

# Ammonia Fuel Safety

**Trevor Brown, CFA**

[AmmoniaIndustry.com](http://AmmoniaIndustry.com)

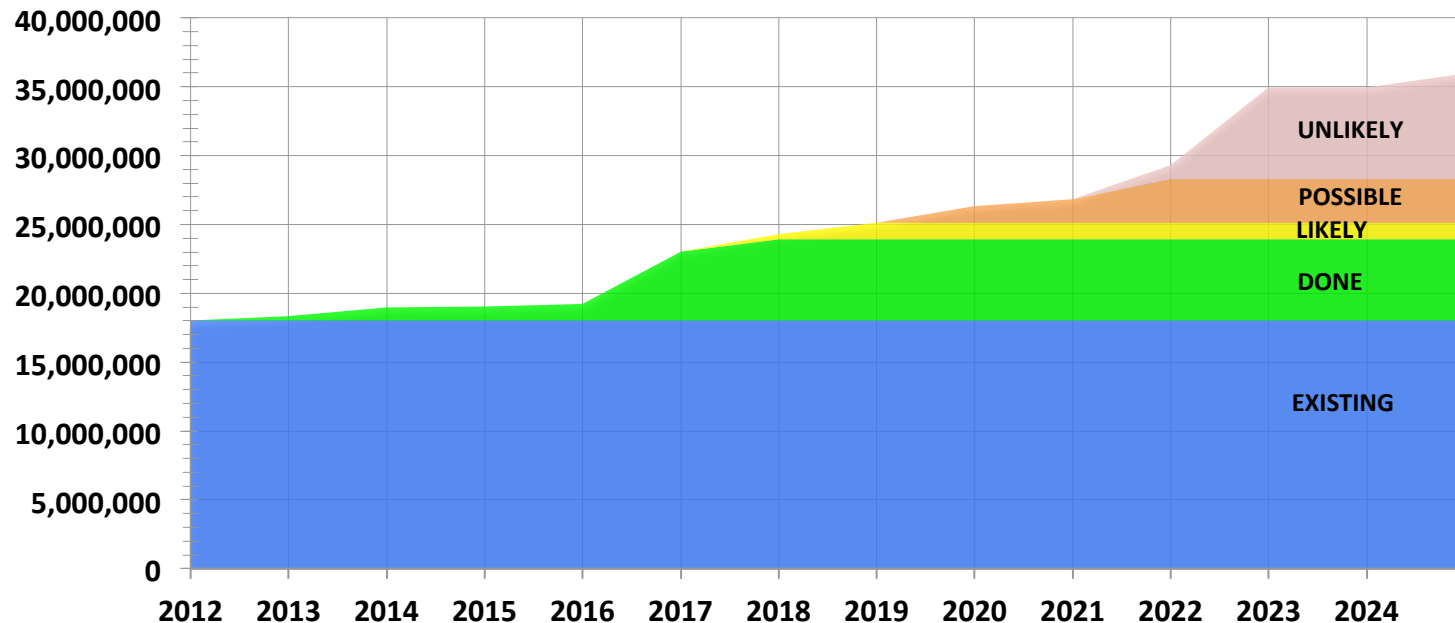
[AmmoniaEnergy.org](http://AmmoniaEnergy.org)

AIChE Annual Meeting, Topical Conference: NH<sub>3</sub> Energy+  
Minneapolis, MN – November 1, 2017

