

REINHOLD ENVIRONMENTAL Ltd.



## **2017 NO<sub>x</sub>-Combustion-CCR Round Table Presentation**

February 27 & 28, 2017, in Cleveland, OH / Hosted by FirstEnergy

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# Reinhold Environmental 2017 NOx-Combustion Round Table

## Preventative Maintenance: Cleaning Techniques and Catalyst Cleanliness



**CERAM**

**IBIDEN**

Presented by: Dr. Greg Holscher  
IBIDEN CERAM Environmental, Inc.  
February 28, 2017

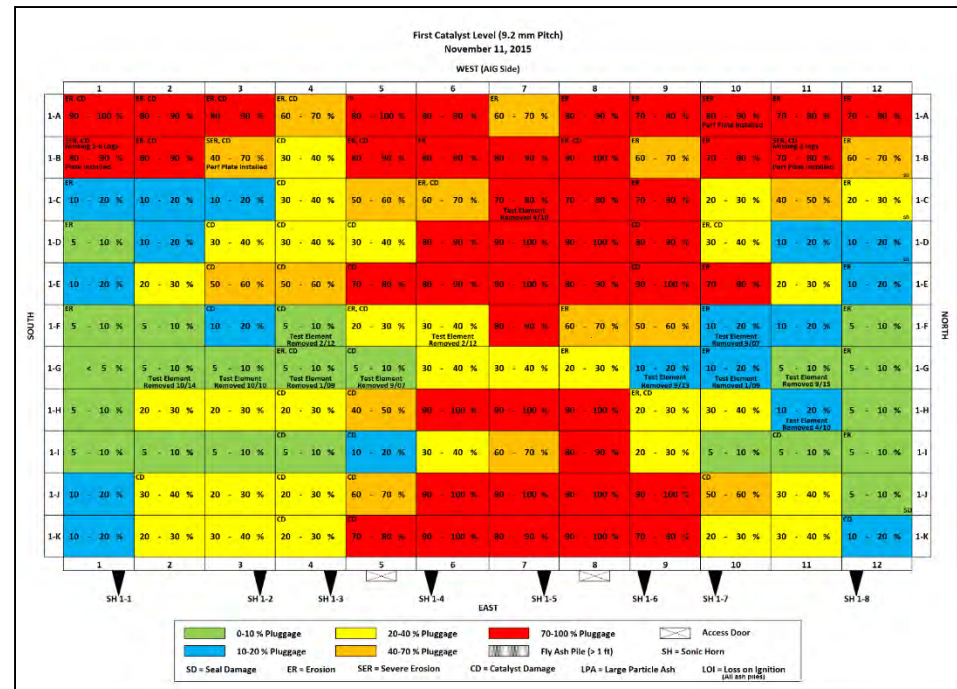
# Special Thanks to the Panelist

- **Jason Bookout**; Senior Engineer; Environmental Systems & Field Support; Catalyst Manager; Southern Company; 6 years
- **Dave Browning**; Consulting Engineer: Fleet Combustion & Performance; Technical Engineer; Outage Manager; FirstEnergy Corporate Technical Services; 14 years
- **Mike O'Connor**; Engineering Programs Manager; Dynegey, Inc.; Prior at Duke, Cinergy and CG&E; 28 years
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- **Jeff Shelton**; Vice President Environmental Solutions; Integrated Global Services; 2 years; Prior at Martin Engineering for 8 years.

# Topics for Panel Discussion

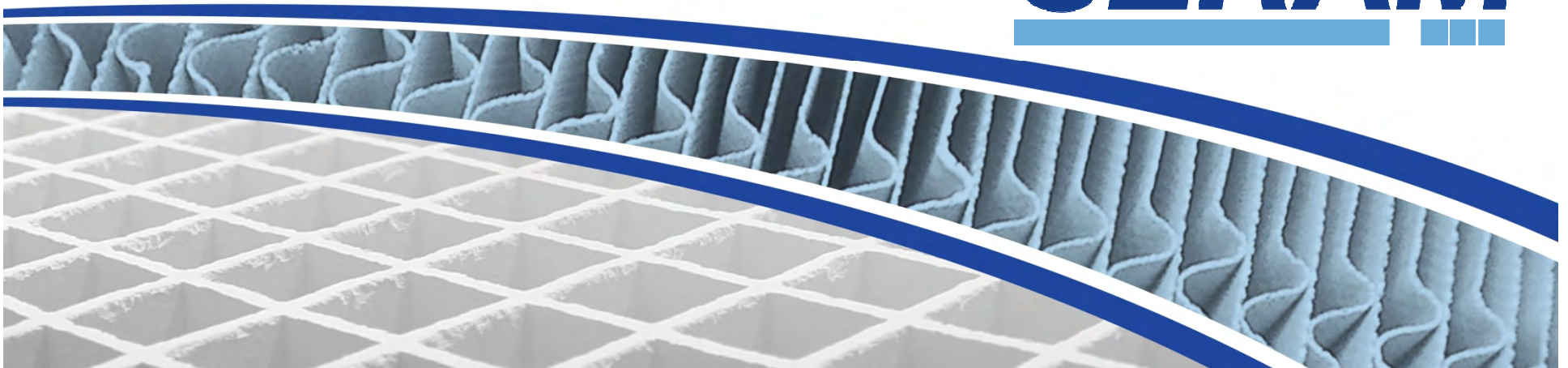
- Pluggage Resistance Catalyst
- Reactor Design & Configuration
- Factors Affecting Pluggage from Operations
- Online Cleaning Devices
- In-Situ Cleaning Technologies
- Fixing the Root Cause of Pluggage

What We Want to Avoid!

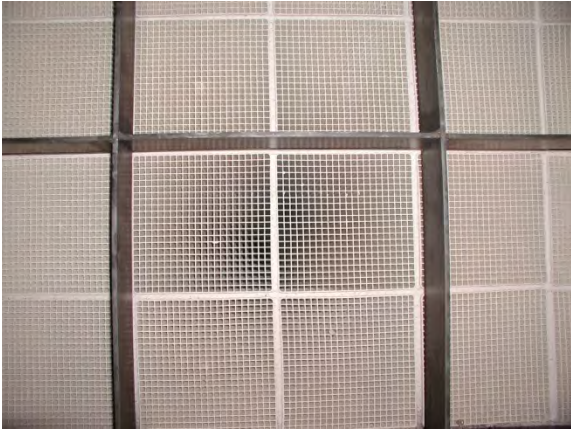


# Pluggage Resistance Catalyst?

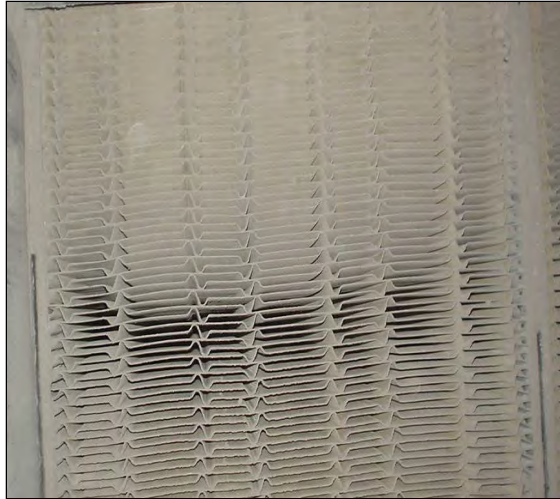
**CERAM**



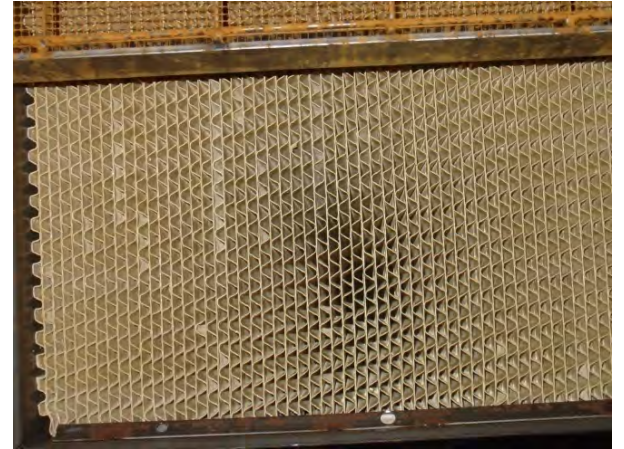
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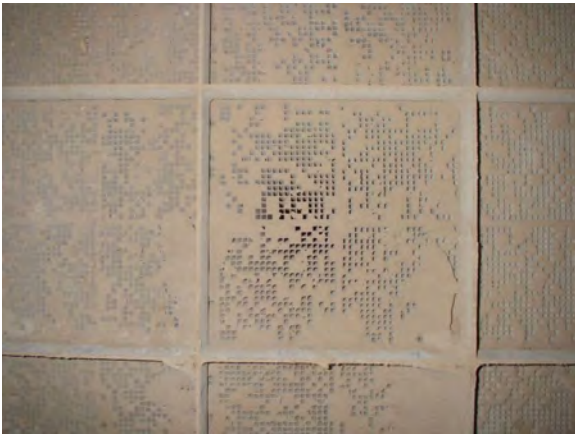
**Honeycomb**



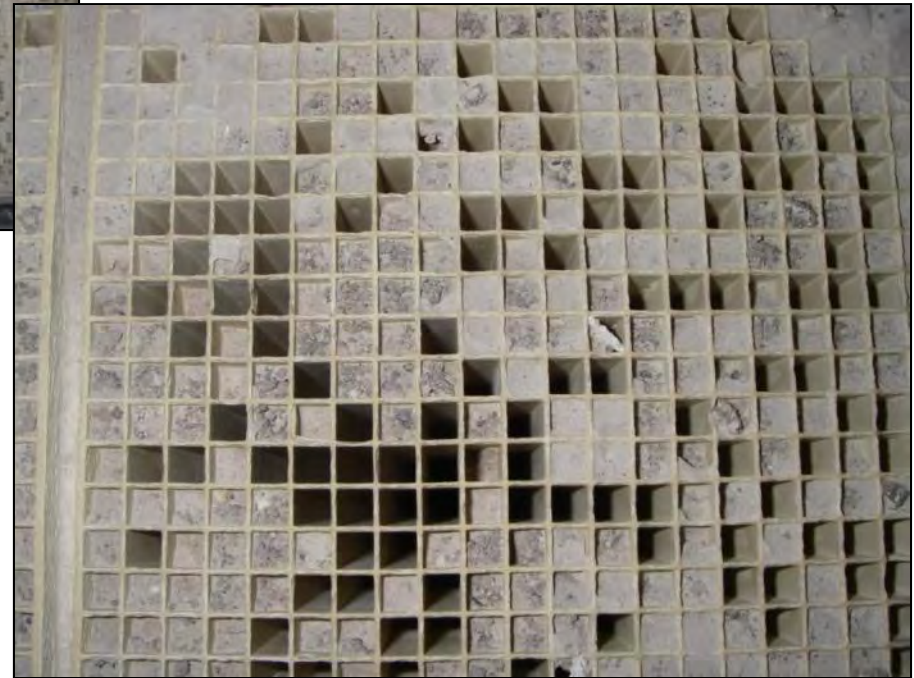
**Plate**



**Corrugated Fiber**



# Catalyst Pluggage – LPA and LOI



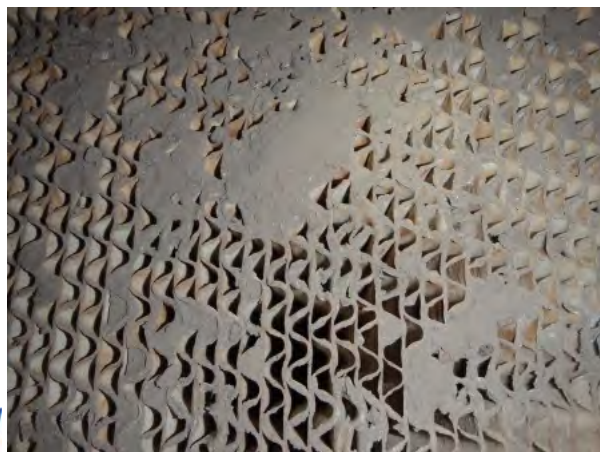
# Catalyst Pluggage – Plate Catalyst



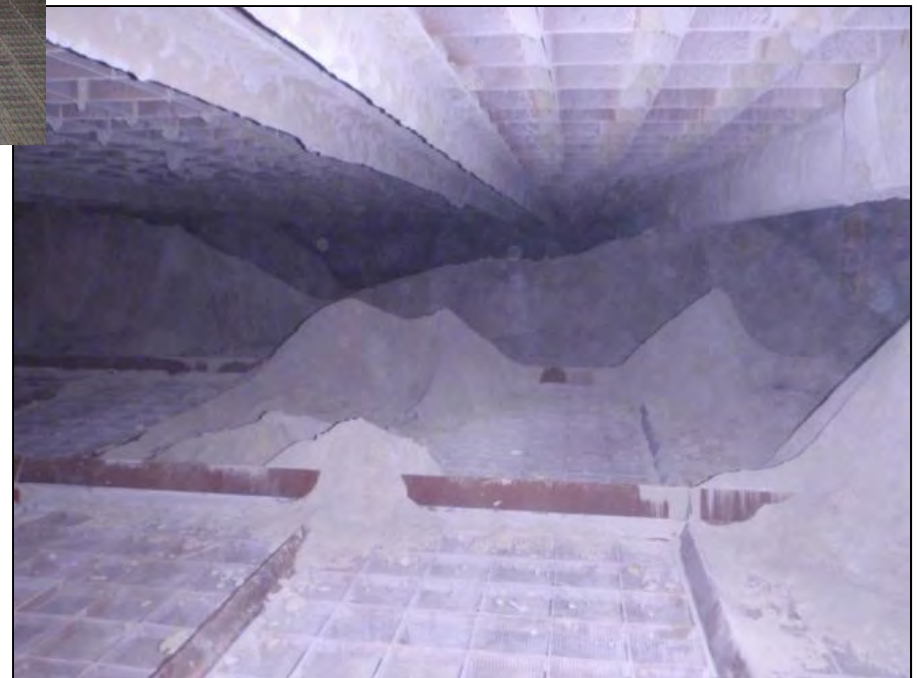
# Catalyst Pluggage – Plate Catalyst



# Catalyst Pluggage – Corrugated Catalyst



# Ash Accumulation



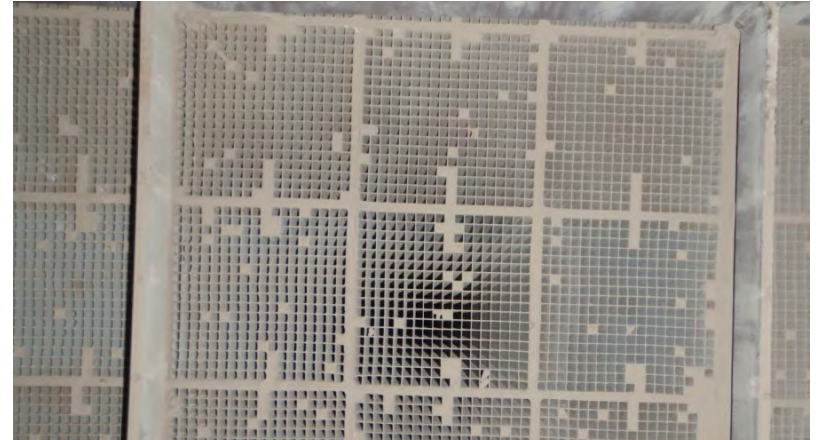
# Ductwork – Ash Dropout



# Relative Pluggage Risk



**Plate Catalyst Pluggage Accumulates  
Between Sub Layers & Inlet**



**Honeycomb Catalyst Pluggage  
Visible From Inlet**

- Pluggage Risk Dependent On...
  - Fuel Ash Loading and Characteristics
  - Flue Gas Flow Conditions Entering Catalyst
  - Catalyst Pitch Selection
- Provided Adequate Pitch & Flow Distributions
- What About Reactor Design or even Cover Grate Design or Varying Pitch Selection?



**Corrugated Catalyst Pluggage  
Between Sub Layers & Inlet**

# Cover Grate Design



CERAM Cover Grate in Level 1  
(Welded Stainless Steel 1 mm Dia.  
with 5 mm Opening)



Woven Wire Mesh Cover Grate in  
Level 4 (4 mm or Less Opening)

# Wygen 3 Cover Grates from IGS



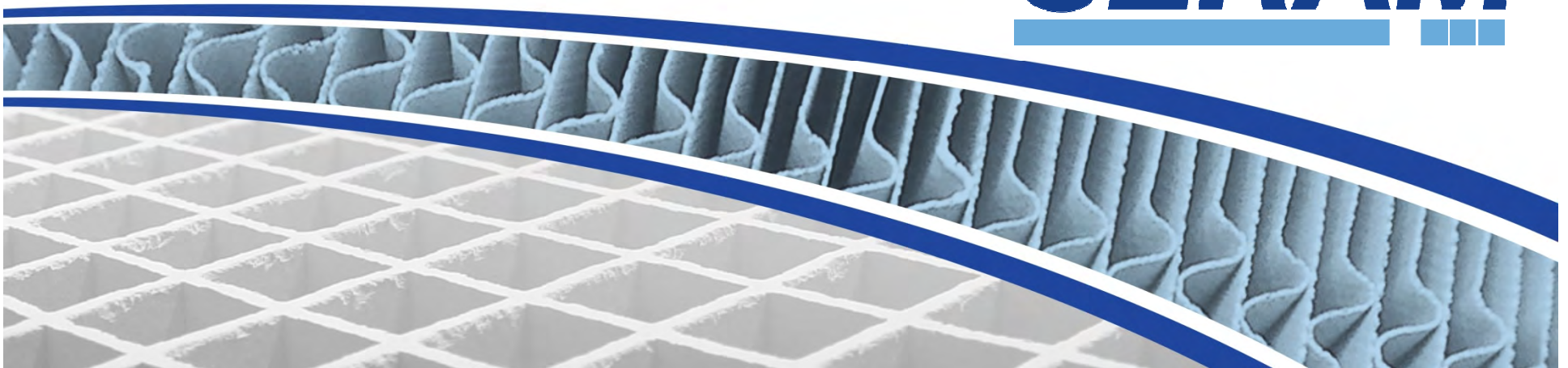
After 1 year of operation



Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

# Reactor Design & Configuration

**CERAM**



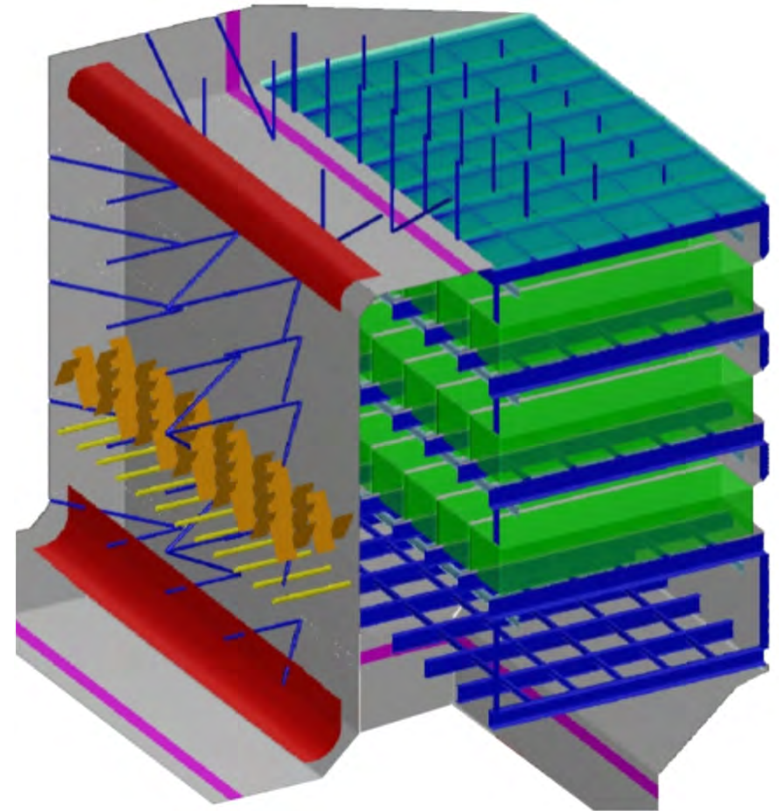
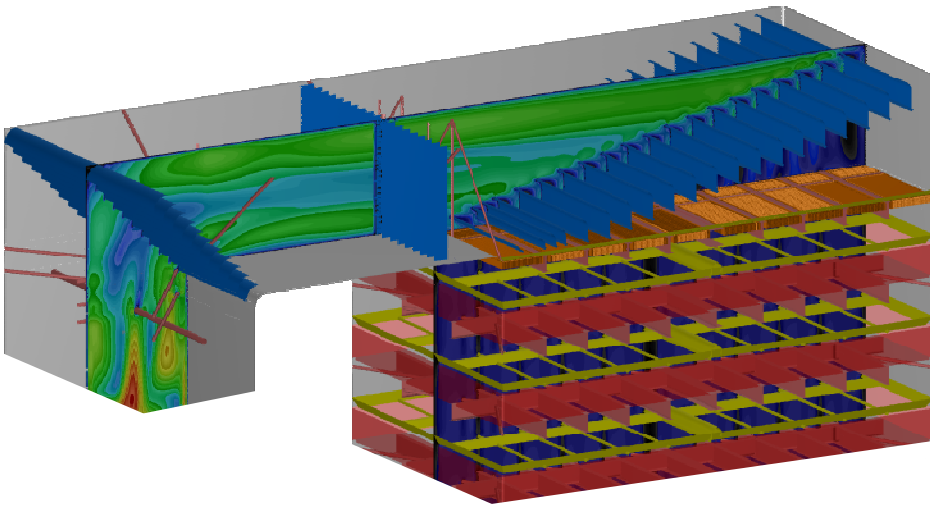
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- Original Designs Over 10-15 Years May Not have Used CFD Modeling
  - Physical Modeling (1/12<sup>th</sup> Scale; Dust Test)
- Past Designs Driven by Engineering Before Flow Modeling Completed
- Lessons Learned – Flow Modeling Should Drive Engineering Design
- Real World Buildup Sometimes Does Not Appear During Modeling

# Reactor Hood Design: Critical

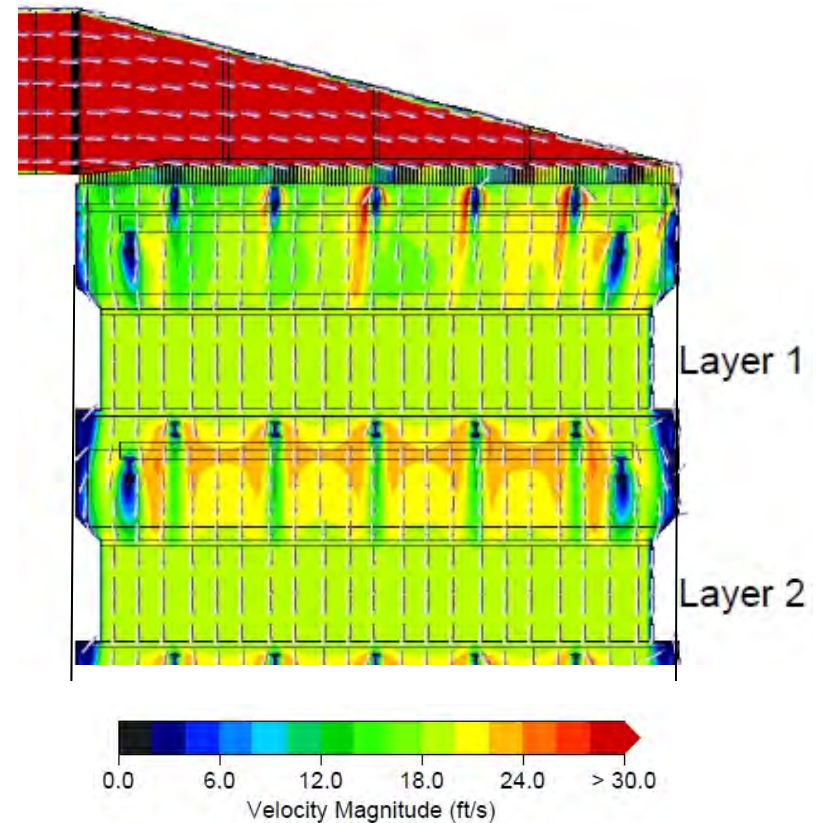
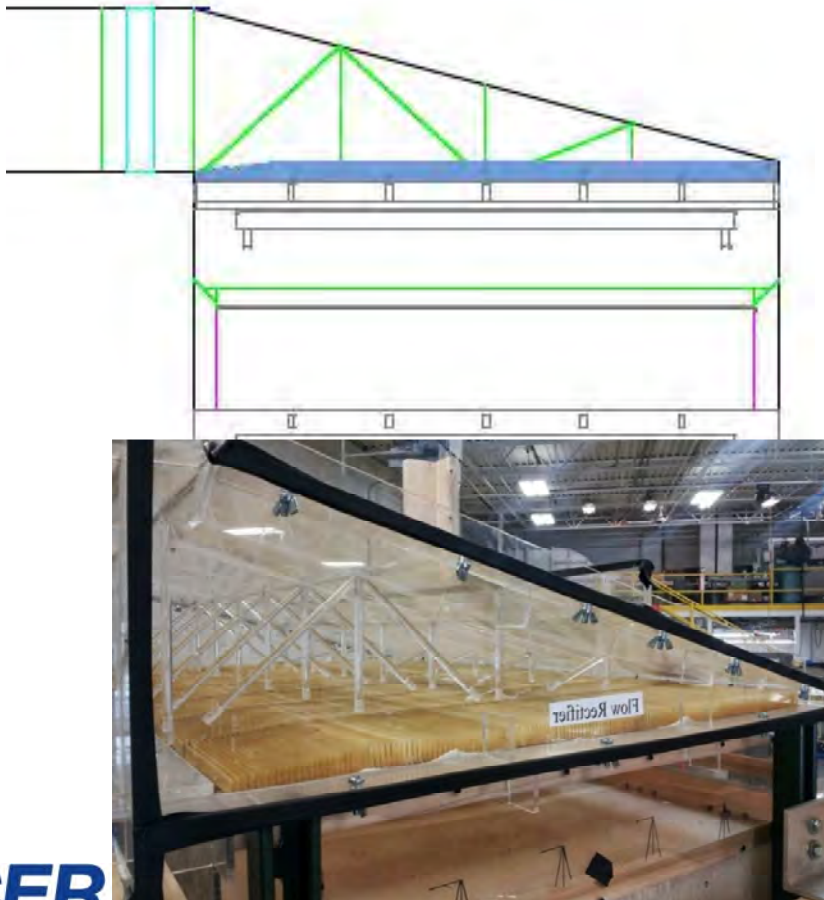
- ❖ Square hood
- ❖ Sloped hood



- ❖ Both work *if designed correctly*

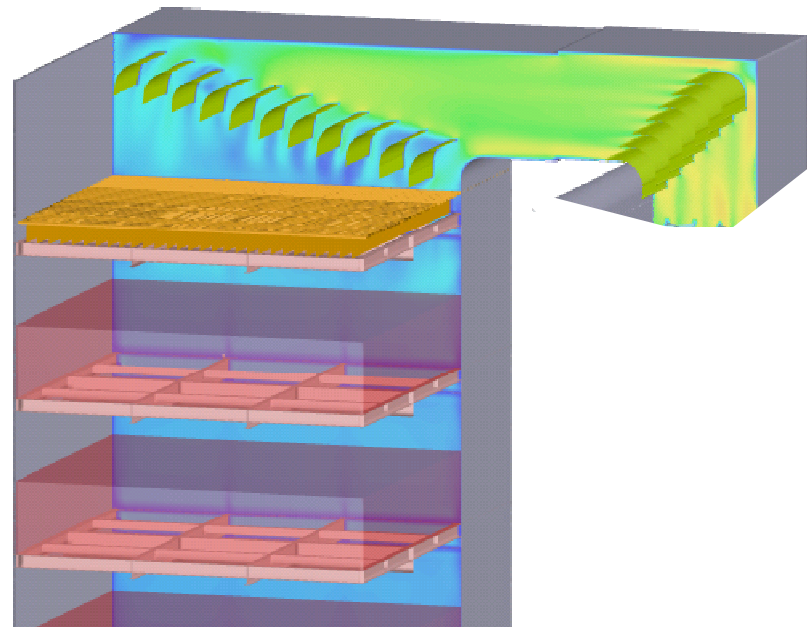
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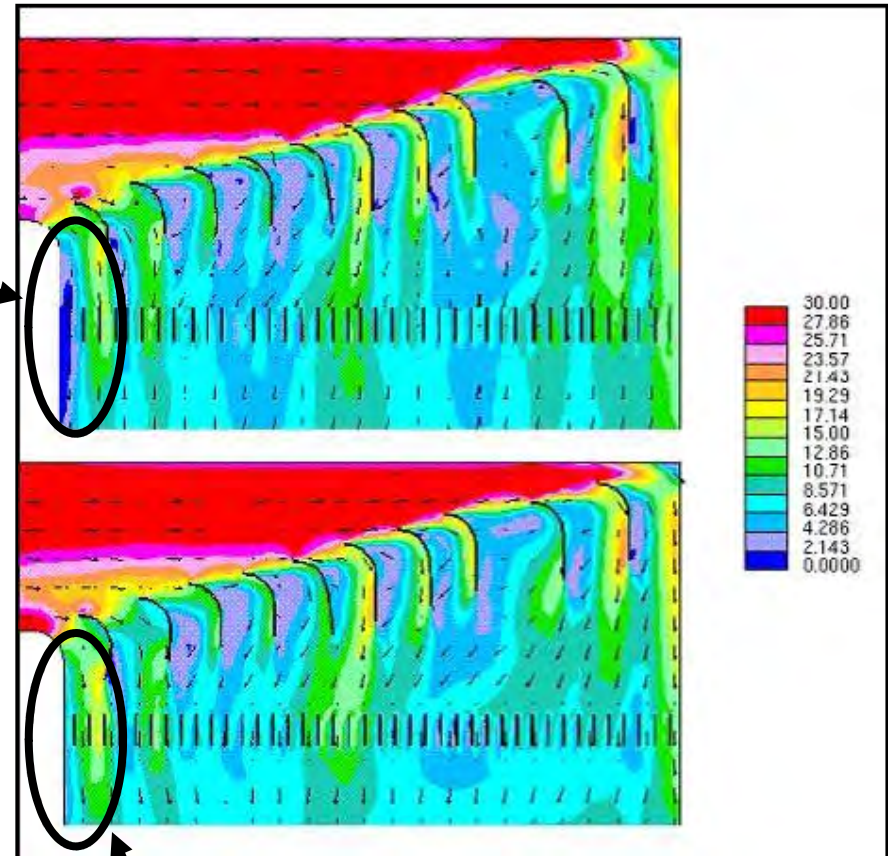
- ❖ Turning vanes
  - Curved vanes
  - Ladder vanes



