



**ONE SOURCE. MANY SOLUTIONS.**



Babcock Power  
SERVICES

**TEI**

Riley Power



Boiler Tube Company of America

TEiC | CONSTRUCTION  
SERVICES

TEiC | HEAT EXCHANGER  
SERVICES

Struthers Wells  
a TEI line of products

**WFGD Concerns in Preparation for ELG &  
Alternative ELG Solutions**

- Reclaiming water from ponds and water purge from closed loop ash systems
- Concerns with reclaim and cycling up water in WFGD absorber
  - Cl concentration
  - Fines concentration
  - Gypsum Quality
  - Limestone blinding
- WFGD Operation with Dual-Fuel Firing
- Designing water treatment for reclaimed waters and WFGD effluent
  - Nanofiltration
  - Brine Concentration
  - Alternative Evaporation

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# GSI Fabricated GEOSTRUX™ Geotextile Tubes

- Used in a wide variety of projects where dewatering of sediments and industrial wastes is required
- Are cost effective and ecologically-friendly compared to other dewatering methods
- Applicable for dewatering of contaminated sediments, coal ash, mine tailings, WWTP sludge, organic and inorganic materials, silts and sands



# GEOSTRUX™ Geotextile Tubes – Cont.

- Supports environmental and dredging contractors, as well as “superfund” contaminated sites
- Effluent is typically clean enough to be returned to the source
- Currently engaged in the largest coal ash project to date with 700,000+ cubic yards of coal ash being dredged and dewatered



# Bottom Ash Water

Water reclaimed from pond or purge from closed loop ash system

- Water samples show low levels of Aluminum & Fluoride
- Cycling up Al & F in the WFGD can cause limestone blinding

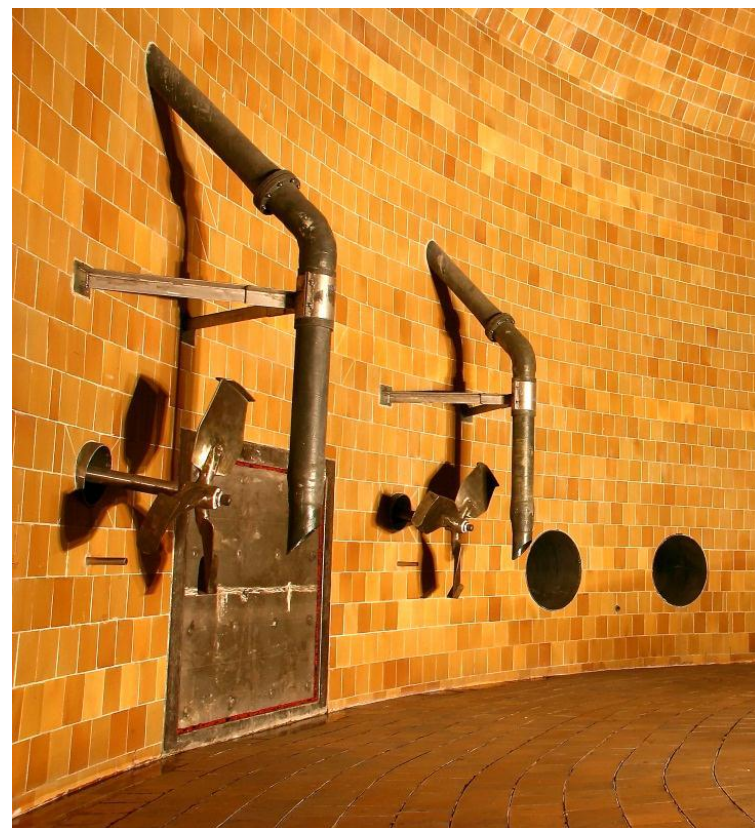


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# Materials of Construction Limits

## Chloride concentration maintained in absorber slurry

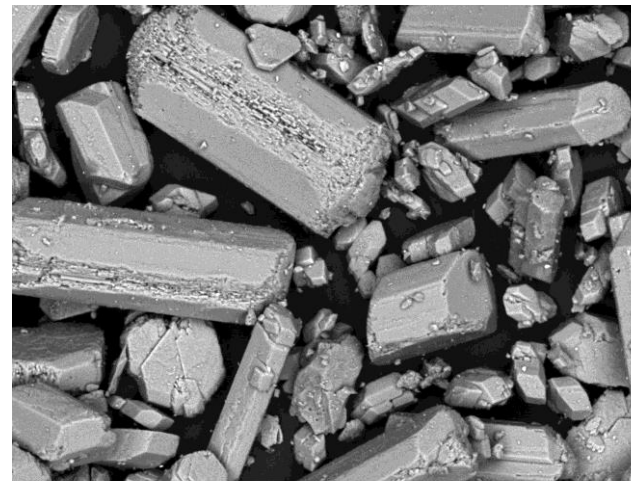
- Additional chlorides through makeup water sources
- Existing materials of construction limit chloride concentration
- Chlorides leave the WFGD process with the water through effluent purge and gypsum byproduct
- Potential impact on mercury reemission



