



# What's Really Going on with your Beer's Fermentation?

Presented by **Tim Alexander**

**DESCHUTES**  
**BREWERY**

# Agenda

- About Deschutes Brewery
- Revisit the Issue Presented Last Year
- Action Taken
  - Mechanical Changes
  - Process Changes
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps

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# Deschutes Brewery – History

- Located in Bend, OR
- Founded in 1988
- Pub opened in Portland, OR in 2007



# Deschutes Brewery – Production Facility

- 2 brewhouses
- 50+ vessels
- Bottling and kegging
- 7<sup>th</sup> largest craft brewer in the US



# Deschutes Brewery – Data Sources



*Compusense*®



**DELTA***V*™



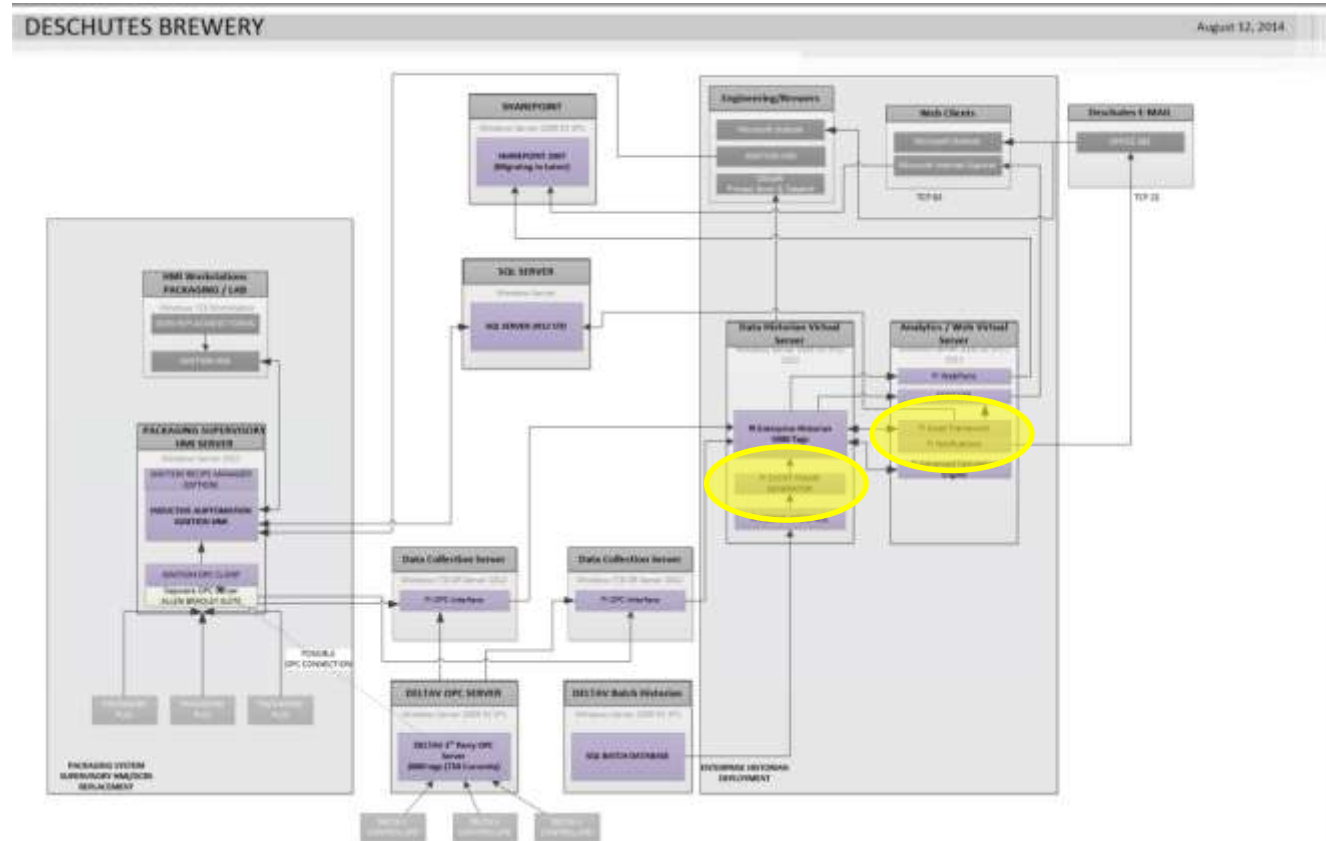
Microsoft®  
**SQL Server**®



**Others**

# Deschutes Brewery – PI Solution, PI Server

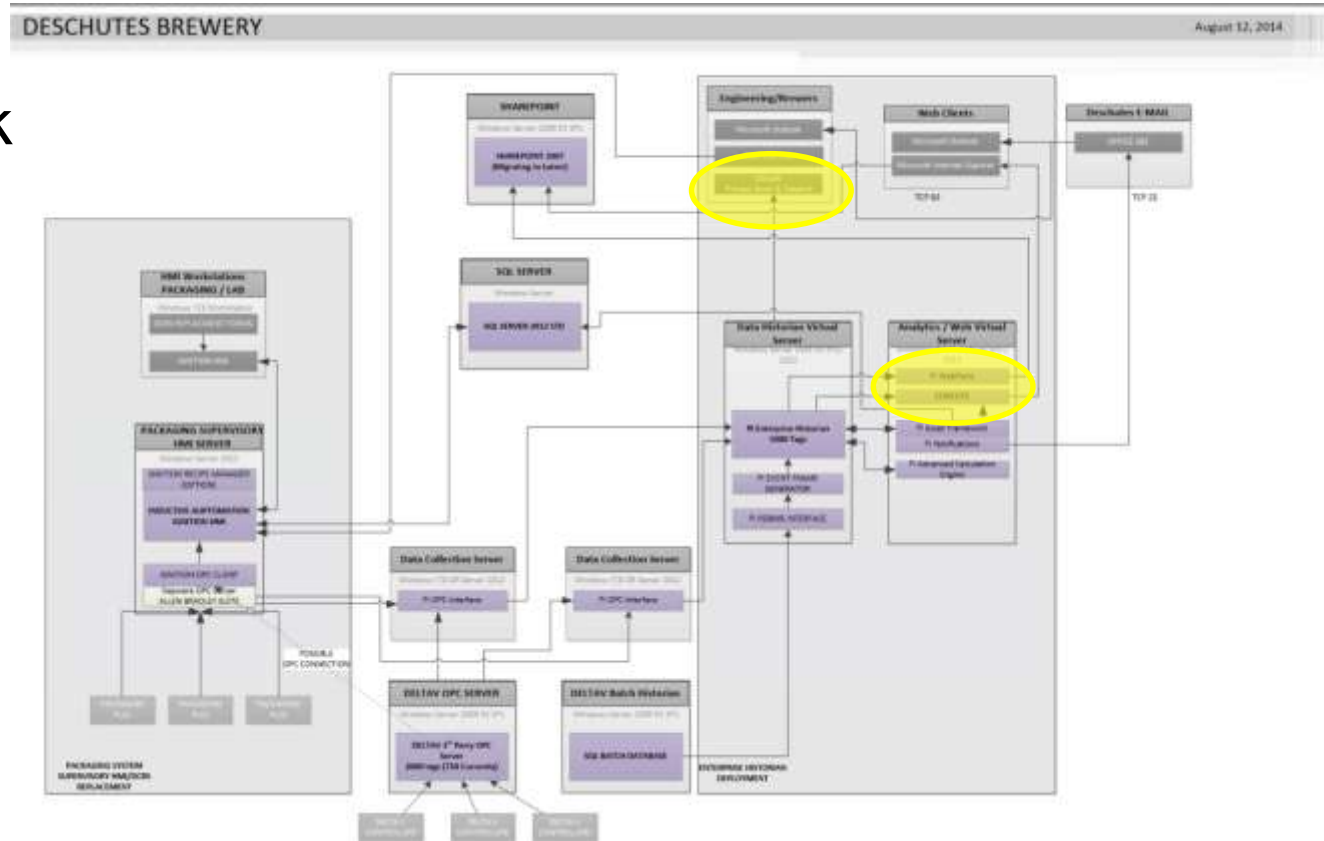
- Asset Framework (AF)
- Event Frames





# Deschutes Brewery – PI Solution, Analysis & Visualization

- PI ProcessBook
- PI DataLink
- PI Coresight



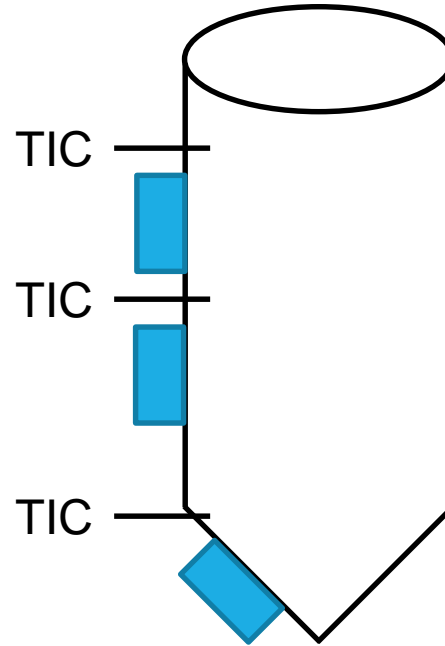


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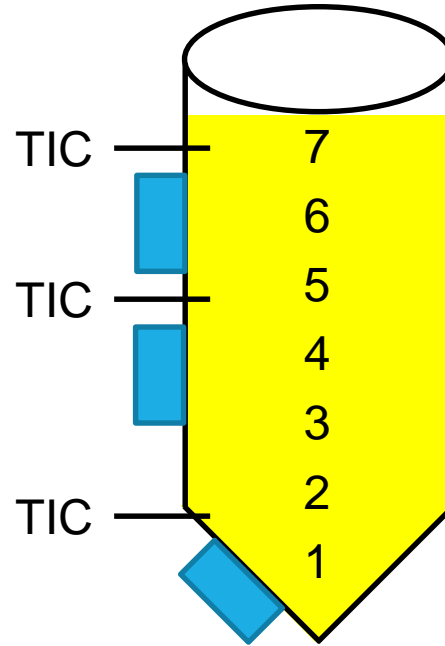
# Revisit the Issue Presented Last Year – Equipment

