

REINHOLD ENVIRONMENTAL Ltd.



## **2019 NO<sub>x</sub>-Combustion-CCR Round Table Presentation**

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# Mercury Control in the US: 2018 Year in Review

Sharon Sjostrom -Year in Review

Joe Wong and Robert Huston - Development of New Activated Carbons



# Disclaimer

This presentation includes general information on coal and coal-fired boilers intended for education and illustration purposes only. All information is provided "AS-IS" and without warranty or liability of any kind.



# Mercury Control 2018 Year in Review

How are we doing?

- What's working?
- What's not working?
- What's new?



# Methodology

- ▶ Query EPA Air Markets and EIA Databases for boilers subject to MATS reporting Hg emissions
- ▶ 12 months ending November 2018 for operations, January - December 2018 for mercury emissions
- ▶ Calculate daily and monthly average mercury emissions, and monthly average coal source (mine and region), heating value mercury and sulfur by EGU
- ▶ Categorize each boiler by air pollution control type and primary fuel
- ▶ Abbreviations used:
  - CESP - cold-side ESP
  - FF - Fabric filter
  - SCR - Selective catalytic reduction
  - Hg controls
    - PAC - Powdered Activated Carbon
    - CA - Coal Additives (i.e. bromine or iodine)
    - RC - Refined Coal (IRS designation)  
*EGUs included here use iodine or bromine as a coal additive*
  - BIT - Bituminous Coal
  - SUB - Subbituminous Coal
  - LIG - Lignite Coal
  - WFGD - Wet FGD
  - DFGD - Dry or semi-dry FGD
  - DSI - Dry Sorbent Injection



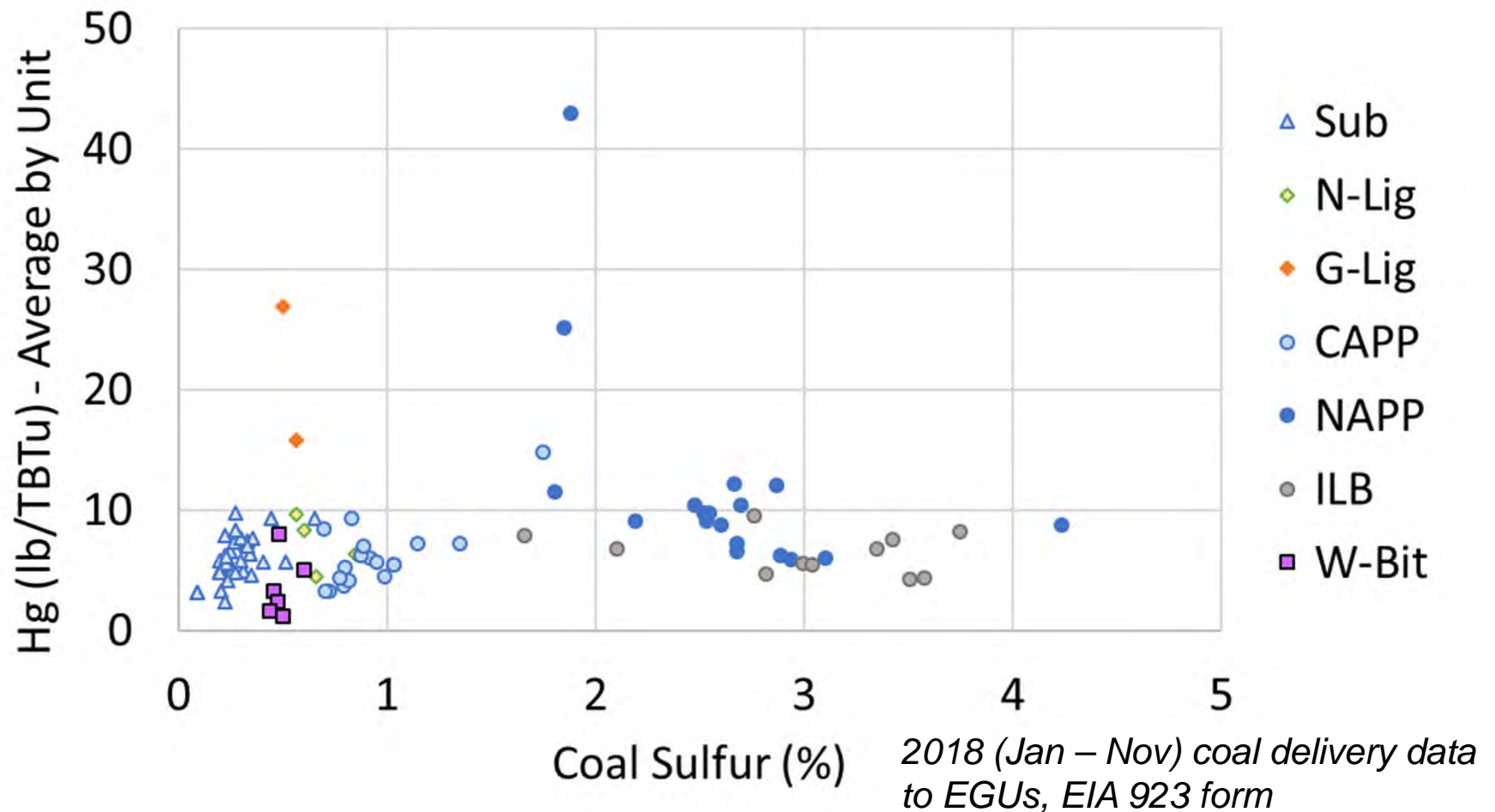
# Primary Factors that Affect Mercury Emissions and Mercury Control Selection

- Coal properties
  - Mercury, halogens, sulfur
- Air Pollution Controls (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM)
  - FF generally better than ESP
  - FGD helps if there's enough halogen
  - SCR helps oxidize Hg on scrubbed units
  - Reducing SO<sub>3</sub> on medium and high sulfur units will help
- Other Considerations
  - Economics
  - Balance-of-plant impacts
  - Environmental constraints (e.g. ancillary emissions or effluent discharges)

# Primary Factors that Affect Mercury Emissions and Mercury Control Selection

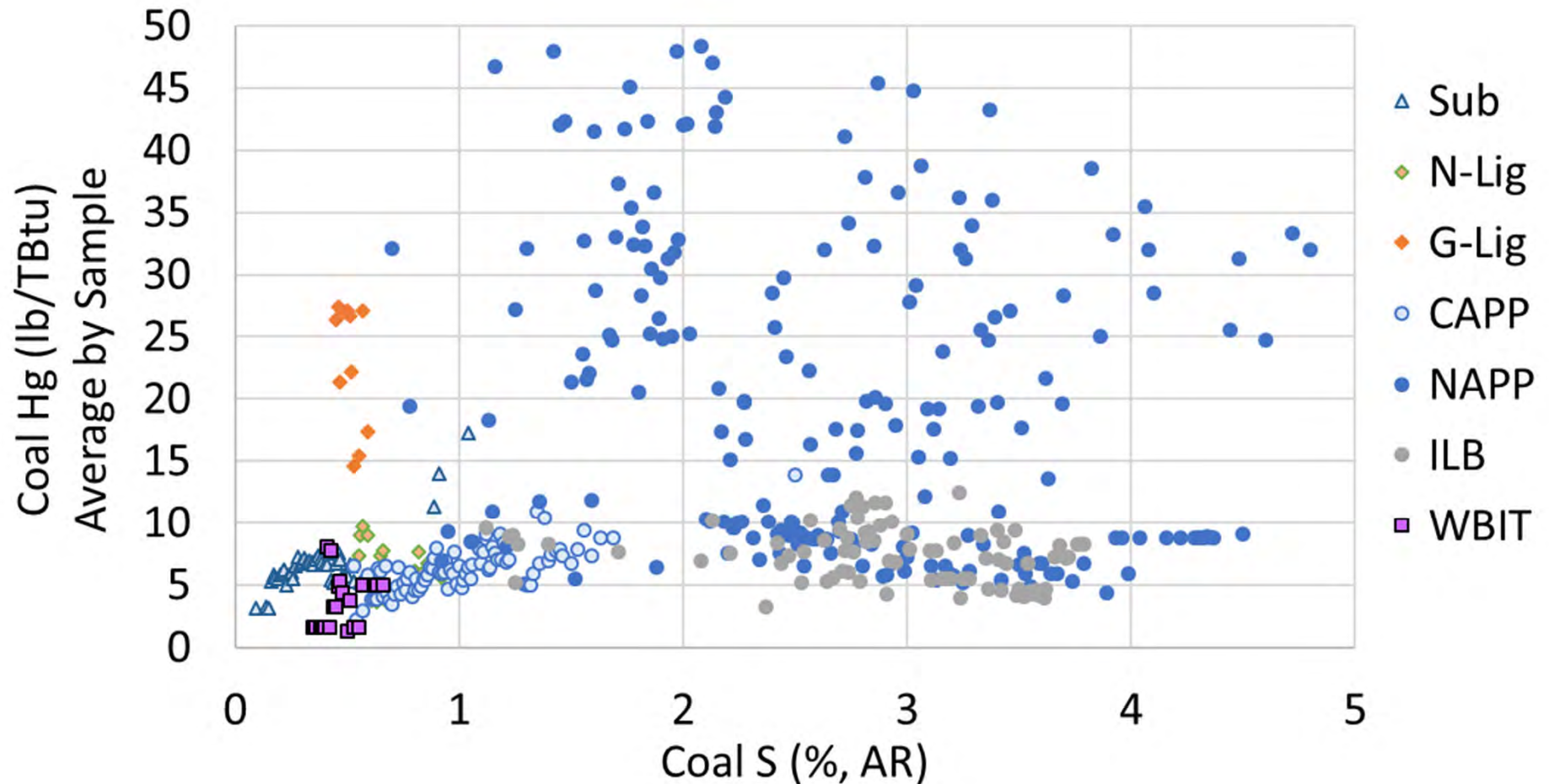
- Coal properties
  - Mercury, halogens, sulfur
- Air Pollution Controls (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM)

# Coal Mercury and Sulfur - Unit Averages



- Northern Appalachian: Higher Hg required for some plants
- NAPP and ILB: Sulfur may make controls more challenging