- ❖ Both work *if designed correctly*

# Reactor Configuration – Importance of Flow Modeling

- Reactor Configuration
  - Distance From Crossover Duct Down to Top of 1<sup>st</sup> Catalyst Layer
- Low Velocity Area Exists Even Though Distributions Are Achieved
- Low Vel = Increased Pluggage Risk
- Optimized Designs are Possible



Eliminate Through CFD Modeling

# Reactor Configuration – Flow Modeling



Fly ash pile located below gusset plate due to ash shear

- Lessons Learned – Real World Buildup Sometimes Does Not Appear During Modeling
- Locations of Trusses and Gusset Plate Configurations



# Flow Distribution Device Design

- Lessons Learned – Ash Buildup on Vanes and Internal Structural Members
- Locations of Gusset Plates
- Turning Vane Design



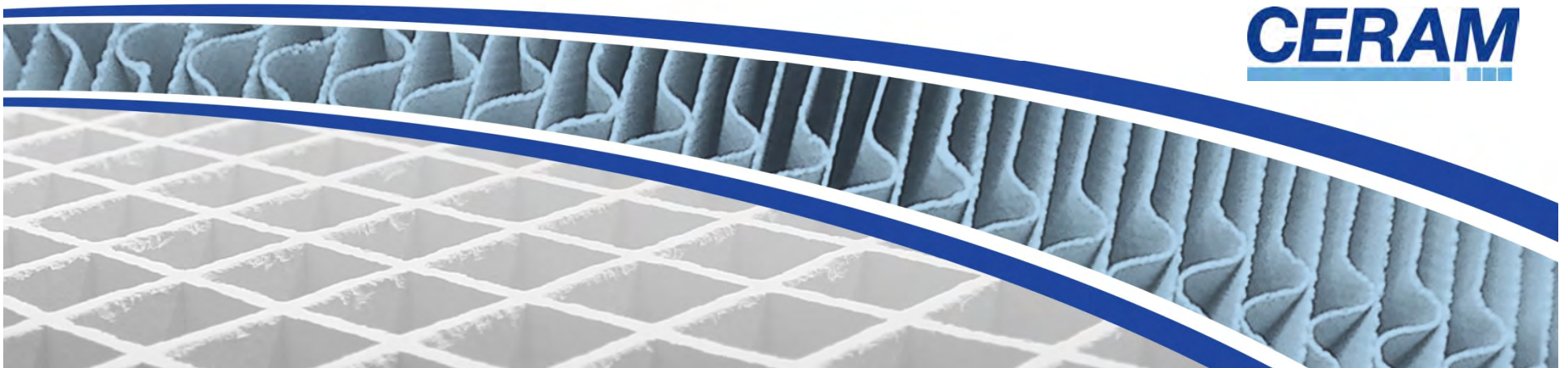
Ash Buildup on Vanes

Affects of Ash Shear



# Factors Affecting Pluggage From Operations

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# Eliminate LPA Prior to Catalyst



Large Particle Ash (LPA)



STEAG LPA Screen

- Large Particle Ash Can Be Present and Should be Controlled as Part of System Design
- LPA Pluggage of Catalyst Leads to...
  - High Pressure Drops
  - Mechanical Damage
  - Reduced Performance Potential
- Effective and Durable Screen Designs are Required
  - Located With Ash Removal
  - Located at Proper Velocity
  - Simple and Advanced Designs Have Both Succeeded and Also Had Problems
- Flow Modeling and Physical Changes are Likely Necessary

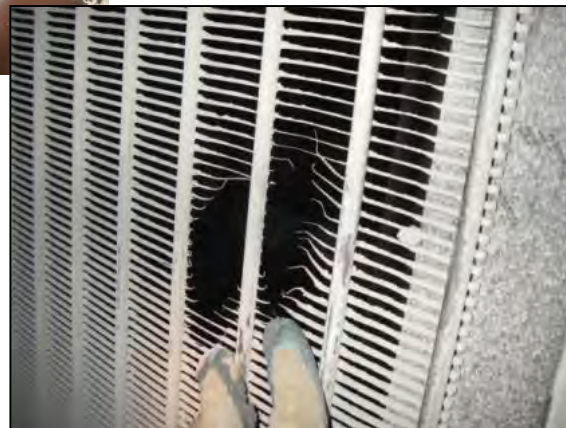
# Simple & Advanced LPA Screens Can Succeed or Fail

- Proper Choices of LPA Screen Design are Site Specific
- Ensure Proper Velocity at LPA Screen
- Remove Material From Hoppers
- Cleaning Device (Sonic Horn, Rapper, etc.)

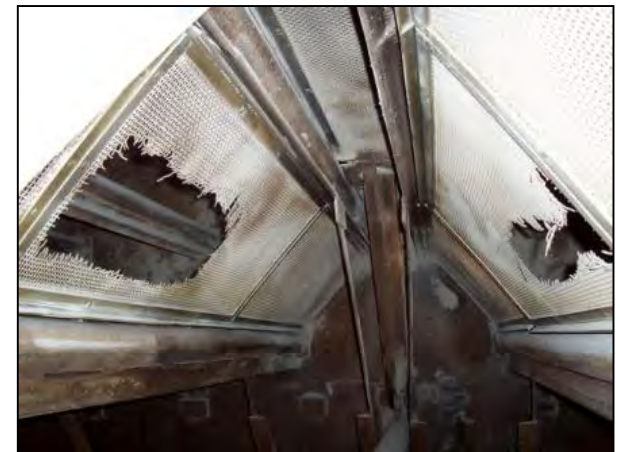
## Stainless Steel Screen Failed at Fasteners (High Velocity)



Damaged LPA Screen Material



Coated & Non-Coated Screens Failed (High Velocity)

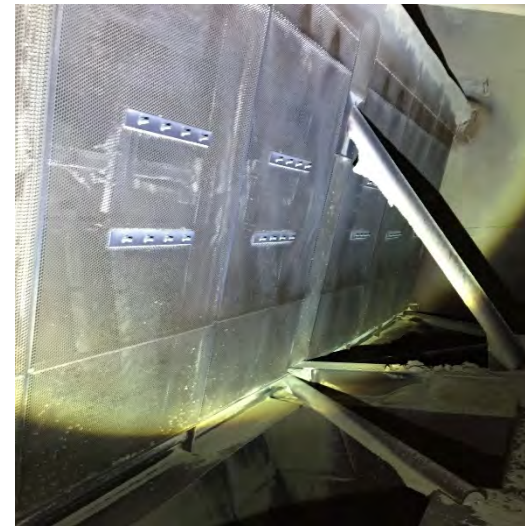


# Pluggage Due to LPA

Before LPA Screen



After Install of LPA Screen



Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

# Minimize Carbon Carryover



Reactor Accumulation of Unburned Carbon



Plate Catalyst With Accumulated Unburned Carbon

- The Control of Unburned Carbon is Important for Reliable DeNO<sub>x</sub> Operation
- All DeNO<sub>x</sub> Catalyst Has Oxidizing Properties and Will Tend to Oxidize Unburned Carbon
- Oxidized Carbon Sticks to Catalyst and Can Result in Pluggage
- Accumulation on Catalyst Increases Risk of Pluggage and Fires
- Increased Potential for Needing Offline, Out of Reactor Cleaning
- Homogeneous Honeycomb Catalyst Consists of Fully Oxidized Material
- Metal Substrates Can Lead to Increased Potential for Fires

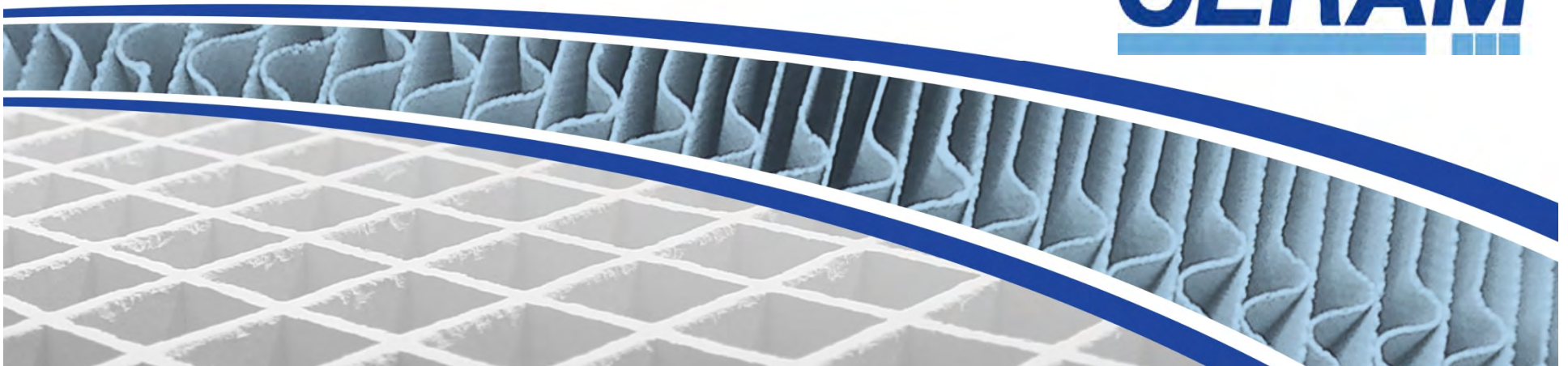
# Pluggage Leads to Erosion Which Can Affect Any Catalyst Type

- Erosion Risk Varies as Ratio of Flow to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Power
- Exposed Plate Stainless Steel Provides No Activity and Available for SO<sub>2</sub> to SO<sub>3</sub> Conversion
- Managed by Limiting Face Velocity
  - Minimize Catalyst Pluggage



# Online Cleaning Devices

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# Sootblowers – More O&M Cost Than Sonic Horns, But Are They Working?



**Sootblower Set to Improper Pressure (Compressed Air Setting Instead of Steam Setting) Ineffective at Cleaning Catalyst**

- Lessons Learned
  - Sootblowers Effective If Ash Fluidized; No Cleaning Device Effective with Poor Flow Distribution
  - Increase Frequency Based on Pressure Drop
  - Check Operation Daily

# Sonic Horns – Look Good Outside, But Are They Working?



- Lessons Learned
  - Sonic Horn Effective If Ash Fluidized;  
No Cleaning Device Effective with Poor Flow  
Distribution
  - Insulate Outside to Minimize Corrosion in  
Throat/Bell
  - Check Operation Daily



# Ash Sweepers



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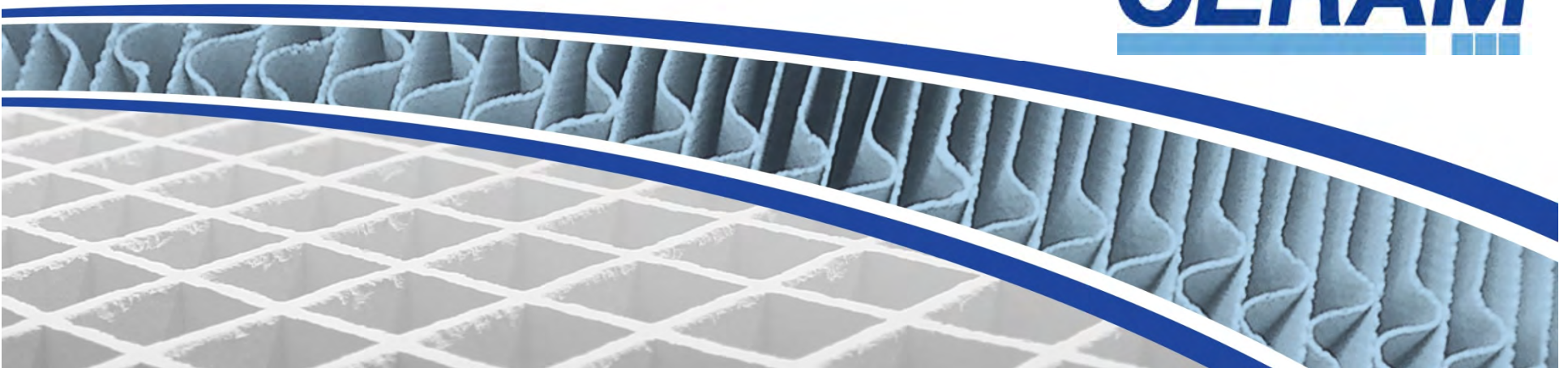


**After Ash Sweeper**

**03.05.2012 10:39**

# In-situ Cleaning

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# Example of “Mechanical” Cleaning Not Recommended



# Vacuuming and Pneumatic Cleaning



# Vibrational Cleaning



# Sponge Blasting

Patent Pending *Sponge Blasting Process* utilizes polyurethane foam media to **Safely Remove Hardened Ash from the Surface and Within the Catalyst Modules.**



Before Sponge Blasting



After Sponge Blasting



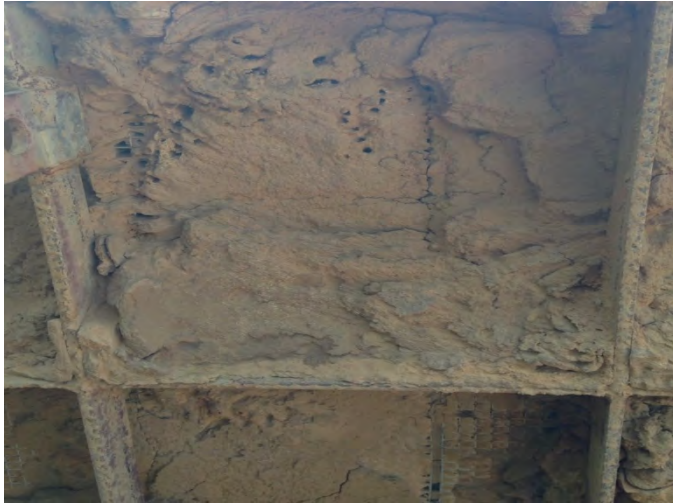
Photos courtesy of Michael Ware SCR Solutions, Inc.  
& Thompson Industrial Services, LLC

# Sponge Blasting Video

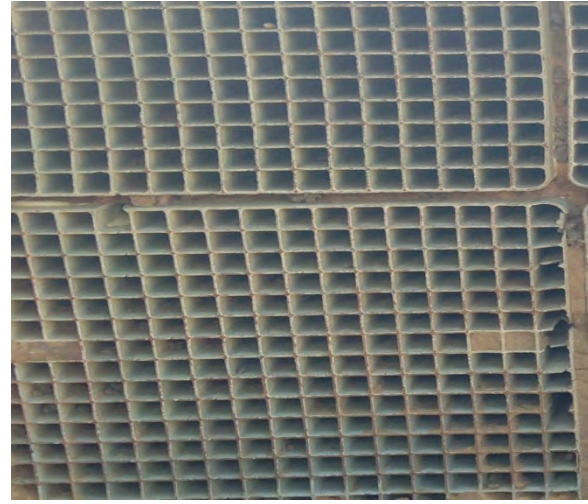


# Sponge Blasting

BEFORE



AFTER



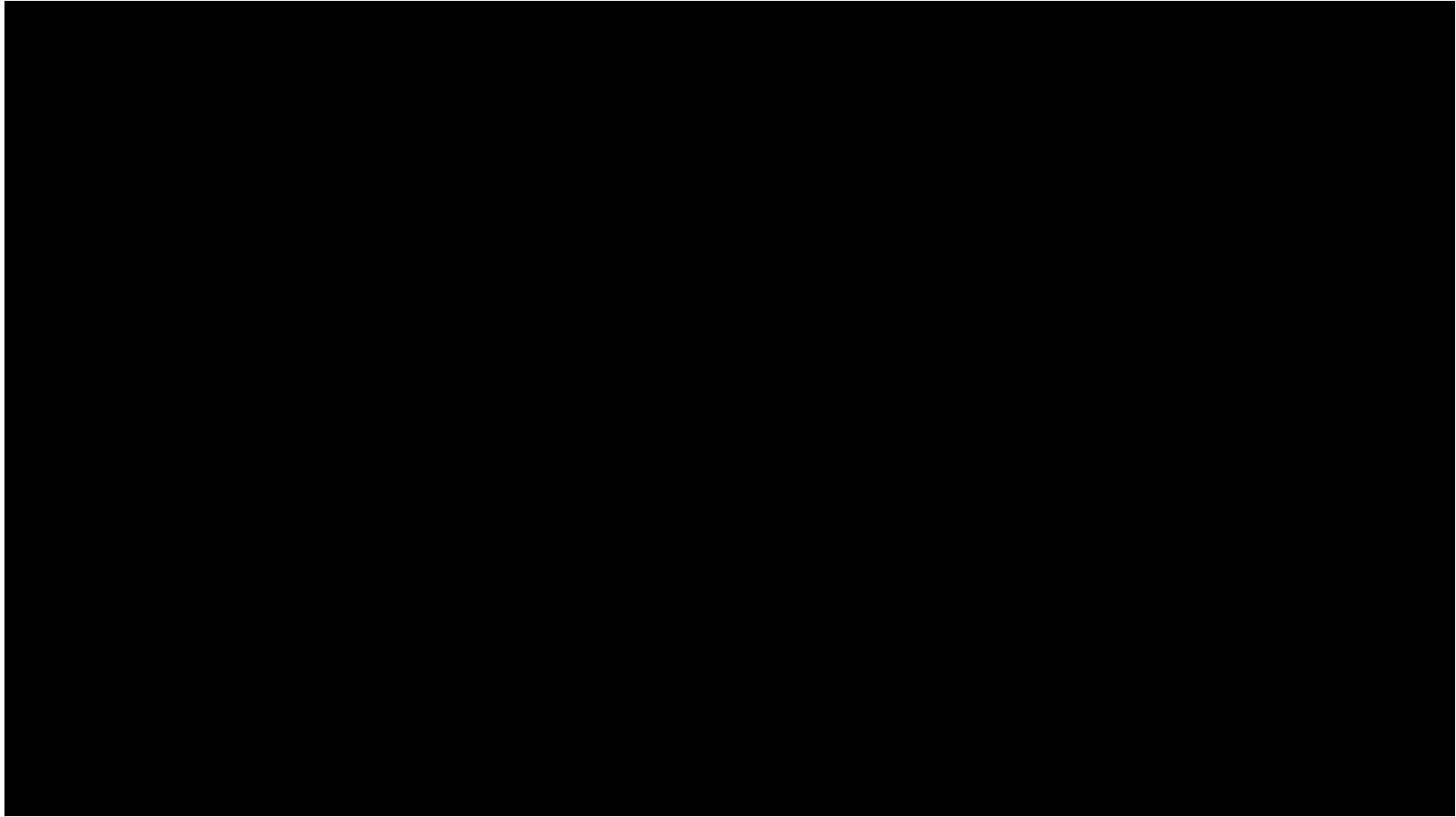
This combination of methods **Safely Clears the Catalyst of Potentially Harmful Contaminates** that cannot be achieved by traditional methods.



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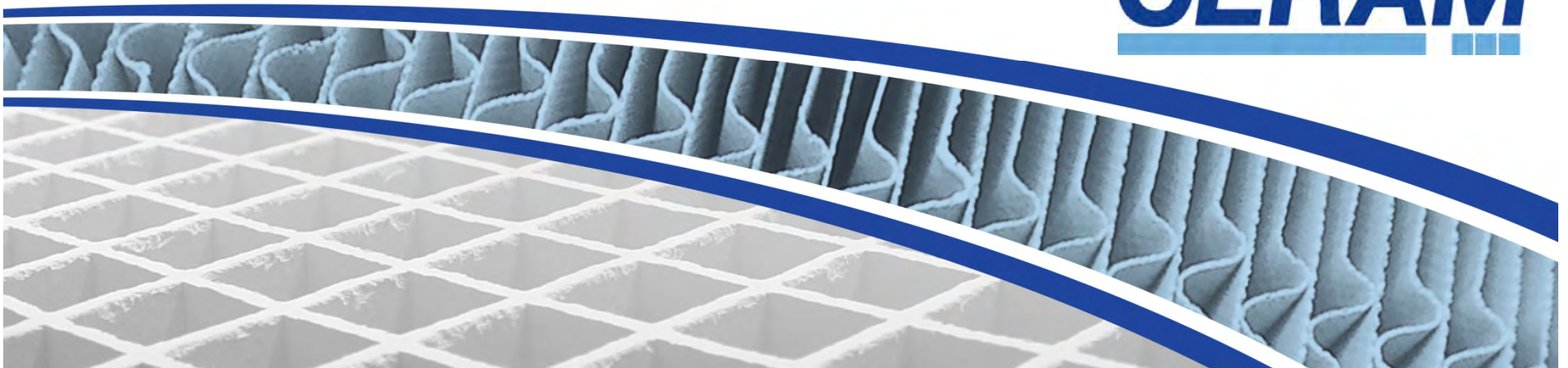
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# Dry Ice Blasting



# Fix “Root” Cause of Pluggage

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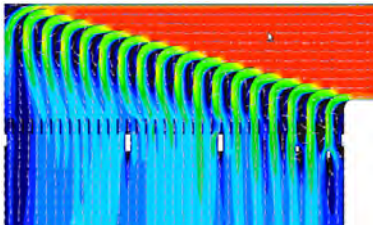
# Flow Modeling Methods

- ❖ CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics)
- ❖ Cold Flow Scale Modeling (dust testing)
- ❖ Hot Flow Scale Modeling (real ash)
- ❖ Wind Tunnel Testing
  - To determine ash drop-out and re-entrainment aerodynamic behavior
  - Ambient or Hot Wind Tunnel

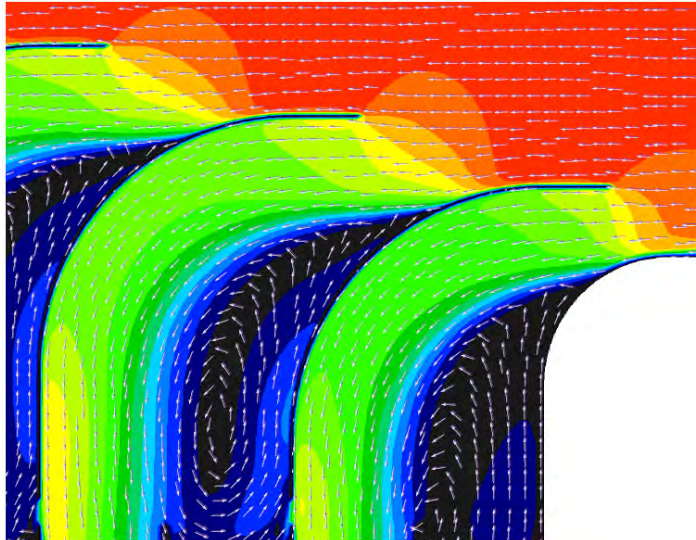
# Ash Deposition – Reactor Hood Vanes

- ❖ CFD model and field observations show root cause
  - Flow separation and recirculation on vane surface
  - Not *designed correctly*
  - Occasional avalanche can cause catalyst pluggage issue
  - Hood vane redesign required

Hood vanes



Vane detail



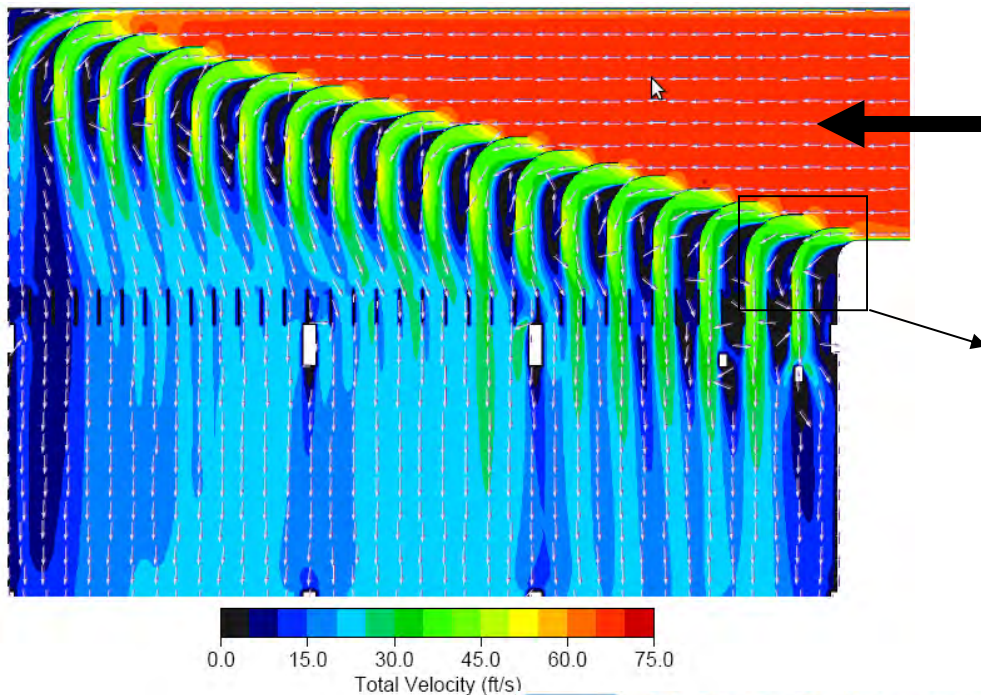
(black = recirc zone)

Ash buildup

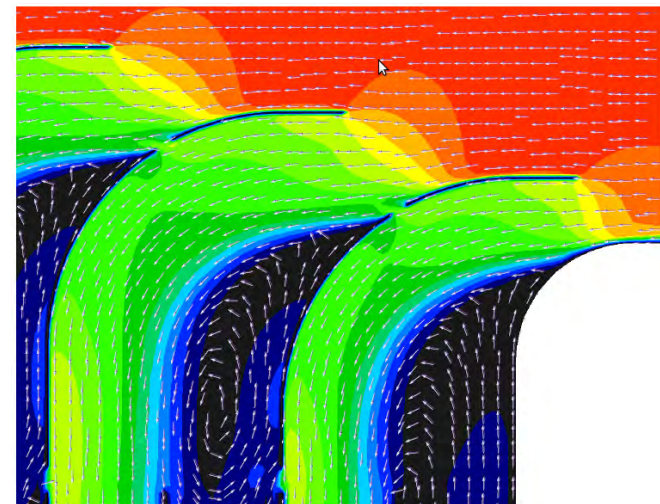


# Ash Deposition – Reactor Hood Vanes

- ❖ CFD model used to evaluate design mods
  - Reduce ash accumulation with minimal degradation of velocity uniformity to catalyst
  - “Slots” can be cut in vanes with strategic location and



Close-up at inner corner



# Ash Deposition – Reactor Hood Vanes

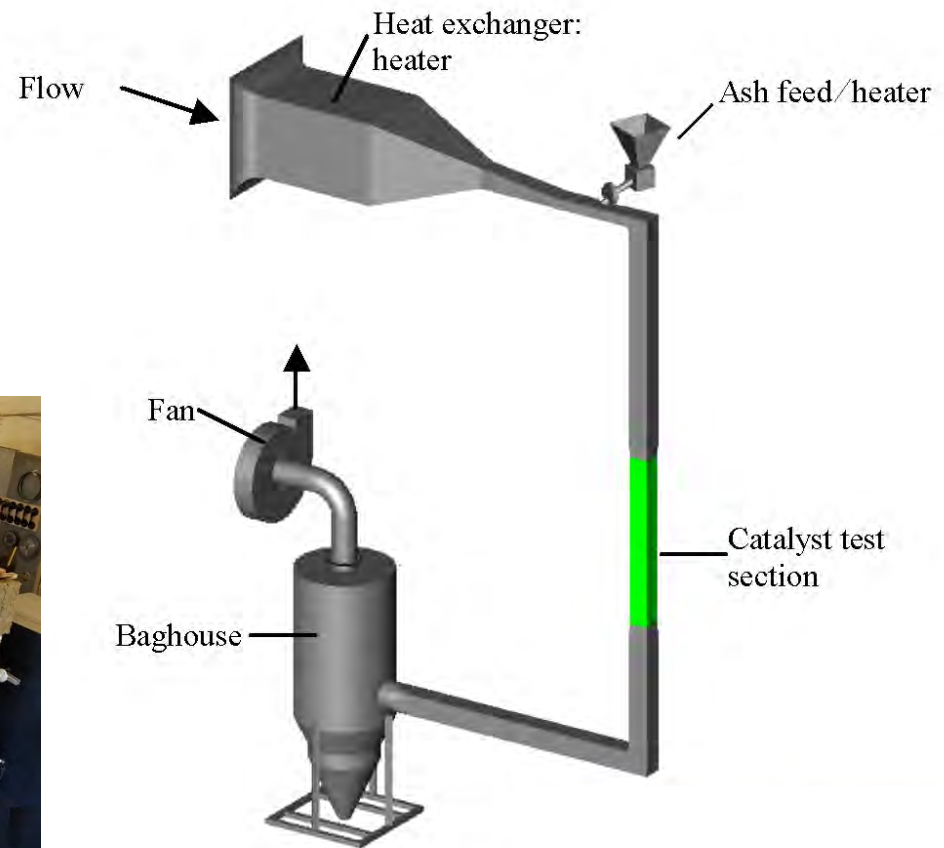
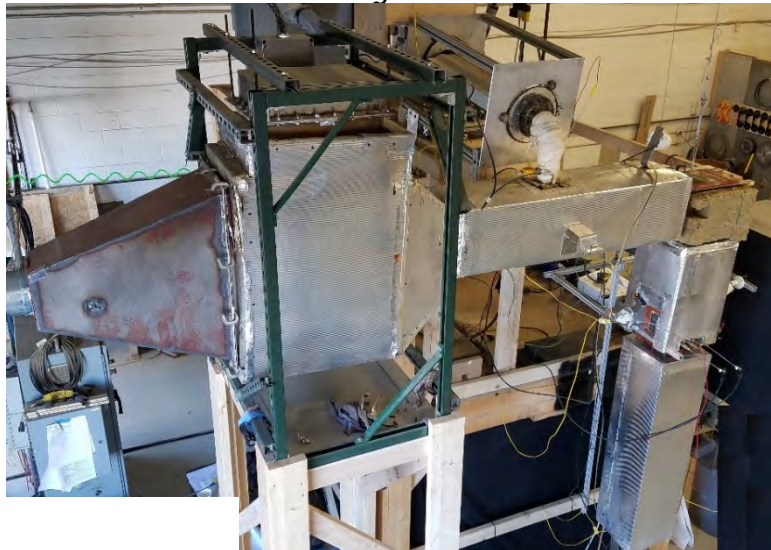
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# Ash Deposition – Hot Flow Modeling

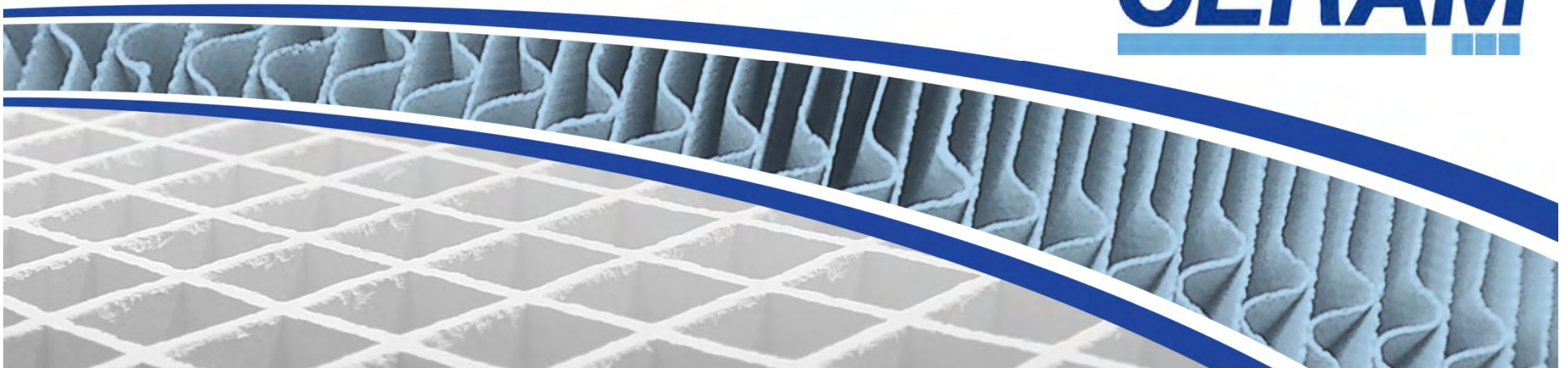
## ❖ Hot Flow Model

- Testing under actual temperature conditions
- Real ash, not laboratory dust



# Summary

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# Pluggage is Minimized By...

