries – and Lives

GASEOUS



21

## **Audience Survey Question**

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

#### From where do vendors get their helium:

(choose all that apply)

- capture it from our atmosphere
- extract it from seawater
- collect it from nuclear reactors
- extract it from natural gas mining
- extract from the National Helium Reserve

## **Answer Question 1:**

The answers are:

- extract it from natural gas mining
- extract from the National Helium Reserve

Helium is refined from natural gases (methane,  $CO_2$  etc.) at a concentration typically 1 to 3%. Helium is also extracted from the National Helium Reserve, slated for closure in 2021.



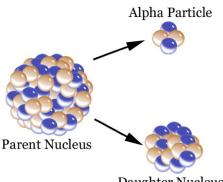
<sup>\*</sup> If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

# A little background on



## How is Helium formed?

- Helium is a byproduct of radioactive decay of uranium and thorium emitting an alpha-particle; half-life of ~ 10<sup>8</sup> years
- The alpha-particle which is charged obtains electrons from its environment to become <sup>4</sup>He.
- What about <sup>3</sup>He?







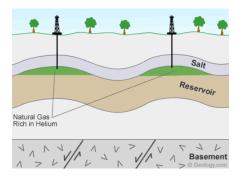
https://s3.amazonaws.com/ai2-vision-textbookdataset/dataset\_releases/rc2/train/textbook\_images/radioactive\_decay\_as\_a\_measure \_of\_age\_21060.png

## Where do we find Helium?

- Helium is a byproduct of natural gas extraction
- Helium must be present at sufficiently high concentrations to make it "worthwhile" to separate it from natural gas

## →usually around 2%

 Natural abundance in the atmosphere ~ 5 ppm



https://geology.com/articles/helium/

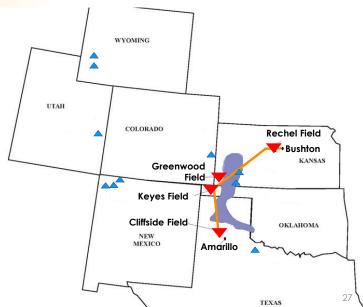
25

# From where do we get Helium? (worldwide)



# From where do we get Helium? (U.S.A.)

- Private plants & pipelines
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) facilities





# What causes supply shocks and price changes?

- · Increasing demand for helium worldwide
- Political instability
- U.S.A. pipeline maintenance
- Market fluctuations of natural gases can influence helium
- Natural gas well depletion and discovery of new wells
- Shutdown of the Helium Reserve in 2021 that has provided 30 % of world supply for many years



## Who is affected most by supply and price "shocks"?

#### **End-users with fixed budgets:**

(Researchers on federal grants.)

- 1) Low-temperature research in physics, chemistry, engineering
- Astrophysics, accelerators, cryogenic detectors
- 3) Materials science and quantum information
- 4) Cryogenic instrumentation



# End-users with critical cryogenic applications:

- 1) Superconducting magnets
- 2) NMR nearly all ACS-accredited chemistry departments
- 3) NMR researchers in chemistry, physics, engineering
- 4) Mass-spectrometry



29

# Stories from the "front lines" of researchers

# Magnet "rescue" in Puerto Rico (after Hurricane Maria)



31

# Magnet "rescue" in Puerto Rico (after Hurricane Maria)



# Is there a Helium supply problem?

#### Anecdotes from around the country – in people's own words...

"...we were scheduled to move our NMR system into our new building. We were told by the vendor we needed 400 L of LHE on hand ...but [our vendor] could not provide that much He. Our stockroom director did a lot of hunting around, but there was not a single He supplier in the country that could provide that much He. The delay caused us to lose our window ...we lost the use of the instrument at a time when we needed it for teaching and research. Lack of He was the only reason we could not move the instrument on schedule."

"In October we were told that we had reached our allocation and no Helium would be available for at least 6-8 weeks. We have a 900 MHz that needs 250 liters every 4 weeks. We went 10 weeks without helium and have never quite got back to a complete fill. More importantly our Helium cost went up ~47% at that time. Our cost for the 900 alone are now



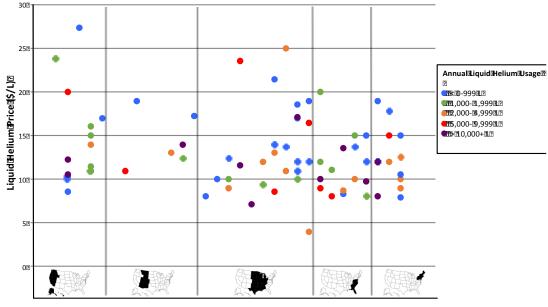
\$56K/ year and that cost has to be passed on to our users."