- 1000 bbl  
(31,000 gal)  
working volume

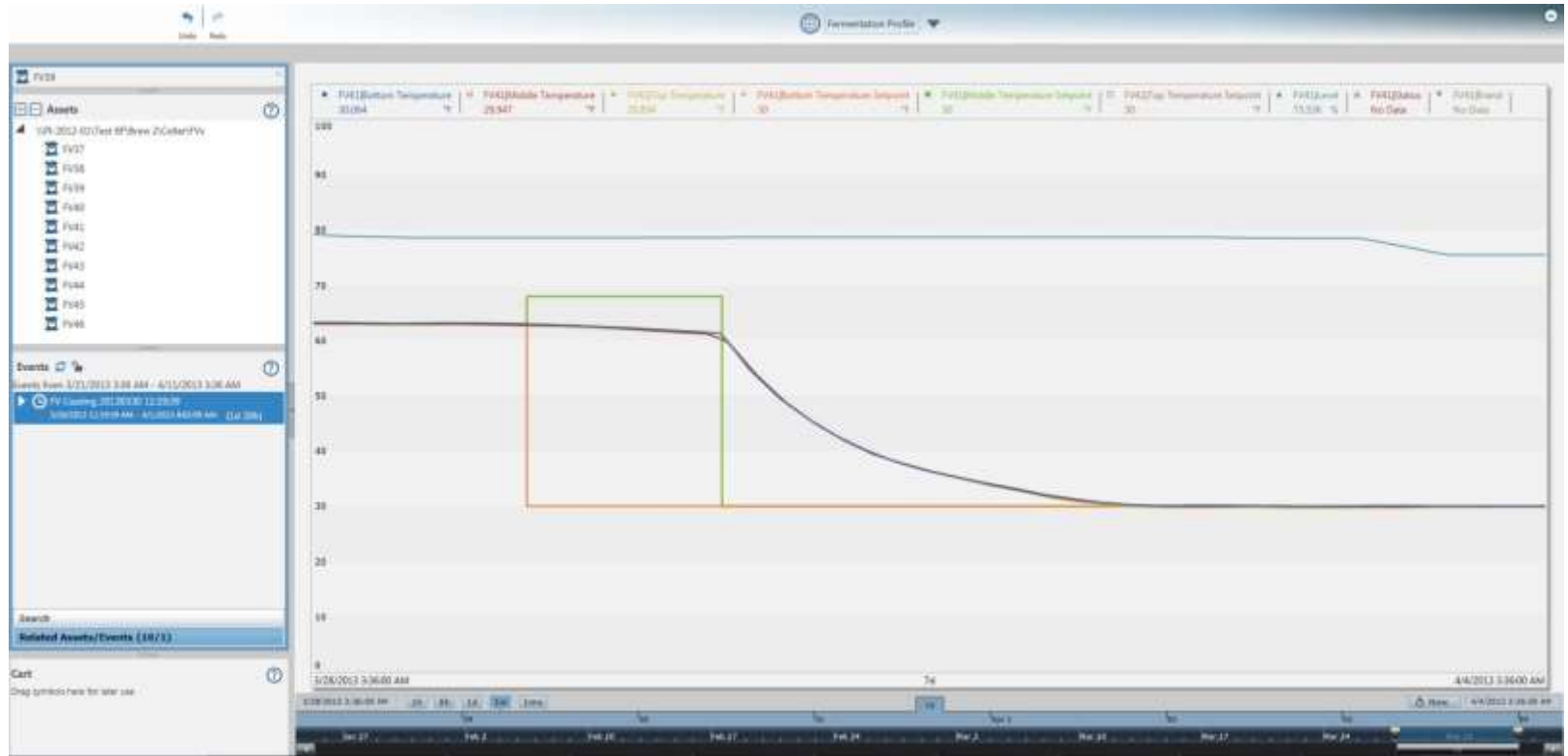


# Revisit the Issue Presented Last Year – Equipment

- 7 brew batch fill
- Approximately 2 hrs between fills



# Revisit the Issue Presented Last Year – Ideal Cooling

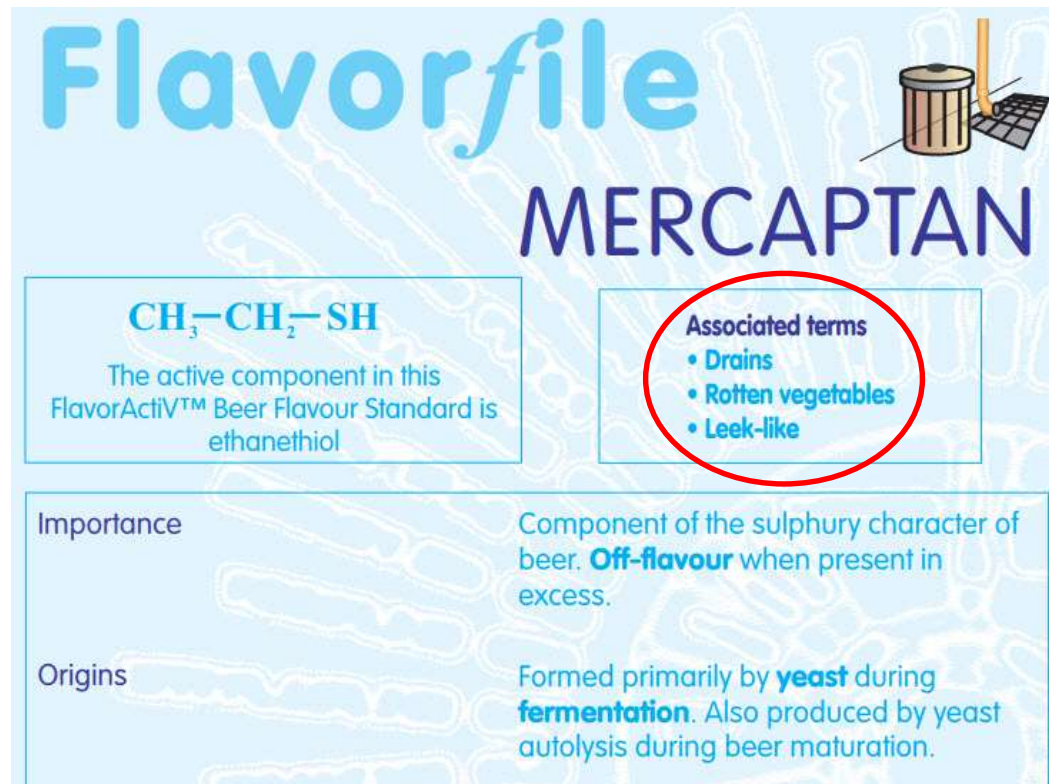


# Revisit the Issue Presented Last Year – Stratified Cooling



# Revisit the Issue Presented Last Year – Quality Concerns

- Potential mercaptan production from yeast autolysis



The infographic is titled "Flavorfile" in a large, light blue font, with "MERCAPTAN" in a smaller, dark blue font below it. To the right of the title is an illustration of a wooden barrel and a metal grate. The background features a faint, repeating pattern of beer bottle outlines.

