#### **2013 APC/PCUG Conference**

Monday, July 8, 2013



## **Mercury Overview**

#### W. Scott Hinton, Ph.D., P.E.



1612 Smugglers Cove Circle Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 Tel: 850-936-0037 Fax: 850-936-0064 Cell: 850-261-5239 shinton@wshinton.com

### **A Plant Tour** – Mercury's Perspective



#### Coal: Mercury's home for 300 million years



 Many Possible Mercury Compounds: Hg<sup>0</sup>, HgO,HgCl<sub>2</sub>, HgBr<sub>2</sub>, HgS, organic mercury, etc.



• Varies according to coal type, region, seam, mine, etc.

 Deposition and plant assimilation from the atmosphere is the source of coal mercury

#### **Boiler: High Temperature Converts Mercury**







High Temperatures convert mercury compounds to elemental mercury

Boiler creates additional species which influence mercury speciation and capture; HCI, HBr, SO<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, CO, H<sub>2</sub>O, NOx, LOI **Boiler: Thermochemical equilibrium drives mercury speciation toward elemental mercury** 



#### Boiler: Many factors affect equilibrium, but at boiler temperatures, elemental mercury is always favored QUALITATIVE EXAMPLES





Review

Review of technologies for mercury removal from flue gas from cement production processes

Yuanjing Zheng <sup>a, 1,</sup> 🕮, Anker D. Jensen <sup>a,</sup> 🎍 🕮, Christian Windelin<sup>b</sup>, Flemming Jensen<sup>b</sup>

#### Convective Pass and Economizer: Rapid cooling changes equilibrium temperature







- New lower temperature equilibrium conditions, very dynamic mercury conversion potential (residence time, flue gas species and chemical reactions, etc.)
- There is now at least the potential for oxidized mercury to exist
- Flue gas conditions now set for SCR or APH.

# SCR: Catalyst drives the potential reactions forward





- Catalysts promote or "speed up" reactions. They are not consumed in the process – they are simply "expeditors".
- For SCR catalyst, mercury oxidation is a beneficial side-reaction.
  - SCR generally produces the largest mercury speciation change of any single device - it also changes the concentrations of many other species via chemical reactions (SO3, NOx, possibly halogen form).

# Air Preheater: The "forgotten" speciation driver



Rapid cooling induces a new equilibrium potential – creates possibility of very different mercury speciation.





- Numerous flue gas reactions occur that have the potential to affect mercury speciation (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> formation, chemical adsorption, etc.).
- Temperature is now low enough for adsorption (capture) to occur.
  - Very short residence time insures incomplete reactions toward new equilibrium conditions – very dynamic process.

### **Particulate Collection: ESP**



- Removes particulate and as a result removes any particle-bound mercury.
- First real mercury capture device in the flue gas train.
- Relatively long residence time (including ductwork) helps to drive mercury speciation and capture.
- Native unburned carbon (added activated carbon) promote strong adsorption potential.
- Chemical reactions continue as a function of equilibrium and residence time.
- Reaction and adsorption processes continue throughout the ESP – still very dynamic period for mercury speciation and capture.

### ESP Physics Inefficient gas-solid contacting



### **Particulate Collection: Baghouse**



- Many factors similar to ESP
- Baghouse characterized by much better ash/gas contacting
- Improved overall (and especially fine) particulate removal
- Generally much improved native mercury capture or carbon utilization efficiency

#### **Baghouse Physics** Efficient gas-solid contacting



#### **Scrubber: Major Mercury Removal Device**







- Additional cooling, perhaps promoting additional mercury reactions
- Generally very efficient at removing oxidized mercury
- Not good at removing elemental mercury
- Some speciation change might occur – i.e. "re-emissions"
- Transforms mercury from an air pollution constituent, to a potential water or solid waste constituent

#### Stack: Release of flue gas to the environment



- Total mercury the focus of regulations
- Mercury cycle begins again
- Mercury reactions continue in the atmosphere, water, and bio-systems



#### **Review: Drivers Affecting Mercury Speciation**

#### **Primary Theoretical Drivers** (all are dynamic in a operating unit)

- Chemistry
- Temperature
- Residence Time
- Adsorption Mechanisms

#### **Practical Drivers for Coal-Fired Unit**

- Fuel Composition
- Boiler Design and Operation
- SCR Design, Operation and Catalyst Specifics
- APH Design and Operation
- ESP Design and Operation
- Baghouse Design and Operation
- Scrubber Design and Operation

