

REINHOLD ENVIRONMENTAL Ltd.



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

February 11 & 12, 2019, in Salt Lake City, Utah / Hosted by PacifiCorp

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# Advanced Sensing and Control

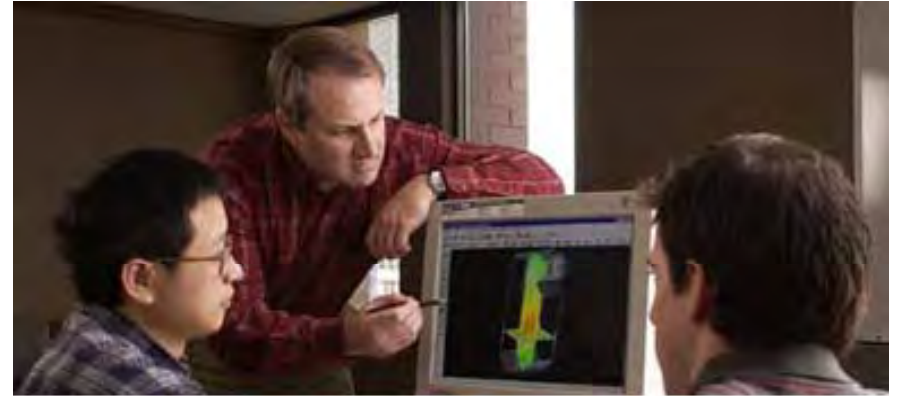
Marc A. Cremer, Ph.D.  
Co-President  
Reaction Engineering International

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# Reaction Engineering International

*Privately held consulting firm recognized for independent analysis and evaluations involving a range of industrial combustion applications*

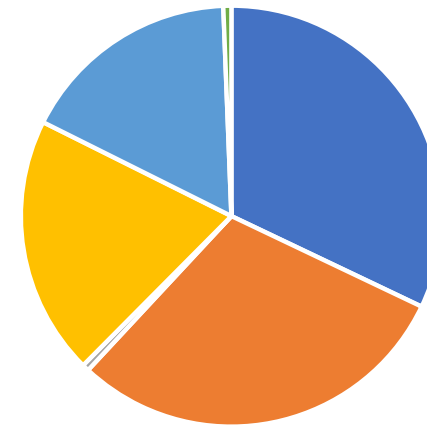


- Technical focus on multi-phase, chemically reacting flows
- Serving the utility industry since 1990
- Affiliates in Asia and Europe
- Established capabilities include advanced modeling and testing

# Coal Based Power Generation

- Coal remains a significant Fraction of US Energy Supply
- Security – not dependent on real-time fuel delivery
- Low Cost Electricity
- Reliability – diverse fuel mix
- Improvements to reliability and efficiency are more cost-effective than building new plants

*US Electricity Generation by Source  
(2017 IEA)*



■ Natural Gas ■ Coal ■ Petroleum  
■ Nuclear ■ Renewables ■ Other

# Coal Based Power Generation

## *Opportunity for Improvements to Reliability and Efficiency*

- Minimization of steam tube failures
- Sootblower / cleaning optimization (minimize erosion and fouling and reduce operator involvement)
- Combustion optimization for low emissions
- Management of thermal transients and low load operation
- Mitigate thermal fatigue associated with transient operation and use of aggressive coals