# Variability in Mercury and Sulfur

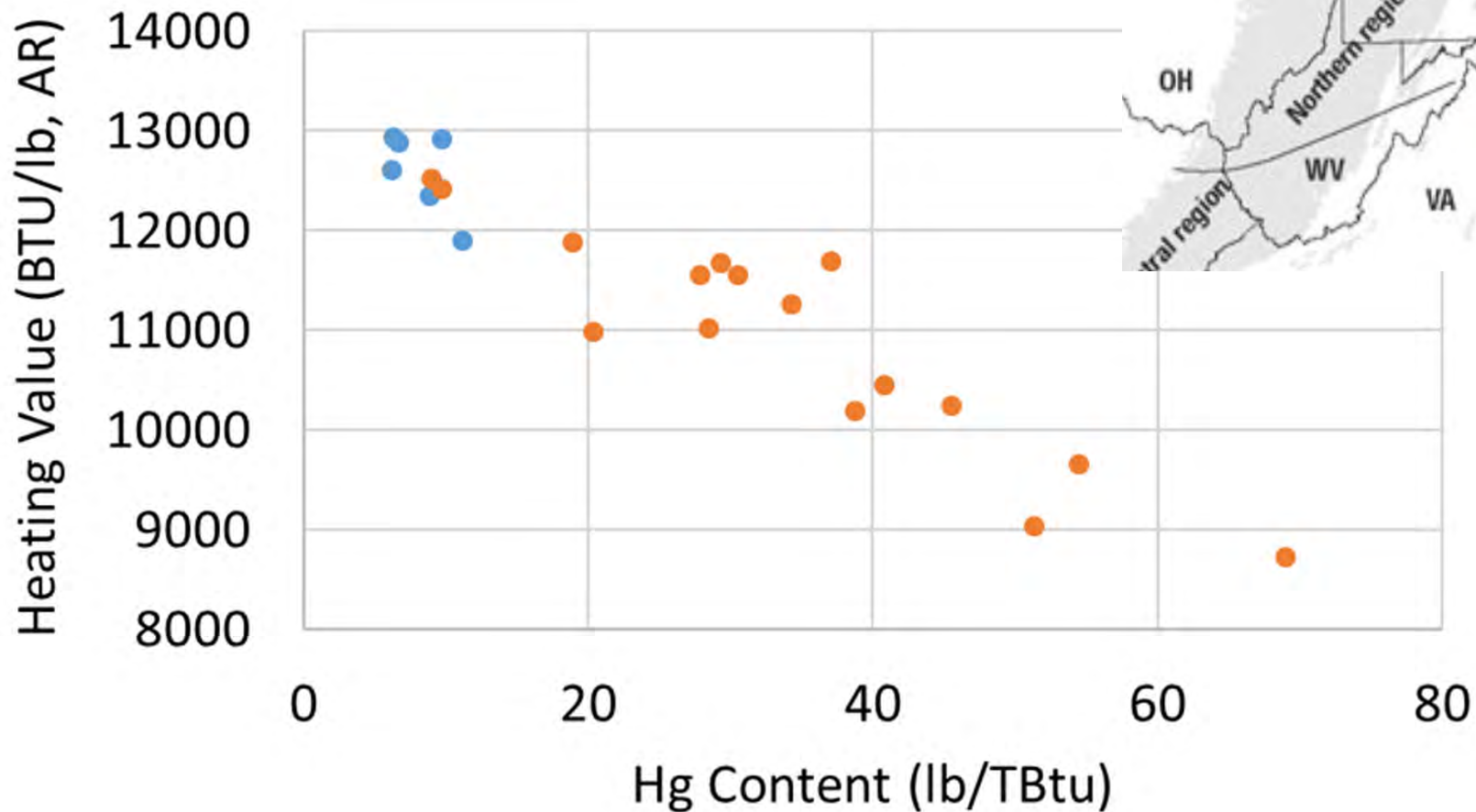


➤ Northern Appalachian: Significant scatter

2018 (Jan – Nov) coal delivery data to EGUs, EIA 923 form



# Closer Look at NAPP Coal Mercury

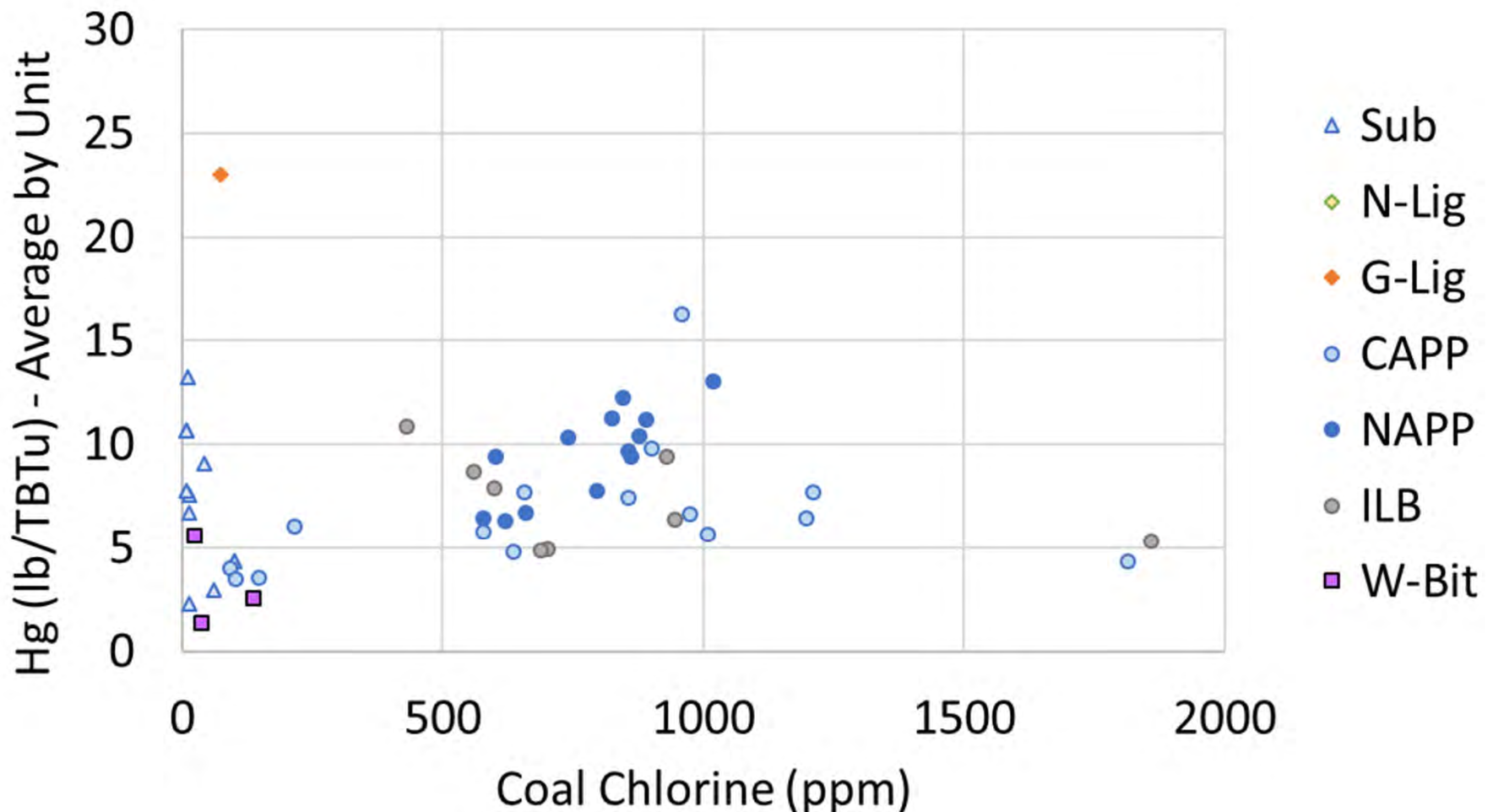


● > 1M tons coal, 95% of total    ● < 1M tons coal, 5% of total

➤ Most NAPP delivered is high HV with lower mercury content

# Chlorine and Mercury in Coal

➤ Subbituminous, Western Bituminous, Gulf-Lignite and some CAPP may benefit from halogen addition (ND lignite too)



# Mercury Control Strategies

## ➤ Reported to EPA

- Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC)
- Halogenated Activated Carbon (HPAC)
- Coal Additives (CA)
- Fuel blending
- Halogen Coal Additive + PAC (CA+PAC)
- Alkaline sorbents for acid gas mitigation (DSI)

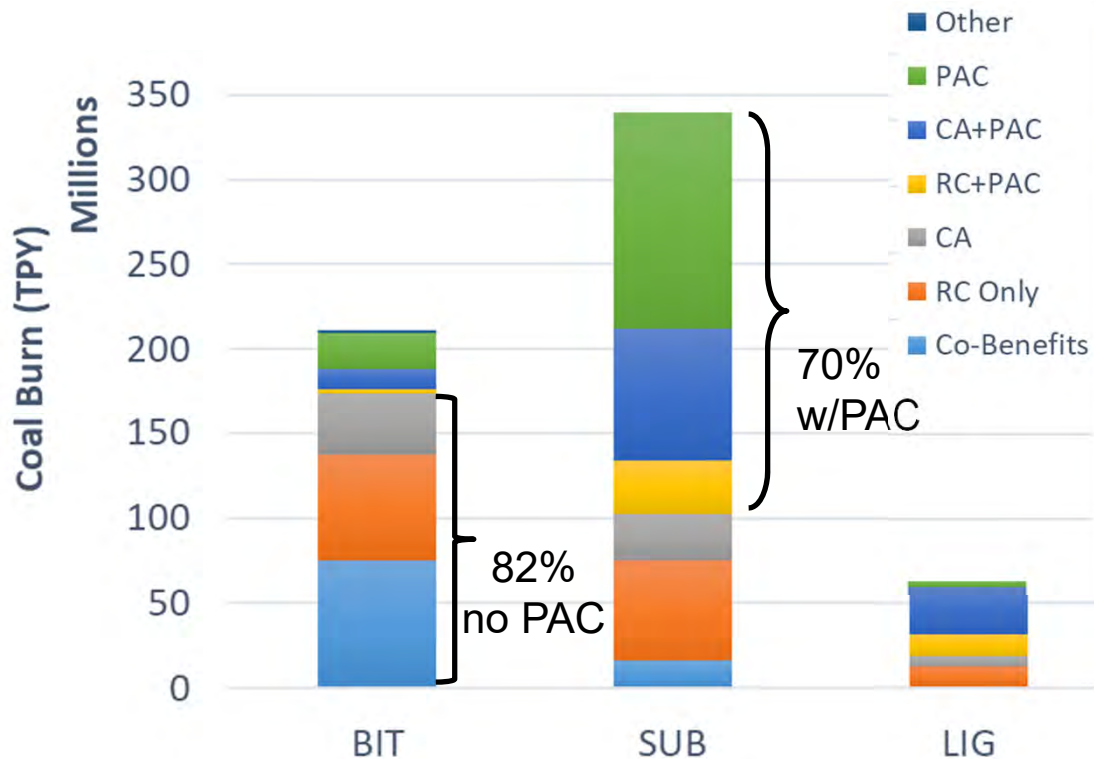
## ➤ Not Reported

- Combustion modifications to enhance Hg removal through unburned carbon
- Scrubber Re-emission chemicals
- Amount of PAC or CA used, or specific type (beyond PAC-HPAC)



# Preferred Hg Controls by Coal Type

Primary Coal	GW	EGUs	Coal (MMtpy)	Capacity Factor
BIT	119	270	218	38%
SUB	111	268	333	51%
LIG	12	28	52	65%
WC	1	6	5	64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>619</b>	



- Bituminous-fired plants are operating at lower capacity factor, on average
- 82% of bituminous coal controlled by co-benefits or halogen coal additives\*
- 70% of subbituminous and lignite coal controlled with PAC\*
- High level averages don't tell the whole story

\* Based on information reported to CAMD and EIA

# Primary Factors that Affect Mercury Emissions and Mercury Control Selection

- Coal Rank
- Air Pollution Controls (NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM)

# Coal and Air Pollution Control

**Operating Units Per Configuration (566 Units Total)**

		BIT			SUB			LIG		
		No NOx	SCR	SNCR	No NOx	SCR	SNCR	No NOx	SCR	SNCR
CESP	No SOx	2	1	6	57	10	8			
	Dry*	2			3	3	2	1		
	WFGD	26	122	13	19	20	2	8		5
FF	No SOx			1	21	4	4			
	Dry*	7	10	9	29	24	1	6		3
	WFGD	14	13	2	14	8			2	1
Other	No SOx				9		1	1		
	Dry*	1	4		6	7	2			
	WFGD	12	22	3	8	5	1	1		

\*Dry: Primarily DFGD, but includes DSI and fluidized bed boilers

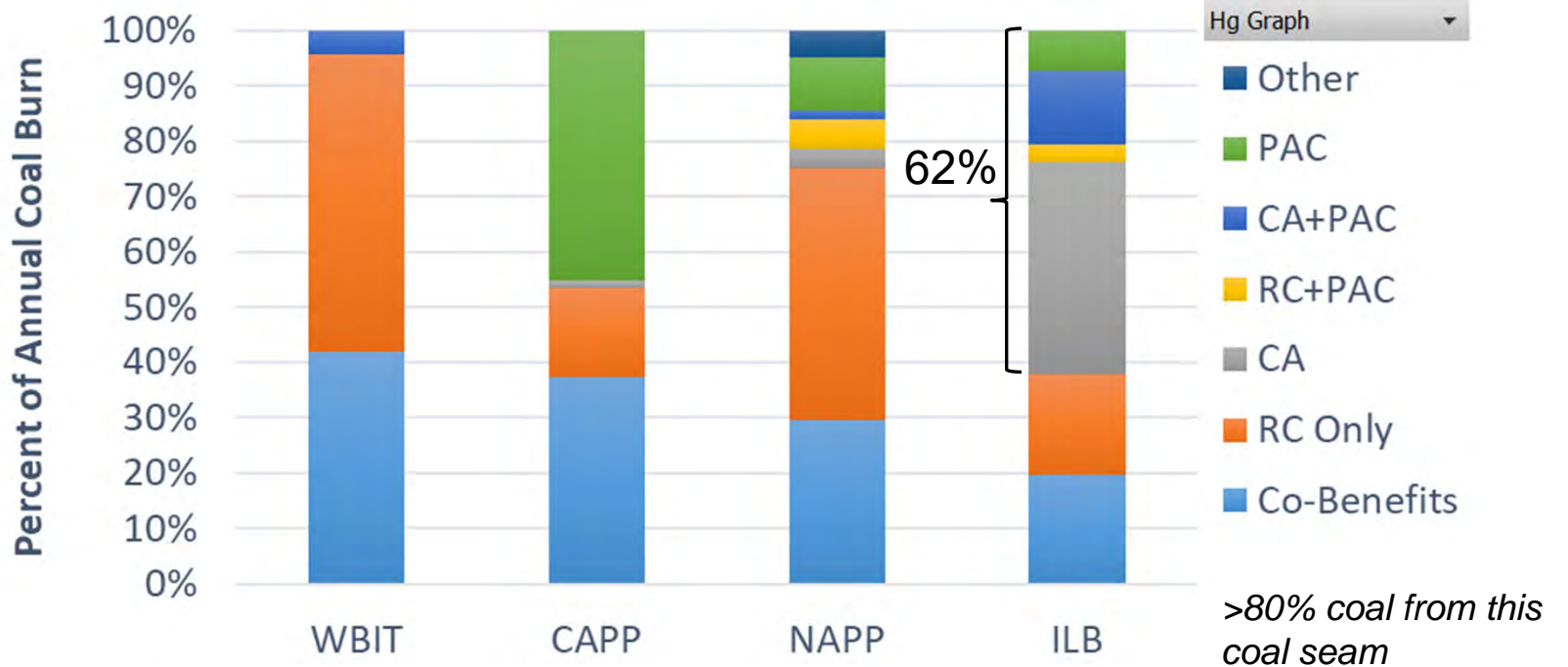
## Most popular:

- Bituminous:
  - ✓ 45% SCR+CESP+WFGD
  - ✓ 10% CESP+WFGD
  - ✓ 5% FF + WFGD
  - ✓ All others < 5% of all Bit units
- Subbituminous:
  - ✓ 21% CESP
  - ✓ 11% DFGD + FF
  - ✓ 9% SCR + DFGD + FF
  - ✓ 8% FF
  - ✓ 7% SCR+CESP+WFGD
  - ✓ 7% CESP + WFGD

## Focus on Bituminous Units

- 63% (by coal fired) report no Hg-specific controls
  - *Down to 34% if RC is included as Hg control*
- Most (76% by coal burned) have SCRs
- Almost all (95% by coal burned) have wet FGDs
- Most (76% by coal burned) have CESPs

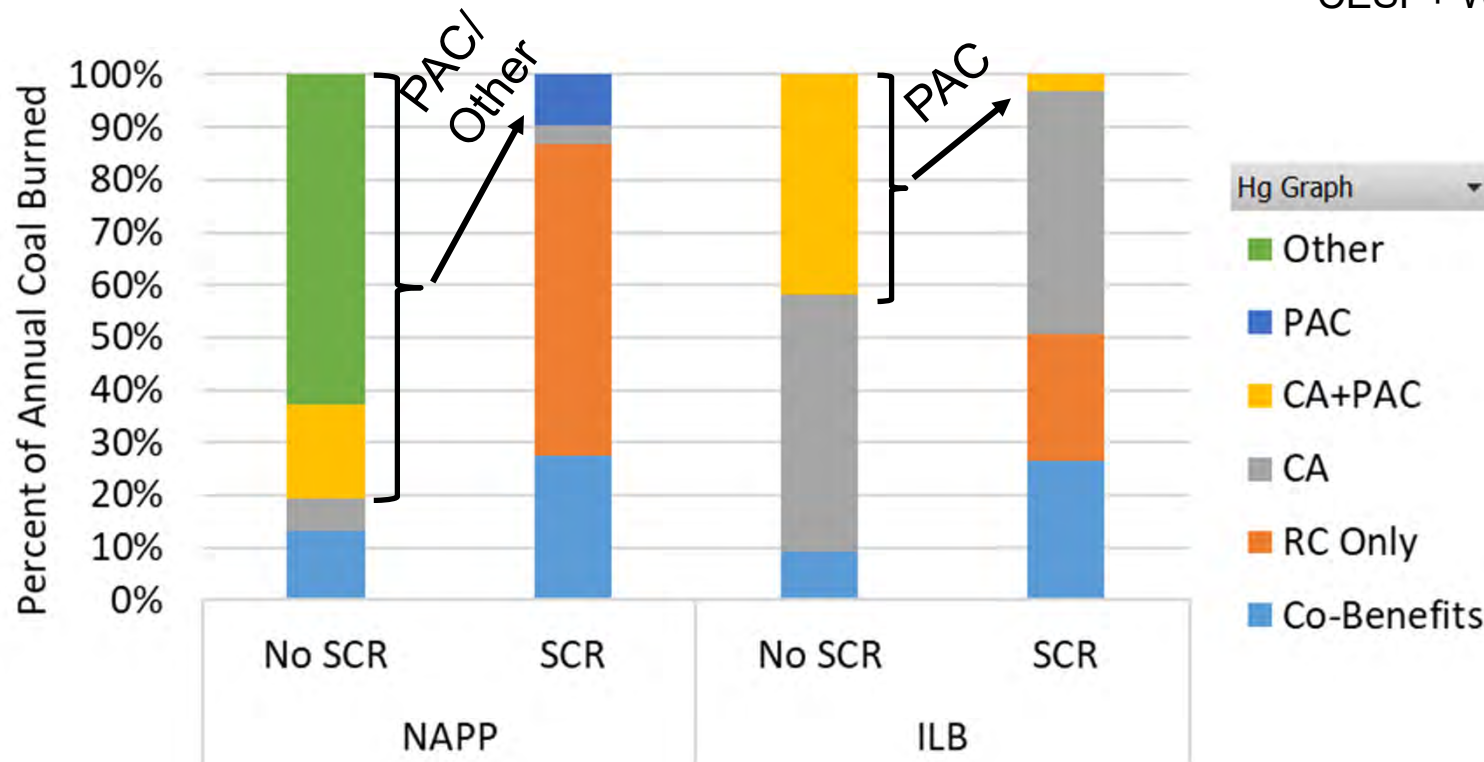
# Mercury Control Strategies



% SCR (by coal fired)	6%	32%	86%	83%
% WFGD (by coal fired)	91%	31%	90%	99%
% Fabric Filter (primary)	54%	33%	10%	11%
Avg Coal Sulfur	0.5-0.6	0.7-1.8	1.8-4.2	2.1-3.8
Avg Coal Cl	11-138	92-1814	576-1019	431-1858

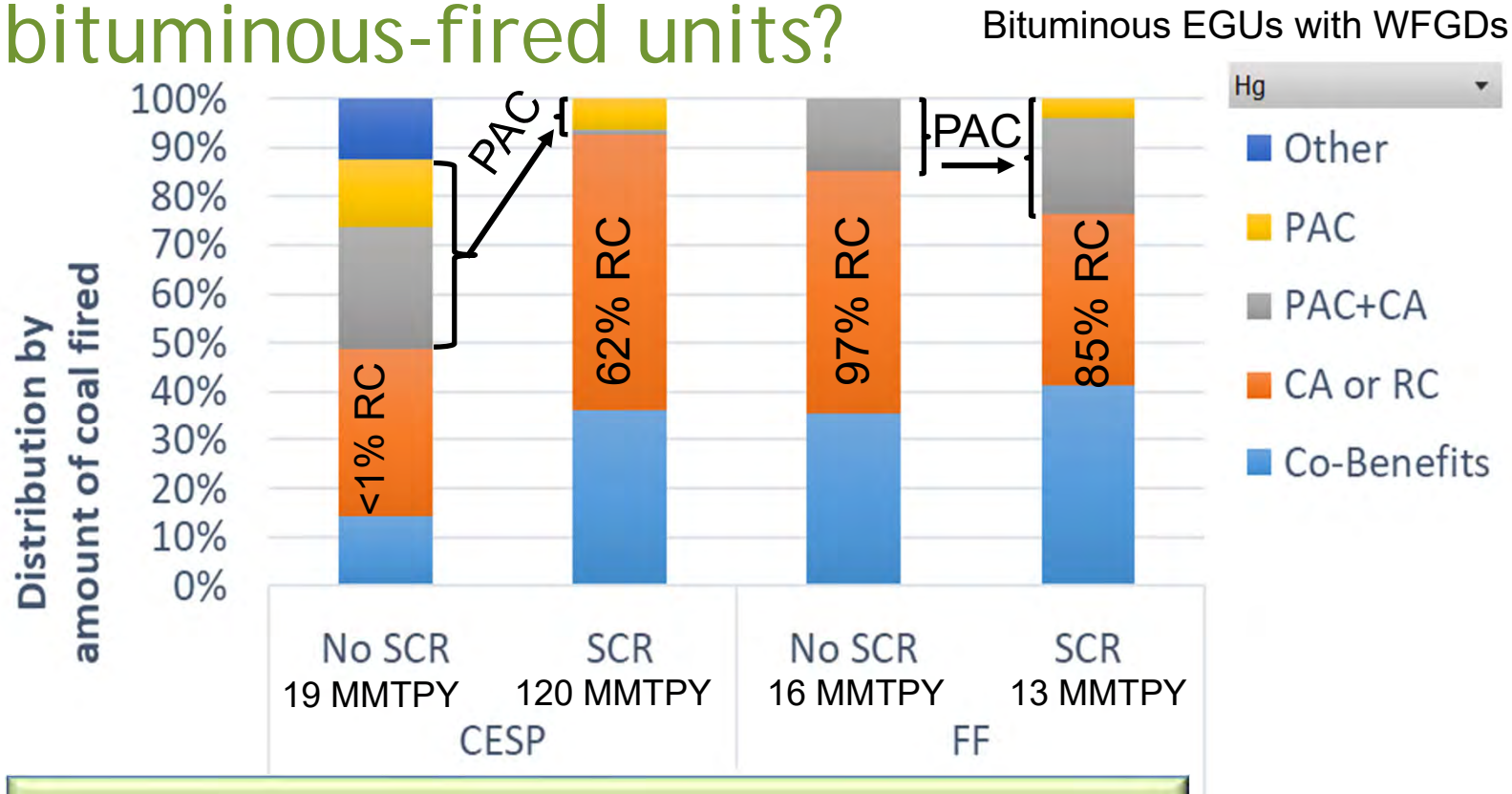
# How does an SCR influence Hg controls on bituminous-fired units?

EGUs with  
CESP+ WFGDs



- An SCR decreases reliance on PAC (or other) for ILB and NAPP units
  - NAPP: 81% PAC or “Other” → 10% PAC
  - ILB: 42% PAC → 3% PAC

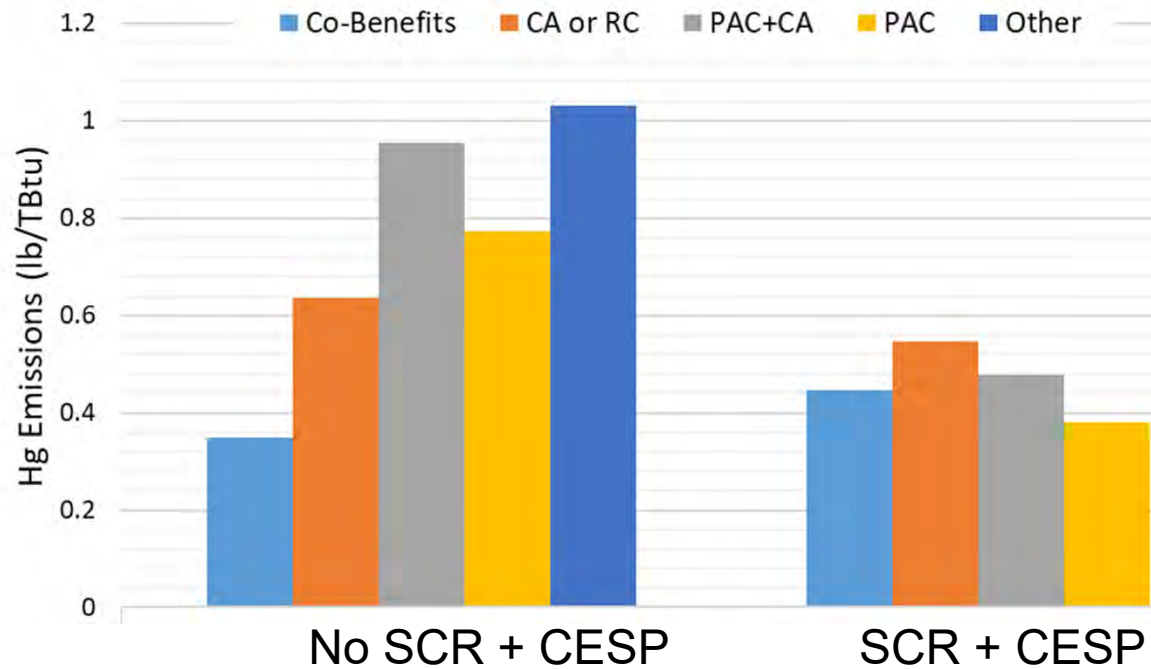
# How does an SCR influence Hg controls on bituminous-fired units?