#### **Detailed Analysis: FUELS**

#### single most important global driver of mercury behavior



#### **Fuel Composition – Distribution of Mercury**



#### Example Mercury Variability large eastern bituminous plant 80% of data in 50% to 150% range



#### Uncontrolled Mercury Emissions as a Function of Btu and Mercury Concentration

| 14,000 | 1.4  | 2.9  | 4.3  | 5.7  | 7.1  | 8.6  | 10.0 | 11.4 | 12.9 | 14.3 | 15.7 | 17.1 | 18.6 | 20.0 | 21.4 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 13,500 | 1.5  | 3.0  | 4.4  | 5.9  | 7.4  | 8.9  | 10.4 | 11.9 | 13.3 | 14.8 | 16.3 | 17.8 | 19.3 | 20.7 | 22.2 |
| 13,000 | 1.5  | 3.1  | 4.6  | 6.2  | 7.7  | 9.2  | 10.8 | 12.3 | 13.8 | 15.4 | 16.9 | 18.5 | 20.0 | 21.5 | 23.1 |
| 12,500 | 1.6  | 3.2  | 4.8  | 6.4  | 8.0  | 9.6  | 11.2 | 12.8 | 14.4 | 16.0 | 17.6 | 19.2 | 20.8 | 22.4 | 24.0 |
| 12,000 | 1.7  | 3.3  | 5.0  | 6.7  | 8.3  | 10.0 | 11.7 | 13.3 | 15.0 | 16.7 | 18.3 | 20.0 | 21.7 | 23.3 | 25.0 |
| 11,500 | 1.7  | 3.5  | 5.2  | 7.0  | 8.7  | 10.4 | 12.2 | 13.9 | 15.7 | 17.4 | 19.1 | 20.9 | 22.6 | 24.3 | 26.1 |
| 11,000 | 1.8  | 3.6  | 5.5  | 7.3  | 9.1  | 10.9 | 12.7 | 14.5 | 16.4 | 18.2 | 20.0 | 21.8 | 23.6 | 25.5 | 27.3 |
| 10,500 | 1.9  | 3.8  | 5.7  | 7.6  | 9.5  | 11.4 | 13.3 | 15.2 | 17.1 | 19.0 | 21.0 | 22.9 | 24.8 | 26.7 | 28.6 |
| 10,000 | 2.0  | 4.0  | 6.0  | 8.0  | 10.0 | 12.0 | 14.0 | 16.0 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 24.0 | 26.0 | 28.0 | 30.0 |
| 9,500  | 2.1  | 4.2  | 6.3  | 8.4  | 10.5 | 12.6 | 14.7 | 16.8 | 18.9 | 21.1 | 23.2 | 25.3 | 27.4 | 29.5 | 31.6 |
| 9,000  | 2.2  | 4.4  | 6.7  | 8.9  | 11.1 | 13.3 | 15.6 | 17.8 | 20.0 | 22.2 | 24.4 | 26.7 | 28.9 | 31.1 | 33.3 |
| 8,500  | 2.4  | 4.7  | 7.1  | 9.4  | 11.8 | 14.1 | 16.5 | 18.8 | 21.2 | 23.5 | 25.9 | 28.2 | 30.6 | 32.9 | 35.3 |
| 8,000  | 2.5  | 5.0  | 7.5  | 10.0 | 12.5 | 15.0 | 17.5 | 20.0 | 22.5 | 25.0 | 27.5 | 30.0 | 32.5 | 35.0 | 37.5 |
|        | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.20 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.26 | 0.28 | 0.30 |

Coal Btu/Ib (dry basis)

Coal Mercury Content (ppmw, dry)