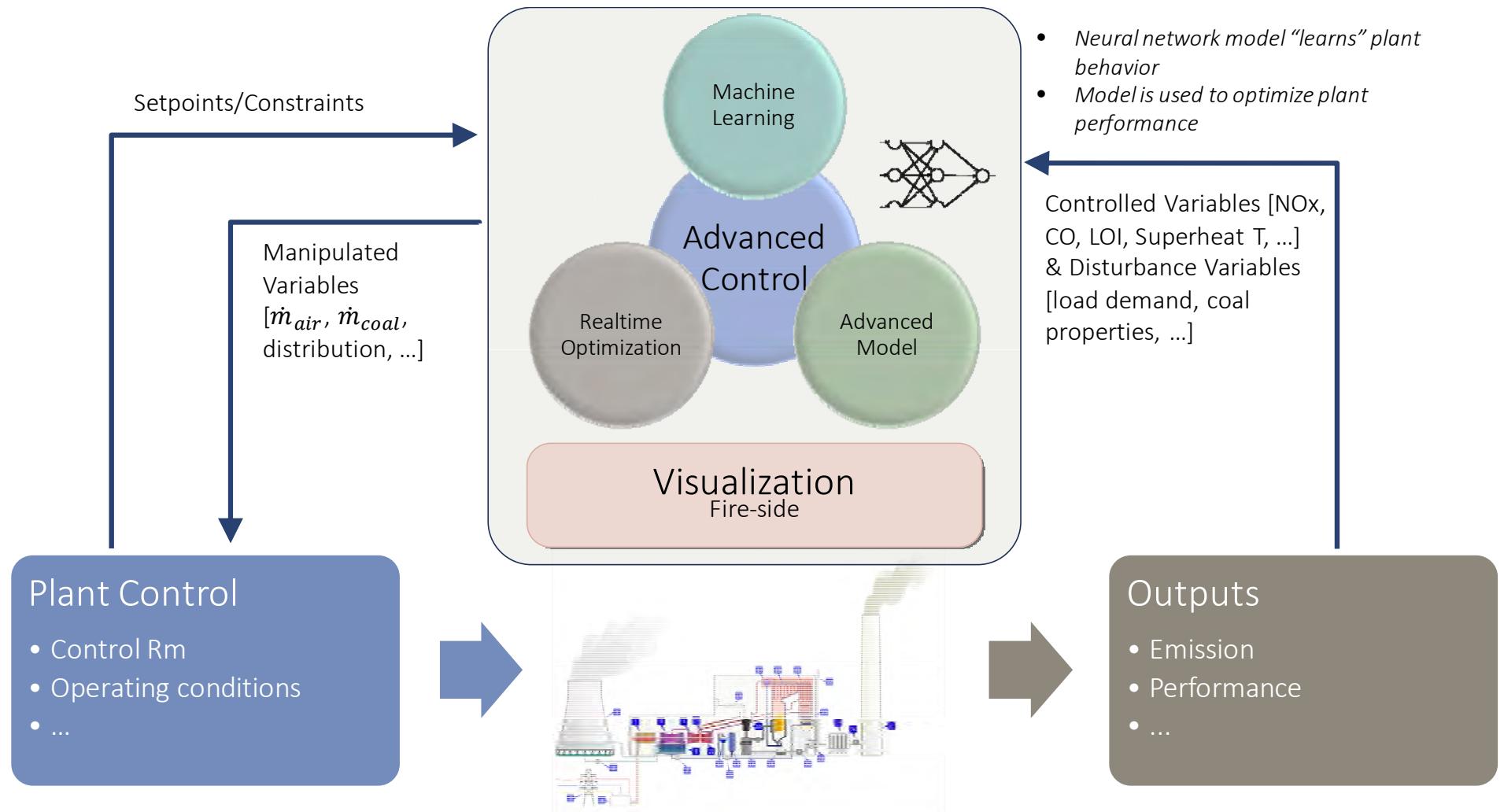


# Condition Based Monitoring

- Maintenance philosophy that actively monitors health condition
- Monitor and predict condition before damage occurs
- Maximize availability and generating capacity
- Increase efficiency/reduce emissions/reduce cost
- Integration in Advanced Control System