# AmmoniaIndustry.com

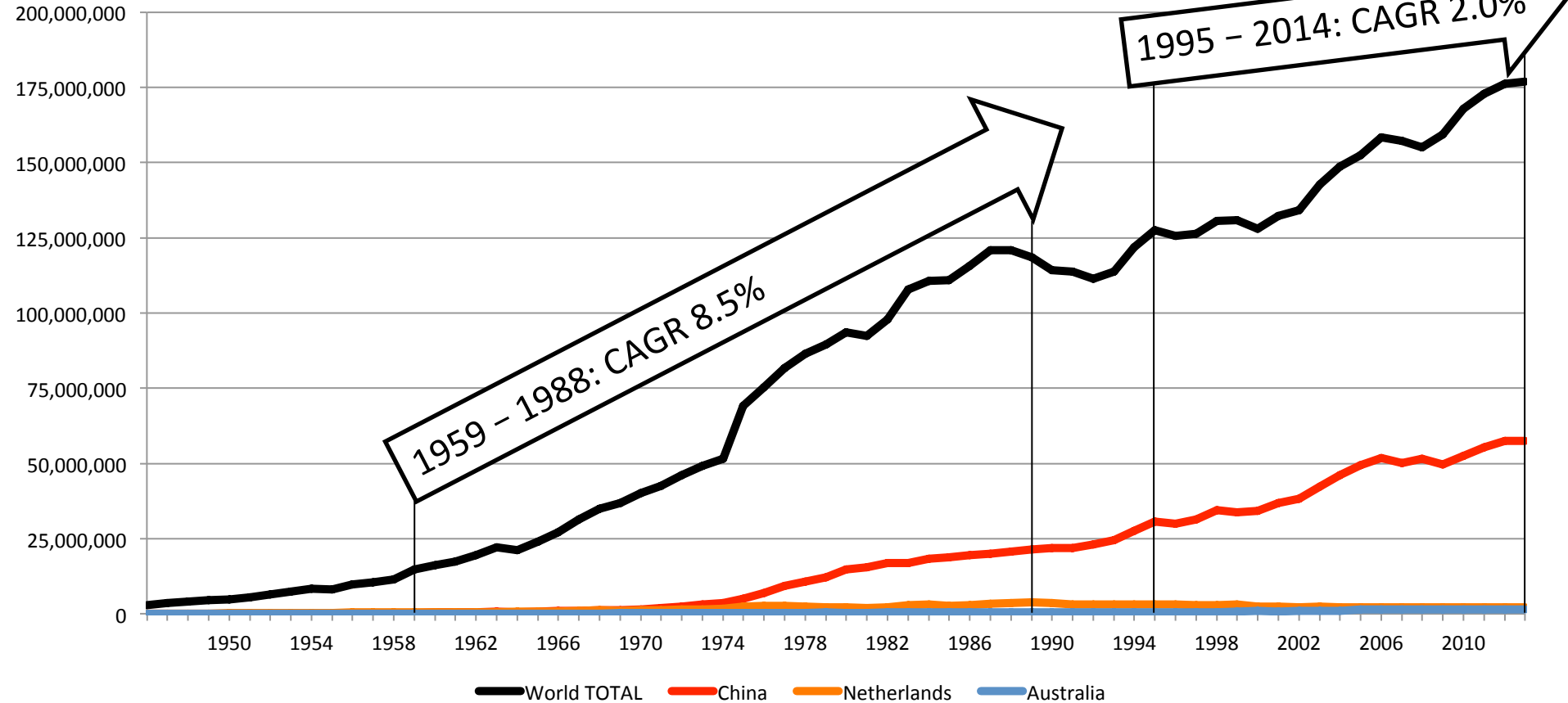
## Ammonia Capacity in North America: 5-Year Projection, November 2017

Metric tons of ammonia per year. Source: <https://ammoniaindustry.com> as of 10/31/2017



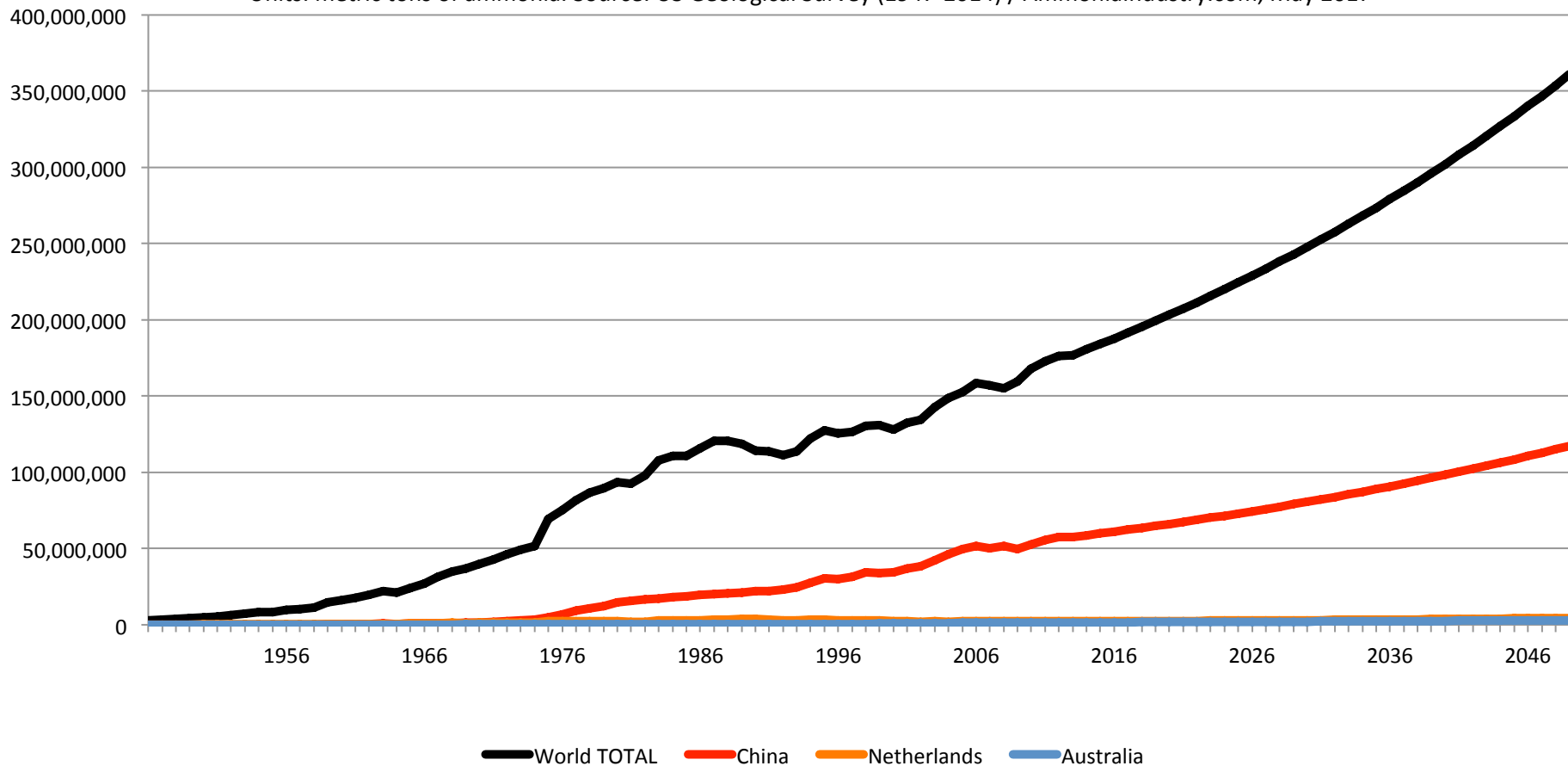
# Global Ammonia Production, 1947 - 2014