**Chemical Structure:**  $\text{CH}_3\text{—CH}_2\text{—SH}$

The active component in this FlavorActiV™ Beer Flavour Standard is ethanethiol

**Associated terms**

- Drains
- Rotten vegetables
- Leek-like

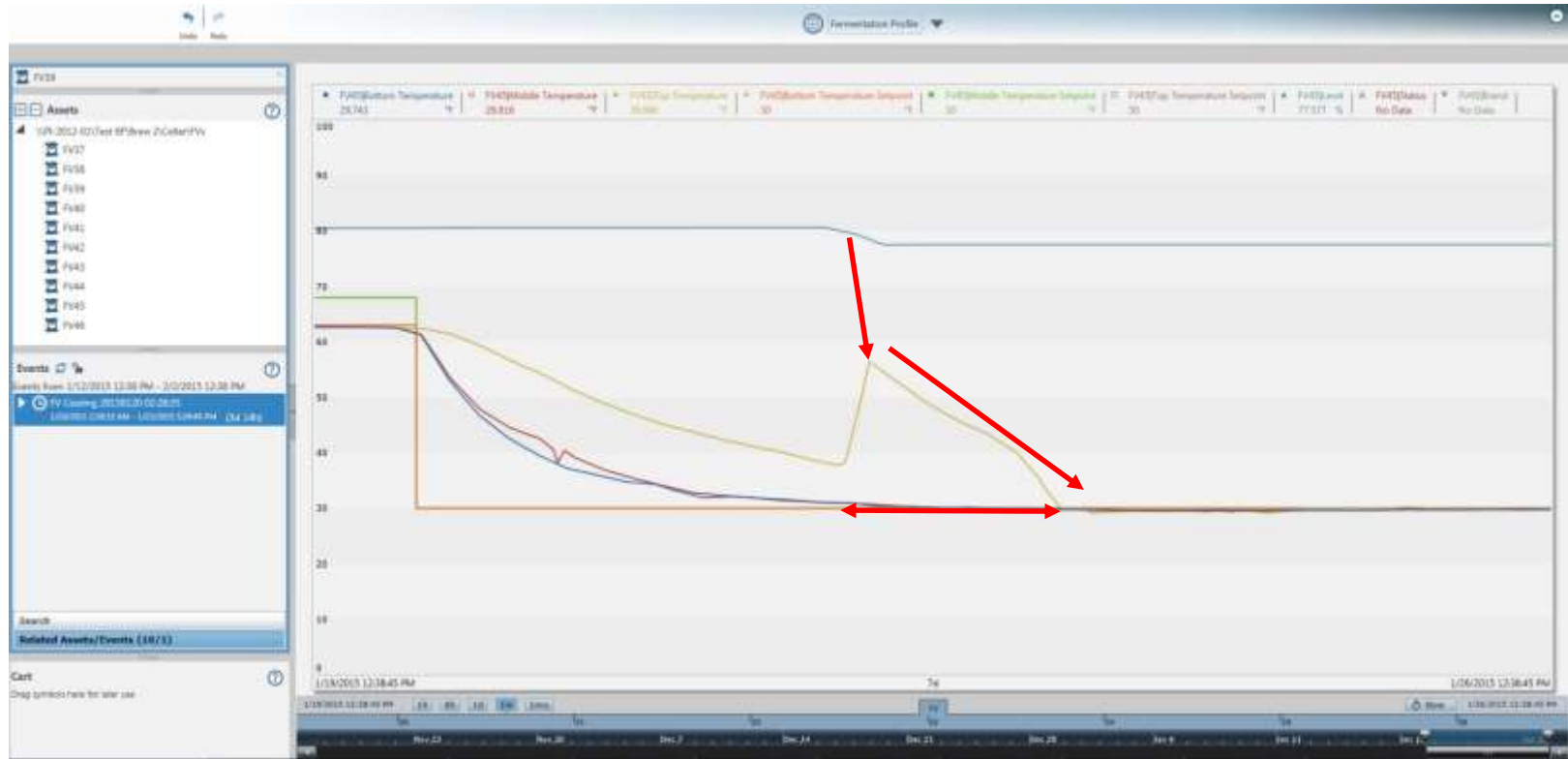
**Importance**

Component of the sulphury character of beer. **Off-flavour** when present in excess.

**Origins**

Formed primarily by **yeast** during **fermentation**. Also produced by yeast autolysis during beer maturation.

# Revisit the Issue Presented Last Year – Capacity Concerns



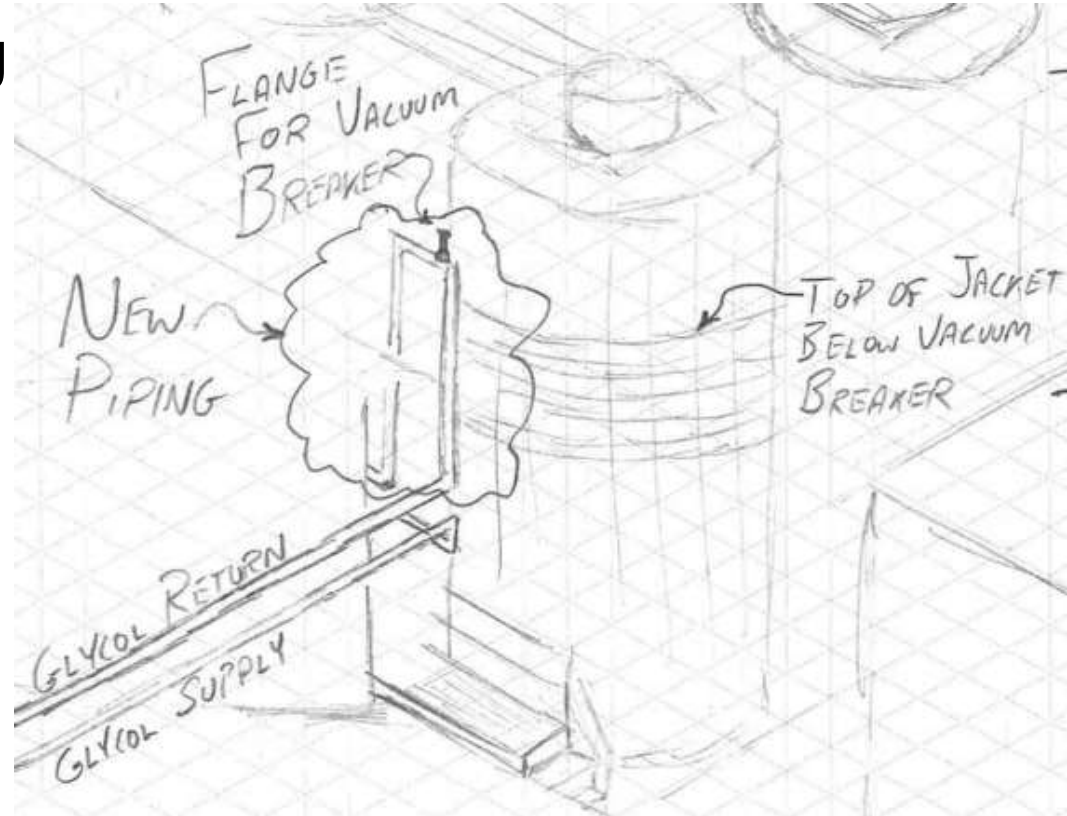


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# Mechanical Changes

- Raised glycol return piping to above the top jacket to ensure the jacket was always full
- Put air relief valves at the top of each tank so entrained air would not collect



## Before Mechanical Changes



# Before Mechanical Changes



# After Mechanical Changes

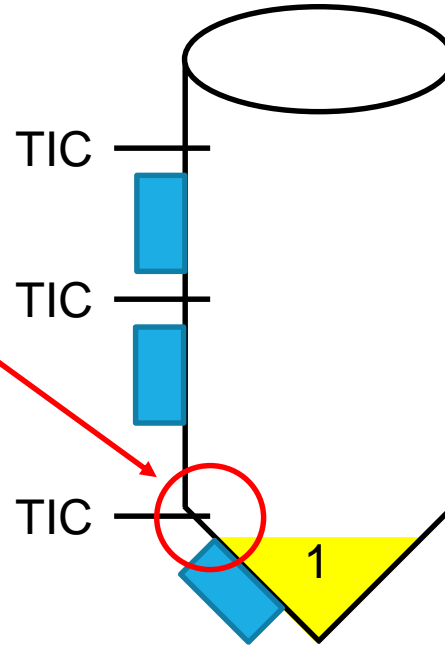


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# Process Changes – Equipment Revisited