# Advanced Control

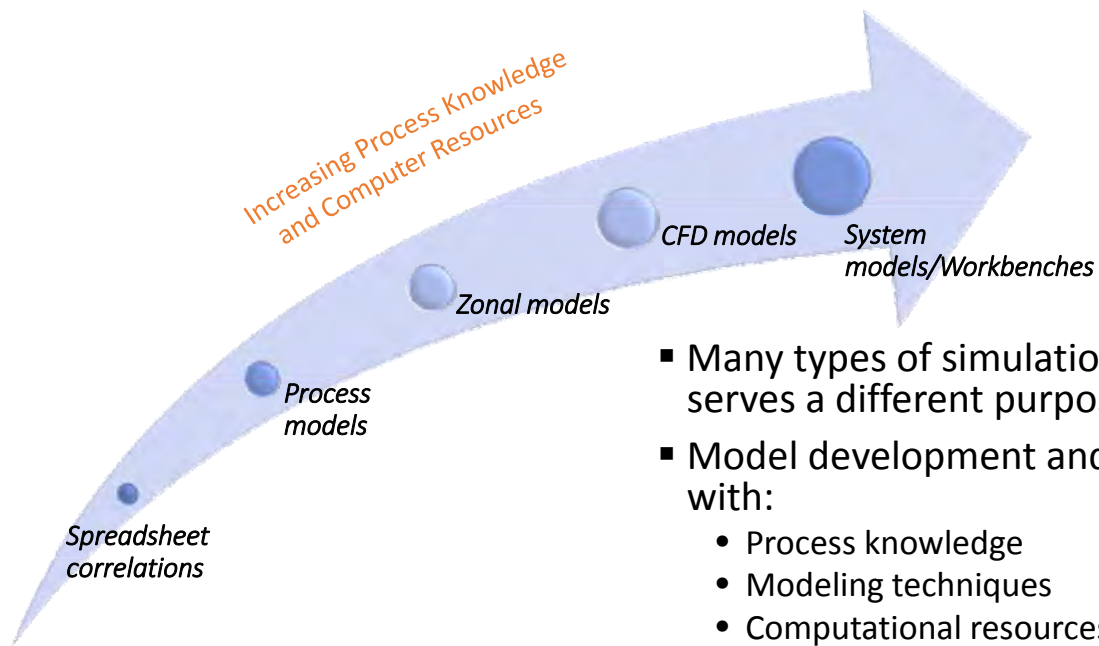


# Plant Digitalization for Optimization

- Data quality control
- Advanced model
  - CFD
  - Reduced order model
- **Monitoring system**
  - Real-time data
- Advanced control
  - Non-linear, dynamic, machine learning model
  - Model predictive control
  - Real time optimization



# Modeling Options

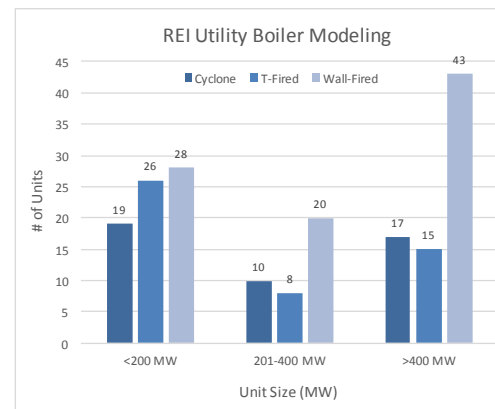
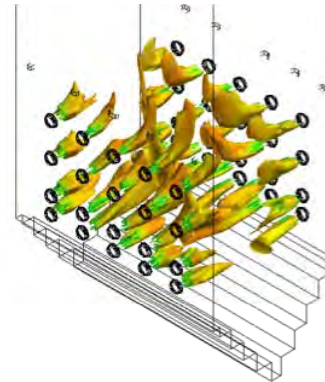


- Many types of simulation tools – each serves a different purpose
- Model development and use are correlated with:
  - Process knowledge
  - Modeling techniques
  - Computational resources
  - Benefit/value



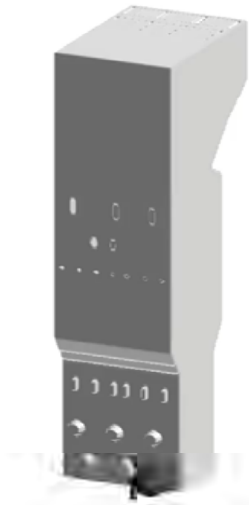
## Boiler Models – “Digital Twin”

- >200 Utility Boilers Modeled (>70,000 MW of Capacity)
- Cyclone, Wall, Roof, Turbo & T-fired
- Coal, Oil, Gas, Biomass, Petcoke, TDF, Blends, Oxygen
- Stokers, OTSGs, Fluidized Beds, HRSGs
- Equipment and Process Design/Evaluation
- Impacts on performance, emissions, and balance of plant