# **Required Mercury Removal** (%) to meet 1 lb/Tbtu - based on coal Btu and Hg content

| 14,000 | 30   | 65   | 77   | 83   | 86   | 88   | 90   | 91   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 95   |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 13,500 | 33   | 66   | 78   | 83   | 87   | 89   | 90   | 92   | 93   | 93   | 94   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 96   |
| 13,000 | 35   | 68   | 78   | 84   | 87   | 89   | 91   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 95   | 96   |
| 12,500 | 38   | 69   | 79   | 84   | 88   | 90   | 91   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   |
| 12,000 | 40   | 70   | 80   | 85   | 88   | 90   | 91   | 93   | 93   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   |
| 11,500 | 43   | 71   | 81   | 86   | 89   | 90   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   |
| 11,000 | 45   | 73   | 82   | 86   | 89   | 91   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   |
| 10,500 | 48   | 74   | 83   | 87   | 90   | 91   | 93   | 93   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   | 97   |
| 10,000 | 50   | 75   | 83   | 88   | 90   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   | 97   |
| 9,500  | 53   | 76   | 84   | 88   | 91   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   | 97   | 97   |
| 9,000  | 55   | 78   | 85   | 89   | 91   | 93   | 94   | 94   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   | 97   | 97   | 97   |
| 8,500  | 58   | 79   | 86   | 89   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 95   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   | 97   | 97   | 97   |
| 8,000  | 60   | 80   | 87   | 90   | 92   | 93   | 94   | 95   | 96   | 96   | 96   | 97   | 97   | 97   | 97   |
|        | 0.02 | 0.04 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.20 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.26 | 0.28 | 0.30 |

Coal Btu/Ib (dry basis)

Coal Mercury Content (ppmw, dry)

#### **Fuel Composition – Distribution of Chlorine**



#### Example Chlorine Variability large eastern bituminous plant

(1,000 ppmw on coal  $\approx$  70 ppmv in flue gas)



#### **Example Chlorine Variability large eastern bituminous plant**



#### **Fuel Composition – Distribution of Bromine**



#### **Bromine and Chlorine Inter-Relationship**

Coals low in Chlorine will also generally be low in Bromine



#### **Primary Coal Types for Mercury Considerations**

- 1. Eastern Bituminous (mid to high chlorine)
- 2. Southern Appalachian (low chlorine)
- 3. South American (very low chlorine)
- 4. Powder River Basin (very low chlorine)



#### Comparative Representative Coal Analyses Ultimate Properties

| Ultimate Properties      | High Chlorine<br>Eastern Bituminous | Low Chlorine Southern<br>Appalachian & S.A. | Power River Basin |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Total Moisture (%)       | 6.54                                | 6.95  | 27.03             |
| Ash Dry (%)              | 11.48                               | 13.67                                       | 6.88              |
| HOC Dry (Btu/lb)         | 13,009                              | 13,019                                      | 12,040            |
| Total Sulfur Dry (%)     | 1.17                                | 1.39  | 0.37              |
| Carbon Dry (%)           | 73.78                               | 73.67                                       | 70.37             |
| Hydrogen Dry (%)         | 4.79                                | 4.52  | 4.67              |
| Nitrogen Dry (%)         | 1.50                                | 1.56  | 1.00              |
| Oxygen Dry (%)           | 6.26                                | 5.19  | 16.71             |
| Volatiles Dry (%)        | 34.06                               | 29.88                                       | 42.92             |
| Fixed Carbon Dry (%)     | 53.43                               | 56.57                                       | 50.20             |
| Ash Fusion IT (%)        | 2,530                               | 2,396                                       | 2,143             |
| Ash Fusion ST (%)        | 2,612                               | 2,530                                       | 2,171             |
| Ash Fusion HT (%)        | 2,654                               | 2,397                                       | 2,186             |
| Ash Fusion FT (%)        | 2,709                               | 2,741                                       | 2,254             |
| Grindability Index (HGI) | 43.66                               | 59.81                                       | 49.82             |

#### Comparative Representative Coal Analyses Ash Mineral Properties

| Ash Mineral (%) | High Chlorine<br>Eastern Bituminous | Low Chlorine Southern<br>Appalachian & S.A. | Power River Basin |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| AI2O3           | 26.64                               | 27.03                                       | 16.46             |
| Fe2O3           | 9.15                                | 11.22                                       | 5.60              |
| CaO             | 1.64                                | 1.47  | 20.47             |
| MgO             | 1.05                                | 1.21  | 4.54              |
| MnO2            | 5.15                                | 3.11  | 0.03              |
| P2O5            | 0.33                                | 0.45  | 1.04              |
| К2О             | 2.51                                | 2.70  | 0.42              |
| SiO2            | 52.57                               | 52.36                                       | 34.37             |
| Na2O            | 0.42                                | 0.39  | 1.42              |
| SO3             | 1.29                                | 1.48  | 12.62             |
| TiO2            | 1.41                                | 1.35  | 1.16              |