Units: metric tons of ammonia. Source: US Geological Survey (1947-2014) / AmmoniaIndustry.com, May 2017



# Global Ammonia Production, forecast to 2050 @ 2% compound growth

Units: metric tons of ammonia. Source: US Geological Survey (1947-2014) / AmmoniaIndustry.com, May 2017



# Global Ammonia Production, forecast to 2050 @ export strength

Units: metric tons of ammonia. Source: US Geological Survey (1947-2014) / AmmoniaIndustry.com, May 2017

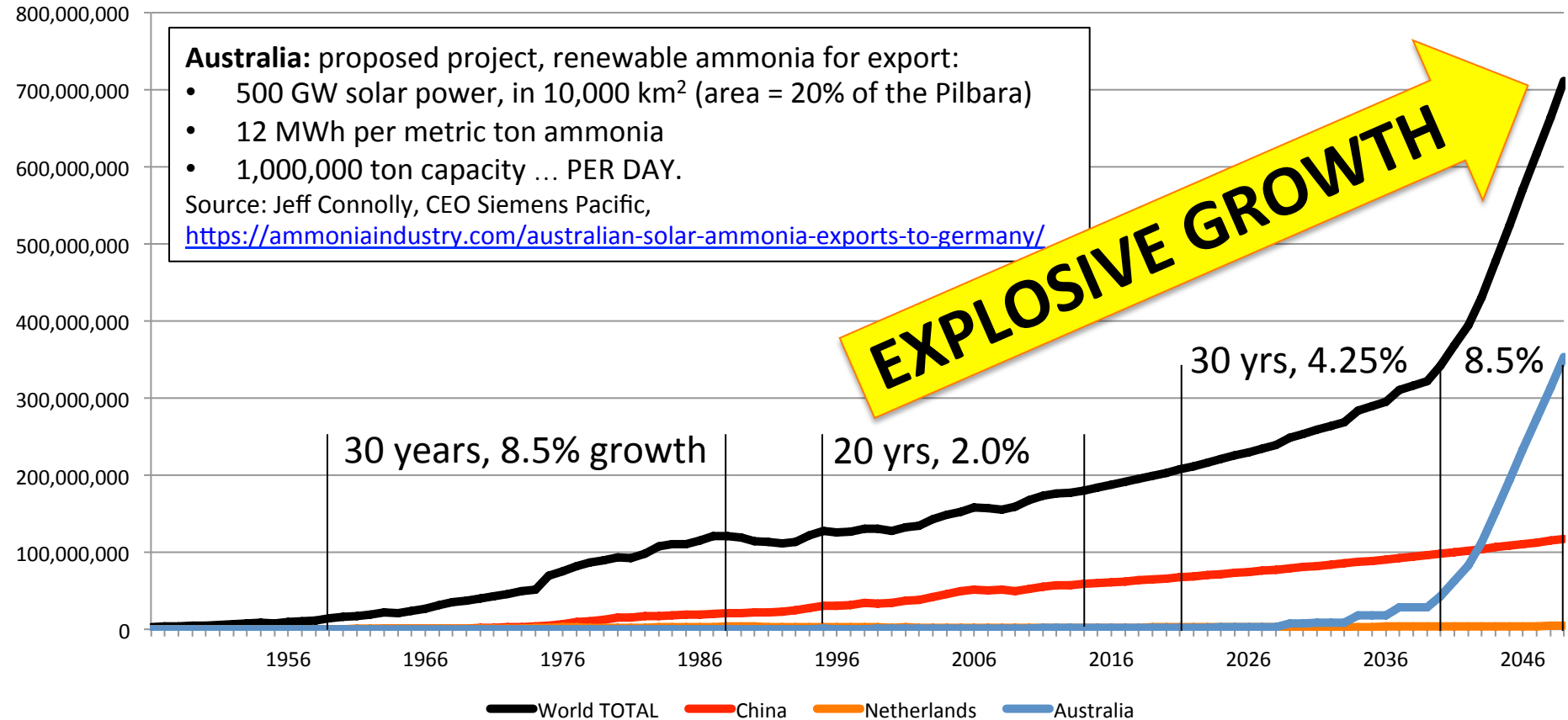
**Australia:** proposed project, renewable ammonia for export:

- 500 GW solar power, in 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> (area = 20% of the Pilbara)
- 12 MWh per metric ton ammonia
- 1,000,000 ton capacity ... PER DAY.

Source: Jeff Connolly, CEO Siemens Pacific,

<https://ammoniaindustry.com/australian-solar-ammonia-exports-to-germany/>

**EXPLOSIVE GROWTH**







Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia visited the site of the accident early Sunday where he pledged that the government would work to curb such tragedies.

"Eight of these explosions in three years is too much," he said while at the LNG filling station near Legon, a suburb of Accra.

*Chicago Tribune, October 8, 2017*



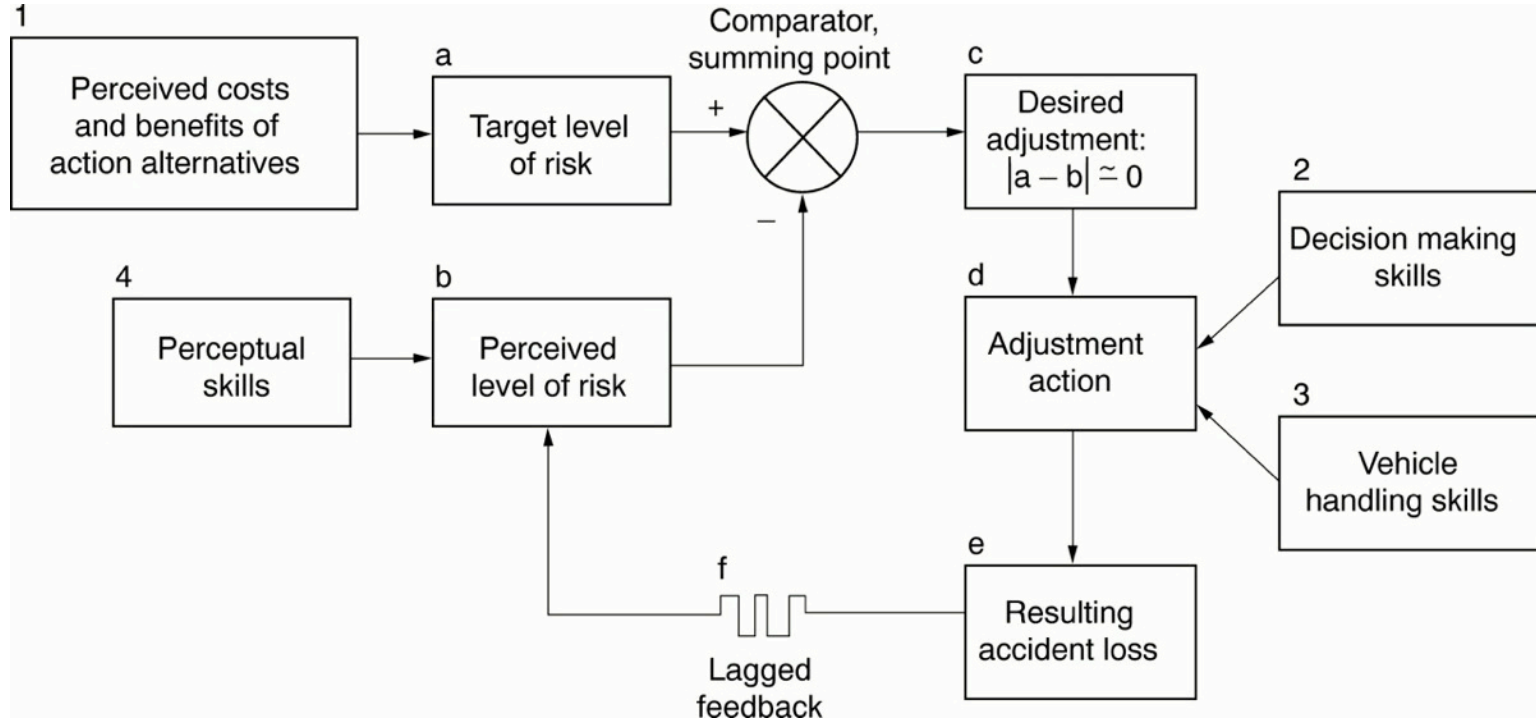








# Risk Homeostasis Theory



# Ammonia Fuel Safety: Two studies

***Comparative Quantitative Risk Analysis of Motor Gasoline, LPG, and Anhydrous Ammonia as an Automotive Fuel***

Quest Consultants Inc, USA  
2009

LINK:

[http://nh3fuel.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/nh3\\_riskanalysis\\_final.pdf](http://nh3fuel.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/nh3_riskanalysis_final.pdf)

***Safety Assessment of Ammonia as a Transport Fuel***

Risø National Laboratory, Denmark  
2005

LINK:

<http://nh3fuel.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/riso-ammonia-transport-safety-report.pdf>

# Ammonia Fuel Safety: Two studies

## Quest:

“In summary, the hazards and risks associated with the truck transport, storage, and dispensing of refrigerated anhydrous ammonia are **similar to those of gasoline and LPG** ...

The risks associated with all three fuels would fall into the **acceptable** category for all referenced risk criteria.”

Quest: p. 53 of 59 (6-13)

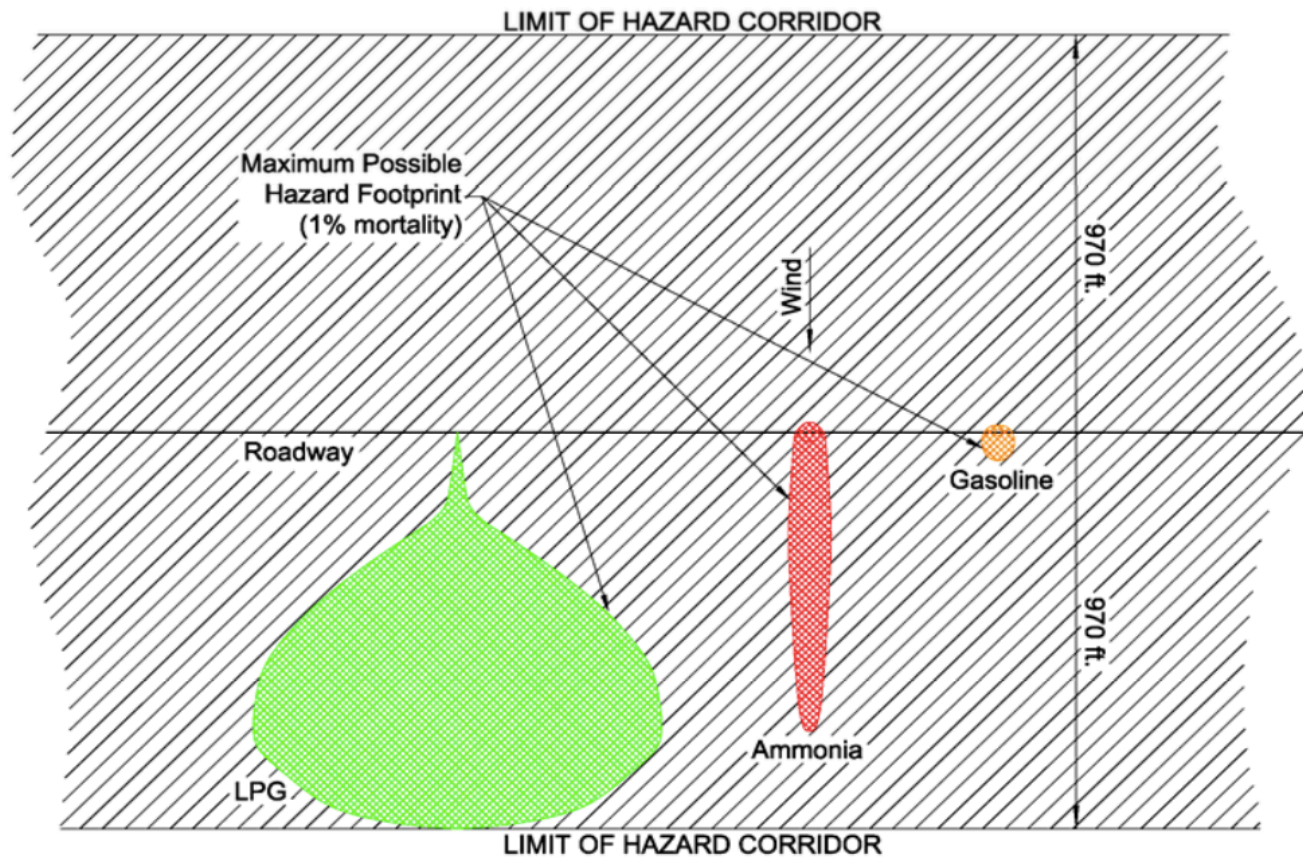
## Risø:

“An overall conclusion is that the hazards in relation to ammonia need to be (and probably can be) controlled by technical and regulatory options ...