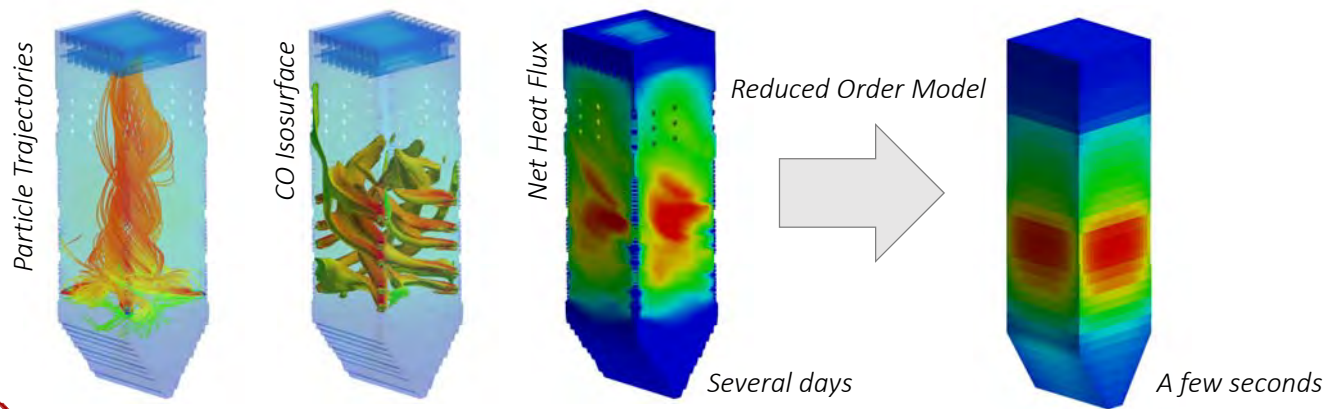
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## Combustion and Post-Combustion Control



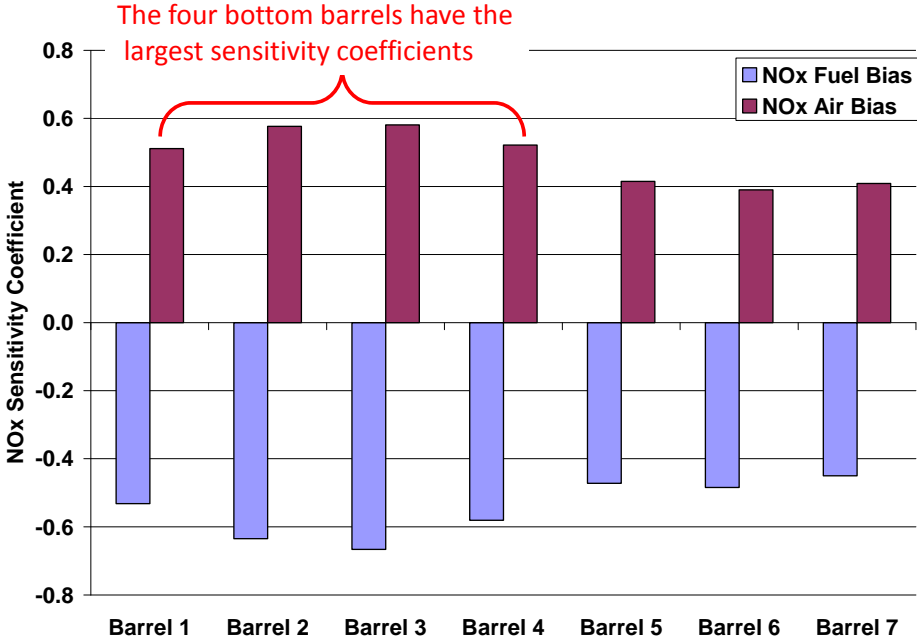
# Reduced Order Models

- Tuned to CFD results
- ROM developed for fast calculation of the key parameters within model predictive control
- Visualization of the key results to demonstrate operation sensitivity



# Burner Flow Control Sensitivity Project

## NOx Sensitivity Coefficients



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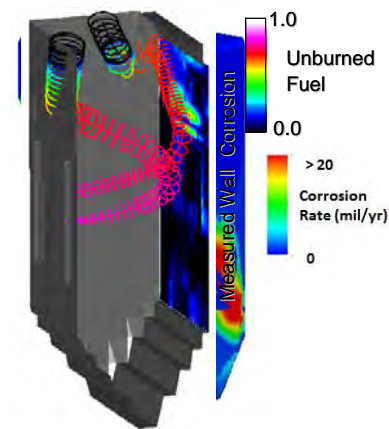
## Burner Flow Control Sensitivity Project

