Development and Testing of Mercury Control Technology for Coal-Fired Power Plants: A U.S. Department of Energy R&D Program



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Presentation Outline

- Background on Hg Emissions
- U.S. DOE's Hg Control Technology R&D Program
 - -Activated Carbon (Sorbent Injection)
 - -Oxidation Technologies
- Key Take Aways



Global Mercury Emissions



FACT: It is estimated that U.S. coal-fired power plants emit approximately 1% of annual global mercury emissions



Source: UNEP Global Mercury Assessment, December 2002

U.S. Power Plant Contribution to the Global Mercury Cycle



Sources: United Nations Environment Programme. Global Mercury Assessment. Switzerland: December 2002.



U.S. Coal-Fired Power Plants Facing New EPA Emission Regulations

Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR)

- Announced March 10, 2005
- Implementation via two phase Eastern regional cap & trade program
- Phase I (2009/2010)
 - 1.5 million ton NOx cap in 2009 (53% reduction)
 - 3.6 million ton SO₂ cap in 2010 (45% reduction)
- Phase II (2015)
 - 1.3 million ton NOx cap (61% reduction)
 - 2.5 million ton SO₂ cap (73% reduction)

Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR)

- Announced March 15, 2005
- Implementation via two phase nation-wide cap & trade program
- Phase I (2010)
 - 38 ton mercury cap (21% reduction)
- Phase II (2018)
 - 15 ton mercury cap (69% reduction)



Note: Percentage reductions from 2003 baseline emission levels.

Mercury Control Technology Field Testing Program *Performance/Cost Objectives*

Cost

- Have technologies ready for <u>commercial demonstration</u> by 2007 for all coals
- Reduce "uncontrolled" Hg emissions by 50-70%
- Reduce cost by 25-50% compared to baseline cost estimates



2000



Baseline Costs: \$50,000 - \$70,000 / Ib Hg Removed (\$110,000 - \$154,000 / kg Hg)



Approaches for Controlling Mercury





Key Facts About Power Plant Mercury

- Unlike sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides, form (species) of mercury depends on coal type, fly ash composition, and other factors – that is, *"one size doesn't fit all"*
- Mercury is found in very low (parts per billion) concentrations, making it difficult to find and remove from flue gas
- Removal efficiency dependent upon existing air pollution control device (APCD)



Phase II Mercury Control Field Test Projects

- Fourteen new projects selected
- Longer-term (1-6 months @ optimum conditions), large-scale field testing
- Broad range of coal-rank and air pollution control device configurations; focus on low-rank coals
- Sorbent injection & mercury oxidation control technologies



Field testing at 28 different coal-fired units --representing approximately 2.3% of 1,165 existing coal-fired generating units.



Evaluation of Sorbent Injection for Mercury Control -- *ADA-ES*

- Evaluate full-scale sorbent injection with existing pollution-control equipment at five sites:
 - Sunflower Electric's Holcomb Station
 burns PRB/Bit coal blend and equipped with
 SDA/FF
 - Detroit Edison's Monroe Station
 burns bituminous coal and equipped with ESP
 - AmerenUE's Meramec Station
 burns PRB and equipped with ESP
 - AEP's Conesville Station

burns bituminous coal and equipped with ESP and wet FGD

- Basin Electric's Laramie River Station

burns PRB coal and equipped with SDA/ESP





Evaluation of Sorbent Injection for Mercury Control *Preliminary Results*

Sunflower Electric's Holcomb Station

- Baseline mercury removal < 20%
- 30-day long-term test using halogenated activated carbon (DARCO Hg-LH)
- Average mercury removal 93% at 1.2 lb/10⁶ ft³ (19 kg/10⁶ m³)
- Average 0.83 lb/TBtu (0.36 pg/J) outlet mercury emission rate





Evaluation of Sorbent Injection for Mercury Control *Preliminary Results*

AmerenUE's Meramec Station

- Baseline mercury removal < 20%
- Parametric testing included:
 - DARCO Hg
 - DARCO Hg w/ KNX coal additive
 - DARCO Hg-LH
- 30-day long-term test using halogenated activated carbon (DARCO Hg-LH)
- Average mercury removal 93% at 3.3 lb/10⁶ ft³ (53 kg/10⁶ m³)
- Average 0.44 lb/TBtu (0.19 pg/J) ESP outlet mercury emission rate





