

# Worldwide Pollution Control Association

FirstEnergy ESP Seminar  
November 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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**WAHLCO, INC.<sup>®</sup>**

**Flue Gas Conditioning**

**WPCA**

**November 27, 2007**

William Hankins

VP Sales

# Outline

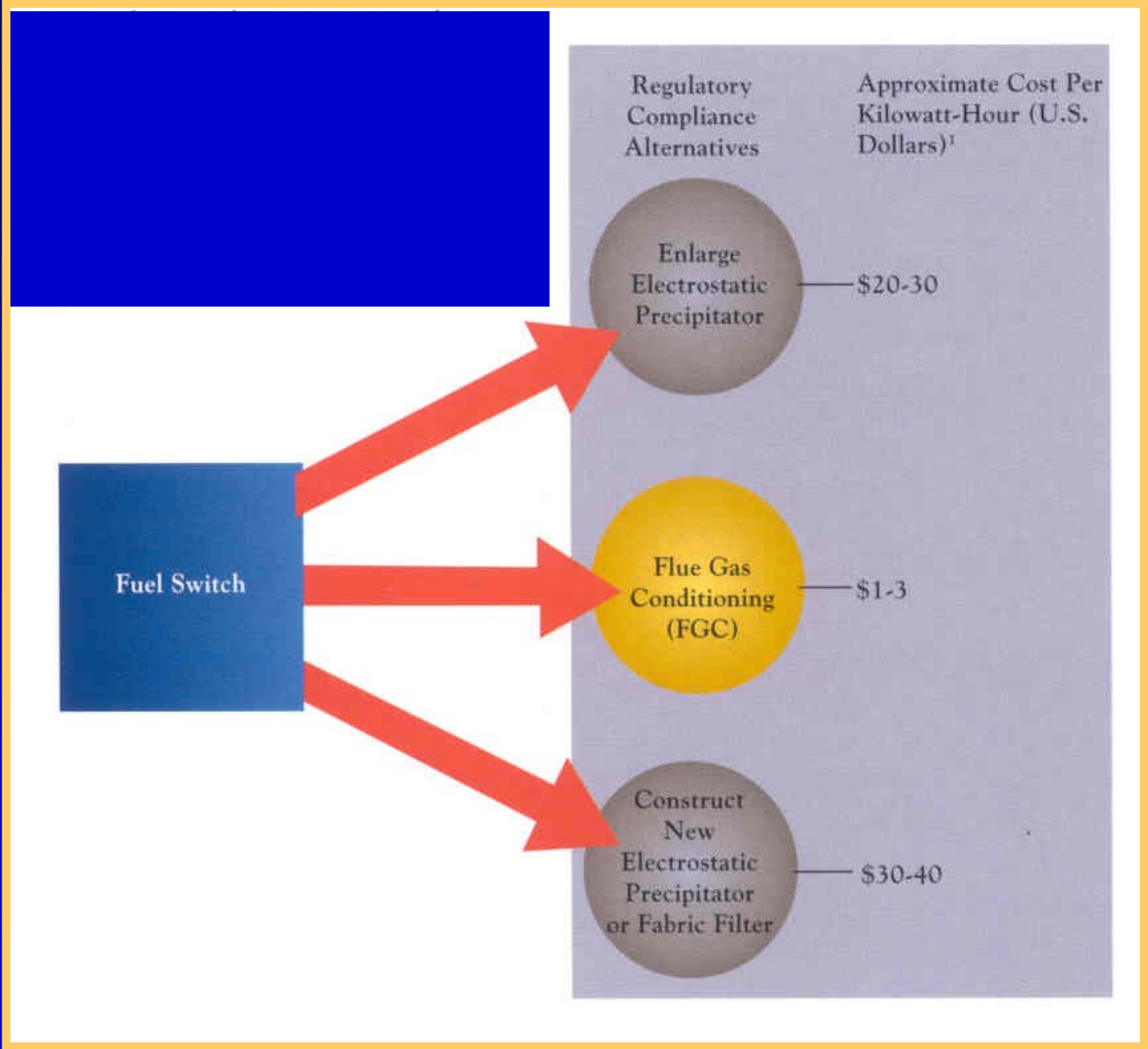
- What is SO<sub>3</sub> FGC
- Basics of an Electrostatic Precipitator
- Ash Resistivity
- SO<sub>3</sub> Process
- Design Principles



# SO<sub>3</sub> FGC Background

- Sulfur Trioxide Flue Gas Conditioning
- Corrects Ash Resistivity to Improve performance of Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs)
- Small amount injected upstream of ESP
- Approximately 1500 units worldwide
- Commercialized by Wahlco in early 1970's





# Sulfur Emissions

## Typical Sulfur Oxide Emissions from Coal-Burning Boilers

Sulfur Oxides PPMV		3.5% Sulfur Content	0.5% Sulfur Content	0.5% Sulfur & FGC
Entering Precipitator	SO <sub>2</sub>	2600	370	371
	SO <sub>3</sub>	26	4	10
Entering Stack	SO <sub>2</sub>	2600	370	375
	SO <sub>3</sub>	7	4	4

*Flue gas conditioning does not increase emission levels of sulfur oxides (SO<sub>2</sub> or SO<sub>3</sub>).*

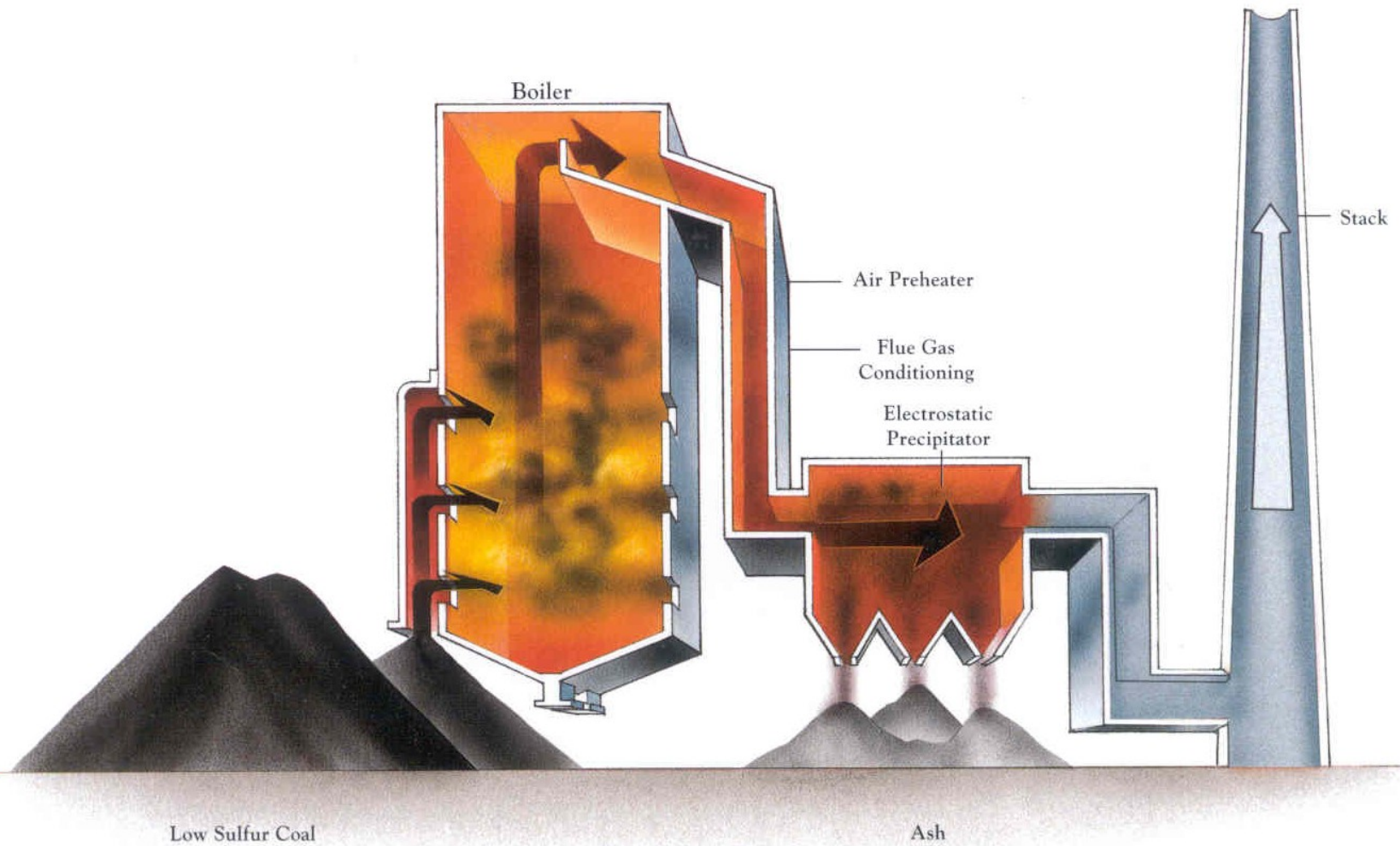


# Sulfur Trioxide

- Toxic highly reactive gas
- Combines with water vapor to form sulfuric acid mist
- Gas above 500 deg F
- Generally produced by burning sulfur and catalytic oxidation of Sulfur Dioxide gas
- Typical inject 5 to 15 ppm in Flue Gas ~ 20 to 300 lb/hr sulfur - 50 to 800 mW

