



Power Plant Emissions in North America

CEC-IJC Consultation on Emissions
from Coal-fired Electrical Utilities

Montréal, Québec

20 July 2004

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Commission for Environmental Cooperation



Talk Outline

1. NA overview of power plant pollution
2. Pollutant-by-pollutant picture – 2002
 - A. Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)
 - B. Nitrogen oxides (NOx)
 - C. Mercury (Hg)
 - D. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)



NA Generation 2002

Other
2%

Coal
19%

Oil
3%

Natural Gas
4%

Nuclear
12%

Hydro
61%

Coal
2%
Other
2%
Hydro
3%
Nuclear
1%
Natural Gas
18%

Oil
72%

Other
2%

Coal
50%

Natural Gas
18%

Oil
2%



576 billion kWh
111 GW*

199 billion kWh
37 GW*

3,858 billion kWh
819 GW*

* 2000 generation capacity from NA Energy WG



2002 Power Plant Air Pollution

Country	SO ₂ (tonnes)	NOx (tonnes)	Mercury (kg)	CO ₂ (tonnes)
Canada	619,500	261,600	2,000	111,000,000
Mexico	1,558,000	250,800	1,300	94,480,000
United States	9,189,000	4,027,000	44,200	2,178,000,000



Electricity contribution to national air pollution

Country	SO ₂	NOx	Mercury	CO ₂
Canada	20%	11%	26%	23%
Mexico	55%	27%	3%	30%
United States	69%	22%	41%	40%



Coal share of air pollution contribution

Country (% coal gen.)	SO ₂	NOx	Mercury	CO ₂
Canada (19%)	20% (86%)	11% (81%)	26% (98%)	23% (?)
Mexico (2%)	55% (21%)	27% (47%)	3% (78%)	30% (22%)
USA (50%)	69% (97%)	22% (93%)	41% (100%)	40% (87%)

Numbers in parenthesis are coal's share of electricity sector contribution to national totals.



Per Capita Power Plant Air Pollution*

Country	SO ₂	NOx	Mercury	CO ₂
Canada	19	8	63	3,446
Mexico	15	2	12	901
U.S.	32	14	150	7,845

*kg per individual or kg per million individuals (mercury)



Per GDP Power Plant Air Pollution*

Country	SO ₂	NOx	Mercury	CO ₂
Canada	663,000	280,000	2	119,000
Mexico	1,685,000	271,000	1	102,000
U.S.	885,000	391,000	4	218,000

*Kilograms or metric tonnes (CO₂) per billion US\$



Per MWh Power Plant Air Pollution*

Country	SO ₂ (kg/MWh)	NOx (kg/MWh)	Mercury (kg/GWh)	CO ₂ (kg/MWh)
Canada	1.2	0.5	0.004	220
Mexico	9.3	1.5	0.006	500
U.S.	3.2	1.5	0.010	610

*Based on 1998 emissions and generation. Mercury output per GWh.



Air toxics 2001

- Electricity sector in Canada and US single largest source of nationally reported air toxics





Strong future growth

- North American electricity demand expected to rise from 2000 to 2009
 - 14% in Canada
 - 21% in US
 - 66% in Mexico