- Pluggage is Minimized by....
  - Proper Pitch and Wall Thickness Selection
  - Proper Cover Grate Selection
  - Proper Gas Velocity in Ductwork and the Reactor (Flow Modeling)
  - Proper Boiler Operation (e.g., LOI, LPA, etc.)
    - LPA Screen Design
  - Proper Maintenance and Operation of Online Cleaning Devices
  - Proper Isolation During Outages (Avoiding Condensation if Possible)
- In-situ Cleaning Technologies
  - Vacuuming/Air Lancing; Vibrational/Sponge; Dry Ice Blasting
  - Cost Considerations
- Flow Modeling Very Effective at “Fixing” Root Cause
  - Rate of Return with Less Pressure Drop & More Surface Area (Longer Time Between Catalyst Events)

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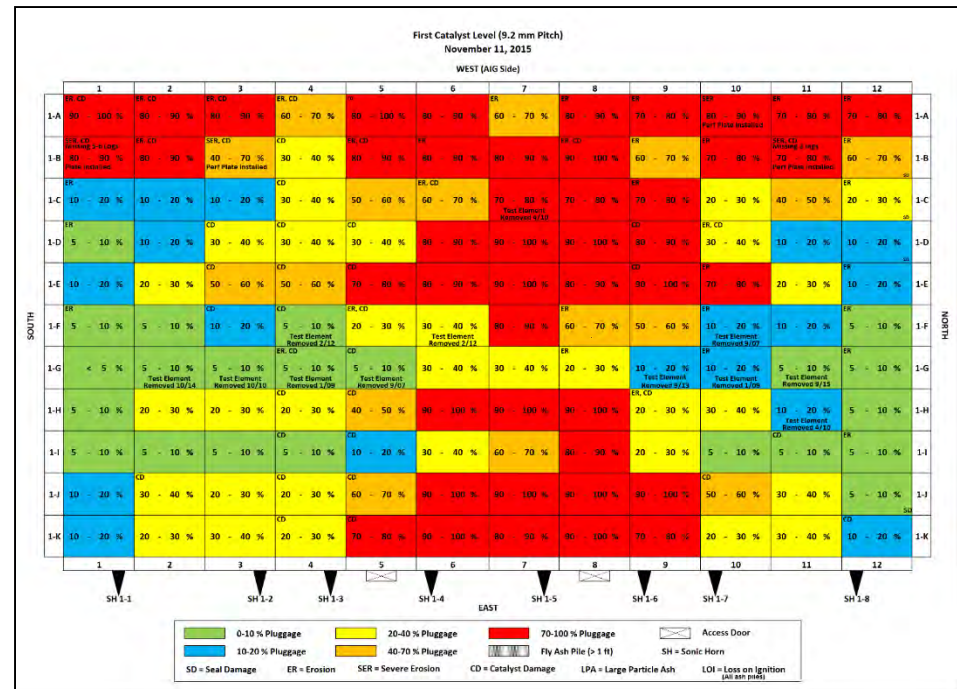
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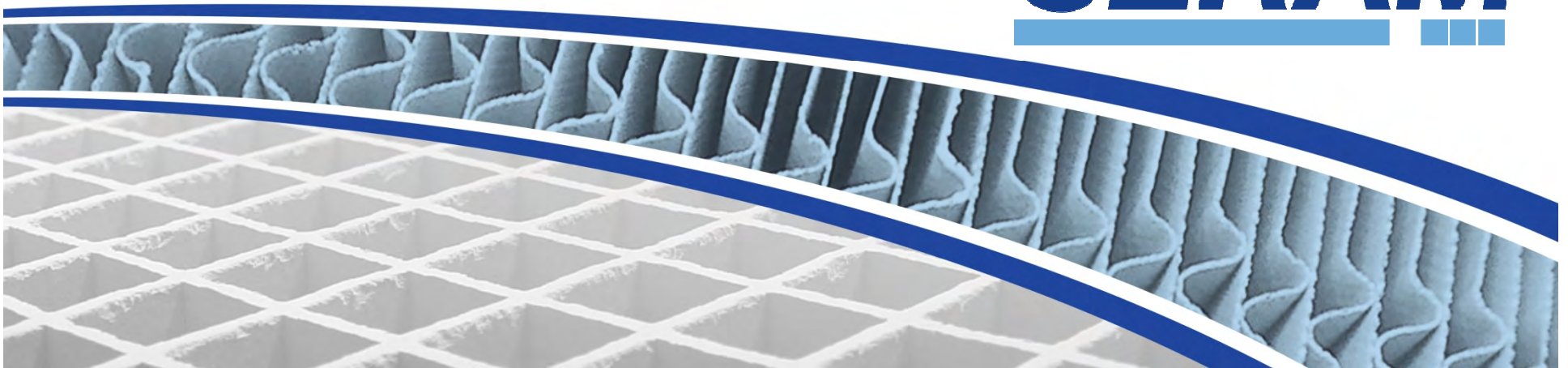
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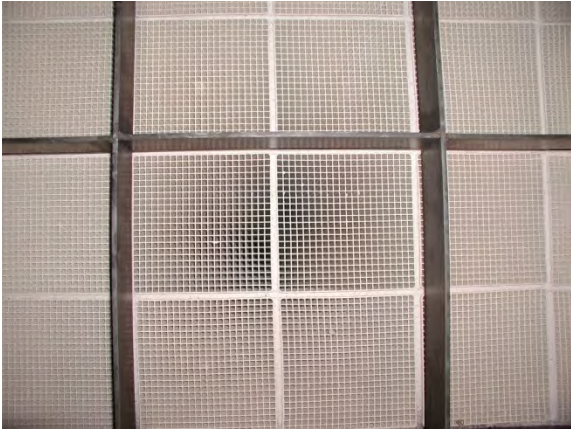


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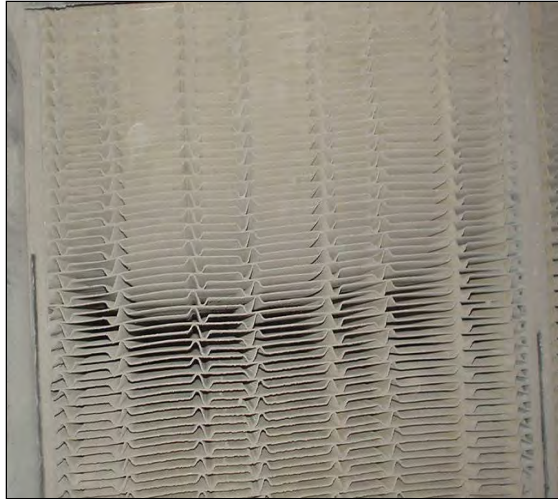
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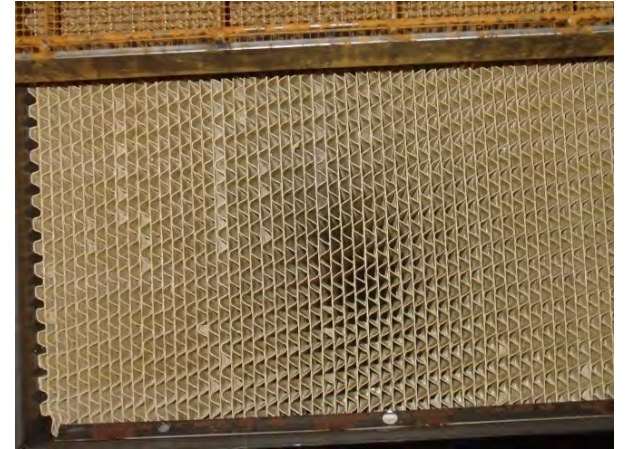
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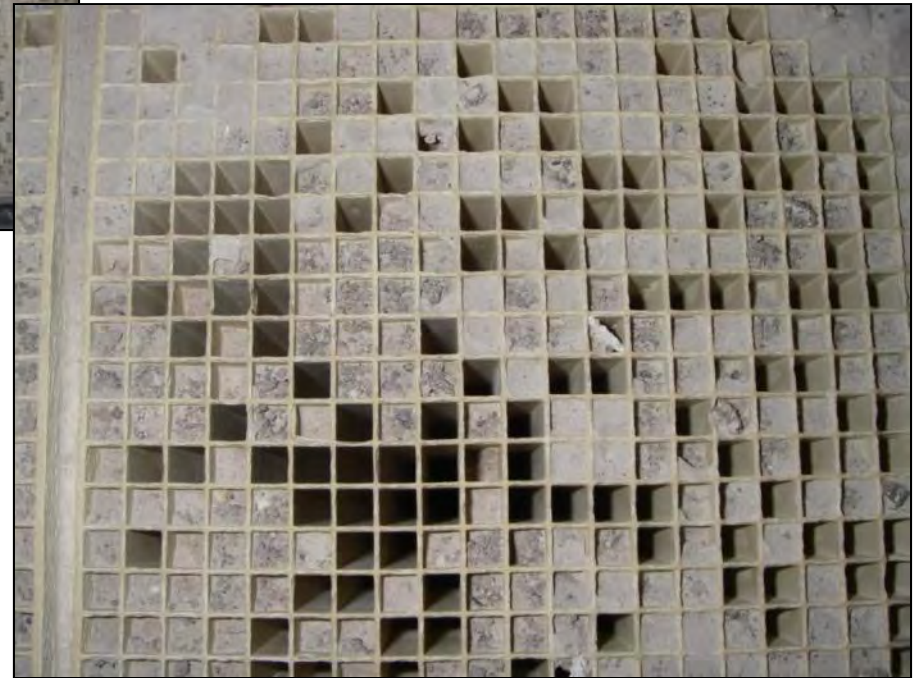
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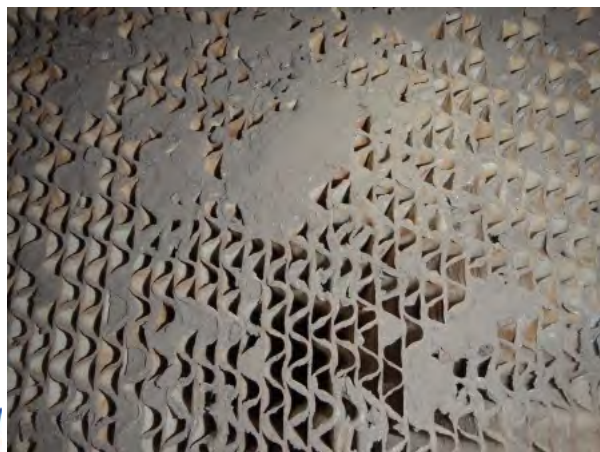
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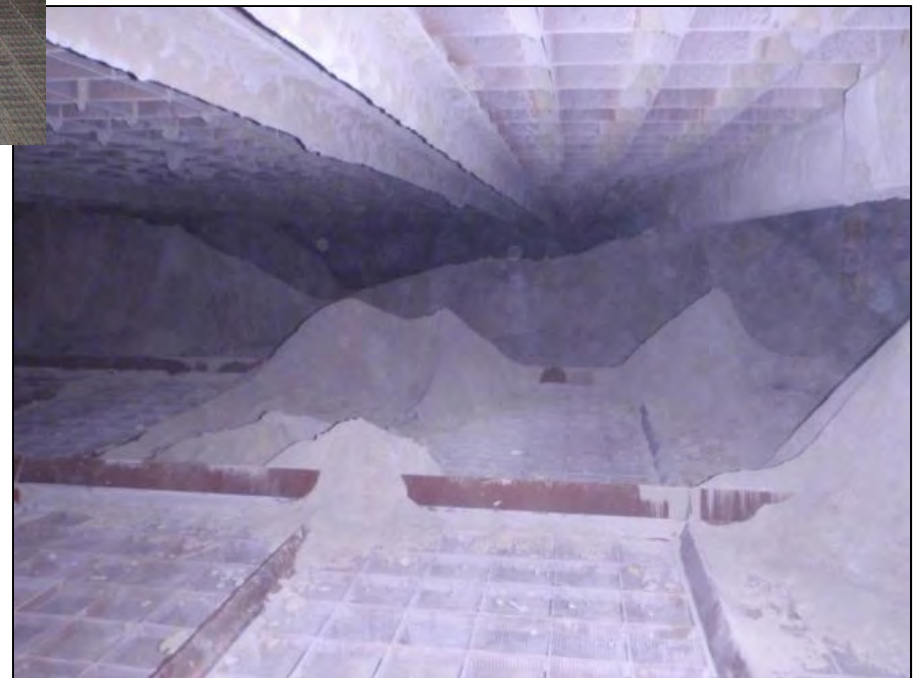
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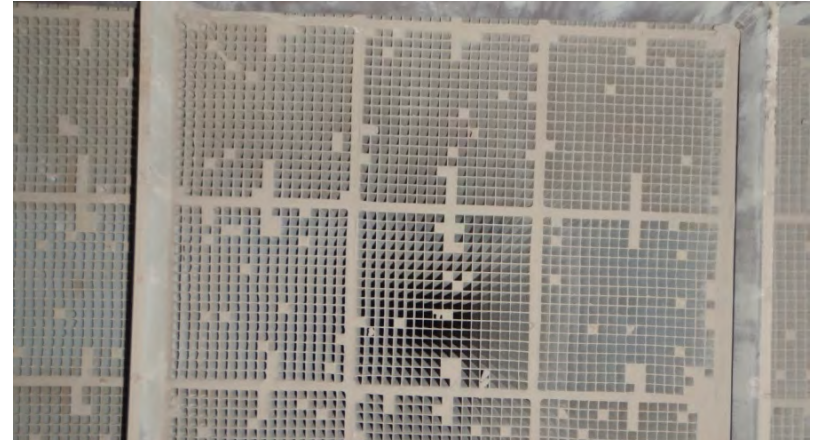
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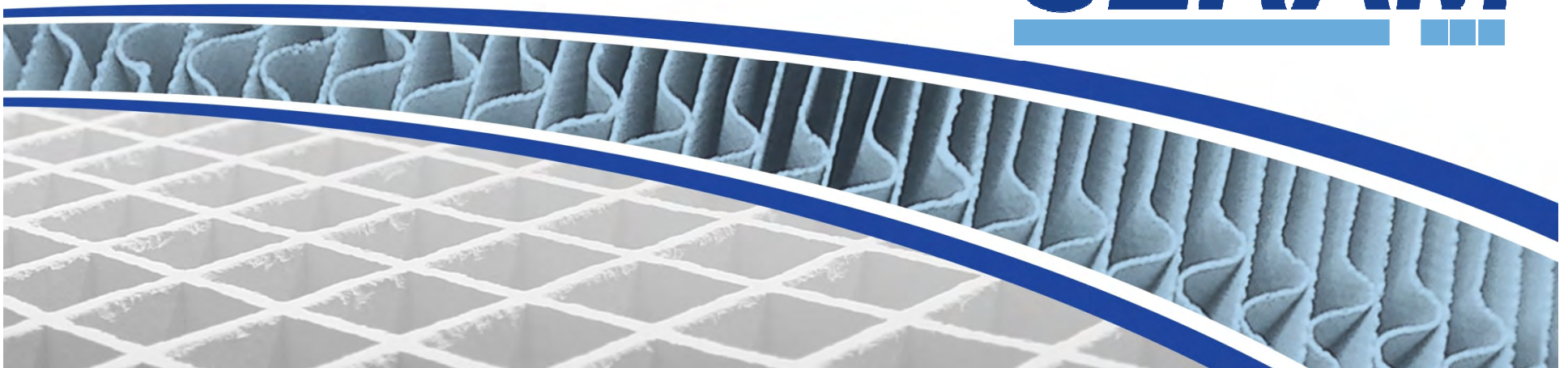
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Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

# Reactor Design & Configuration

**CERAM**



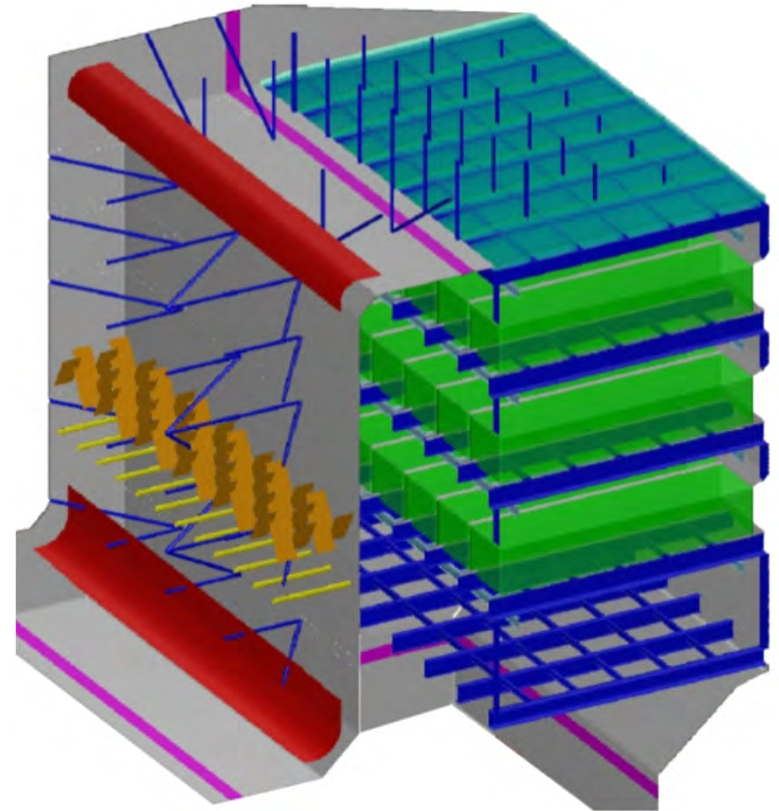
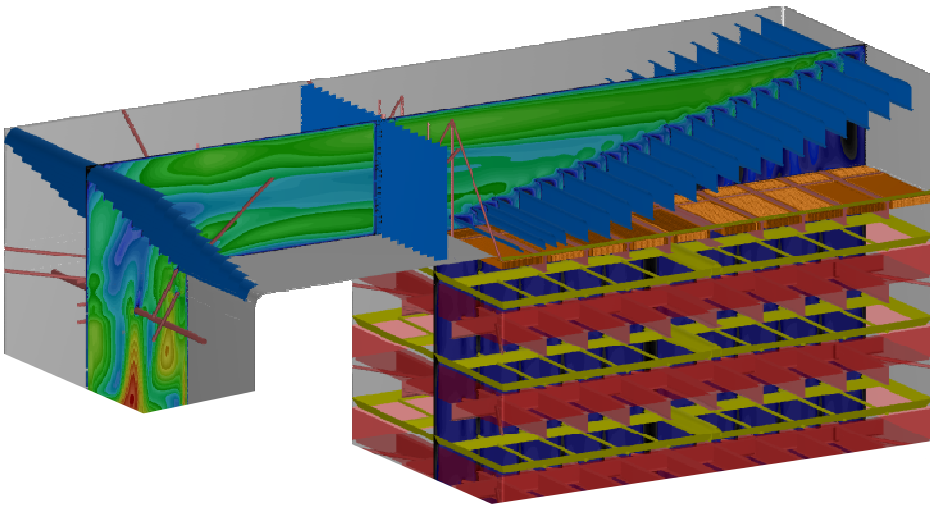
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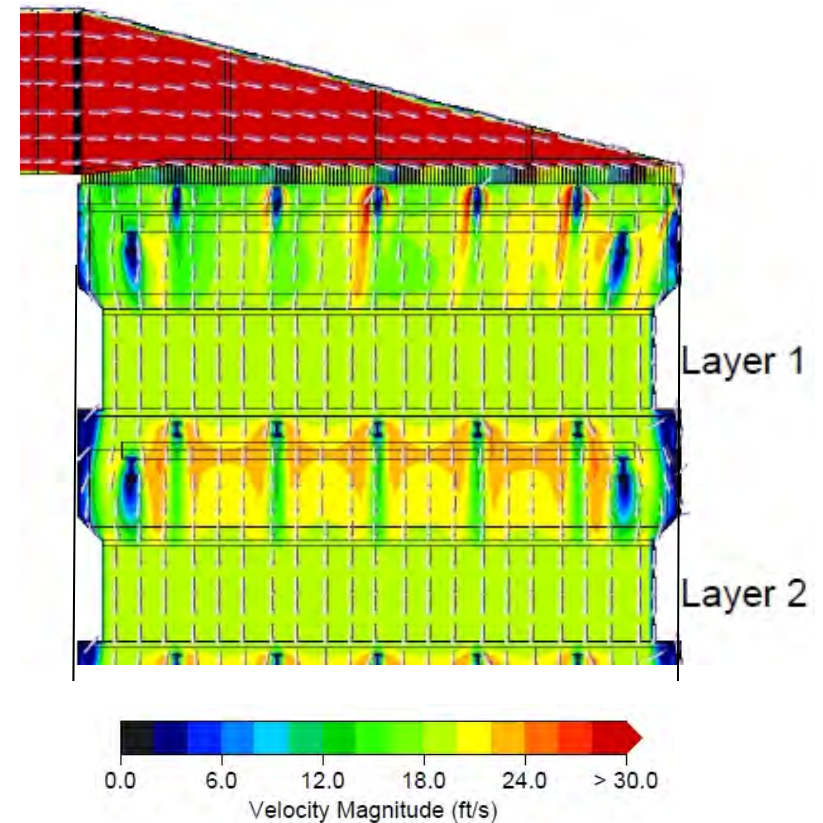
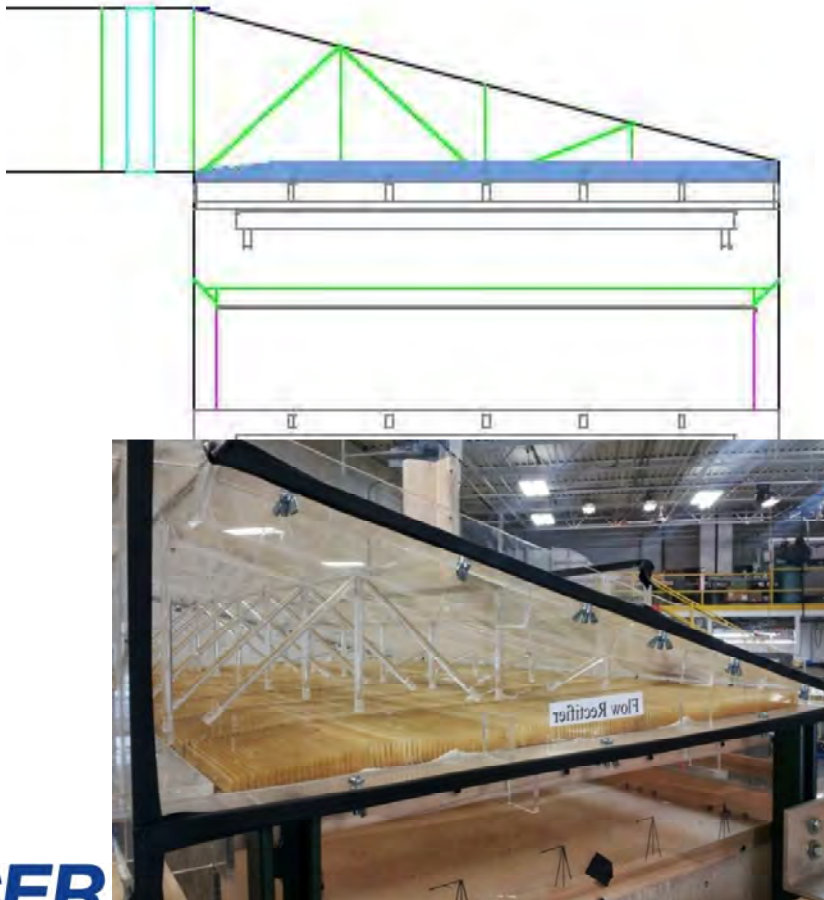
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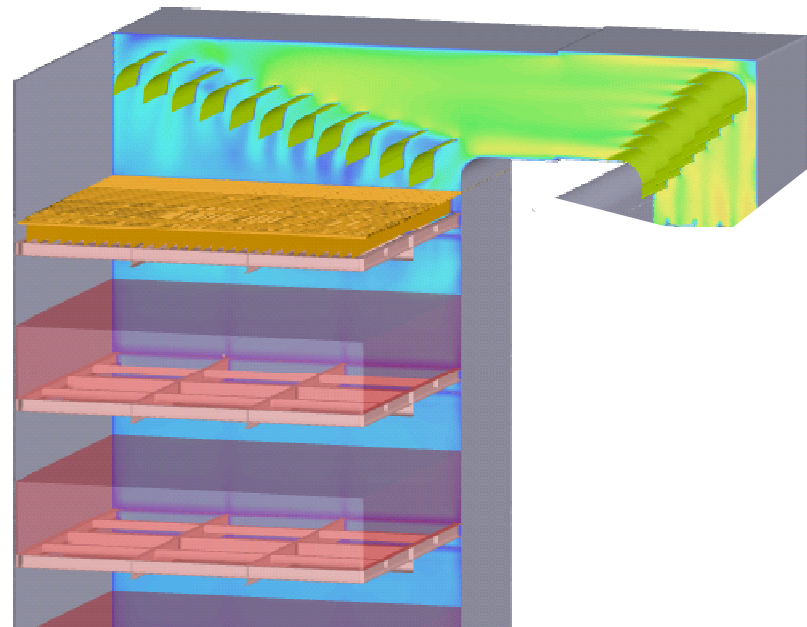
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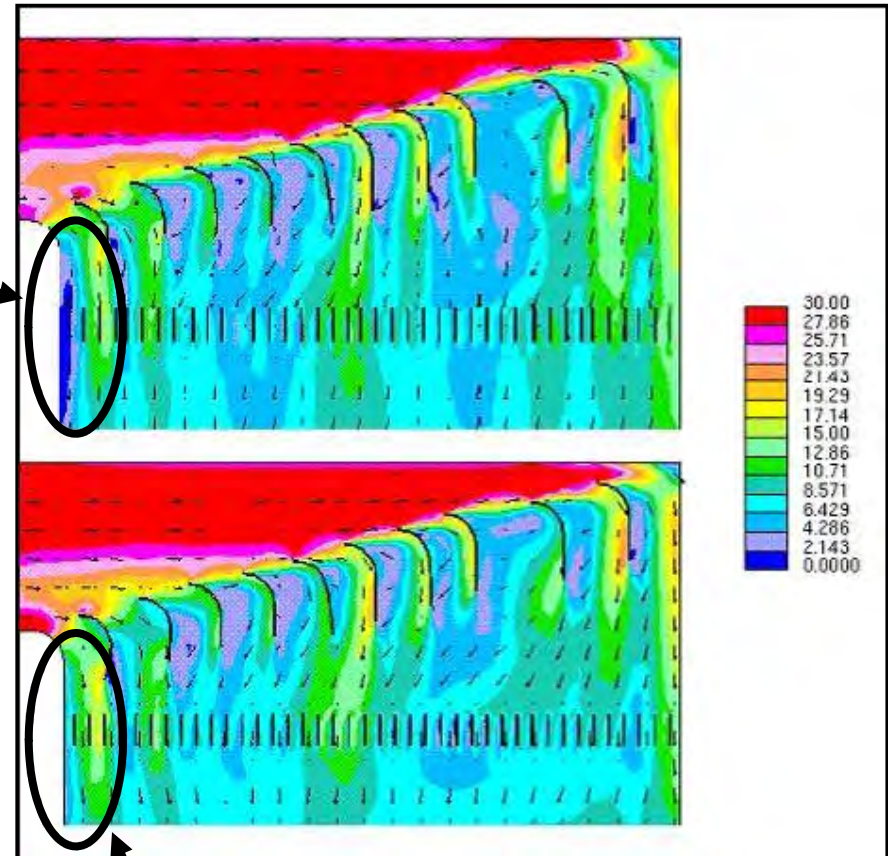
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- Low Velocity Area Exists Even Though Distributions Are Achieved
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- Optimized Designs are Possible



