

# Worldwide Pollution Control Association

**Particulate Control  
O&M Training**

**APC/PCUG Conference  
July 12-16, 2009  
The Woodlands, TX**



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# ESP O&M: Flow Related Issues

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WPCA Training Seminar  
July 12, 2009

# Outline

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ ESP Fluid Flow Basics
- ❖ Assessing Flow Characteristics
- ❖ ESP Flow Modeling
- ❖ Other Power Industry Flows
- ❖ Questions

# Introduction

## ❖ Why is Flow Distribution Important?

### Performance

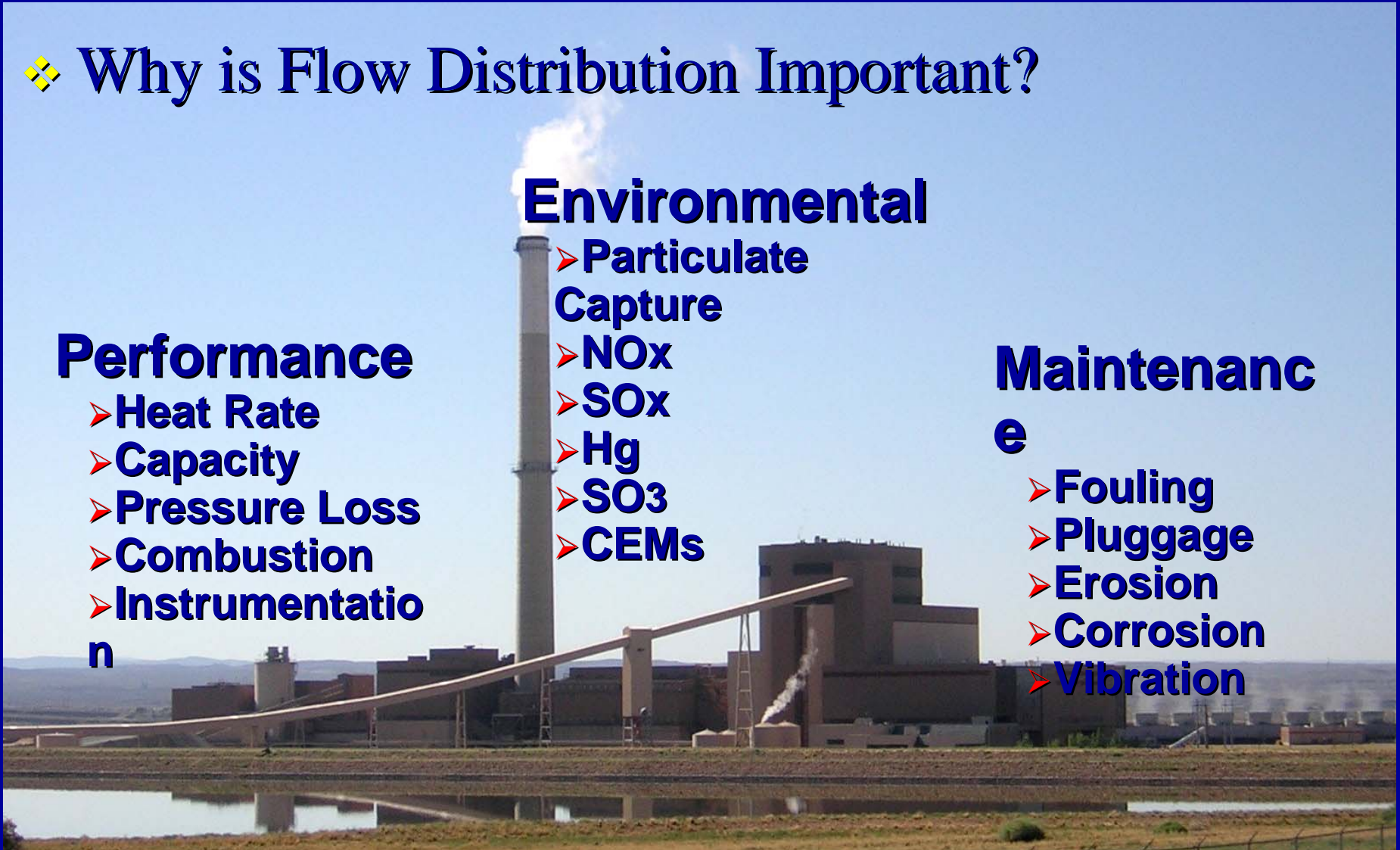
- Heat Rate
- Capacity
- Pressure Loss
- Combustion
- Instrumentation

### Environmental

- Particulate Capture
- NOx
- SOx
- Hg
- SO<sub>3</sub>
- CEMs

### Maintenance

- Fouling
- Pluggage
- Erosion
- Corrosion
- Vibration



# Outline

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ ESP Fluid Flow Basics
  - Gas Velocity Distribution
    - Ductwork
    - Collection Region
  - Gas Flow Balance
  - Pressure Drop
  - Gas Temperature
  - Injection Systems
- ❖ Assessing Flow Characteristics
- ❖ ESP Flow Modeling
- ❖ Other Power Industry Flows
- ❖ Questions

# Gas Velocity Distribution – Ductwork

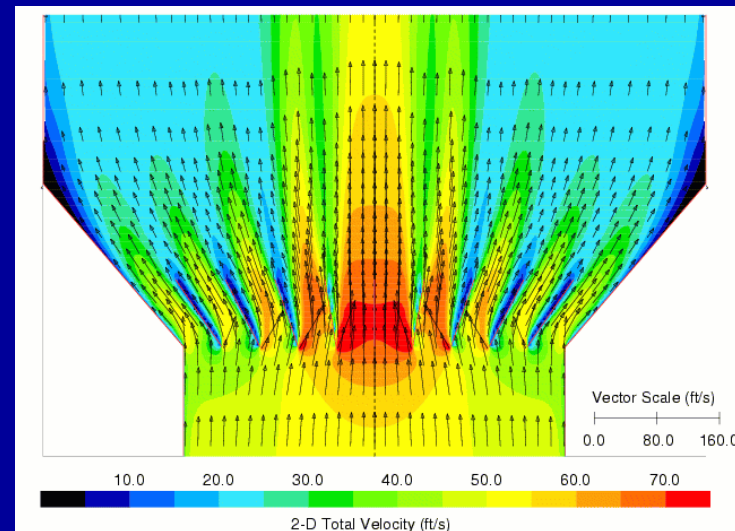
## ❖ Ductwork Design Criteria

- Maintain minimum velocity requirements to avoid particle dropout
- Provide good flow characteristics to ESP