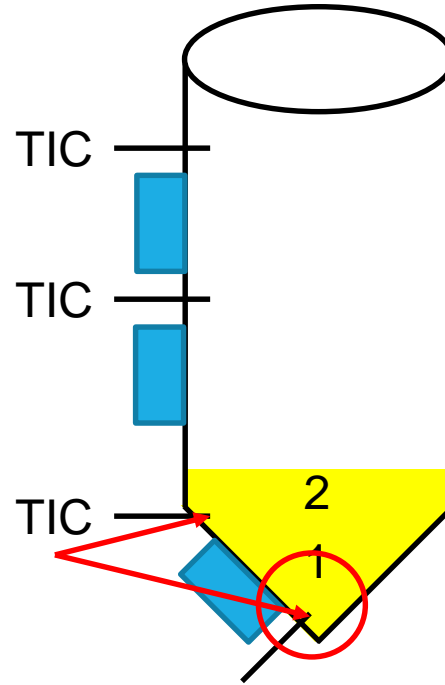
- Whoops!
- No temperature control for the first  $\approx 3$  hrs



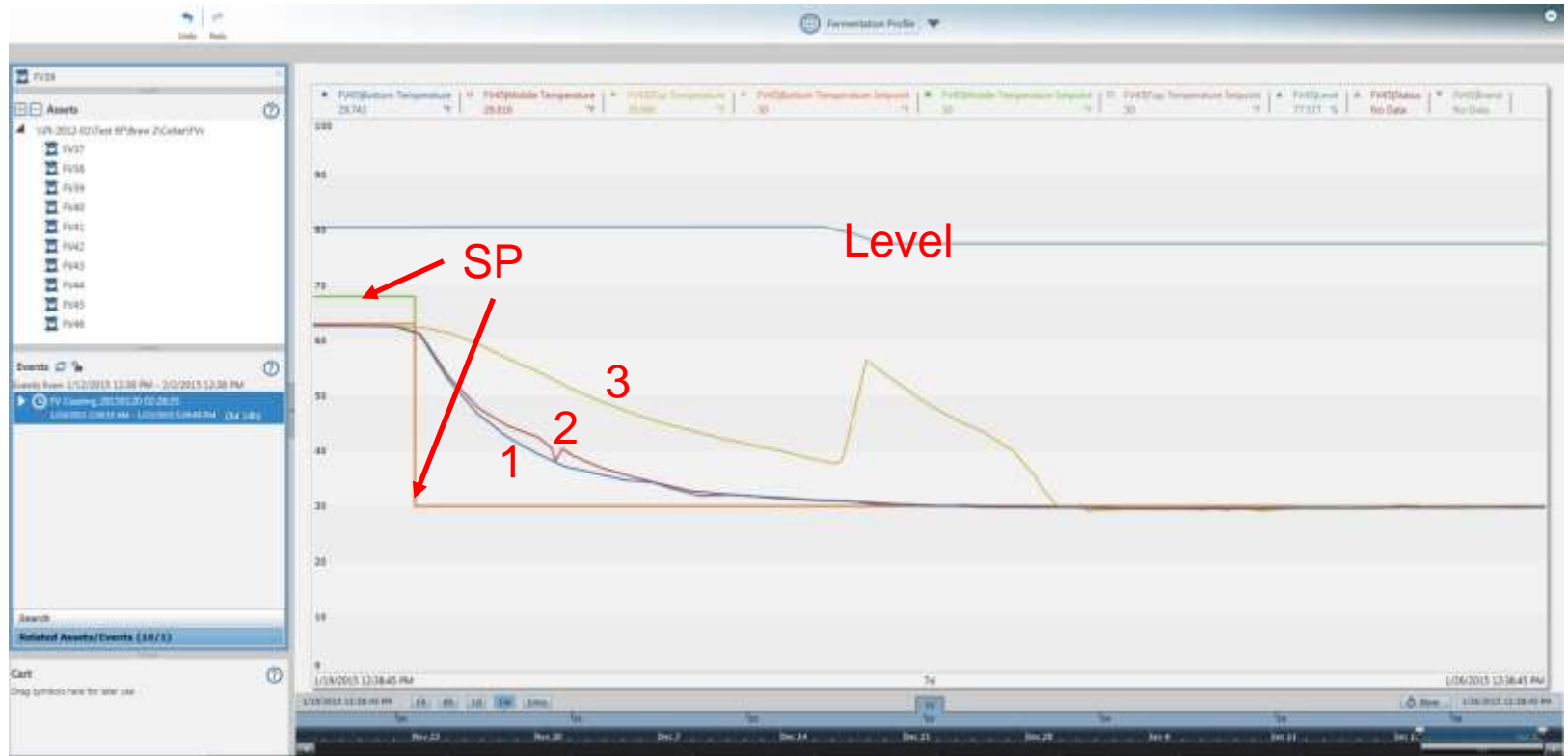


# Process Changes – Equipment Revisited

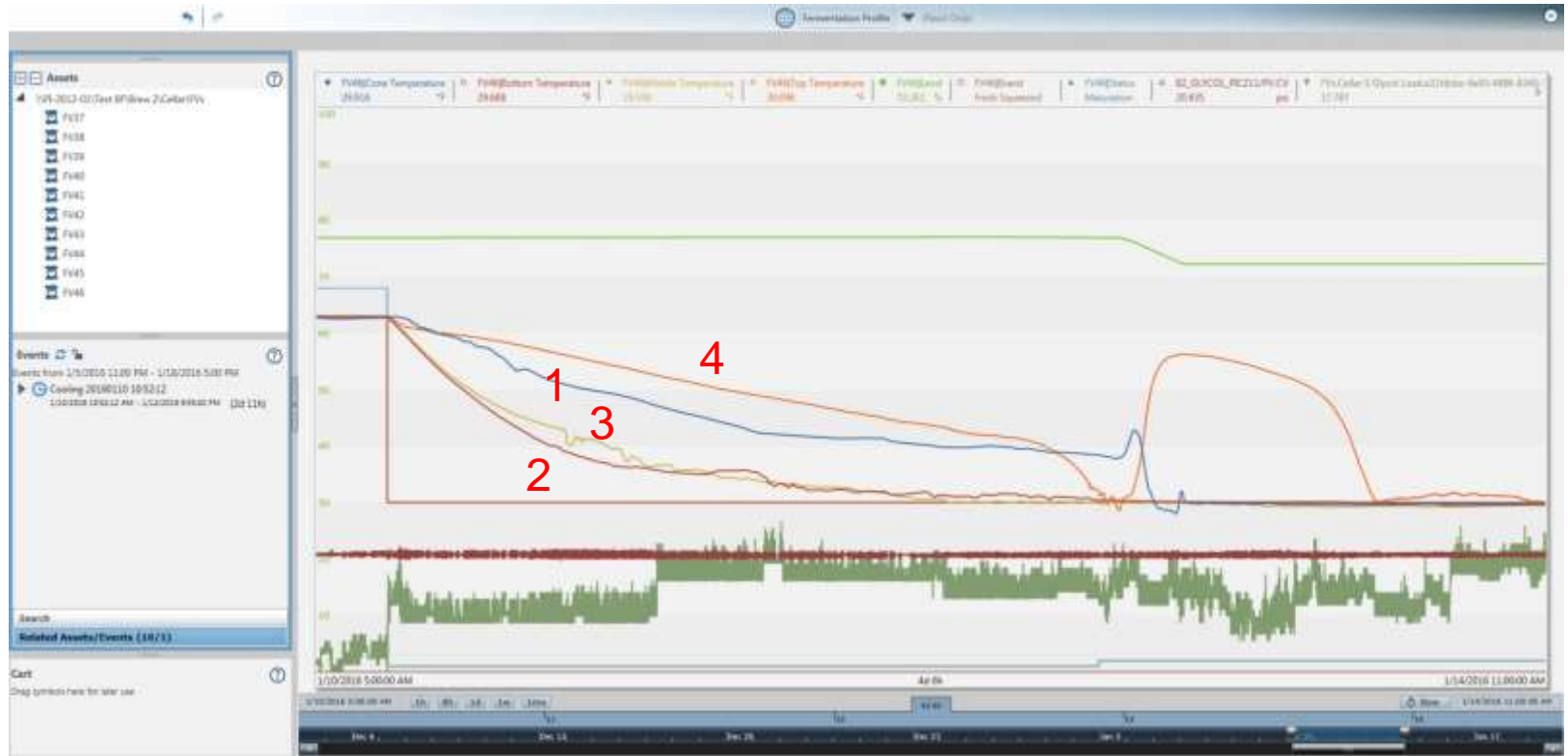
- Added an additional TI
- TIC input switches based on level