### *Overall Conclusions*

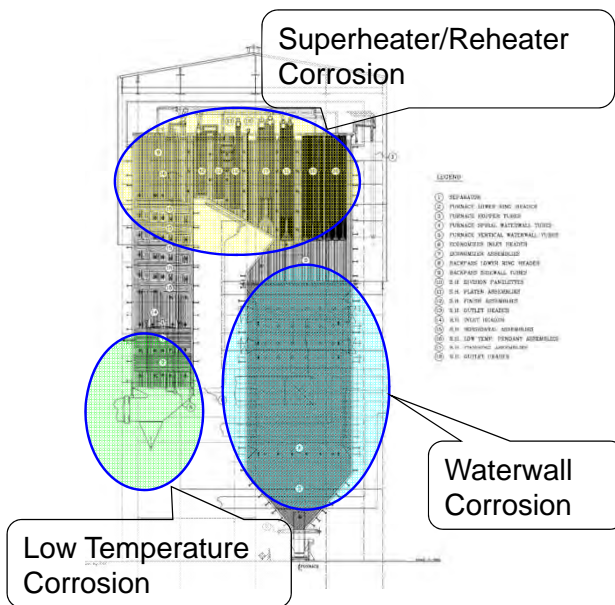
- For all cases studied, balanced air and fuel is not optimum
- SA distribution has larger impact on NOx and UBC than fuel distribution
- SCs for UBC in ash are larger than those for NOx
- OFA design/operation at least as important in reducing NOx emissions as burner to burner balancing
- Cyclone unit showed largest NOx sensitivity to SA flow, 600 MW T-Fired unit showed the least
- PA control is significantly more important than fuel flow control in opposed wall unit, for UBC control

# Coal-Fired Boiler Corrosion

- Efforts focused on impacts of firing system modifications, fuel changes, additive utilization, and operational optimization
- CFD-based modeling
  - Correlation-based approach resulting from collaborations with EPRI and KEPRI
  - Integrated with REI's CFD software
- Real-time monitoring
  - Initially motivated by desire to validate modeling tools
  - Adaptation of an electrochemical approach in a collaborative effort with Corrosion Management (UK)



# Coal Boiler Corrosion



- High temperature corrosion of waterwalls
- High temperature corrosion of superheater/reheater
- Low temperature corrosion of economizer
- Low temperature corrosion of air preheater

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# Corrosion Mechanisms and Modeling

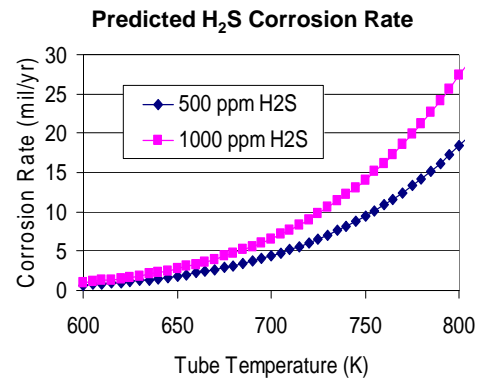
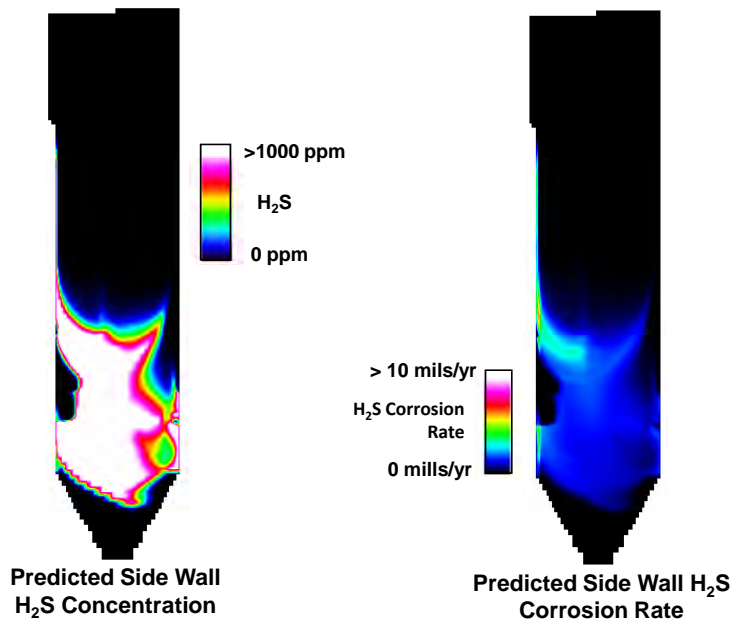
## ➤ Mechanisms