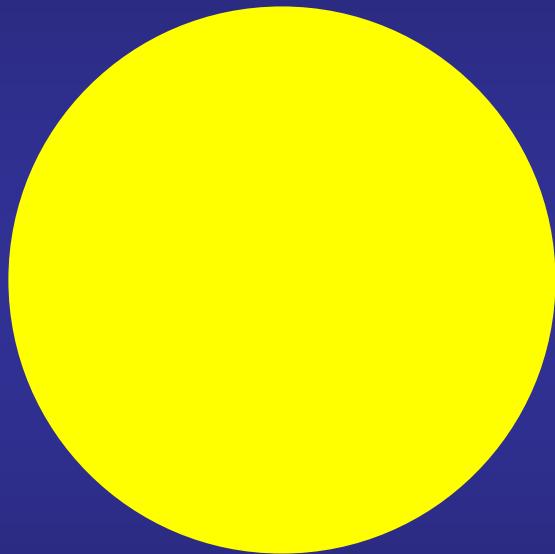
Pollutant-by-pollutant picture – 2002

1. SO₂
2. NOx
3. Mercury
4. CO₂



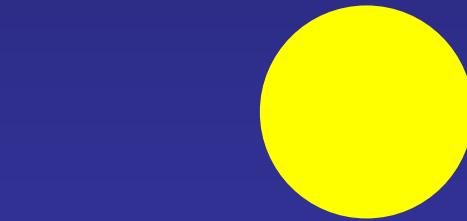


2002 Power plant SO₂



US = 9,189

Thousand metric tonnes



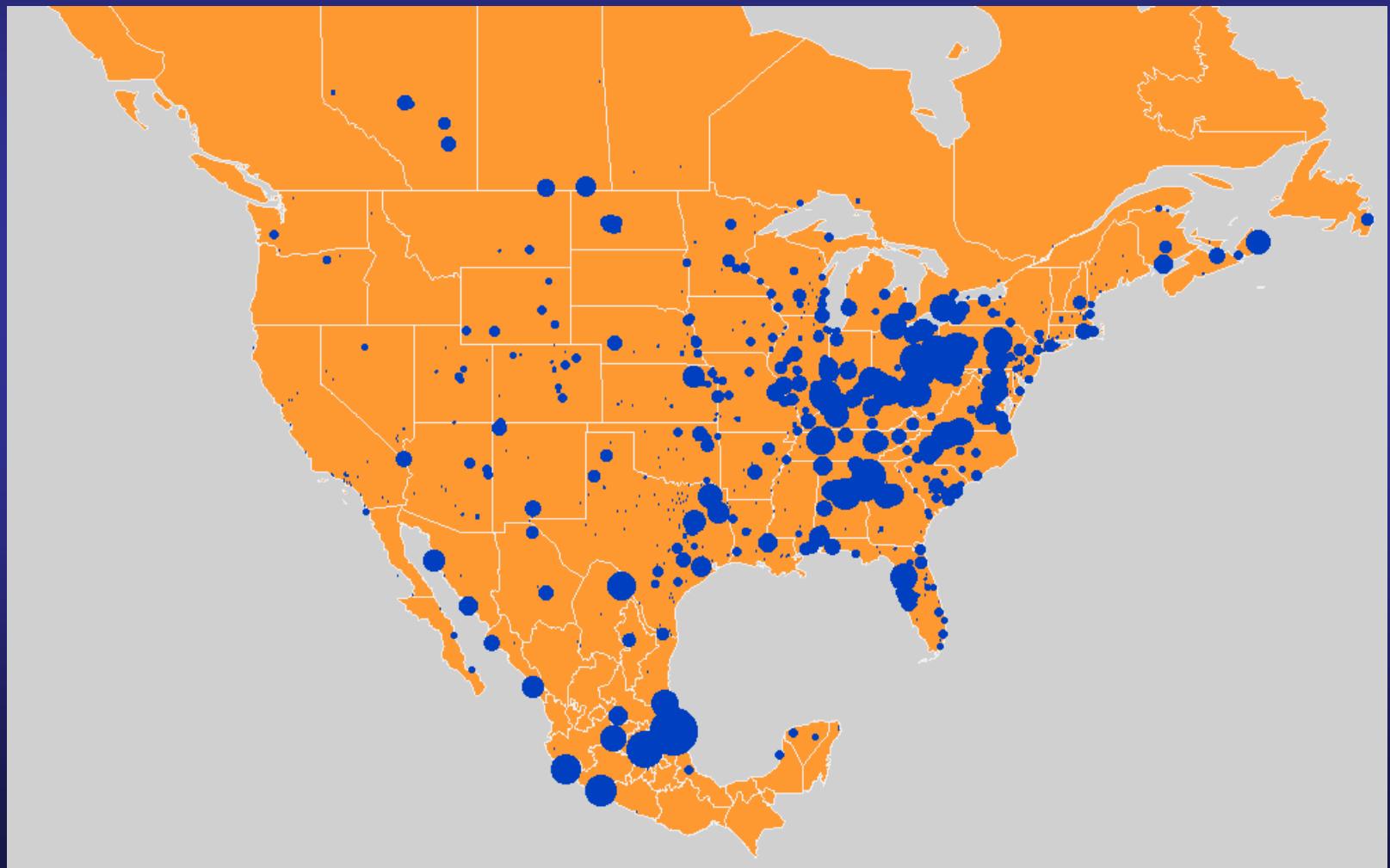