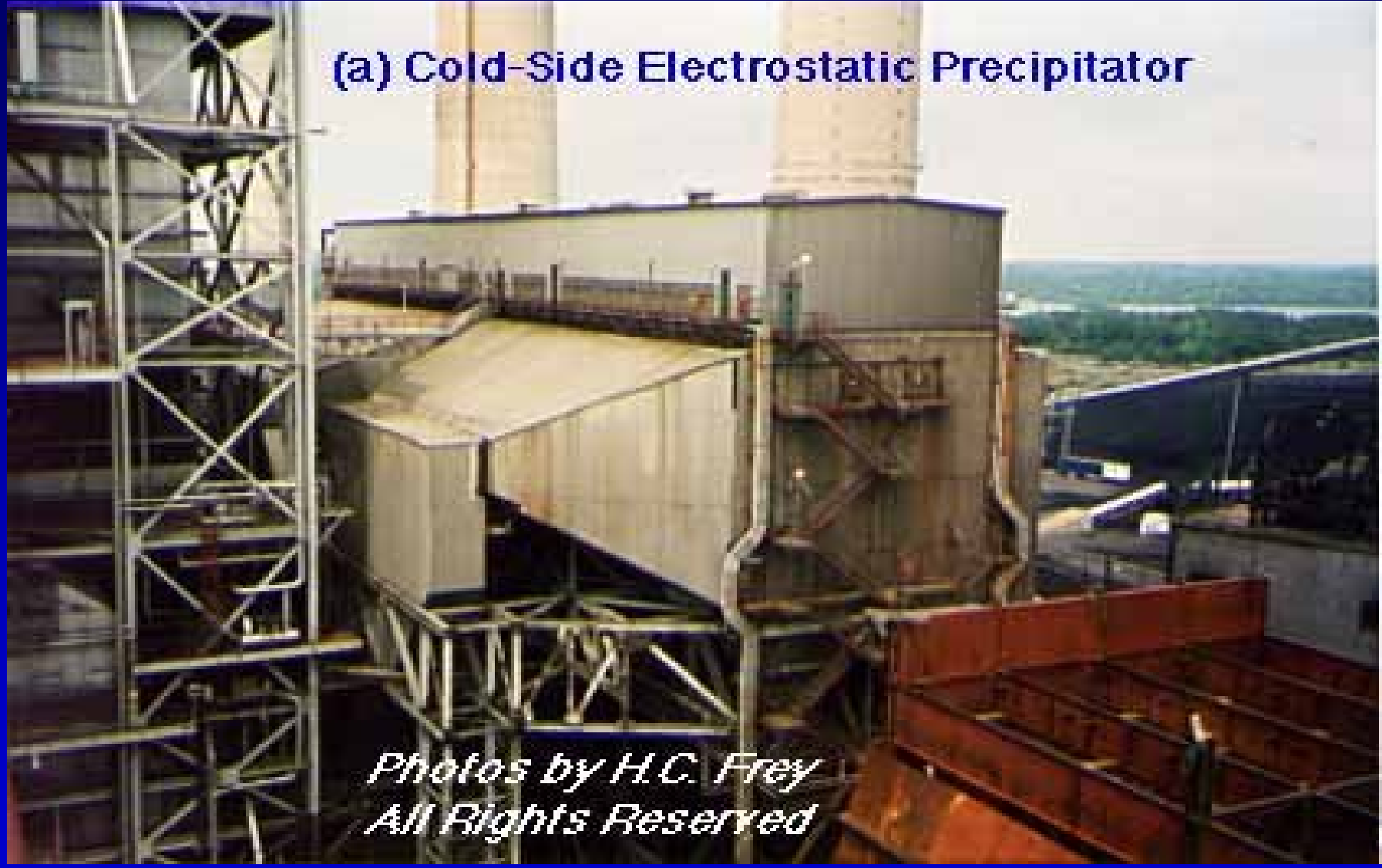


# Flue Gas Conditioning Basics



# Typical ESP

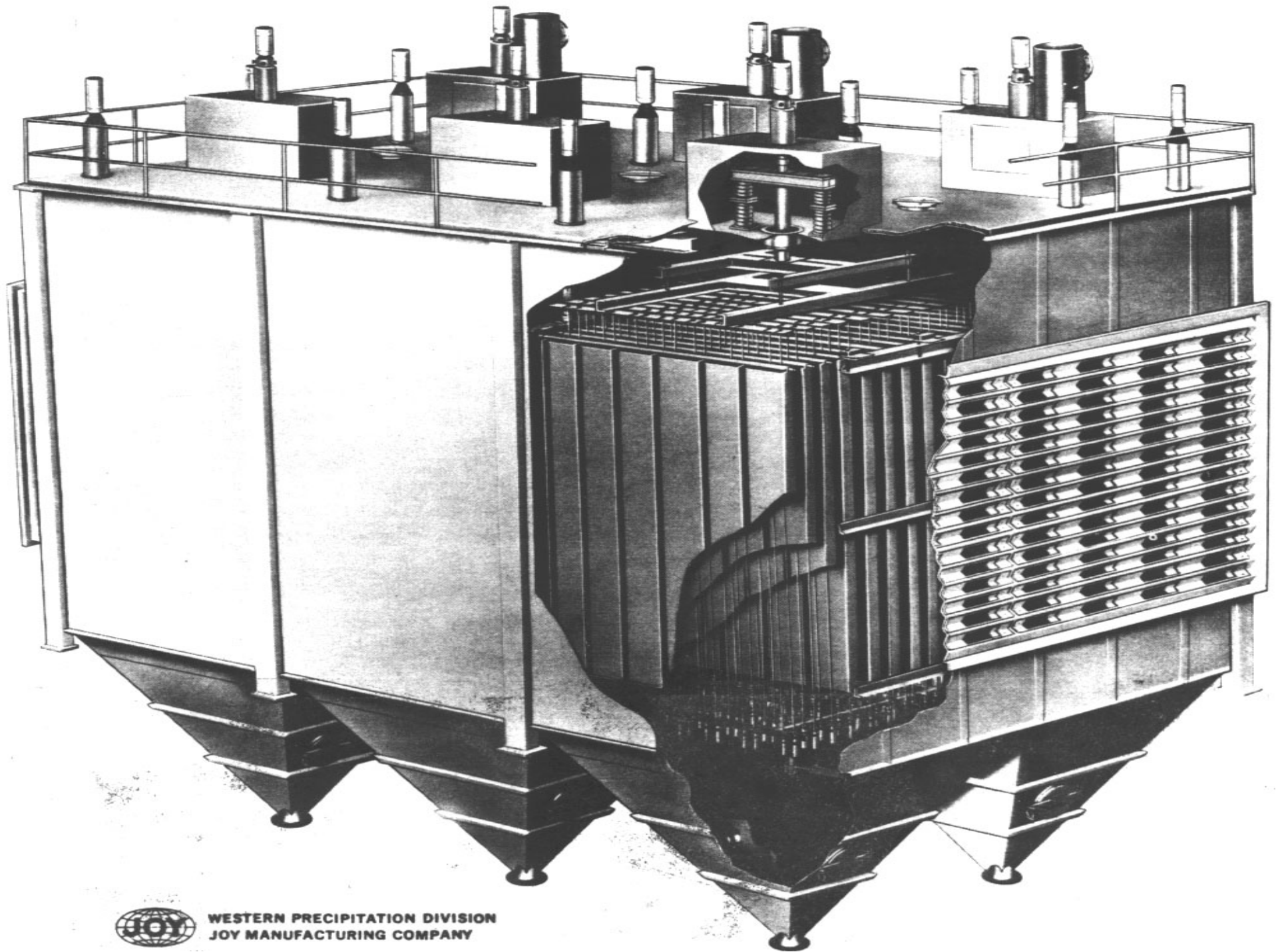
(a) Cold-Side Electrostatic Precipitator



*Photos by H.C. Frey  
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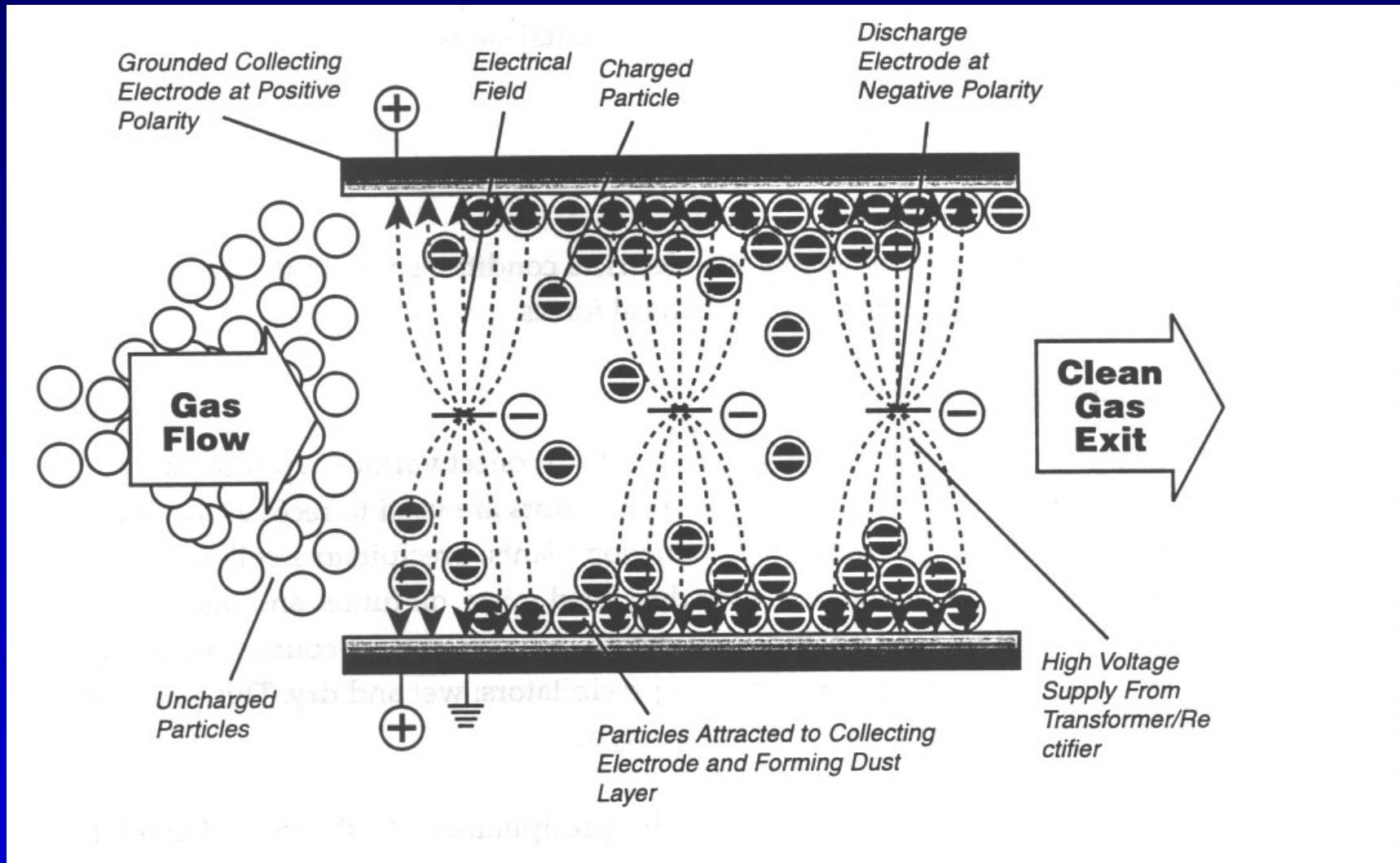
**WESTERN PRECIPITATION DIVISION  
JOY MANUFACTURING COMPANY**

# ESP Principles

- Charge the Particles
- Migration of Charged Particles to Collecting Plates
- Move the Collected Material to the Hopper for Removal

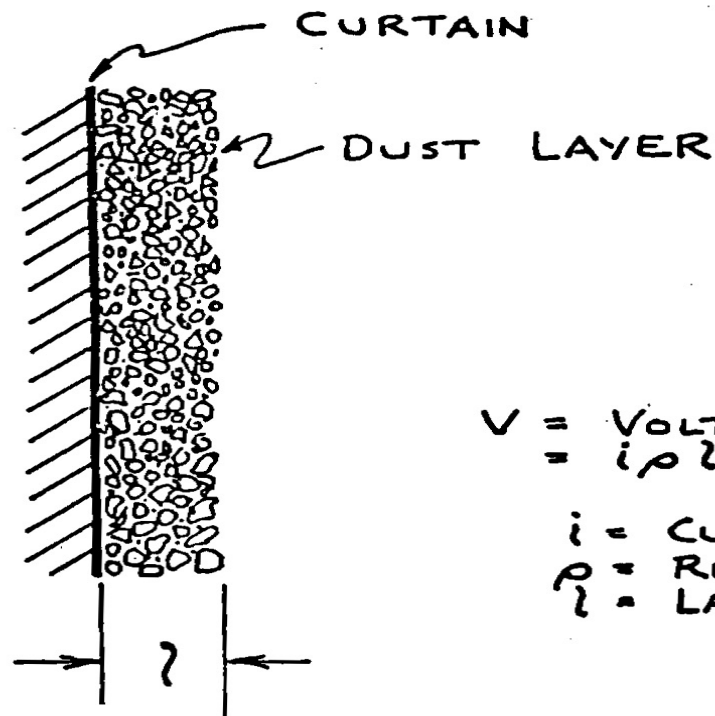


# Dust Collection



# Dust Layer on Plates

## DUST RESISTIVITY EFFECTS



$$V = \text{VOLTS ACROSS DUST} \\ = i \rho \delta$$

$i$  = CURRENT DENSITY  
 $\rho$  = RESISTIVITY  
 $\delta$  = LAYER THICKNESS



# Sulfur Trioxide FGC

- SO<sub>3</sub> Reacts with moisture in flue gas
- Absorbed on surface of fly ash
- Improves surface conductance of ash
- Lowers the surface resistivity



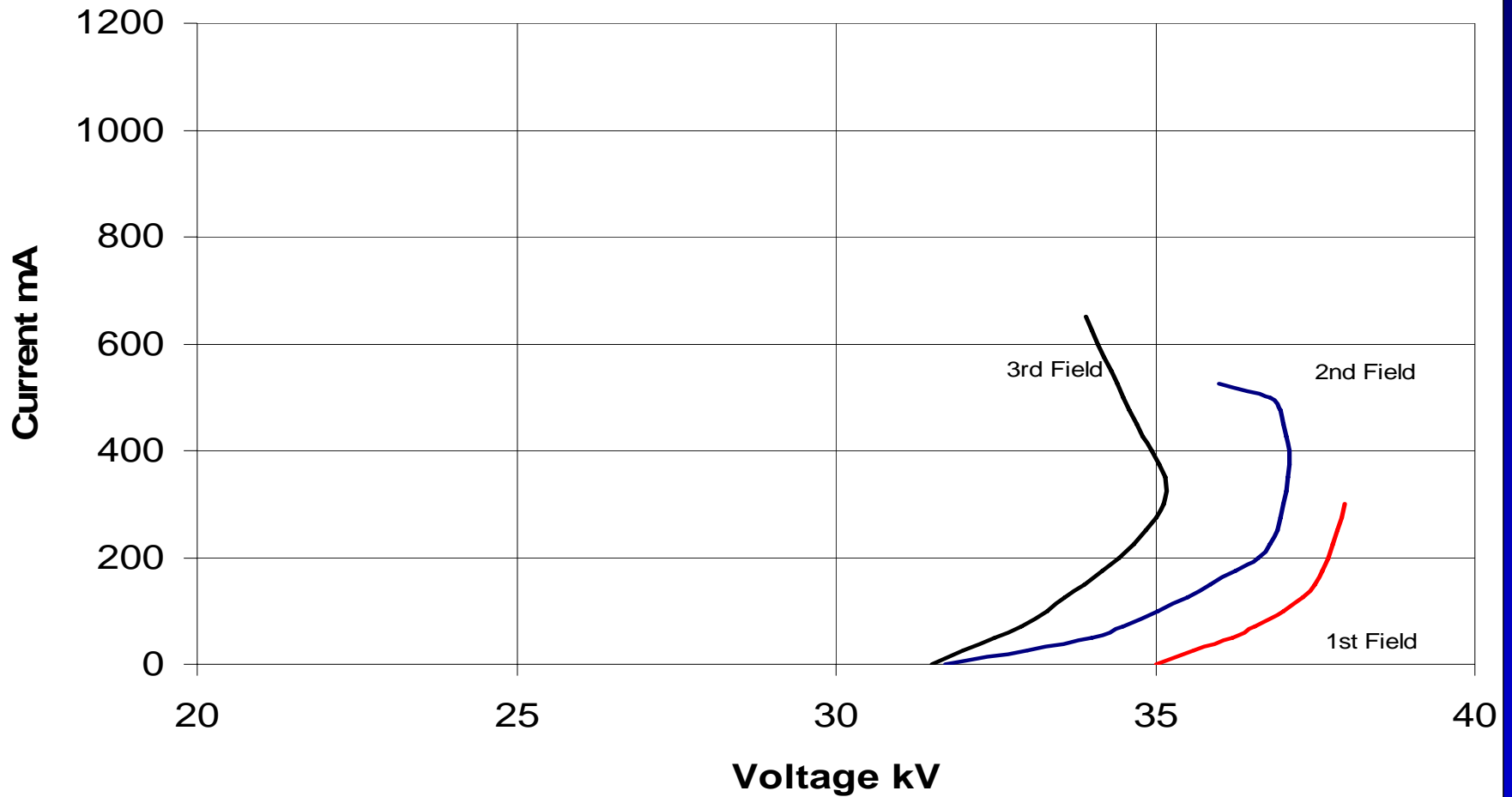
# Ash Resistivity

- Surface Conduction
- Volume Conduction
- Optimum is between
  - $1 \times 10^8$  ohm- cm
  - And
  - $1 \times 10^{10}$  ohm – cm
- Ash measured in Laboratory in Oven and High voltage Cell
- Computer model developed based on Ash Analysis