Advanced Utility Mercury Sorbent Field Testing -- *Sorbent Technologies*

- Evaluate brominated powdered activated carbon (B-PAC) sorbent
- Full-scale testing at two sites:
- Duke Energy's Buck Station

 burns bituminous coal and equipped with hot-side ESP
- Detroit Edison's St. Clair Station

 burns blend of bituminous and subbituminous coal and equipped with ESP





Advanced Utility Mercury Sorbent Field Testing Preliminary Results

Detroit Edison's St. Clair Station

- Baseline mercury removal across ESP varied from 0% to 40%
- One month long-term test using brominated activated carbon injection (B-PAC)
- Average mercury removal 94% at 3 lb/10⁶ ft³ (48 kg/10⁶ m³)







Sorbent Injection for Small ESP Mercury Control URS Group

- Evaluate sorbents injected upstream of ESP with small specific collection area (SCA)
- Full-scale testing at Southern
 Company's Plant Yates Unit 1 & 2
 - Unit 1 equipped with ESP (173 SCA) and wet FGD
 - Unit 2 equipped with ESP (144 SCA) and NH₃/SO₃ conditioning
 - Both units burn bituminous coal





Sorbent Injection for Small ESP Mercury Control Preliminary Results

Plant Yates Unit 1

- Average baseline mercury removal ranged ~20-60%
- Short-term parametric testing w/ three conventional PACs: ~60% removal across ESP at 6 lb/10⁶ ft³ (96 kg/10⁶ m³)
 - Similar results on Unit 2
- Long-term testing w/ Super HOK
 - -60-85% removal across ESP at 4-10 lb/10⁶ ft³ (64-160 kg/10⁶ m³)
 - ESP outlet mercury emission rate ranged from 0.4 3.2 lb/TBtu (0.17 1.38 pg/J)
 - Increase in ESP power supply arcing rate
 - $-\sim 30\%$ of particulate measurements exceeded baseline
 - concentrations at ESP outlet



Enhancing Carbon Reactivity in Mercury Control in Lignite-Fired Systems -- *UNDEERC*

- Evaluate two approaches:
 - Use of chlorine-based additive to coal and activated carbon sorbent
 - Use of chemically-treated sorbents



- Full-scale testing at four sites burning North Dakota lignite coal:
- Basin Electric's Leland Olds Station Unit 1
 - equipped with ESP
- Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station Unit 1

 equipped with SDA/FF
- Great River Energy's Stanton Station Unit 1
 - equipped with ESP
- Great River Energy's Stanton Station Unit 10
 - equipped with SDA/FF

Enhancing Carbon Reactivity in Mercury Control in Lignite-Fired Systems *Preliminary Results*

Basin Electric's 220 MW Leland Olds Station Unit 1

- Baseline mercury removal ~15% across ESP
- Average mercury removal ~63% during one-month longterm testing with coal additive equivalent to 500 ppm chlorine in coal and 3 lb/10⁶ ft³ (48 kg/10⁶ m³) sorbent injection (DARCO Hg)
- ESP outlet mercury emission rate averaged 2.04 lb/TBtu (0.88 pg/J)



Parametric Test Results

Enhancing Carbon Reactivity in Mercury Control in Lignite-Fired Systems *Preliminary Results*

Great River Energy's 60 MW Stanton Station Unit 10

- Baseline mercury removal across SDA/FF <10%
- Mercury removal ranged from 45% to 80% (avg. 60%) during onemonth long-term testing with halogenated activated carbon (DARCO Hg-LH) injection at 0.7 lb/10⁶ ft³ (11 kg/10⁶ m³)





Date

Field Testing Results 2001 – 2004 *Comparison of Standard & Enhanced PAC*



Key Takeaways

- Significant strides have been made in developing mercury control technology over the past several years, but more R&D is needed
- Activated carbon/sorbent injection and oxidation systems (i.e., catalysts, chemical additives) are most promising Hg control technologies
- Significant variability in Hg speciation depending on coal type and other factors
- DOE's current field testing activity is an <u>R&D</u> program
- Further long-term field testing is needed to bring technology to commercial-demonstration readiness
- DOE's RD&D model projects broad commercial availability in 2012-2015



DOE/NETL Environmental and Water Resources (Innovations for Existing Plants Program)



To find out more about DOE-NETL's Hg R&D activities visit us at: http://www.netl.doe.gov/coal/E&WR/index.html