# Process Changes – Trend Revisited



# Process Changes – Trend Revisited



# Process Changes – Trend Revisited

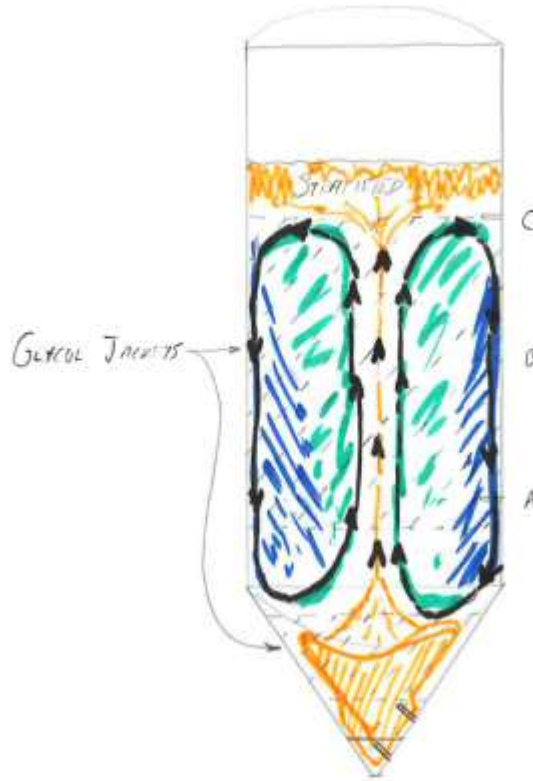
## Without Cone TI



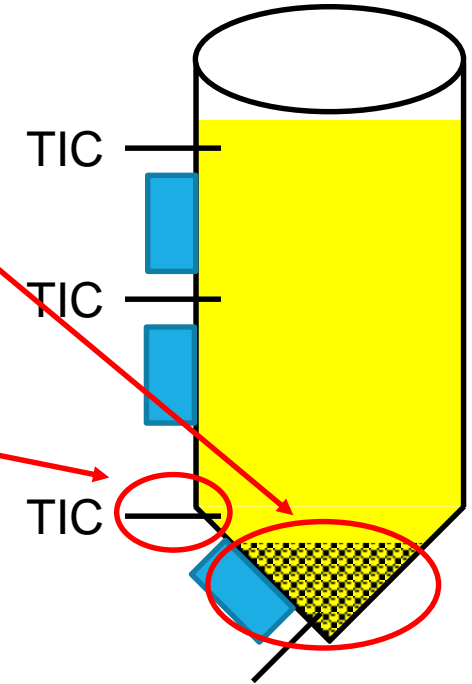
## With Cone TI



# Process Changes – Hypothesis

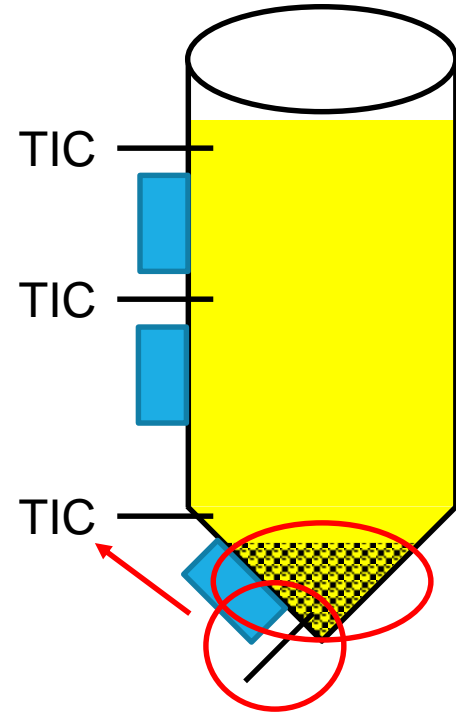


- Yeast heating up on the bottom of the FV as fermentation ceases
- Not seeing the entire picture due to switching TIC input once level is high enough