Mexico = 1,558



Canada = 620

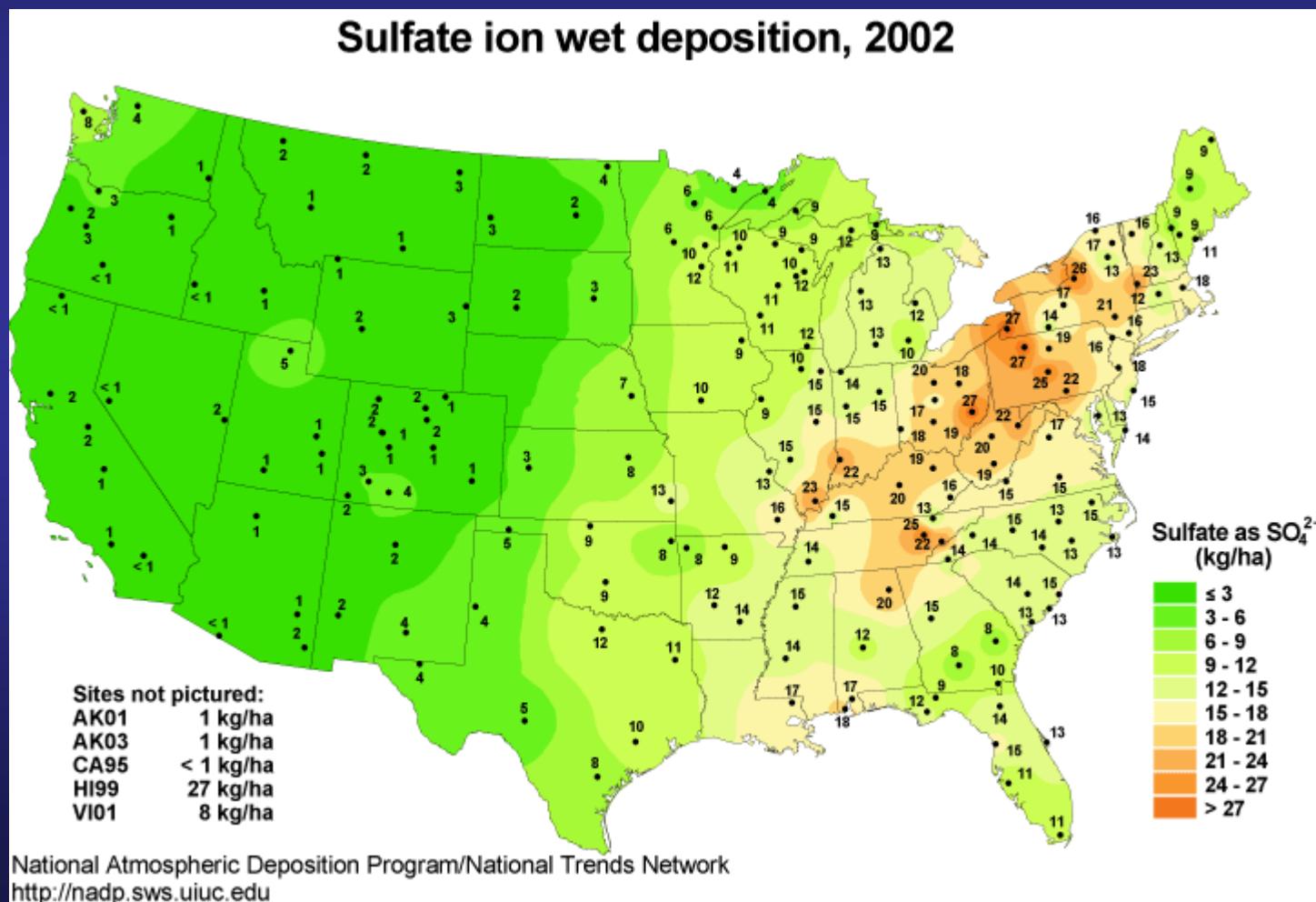


SO₂ Power Plant Map



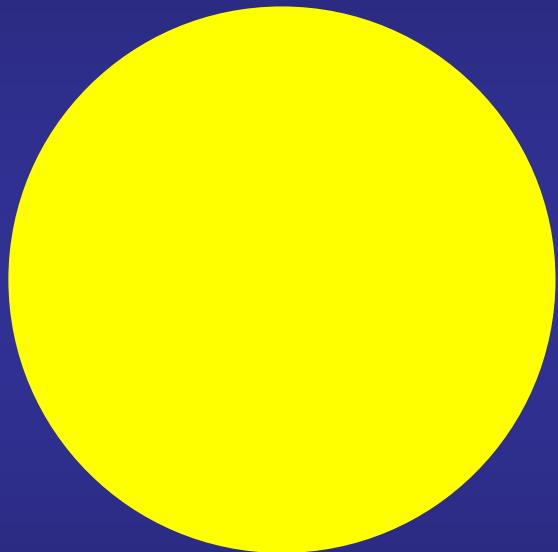


Sulfate deposition





2002 Power plant NOx



US = 4,027



Mexico = 251

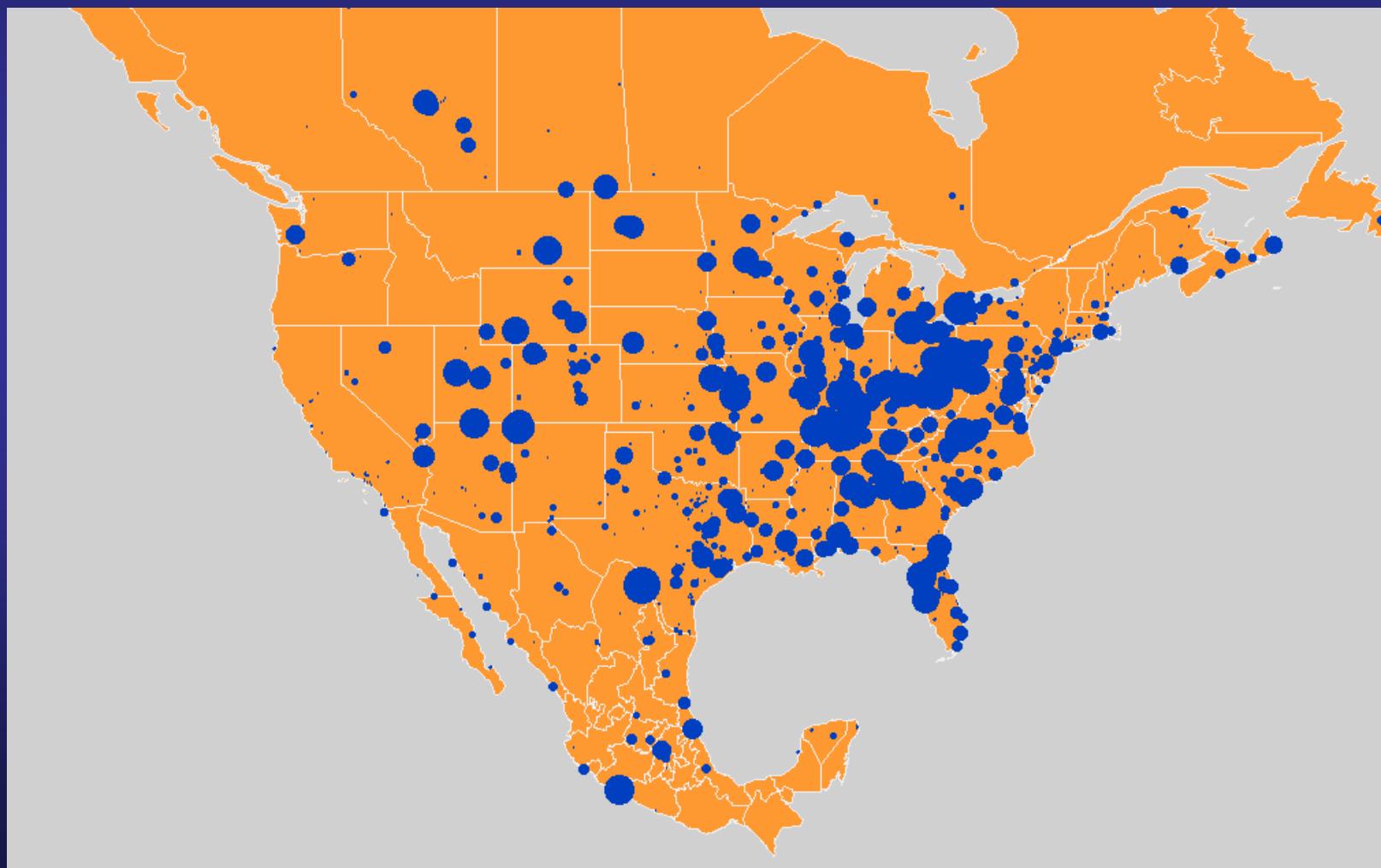


