Ultra-low emission (ULE) reforming technology is a highly energy efficient way to convert natural gas to methanol. It relies upon a combination of electricity and process-generated heat to power production. This innovative technology will reduce environmental impacts while preserving the economic benefits of the approximately $3.6 billion investment Northwest Innovation Works (NWIW) is making in the region.

NWIW will be the first to use this clean technology for methanol production in the U.S. ULE reforming technology is more energy efficient, uses less natural gas, and results in a significant reduction in carbon emissions, underscoring NWIW's key objective: global environmental responsibility accompanied by local economic benefits.

ULE technology emerged as the preferred choice for NWIW's proposed facilities at the Port of Kalama and Port of St. Helens because it is environmentally responsible and will create sustainable employment and economic growth for the region. ULE technology will lower greenhouse gas emissions at the facility up to 75 percent, compared to conventional methanol production technology.

ULE reforming technology has a solid record of industrial safety. Originally developed in the 1980s for use in other reforming-based production, the method was first applied in 1994 at the Coogee LCM plant in North Laverton, Australia. Under its contract with NWIW, Johnson Matthey will provide the ULE reforming technology for the planned Kalama and St. Helens facilities. Johnson Matthey is one of the world’s leading methanol technology providers, with over half of the world’s licensed methanol plants using its technology.

NWIW is working closely with the ports, state agencies, and local communities to plan and permit the facilities. The adoption of this technology is an example of how the research involved in permitting and design helps identify more environmentally sustainable options.

Northwest Innovation Works is a strong multi-national partnership committed to generating economic growth in the Pacific Northwest while meeting a global need – cleaner methanol production.

If you would like to receive regular updates about the proposed facility or have questions, please send an email to: info@nw-iw.com

Visit us on Facebook

NWInnovationWorks.com for project updates and information