The 2018 deal to purchase BHP’s U.S. onshore assets upgraded and transformed the BPX Energy portfolio, increasing proved crude oil reserves tenfold. It also represented BP’s largest acquisition since buying ARCO in 1999.

The new world-class unconventional oil and gas assets acquired last year are located in the Permian-Delaware and Eagle Ford basins in Texas, and the Haynesville basin in Texas and Louisiana.

This move was part of a larger transformation underway in the business, which began operating as a standalone entity in 2015. Since then, BPX Energy has built a premier onshore business, focused on delivering free cash flow growth through a team with a proven track record.

“We are entering a new and exciting phase of our growth that’s defined not only by continued strong returns and operational performance, but also by relentless innovation aimed at making our business even safer, smarter and more environmentally sustainable,” says Dave Lawler, CEO of BPX Energy.

While BPX Energy is in the process of divesting legacy assets in Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico, it expects to more than double its annual capital spending — to more than $2 billion a year — on its newly expanded portfolio in Texas and Louisiana.

Reducing emissions

BPX Energy remains an industry leader in understanding the challenge posed by methane emissions and taking voluntary actions to achieve significant reductions in this area. For example, the business has:

- replaced around 99 percent of its high-bleed pneumatic controllers with continuous low-bleed and intermittent controllers
- introduced drone-mounted sensors to help inspect equipment, which can cover multiple well pads more efficiently than hand-held devices
- implemented “green completion” technology on its wells before it was a regulatory requirement, helping to minimize gas flaring and venting while recovering more for sale.

In addition, since it began operating the newly acquired Permian assets in March 2019, BPX Energy has started constructing centralized facilities which, combined with other emissions reduction efforts, will reduce routine flaring.

In partnership

In 2019, BP and the Environmental Defense Fund announced a three-year strategic commitment to advance technologies and practices to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas supply chain.

The agreement means the two organizations are working together, along with universities and other experts, to test technologies and strategies to improve methane management.