Canada = 262

Thousand metric tonnes

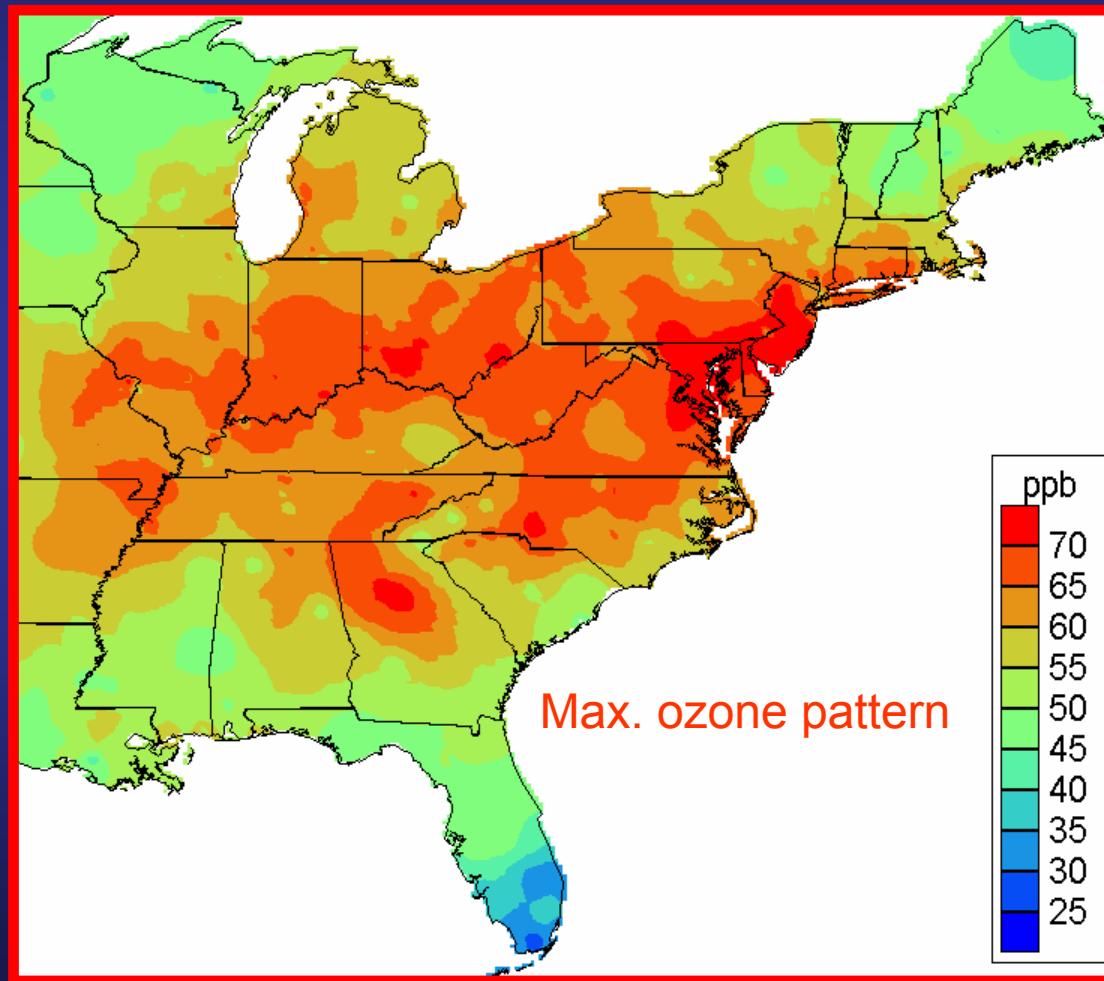


NOx Power Plant Map





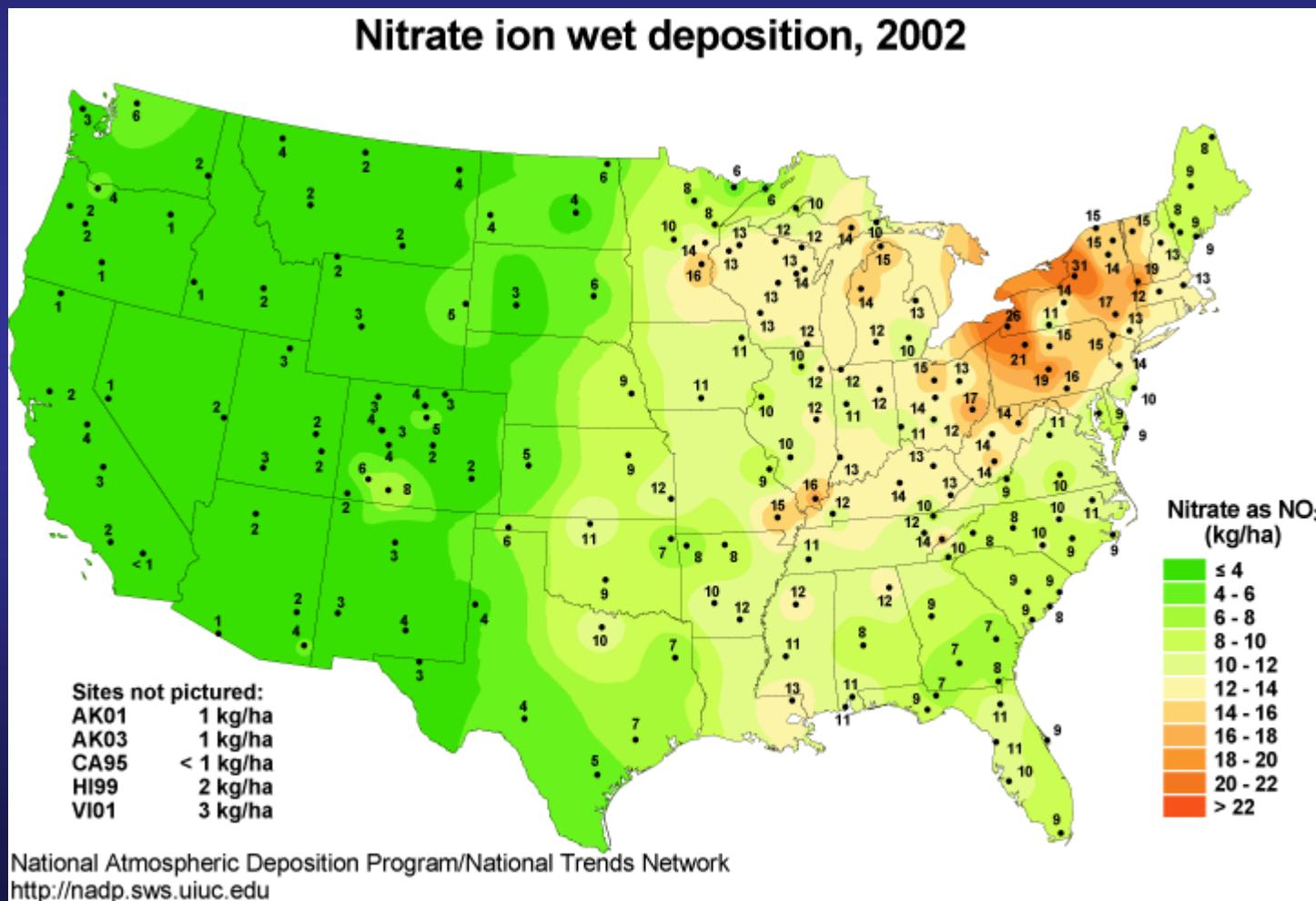
NOx makes ozone



Based on daily 1-hour maximum O₃ 1991-95 monitoring data from AIRS, CASTNet, and other sources