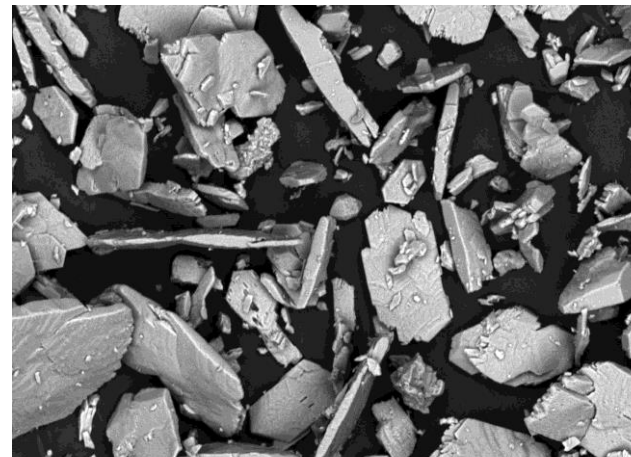
# Cycling Up Chlorides Can Lead to Cycling Up Fines

Consist of:

- Gypsum
- Fly ash
- Limestone inerts
- Mercury/selenium
- Cycle up with chlorides
- Impacts gypsum dewatering
- Accelerates erosion rate of rotating equipment and liners
- Re-emissions of mercury
- Foaming issues



*Example of desirable crystal morphology*



*Crystal morphology with excessive fines present*

# Removing Fines from the Process and Addressing Foaming

Remove fines upstream of WFGD

- Maintain ESP/baghouse
- Filter makeup water
- Improve quality of limestone

Remove fines from WFGD reclaim

- Secondary Hydrocyclones
- Clarifier Tank and filter press

Add anti-foam to WFGD

- Solution tank with agitator for mixing and storing diluted (10:1) anti-foam chemical solution.
- Feed pump(s) and piping to the absorber
- Feed control valve(s) and a foam detector probe with transmitter



# Gypsum Marketability

- Marketable gypsum requires cake washing to remove chlorides and salts
- Unmarketable gypsum
  - Remove chlorides from process
  - Spray fines on formed section of cake



# Cycling Up Chlorides Can Increase Potential for Limestone Blinding

## Understand cause

- Sulfite blinding
- Aluminum/Fluoride blinding

## Reduce potential for a blinding event

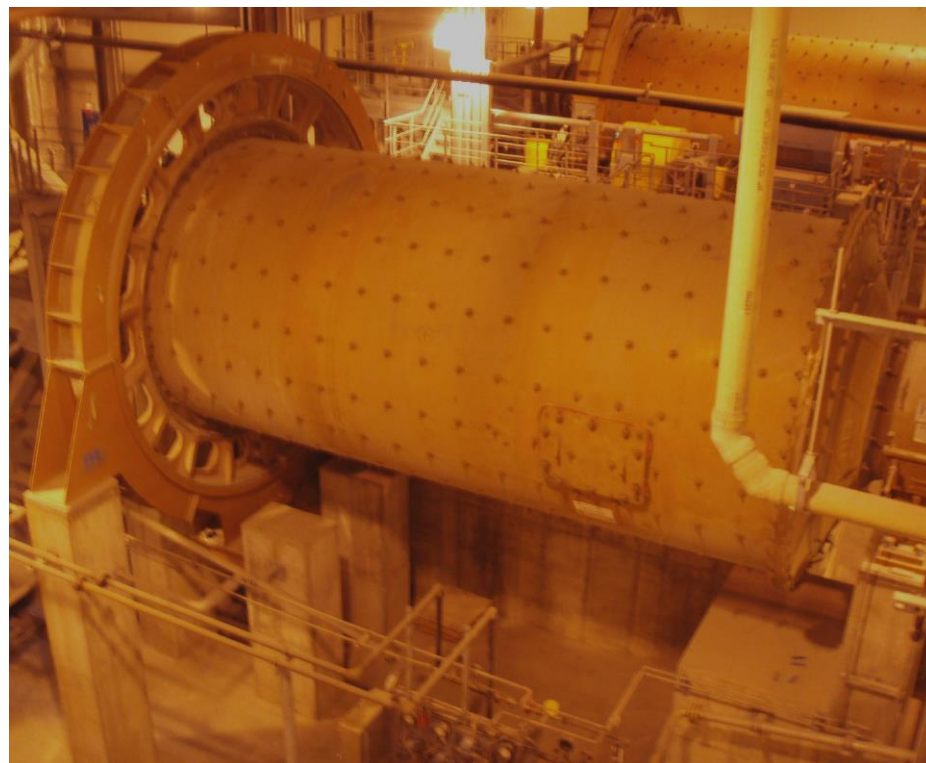
- Address oxidation issues
  - Maintain spare blower available for service
  - Maintain air distribution in reaction tank
- Remove sources of Al and F
  - Improve particulate removal upstream of WFGD
  - Treat reclaim water
- Complete chemistry modeling of slurry to determine  $AlF_x$  concentration in slurry