- An SCR decreases reliance on PAC for CESP units
  - No SCR: 39% use PAC
  - SCR: only 8% use PAC
- An SCR has little impact on PAC usage for FF units
  - 15% vs 23% use PAC

*Reminder:  
76% (by coal burned)  
have SCRs*

# How does an SCR influence Hg controls on bituminous-fired units?



39% report using PAC

8% report using PAC

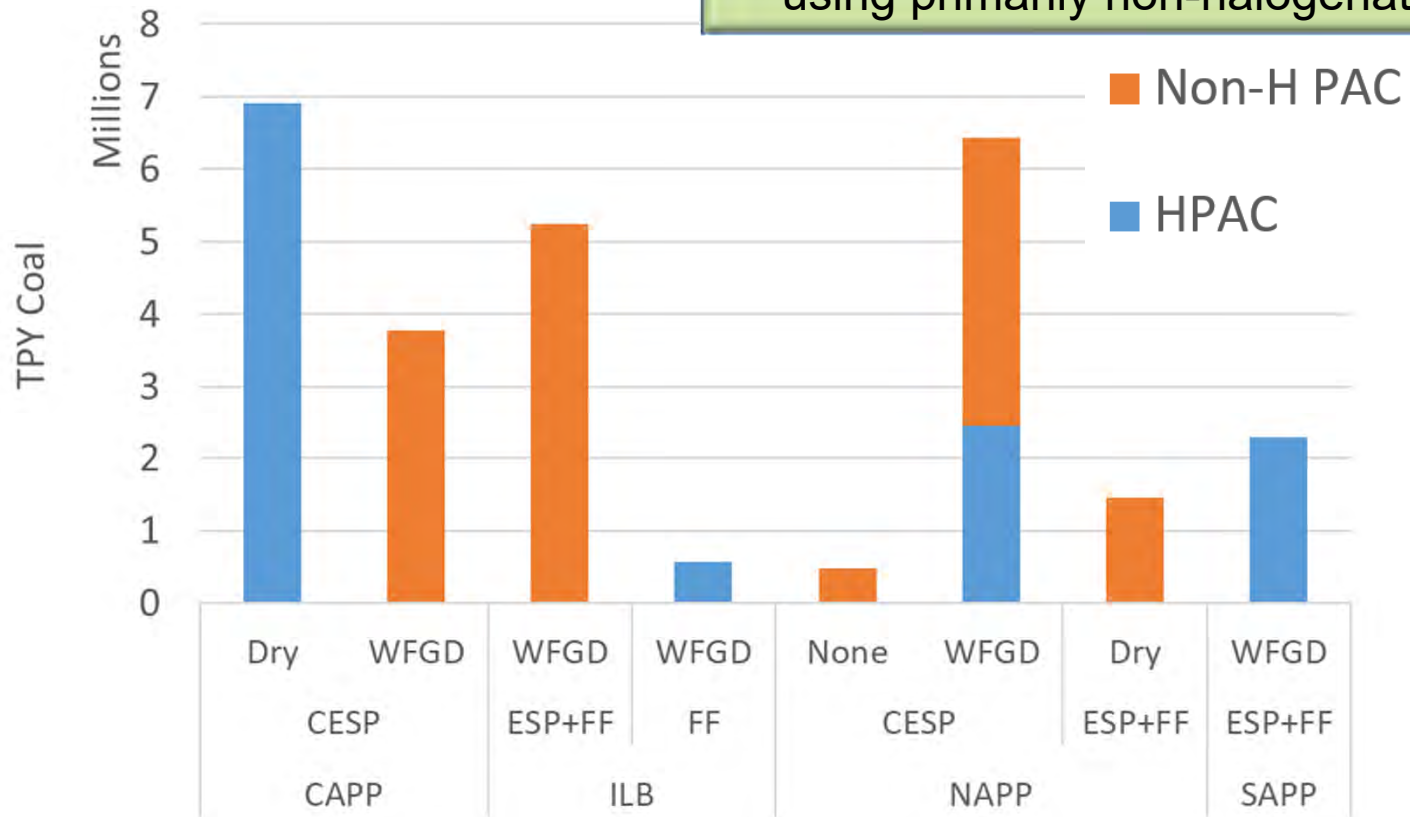
CESP + WFGD Units

- SCR units: Low average emissions (<0.6 lb/TBtu). PAC and CA may be on-site as a backup, but how often are they used for compliance?
- Non SCR units: Higher emissions suggest need to rely on PAC and CA more frequently

*Reminder: 76% (by coal burned) have SCRs*

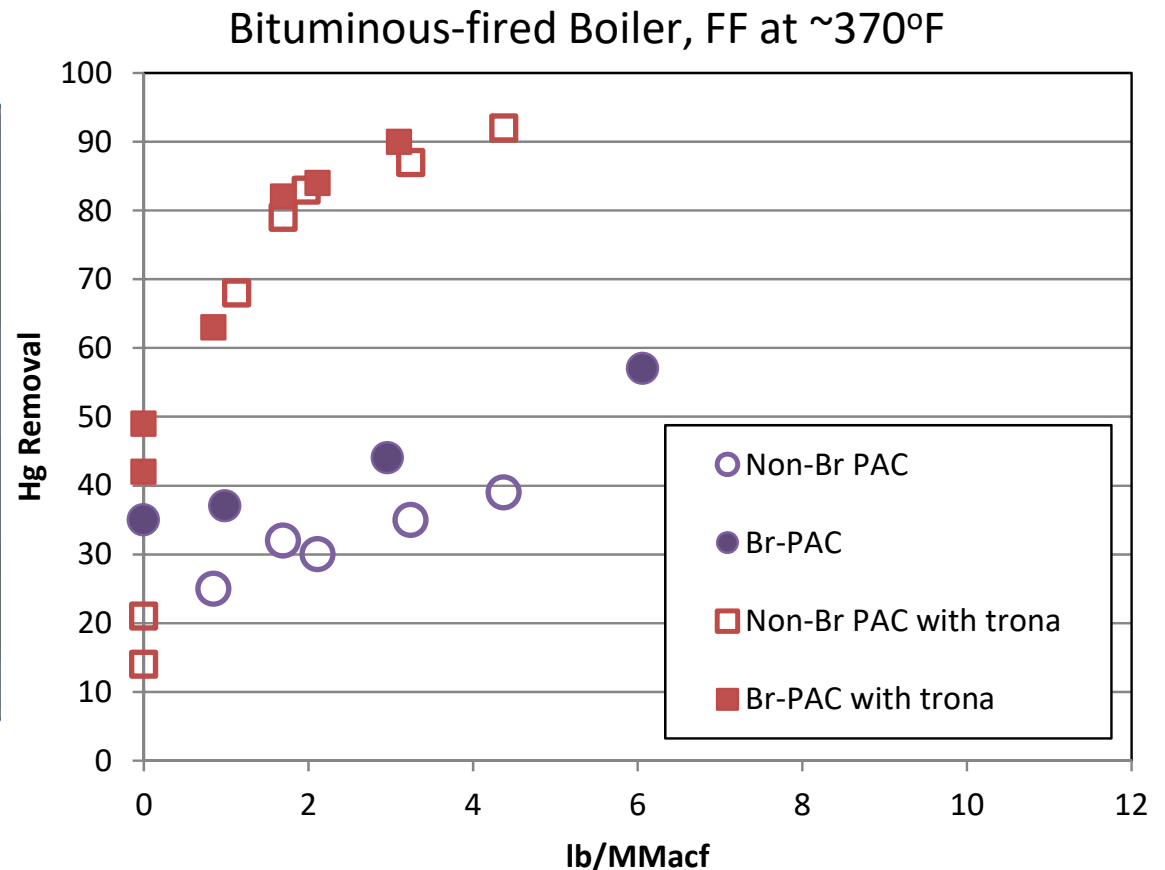
# What type of PAC is used on bituminous-fired units?

- 19% of bituminous units report that PAC is part of their control strategy
- Higher chlorine bituminous units report using primarily non-halogenated PAC



# Improving Performance with PAC: Use Alkaline Sorbents (DSI) to Lower $\text{SO}_3$

- Sodium or calcium DSI sorbents can be used to remove  $\text{SO}_3$  and increase effectiveness of PAC
- Example:  
Bituminous-fired boiler with FF, ~20 ppm  $\text{SO}_3$  uncontrolled

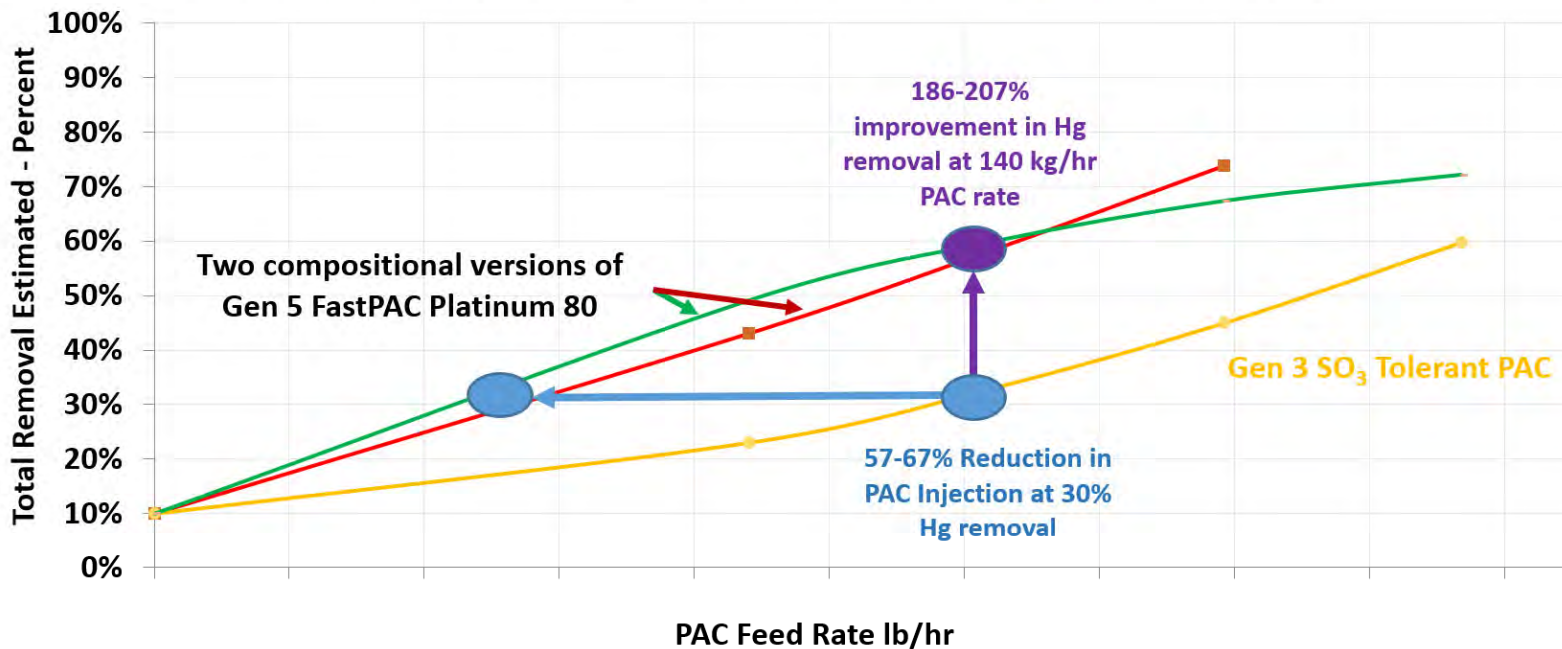


# Developing More Effective PACs for Bit Units

EGU Collaboration - 150 MW Mid-Sulfur Coal Blend with 15-20 ppm SO<sub>3</sub>



(Mid-sulfur Coal/PET Coke Blend) - Boiler – ECON – ACI – APH – ESP - Stack



- Highly collaborative engagement with contracted EGU with full data interchange and pilot testing of Coal Blend at Southern Research Institute's 1 MW Combustor
  - Both versions of Gen 5 FastPAC Platinum 80 achieved 60% Hg removal with turn-up capability as needed
  - PAC injection rate was reduced by at least 30% and will be implemented commercially as part of our optimization