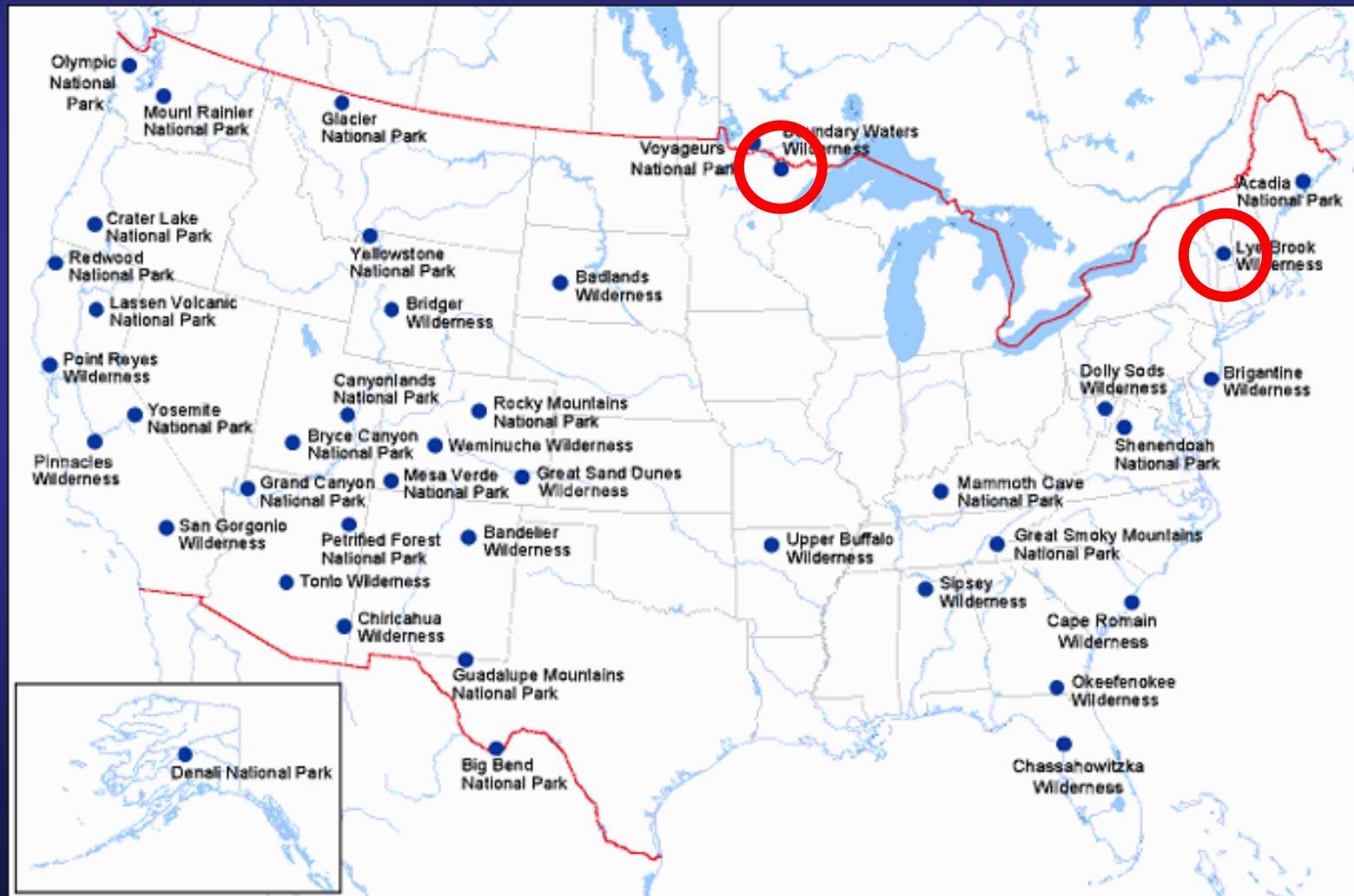


Nitrate deposition





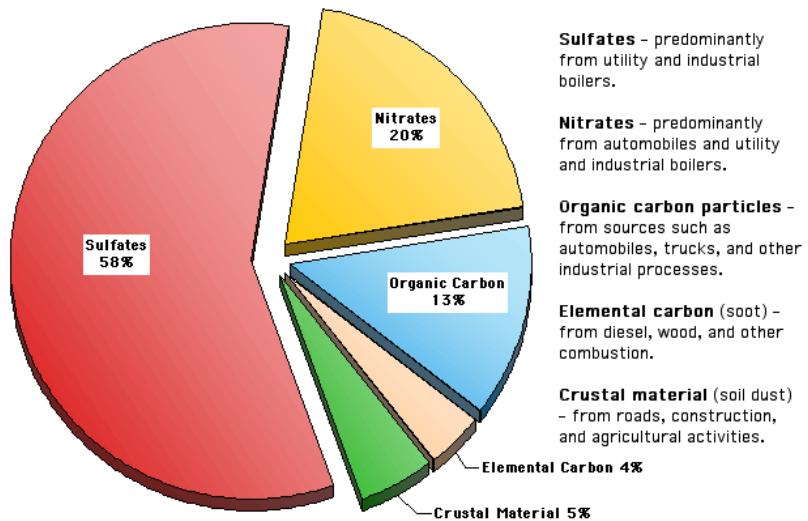
Visibility



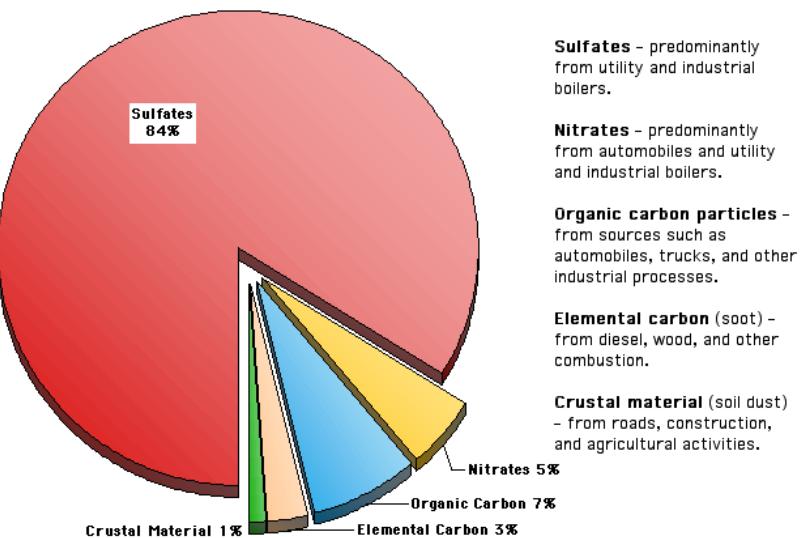


Haze & particles

Boundary Waters Wilderness, Minnesota
Pollutants that contributed to reduced visibility on the worst days in 1997