Eliminate Through CFD Modeling

# Reactor Configuration – Flow Modeling



Fly ash pile located below gusset plate due to ash shear

- Lessons Learned – Real World Buildup Sometimes Does Not Appear During Modeling
- Locations of Trusses and Gusset Plate Configurations



# Flow Distribution Device Design

- Lessons Learned – Ash Buildup on Vanes and Internal Structural Members
- Locations of Gusset Plates
- Turning Vane Design



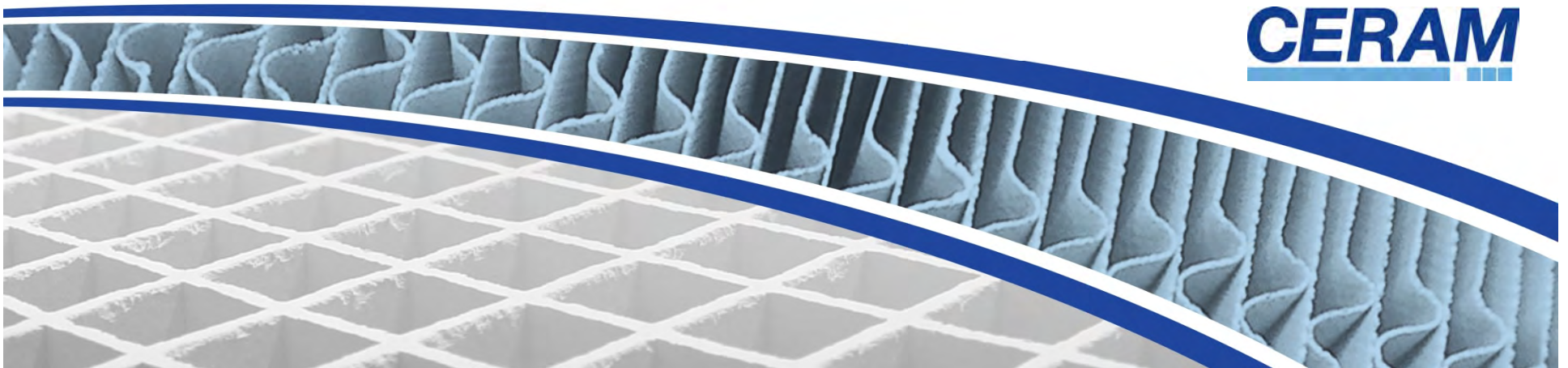
Ash Buildup on Vanes

Affects of Ash Shear



# Factors Affecting Pluggage From Operations

**CERAM**



# Eliminate LPA Prior to Catalyst



Large Particle Ash (LPA)



STEAG LPA Screen

- Large Particle Ash Can Be Present and Should be Controlled as Part of System Design
- LPA Pluggage of Catalyst Leads to...
  - High Pressure Drops
  - Mechanical Damage
  - Reduced Performance Potential
- Effective and Durable Screen Designs are Required
  - Located With Ash Removal
  - Located at Proper Velocity
  - Simple and Advanced Designs Have Both Succeeded and Also Had Problems
- Flow Modeling and Physical Changes are Likely Necessary

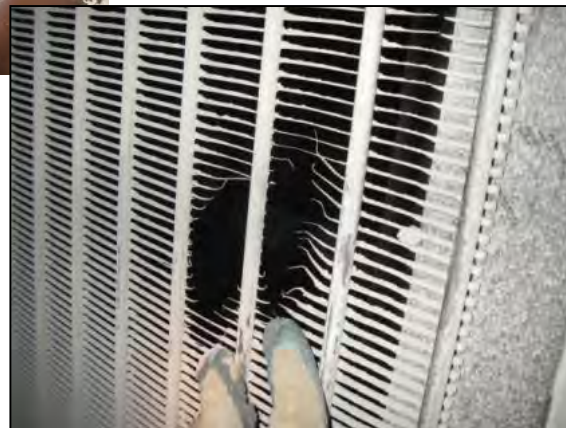
# Simple & Advanced LPA Screens Can Succeed or Fail

- Proper Choices of LPA Screen Design are Site Specific
- Ensure Proper Velocity at LPA Screen
- Remove Material From Hoppers
- Cleaning Device (Sonic Horn, Rapper, etc.)

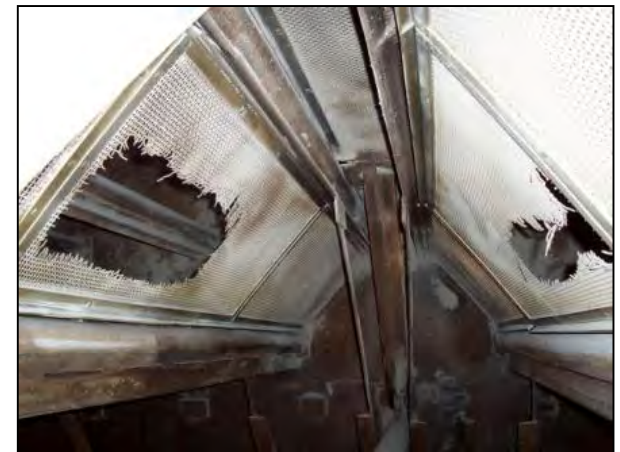
## Stainless Steel Screen Failed at Fasteners (High Velocity)



Damaged LPA Screen Material



Coated & Non-Coated Screens Failed (High Velocity)

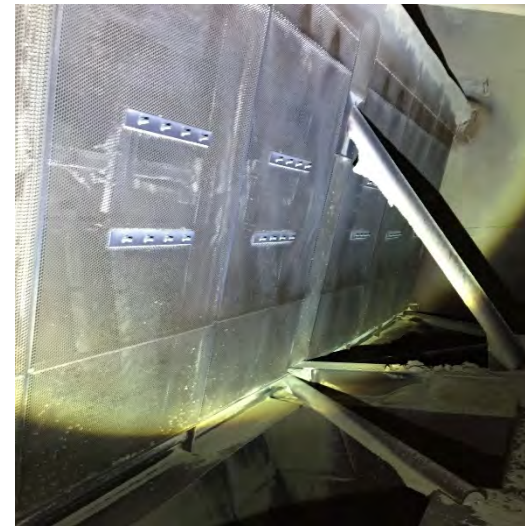


# Pluggage Due to LPA

Before LPA Screen



After Install of LPA Screen



Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

# Minimize Carbon Carryover



Reactor Accumulation of Unburned Carbon



Plate Catalyst With Accumulated Unburned Carbon

- The Control of Unburned Carbon is Important for Reliable DeNO<sub>x</sub> Operation
- All DeNO<sub>x</sub> Catalyst Has Oxidizing Properties and Will Tend to Oxidize Unburned Carbon
- Oxidized Carbon Sticks to Catalyst and Can Result in Pluggage
- Accumulation on Catalyst Increases Risk of Pluggage and Fires
- Increased Potential for Needing Offline, Out of Reactor Cleaning
- Homogeneous Honeycomb Catalyst Consists of Fully Oxidized Material
- Metal Substrates Can Lead to Increased Potential for Fires

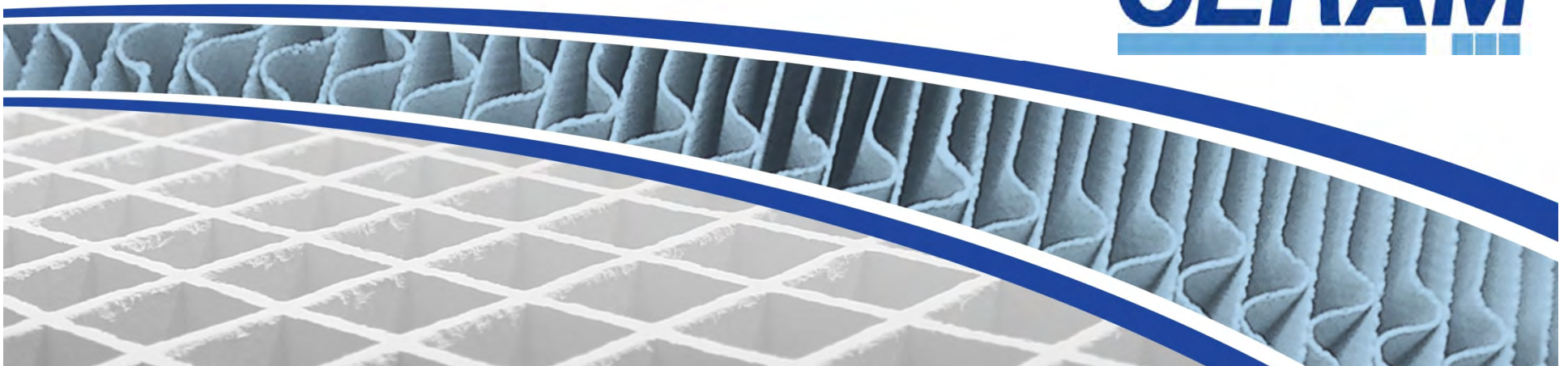
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- Managed by Limiting Face Velocity
  - Minimize Catalyst Pluggage



# Online Cleaning Devices

**CERAM**



# Sootblowers – More O&M Cost Than Sonic Horns, But Are They Working?



**Sootblower Set to Improper Pressure (Compressed Air Setting Instead of Steam Setting) Ineffective at Cleaning Catalyst**

- Lessons Learned
  - Sootblowers Effective If Ash Fluidized; No Cleaning Device Effective with Poor Flow Distribution
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# Ash Sweepers



# Ash Sweepers

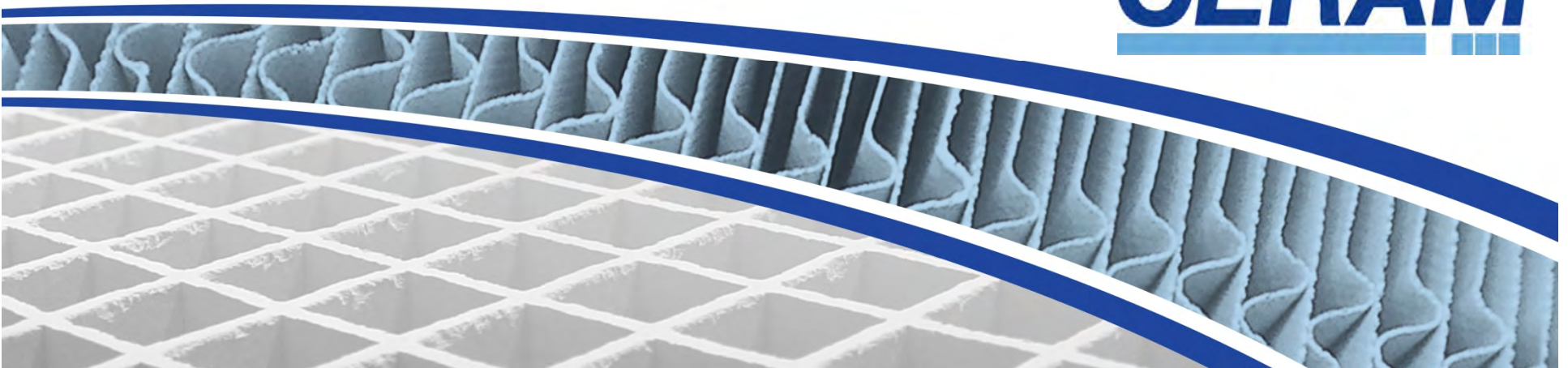


**After Ash Sweeper**

**03.05.2012 10:39**

# In-situ Cleaning

**CERAM**



# Example of “Mechanical” Cleaning Not Recommended



# Vacuuming and Pneumatic Cleaning



# Vibrational Cleaning



# Sponge Blasting

Patent Pending *Sponge Blasting Process* utilizes polyurethane foam media to **Safely Remove Hardened Ash from the Surface and Within the Catalyst Modules.**



Before Sponge Blasting



After Sponge Blasting



Photos courtesy of Michael Ware SCR Solutions, Inc.  
& Thompson Industrial Services, LLC

# Sponge Blasting Video

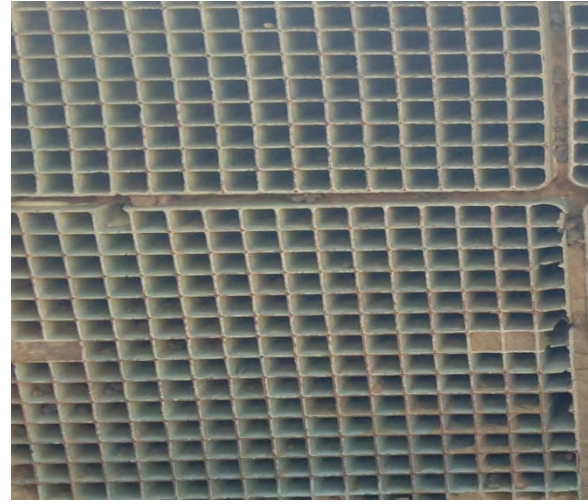


# Sponge Blasting

BEFORE



AFTER



This combination of methods **Safely Clears the Catalyst of Potentially Harmful Contaminates** that cannot be achieved by traditional methods.



**CERAM**

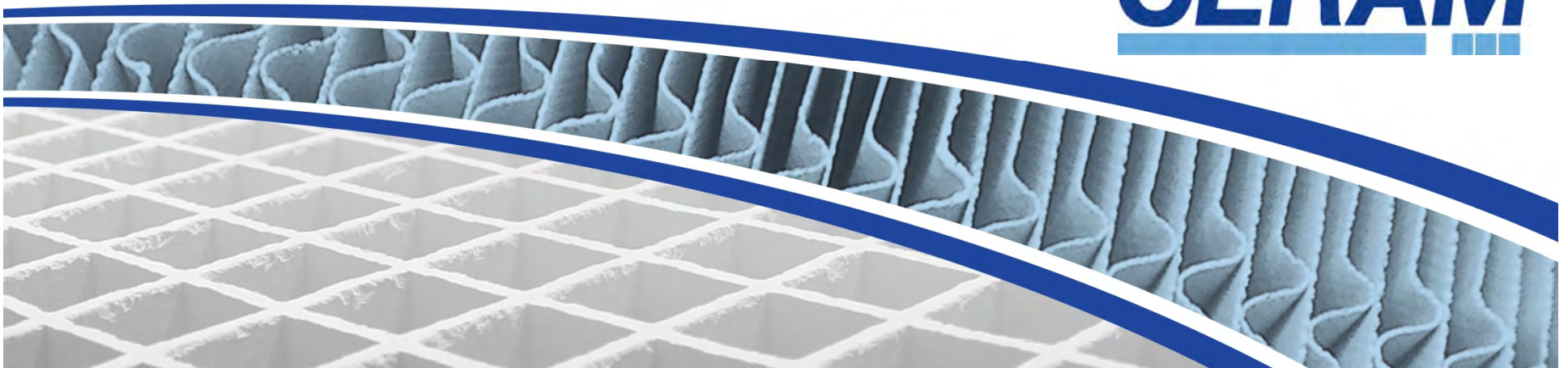
Photos courtesy of Michael Ware SCR Solutions, Inc.  
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# Dry Ice Blasting



# Fix “Root” Cause of Pluggage

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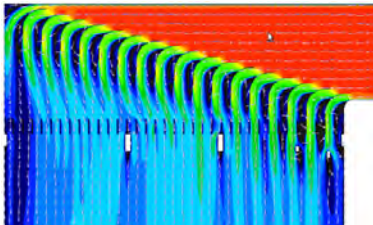
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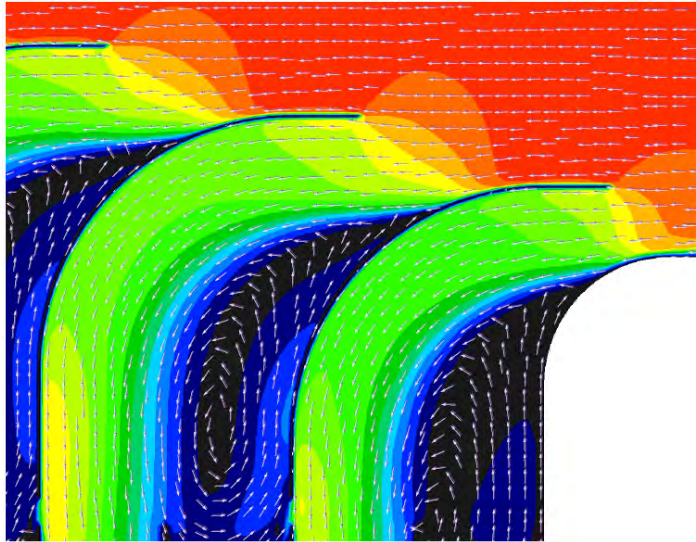
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- ❖ CFD model and field observations show root cause
  - Flow separation and recirculation on vane surface
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  - Hood vane redesign required

Hood vanes



Vane detail



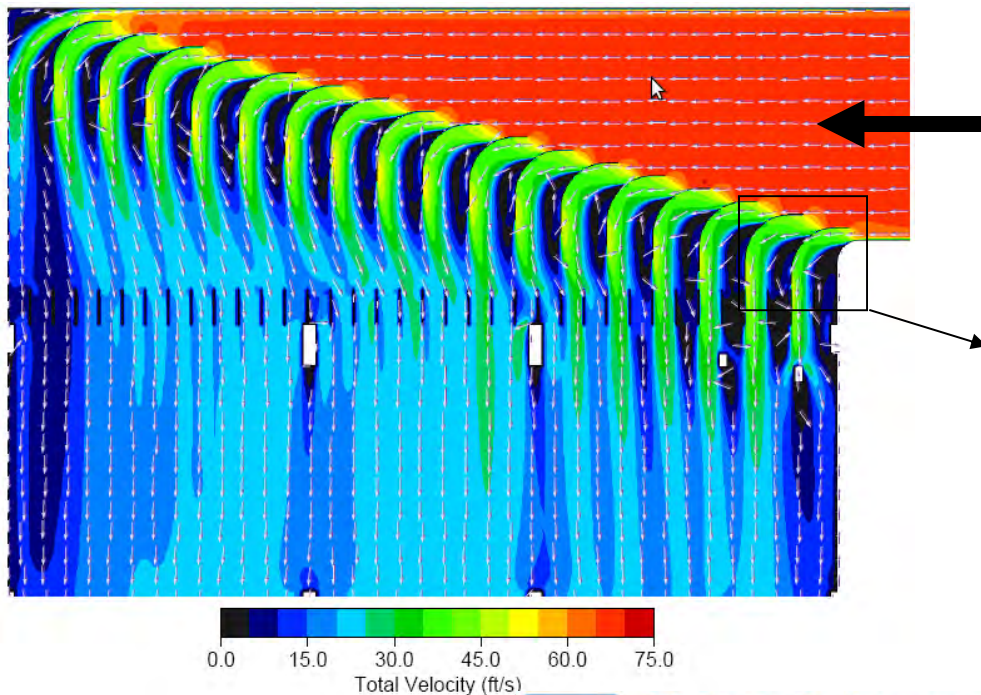
(black = recirc zone)

Ash buildup

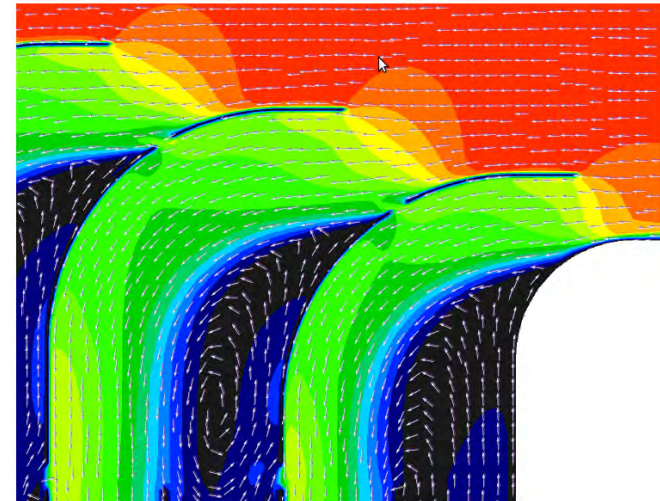


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  - “Slots” can be cut in vanes with strategic location and



Close-up at inner corner



# Ash Deposition – Reactor Hood Vanes

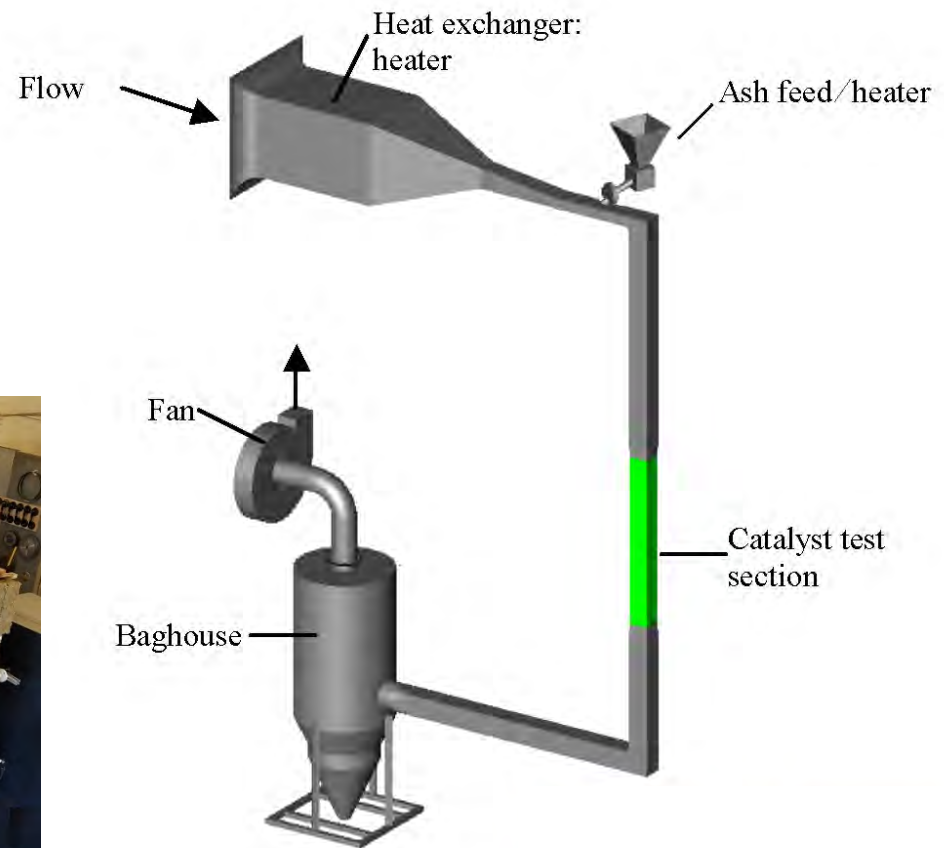
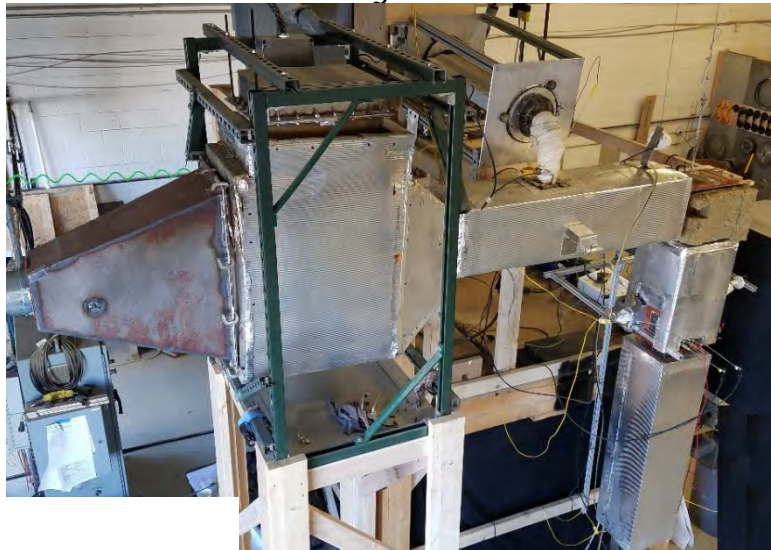
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# Ash Deposition – Hot Flow Modeling

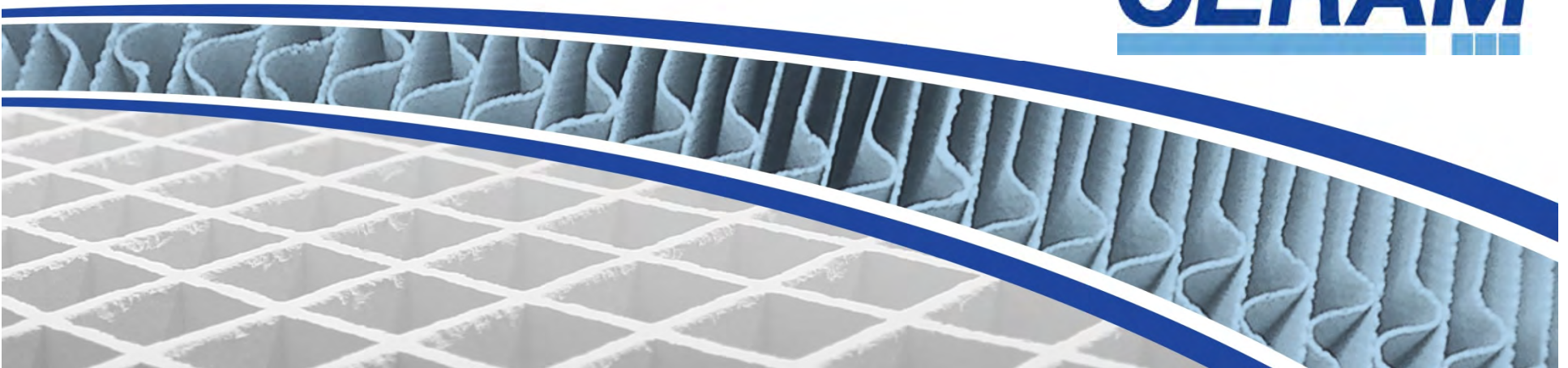
## ❖ Hot Flow Model

- Testing under actual temperature conditions
- Real ash, not laboratory dust



# Summary

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# Pluggage is Minimized By...