## ❖ Considerations

- Horizontal surfaces
- Cross sectional area
- Bends
- Structure



# Ash Deposition

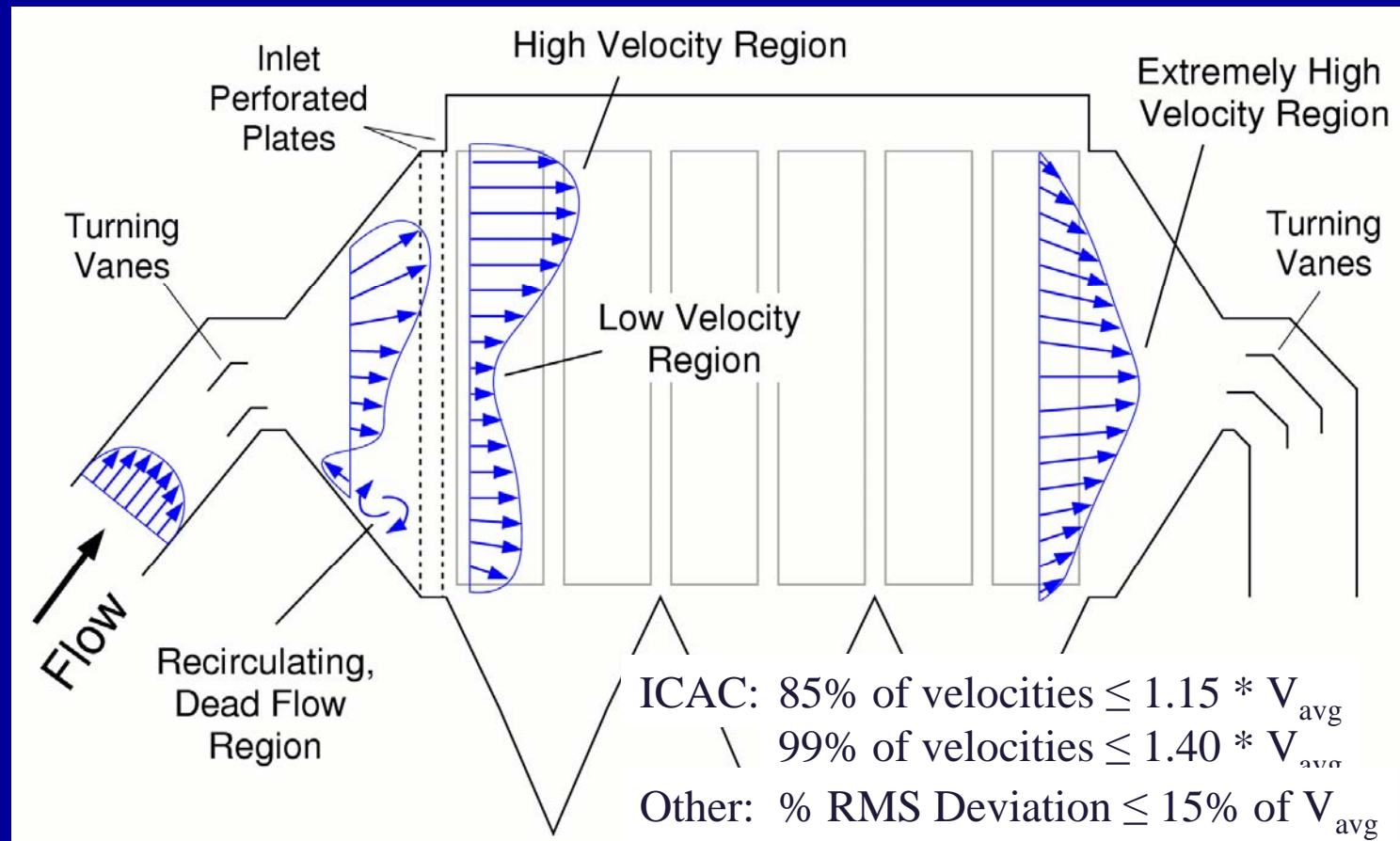
- ❖ Duct floors
- ❖ Turning vanes



# Gas Velocity Distribution – ESP

- ❖ Uniform velocity within collection region
- ❖ Industry standards

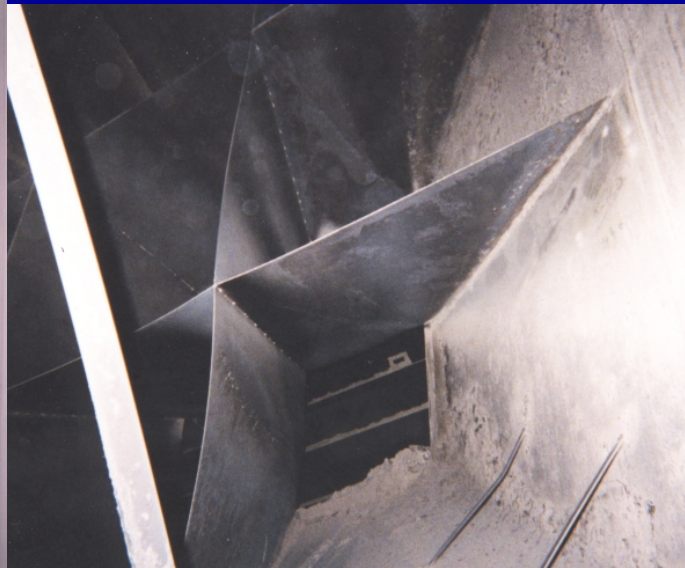
- ICAC
- % RMS deviation



# Gas Velocity Distribution – Collection Region

## ❖ Flow Control Methods

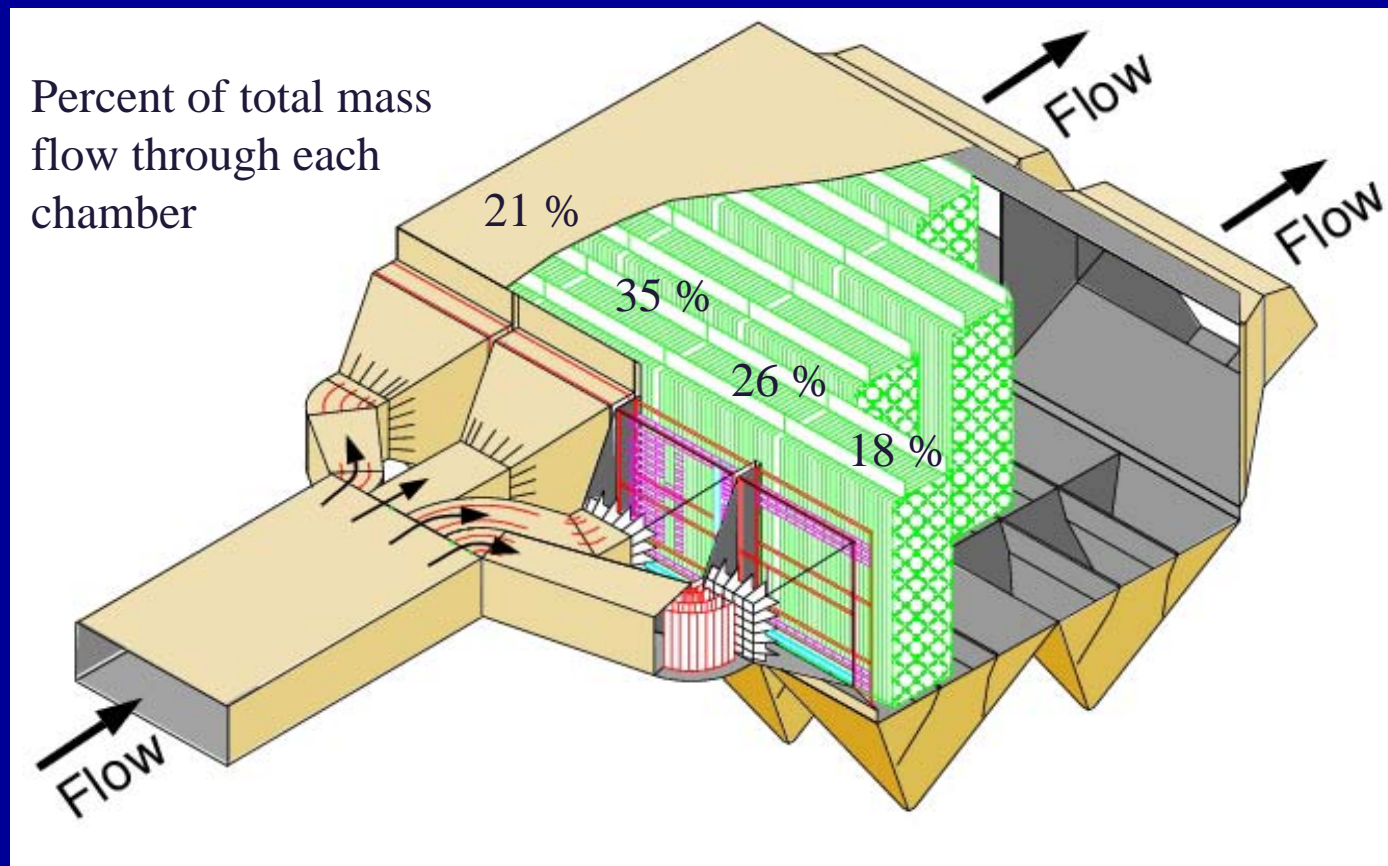
- Vanes, baffles
- Flow straighteners
- Perforated plates