# Developing More Effective PACs for Bituminous Units



- R&D efforts can result in significant performance improvements
- Performance: 80-85% total Hg removal in high SO<sub>3</sub> flue gas

High Sulfur Fuel Blend (18-24 ppm SO<sub>3</sub>)

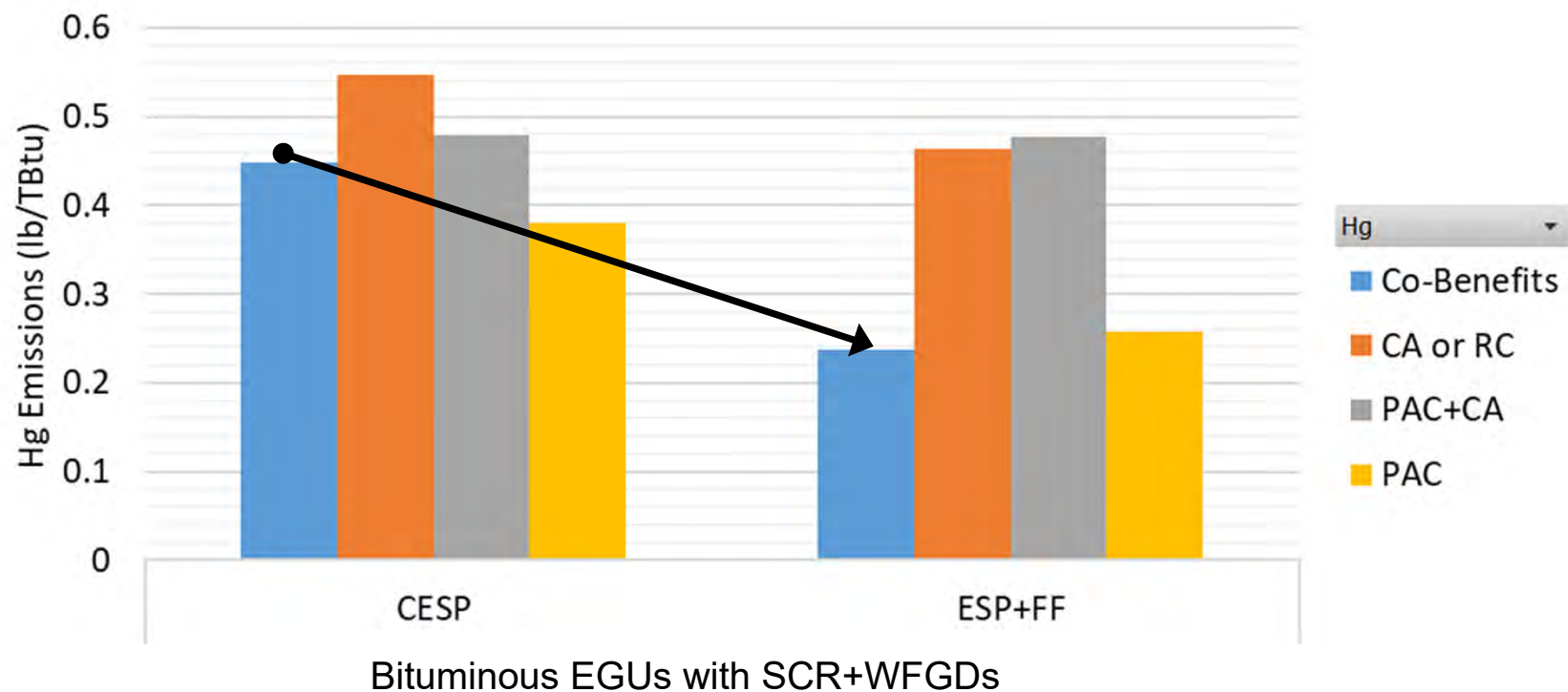
PAC	Description	Contact	Conversion	Capture	% Hg Removal
1	Gen 2 FastPAC Premium	x	x	x	28-38%
2	SO <sub>3</sub> sacrificial additive	xx	x	x	38%
3	Improved oxidation and SO <sub>3</sub> barrier	xx	x	x	37%
4	Improved oxidation and SO <sub>3</sub> tolerant	xx	x	xx	52%
5	Improved oxidation and catalytic additive	xx	xx	x	48%
6	Improved oxidation, SO <sub>3</sub> suppression and catalytic additive	xx	xx	x	52%
7	Improved oxidation and optimized catalytic additive	xx	xx	xx	62%
8	Improved oxidation, SO <sub>3</sub> suppression and optimized catalytic additive	xx	xx	xxx	62%
9	Enhanced oxidation through improved processing	xx	xxx	xx	60%
10	Enhanced oxidation, SO <sub>3</sub> suppression and optimized catalytic additive	xx	xxx	xxx	63%
11	Enhanced oxidation and enhanced SO <sub>3</sub> suppression Generation 4 PACs	xx	xxx	xxxx	80-85%



# Adding a Polishing Fabric Filter Bituminous-Fired Units

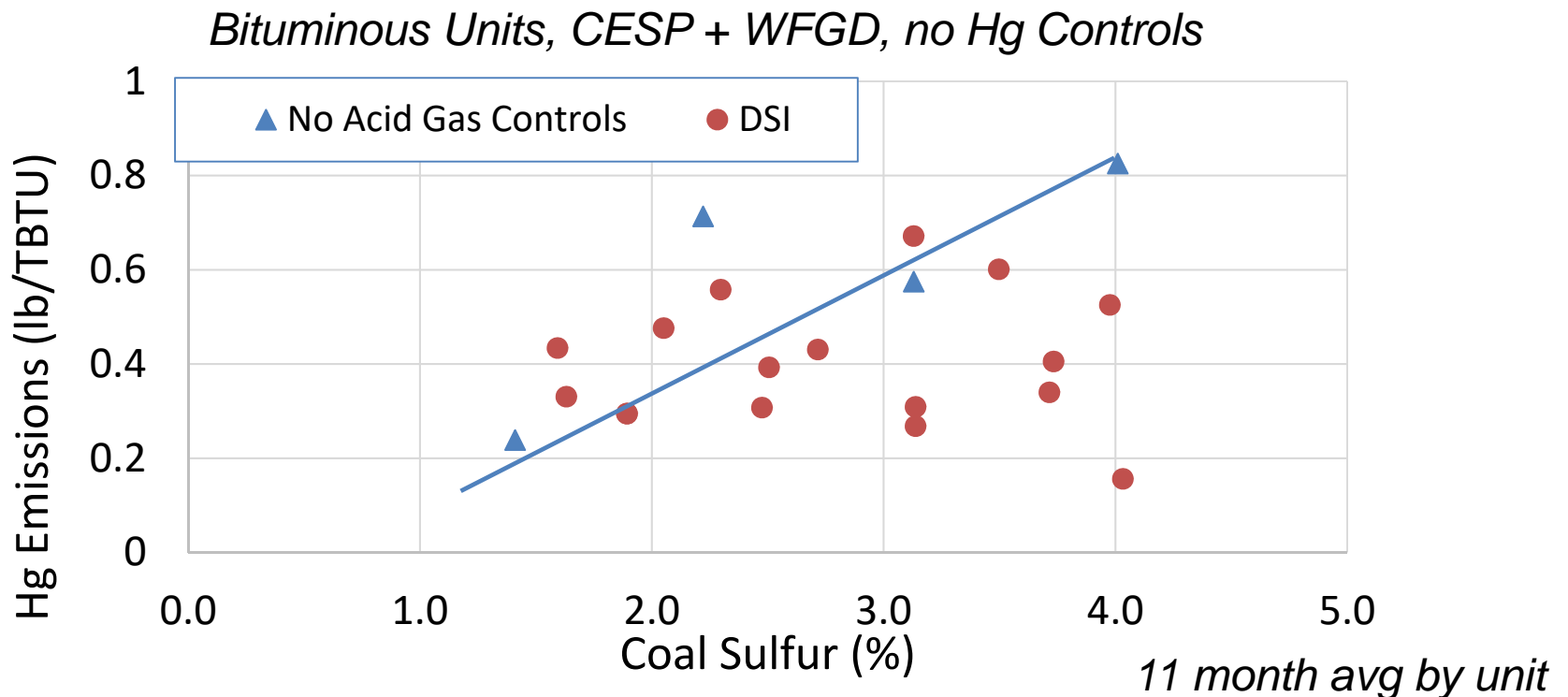
## SCR+WFGD+CESP Units

- 7% of bituminous units: SCR+CESP+FF+WFGD
- Adding a FF appears to increase native removal and effectiveness of coal additives



# How does Coal Sulfur Influence Hg emissions without PAC?

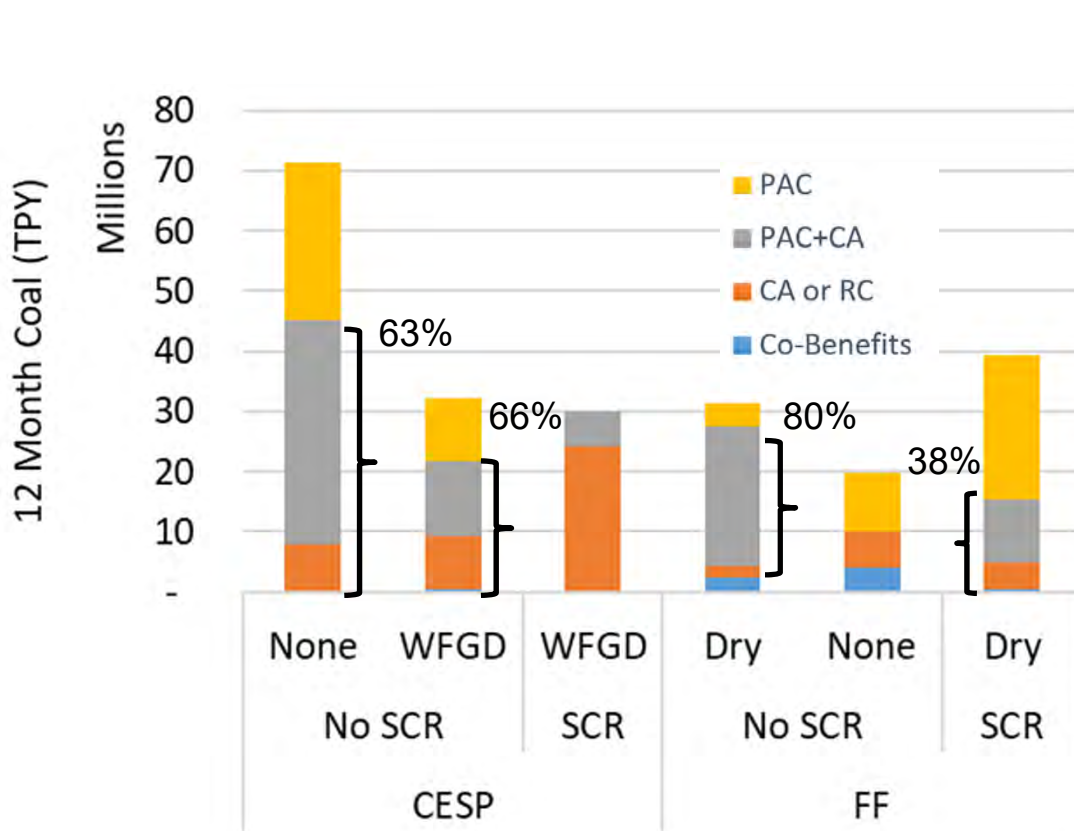
- Clear correlation between coal sulfur and Hg emissions for units not using acid gas controls
- No correlation between coal sulfur and Hg emissions for units using DSI for acid gas control
  - ✓ Controls appear to mitigate impacts



## Focus on Subbituminous Units

- 95% (by coal fired) have some Hg control  
(including RC)
- 38% (by coal burned) have an SCR for NOx control
- 76% (by coal burned) are scrubbed  
(including DSI, DFGD, WFGD)
- 56% (by coal burned) have CESP