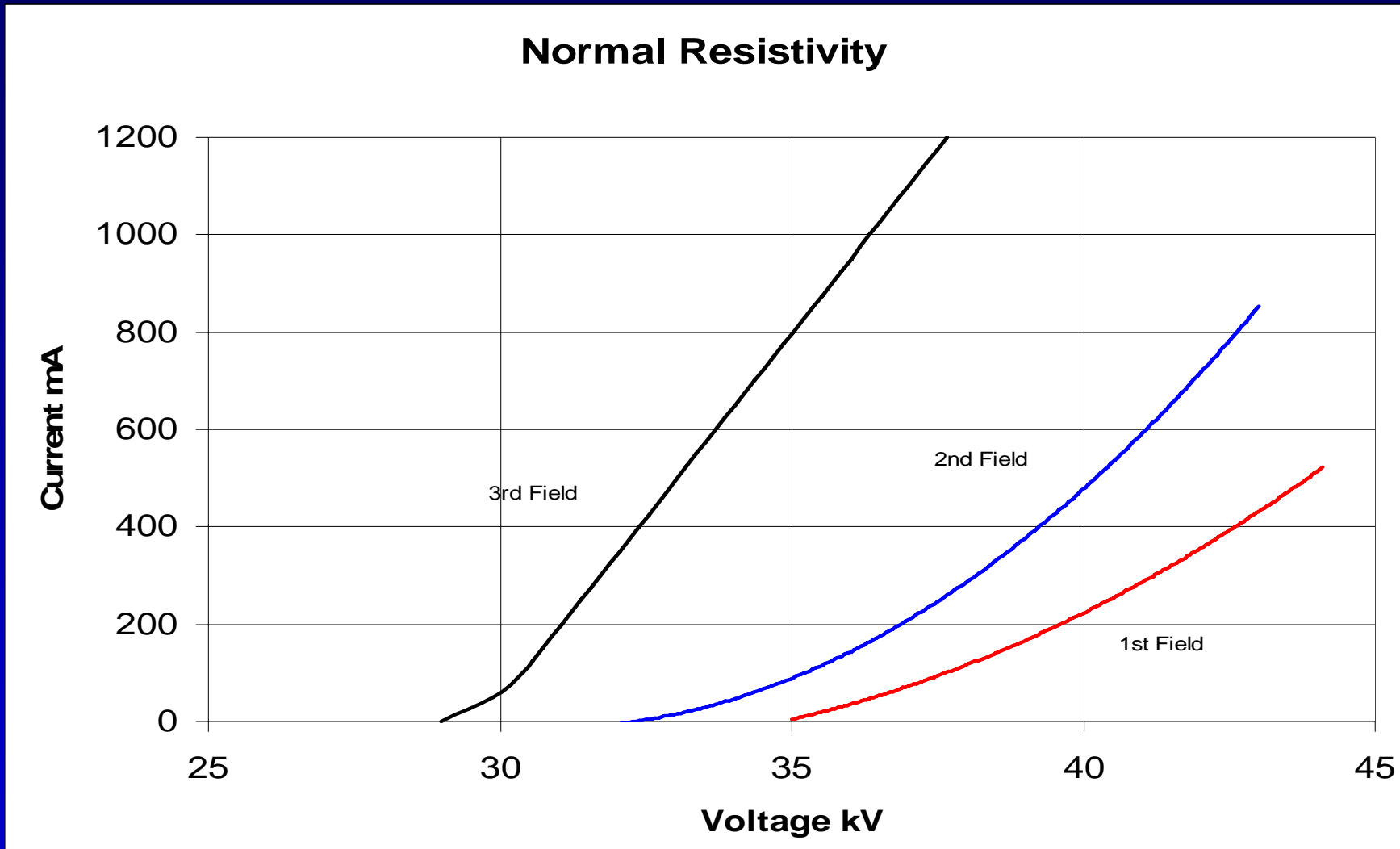
# VI Curves

## High Resistivity

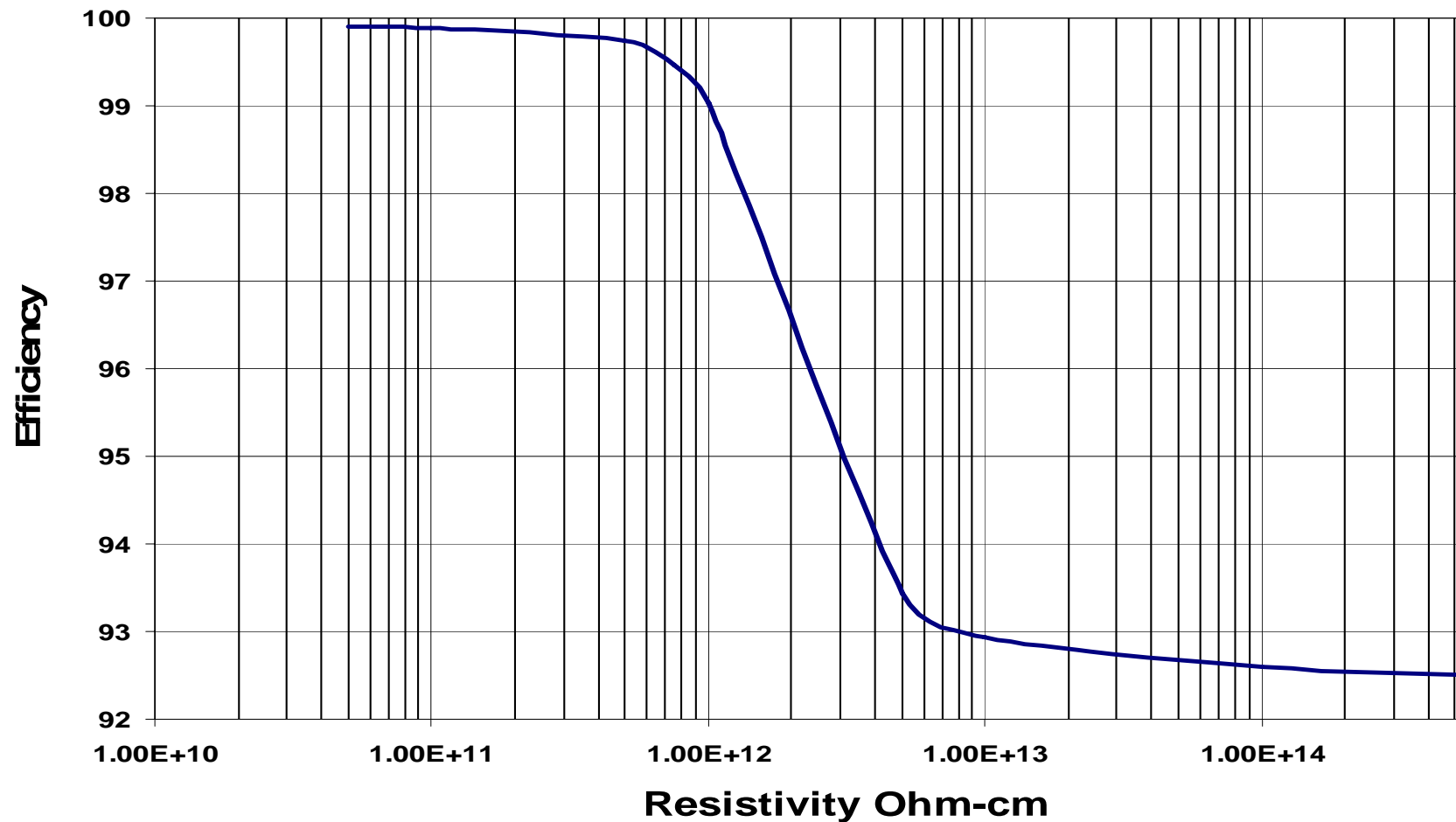


# VI Curves

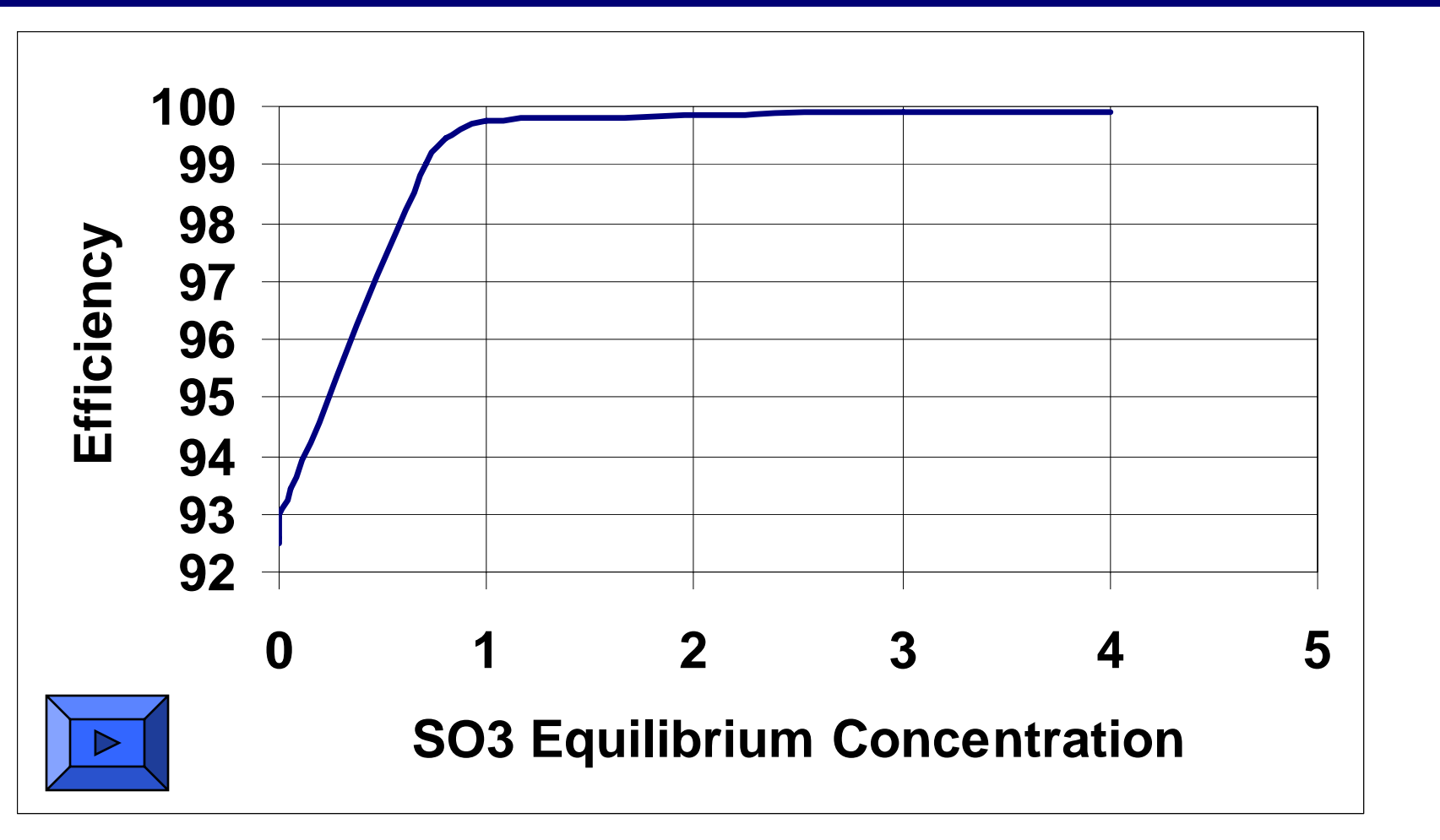
## Normal Resistivity



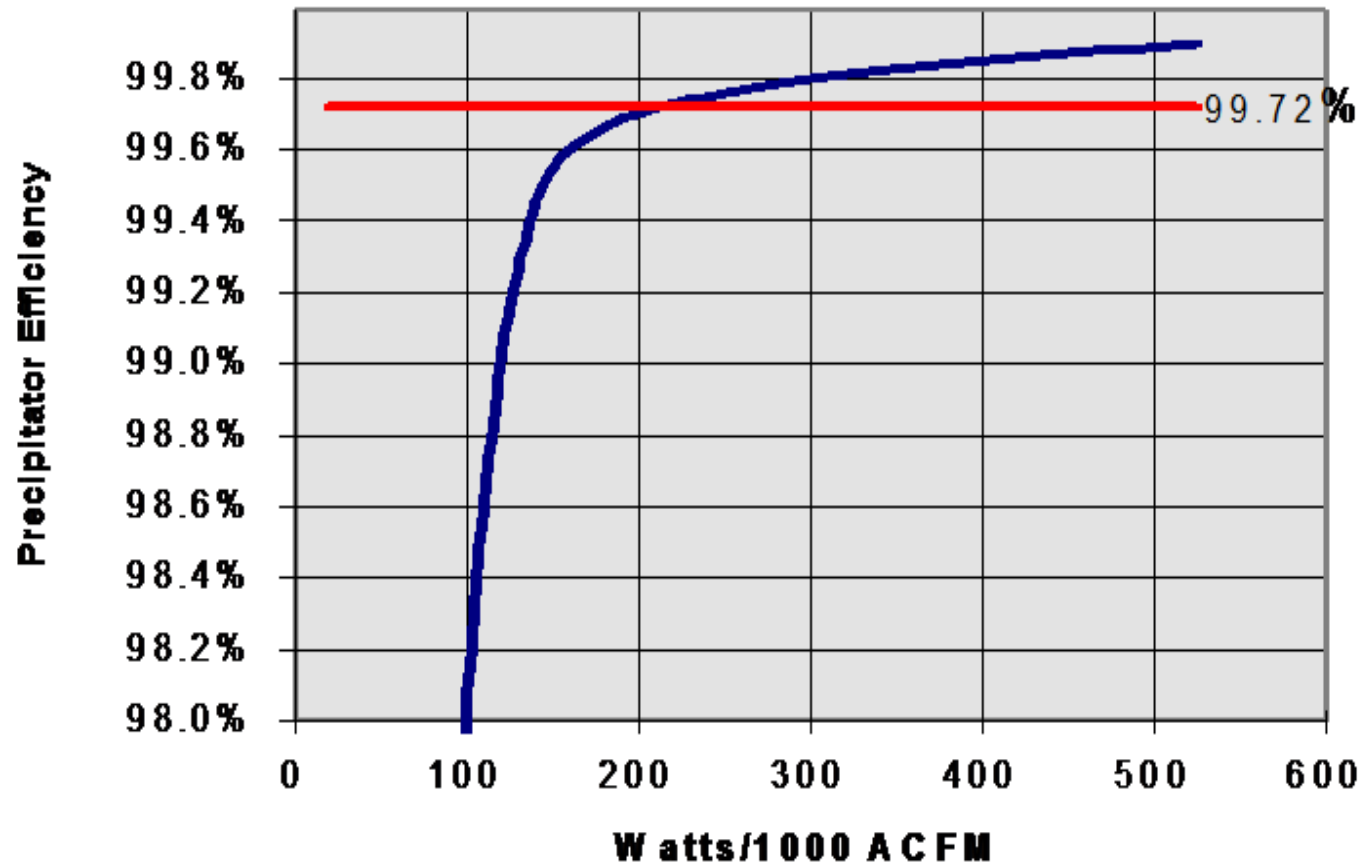
# ESP Efficiency vs. Resistivity for SCA 325 ft<sup>2</sup>/1000 acfm