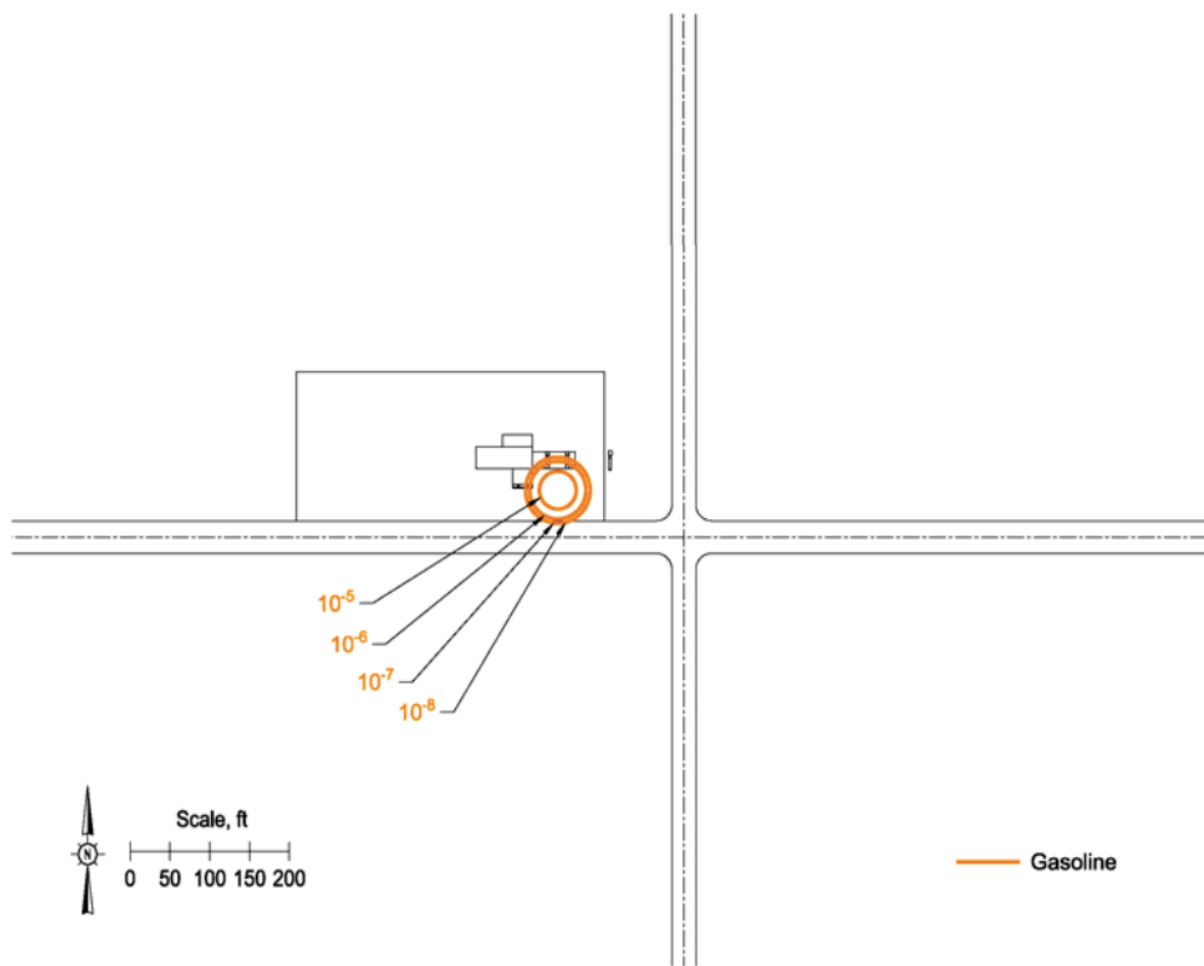
When these safety systems are implemented, the risks of using ammonia is **similar, if not lower than** for the other fuels.”

Risø: pp. 39-40 of 160. Compares ammonia to gasoline, LPG, CNG, methanol, and hydrogen – in internal combustion engines or fuel cells.