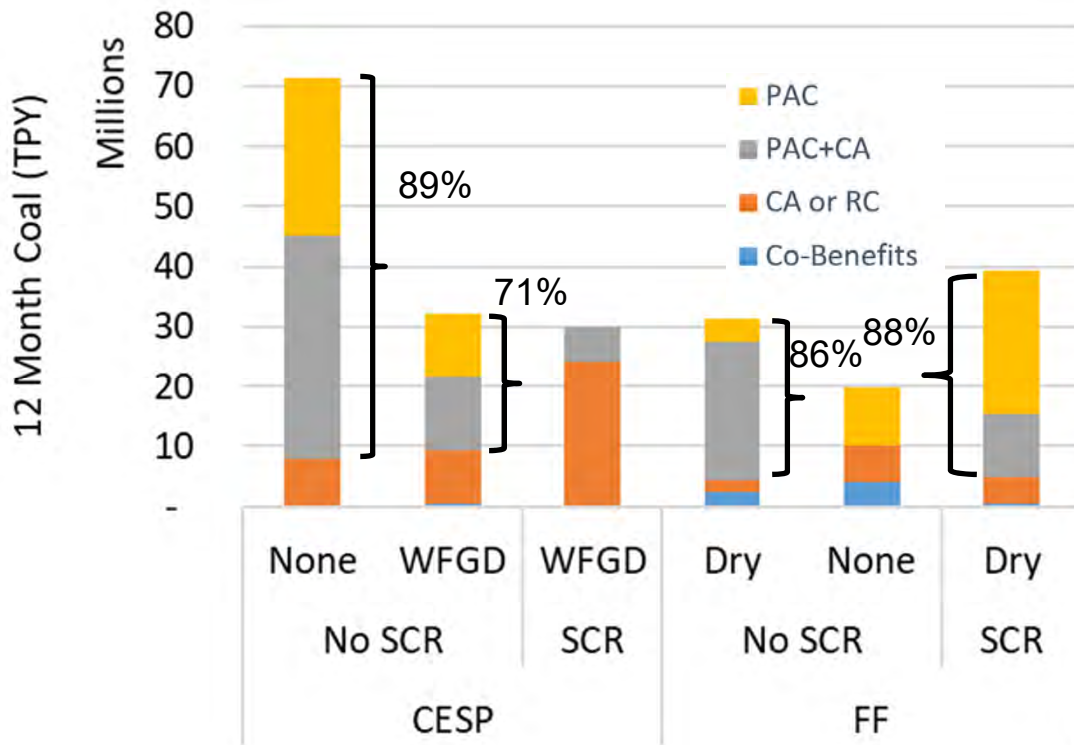
# Mercury Control on Subbituminous Units



## Influence of SCR and Scrubbers on CA Use

- An SCR increases reliance on CA for units with CESP
  - No SCR: 63% - 66% use CA
  - SCR + WFGD: 100% use CA
- An SCR decreases reliance on CA for dry scrubbed units with FFs
  - No SCR: 80% use CA
  - SCR + DFGD: 38% use CA

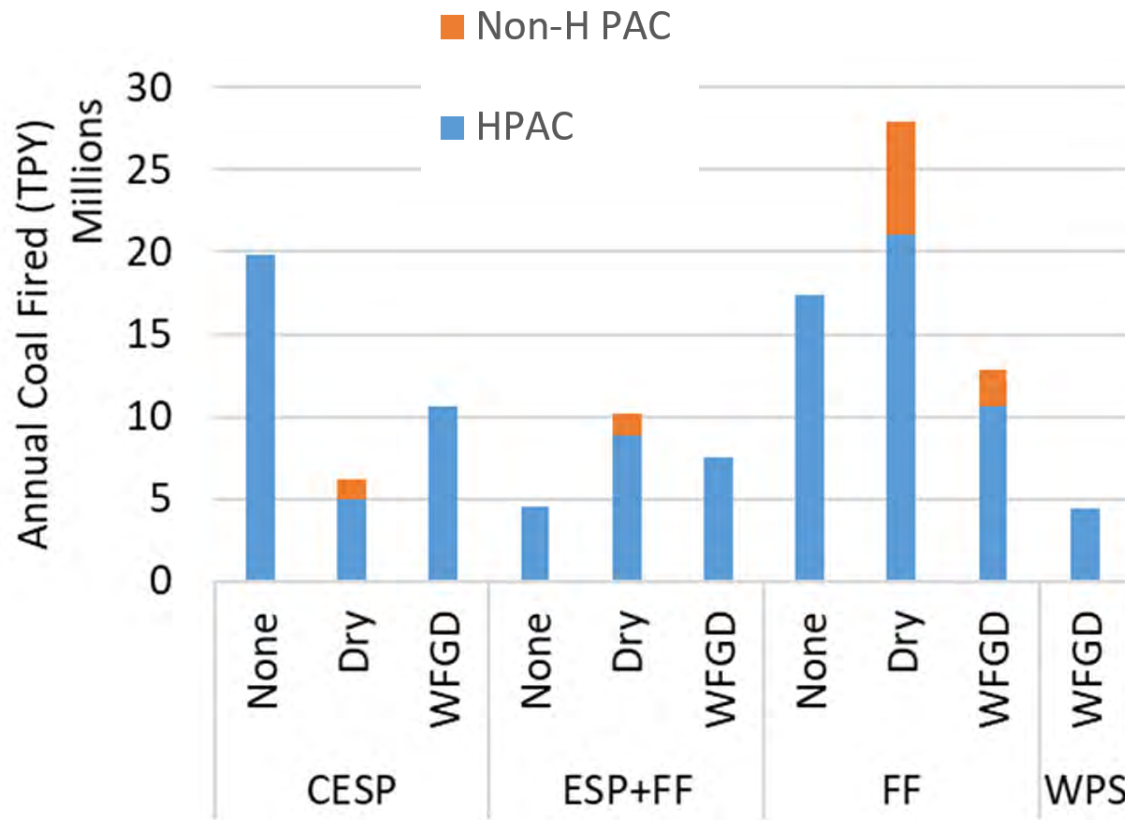
# Mercury Control on Subbituminous Units



## Influence of SCR and Scrubbers on PAC Use

- An SCR decreases reliance on PAC for CESP units
  - No SCR, No SOx: 89% use PAC
  - No SCR, WFGD: 71% use PAC
  - SCR + WFGD: only 20% use PAC
- An SCR does not reduce reliance on PAC for units with FFs

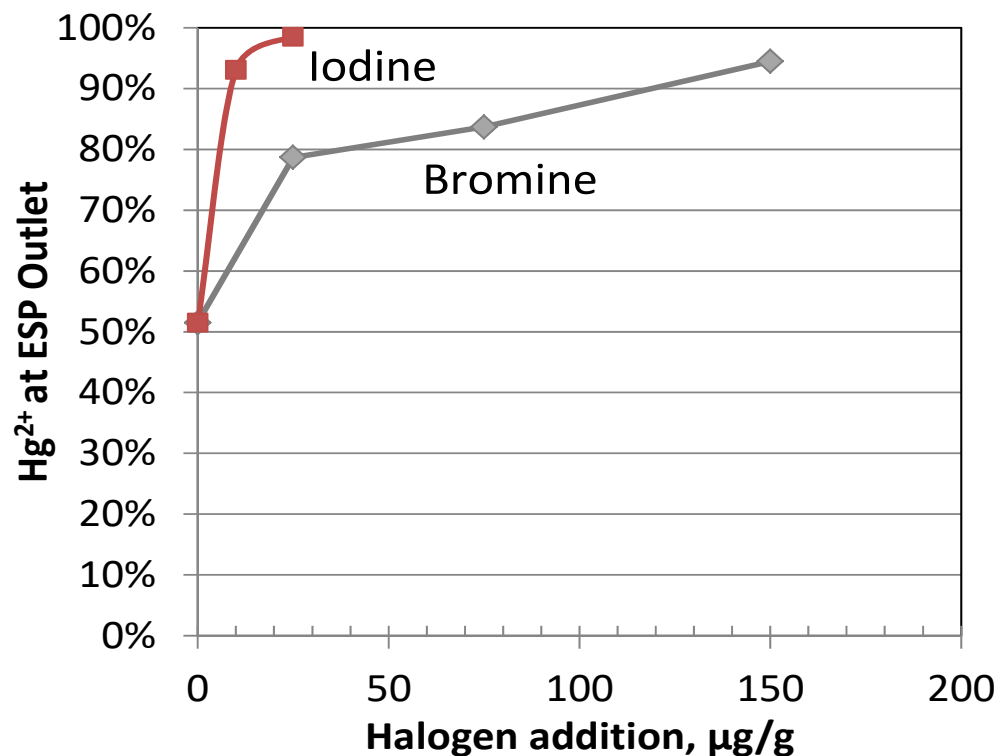
# What Type of PAC is used on subbituminous units?



- Subbituminous units report using primarily halogenated PAC (HPAC)
- More non-halogenated on Dry+FF units (recall many of these use CA)

**Bottom line:**  
***Most subbituminous units use halogens, either through CA or HPAC***

# Relative Effectiveness of Halogens for Mercury Oxidation



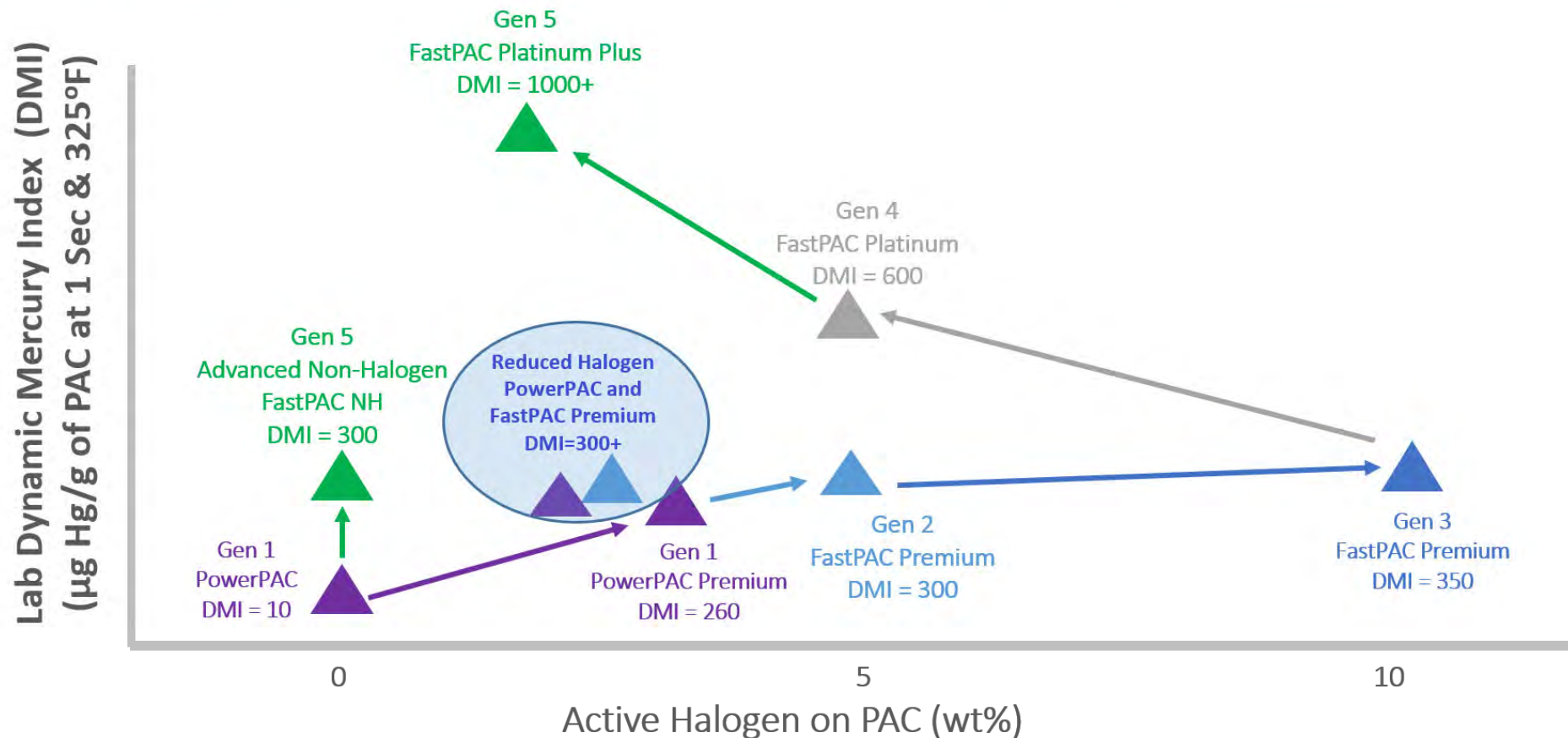
- Iodine is more effective than bromine at oxidizing Hg, often requiring 1/10<sup>th</sup> the halogen concentration<sup>1</sup>
- ~ 19% of halogen treated coal is treated with iodine<sup>2</sup>
- High levels of halogens can cause corrosion and other balance-of-plant impacts<sup>3</sup>

1. Gadgil, 2015

2. Based on plants reporting RC d CA use

3. EPRI's Balance of Plant Effects Study of Bromine-based Mercury Controls, 2016

# Maximize Hg Removal Performance and Minimize BOP Impacts via Highly Advanced Reduced and/or No Halogen PACs



Through advancing base PAC properties and halogen technologies, we can provide better Hg removal with minimal BOP impacts

# Advanced Non-Halogen PAC Technology for Mercury Removal



New advanced non-halogen PACs can be just as effective as Gen 2 halogenated PACs in removing Hg and are gaining momentum in use.