# Precipitator Efficiency vs. $SO_3$ for ESP of 325 SCA



# Precipitator Efficiency vs. Power



EPRI CS2908



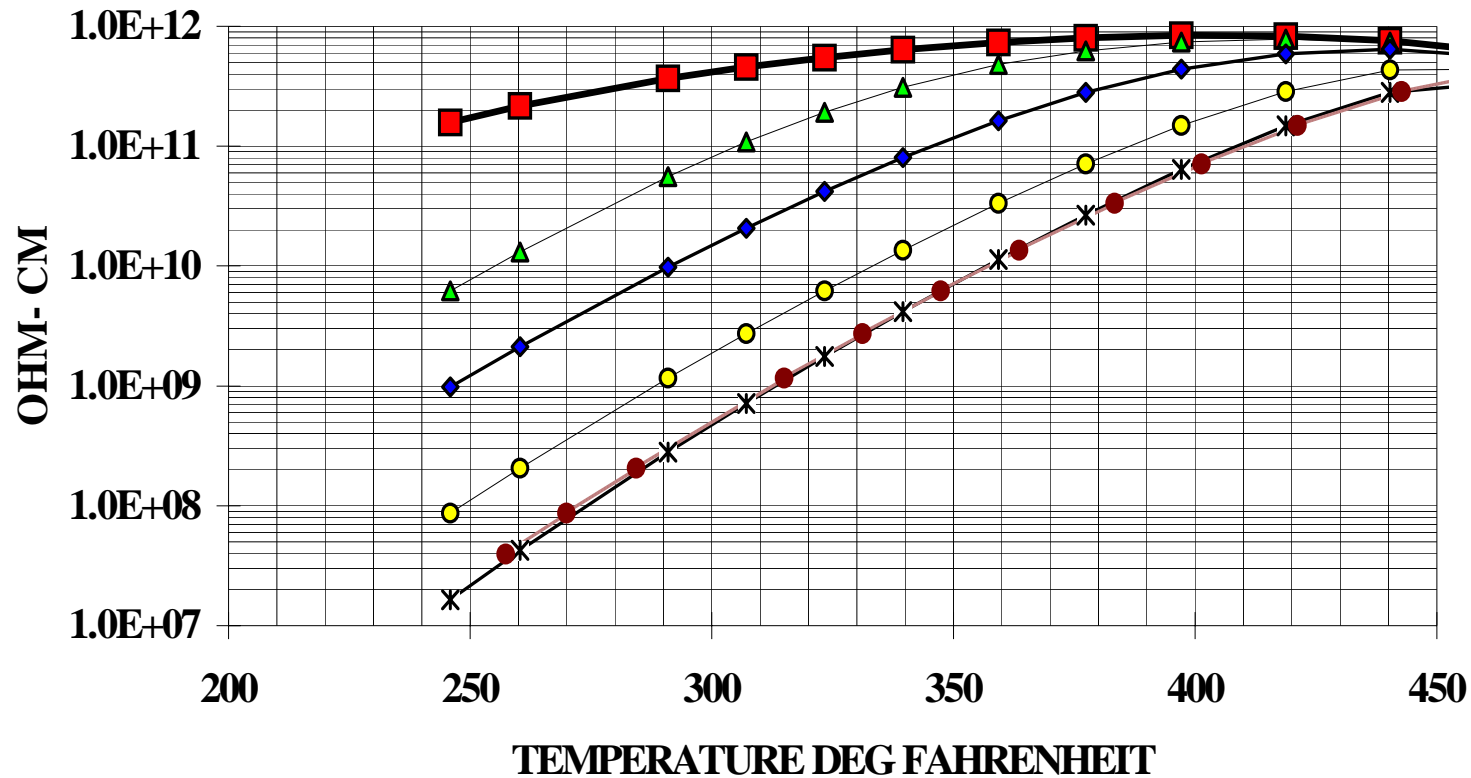
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# PRB

TVA -- Johnsonville  
PRB -- Average

## EXPECTED RESISTIVITY

Ash Spectrographic  
Analysis



Li2O=  
K2O=1.  
CaO=  
Al2O3=1  
TiO2=1.  
SO3=20.  
Na2O=0.  
MgO=3.  
Fe2O3=7  
SiO2=28  
P2O5=0.



# Appalachian 'Average'

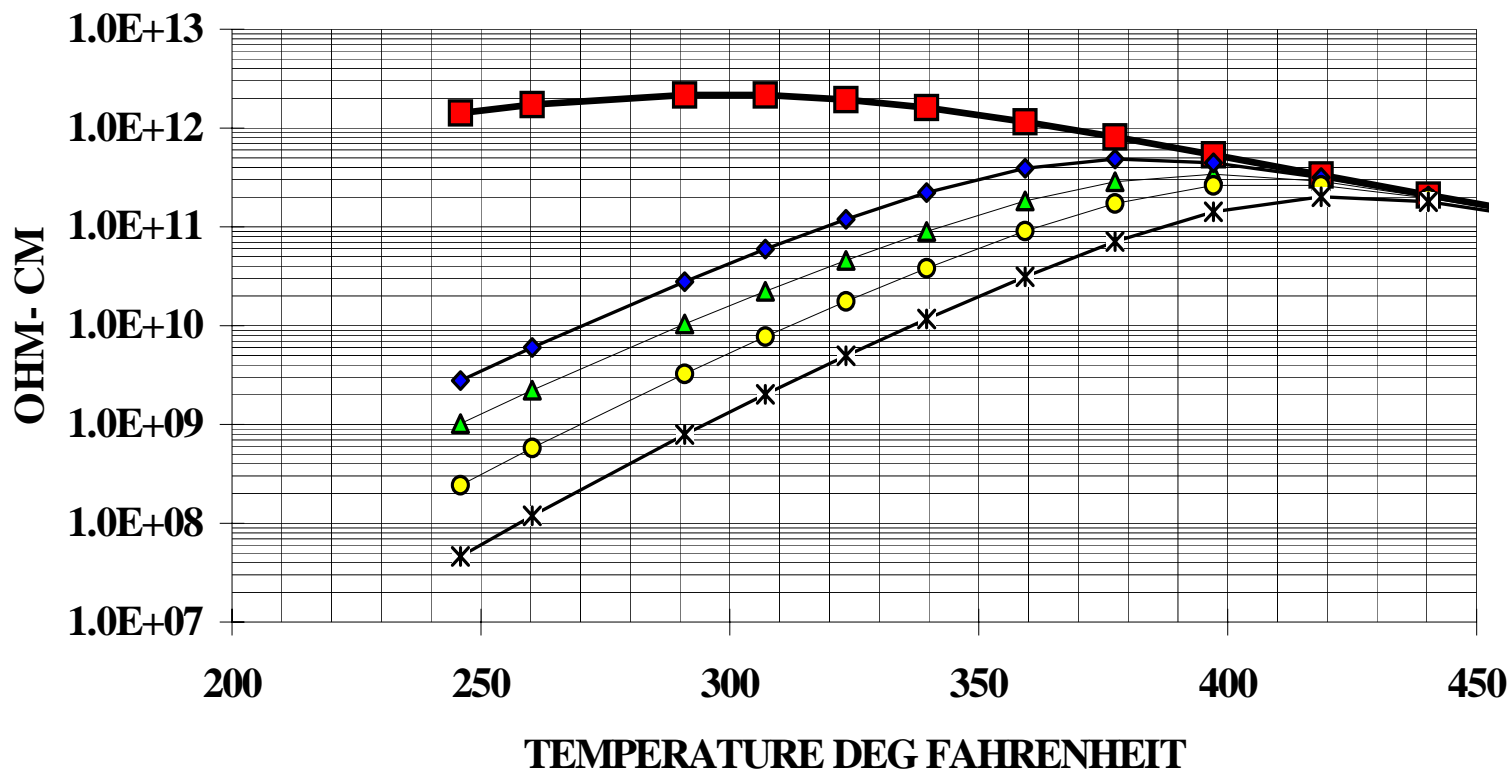
TVA -- Johnsonville

100% Eastern Appalachian -- Average

## EXPECTED RESISTIVITY

Ash Spectrographic  
Analysis

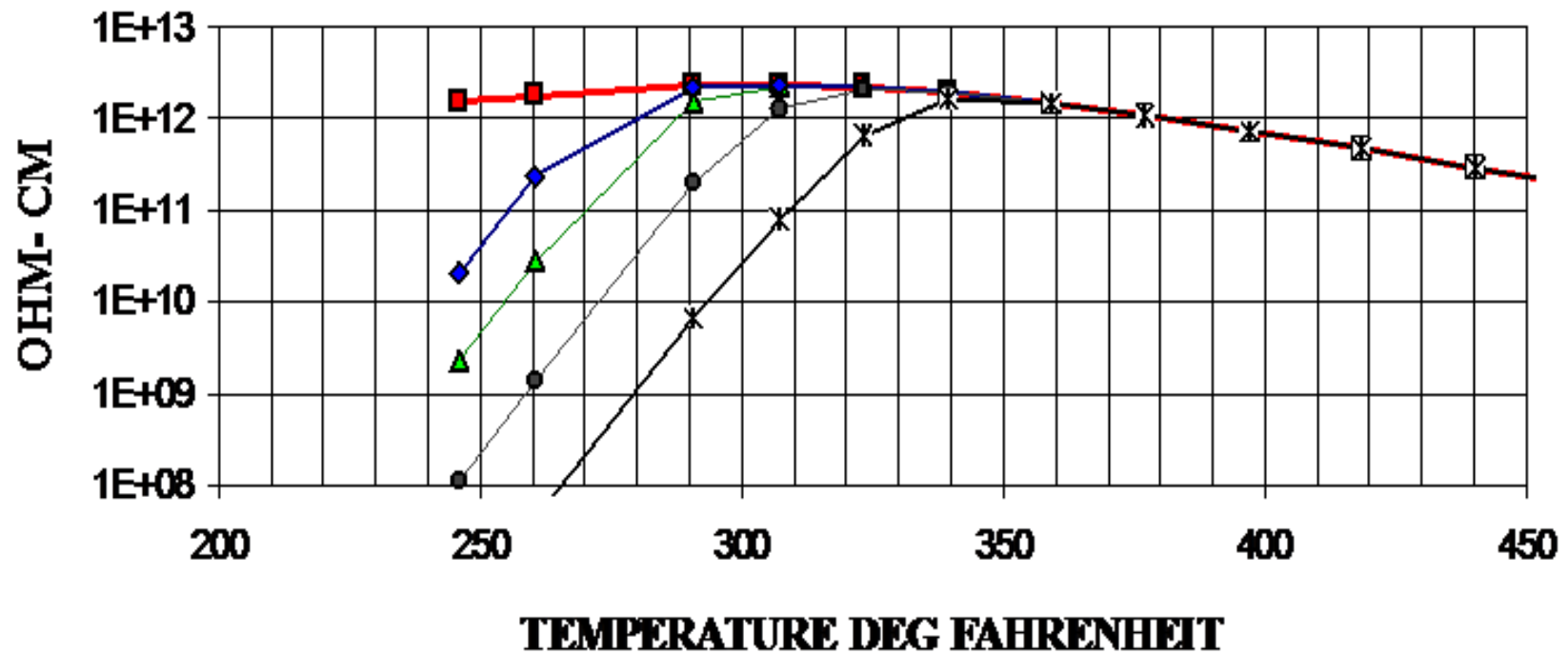
Li2O=  
K2O=2.  
CAO=  
AL2O3=2  
TiO2=1.  
SO3=1  
NA2O=0.  
MGO=1  
FE2O3=6  
SiO2=57  
P2O5=0.