# Gas Flow Balance

- ❖ Industry Standards
- ❖ Control Methods

ICAC: Flow within each chamber to be within  $\pm 10\%$  of its theoretical share



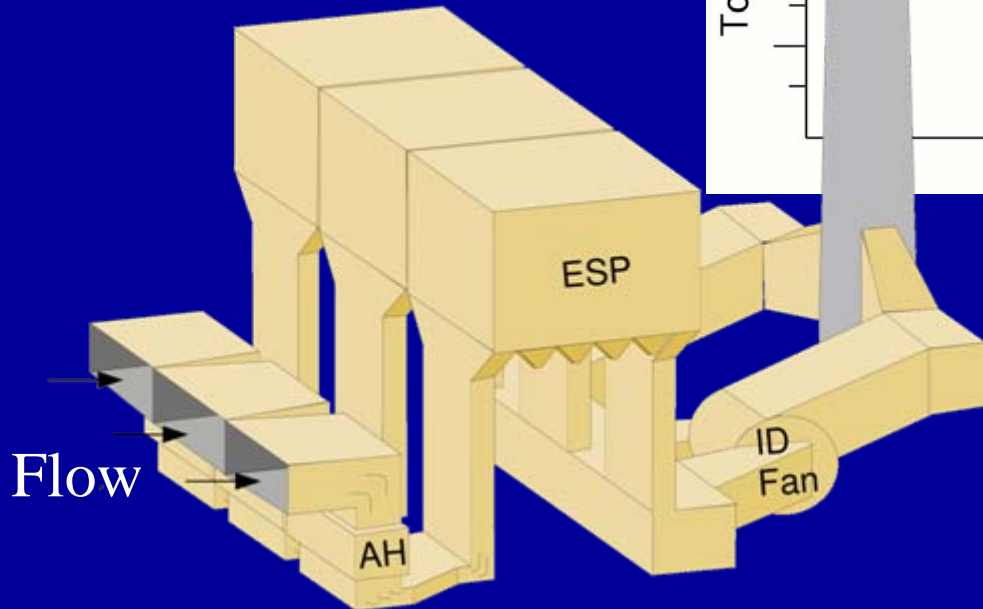
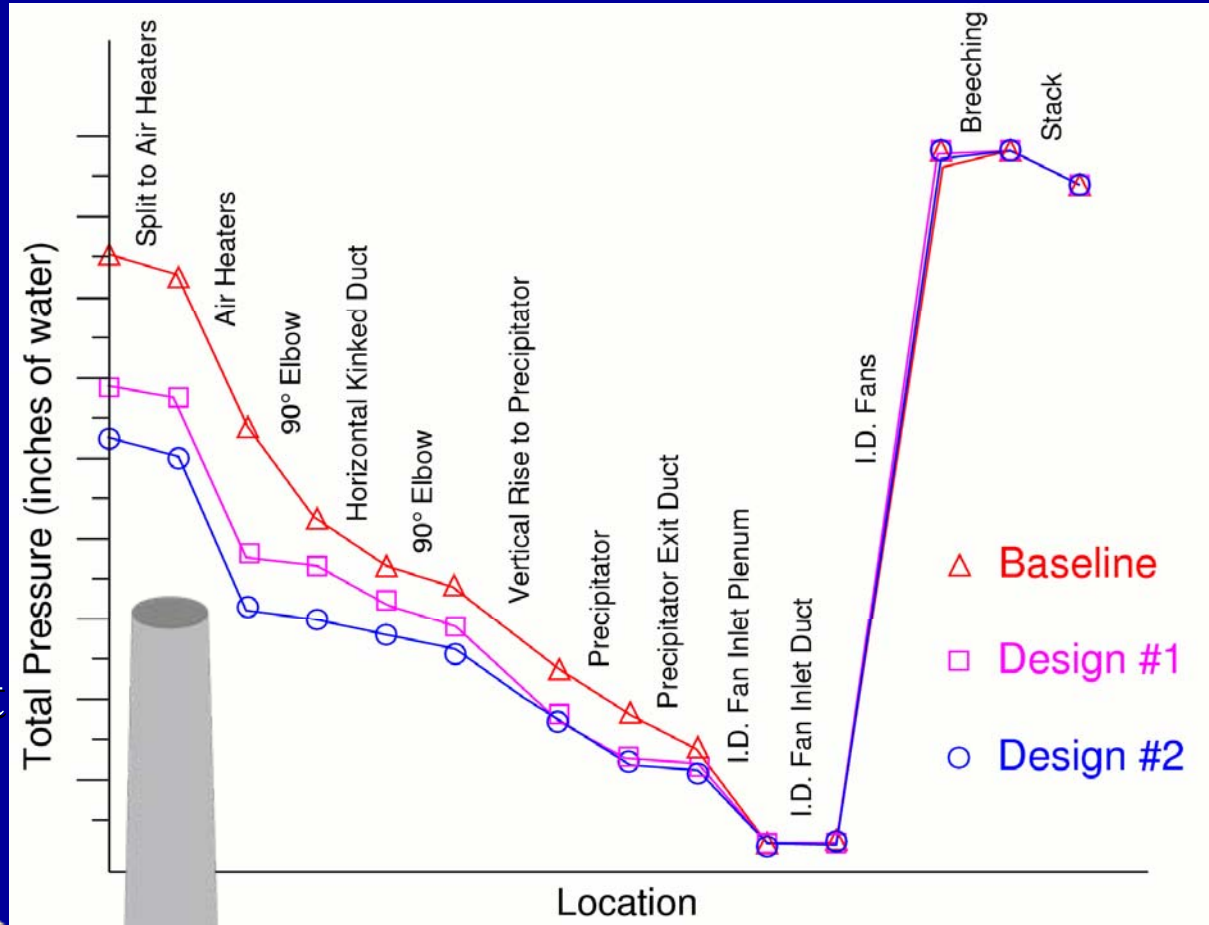
# Pressure Drop