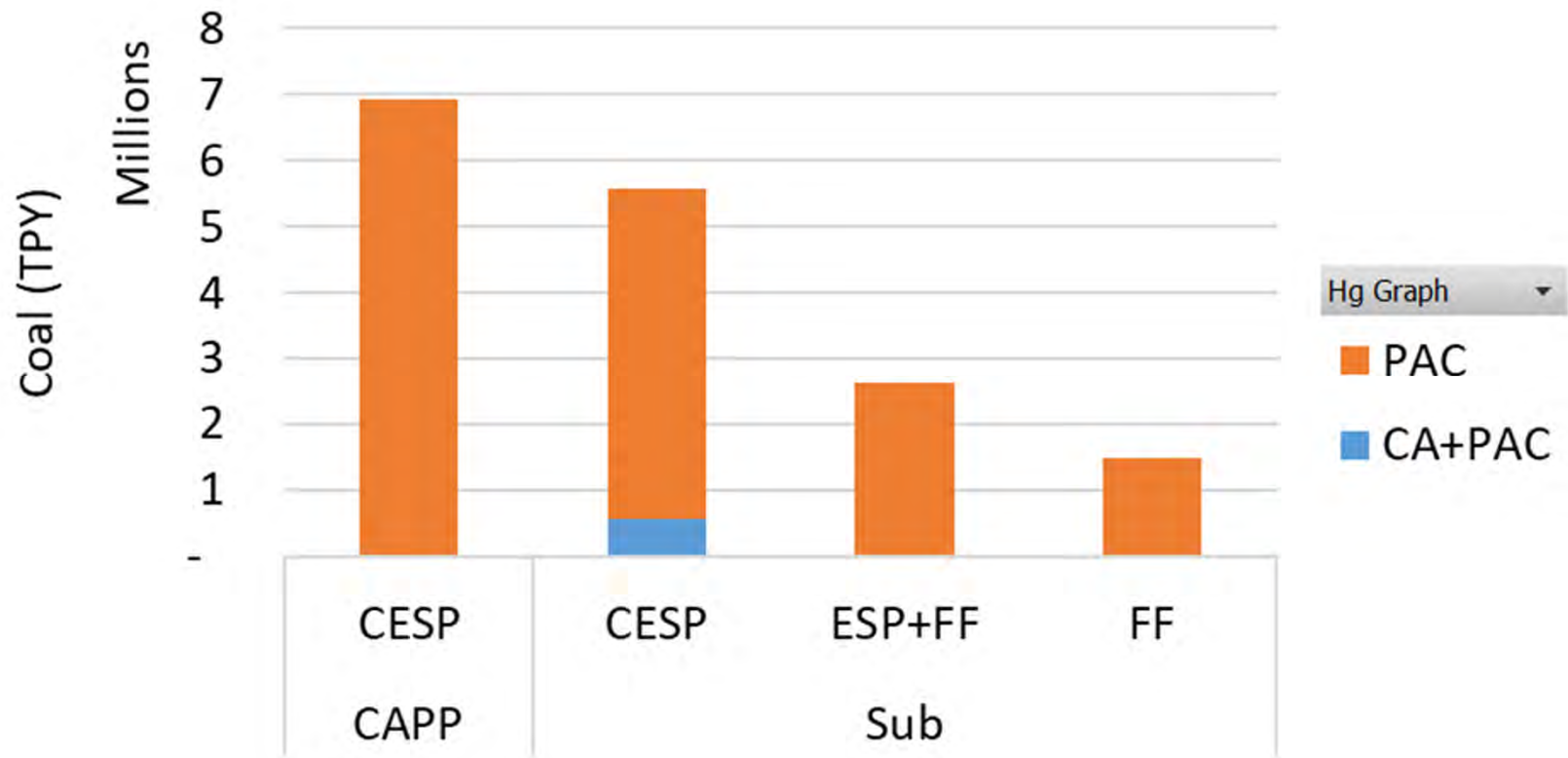
## Gen 5 Product Performance in Recent Field Test

Sorbent	Sorbent Rate to Achieve 0.8 lb/TBTU Hg Emissions	Relative Injection Requirement
Competitor Non-Halogen A	>150 lb/hr	>176%
Competitor Non-Halogen B	100 – 110 lb/hr	118%
Competitor Halogen C	>120 lb/hr	>141%
ACS Gen 5 Advanced Non-Halogen FastPAC NH	85 lb/hr	100%



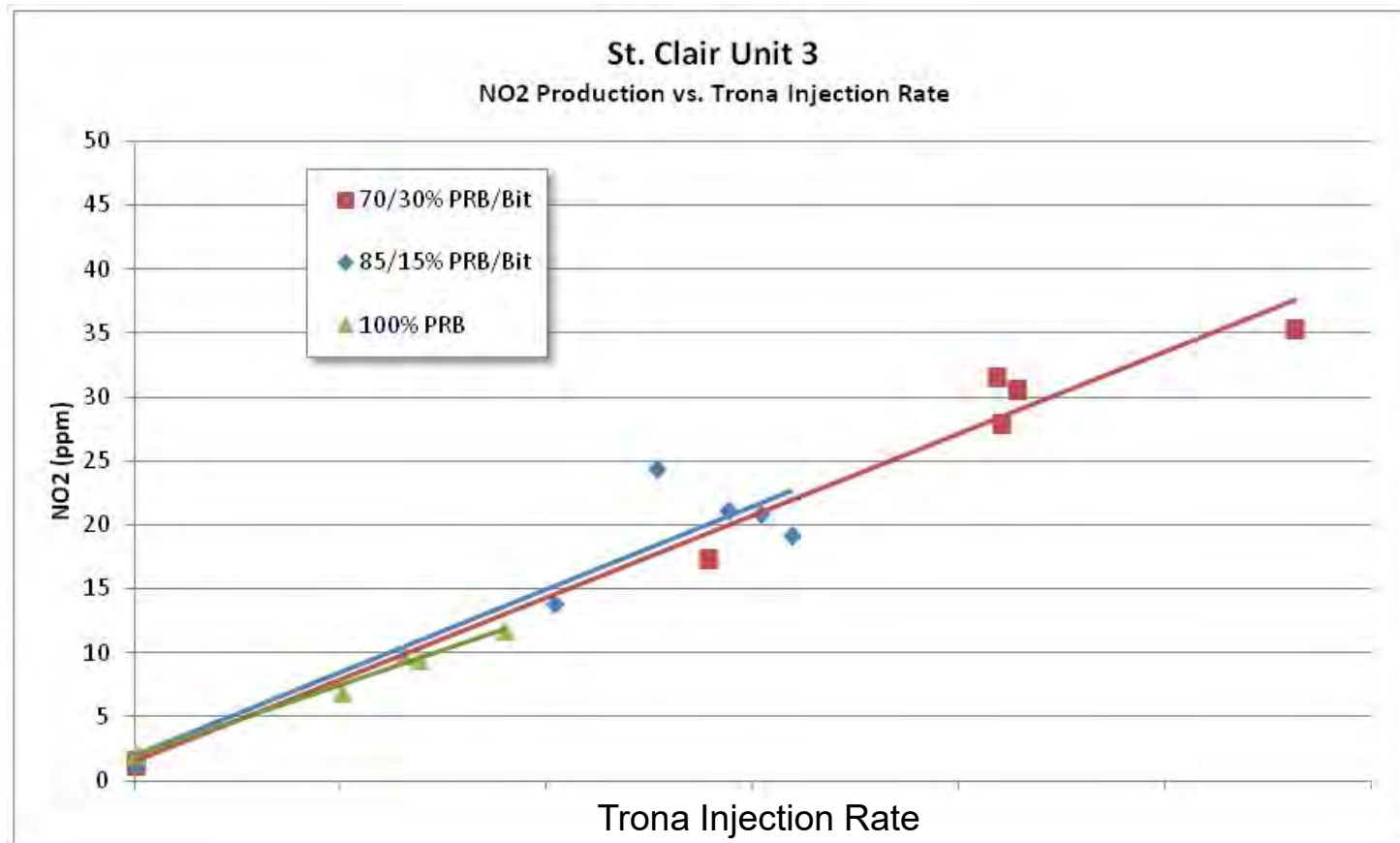
Expertise. Reliability. Compliance.

# Plants Reporting DSI for SO<sub>2</sub> Control



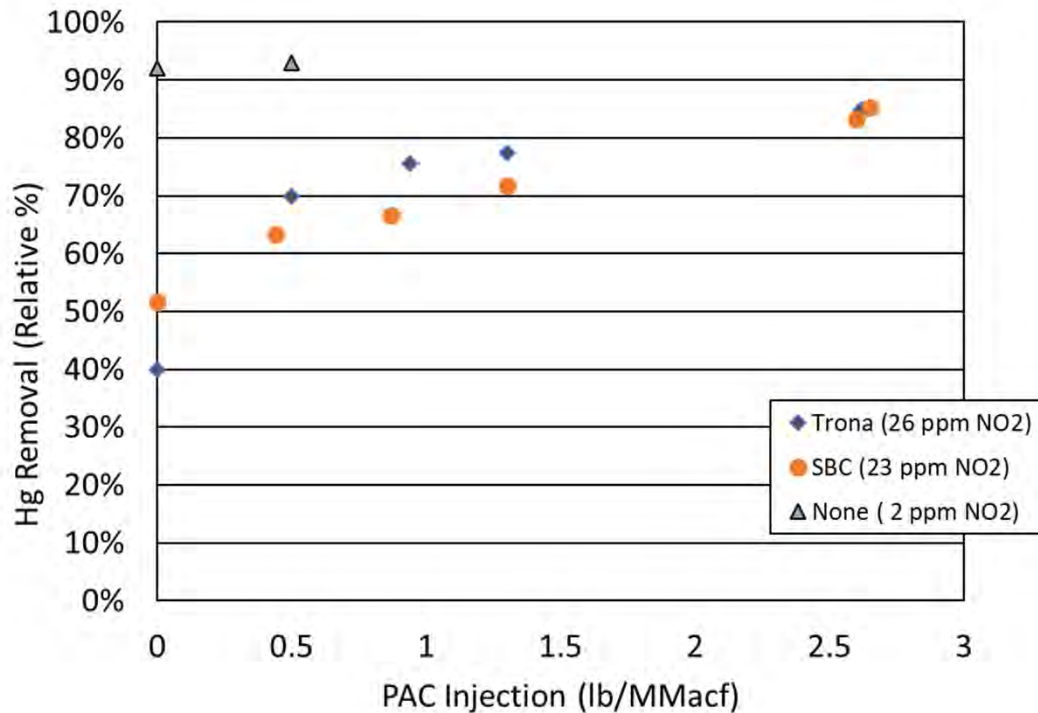
# Potential DSI Challenges: NO<sub>2</sub> Production with DSI

- Sodium-based DSI can increase flue gas NO<sub>2</sub>
- Trona or SBC injection increased stack NO<sub>2</sub> to as much as 35 ppmv



Results from Testing at DTE St. Clair Unit 3, W. Rogers, EUEC 2013

# Can DSI impact mercury control?



- NO<sub>2</sub> in flue gas can impact PAC effectiveness for Hg control\*
- ~ 19% of subbituminous units use alkaline sorbents (DSI) for acid gas control
- We estimate ~ 50|50 split between lime and sodium sorbents for subbituminous units