■ No SO3  
 ▲ Predicted Coal SO3  
 ◆ 1 PPM SO3  
 ● 4 PPM SO3  
 \* 10 PPM SO3



# Low Alkali



■ No SO3    ▲ Predicted Coal SO3    ◆ 1 PPM SO3    ● 4 PPM SO3    × 10 PPM SO3

# Dual Conditioning

- Inject both SO<sub>3</sub> and Ammonia independently
- Ammonia improves attachment of SO<sub>3</sub>
- Extend performance at higher temperatures
- Reduces precipitator ash reentrainment



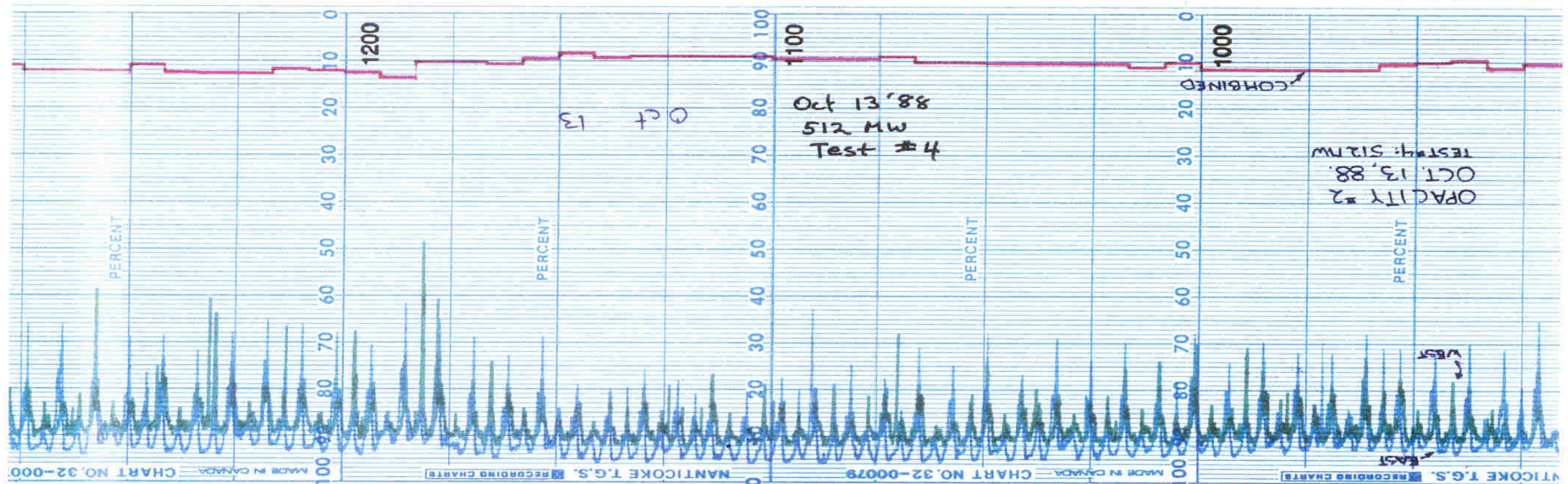
# Nanticoke Dual FGC Results

- SO3 – Opacity reduced from 22 to 15%
- With Dual FGC opacity 8%
- Substantial increase in Particle Size
- Dramatic reduction in rapper spikes
- Reduction in opacity baseline
- No hopper ash removal problems encountered



# Nanticoke Regular Coal – No FGC

## NANTICOKE UNIT 2 OPACITY

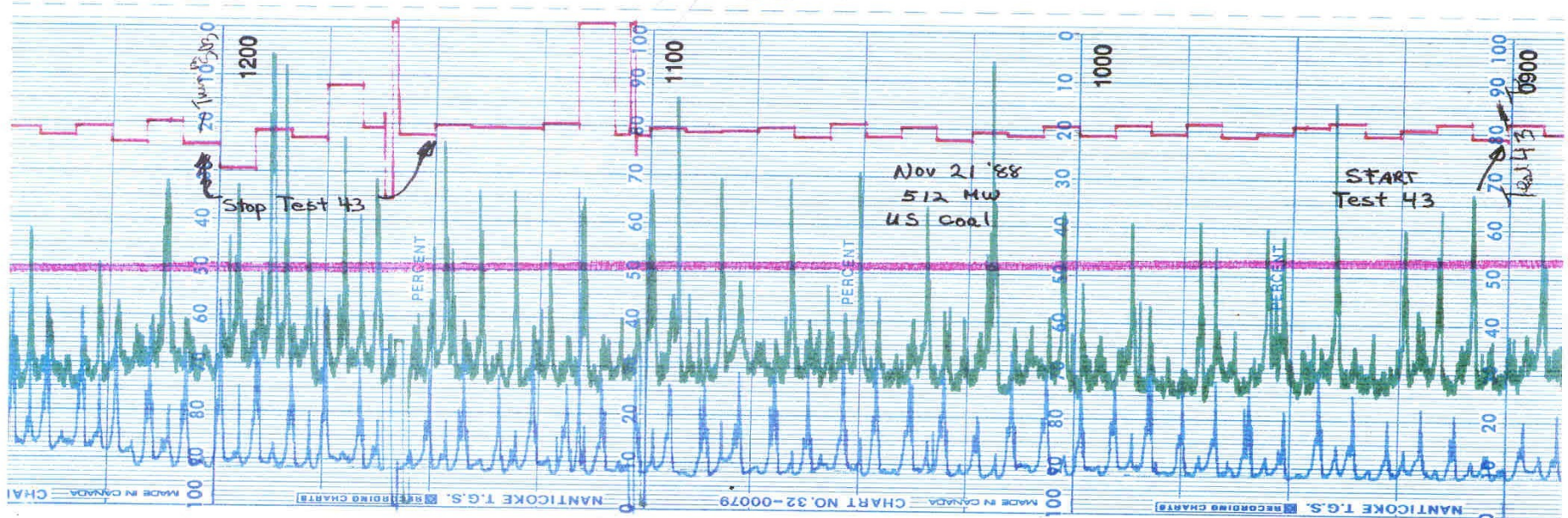


REGULAR 50/50  
TEST 4  
SO3 OFF  
NH3 OFF



# Nanticoke No FGC

## NANTICOKE UNIT 2 OPACITY

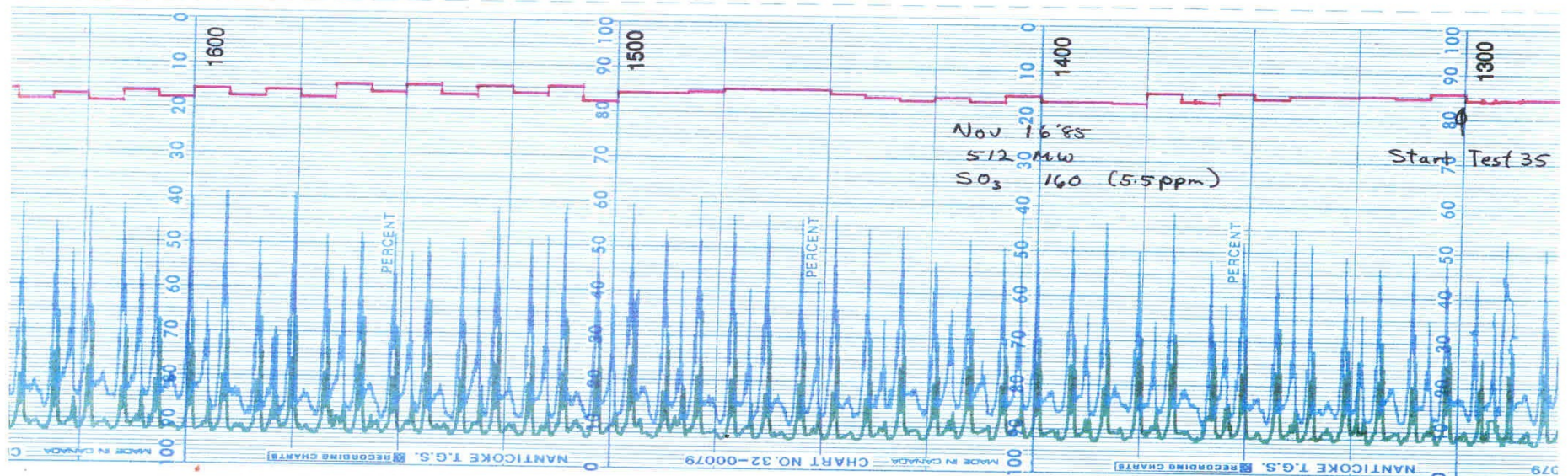


LOW SULFUR 50/50  
TEST 43  
SO3 OFF  
NH3 OFF



# Nanticoke SO3 Only

## NANTICOKE UNIT 2 OPACITY

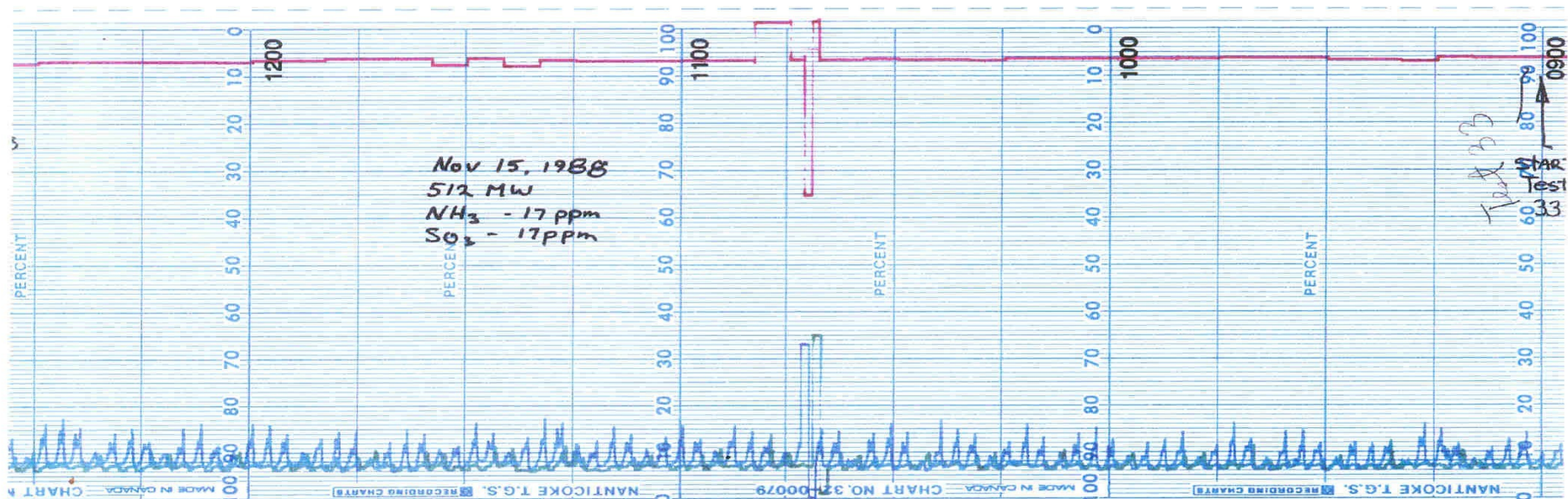


LOW SULFUR 50/50  
TEST 35  
SO<sub>3</sub> 5.5 ppm  
NH<sub>3</sub> OFF



# Nanticoke Dual FGC

## NANTICOKE UNIT 2 OPACITY



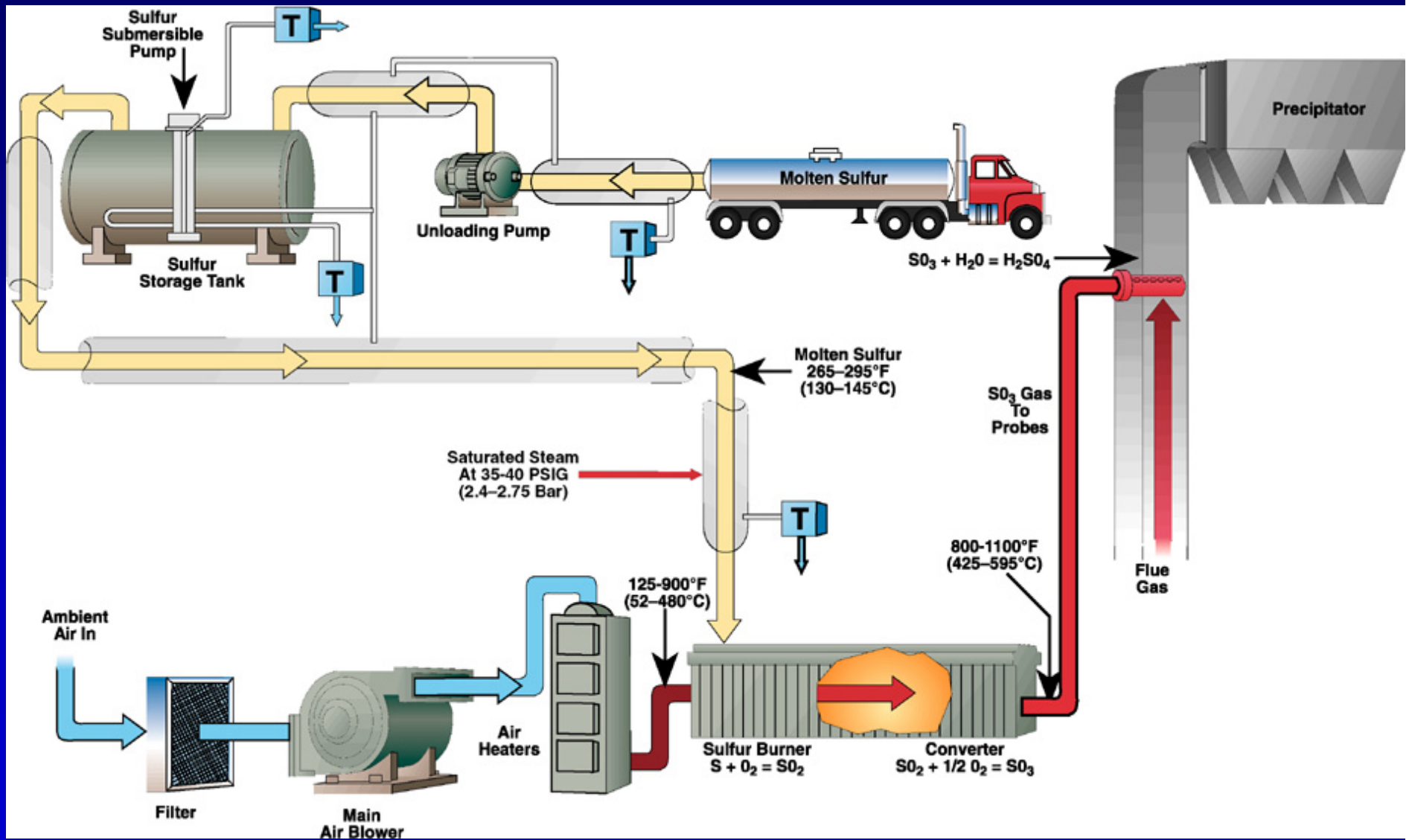
LOW SULFUR 50/50  
TEST 33  
SO<sub>2</sub> 17 ppm  
NH<sub>3</sub> 17 ppm



# Equipment Design Issues



# SO<sub>3</sub> Flue Gas Conditioning



# Critical Design Principles

- Injection into Flue Gas
  - Must remain above Dew Point
    - Piping Heat Loss Issues
    - Energy Consumption
  - Proper Distribution
- SO<sub>3</sub> Converter Inlet Temperature
  - Conversion Efficiency
  - Catalyst Life
- Burner Issues
  - Sulfur Purity
  - Complete Combustion



# Injection Location Criteria

- Achieve  $> 1$  second residence time
- Nozzle Spacing  $< 1/10^{\text{th}}$  Mixing Distance
- Hot Gas Piping not excessive length
- Accessible Location
- Hot Side / Cold Side



# Injector Sizing Principles

- Achieve Uniform Distribution
- Mixing
- Maintain Adequate Injection temperatures
- Maintain Injection velocities