## ❖ General goal:

- Minimize DP

## ❖ Methods

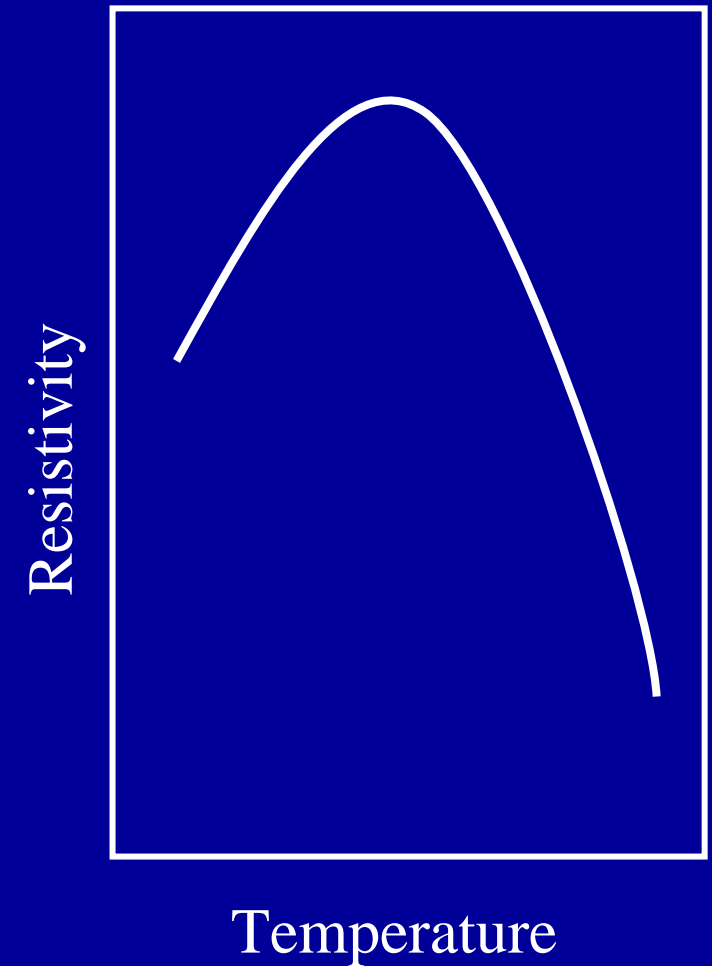
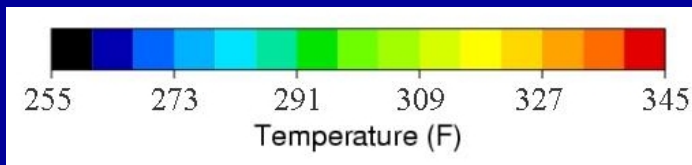
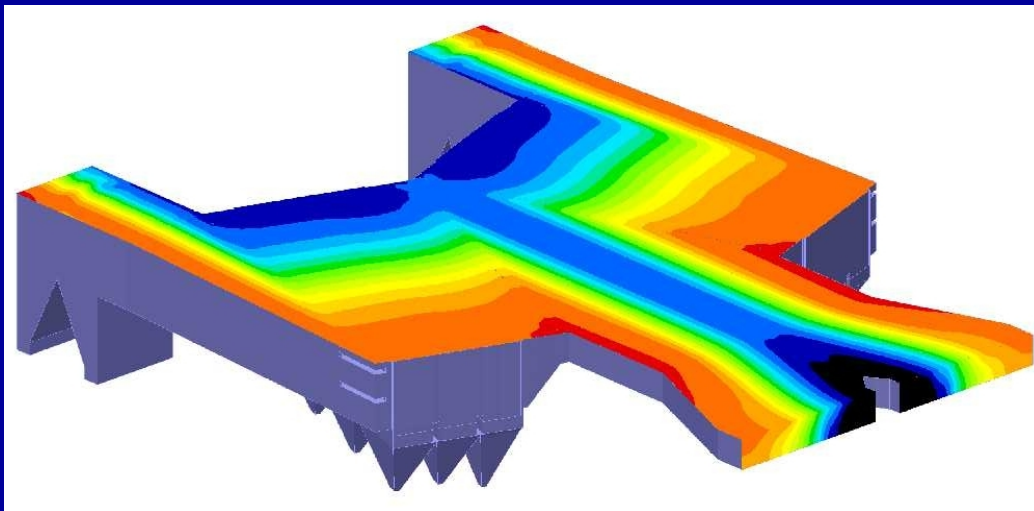
- Vanes
- Duct contouring
- Area management



Ductwork redesign saves  
2.1 inches H<sub>2</sub>O over baseline

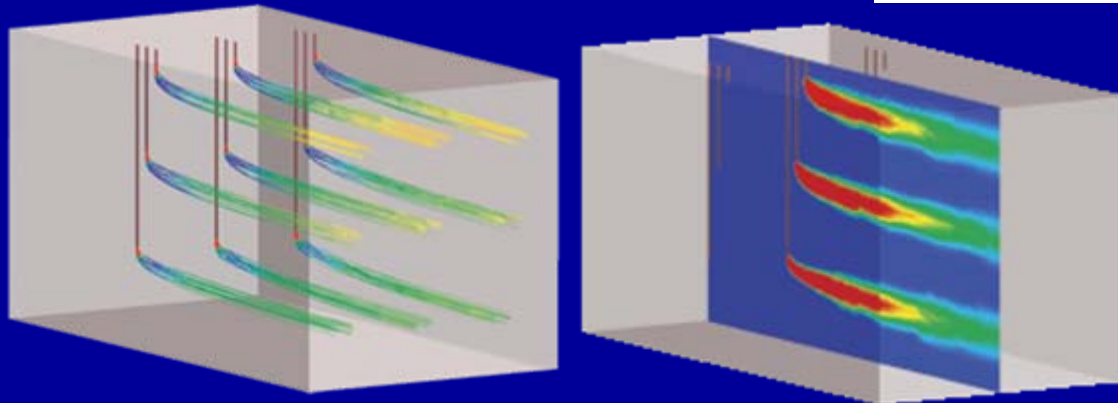
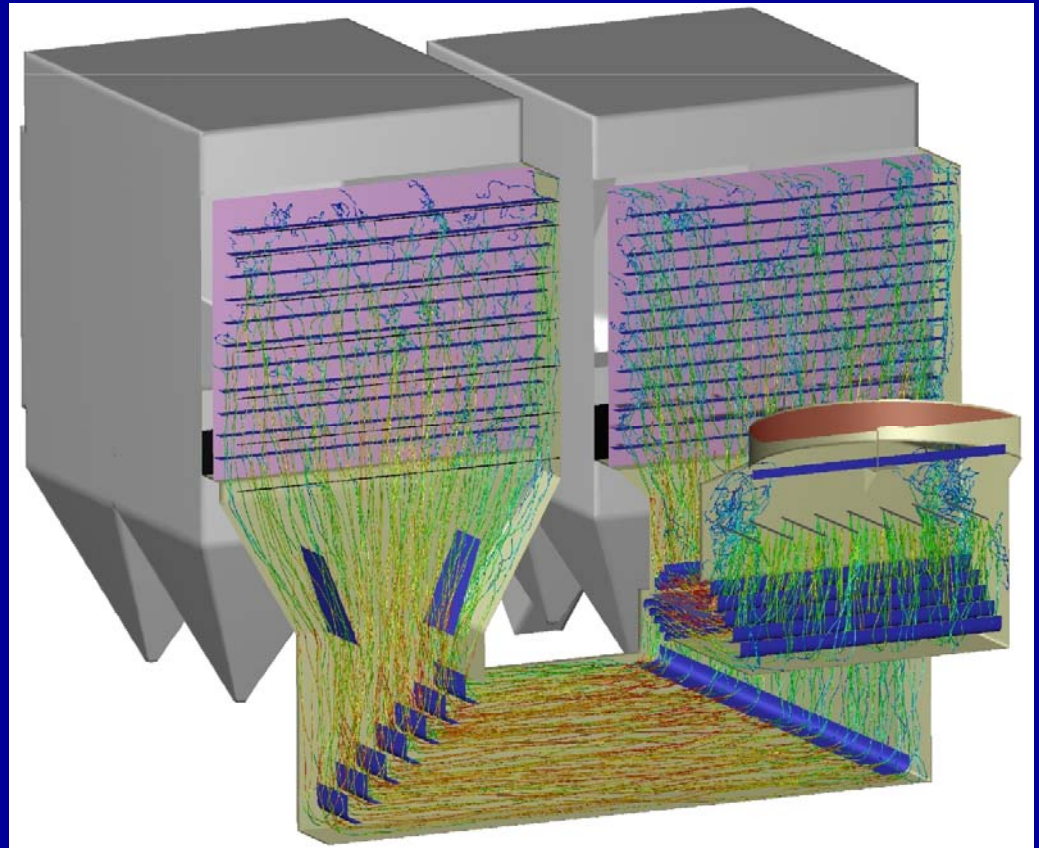
# Gas Temperature

- ❖ Average temperature
- ❖ Temperature stratification
- ❖ Inleakage



# Injection Systems

- ❖ Gaseous injection
  - $\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ , others
- ❖ Particulate injection
  - Activated carbon
  - Trona, SBS, lime, etc.