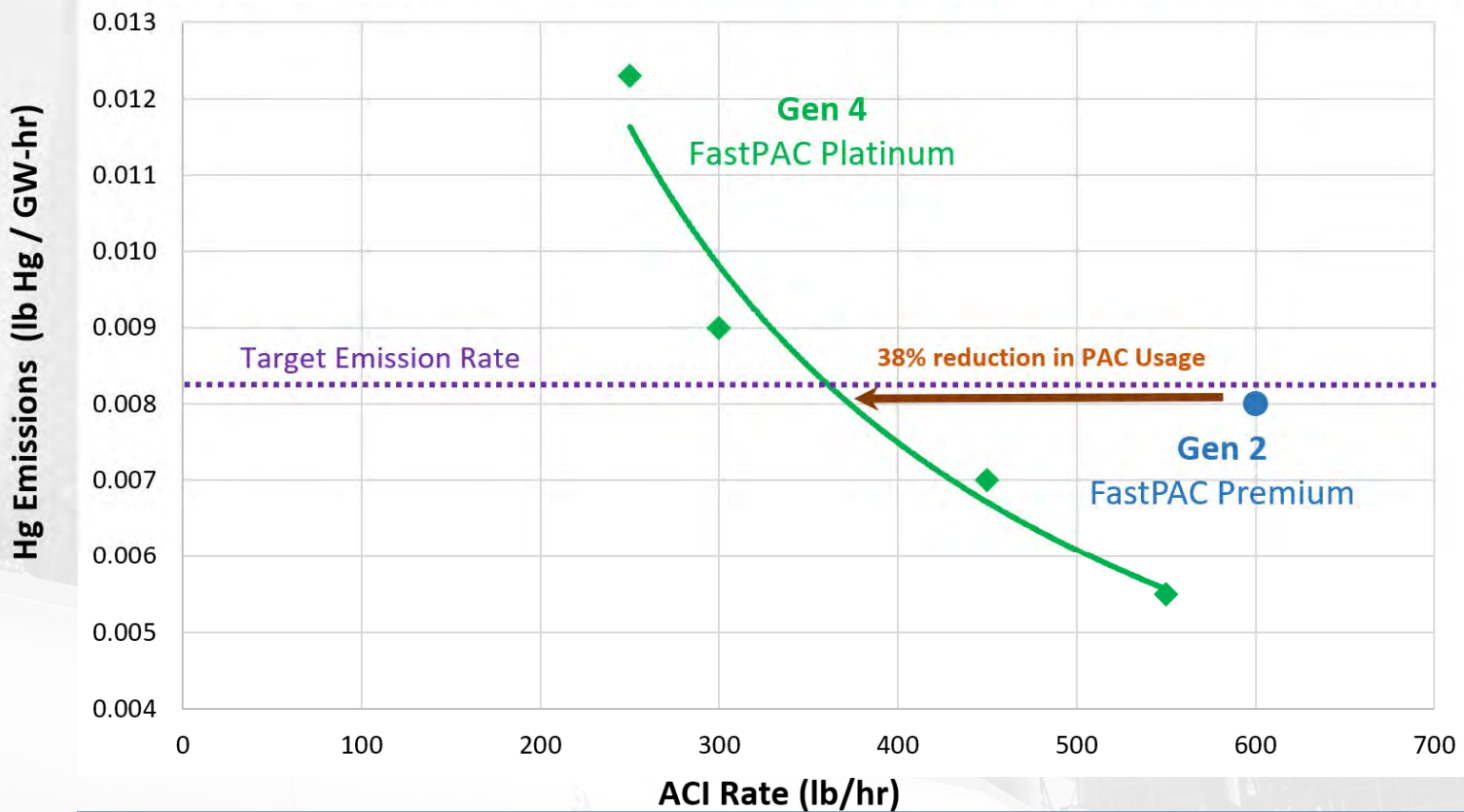
\*Rogers, 2013: *Is There a Place for DSI at Detroit Edison?*

# Developing Improved PAC for Use with Sodium DSI

## Dry Sorbent Injection Optimized PAC - Full-Scale Testing of Advanced Gen 4 FastPAC Platinum



PRB-Fired 660 MW: Econ – SCR - DSI (6,000 lb/hr) – APH – ACI – ESP - Stack



Our Gen 4 FastPAC Platinum reduced PAC usage by 38% compared to our Gen 2 FastPAC Premium in a sodium DSI system.

1400

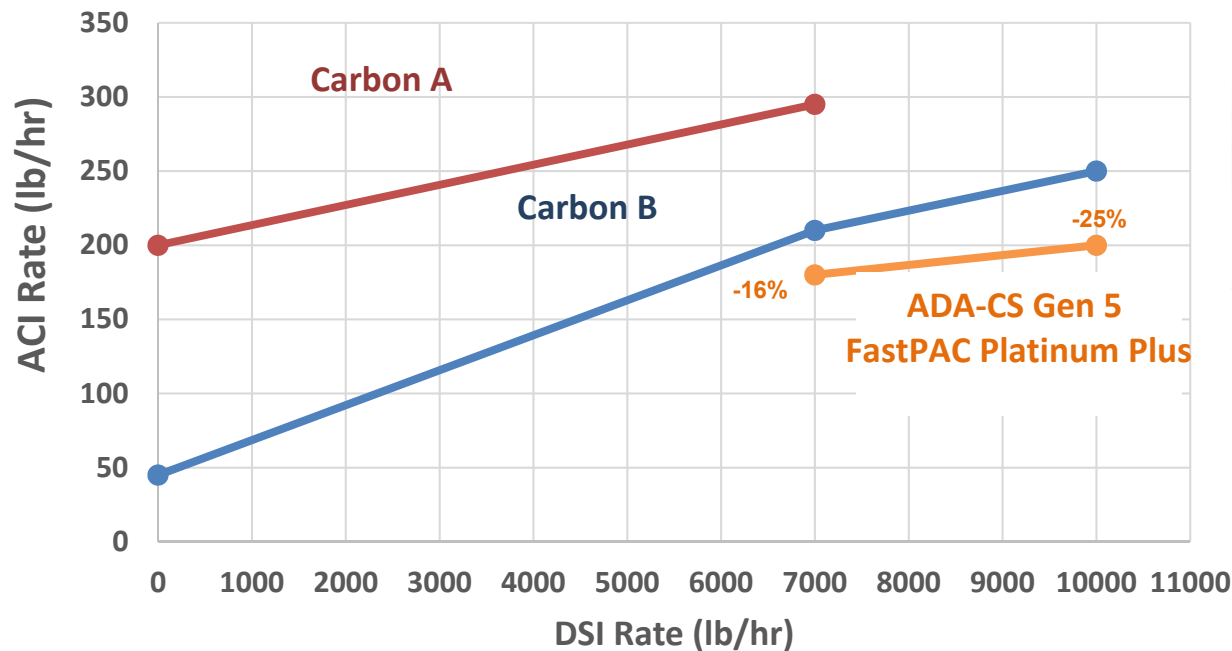


# Developing Improved PAC for Use with Sodium DSI

DSI Compatible: Plant Testing of Oxidatively Enhanced Gen 5+ PAC with High SBC

Performance Comparison to meet Hg = 0.008 lb/GWh

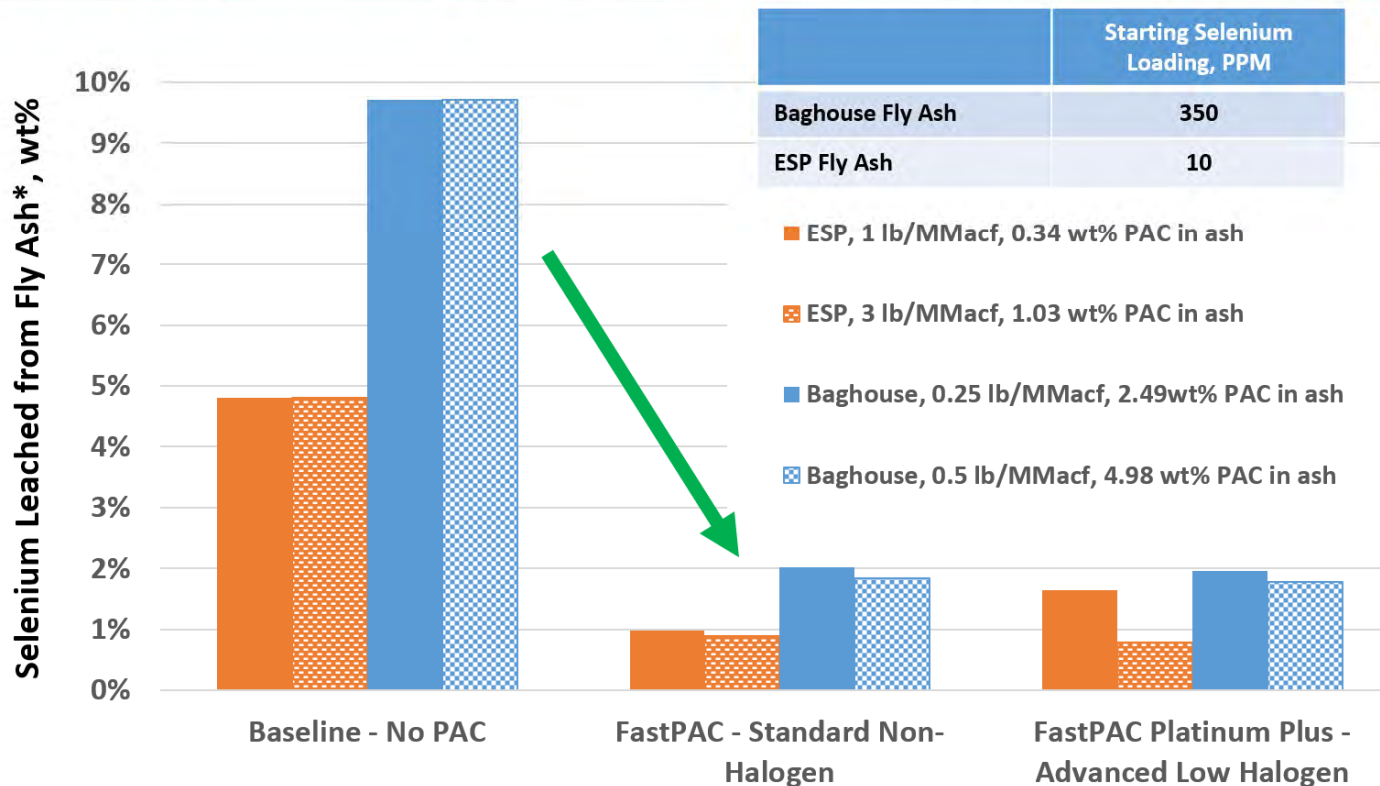
PRB - 600MW: Econ - ACI – Sodium Bicarbonate - APH - ESP - Stack



- Gen 5+ FastPAC Platinum Plus applies high oxidation and optimum carbon pore structure to drive DSI compatibility
- Achieved 16% and 25% reduced consumption at 7,000 lb/hr and 10,000 lb/hr SBC, respectively

# Additional Benefits of PAC

## PAC Sequestration of Selenium in Fly Ash



\*In 25 C deionized water for 24 hours at 10:1 liquid:solid

- Illinois Basin Coal Fly ash without PAC leaches Selenium by 5-10 wt%
- Addition of various PACs has a co-benefit in reducing the leaching of Selenium by up to 5x to sub-2 wt%



# Configurations

- What did we find when we surveyed boilers complying with MATS?
- 572 boilers and 243 GW
- General observations about configurations:

## Bituminous Units

- 63% (by coal fired) report no Hg-specific controls.
  - Down to 34% if RC is included as Hg control
- Most (76% by coal burned) have SCRs
- Almost all (95% by coal burned) have wet FGDs
- Most (76% by coal burned) have CESP

## Subbituminous Units

- 95% (by coal fired) have some Hg control (including RC)
- 38% (by coal burned) have an SCR for NO<sub>x</sub> control
- 76% (by coal burned) are scrubbed (including DSI, DFGD, WFGD)
- 56% (by coal burned) have CESP

## What worked best for bituminous units?

- ▶ SCRs decrease the reliance on PAC for mercury compliance for units with CESP, but not for units with FFs
- ▶ SCRs appear to lower emissions for units with CESP and WFGDs
- ▶ DSI appears to mitigate the impact of coal sulfur on mercury emissions for co-benefit units
- ▶ A polishing fabric filter results in lower average Hg emissions compared to ESP units
- ▶ Most units that report using PAC report using non-brominated PAC
- ▶ New sulfur-tolerant PACs are being developed and results are promising

## What worked best for subbituminous units?

- ▶ Most units rely on halogens to meet mercury compliance
  - Almost all units (96% by coal burned) use PAC, coal additives (including refined coal), or a combination of these
  - Most units using PAC alone (no coal additives) report using halogen-treated PAC
  - 19% of coal treated with halogens use iodine
- ▶ Non-Halogen PAC is under development
- ▶ An SCR significantly decreases the reliance on PAC for CESP+WFGD units
- ▶ An SCR doesn't impact the reported use of PAC for DFGD+FF units
- ▶ Sodium-based DSI can impact the effectiveness of PAC
  - New PACs are being developed and results are promising

THANK YOU!

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