- Pluggage is Minimized by....
  - Proper Pitch and Wall Thickness Selection
  - Proper Cover Grate Selection
  - Proper Gas Velocity in Ductwork and the Reactor (Flow Modeling)
  - Proper Boiler Operation (e.g., LOI, LPA, etc.)
    - LPA Screen Design
  - Proper Maintenance and Operation of Online Cleaning Devices
  - Proper Isolation During Outages (Avoiding Condensation if Possible)
- In-situ Cleaning Technologies
  - Vacuuming/Air Lancing; Vibrational/Sponge; Dry Ice Blasting
  - Cost Considerations
- Flow Modeling Very Effective at “Fixing” Root Cause
  - Rate of Return with Less Pressure Drop & More Surface Area (Longer Time Between Catalyst Events)

# Reinhold Environmental 2017 NOx-Combustion Round Table

## Preventative Maintenance: Cleaning Techniques and Catalyst Cleanliness



**CERAM**

**IBIDEN**

Presented by: Dr. Greg Holscher  
IBIDEN CERAM Environmental, Inc.  
February 28, 2017

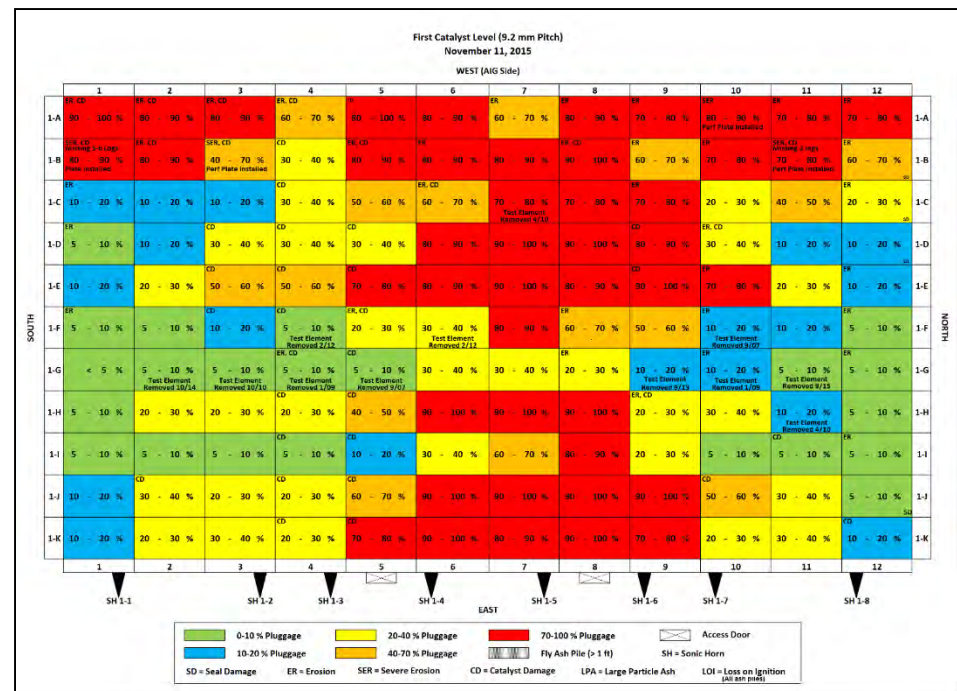
# Special Thanks to the Panelist

- **Jason Bookout**; Senior Engineer; Environmental Systems & Field Support; Catalyst Manager; Southern Company; 6 years
- **Dave Browning**; Consulting Engineer: Fleet Combustion & Performance; Technical Engineer; Outage Manager; FirstEnergy Corporate Technical Services; 14 years
- **Mike O'Connor**; Engineering Programs Manager; Dynegey, Inc.; Prior at Duke, Cinergy and CG&E; 28 years
- **Philp Elliot**; Director of SCR Services; STEAG SCR-Tech, Inc.; 10 years; Prior at Progress Energy
- **Robert Mudry**; President; Air Flow Sciences Corporation; 29 years, started as a summer intern
- **Jeff Shelton**; Vice President Environmental Solutions; Integrated Global Services; 2 years; Prior at Martin Engineering for 8 years.

# Topics for Panel Discussion

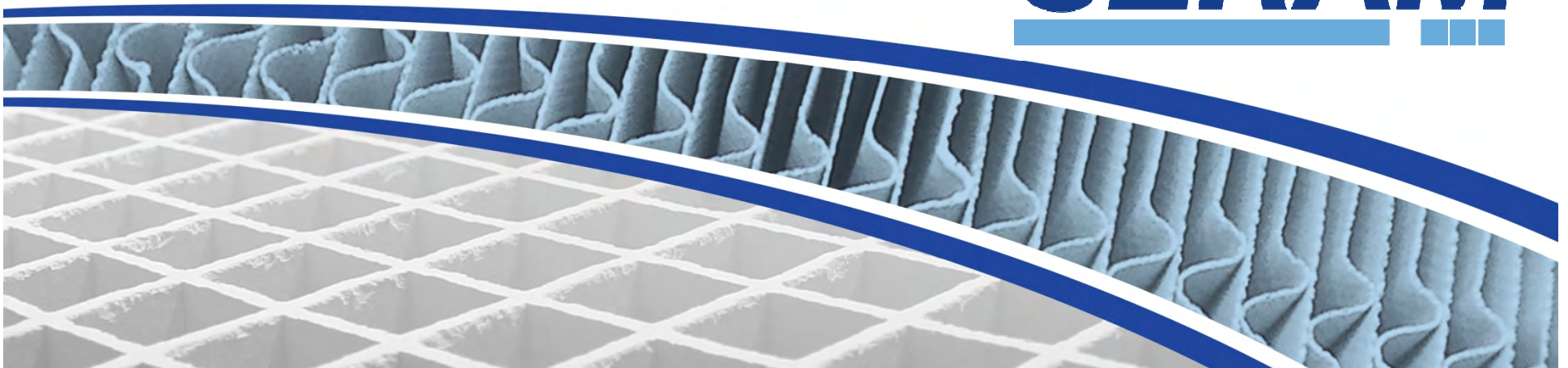
- Pluggage Resistance Catalyst
- Reactor Design & Configuration
- Factors Affecting Pluggage from Operations
- Online Cleaning Devices
- In-Situ Cleaning Technologies
- Fixing the Root Cause of Pluggage

What We Want to Avoid!

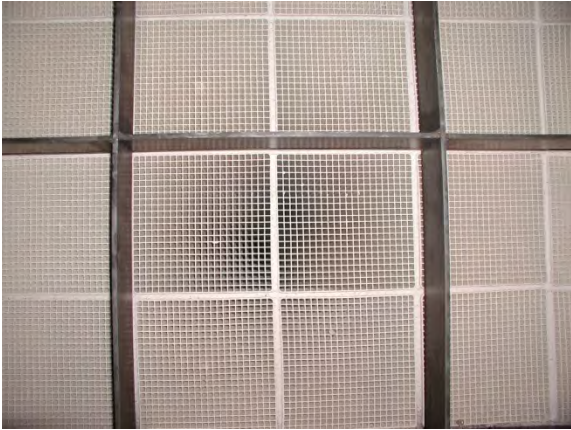


# Pluggage Resistance Catalyst?

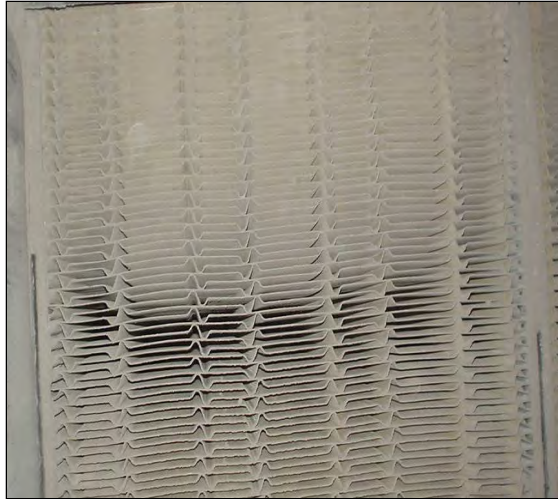
**CERAM**



# Any Catalyst Can Plug!



**Honeycomb**



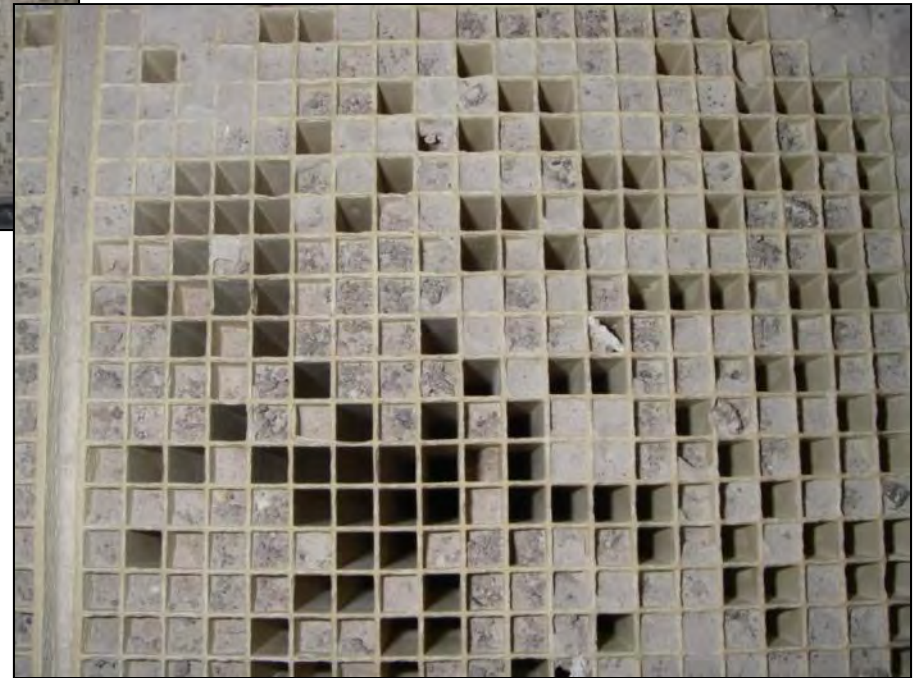
**Plate**



**Corrugated Fiber**



# Catalyst Pluggage – LPA and LOI



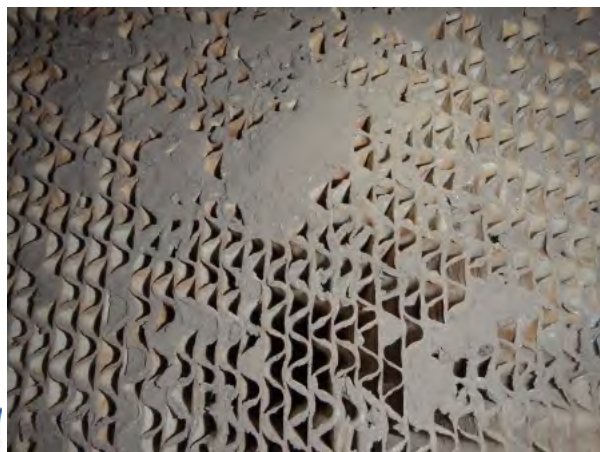
# Catalyst Pluggage – Plate Catalyst



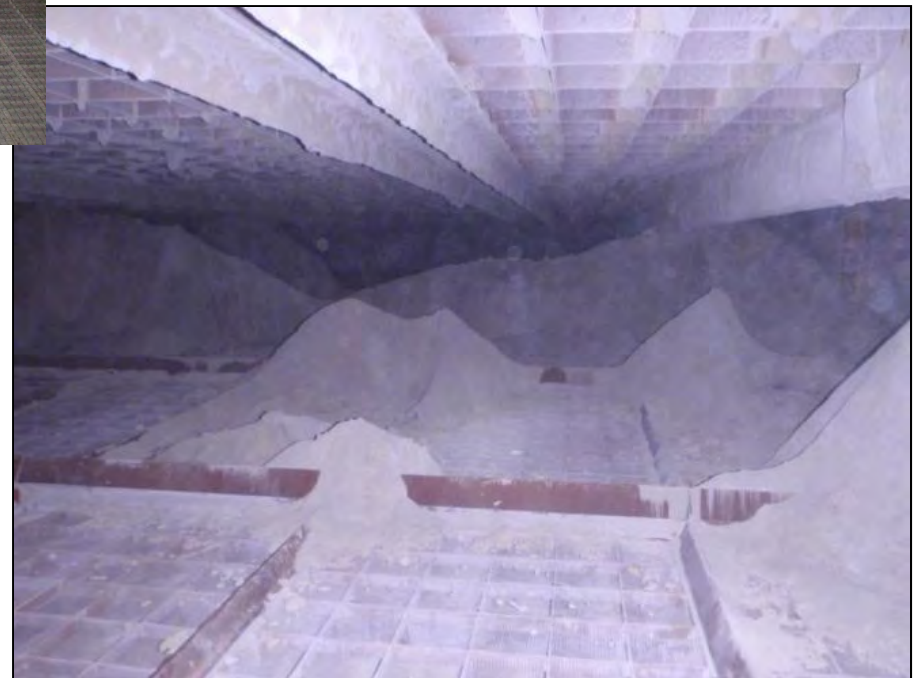
# Catalyst Pluggage – Plate Catalyst



# Catalyst Pluggage – Corrugated Catalyst



# Ash Accumulation



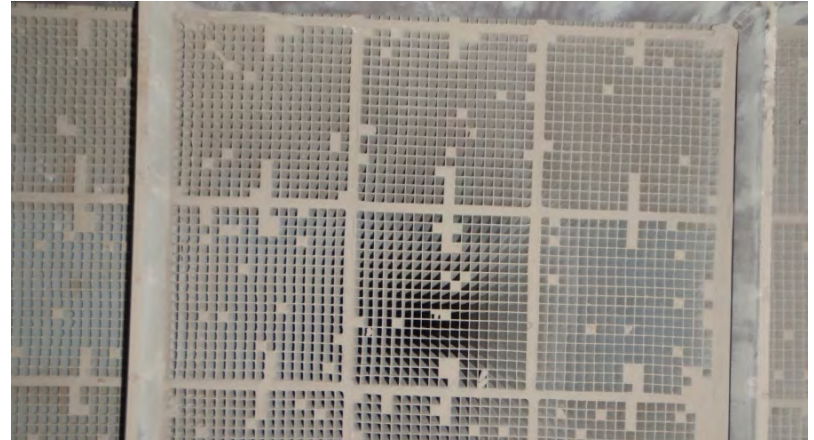
# Ductwork – Ash Dropout



# Relative Pluggage Risk



**Plate Catalyst Pluggage Accumulates Between Sub Layers & Inlet**



**Honeycomb Catalyst Pluggage Visible From Inlet**

- Pluggage Risk Dependent On...
  - Fuel Ash Loading and Characteristics
  - Flue Gas Flow Conditions Entering Catalyst
  - Catalyst Pitch Selection
- Provided Adequate Pitch & Flow Distributions
- What About Reactor Design or even Cover Grate Design or Varying Pitch Selection?



**Corrugated Catalyst Pluggage Between Sub Layers & Inlet**

# Cover Grate Design



CERAM Cover Grate in Level 1  
(Welded Stainless Steel 1 mm Dia.  
with 5 mm Opening)



Woven Wire Mesh Cover Grate in  
Level 4 (4 mm or Less Opening)

# Wygen 3 Cover Grates from IGS



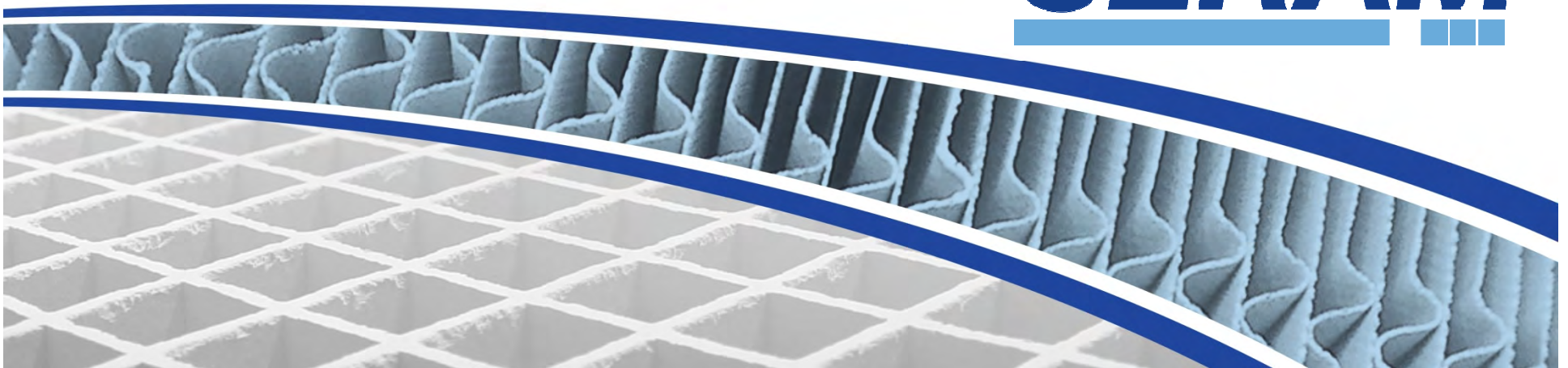
After 1 year of operation



Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

# Reactor Design & Configuration

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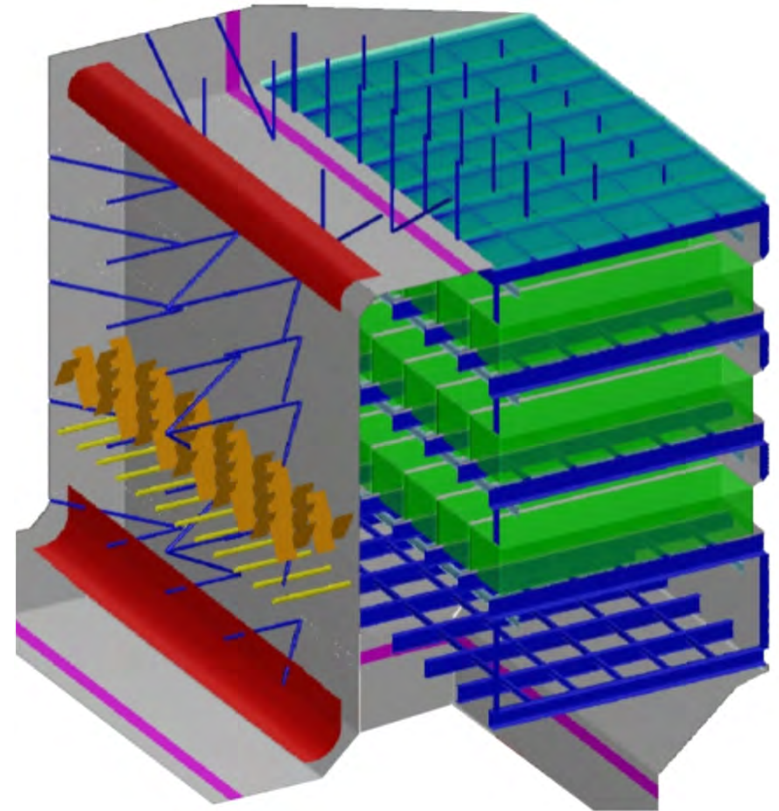
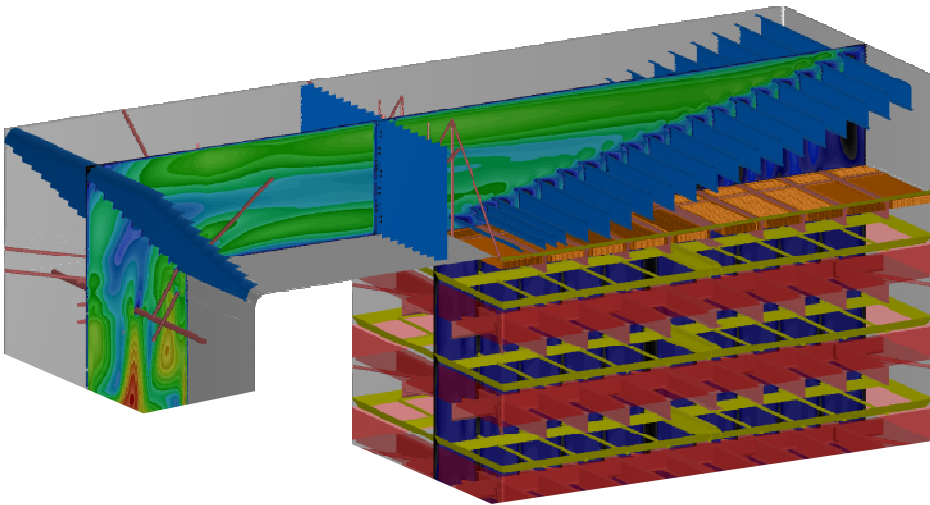
# Reactor Design & Configuration



- Original Designs Over 10-15 Years May Not have Used CFD Modeling
  - Physical Modeling (1/12<sup>th</sup> Scale; Dust Test)
- Past Designs Driven by Engineering Before Flow Modeling Completed
- Lessons Learned – Flow Modeling Should Drive Engineering Design
- Real World Buildup Sometimes Does Not Appear During Modeling

# Reactor Hood Design: Critical

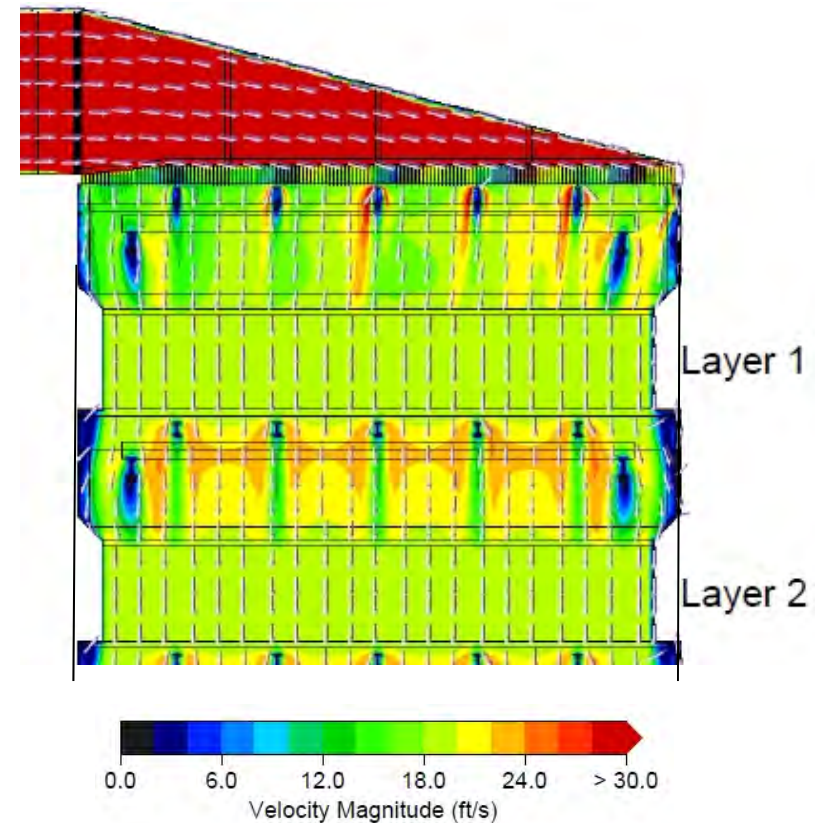
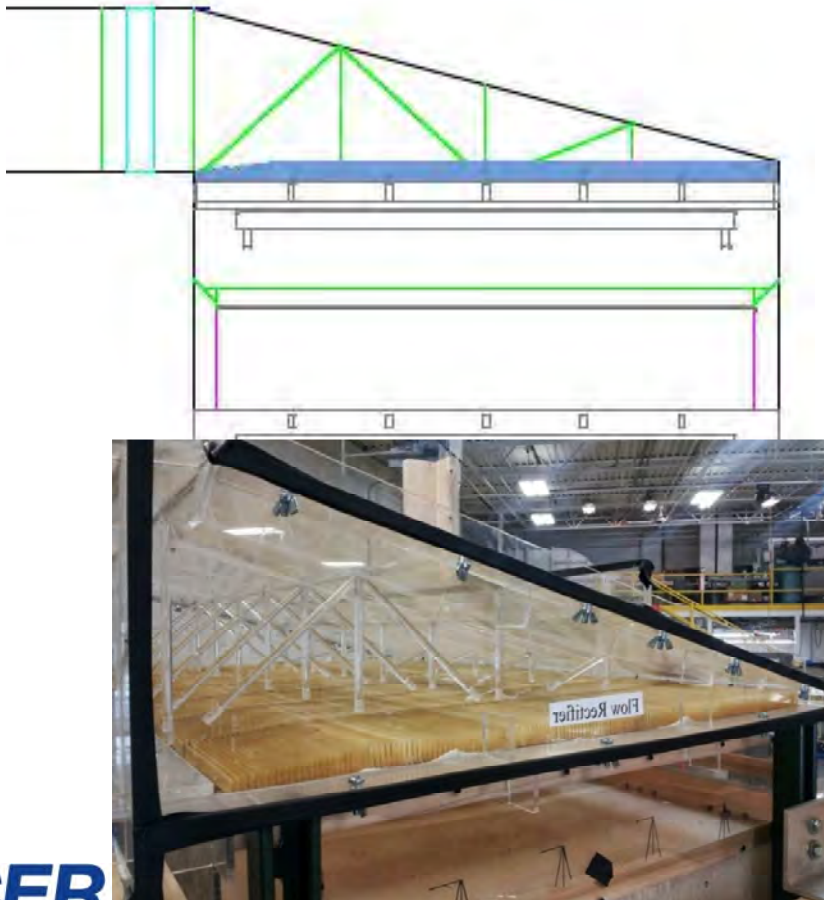
- ❖ Square hood
- ❖ Sloped hood



- ❖ Both work *if designed correctly*

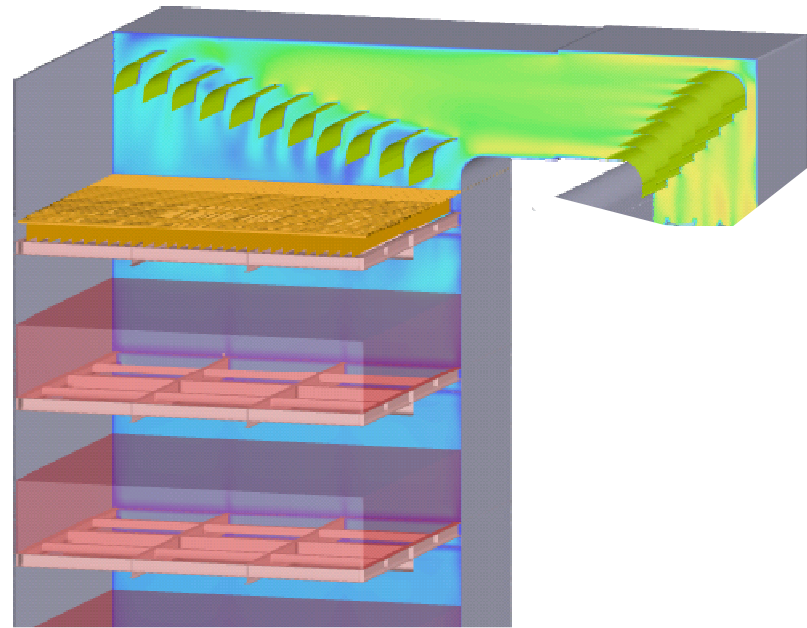
# Reactor Hood Design: Critical

- ❖ Sloped hood uses rectifier to turn flow
  - Works well *if designed correctly*



# Reactor Hood Design: Critical

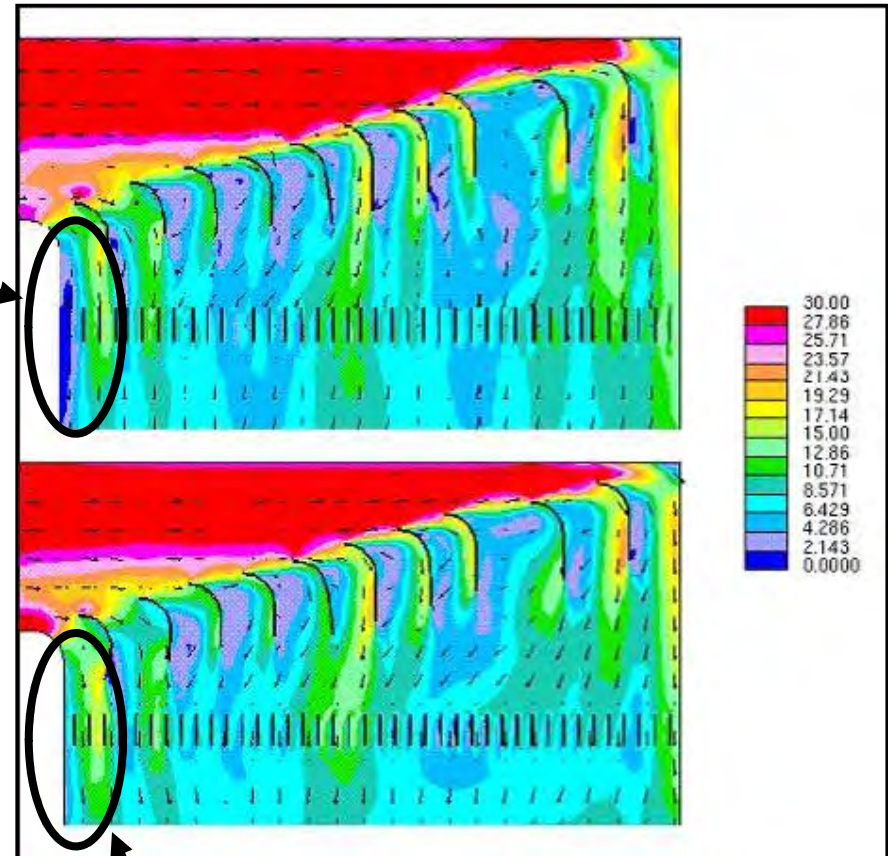
- ❖ Turning vanes
  - Curved vanes
  - Ladder vanes



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# Reactor Configuration – Importance of Flow Modeling