- Tube wall interaction with gaseous phase constituents
  - Under oxidizing conditions metal loss is very slow and a protective  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  scale forms
  - Under reducing conditions, reducing sulfur species or fuel chlorine may disrupt the protective scale and metal loss occurs
- Tube wall interaction with deposit
  - Pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ) in coal is converted to FeS
  - Metal loss may occur in areas where unoxidized material, especially FeS, is deposited
- Highest wastage rates are due to tube wall interaction with chlorine and FeS deposits – up to 100 mil/yr or more

## ➤ Modeling

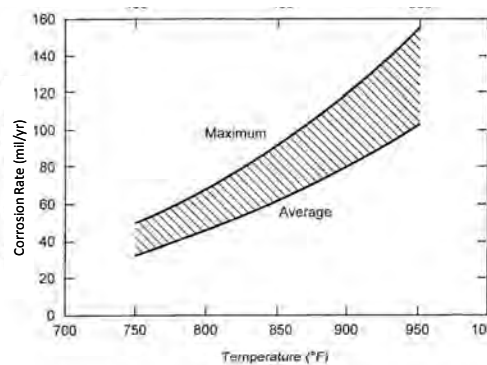
- Development of advanced corrosion correlations (models) for three corrosion mechanisms
  - Gas phase attack by reduced sulfur species such as  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$
  - Deposition of unreacted fuel and resulting sulfur-based attack
  - Chlorine-based attack
- Incorporation of these correlations into two-phase, reacting CFD code
- Validation of the correlations through pilot-scale tests and CFD simulations

# Predicted H<sub>2</sub>S Corrosion

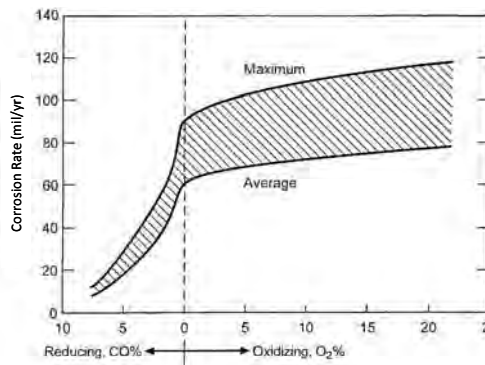


- H<sub>2</sub>S corrosion alone cannot account for observed high corrosion rates (up to ~100 mil/yr), even at  $T_{\text{tube}} = 750 \text{ K}$

# EPRI Experimental Work



Corrosion rate under FeS deposit as a function of temperature in a 1% O<sub>2</sub> environment.



Corrosion rate under FeS deposit as a function of gas O<sub>2</sub> and CO content at 450°C.

EPRI experimental work for metal under an FeS layer:

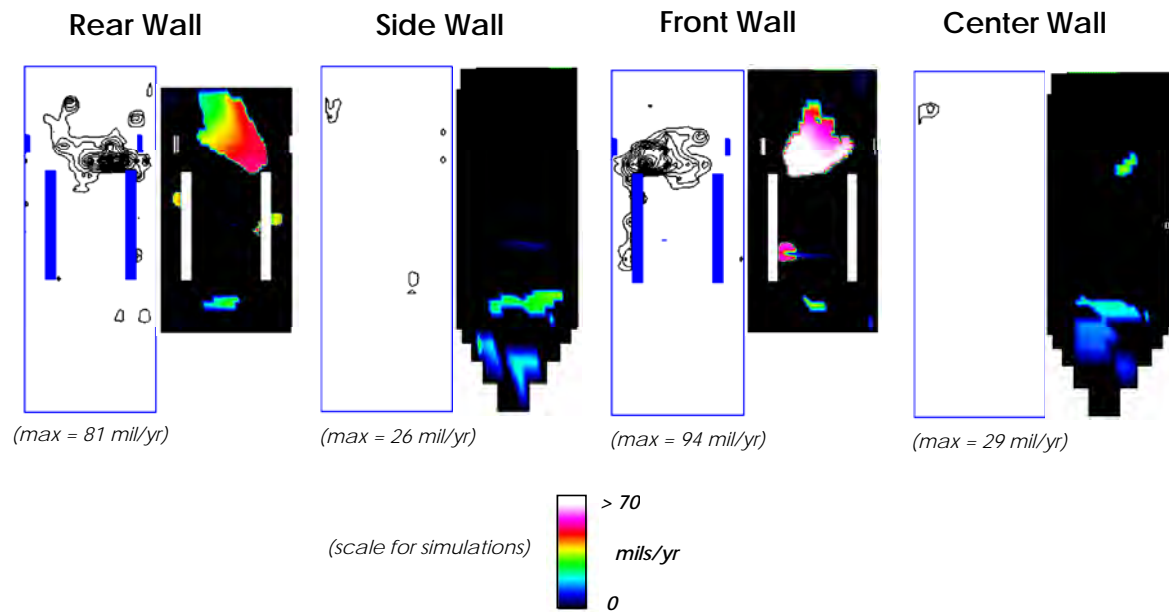
- Very high corrosion rates may occur
- Corrosion rates increase with temperature
- Corrosion rates are highest under oxidizing or mildly reducing conditions

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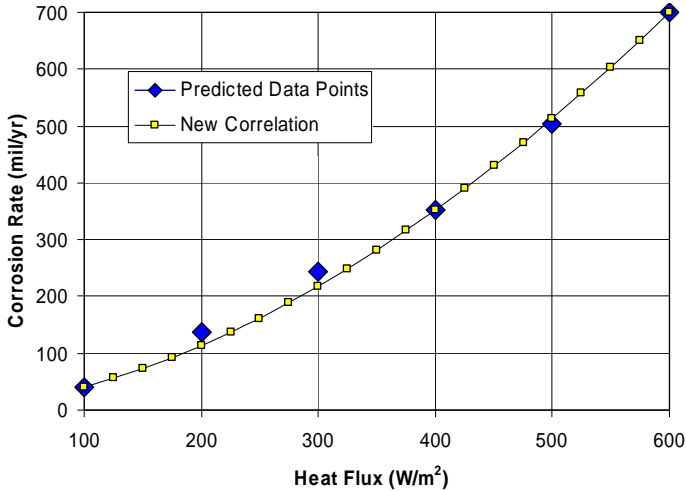
## Corrosion Due to Deposition of FeS & Carbon

- Corrosion may occur where unoxidized FeS and coal are deposited
- Deposit based corrosion is associated with a high fraction of unoxidized material in deposit, high tube temperatures, high heat flux
- Experimental evidence indicates that the highest corrosion rates occur when unoxidized deposits are exposed to oxidizing flue gas

# Validation Using Plant UT Data



# Chlorine Corrosion Correlation Tuning

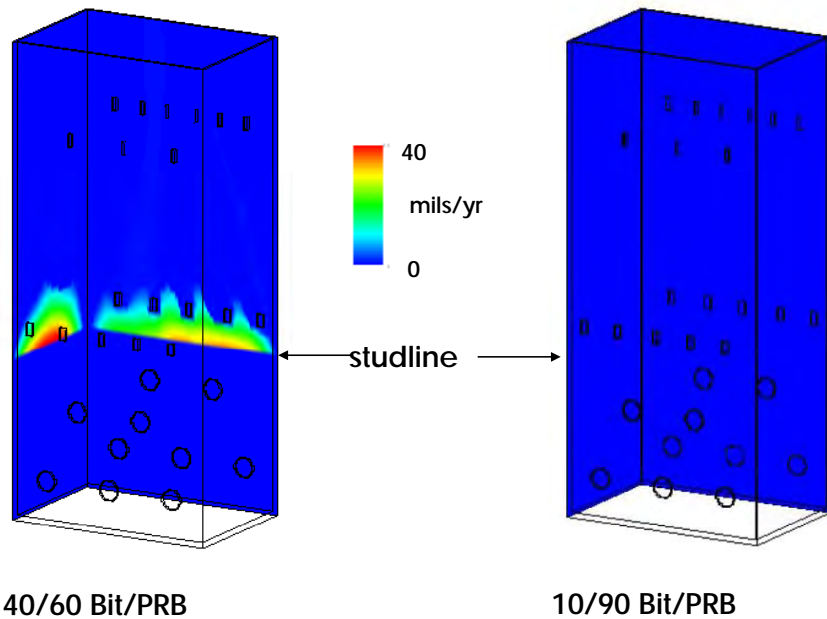


- New correlation predicted chlorine corrosion rate is comparable to the experimentally verified predictions of Davis et al (2002)