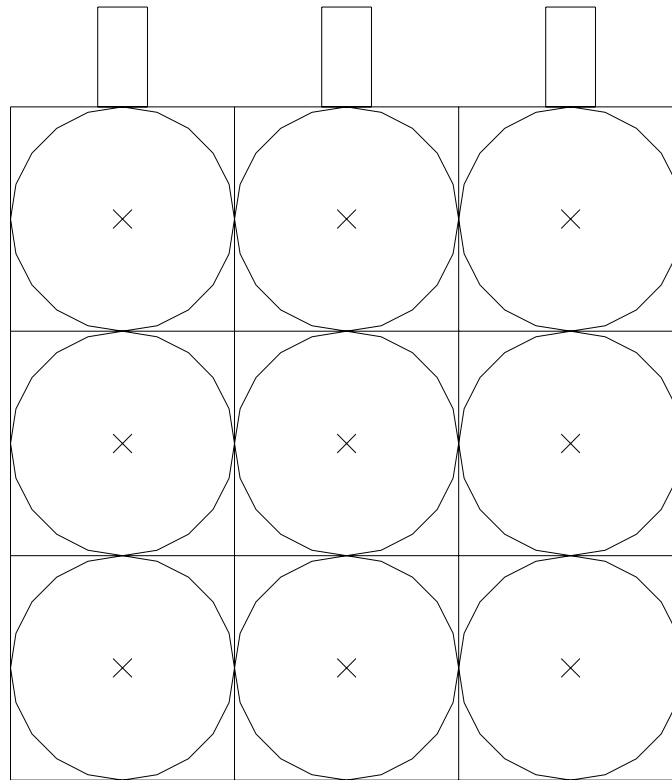


# Injector and Nozzle Spacing

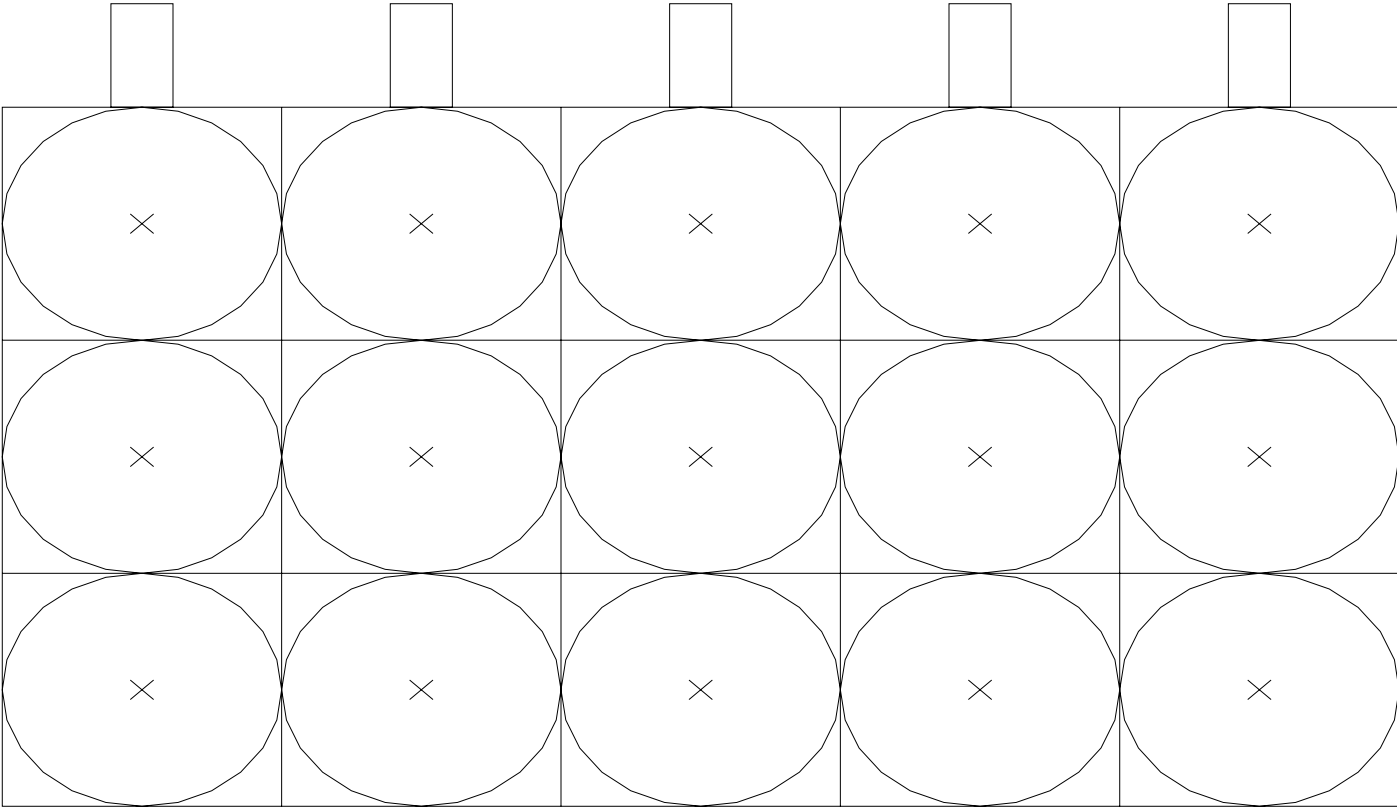
- Inject into Centroid of Square Equal Areas
- Adequate Injection Points
- Minimize Number of Injectors
- Injectors Usually about 3 feet apart