Activated Carbon Injection  
– Particle Tracking

# Fabric Filters

- ❖ Uniform velocity distribution and equal balance between compartments
- ❖ Pressure loss
- ❖ Avoid bag erosion
- ❖ Ash deposition



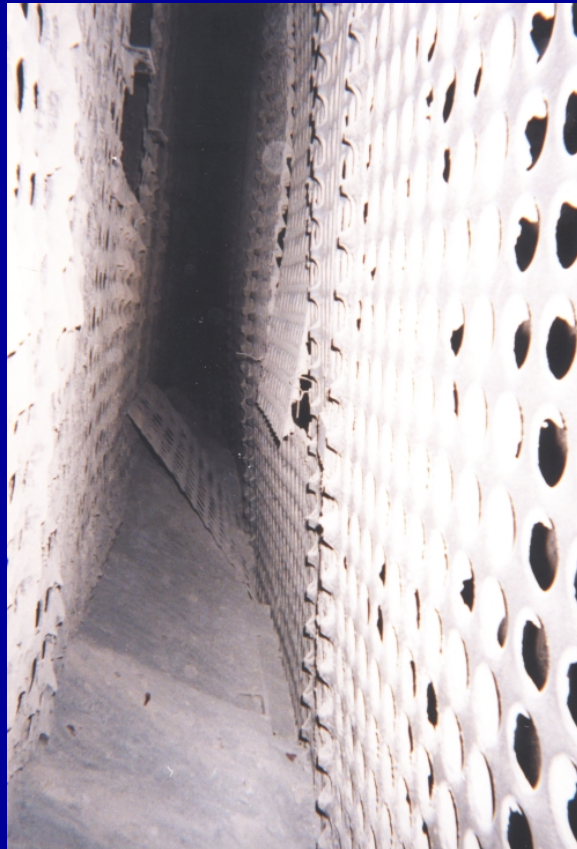
# Outline

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ ESP Fluid Flow Basics
- ❖ Assessing Flow Characteristics
  - Inspections
  - Field Testing
    - Ductwork
    - Collection Region
- ❖ ESP Flow Modeling
- ❖ Other Power Industry Flows
- ❖ Questions



# Inspections

- ❖ Ash Patterns
- ❖ Geometry Influence on Fluid Dynamics
- ❖ Irregularities



# Field Testing – Ductwork

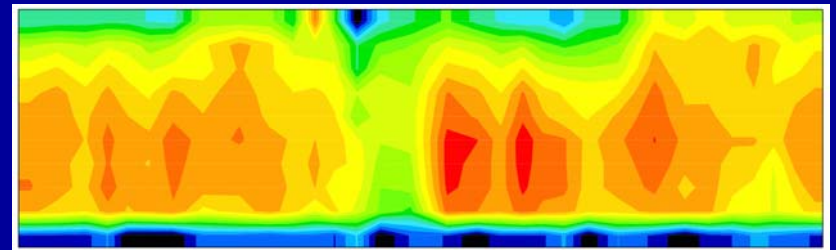
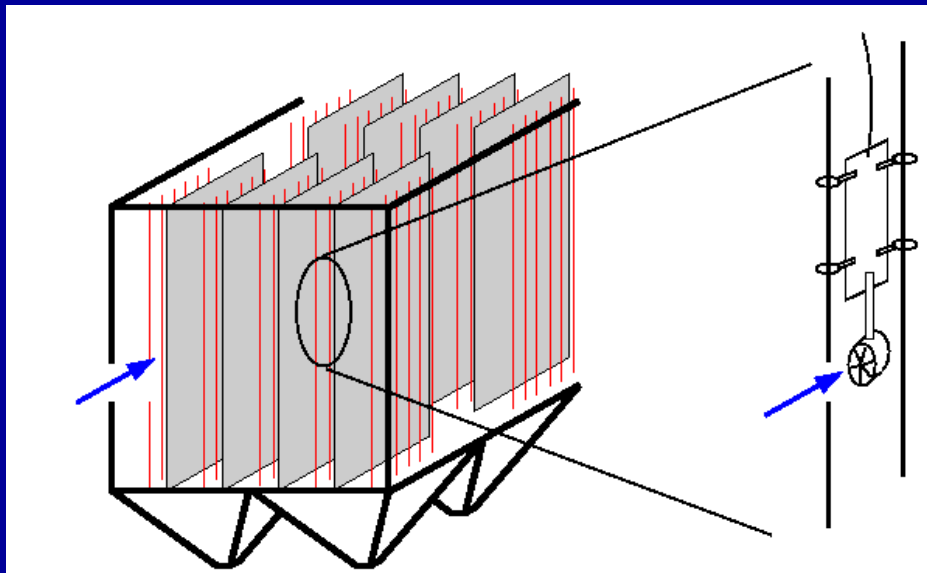
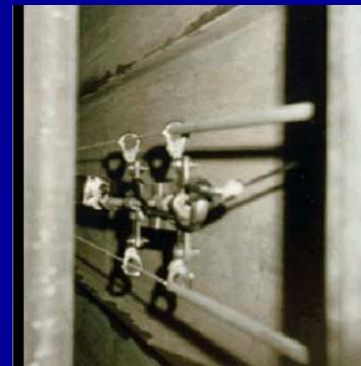
- ❖ Velocity
- ❖ Temperature
- ❖ Pressure
- ❖ Particulate
- ❖ Chemical Species



# Field Testing – Collection Region

## ❖ Velocity Distribution

- Cold flow conditions
- Vane anemometer
  - Accuracy 1% in 3-10 ft/sec range
  - Lightweight, portable
  - Sensitive to flow angularity, turbulence, dust



# Outline

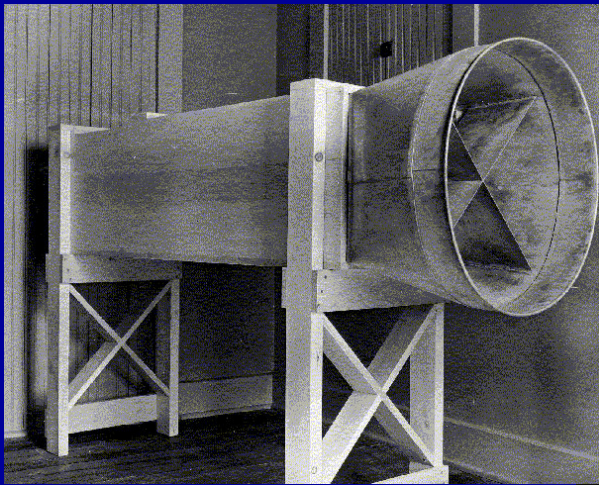
- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ ESP Fluid Flow Basics
- ❖ Assessing Flow Characteristics
- ❖ **ESP Flow Modeling**
  - Physical Models
  - Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Models
- ❖ Other Power Industry Flows
- ❖ Questions