Lye Brook Wilderness, Vermont
Pollutants that contributed to reduced visibility on the worst days in 1997

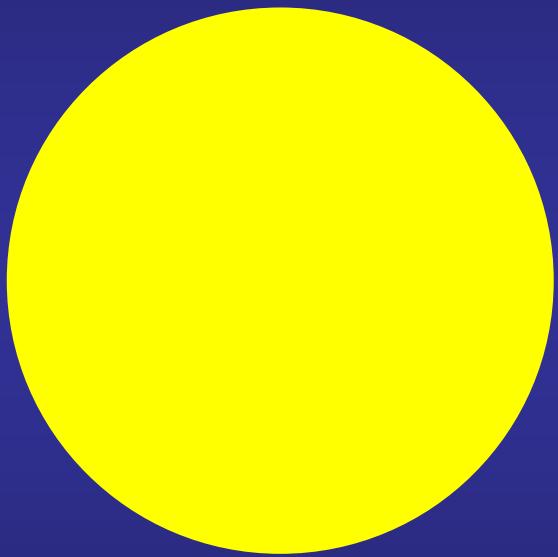


West

East



2002 Power plant mercury



US = 44.2

Metric tonnes



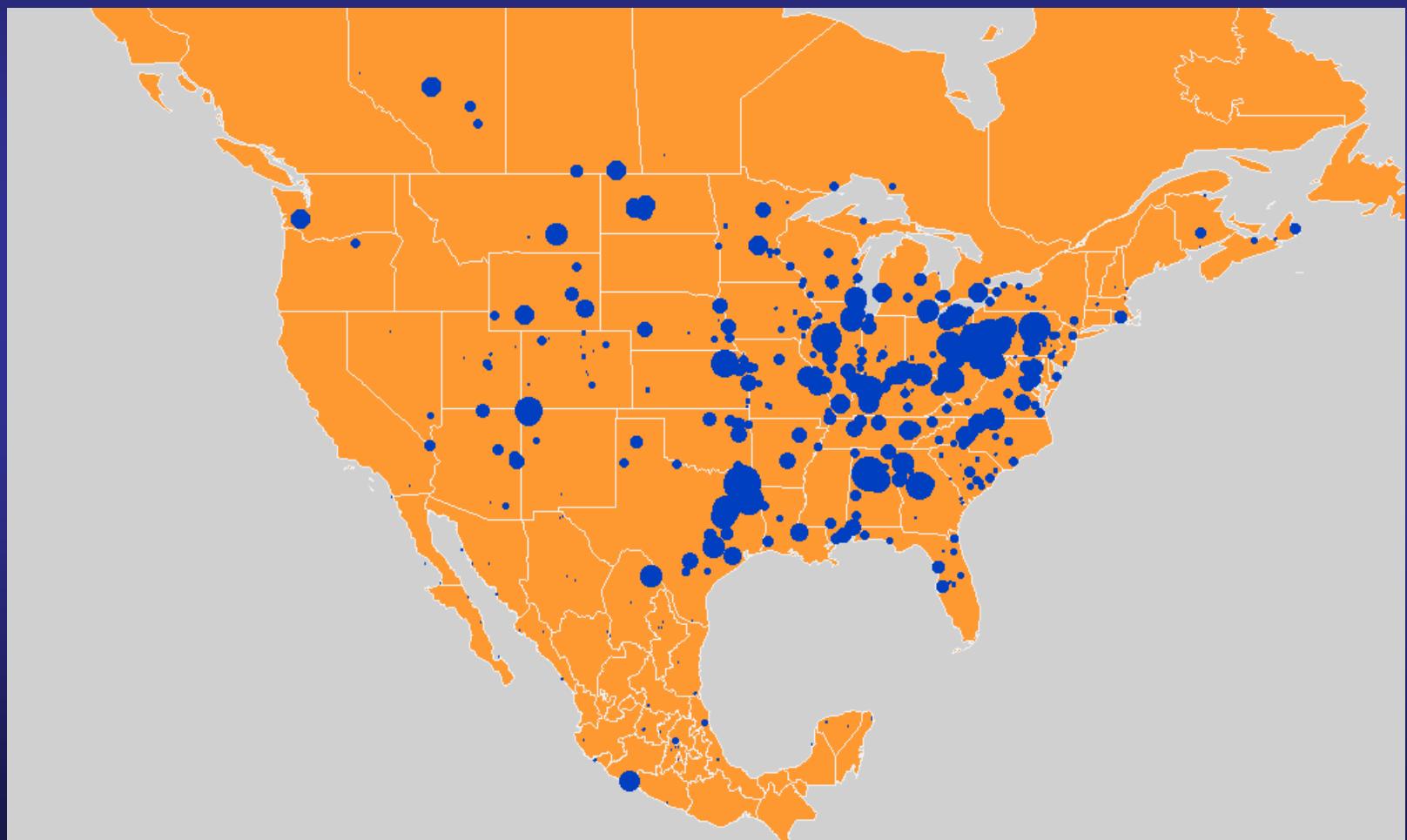
Mexico = 1.3



Canada = 2.0



Hg Power Plant Map



Species of Hg is important in transport

Elemental Mercury: Hg(0)

- *not* very water soluble
- long atmospheric lifetime (~ 0.5 - 1 yr); globally distributed