#### Comparative Representative Coal Analyses Trace Element Properties

| Trace Element<br>(ppm, dry, whole<br>coal) | High Chlorine<br>Eastern Bituminous | Low Chlorine<br>Southern<br>Appalachian & S.A. | Power River Basin |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| As   | 11.67                               | 37.55  | 0.70              |
| Ва   | 150.81                              | 305.78   | 345.24            |
| В  | 2.40                                | 1.92   | 0.31              |
| В  | 0                                   | 0  | 0                 |
| Cd   | 0.080                               | 0.100  | 0.056             |
| Cl   | 1,000-3,500                         | 50-350   | ~50               |
| Со   | 8.18                                | 10.26  | 2.73              |
| Cr   | 16.73                               | 20.97  | 3.90              |
| Cu   | 21.12                               | 25.76  | 11.92             |
| F  | 97.93                               | 91.87  | 58.00             |
| Hg   | 0.084                               | 0.171  | 0.081             |
| Li   | 0                                   | 0  | 0                 |
| Mg   | 0.073                               | 0.101  | 0.191             |
| Mn   | 29.56                               | 34.93  | 12.10             |
| Мо   | 0                                   | 0  | 0                 |
| Na   | 0.032                               | 0.037  | 0.074             |
| Ni   | 14.07                               | 17.56  | 3.90              |
| Pb   | 8.17                                | 8.40   | 2.70              |
| Sb   | 1.15                                | 2.40   | 0.05              |
| Se   | 3.25                                | 1.97   | 0.66              |
| Sr   | 0.0049                              | 0.0116   | 0.0075            |
| V  | 35.64                               | 46.87  | 14.83             |
| Zn   | 17 31                               | 19 14  | 10.60             |

#### Fuel Effects on Mercury Speciation in the Boiler, Convective Pass, and Economizer

| Location                                       | High Chlorine EB                      | Low Chlorine EB &<br>South American                        | PRB                                  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Boiler   | Complete                              | Complete   | Complete                             |
|  | conversion to                         | conversion to  | conversion to                        |
|  | elemental mercury                     | elemental mercury  | elemental mercury                    |
| Convective Pass                                | Little driving force                  | Little driving force                                       | Little driving force                 |
|  | for mercury                           | for mercury  | for mercury                          |
|  | oxidation                             | oxidation  | oxidation                            |
| Economizer to<br>SCR or APH<br>inlet (w/o SCR) | Some mercury<br>oxidation<br>(20-40%) | Possible mercury<br>oxidation, but<br>limited<br>(10-20 %) | Very little mercury oxidation (<10%) |

#### **Fuel Effects on SCR Mercury Oxidation**

| Location | High Chlorine<br>EB       | Low Chlorine EB &<br>South American | PRB                           |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SCR      | Strong potential          | Moderate potential for              | Mercury oxidation severely    |
|          | for mercury               | oxidation, usually                  | limited by low halogens,      |
|          | oxidation, SCR            | highly sensitive to                 | alkali nature of ash seems to |
|          | less sensitive to         | operating parameters,               | further suppress Hg-halogen   |
|          | catalyst,                 | especially actual                   | reactions, advanced catalyst  |
|          | ammonia,                  | halogen levels,                     | may help, and halogen         |
|          | temperature,              | ammonia, NOx,                       | supplementation will have     |
|          | etc.                      | temperature, etc.                   | dramatic effect               |
|          | (Hg <sup>2+</sup> = 80%+) | (Hg <sup>2+</sup> = 40-80%)         | (Hg <sup>2+</sup> < 40%)      |