# ESP Modeling – Physical Models

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Theory
- ❖ Simulation Parameters (how the model is set up)
- ❖ Results Analysis (what you get from the model)

# Physical Models – Background

- ❖ Utilized for fluid flow analysis for a century ... or more?
- ❖ Applied to ESPs for decades
- ❖ Underlying principle is to reproduce fluid flow behavior in a controlled, laboratory environment



# Physical Models – Theory

- ❖ Key criteria is to generate “Similarity” between the scale model and the real-world object
  - Geometric similarity
    - Accurate scale representation of geometry
    - Inclusion of all influencing geometry elements (typically those >4”)
    - Selection of scale can be important
  - Fluid dynamic similarity
    - Precise Reynolds Number (Re) matching is not feasible
    - General practice is to match full scale velocity but ensure that Re remains in the turbulent range throughout the model

$$Re = \frac{\rho v D_h}{\mu}$$

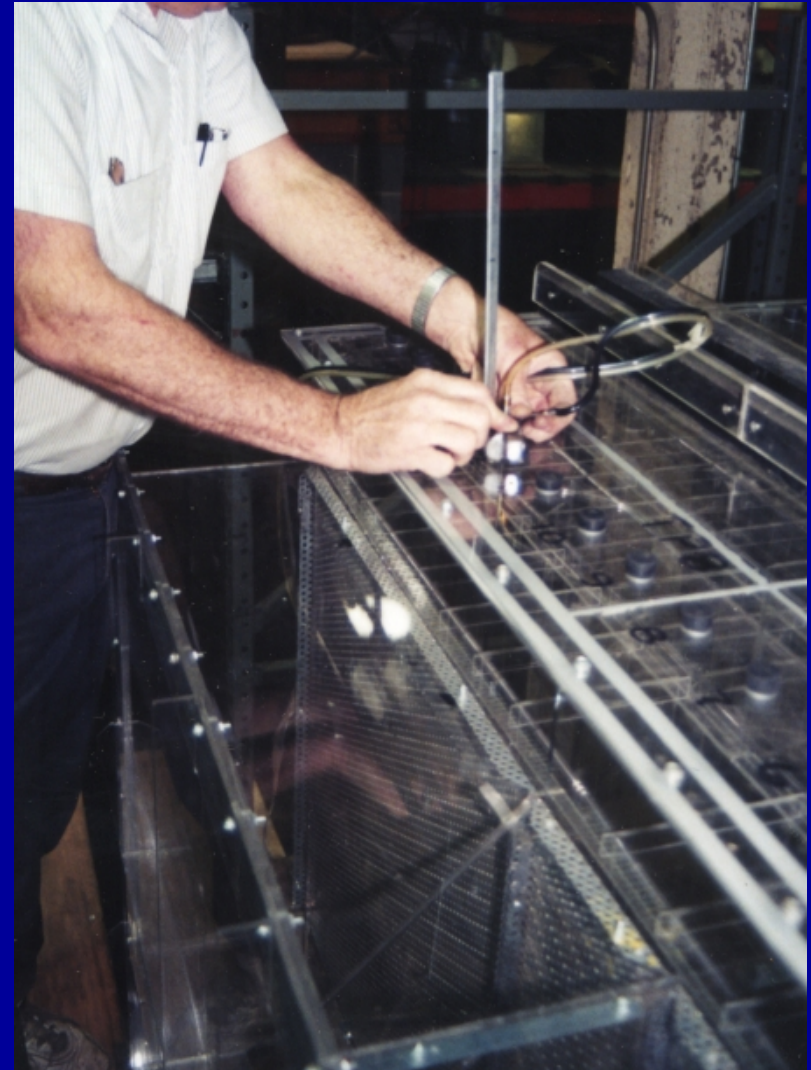
# Physical Models – Simulation Parameters

## ❖ ESP geometry

- 1/8th to 1/16th scale representation
- Include features >4-6” in size

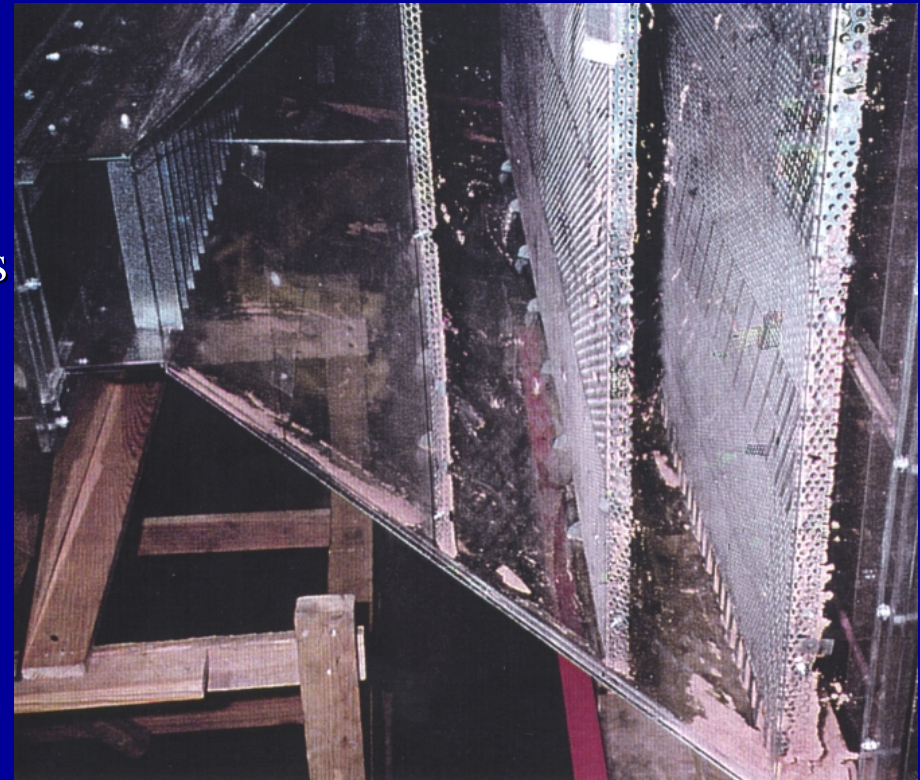
## ❖ Flow conditions

- Scaled air flow rate (ambient temperature)
- Reproduce velocity profile at model inlet
- Simulated chemical injection
- Simulated particle tracking



# Physical Models – Results Analysis

- ❖ Quantitative data available at discrete measurement points
  - Velocity magnitude, directionality
  - Pressure (corrected to full scale)
  - Chemical species concentrations
- ❖ Integrated/reduced data
  - Mass balance between ESP chambers
  - Comparison to ICAC conditions or target velocity profiles
  - Correlation to test data
- ❖ Qualitative data
  - Flow directionality (smoke, tufts)
  - Particle behavior, drop-out