33

## 18 120 Helium price over time Lab-Ready Liquid Helium Purchase Price (\$/L) **BLM Crude Helium** 100 BLM Crude Hellium Price (\$/Mcf) Lab-Ready Liquid Helium 80 Crude Helium: 70% helium + 30% natural gas 60 Conversion: 40 37.6 liquid He liters = 1 Mcf 20 0

https://www.aps.org/policy/reports/popa-reports/helium-crisis.cfm

# Regional prices (2015)



U.S. Regions 2

# **Audience Survey Question**

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

### Have you experienced shipment delay?

Never had a delay

https://www.aps.org/policy/reports/popa-reports/helium-crisis.cfm

- One or more delays up to 2 weeks
- Longer delays
- Not applicable I don't order / use helium

<sup>\*</sup> If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

# What can we do?

37

# Helium conservation and recycling

## Liquefaction

Large-scale > 50,000 L/yr. National Laboratories
 Mid-scale 30,000 to 50,000 L/yr. Universities
 Small-scale 5,000 to 30,000 L/yr. A few laboratories
 Very small-scale < 5,000 L/yr. One magnet/instrument</li>

#### Conservation

· Improved efficiency will reduce cost

## Storage:

 Only available in gas form; like National Helium Reserve 1000 L liquid = 26,600 cubic feet gas (room temperature) The Reserve will have 3 billion cubic feet in 2021



New directions (helium-free systems)

# Helium liquefaction

#### Mid-scale

#### <u>pluses</u>

- On-site inventory: 4,000 to 6,000 L equiv.
- Technician support
- Immediate availability of liquid helium, 40-50 L/hr
- Pricing advantage for make-up helium (delivery in large dewars, 250 L)
- Pricing advantage for single site delivery
- Pricing advantage for "In-kind" helium

#### minuses

- Expensive capitalization: 2 to 3 M\$
- · Cost of full time technician
- Institutional space
- Efficient helium transfers; efficient recovery from boil-off
- 7,500 L/year threshold for purchase from federal grants to qualify for "In-kind" helium



# Helium liquefaction

Mid-scale Northwestern Univ.



# Helium liquefaction

#### **Small-scale**

#### <u>pluses</u>

- Cheap capitalization: 150 to 250 k\$
- · No technician required
- Some lab space is required,  $\sim 300$  to 500 ft<sup>2</sup>
- Immediate availability of liquid helium: 20 to 40 L/day
- · Very efficient, low cost

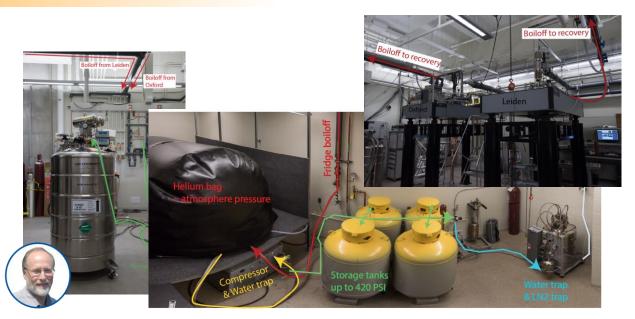
#### minuses

- No inventory, only ~ 150 to 250 L equiv.
- Lab staff do the work (soft money: students, postdocs, ...)
- Uncertain availability and cost for make-up helium ~ 300L/year
- Considerable energy consumption (~5kW 7kW)
- · Requires efficient helium handling



# Helium liquefaction

## Small-scale Univ. Alberta



# Helium conservation: efficiency and recycle



- Helium recovery and liquefaction
- Efficient helium transfers
  "Don't waste a drop" or even a "puff" of helium
- Dewars hooked up to recovery



43

## **Audience Survey Question**

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT



#### Which of these is of the HIGHEST priority?

- Refrain from buying helium balloons
- Improve transfer efficiency
- Call your congress members and request a hearing on helium
- All of the above

. .

<sup>\*</sup> If your answer differs greatly from the choices above tell us in the chat!

## **Answer to Question 3**

## The highest priority is: Call your congress people

Helium for balloons is too small to be a concern.

While it is always wise to improve efficiency, a higher priority is to press Congress to take action, beginning with holding a hearing on ensuring helium supplies for research.

This requires congressional action.