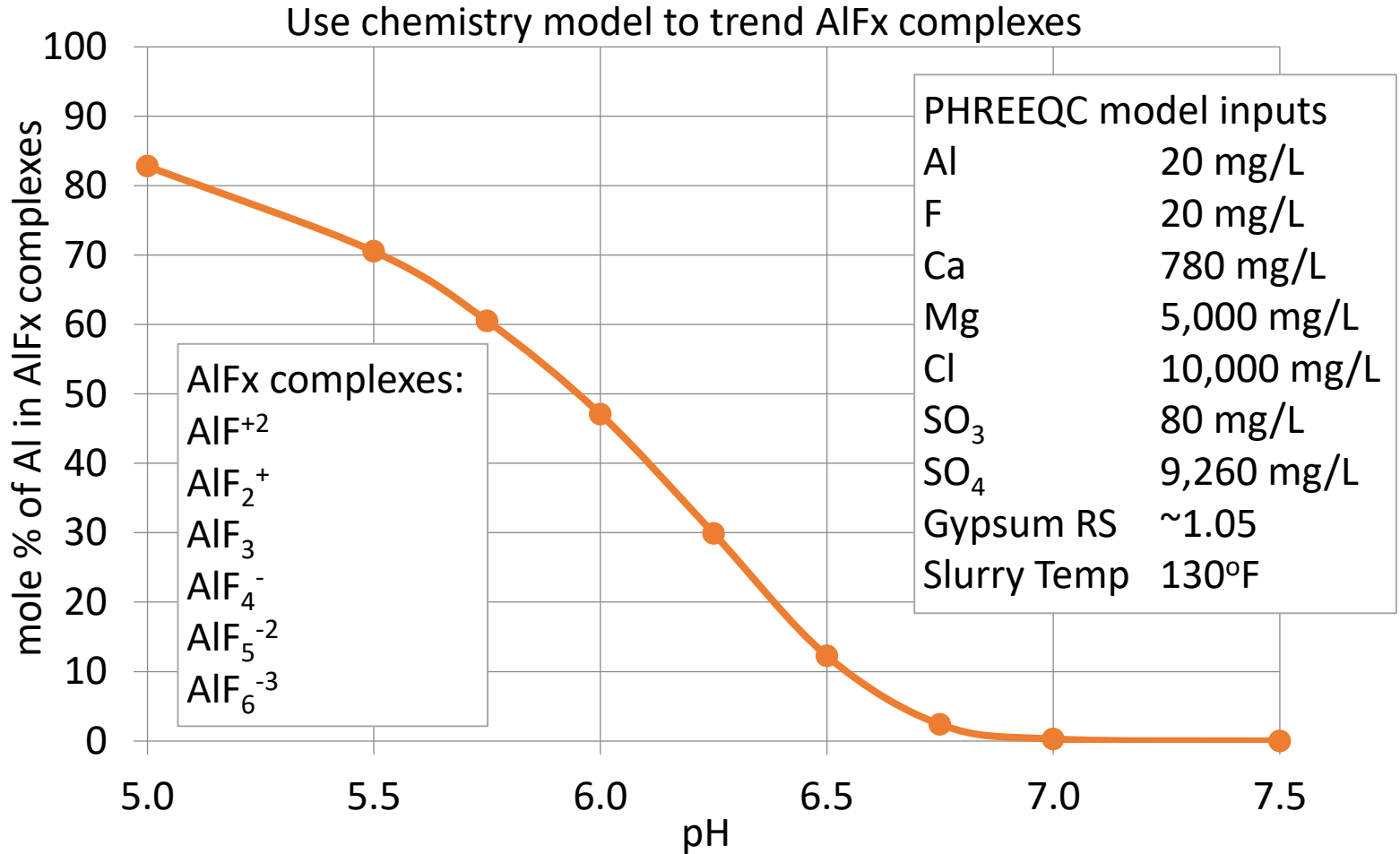
# Addressing Limestone Blinding Events

## Treating/preventing a limestone blinding event

- Re-establish oxidation air
- Add sorbent or buffer to boost slurry pH and precipitate Al and F
  - Hydrated lime
  - Soda ash
  - DBA/sodium formate
- Review limestone slurry feed logic
- Utilize finer grind limestone
- Use chemistry modeling to look at pH required to decrease AlFx concentration in slurry
- Periodic spiking of sorbent to precipitate Al/F components prior to a blinding event



# Decrease in AlFx Complexes with Increased pH



Chemistry Modeling and Graphics Support:

**Benson Environmental**

Lewis B. Benson · 412-225-8816 · [LewB@BensonEnvironmental.com](mailto:LewB@BensonEnvironmental.com)