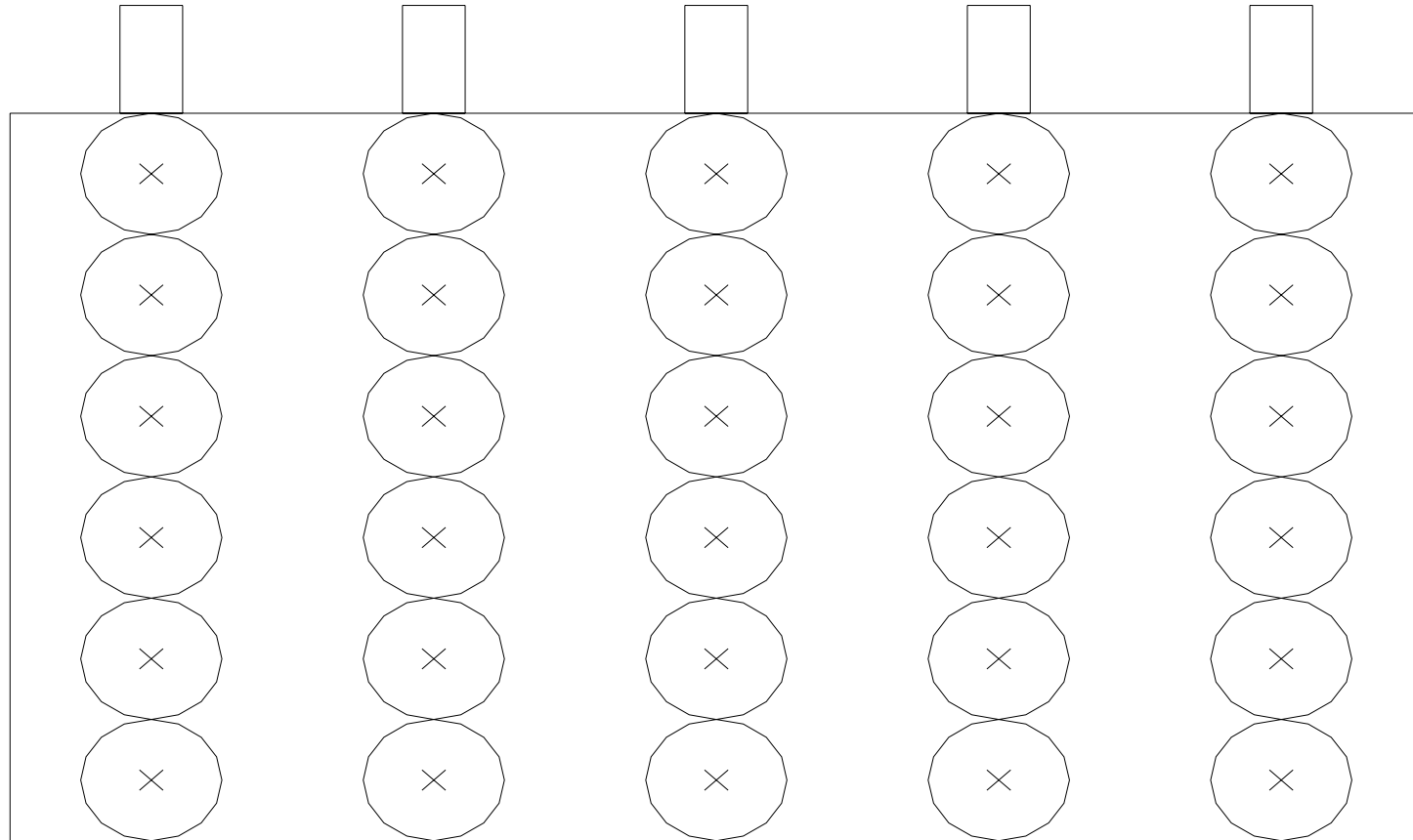
# Square Duct Injector Spacing



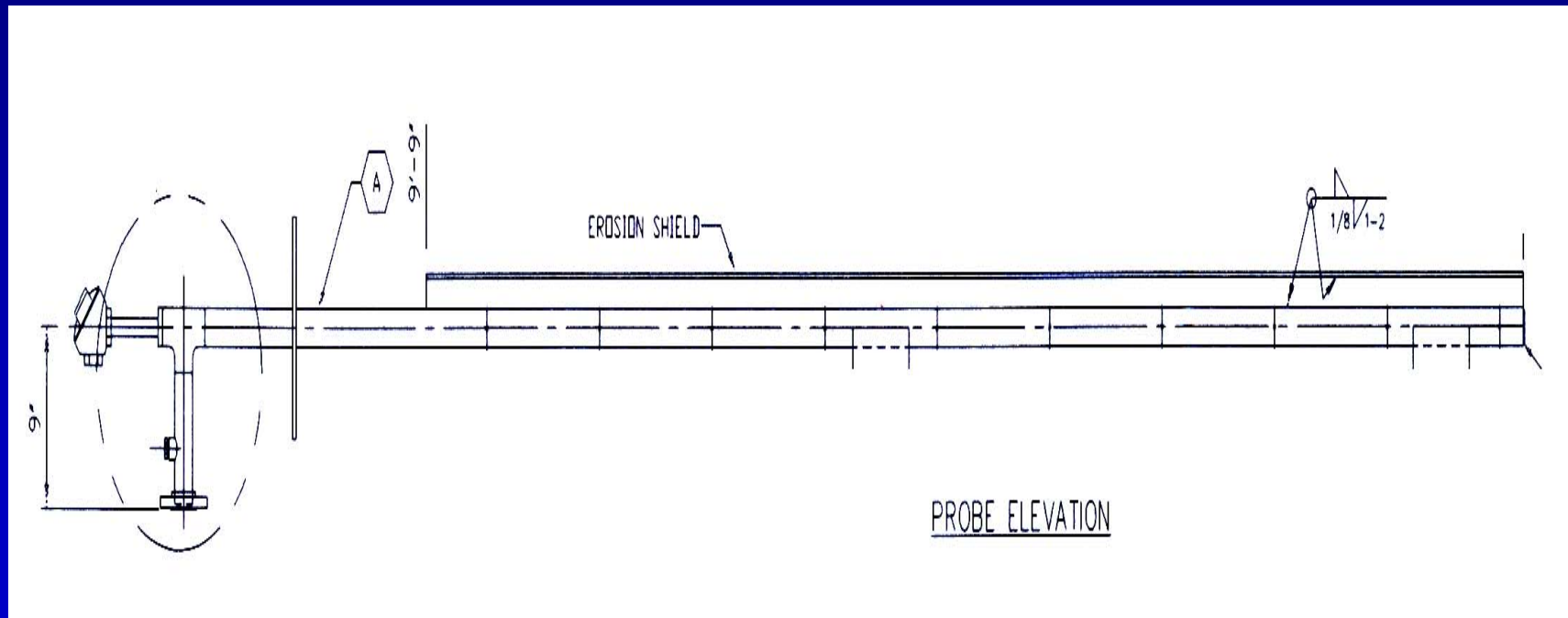
# Rectangular Duct Injector Spacing



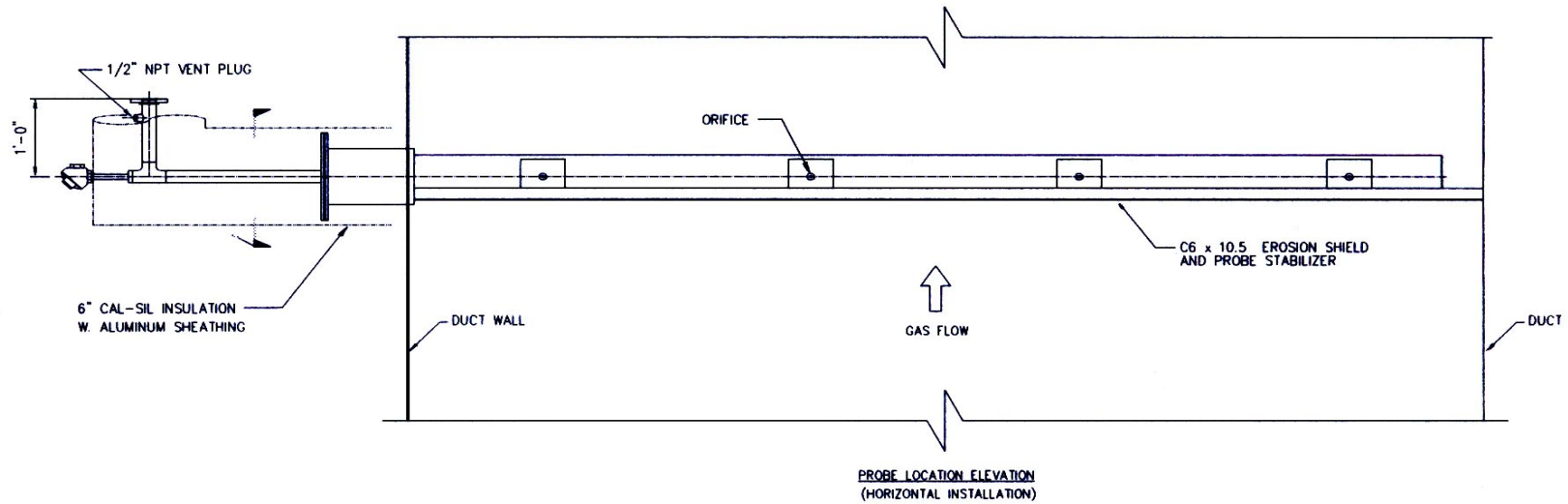
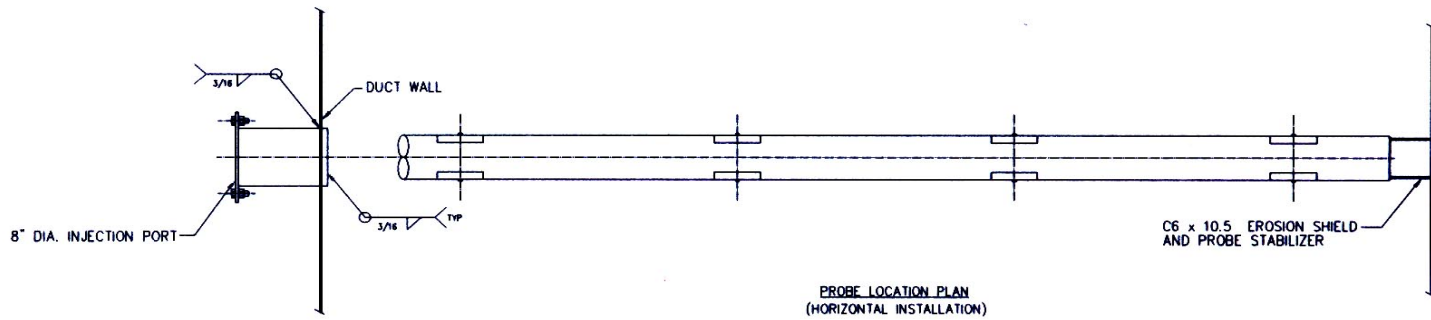
# Improper Nozzle Spacing



# Hot Side Injector



# Typical 'Old Style' Design



# Injector Plugging Factors

- Injector Gas Flow
- Injector Temperature
- Duct Temperature
- Injector Length
- Injector Type
- Number and Size of Injector Nozzles

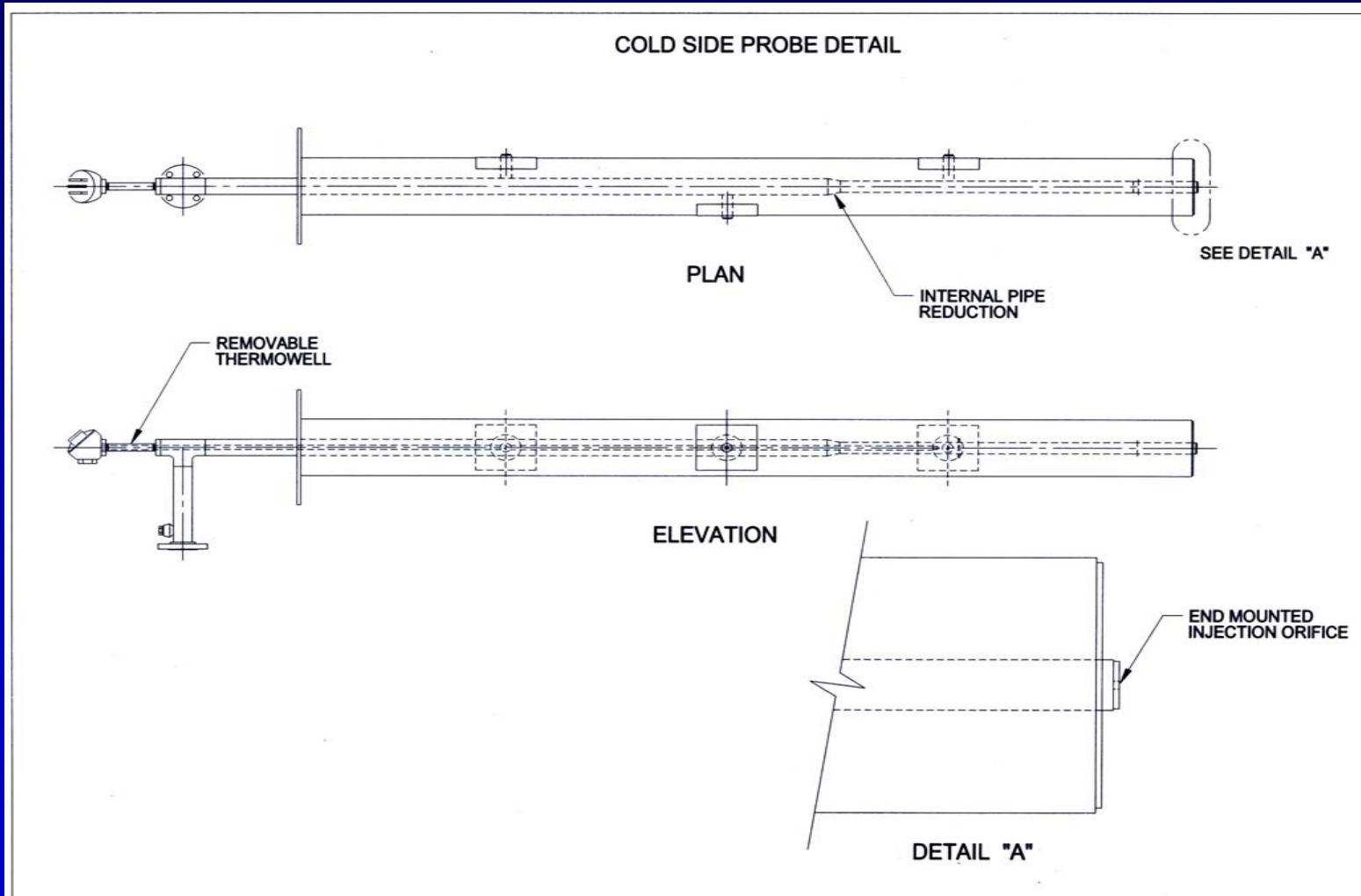


# Improvements in Design

- Less nozzles
- Larger nozzles
- Improved Purging
- Nozzle at End of Injector
- Clean Out Path



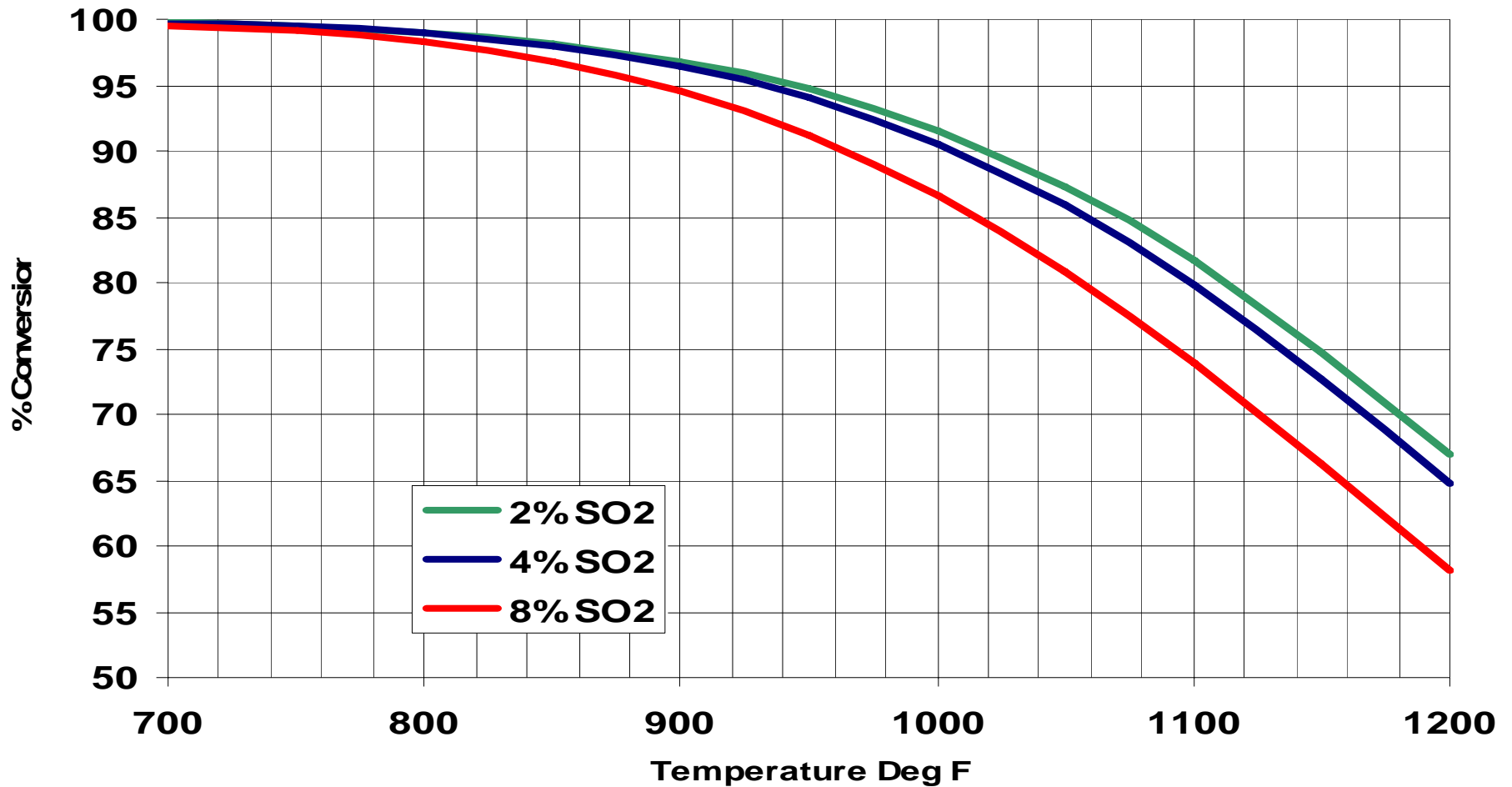
# New Design



# Design Improvements



# Equilibrium Conversion for SO<sub>2</sub> Oxidation



# High Efficiency Converter

- Low SO<sub>2</sub> Gas Concentration
  - Improved Equilibrium Conversion
- Design Converter Gas Velocity Low < 3 fps
- High Activity First Catalyst Layer
  - Lower Light off temperature
  - Lower Outlet Temperature
  - Higher Conversion
- Second Layer Conventional Catalyst



# SO3 System in Enclosure



# Air Heater Features

- Over sized air Heaters
- Rapid Startup
- Operating watt density less than design of 20 watts/ sq in
- Small easy to handle modules
- Vertical design assures good air distribution



# Molten Sulfur Storage Tanks

- Typical 14 to 30 days storage at 20 ppm
- Tanks complete with platforms, and instrumentation
- Redundant steam coils – fast melt design
- Steam heated penetrations
- Single vent
- Single tank can feed multiple units



# Advanced Ring Main Sulfur Pumping System

- Constant speed centrifugal pumps
- Robust low maintenance design, highly reliable, industry standard
- Redundant sulfur pumps
- Sulfur metered with Coriolis Flow Element
- Controlled at each sulfur burner with flow control valve



# Hot Side Injection

- Increased SO<sub>3</sub> Residence time
- Minimal Injector Plugging
- Improved SO<sub>3</sub> Distribution
- SO<sub>3</sub> always above dewpoint – no injector corrosion
- Ideal for Tubular Air Heaters
- Enables control of SO<sub>3</sub> / Ammonia Ratio

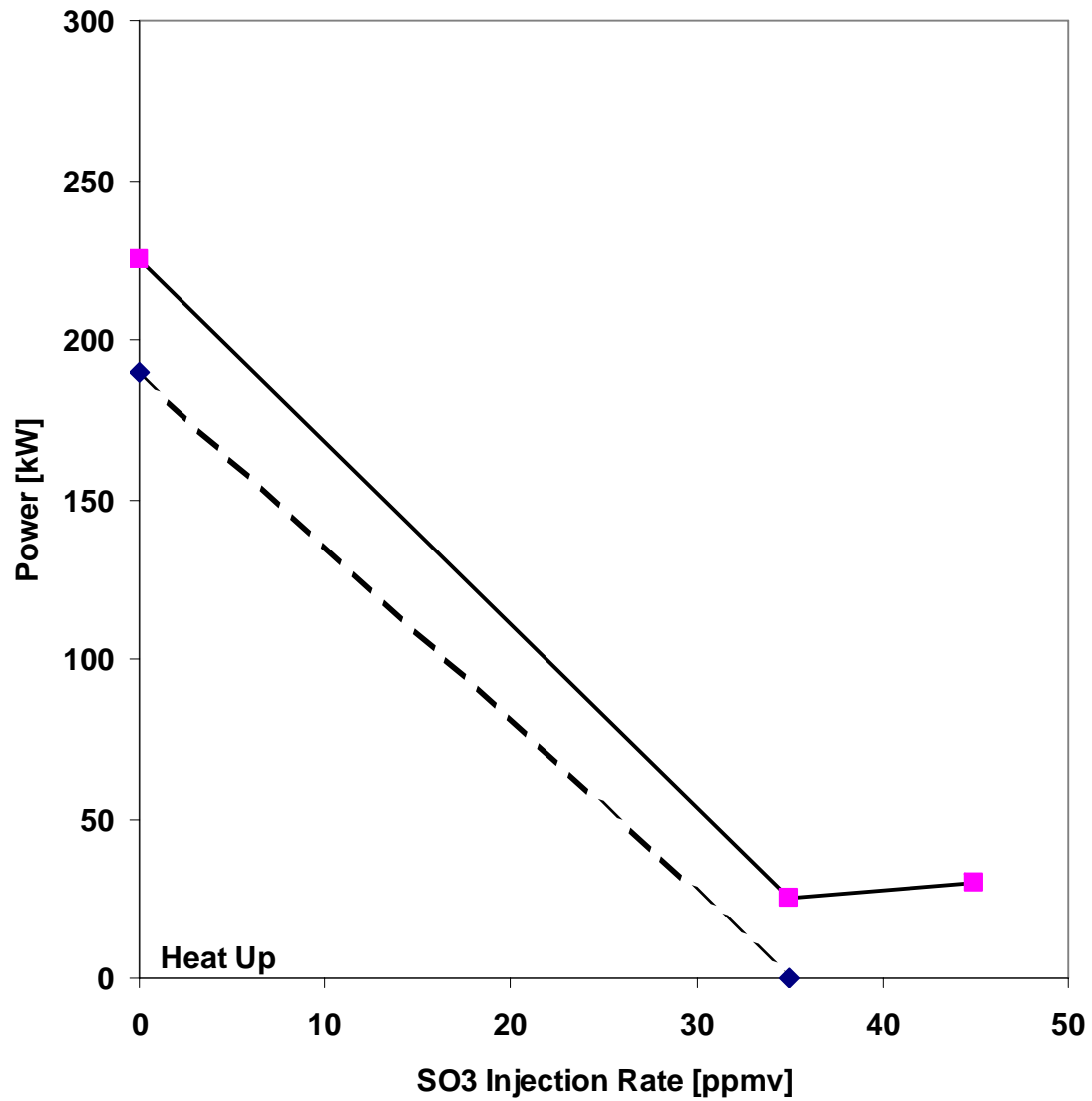


# Low Energy Consumption Design

- Significant Energy Savings
- Air Flow Varies with Sulfur Rate
- High Gas Volume for Rapid Startup
- Air Heater off at about 60% of Design
- No Blower Speed Control