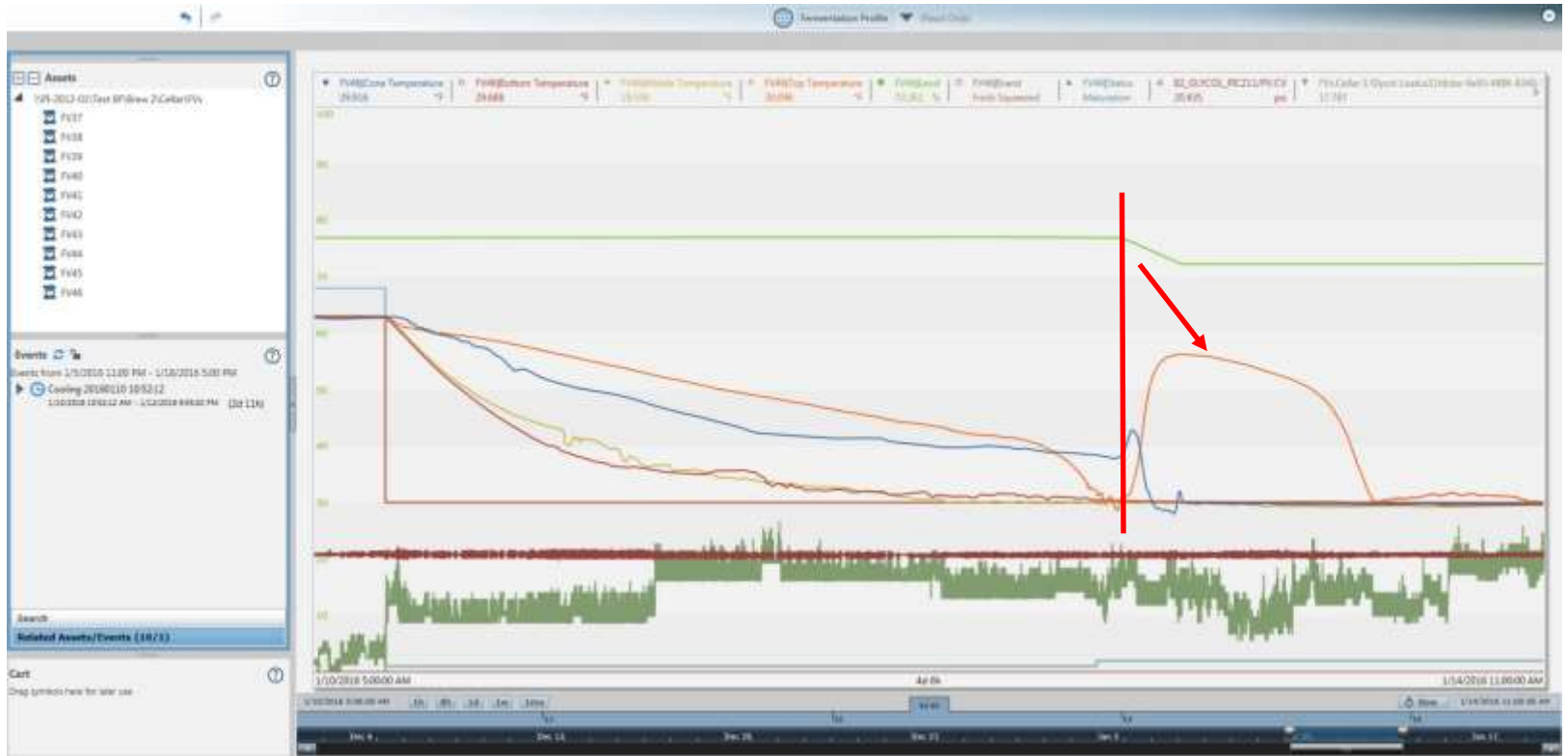


# Process Changes – Trial Changes

- Use the cone probe for the bottom TIC input during cooling
- Start the cone final cooling process as fermentation ceases



## Process Changes – Unwanted Trend

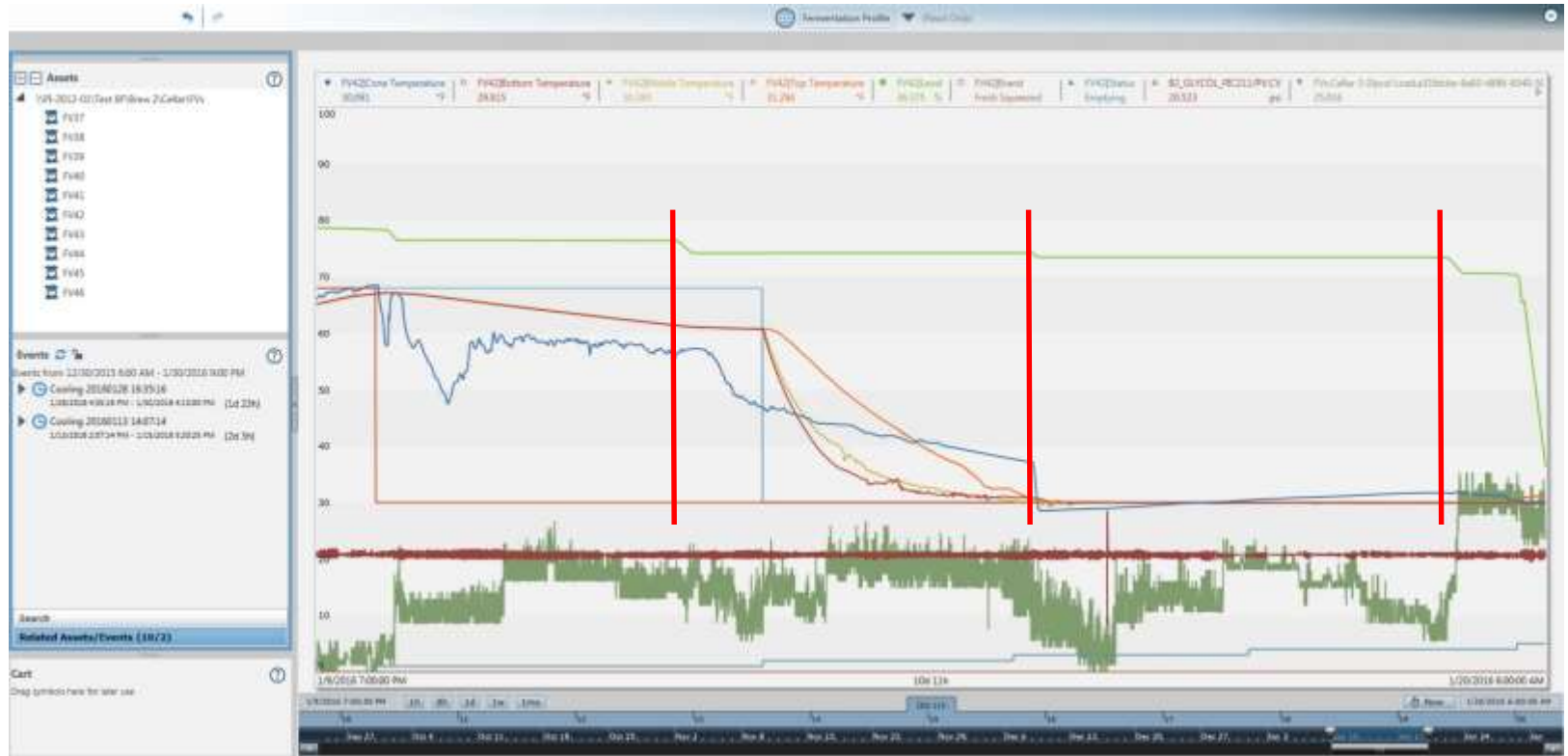




## Process Changes – Trial Trend



# Process Changes – Trial Trend



# Leveraging the PI System to Assure Beer Quality and Production Capacity

## COMPANY and GOAL

Deschutes Brewery is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest craft brewery in US, and wanted to **maximize it's current infrastructure** to support strategic initiatives