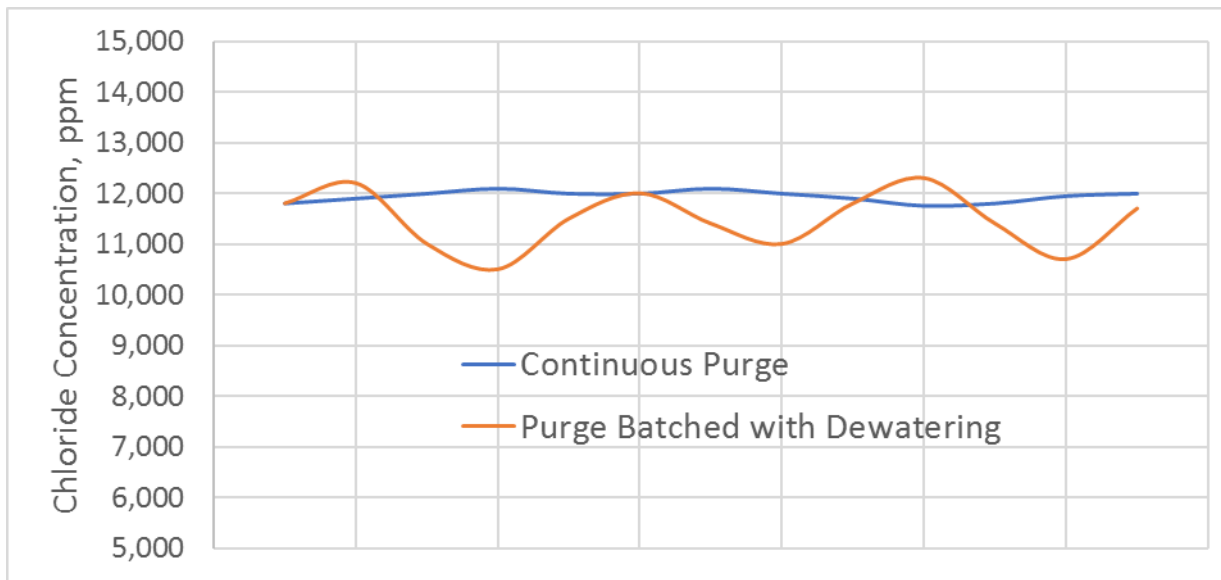
# Continuous Purge

## Traditional purge streams

- Often the effluent discharge is located at dewatering
- Creates a cyclic operation for chloride control
- Cannot purge at reduced load operation when there is less dewatering

## Continuous purge streams

- Allows for continuous purge to downstream treatment
- Easier to maintain chloride concentration



# Excess Water

## Absorber Level

- Reduce operating level with load to provide more allowance for mist eliminator wash and reclaiming from dewatering at reduced load when system not evaporating water since these items are on/off operation

## ME Wash

- ME wash logic to be revised to not initiate a wash sequence at low absorber level
- Individual ME wash header flows should be reviewed
- Leaking ME wash header valves to be repaired/replaced

## Absorber Slurry Density

- Increase slurry operating density range from 14.5-15.5% to 14-17% to minimize number of flushes

## Flushing

- Optimize flushing durations and cycles
- Use reclaim water as flush water

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# Changes to Flue Gas Profile

Change in emissions leaving the boiler when firing gas only

- 1/3 the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of coal
- Lower CO (typically <50 ppm)
- Lower VOCs (typically <0.001 lb/MMBtu on a methane basis)
- Virtually no SO<sub>x</sub> emissions (small amount of Sulphur added as odorant)
- Virtually no PM
- 50-80% less CO<sub>2</sub> than coal

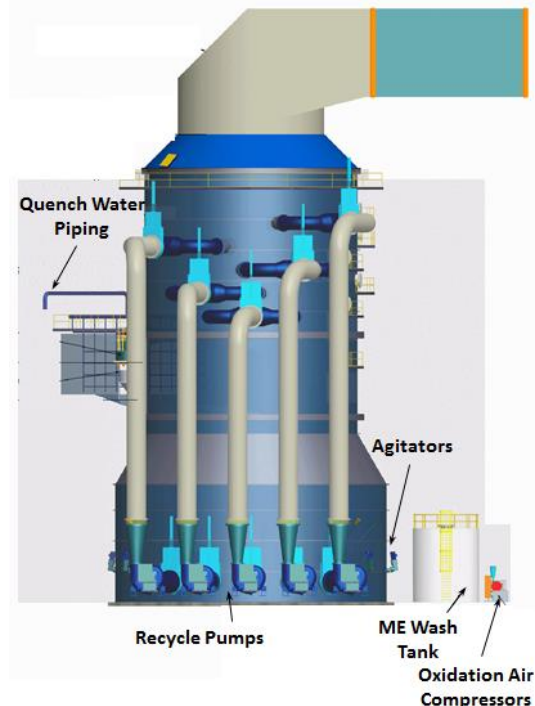
Change in flue gas when firing gas only

- Flue gas flow will typically decrease with natural gas by approximately 5-10% due to reduction in excess air requirements
- Flue gas temperature leaving the boiler bank will typically decrease slightly with natural gas firing due to increased heat absorption in the SH/RH sections from having a higher effectiveness due to no slag