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  - Distance From Crossover Duct Down to Top of 1<sup>st</sup> Catalyst Layer
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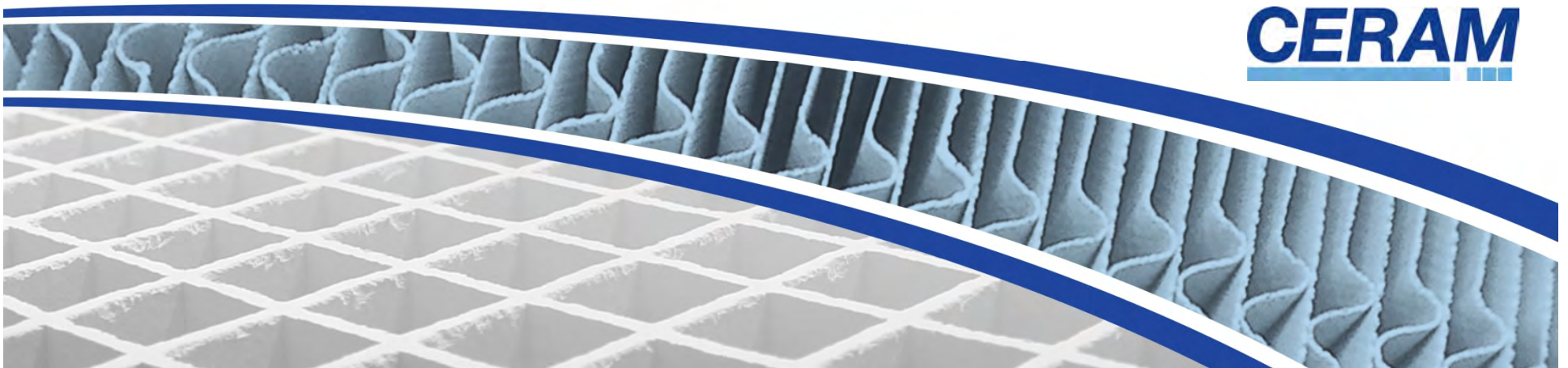
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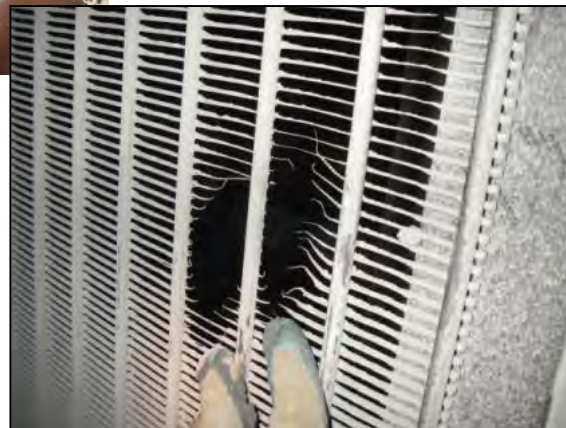
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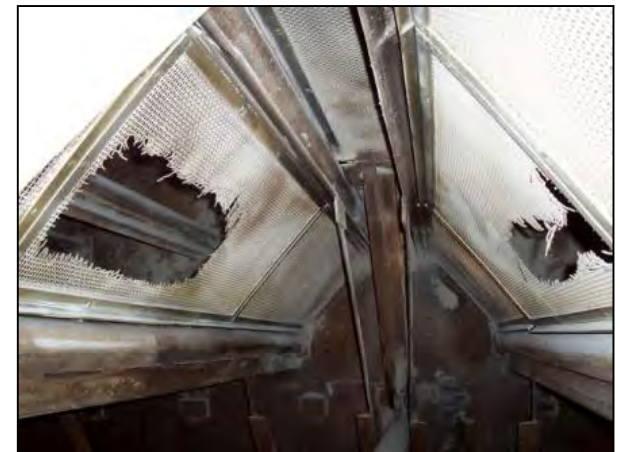
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Damaged LPA Screen Material



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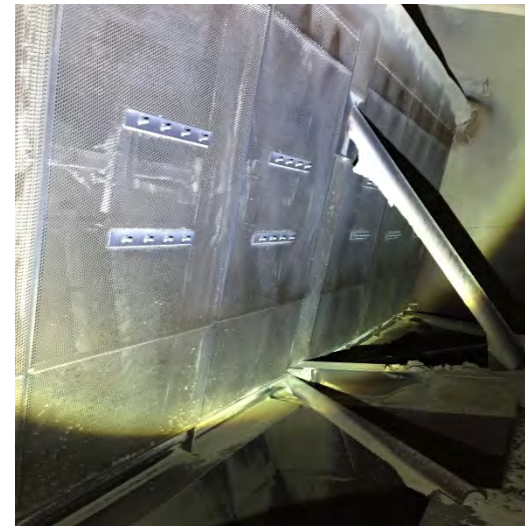


# Pluggage Due to LPA

Before LPA Screen



After Install of LPA Screen



Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

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Reactor Accumulation of Unburned Carbon



Plate Catalyst With Accumulated Unburned Carbon

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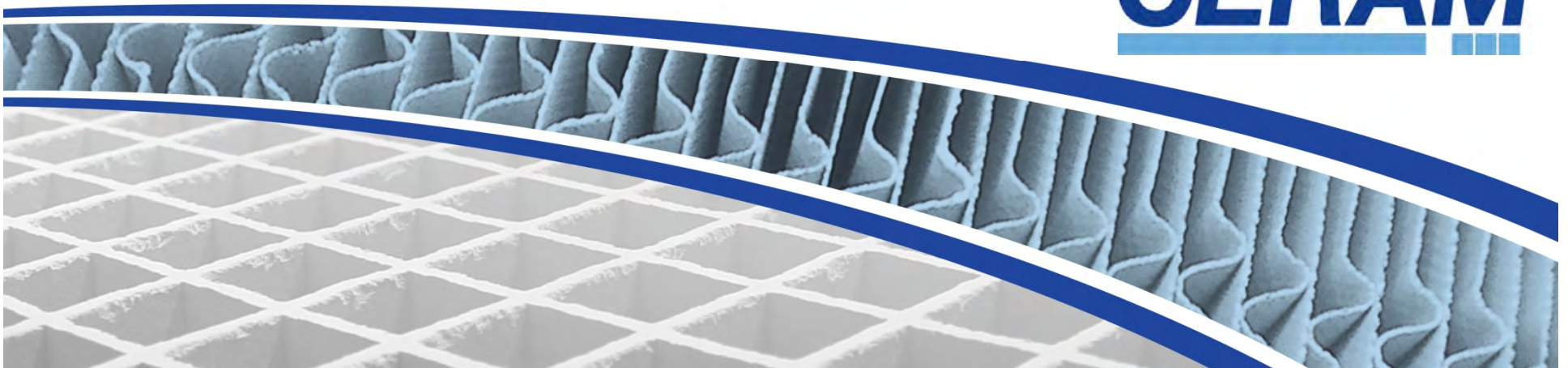
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**CERAM**



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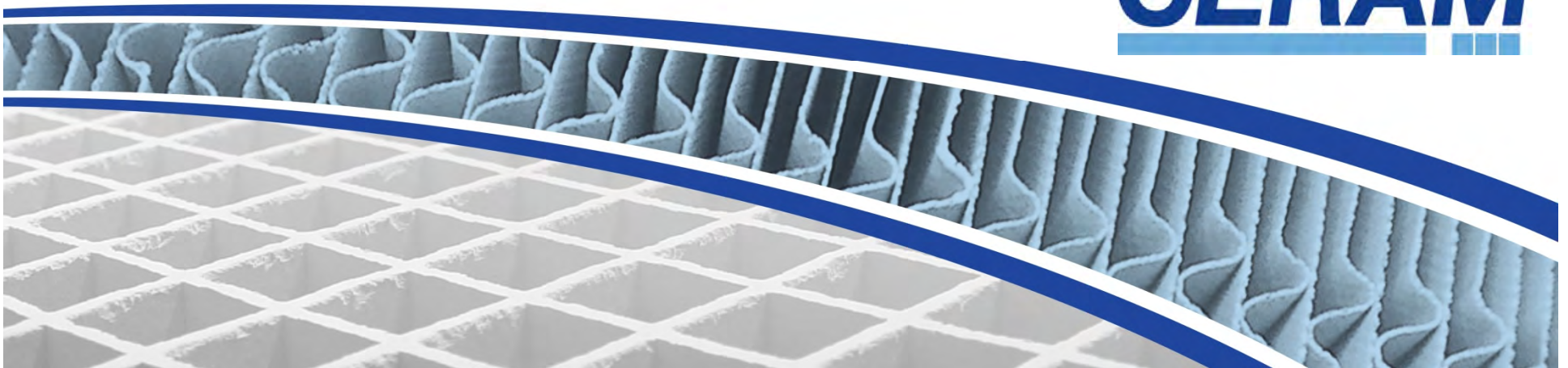


**After Ash Sweeper**

**03.05.2012 10:39**

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**CERAM**



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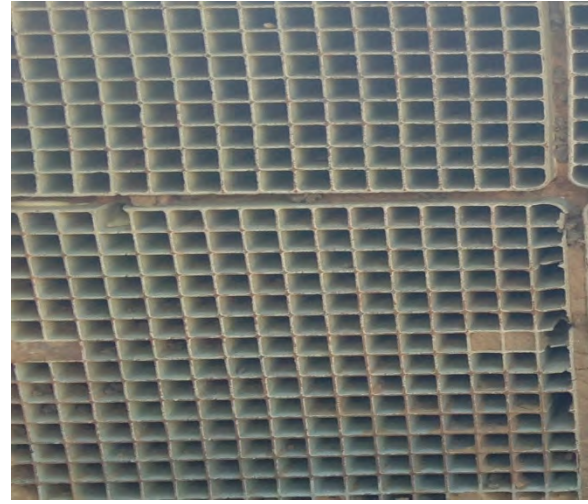


# Sponge Blasting

BEFORE



AFTER



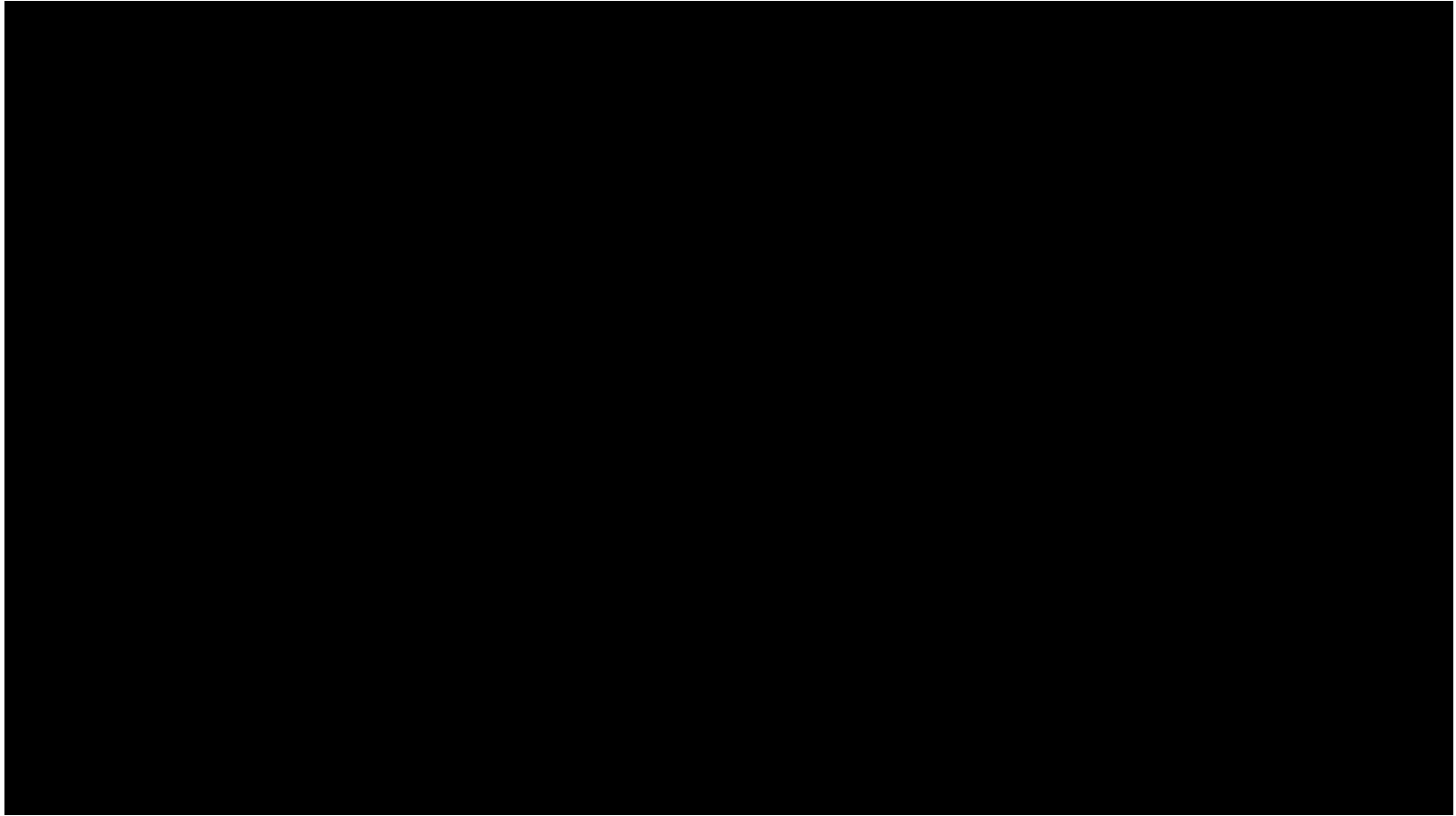
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**CERAM**

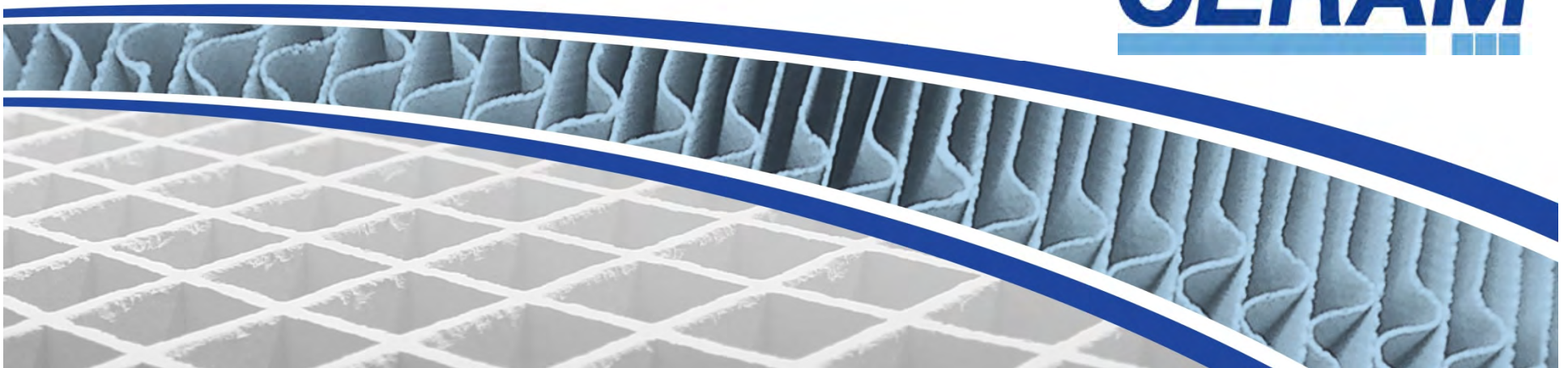
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# Dry Ice Blasting



# Fix “Root” Cause of Pluggage

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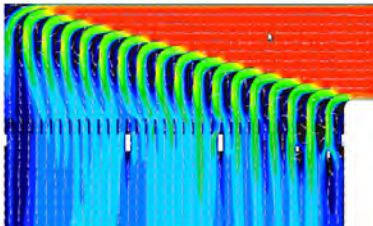
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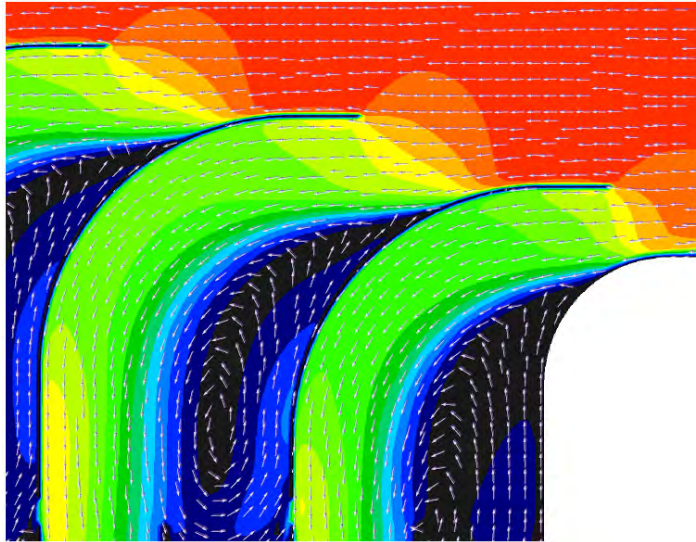
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Hood vanes



Vane detail



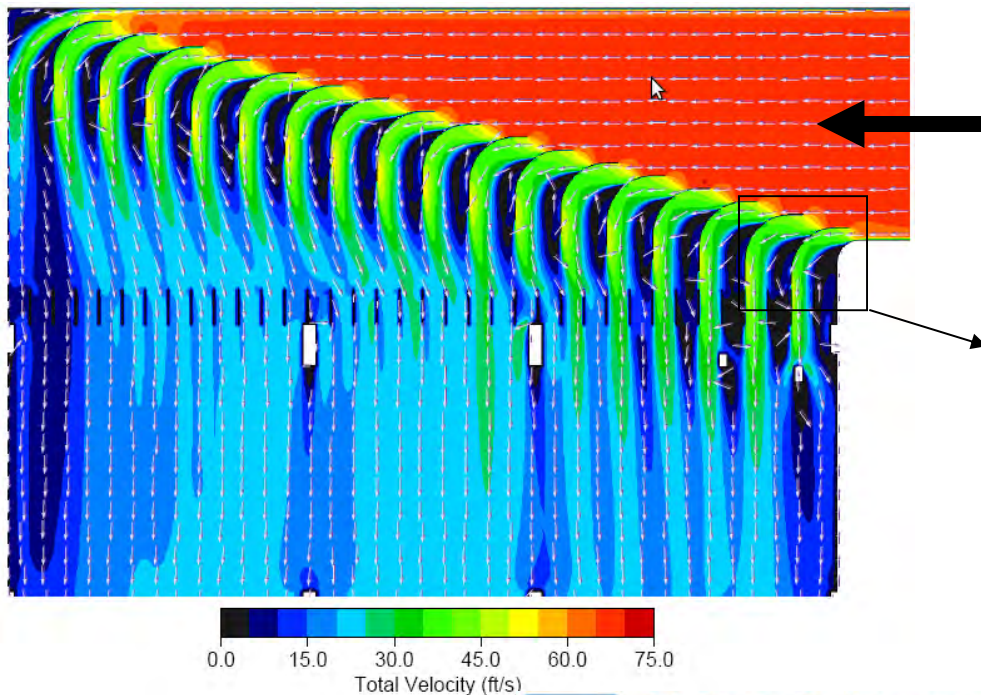
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Ash buildup

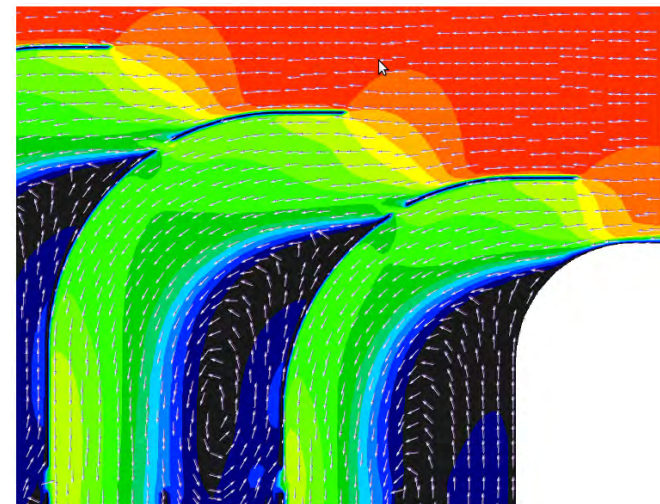


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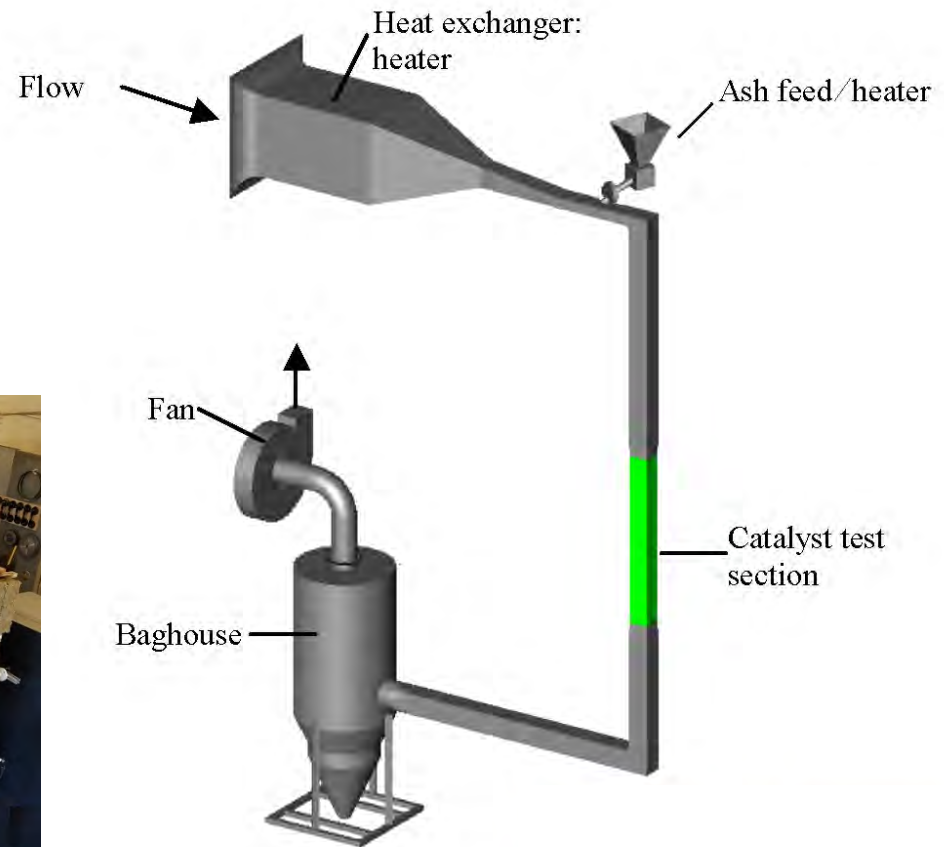
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# Ash Deposition – Hot Flow Modeling

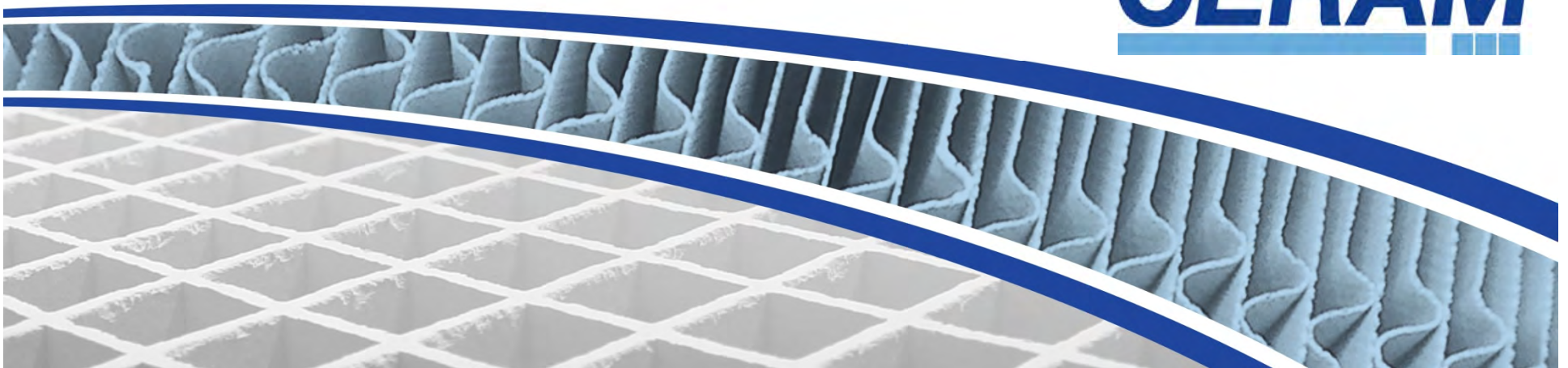
## ❖ Hot Flow Model

- Testing under actual temperature conditions
- Real ash, not laboratory dust



# Summary

**CERAM**



# Pluggage is Minimized By...

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  - Proper Pitch and Wall Thickness Selection
  - Proper Cover Grate Selection
  - Proper Gas Velocity in Ductwork and the Reactor (Flow Modeling)
  - Proper Boiler Operation (e.g., LOI, LPA, etc.)
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  - Proper Maintenance and Operation of Online Cleaning Devices
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- In-situ Cleaning Technologies
  - Vacuuming/Air Lancing; Vibrational/Sponge; Dry Ice Blasting
  - Cost Considerations
- Flow Modeling Very Effective at “Fixing” Root Cause
  - Rate of Return with Less Pressure Drop & More Surface Area (Longer Time Between Catalyst Events)

# Reinhold Environmental 2017 NOx-Combustion Round Table

## Preventative Maintenance: Cleaning Techniques and Catalyst Cleanliness



**CERAM**

**IBIDEN**

Presented by: Dr. Greg Holscher  
IBIDEN CERAM Environmental, Inc.  
February 28, 2017

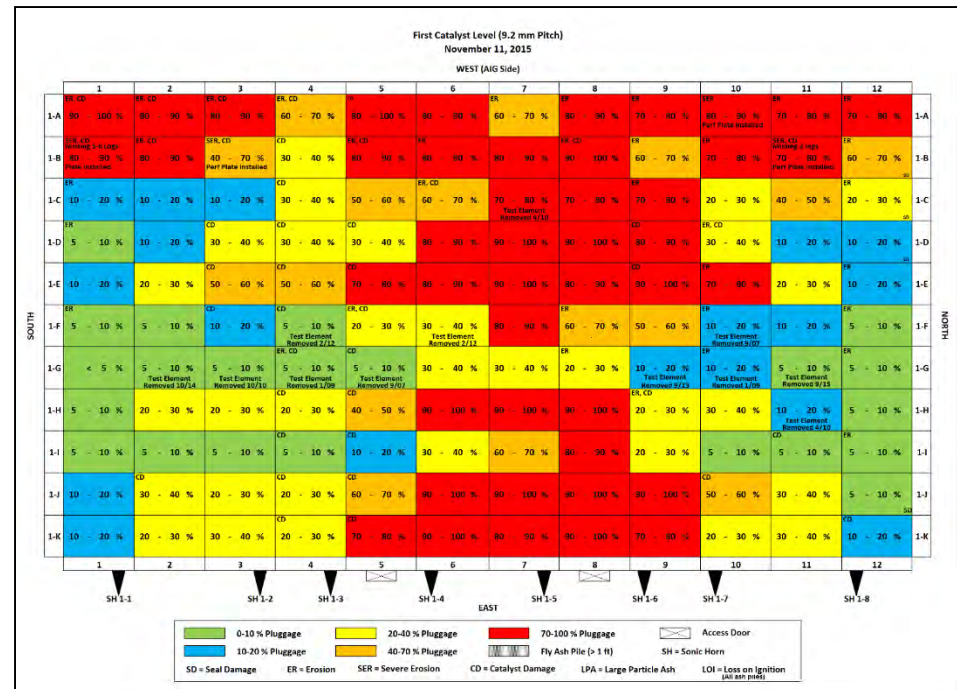
# Special Thanks to the Panelist

- **Jason Bookout**; Senior Engineer; Environmental Systems & Field Support; Catalyst Manager; Southern Company; 6 years
- **Dave Browning**; Consulting Engineer: Fleet Combustion & Performance; Technical Engineer; Outage Manager; FirstEnergy Corporate Technical Services; 14 years
- **Mike O'Connor**; Engineering Programs Manager; Dynegey, Inc.; Prior at Duke, Cinergy and CG&E; 28 years
- **Philp Elliot**; Director of SCR Services; STEAG SCR-Tech, Inc.; 10 years; Prior at Progress Energy
- **Robert Mudry**; President; Air Flow Sciences Corporation; 29 years, started as a summer intern
- **Jeff Shelton**; Vice President Environmental Solutions; Integrated Global Services; 2 years; Prior at Martin Engineering for 8 years.