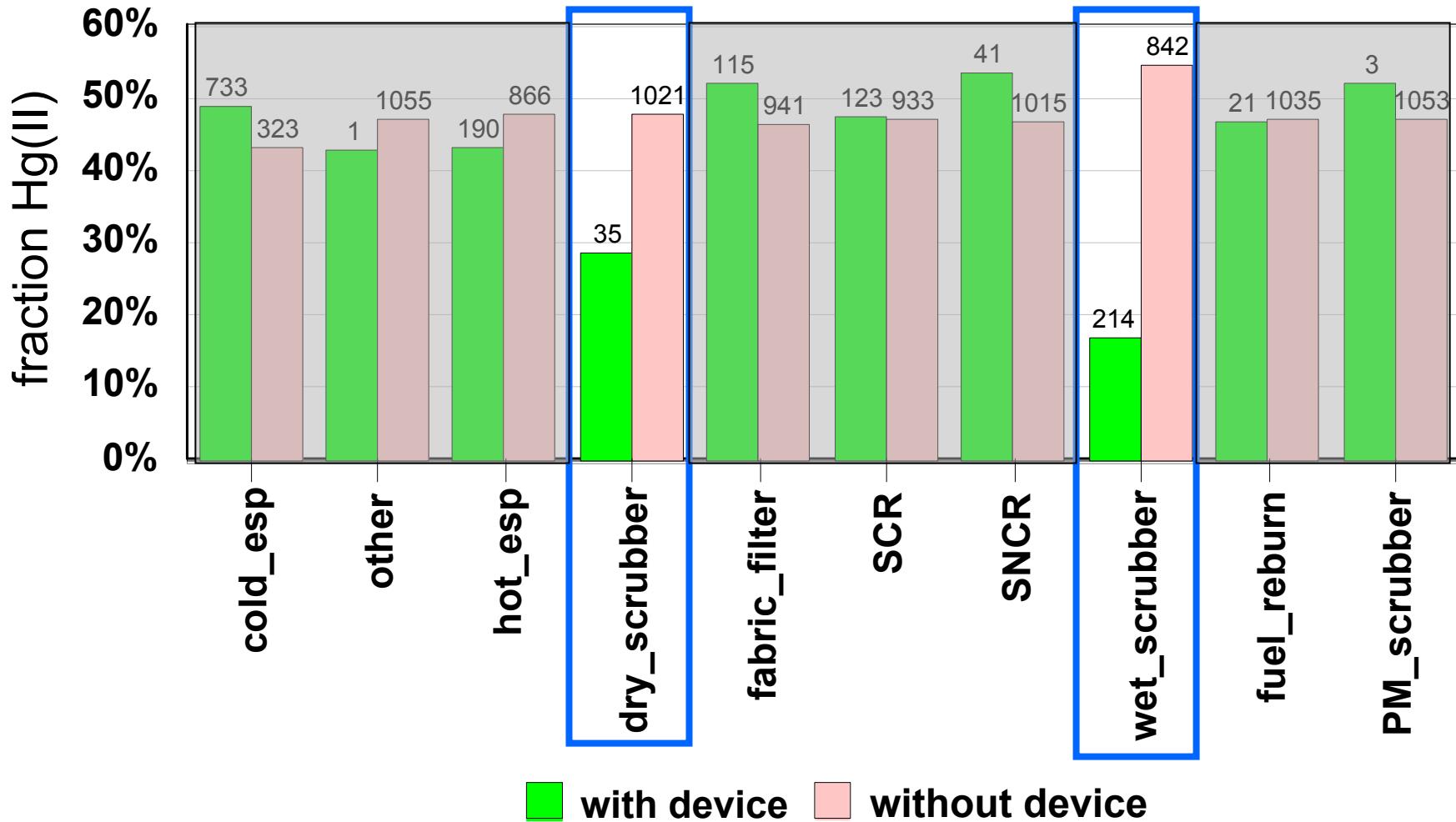
Reactive Gaseous Mercury (“RGM”): Hg(II)

- water soluble
- short atmospheric lifetime (~ 1 week or less)
- more local and regional effects

Particulate Mercury: Hg(p)

- not pure particles of mercury...species largely unknown (in some cases, may be Hg(0)?)
- moderate atmospheric lifetime (perhaps 1~ 2 weeks)
- local and regional effects

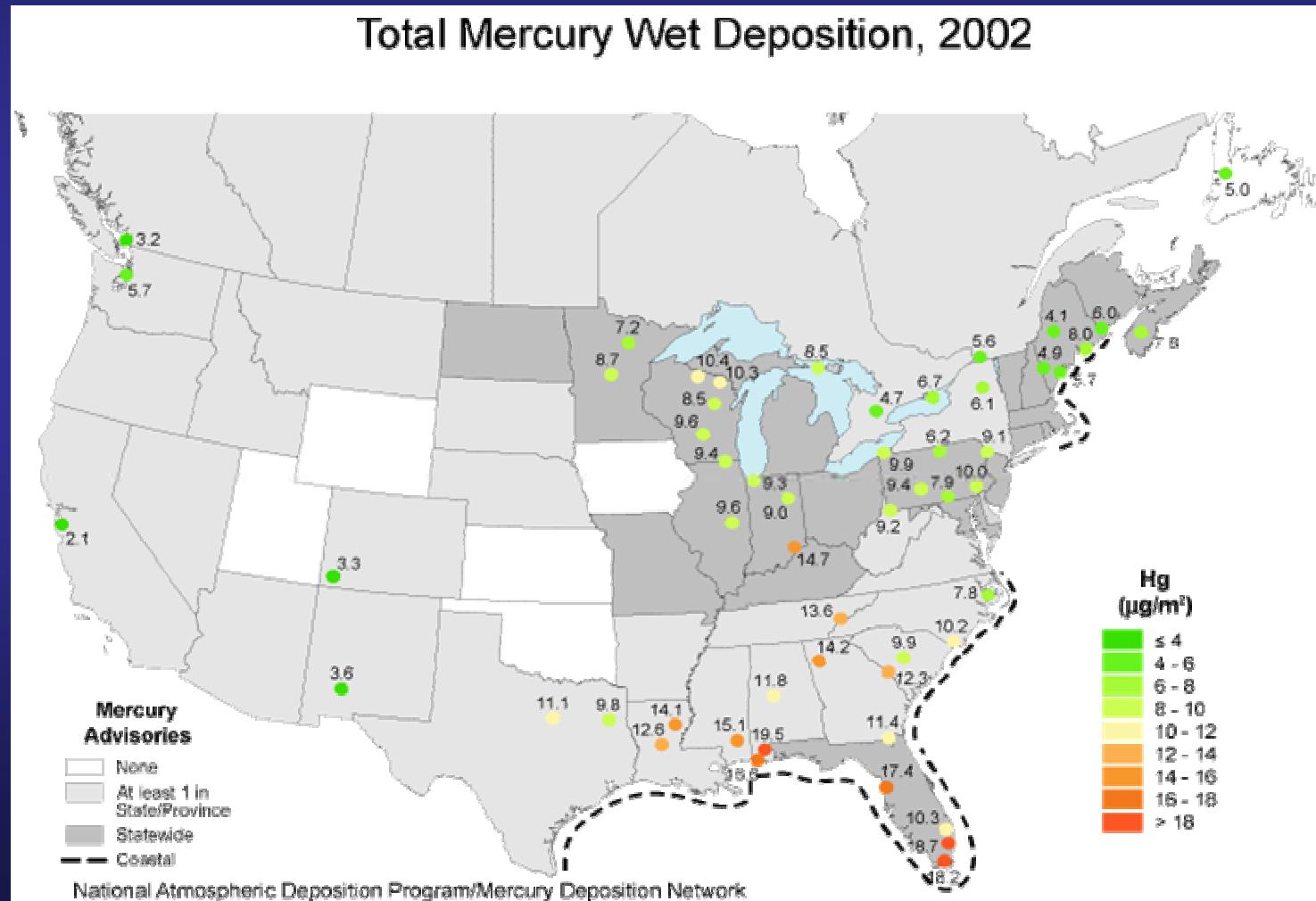
Hg(II) fraction vs. air pollution control device for Hg(II) ("RGM") for mercury emissions from U.S. coal-fired electricity generation