# WFGD O&M Considerations for Gas Only Firing

- Utilize flue gas bypass if available - remove oxidation air and recycle pumps from service to reduce power consumption
- Maintain absorber(s) in service to evaporate water
  - Utilize a minimum number of recycle pumps to quench flue gas
  - Remove oxidation air from service to reduce power consumption
  - Monitor slurry pH
- Quench flue gas with at absorber inlet
  - Add quench system to absorber inlet and control water rate based on flue gas temperature
  - Remove oxidation air and recycle pumps from service to reduce power consumption



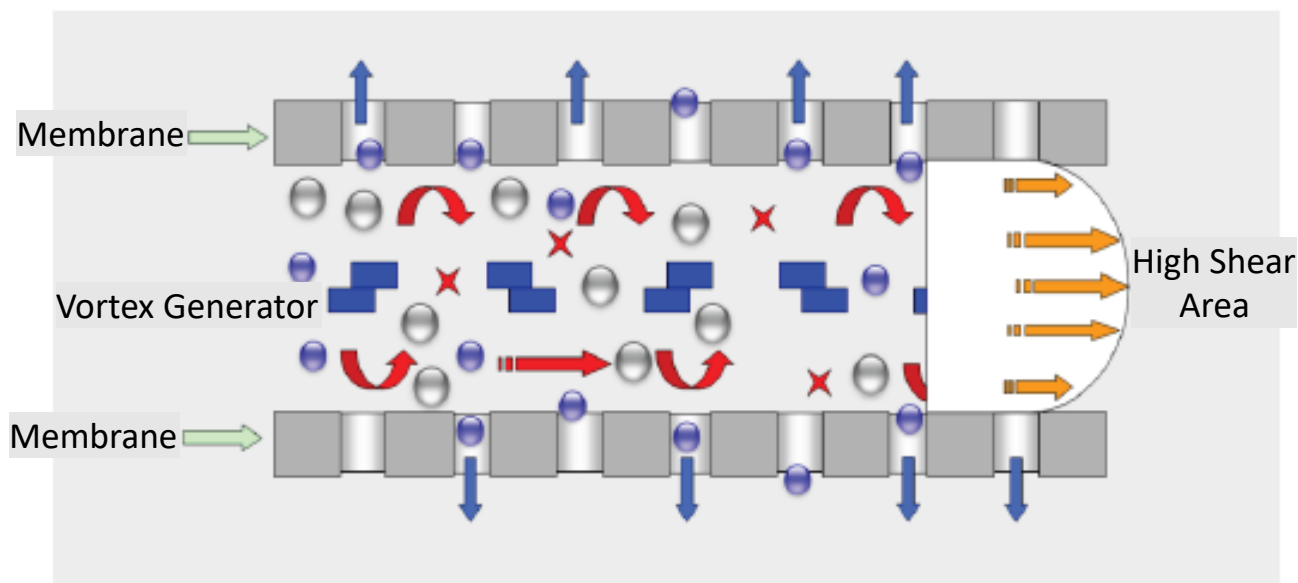
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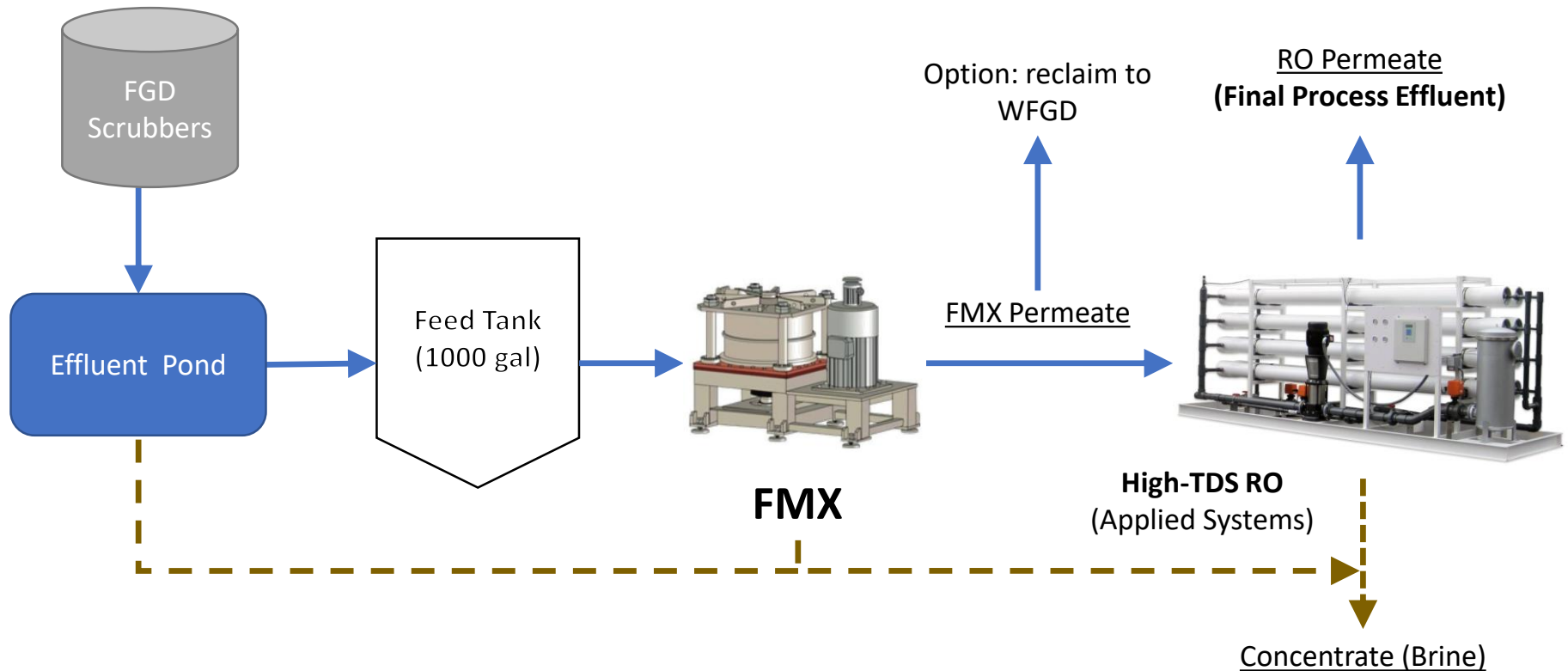
# Nanofiltration – FMX System