45

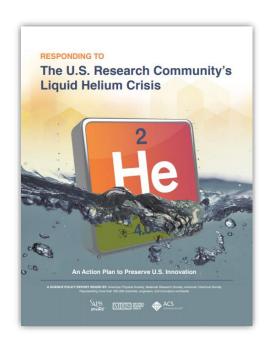
# In preparation ... for the next supply shock

- Recognize there are different "types" of users – ones with a fixed periodic critical need
- Triage helium orders
- Early-warning system for researchers (i.e., AMMRL or other professional society)
- Keep officials informed (to build awareness)
- Call your Members of Congress



## Want more info?

- American Chemical Society <a href="https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy.html">https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy.html</a>
- American Physical Society
   https://www.aps.org/policy/issues/energy/helium/
- Materials Research Society <a href="https://www.mrs.org/advocacy-issues">https://www.mrs.org/advocacy-issues</a>

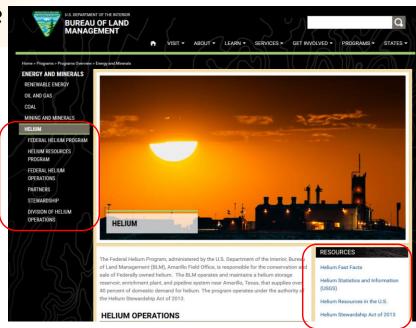


https://www.aps.org/policy/reports/popa-reports/helium-crisis.cfm

47

## Want more info?

 Bureau of Land Management:



https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/helium

## Want more info?



#### **National Academies**

- 2010: (report) https://www.nap.edu/catalog/12844/selling-the-nations-helium-reserve
- 2013: (testimony)
  "Up in the Air: The BLM's Disappearing Helium Program"

http://www.nationalacademies.org/OCGA/113Session1/testimonies/OCG A\_145533

• 2000: (report) https://www.nap.edu/catalog/9860/the-impact-of-selling-the-federalhelium-reserve

49

## ACS / APS / MRS action

Our professional societies are considering some of the following in their interactions with Members of Congress. Potential points to raise with MOC's:

- 1. The Administration listed helium in its critical minerals list last year, but has yet to take action.
- 2. Short-term: researchers that are in dire situations need some assistance.
- 3. Privatization (sale) of the Helium Reserve should be contingent upon a continuation of the in-kind program--providing access to helium for federal users.
- 4. Long-term: Congress needs to assist federally-funded research with helium recycling and development of helium-free technologies. Congress could use monies from helium royalty contracts for this purpose.











Helium: An Irreplaceable Resource and Why We Must Conserve It



Slides available now! Recordings are an exclusive ACS member benefit.

www.acs.org/acswebinars

This ACS Webinar is co-produced with ACS External Affairs & Communications, American Physical Society, and Materials Research Society

51

## **Upcoming ACS Webinar**

www.acs.org/acswebinars





https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/drug-discovery/hit-finding.html





#### Helium: An Irreplaceable Resource and Why We Must Conserve It



Slides available now! Recordings are an exclusive ACS member benefit.

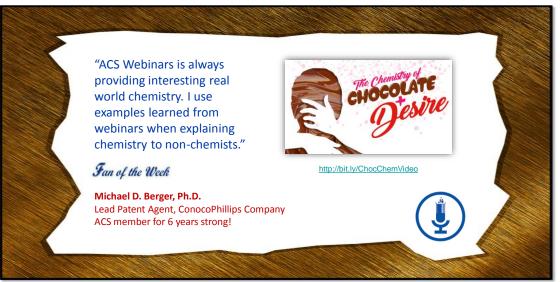
www.acs.org/acswebinars

This ACS Webinar is co-produced with ACS External Affairs & Communications, American Physical Society, and Materials Research Society

53

## How has ACS Webinars' benefited you?





Be a featured fan on an upcoming webinar! Write to us @ acswebinars@acs.org





## Benefits of ACS Membership



#### **Chemical & Engineering News** (*C&EN*)

The preeminent weekly digital and print news source.



#### **NEW! ACS SciFinder**

ACS Members receive 25 complimentary SciFinder® research activities per year.



#### **NEW! ACS Career Navigator**

Your source for leadership development, professional education, career services, and much more.

http://bit.ly/ACSmembership

5





ACS Webinars®does not endorse any products or services. The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the American Chemical Society.



Contact ACS Webinars® at acswebinars@acs.org

## **Upcoming ACS Webinar**

www.acs.org/acswebinars





https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/drug-discovery/hit-finding.html