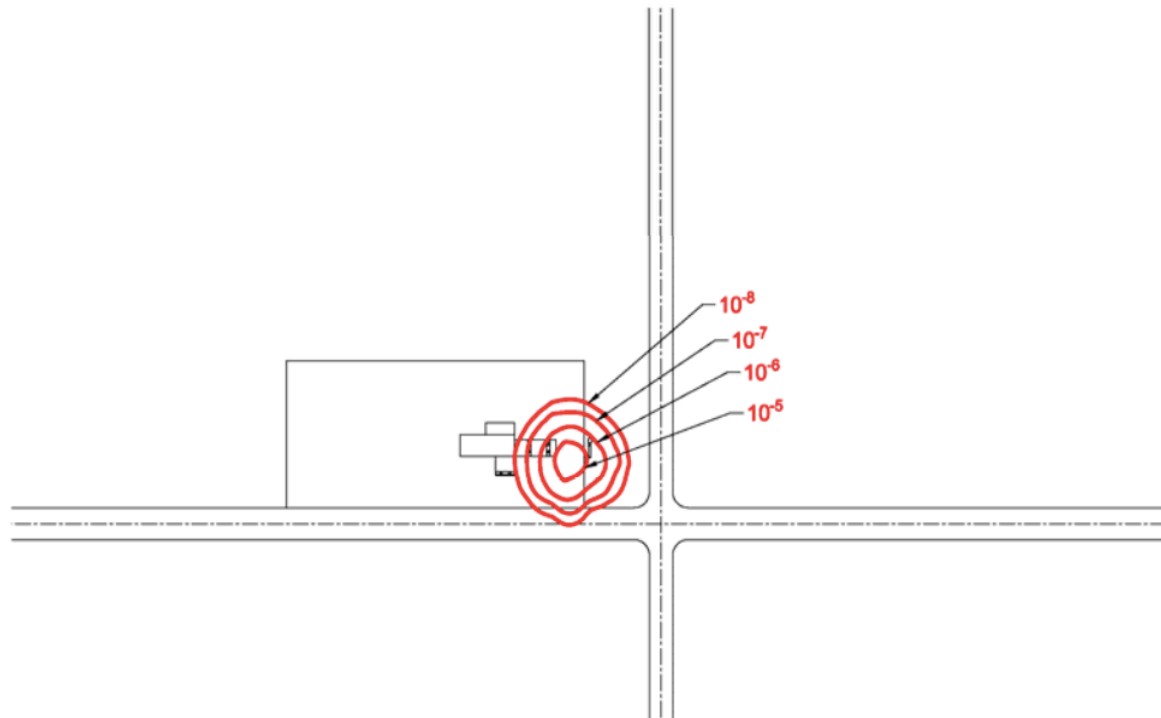




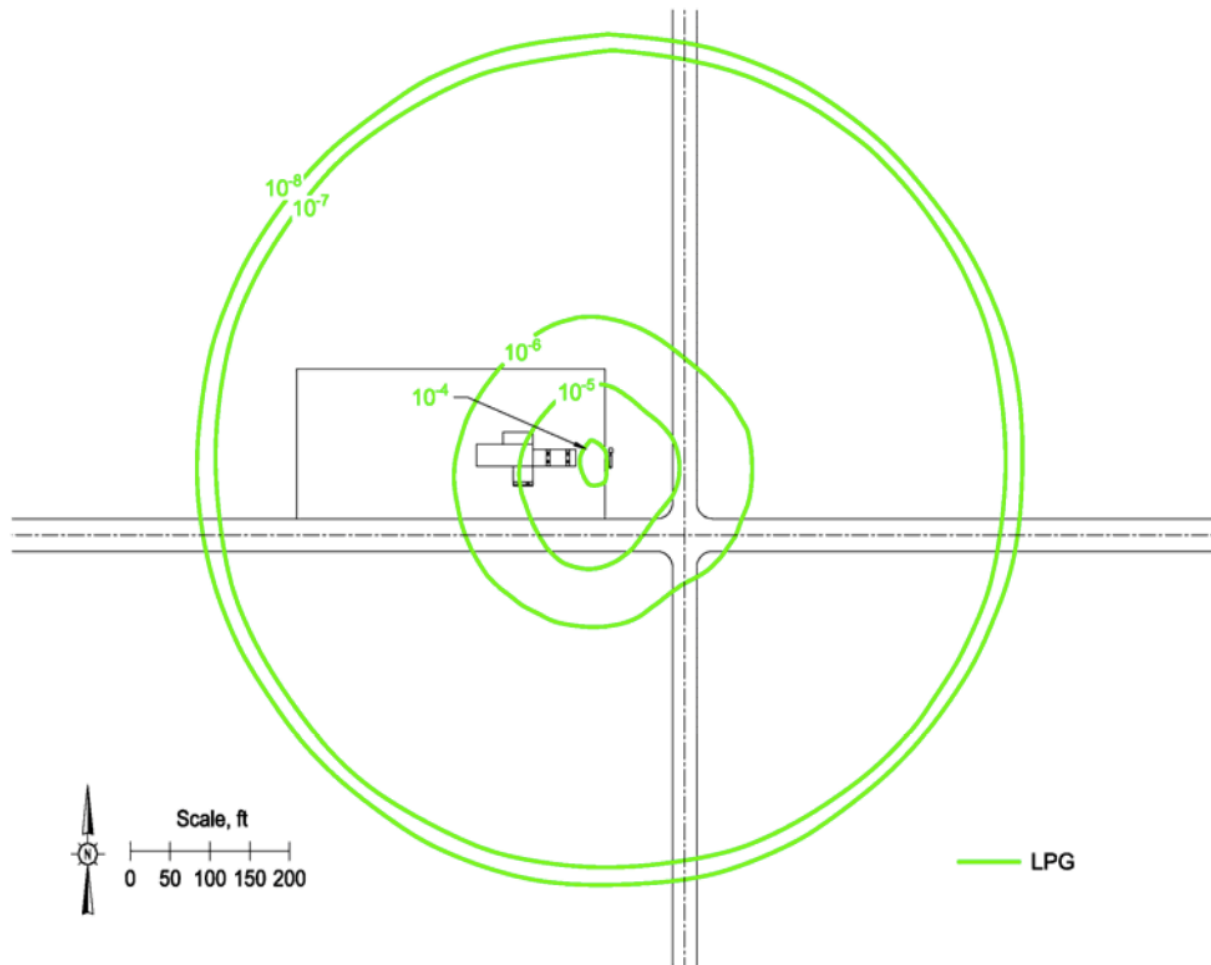
**Figure 6-2**  
**Vulnerability Corridors and Zones for the Truck Transport of Gasoline, LPG, and Refrigerated Ammonia**