Intermediate Step to Reduce Further Effluent Discharge after Optimization or Treat Pond Water

- FGD effluent high in TDS and TSS leads to fouling in traditional RO systems
- Nanofiltration membrane system utilizes vortices to eliminate fouling
- The membrane is dependent on the type of water recovery and chloride levels



# Case Study (2018): Single Pass Mode with RO polish



## Case Study:

3-month RESULTS

# Raw FGD

**Steam Electric Power Plant**  
*Southeast US*

**FEED: FGD Holding Pond**

**PRETREATMENT: None**

**AVERAGE FLUX: 128 LMH**

**RECOVERY: 80-85%**

**TOTAL VOLUME TREATED:**  
**525,042 gal (w/anti-scalant)**

## Validated using RO Pilot (Applied Systems High-TDS RO):

ANALYTICAL RESULTS: RECOVERY AVERAGES (N=7)

	UNITS	FEED	FMX EFFLUENT	FMX % REMOVAL	FMX+RO EFFLUENT	FMX+RO % REMOVAL	2015 ELG BAT Daily Max	All samples met BAT?
TDS	ppm	3887	1857	52%	192	95%	NA	NA
<b>Sulfate<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>ppm</b>	<b>2379</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>99%</b>	NA	NA
Arsenic	ppb	11.14	8.46	>24% <sup>2</sup>	6.09	>28% <sup>2</sup>	11	✓
Mercury	pptr	240	16.6	>93% <sup>2</sup>	< 5	> 98% <sup>2</sup>	788	✓
Selenium	ppb	1,927	726	62%	6.84	99%	23	✓
NO <sub>x</sub> -N <sub>(aq)</sub>	ppm	5.6	5.6	NA	1.25	78%	17	✓

<sup>1</sup> Main contributor in scale formation

<sup>2</sup> Sample results below LDL levels mean removals are underestimated

# Meeting ELG

FMX+RO Effluent was able to meet and exceed 2015 EPA BAT targets.

## FGD Wastewater Discharge Limits

	BAT	
	DAILY MAX	30 DAY AVERAGE
Arsenic	✓	✓
Mercury	✓	✓
Selenium	✓	✓
NO <sub>x</sub> -N <sub>(aq)</sub>	✓	✓

### BOTTOM LINE

***Add FMX for the most reliable, cost-effective FGD wastewater solution***

- Volume Reduction
- Permit Compliance
- Discharge-Quality
- Smaller Evaporator
- Protects RO systems

# Making ZLD Economical

- Volume reduction + brine concentration optimizes the cost of ZLD treatment and provides flexibility in operation
- Meets compliance with all discharge regulations and provides ELG compliant water for reuse
- Test units available