# Physical Models – Flow Visualization

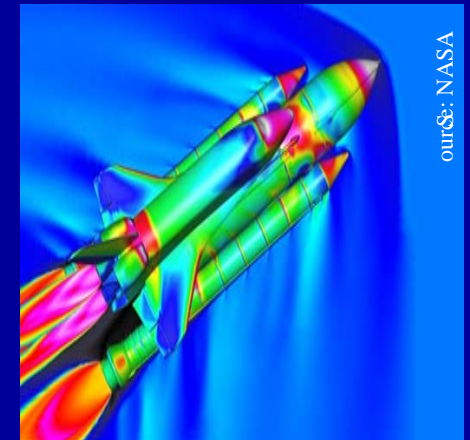
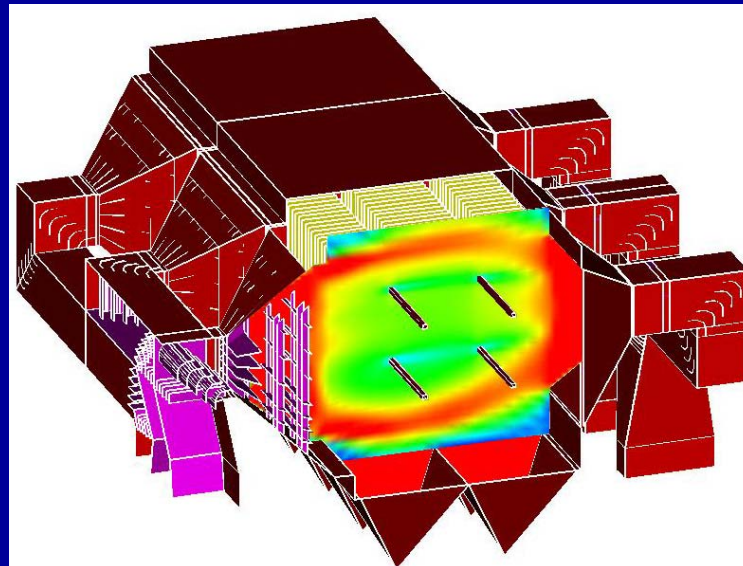
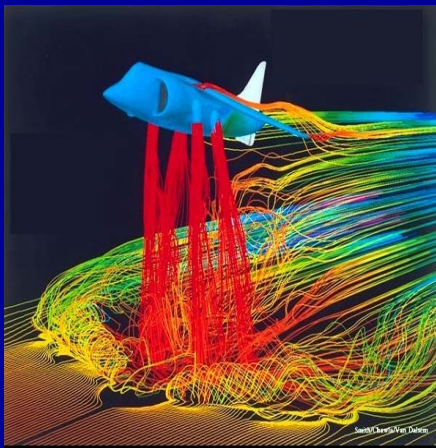


# Flow Modeling – Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Theory
- ❖ Simulation Parameters (how the model is set up)
- ❖ Results Analysis (what you get from the model)

# CFD – Background

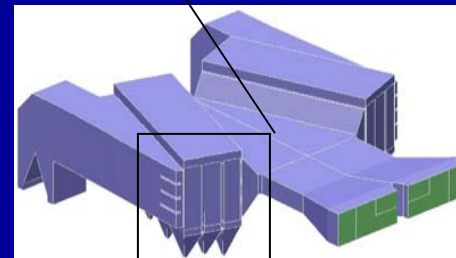
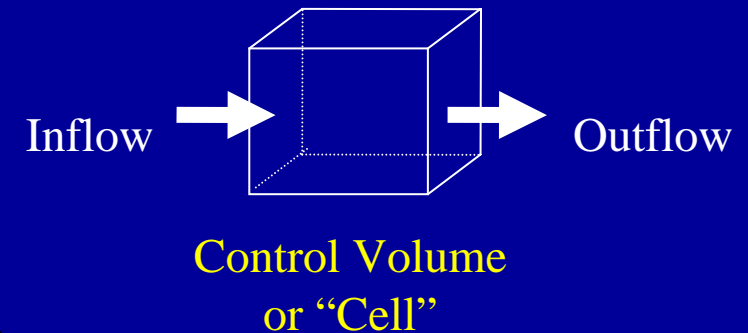
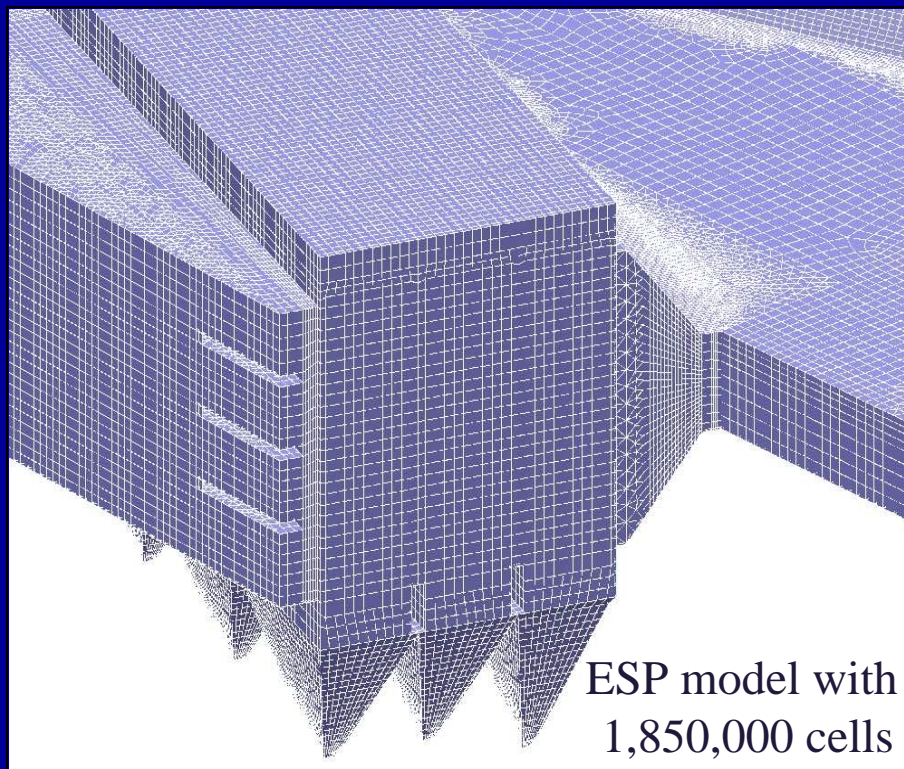
- ❖ Developed in the aerospace industry c.1970 (with the advent of “high speed” computers)
- ❖ Applied to ESPs for 18+ years
- ❖ Underlying principle is to solve the first-principles equations governing fluid flow behavior using a computer



# CFD – Theory

## ❖ Control Volume Approach

- Divide the flow domain into distinct control volumes
- Solve the Navier-Stokes equations (Conservation of Mass, Momentum, Energy) in each control volume