# Topics for Panel Discussion

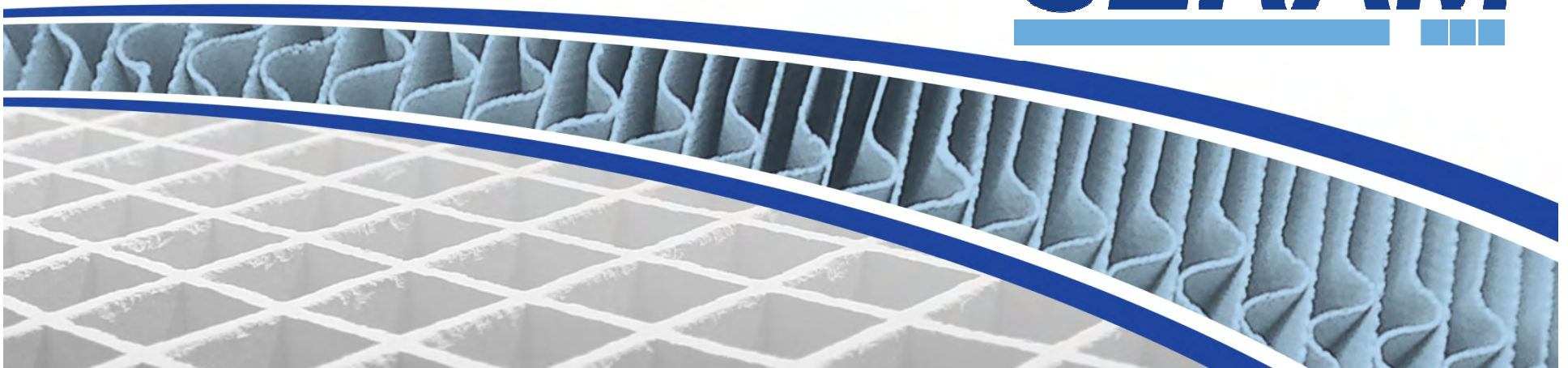
- Pluggage Resistance Catalyst
- Reactor Design & Configuration
- Factors Affecting Pluggage from Operations
- Online Cleaning Devices
- In-Situ Cleaning Technologies
- Fixing the Root Cause of Pluggage

What We Want to Avoid!

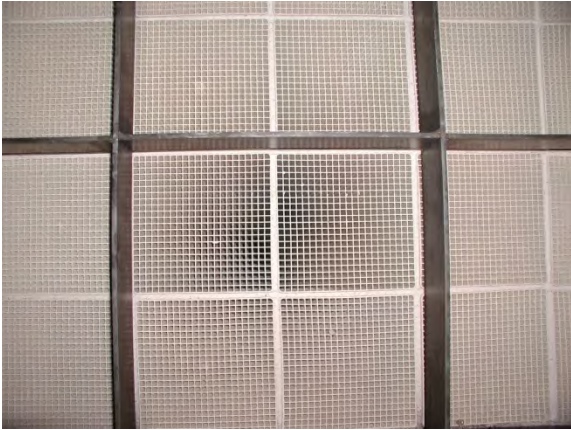


# Pluggage Resistance Catalyst?

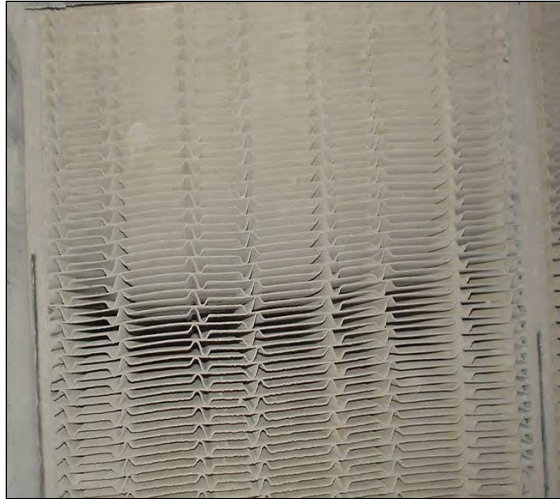
**CERAM**



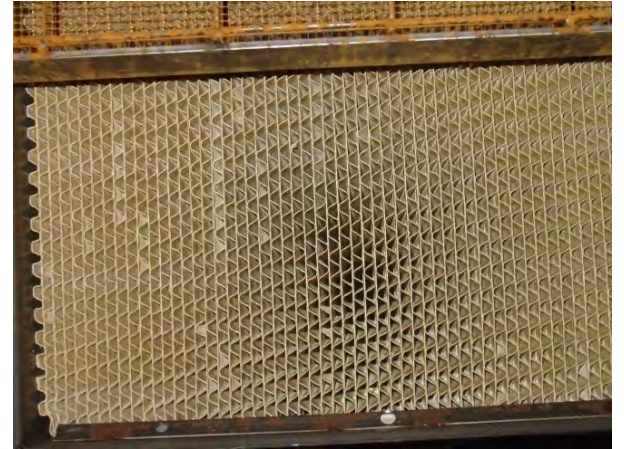
# Any Catalyst Can Plug!



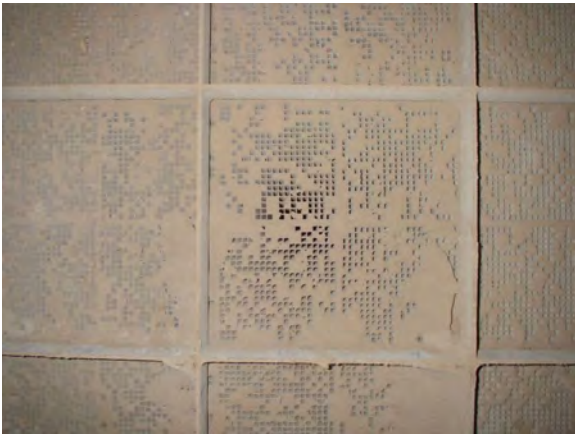
**Honeycomb**



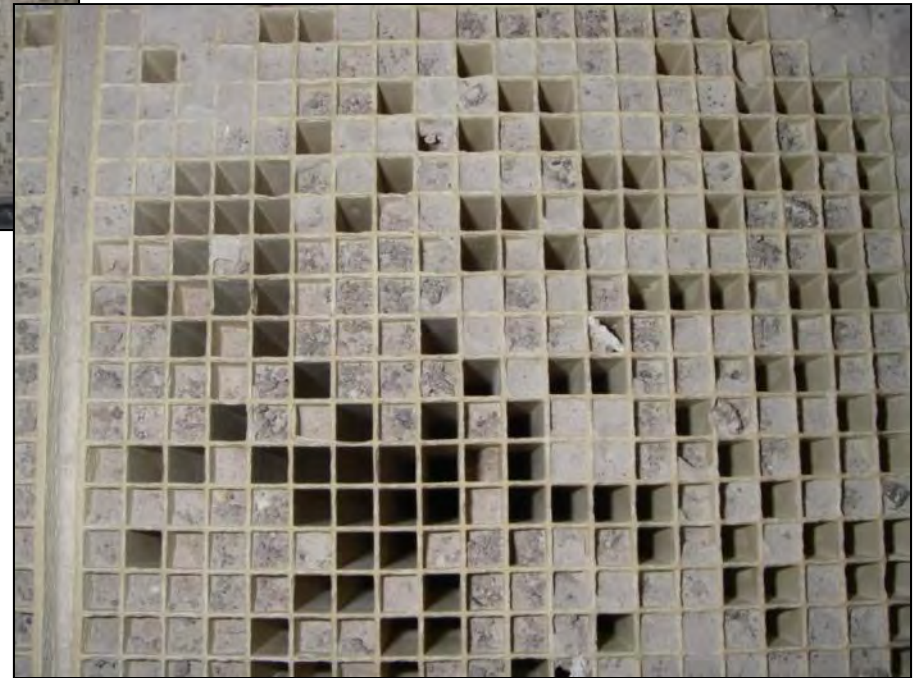
**Plate**



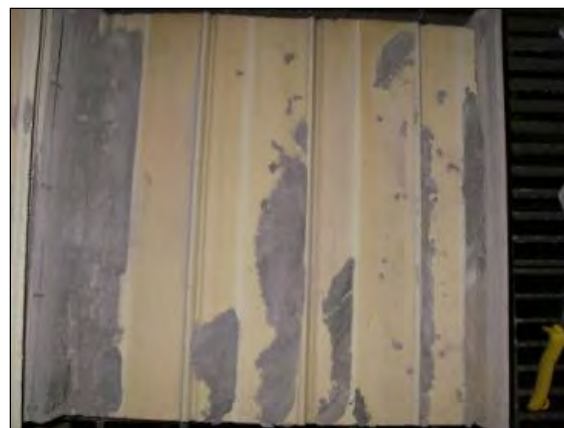
**Corrugated Fiber**



# Catalyst Pluggage – LPA and LOI



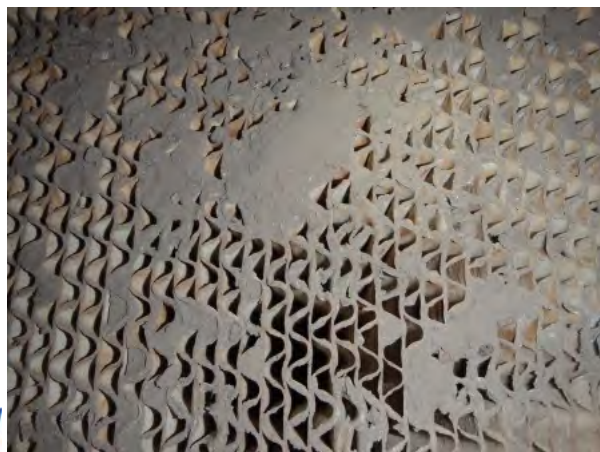
# Catalyst Pluggage – Plate Catalyst



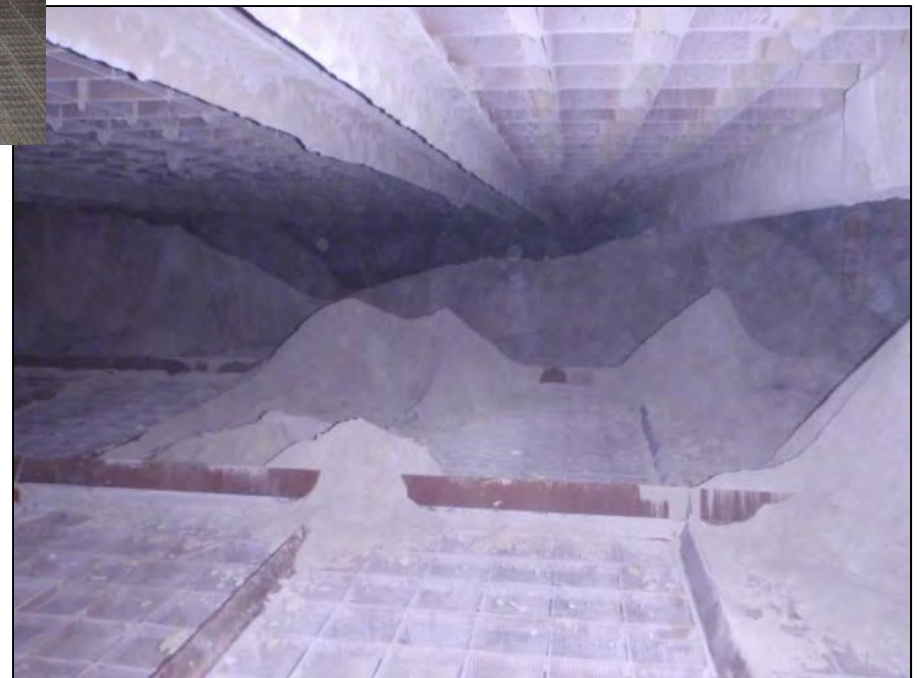
# Catalyst Pluggage – Plate Catalyst



# Catalyst Pluggage – Corrugated Catalyst



# Ash Accumulation



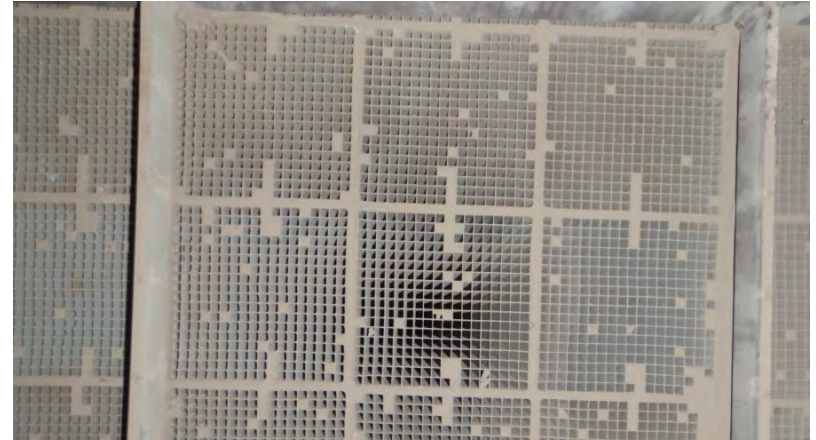
# Ductwork – Ash Dropout



# Relative Pluggage Risk



**Plate Catalyst Pluggage Accumulates Between Sub Layers & Inlet**



**Honeycomb Catalyst Pluggage Visible From Inlet**

- Pluggage Risk Dependent On...
  - Fuel Ash Loading and Characteristics
  - Flue Gas Flow Conditions Entering Catalyst
  - Catalyst Pitch Selection
- Provided Adequate Pitch & Flow Distributions
- What About Reactor Design or even Cover Grate Design or Varying Pitch Selection?



**Corrugated Catalyst Pluggage Between Sub Layers & Inlet**

# Cover Grate Design



CERAM Cover Grate in Level 1  
(Welded Stainless Steel 1 mm Dia.  
with 5 mm Opening)



Woven Wire Mesh Cover Grate in  
Level 4 (4 mm or Less Opening)

# Wygen 3 Cover Grates from IGS



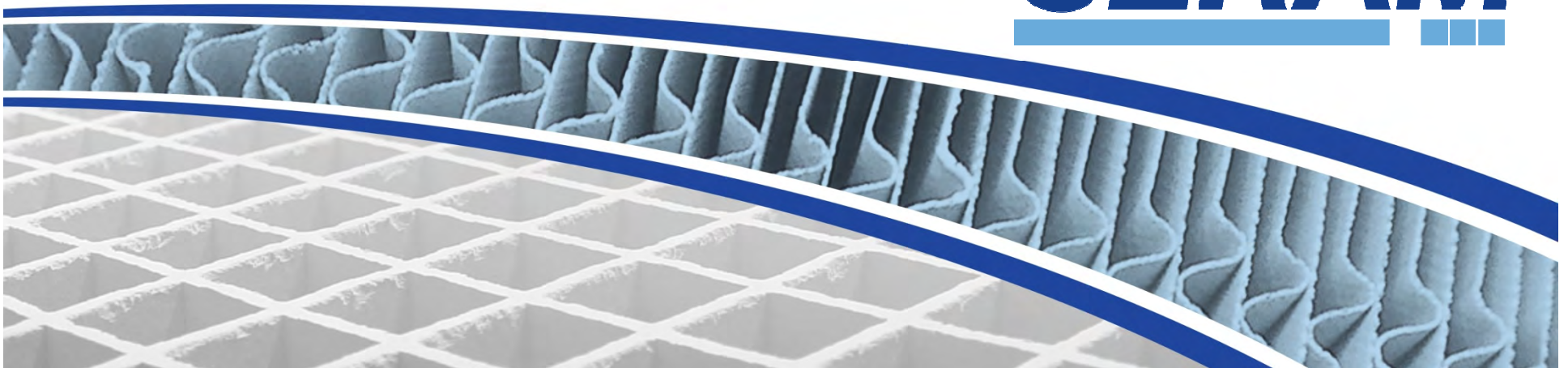
After 1 year of operation



Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

# Reactor Design & Configuration

**CERAM**



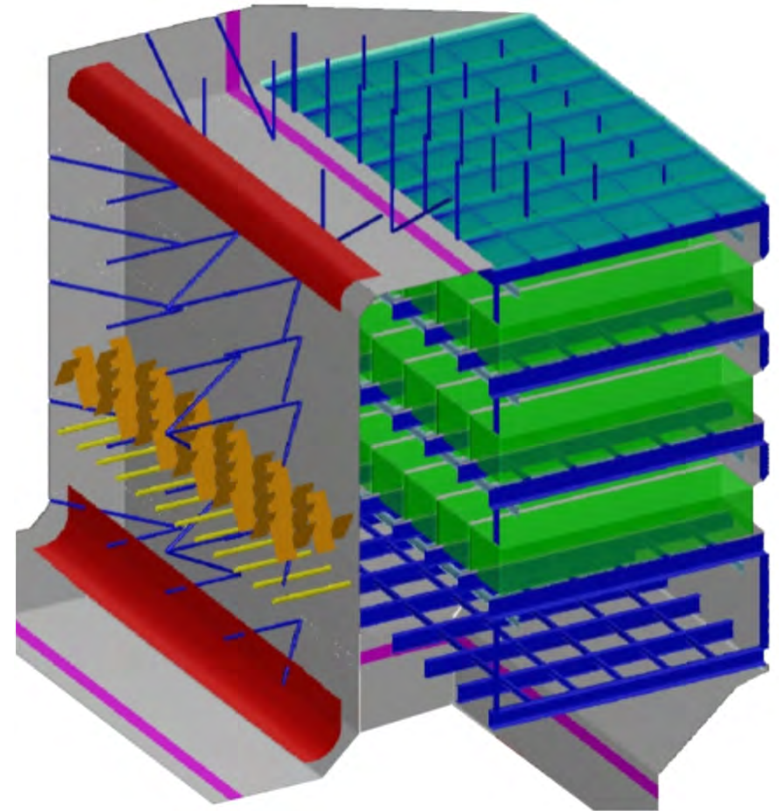
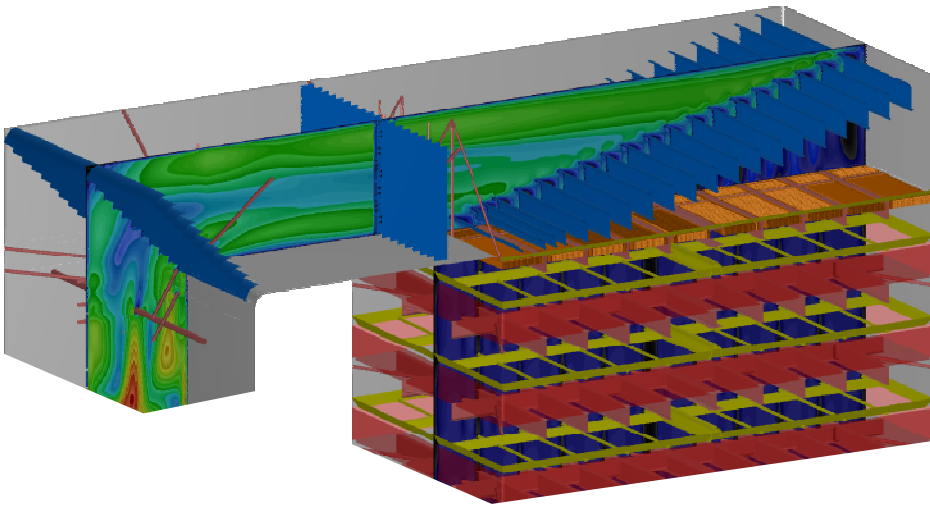
# Reactor Design & Configuration



- Original Designs Over 10-15 Years May Not have Used CFD Modeling
  - Physical Modeling (1/12<sup>th</sup> Scale; Dust Test)
- Past Designs Driven by Engineering Before Flow Modeling Completed
- Lessons Learned – Flow Modeling Should Drive Engineering Design
- Real World Buildup Sometimes Does Not Appear During Modeling

# Reactor Hood Design: Critical

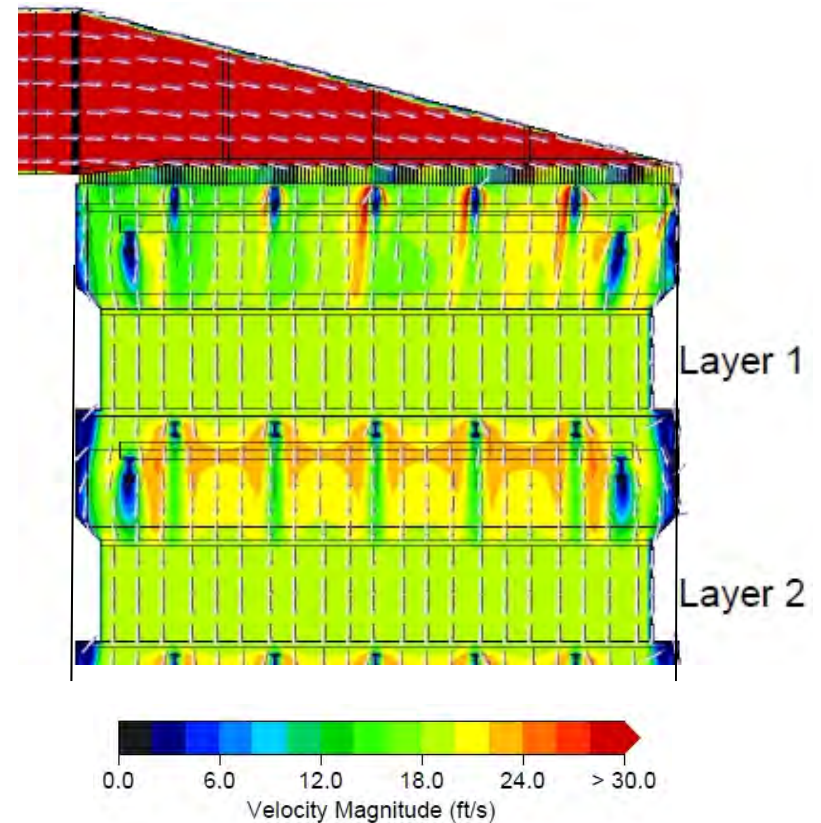
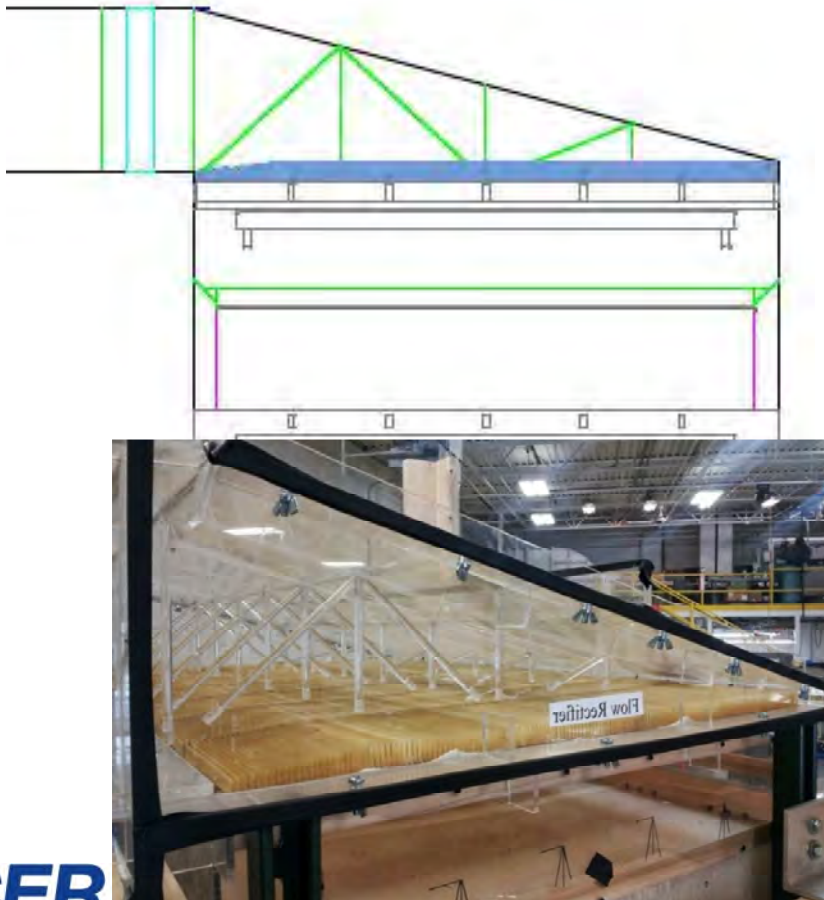
- ❖ Square hood
- ❖ Sloped hood



- ❖ Both work *if designed correctly*

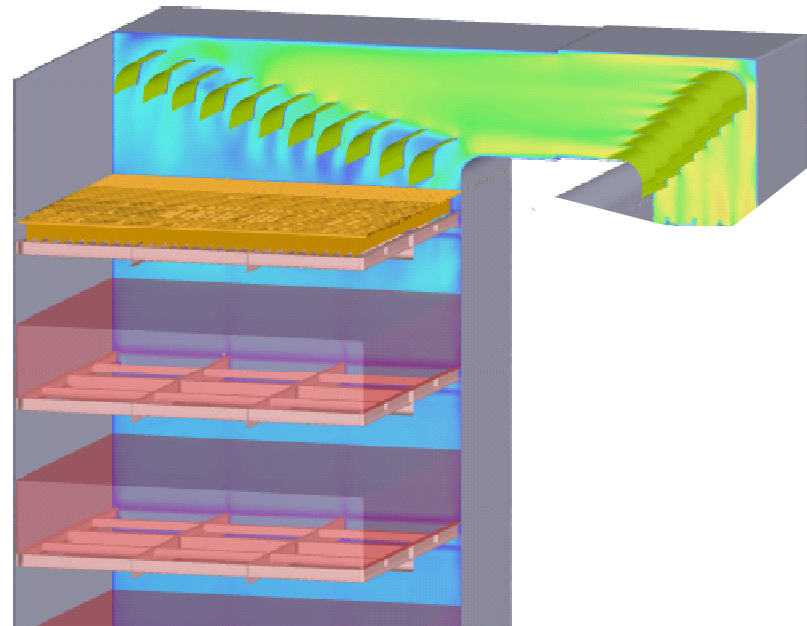
# Reactor Hood Design: Critical

- ❖ Sloped hood uses rectifier to turn flow
  - Works well *if designed correctly*



# Reactor Hood Design: Critical

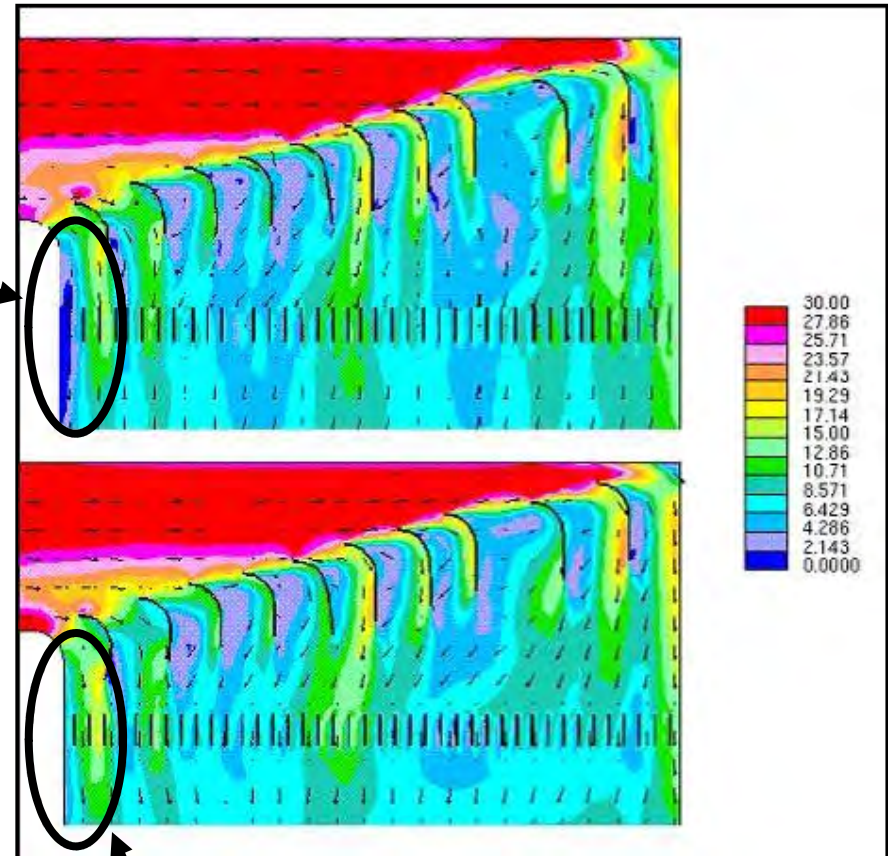
- ❖ Turning vanes
  - Curved vanes
  - Ladder vanes



- ❖ Both work *if designed correctly*

# Reactor Configuration – Importance of Flow Modeling

- Reactor Configuration
  - Distance From Crossover Duct Down to Top of 1<sup>st</sup> Catalyst Layer
- Low Velocity Area Exists Even Though Distributions Are Achieved
- Low Vel = Increased Pluggage Risk
- Optimized Designs are Possible



Eliminate Through CFD Modeling

# Reactor Configuration – Flow Modeling



Fly ash pile located below gusset plate due to ash shear

- Lessons Learned – Real World Buildup Sometimes Does Not Appear During Modeling
- Locations of Trusses and Gusset Plate Configurations



# Flow Distribution Device Design

- Lessons Learned – Ash Buildup on Vanes and Internal Structural Members
- Locations of Gusset Plates
- Turning Vane Design



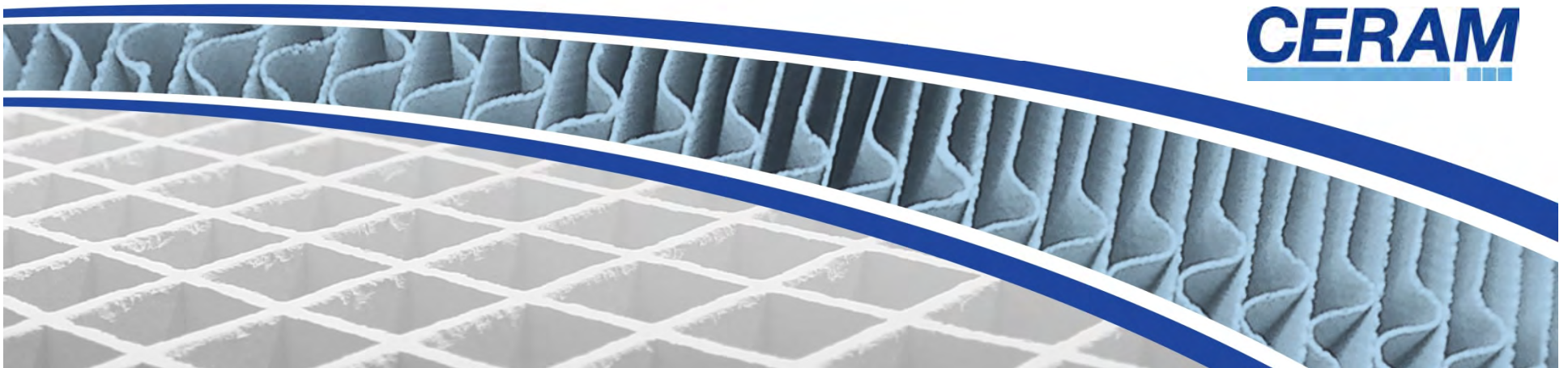
Ash Buildup on Vanes

Affects of Ash Shear



# Factors Affecting Pluggage From Operations

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# Eliminate LPA Prior to Catalyst



Large Particle Ash (LPA)



STEAG LPA Screen

- Large Particle Ash Can Be Present and Should be Controlled as Part of System Design
- LPA Pluggage of Catalyst Leads to...
  - High Pressure Drops
  - Mechanical Damage
  - Reduced Performance Potential
- Effective and Durable Screen Designs are Required
  - Located With Ash Removal
  - Located at Proper Velocity
  - Simple and Advanced Designs Have Both Succeeded and Also Had Problems
- Flow Modeling and Physical Changes are Likely Necessary

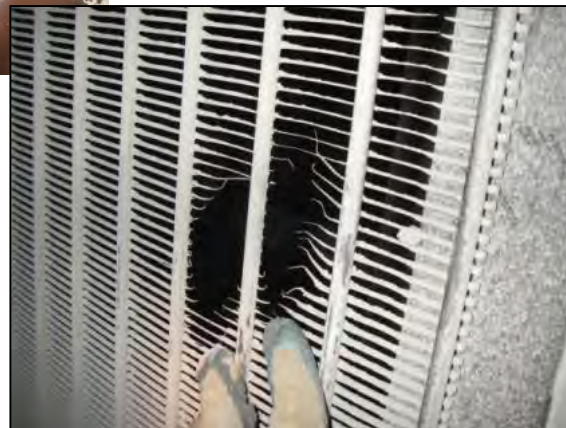
# Simple & Advanced LPA Screens Can Succeed or Fail

- Proper Choices of LPA Screen Design are Site Specific
- Ensure Proper Velocity at LPA Screen
- Remove Material From Hoppers
- Cleaning Device (Sonic Horn, Rapper, etc.)