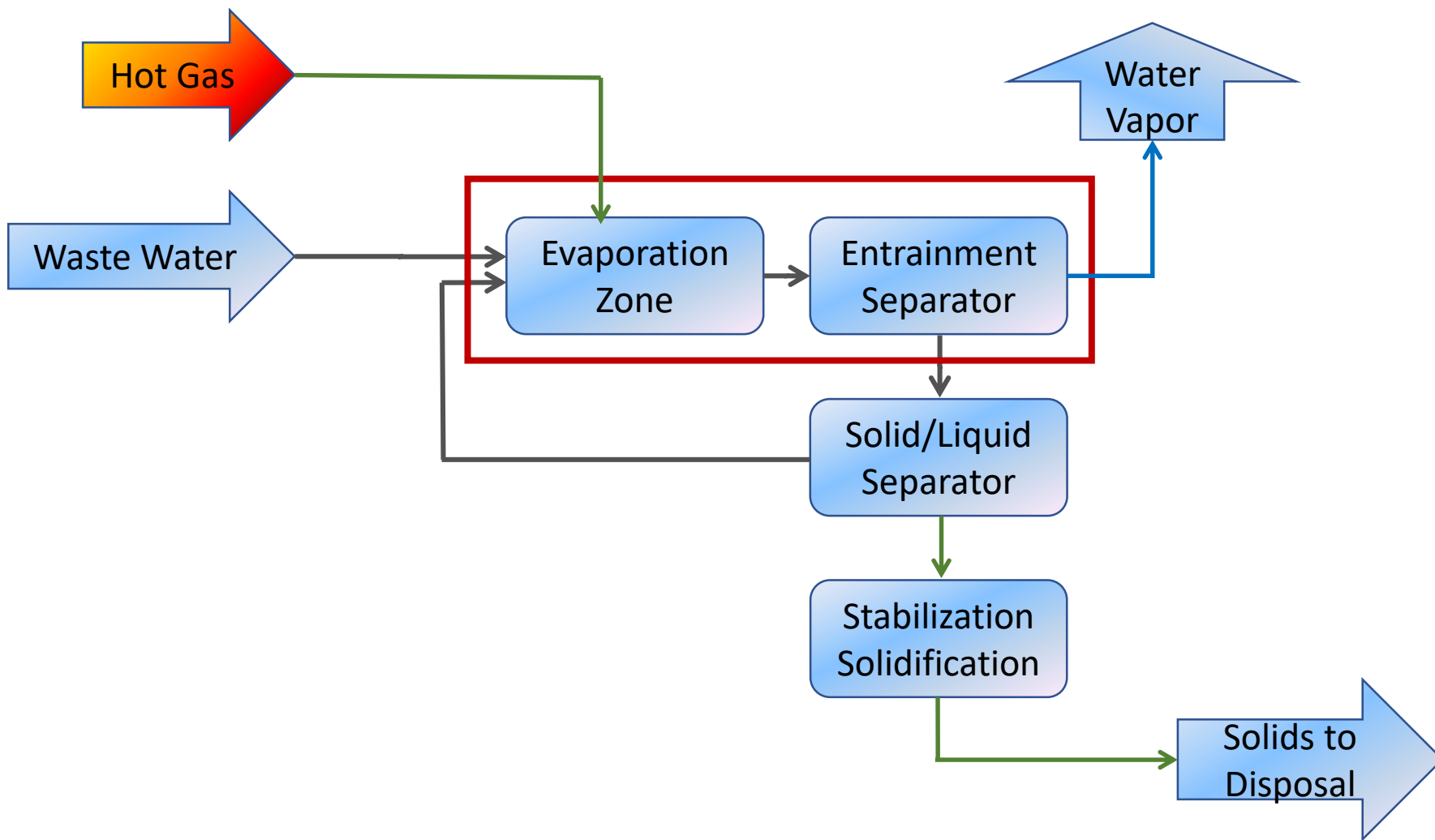
# Alternative Evaporation - Direct Contact Evaporation



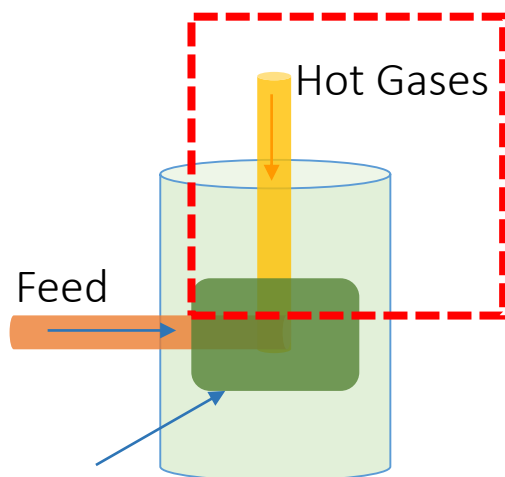
- ① Heat Source
- ② Concentrator Section
- ③ Feed and Recirculation
- ④ Droplet Separator
- ⑤ Sump
- ⑥ Exhaust