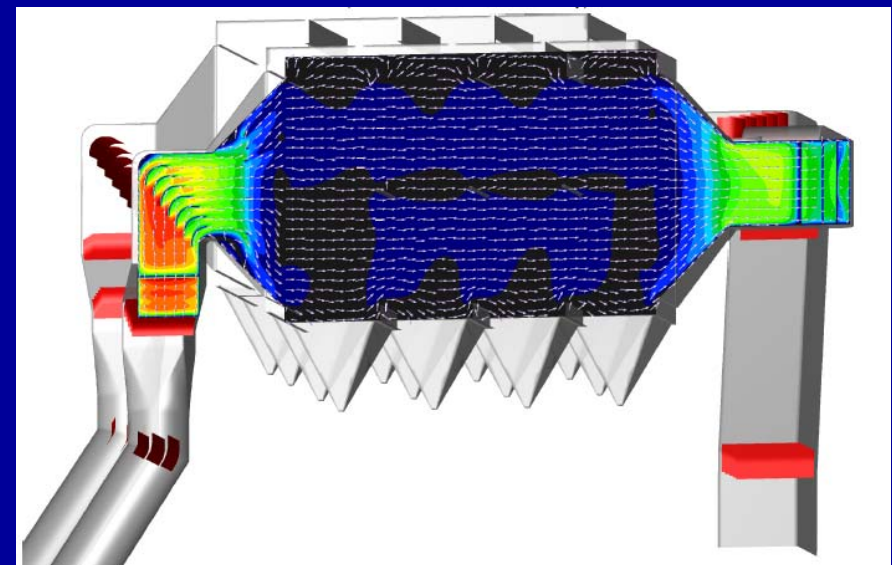
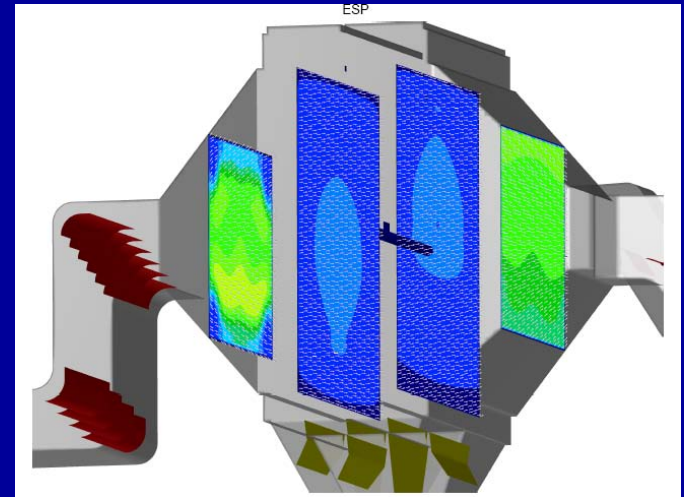
# CFD – Simulation Parameters

## ❖ ESP geometry

- Full scale representation
- Include features >4” in size, more detail if possible

## ❖ Flow conditions

- Full scale gas flow rate
- Reproduce velocity profile at model inlet
- Reproduce temperature profile at model inlet
- Simulated chemical injection
- Simulated particle tracking



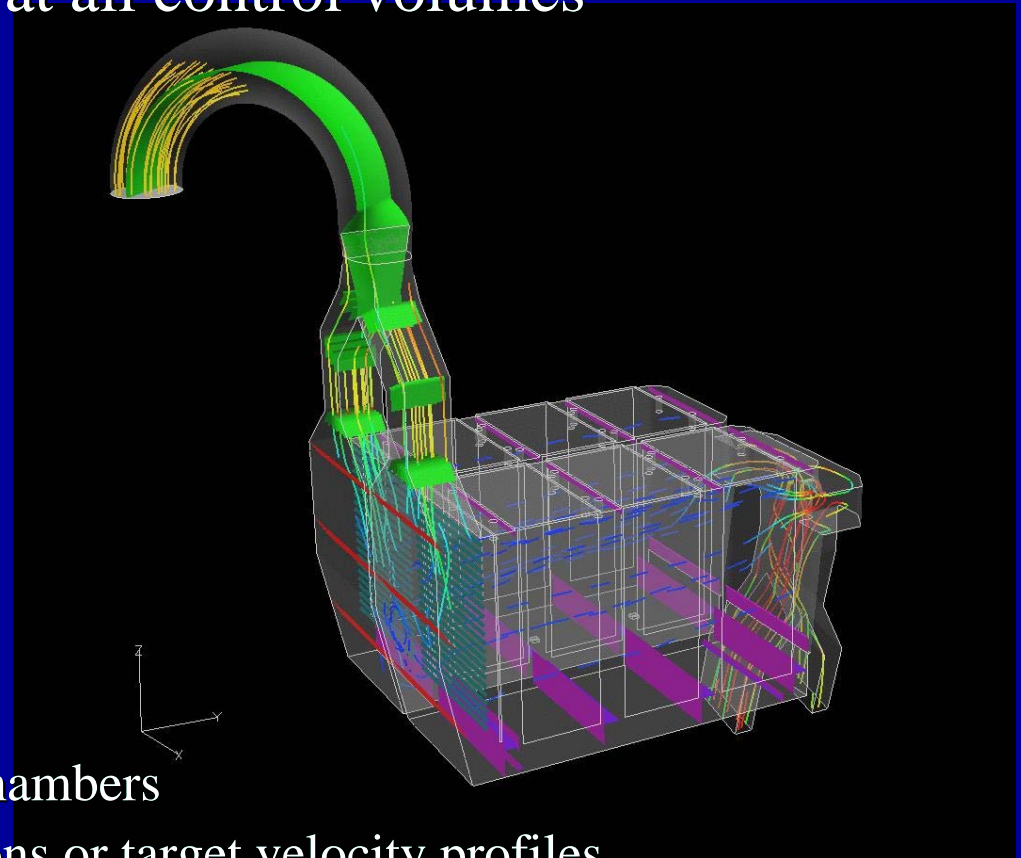
# CFD – Results Analysis

## ❖ Quantitative data available at all control volumes

- Velocity magnitude, directionality
- Temperature
- Pressure
- Turbulence
- Chemical species concentrations
- Particle trajectories

## ❖ Integrated/reduced data

- Mass balance between ESP chambers
- Comparison to ICAC conditions or target velocity profiles
- Correlation to test data

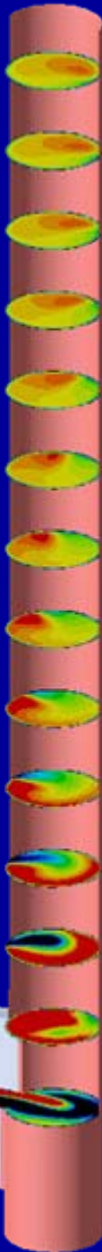
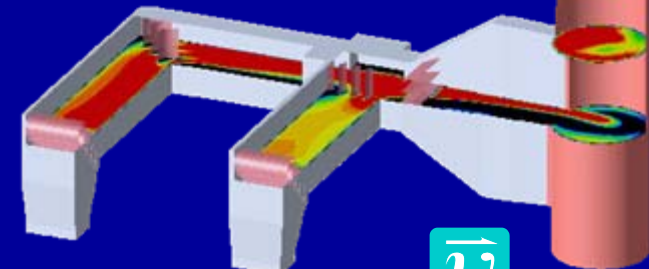
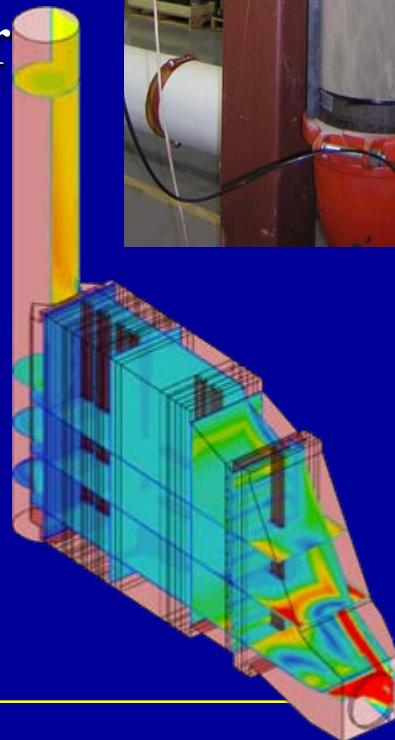


# CFD – Flow Animations



# Other Power Industry Flows

- ❖ Fans / Ducts
- ❖ Pulverizers
- ❖ Windboxes
- ❖ Furnaces
- ❖ Air Heater
- ❖ SCR<sub>s</sub>
- ❖ LPA
- ❖ FGD
- ❖ Stacks
- ❖ ...



# Questions?

If you would like an electronic copy of this presentation, please contact Rob Mudry as follows:  
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