### Sulfur Burner 500 MW Injection Rate vs. Power



# Advantages of Molten Sulfur Feed

- Molten Sulfur  $\frac{1}{5}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  Cost
- Less Manpower Intensive
  - 20 tons unloaded in half hour
  - No Silo to Maintain
- Lower Energy Consumption
  - Sulfur is delivered molten
- More tolerant of Impurities
  - Large settling capacity of Tank



# Advantages of Molten Sulfur Feed

- More tolerant of Impurities
  - Large settling capacity of Tank
- Safer
  - No sulfur dust hazards
- Molten Sulfur Readily Available
- Less Mechanical Equipment
- Hybrid Design has worst of both designs

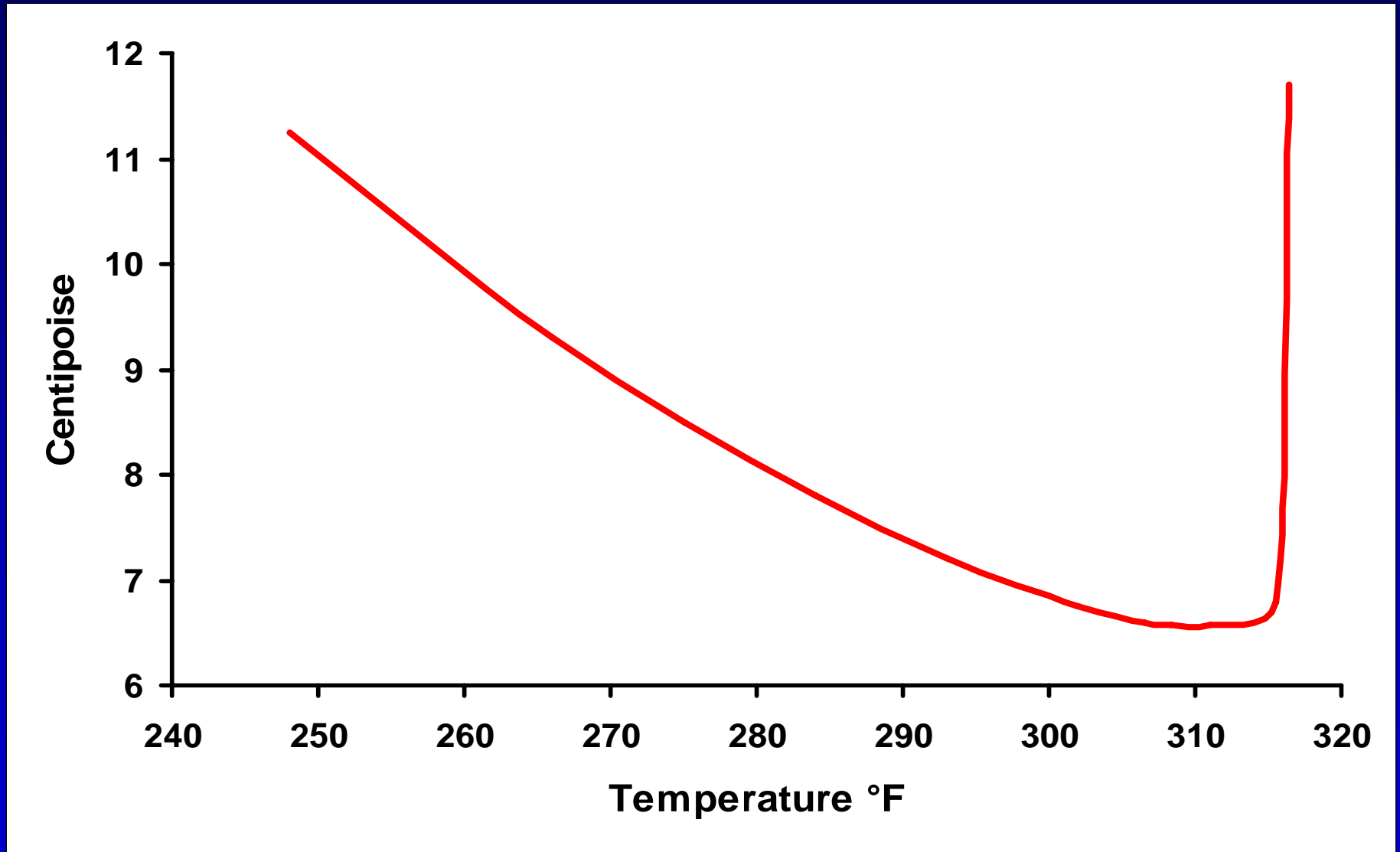


# Sulfur Properties

- Heat of Fusion ~ 17 Btu/lb
- Specific Heat 0.16 Btu/lb/deg F
- Molten Sulfur Viscosity of Wide Temperature Range
- 3952 Btu/ lb



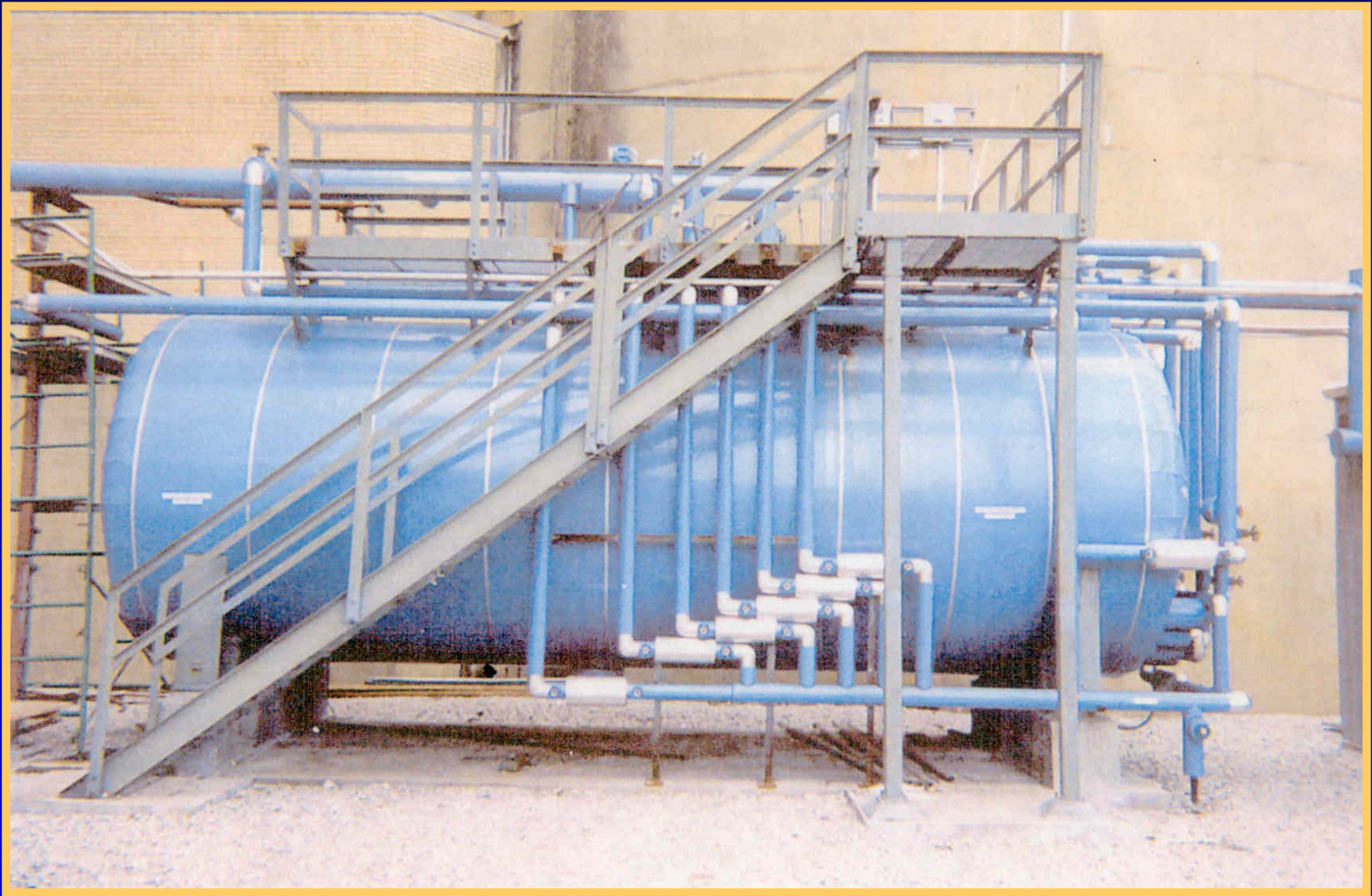
# Sulfur Viscosity



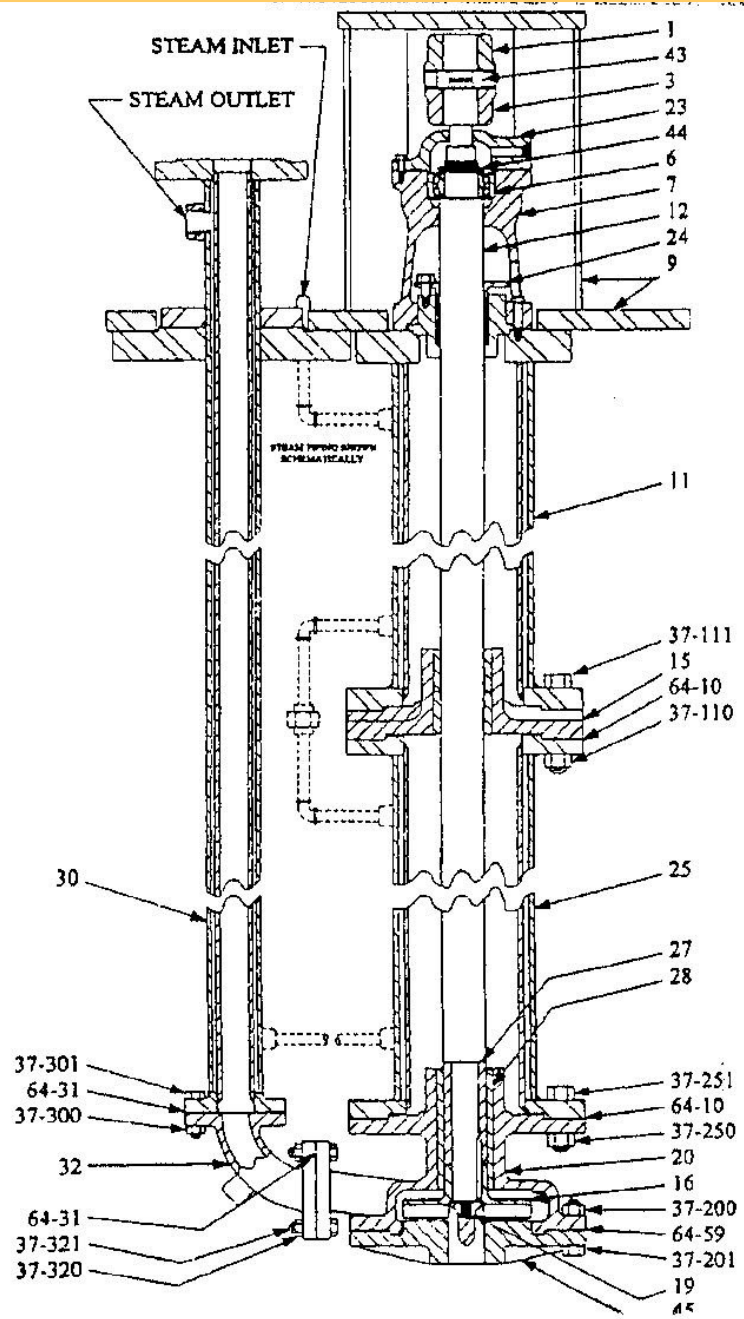
# Typical Molten Sulfur Specification

- Sulfur 99.9570%
- Ash 0.0007%
- Organic 0.0036%
- Moisture 0.0872%
- Selenium < 1 ppm
- Tellurium < 1 ppm





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OTHER "J" LENGTHS  
 AVAILABLE  
 UPON REQUEST



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# Summary

- Approximately 1500 FGC units installed worldwide
- Refined over 30 years
- Many units over 25 years still operating
- New systems use only 10% of the energy of older system
- Application of the technology is predictable
- Successful and competitive ash resistivity correction



# *Questions*