**Figure 6-4**  
**Risk Contours for a Service Station Storing and Dispensing Gasoline**



**Figure 6-6**  
**Risk Contours for a Service Station Storing and Dispensing Anhydrous Ammonia**



**Figure 6-5**  
**Risk Contours for a Service Station Storing and Dispensing LPG**



# Ammonia Fuel Safety: Conclusions

## Risø:

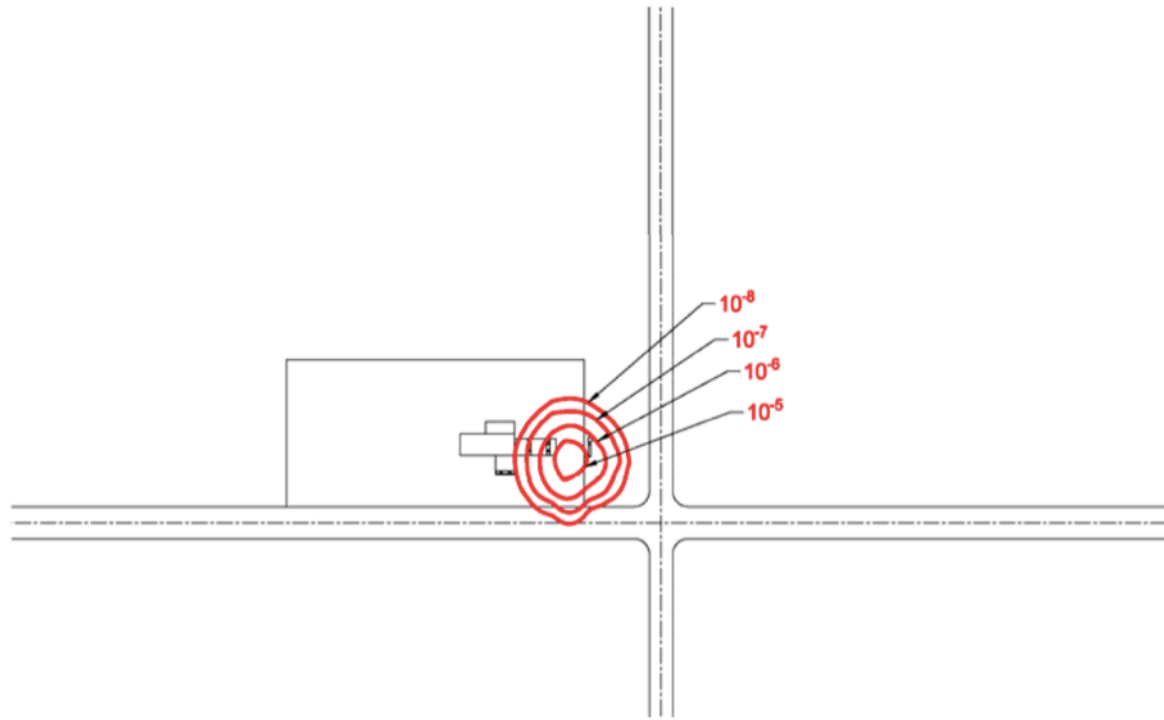
“The acceptance of ammonia will not be based on the results of numerical risk analysis, but will also be influenced by the public’s perception of the threats of ammonia.”

Risø: p. 40

## Dave Garman:

“Ammonia isn’t sexy. It just works.”

David Garman, former Under Secretary of Energy, US Department of Energy  
The Curse of Shiny Objects, NH3 Fuel Conference, 9/21/2015.



What additional investment  
to make these circles smaller?