numbers above bars are the number of records

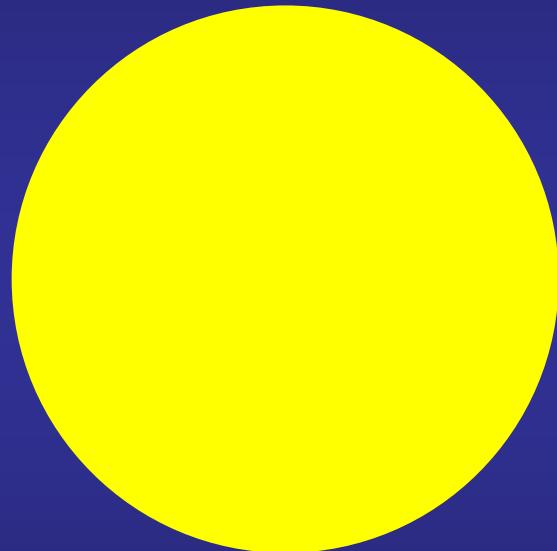


Hg deposition





2002 Power plant CO₂



US = 2,178

Million metric tonnes



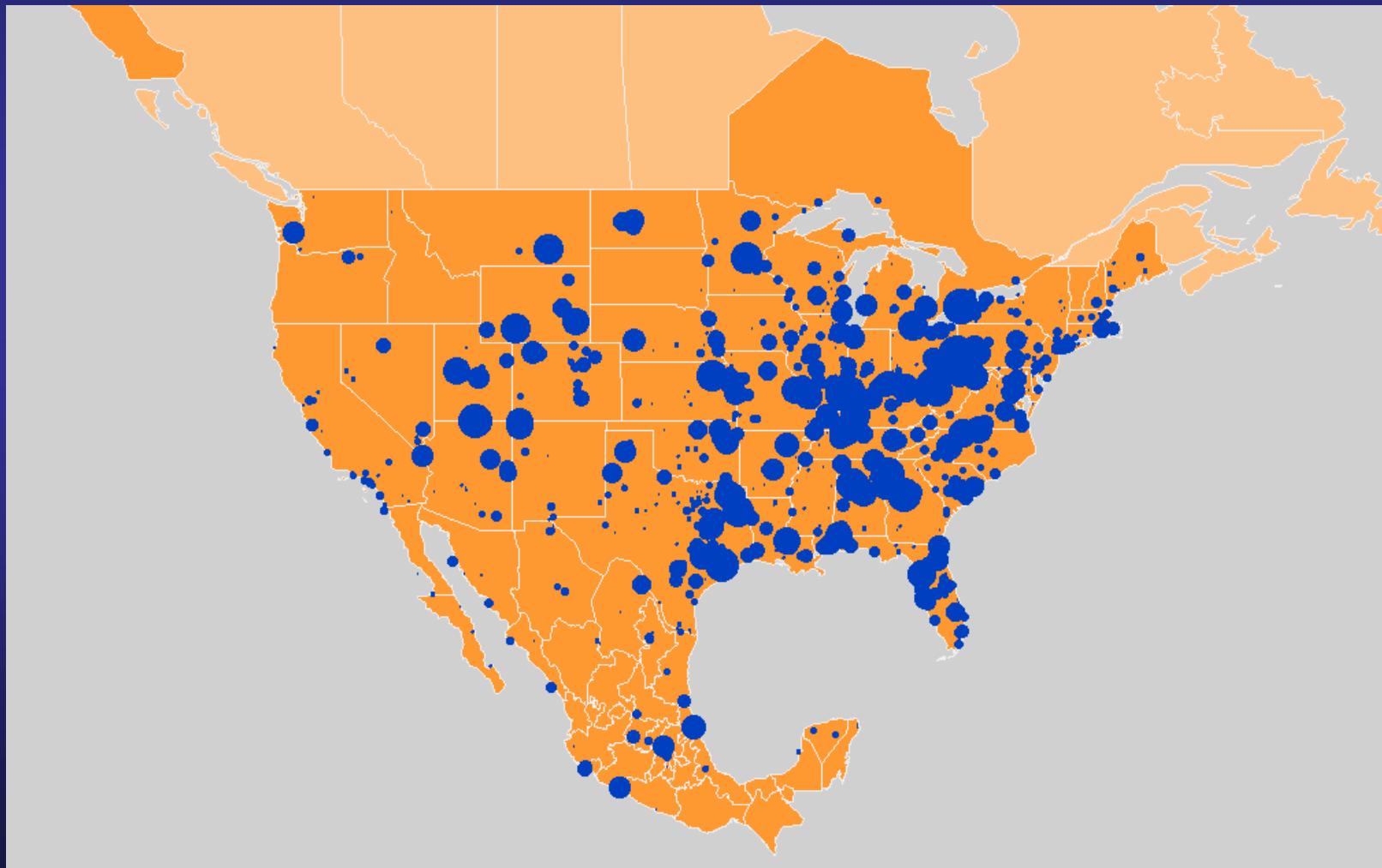
Mexico = 94



Canada = 111



CO₂ Power Plant Map





2002 NA PP Report in progress

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