#### Fuel Effects on Air Preheater Mercury Speciation and Capture

| Location | High Chlorine EB   | Low Chlorine EB &<br>South American   | PRB  |
|----------|--|---|--|
| APH      | Driving force for mercury<br>oxidation continues as a<br>function of halogens and<br>temperature, some<br>deposition may occur,<br>sulfuric acid formation<br>$(Hg^{2+} = 90\%+)$<br>Some capture possible | Moderate driving<br>force for oxidation<br>to continue, lower<br>temperature helps<br>(Hg <sup>2+</sup> = 60%+)<br>Some capture<br>possible | Very little driving<br>force for oxidation<br>(Hg <sup>2+</sup> = 30%+)<br>Some capture<br>possible, but usually<br>very limited |

#### Fuel Effects on ESP/Baghouse Mercury Speciation and Capture

| Location | High Chlorine EB  | Low Chlorine EB &<br>South American  | PRB   |
|----------|---|--|---|
| ESP      | Oxidation of mercury<br>may continue<br>simultaneously with<br>capture<br>(> 50% Hg <sup>T</sup> capture)<br>possible), speciation at<br>outlet will be variable<br>due to the capture of<br>Hg <sup>2+</sup> | Oxidation of mercury<br>may continue<br>simultaneously with<br>capture<br>(> 30% Hg <sup>T</sup> capture<br>possible), speciation at<br>outlet will be variable<br>due to the capture of<br>Hg <sup>2+</sup> | Limited potential for<br>continued oxidation,<br>some capture still<br>possible<br>(> 20% Hg <sup>T</sup> capture<br>possible), speciation at<br>outlet will be variable<br>due to the capture of<br>Hg <sup>2+</sup> |
| Baghouse | Similar to APH but with improved capture  | Similar to APH but with improved capture   | Similar to APH but with improved capture  |

#### **Fuel Effects on Scrubber Capture**

| Location | High Chlorine EB   | Low Chlorine EB &<br>South American  | PRB   |
|----------|--|--|---|
| Scrubber | Scrubber will generally<br>exhibit high rate of Hg <sup>2+</sup><br>capture, halogens appear to<br>have a synergistic effect* on<br>improved capture<br>efficiency, good overall<br>capture<br>(-90%+)<br>High proportion of Hg <sup>0</sup> in<br>emissions | High rate of Hg <sup>2+</sup><br>capture still occurs,<br>but synergistic effect<br>may not be as<br>apparent, overall<br>capture marginal<br>(50-80%)<br>High proportion of<br>Hg <sup>0</sup> in emissions | High rate of Hg <sup>2+</sup><br>capture still<br>occurs, overall<br>capture limited,<br>though<br>(30-70%)<br>High proportion of<br>Hg <sup>0</sup> in emissions |

\*High halogens may improve the efficiency with which oxidized mercury is captured, in addition to increasing the overall proportion of oxidized mercury present.

#### **Detailed Analysis: SCR** single most important speciation driver





Image Courtesy: Xiangtan Weida electrical and machinery manufacture Co.,LTD Address: No.71, Hehua Middle Raod,Xiangtan City, Hunan Province,CHINA Website: http://www.tilemachinery.com

#### **Example Effect of Chlorine on SCR Hg Oxidation**



#### Example: Bromine Addition with SCR-Wet Scrubber

MRC Data - low chlorine eastern bituminous coal



**Caution !** Example only –effects may be significantly shifted in the field.

#### SCR Outlet Oxidized Mercury vs. Temperature

lower temperatures favor oxidized mercury



#### **Effect of Ammonia: Suppression of Hg Oxidation**

halogens can help to mitigate the effect



**Caution !** Example only – halogen effects may be significantly shifted in the field.

# Effect of Ammonia: Absolute Speciation as a Function of Catalyst Layer



# Effect of Ammonia: Dynamic Speciation as a Function of Catalyst Layers



## **SUMMARY**

**1. Almost everything affects mercury speciation or capture!** 

2. Fuel composition is probably the most important single parameter governing a unit's ability to control mercury emissions.

3. Be cautious about making mercury behavior assumptions – behavior does not translate well from one facility to another – too many factors affect mercury behavior.

4. Be wary of analysis approaches that do not take into consideration the "big picture" – isolated analyses do not adequately capture the integrated effect on mercury behavior.



1612 Smugglers Cove Circle Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 Office: 850-936-0037 Cell: 850-261-5239 email: shinton@wshinton.com