**DESCHUTES**  
BREWERY.



## CHALLENGE

New class of fermenters were displaying uncharacteristic cooling behavior reducing capacity potential

- Potential quality off flavors were also a concern

## SOLUTION

Fermentation data from their DCS connected to the PI System for analysis

- Asset Framework (AF), Event Frames and Coresight enabled the brewing team to quickly and efficiently implement a solution to correct this uncharacteristic behavior in their fermentations

## RESULTS

Consistent and repeatable fermentation cooling with a time savings of 60% vs. the worst cases exhibited

- Able to maximize existing capacity to put off capital investments while meeting demand
- Assuring the highest quality in their products

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# Lessons Learned

- Having the right data is critical
- Problem solving is iterative
- Start with what you know based on data
- If further iteration is needed, figure out the data that is missing, and use that to take the next step

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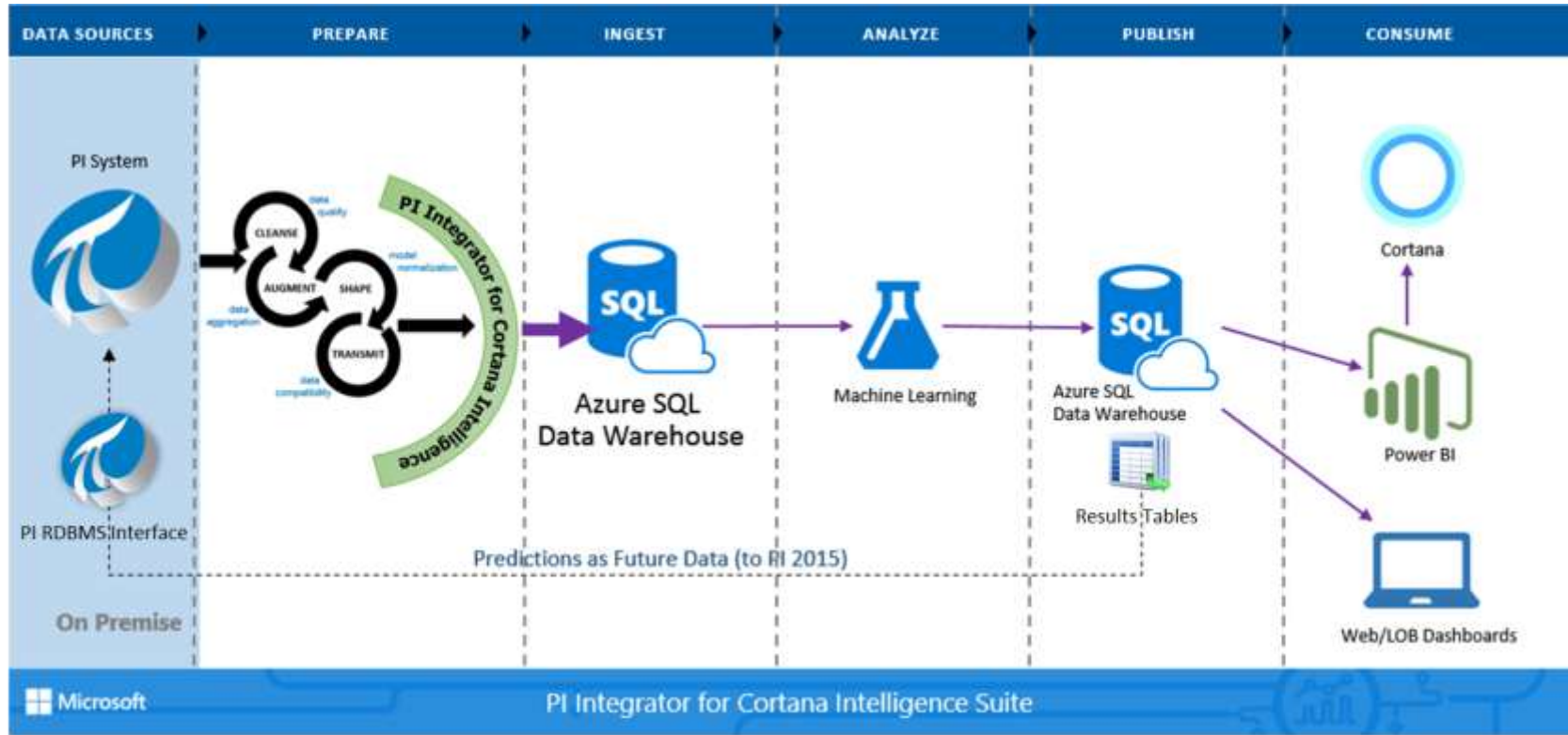
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# Next Steps – Fermentation Future Data

- Working with the PI RDBMS Interface and the PI Integrator for Cortana Intelligence we are predicting the next fermentation step based on past data:
  - Plato measurements are manually taken and entered into our quality SQL database by brewers during fermentation.
  - The RDBMS interface brings these into PI, and PI sends them to Azure, which uses machine learning and past fermentation data to predict how this fermentation will go; this saves lost time between readings.



# Next Steps – System Diagram



# Next Steps – Future Data Trends



# Next Steps – Process Integration

- Improve data model as we get more data
  - Default curves
  - Correcting data entry errors
- Trigger action based on the data
  - Take plato reading at free rise time indicated on reports
  - Flag operator if a fermentation looks abnormal
  - Eventual automation of the move to free rise
  - Coresight and Microsoft Power BI reporting
- Expand to other fermentation steps: bung, diacetyl rest, cooling

# Contact Information

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Brewmaster

Deschutes Brewery



# Questions


Please wait for the  
**microphone** before asking  
your questions



State your  
**name & company**

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DECISION READY IN REAL TIME

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The Journey To Real-Time Operational Intelligence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Power of Connected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tank Level Management System	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using the PI System to Aid in Troubleshooting Operational Aspects of Oil and Gas Well Drilling and Completion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Quality and organization of the seminar	Poor	Good	Excellent	N/A
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Time allowed for lunch/breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Choice of presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please email Survey returned for this seminar to: [email address]

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谢谢

Danke

Merci

Gracias

**Thank You**

ありがとう

Спасибо

Obrigado

I hope this did not run on too long!