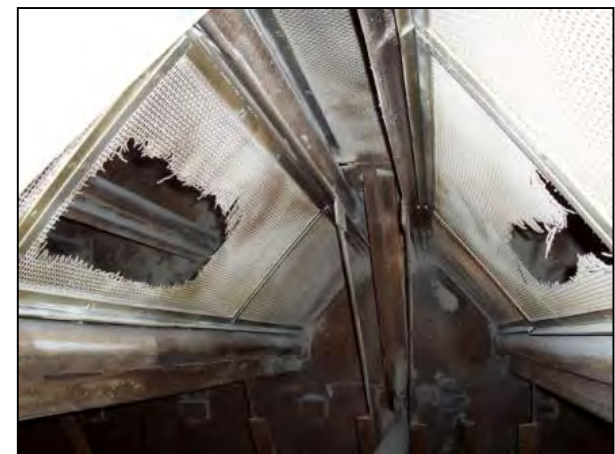
## Stainless Steel Screen Failed at Fasteners (High Velocity)



Damaged LPA Screen Material



Coated & Non-Coated Screens Failed (High Velocity)

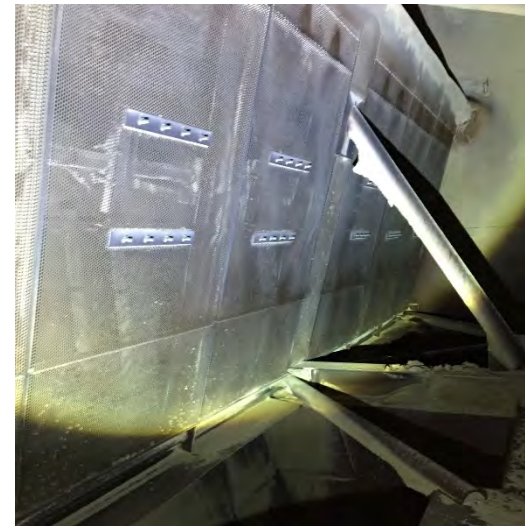


# Pluggage Due to LPA

Before LPA Screen



After Install of LPA Screen



Photos courtesy of Integrated Global Services

# Minimize Carbon Carryover



Reactor Accumulation of Unburned Carbon



Plate Catalyst With Accumulated Unburned Carbon

- The Control of Unburned Carbon is Important for Reliable DeNO<sub>x</sub> Operation
- All DeNO<sub>x</sub> Catalyst Has Oxidizing Properties and Will Tend to Oxidize Unburned Carbon
- Oxidized Carbon Sticks to Catalyst and Can Result in Pluggage
- Accumulation on Catalyst Increases Risk of Pluggage and Fires
- Increased Potential for Needing Offline, Out of Reactor Cleaning
- Homogeneous Honeycomb Catalyst Consists of Fully Oxidized Material
- Metal Substrates Can Lead to Increased Potential for Fires

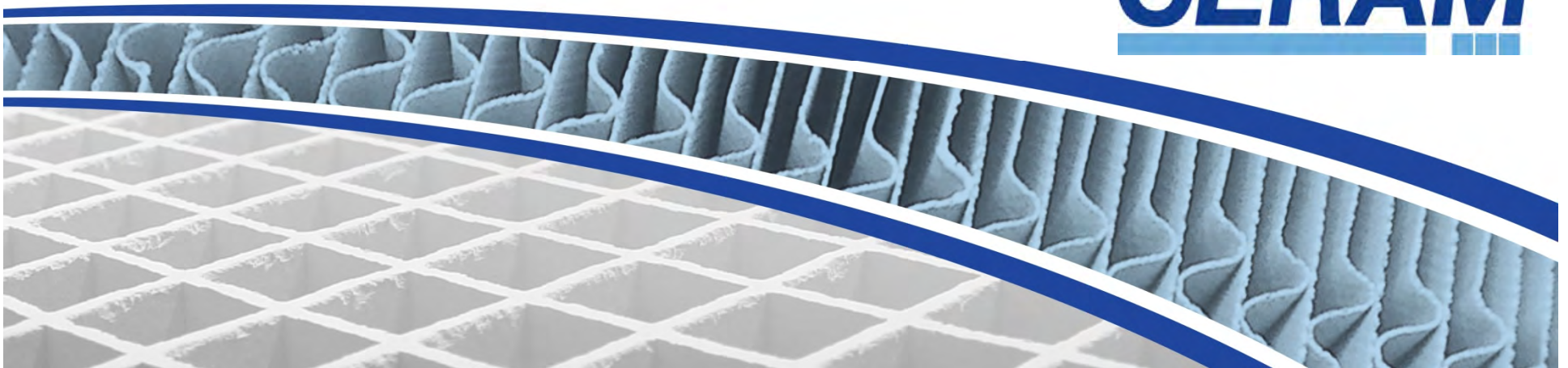
# Pluggage Leads to Erosion Which Can Affect Any Catalyst Type

- Erosion Risk Varies as Ratio of Flow to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Power
- Exposed Plate Stainless Steel Provides No Activity and Available for SO<sub>2</sub> to SO<sub>3</sub> Conversion
- Managed by Limiting Face Velocity
  - Minimize Catalyst Pluggage



# Online Cleaning Devices

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# Sootblowers – More O&M Cost Than Sonic Horns, But Are They Working?



**Sootblower Set to Improper Pressure (Compressed Air Setting Instead of Steam Setting) Ineffective at Cleaning Catalyst**

- Lessons Learned
  - Sootblowers Effective If Ash Fluidized; No Cleaning Device Effective with Poor Flow Distribution
  - Increase Frequency Based on Pressure Drop
  - Check Operation Daily

# Sonic Horns – Look Good Outside, But Are They Working?



- Lessons Learned
  - Sonic Horn Effective If Ash Fluidized;  
No Cleaning Device Effective with Poor Flow Distribution
  - Insulate Outside to Minimize Corrosion in Throat/Bell
  - Check Operation Daily



# Ash Sweepers



Before Ash Sweeper

# Ash Sweepers

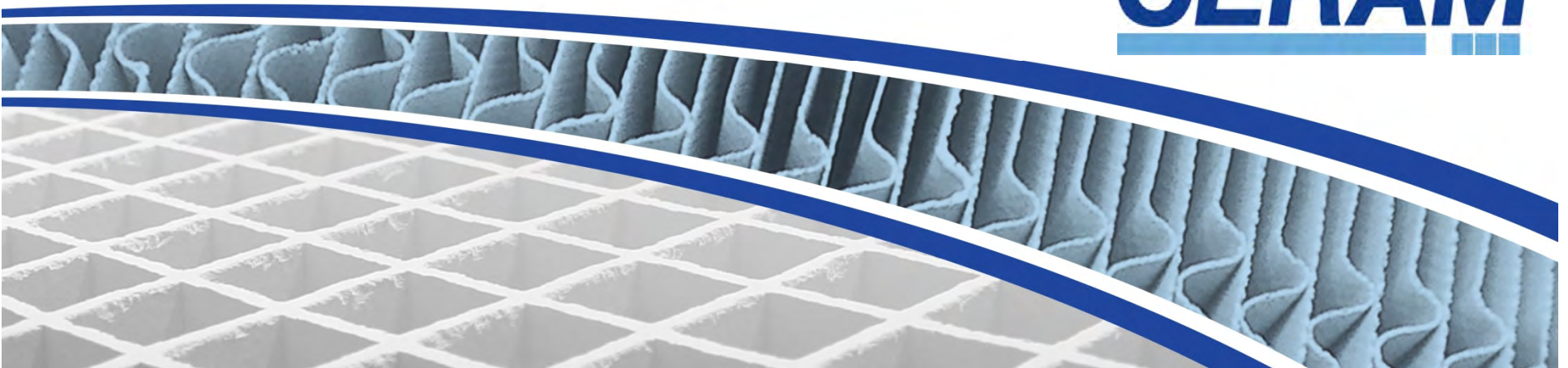


**After Ash Sweeper**

**03.05.2012 10:39**

# In-situ Cleaning

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# Example of “Mechanical” Cleaning Not Recommended



# Vacuuming and Pneumatic Cleaning



# Vibrational Cleaning



# Sponge Blasting

Patent Pending *Sponge Blasting Process* utilizes polyurethane foam media to **Safely Remove Hardened Ash from the Surface and Within the Catalyst Modules.**



Before Sponge Blasting



After Sponge Blasting



Photos courtesy of Michael Ware SCR Solutions, Inc.  
& Thompson Industrial Services, LLC

# Sponge Blasting Video

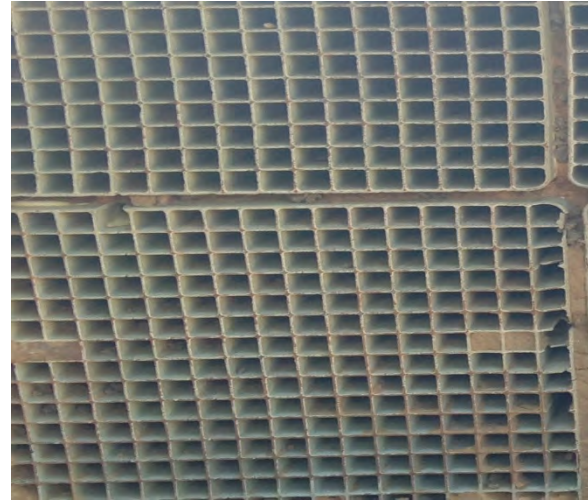


# Sponge Blasting

BEFORE



AFTER



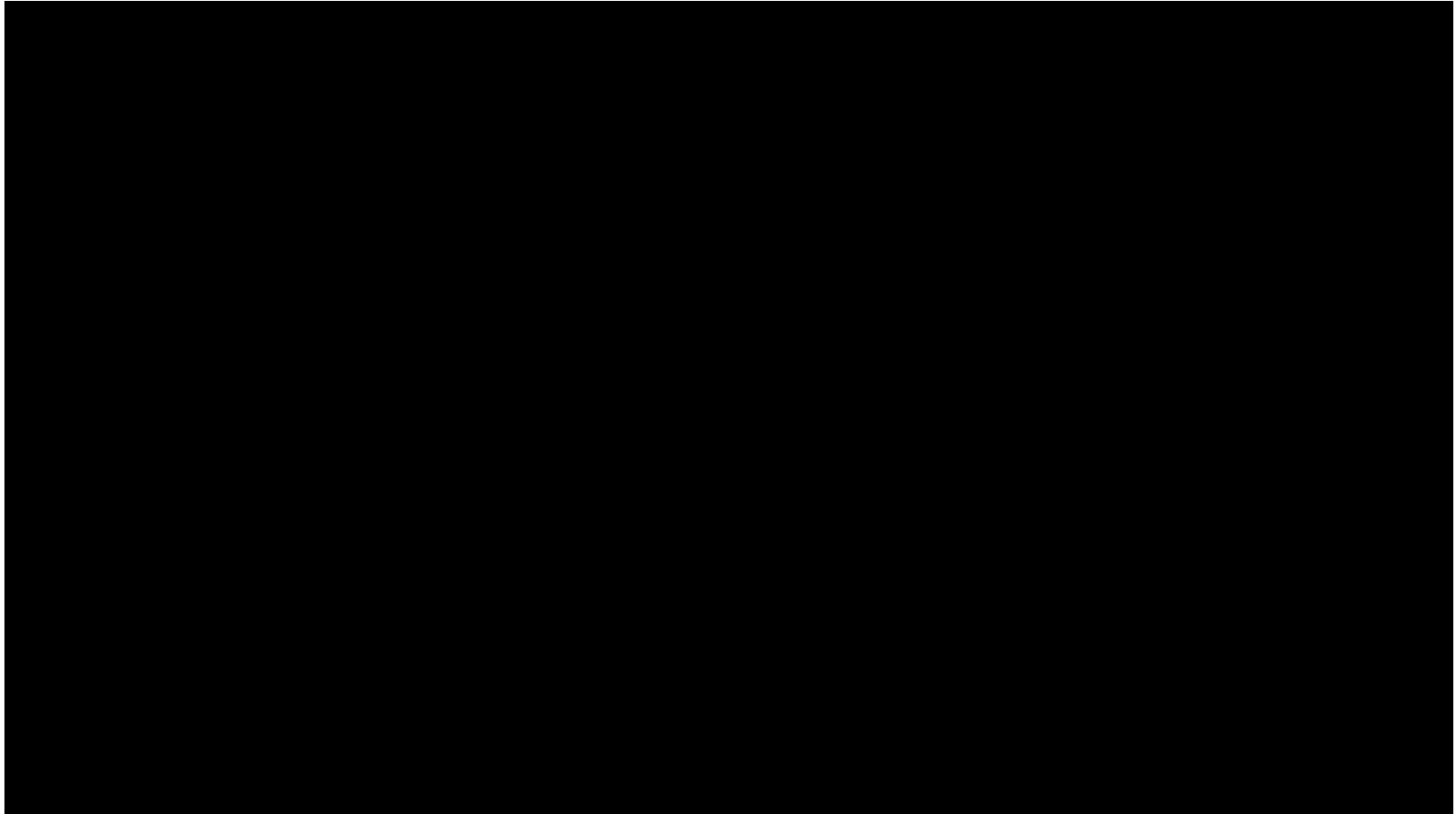
This combination of methods **Safely Clears the Catalyst of Potentially Harmful Contaminates** that cannot be achieved by traditional methods.



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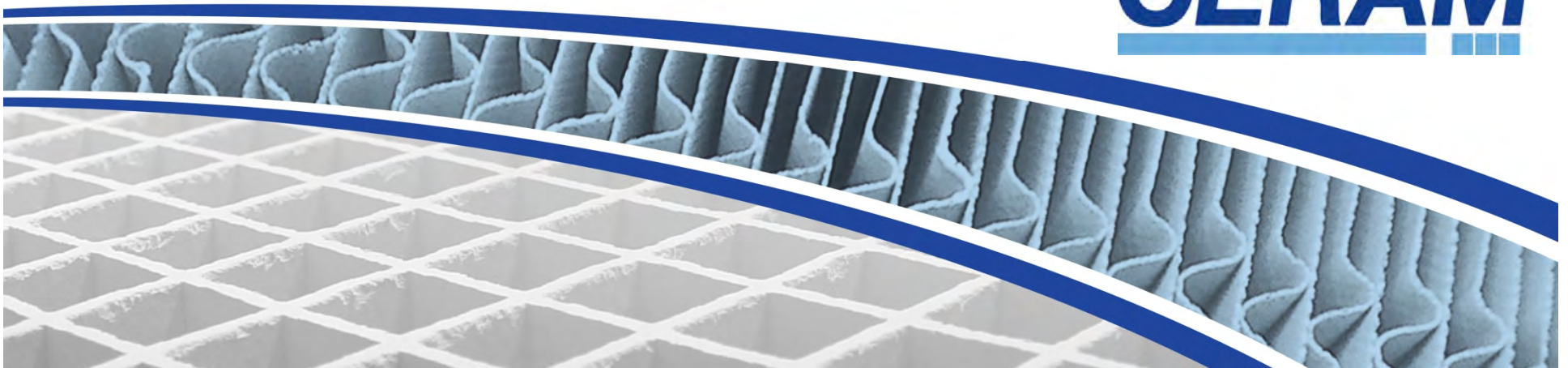
Photos courtesy of Michael Ware SCR Solutions, Inc.  
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# Dry Ice Blasting



# Fix “Root” Cause of Pluggage

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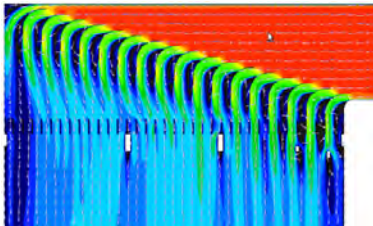
# Flow Modeling Methods

- ❖ CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics)
- ❖ Cold Flow Scale Modeling (dust testing)
- ❖ Hot Flow Scale Modeling (real ash)
- ❖ Wind Tunnel Testing
  - To determine ash drop-out and re-entrainment aerodynamic behavior
  - Ambient or Hot Wind Tunnel

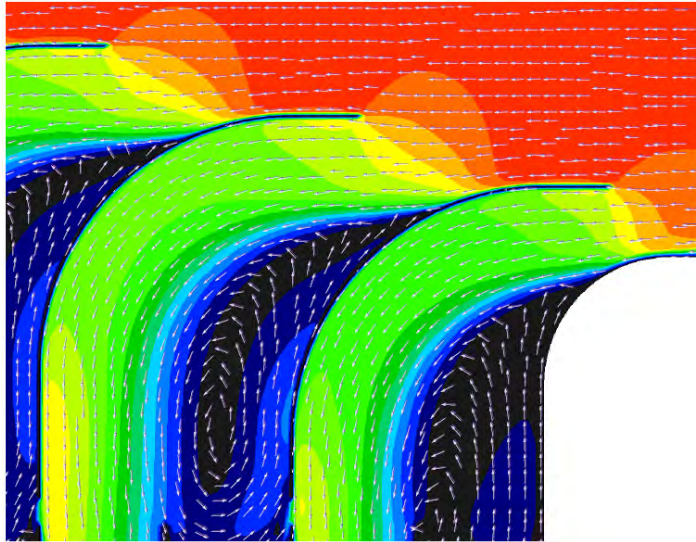
# Ash Deposition – Reactor Hood Vanes

- ❖ CFD model and field observations show root cause
  - Flow separation and recirculation on vane surface
  - Not *designed correctly*
  - Occasional avalanche can cause catalyst pluggage issue
  - Hood vane redesign required

Hood vanes



Vane detail



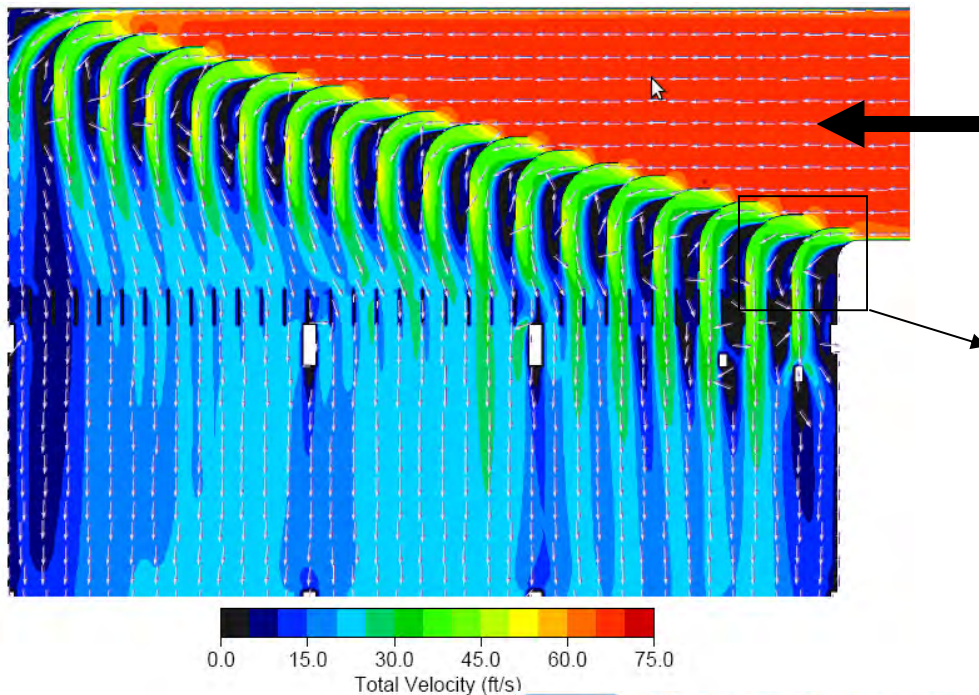
(black = recirc zone)

Ash buildup

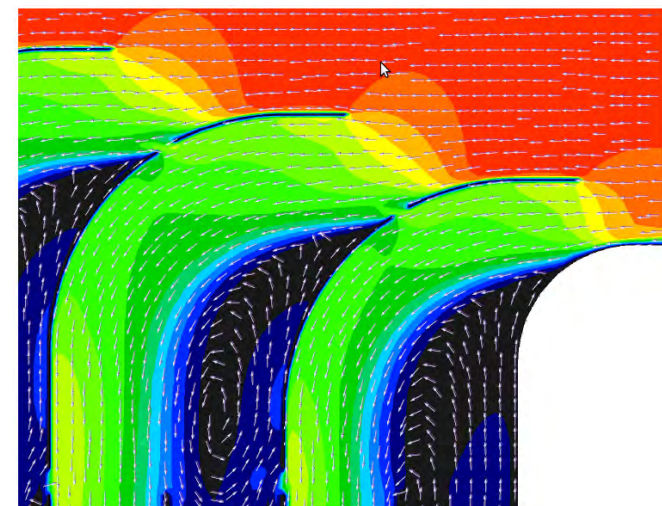


# Ash Deposition – Reactor Hood Vanes

- ❖ CFD model used to evaluate design mods
  - Reduce ash accumulation with minimal degradation of velocity uniformity to catalyst
  - “Slots” can be cut in vanes with strategic location and



Close-up at inner corner



# Ash Deposition – Reactor Hood Vanes

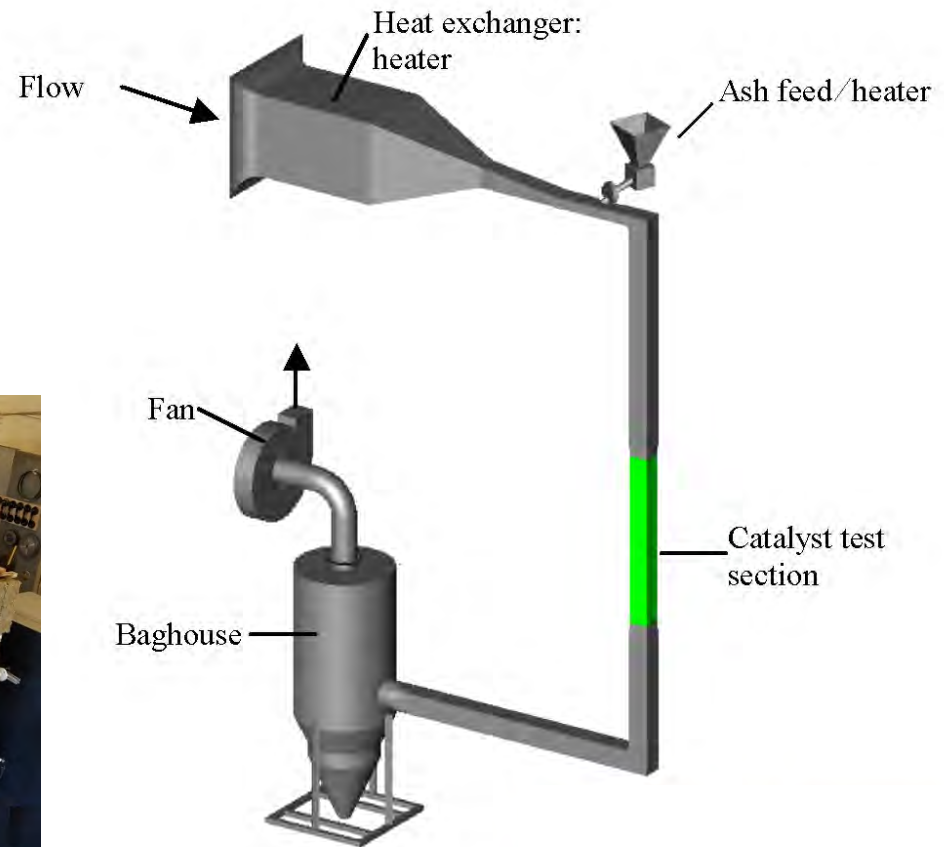
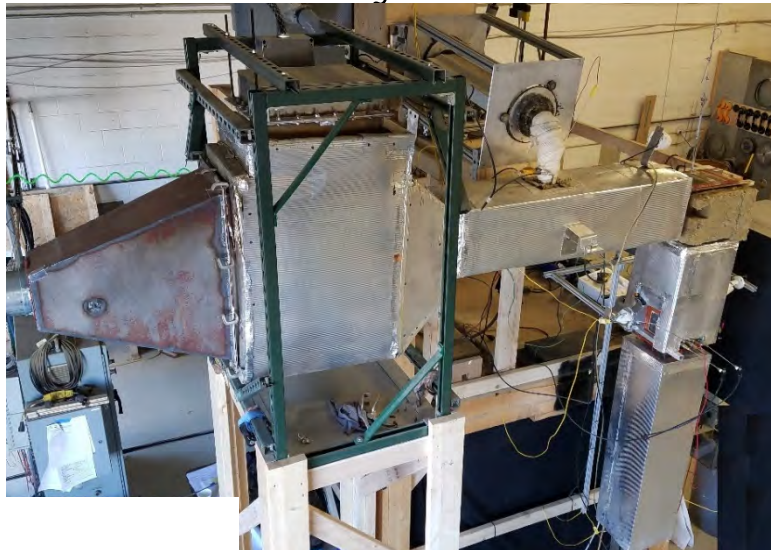
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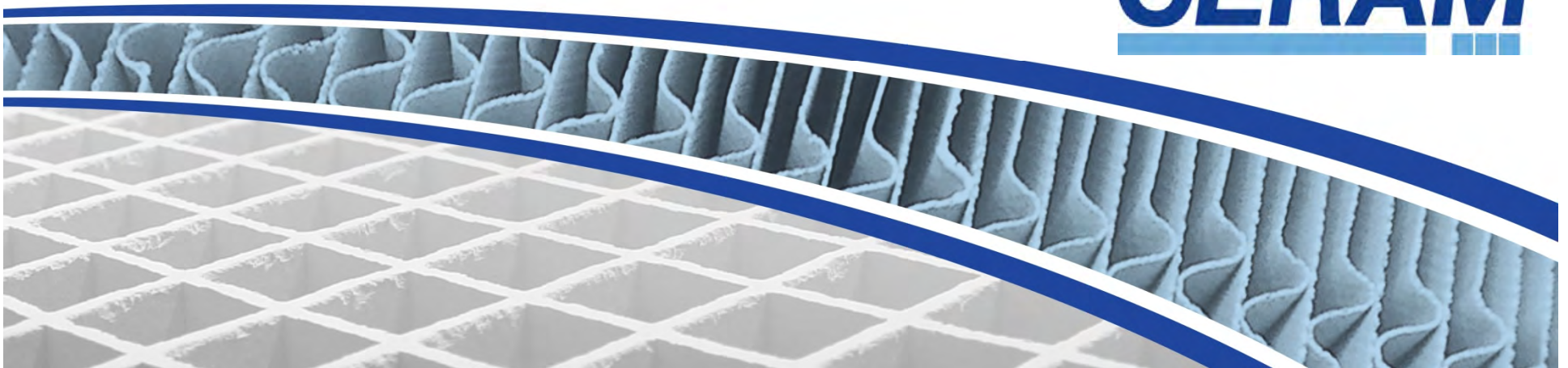
## ❖ Hot Flow Model

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**CERAM**



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