Mobile Test Units Available

# Direct Contact Evaporator Process Flow Diagram



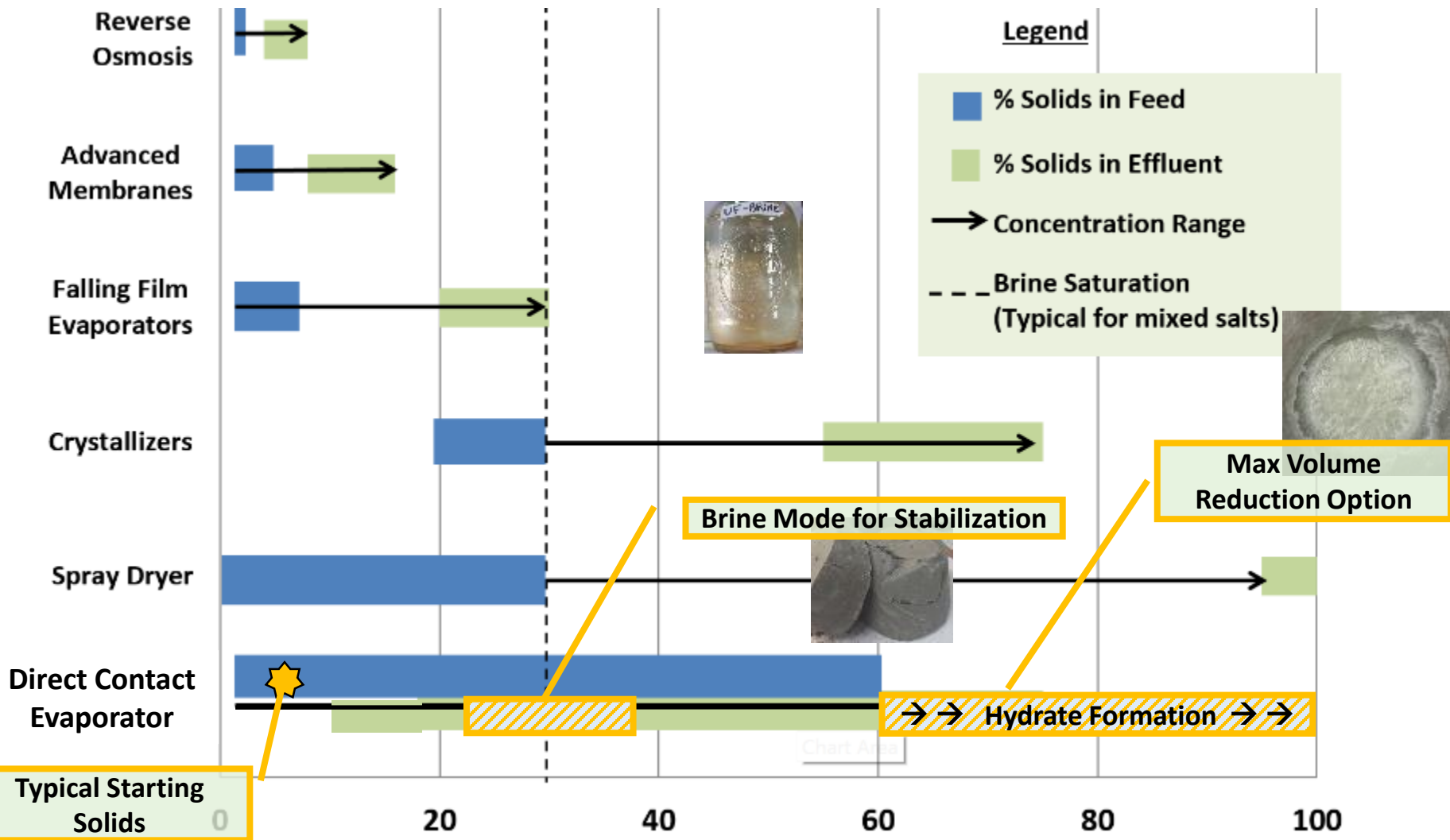
# Direct Contact Evaporation vs. Falling Film



Direct Contact  
“Concentrator”

- Compact
- No heat exchange surfaces or membranes to foul; low-cost materials
- Direct use of waste heat (exhaust gases) and/or natural gas
- Patented Gas-Liquid Section creates large surface area for rapid evaporation
- Require no pre-treatment
- Simple to operate and maintain

# Direct Contact Evaporator Process Flexibility



# Power Industry Experience

## EPRI Project at Plant Bowen



- FGD wastewater treatment/concentration using flue gas as a waste heat source
- 24/7 study realized 93% availability.
- Integration on operating 900 MW unit successful.
- Fly-ash improved mixing and better solids production
- 97% volume reduction producing solids for disposal passing TCLP

# Brine Dewatering

- Multiple options for dewatering including:
  - Dewatering tubes
  - Centrifuges
  - Filter presses
- Enhanced stabilization of metals such as selenium
- Producing a solid with improved properties over crystallized salt
- Elimination of a crystallization step





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