Chlorine corrosion correlation vs. predicted data points of Davis et al (2000)



# Cyclone-fired Boiler Chlorine Corrosion



- CFD predictions showed that chlorine based corrosion could be mitigated by keeping Cl content of blend  $< 0.1\%$
- Actual boiler operation showed tube failures immediately above the studline with  $0.17\%$  Cl in blend

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# Waterwall Corrosion in Coal Fired Boilers

➤ Gas phase H<sub>2</sub>S Corrosion

$$CR_{H_2S} = a \cdot f_1(T_m) \cdot f_2(Cr\%) \cdot f_3(H_2S) + b$$

➤ Deposition of Unoxidized Material

$$CR_{dep} = a \cdot f_1(dep) \cdot f_2(Stoichiometry) \cdot f_3(T_m) + b$$

➤ Chlorine-based Corrosion

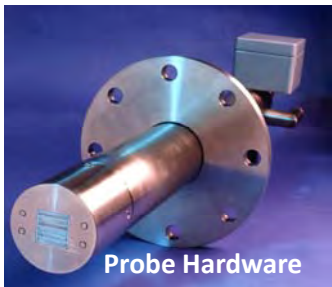
$$CR_{Cl} = a \cdot f_1(\%Cl) \cdot f_2(HeatFlux) \cdot f_3(T_m) + b$$

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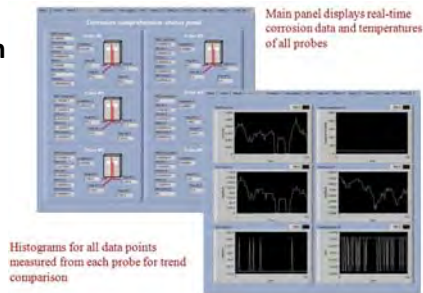
# Corrosion Monitoring



# EN Corrosion Monitoring



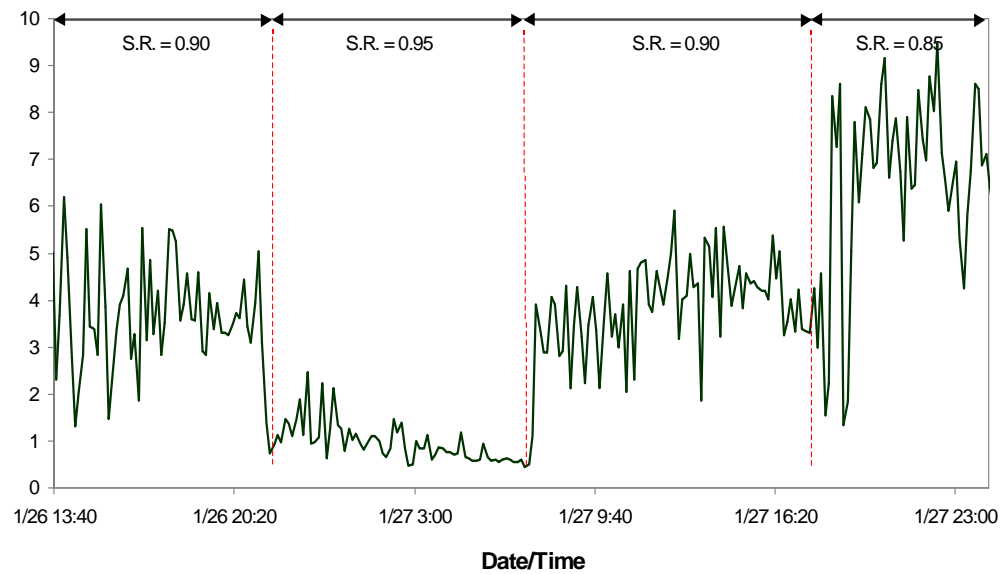
## Data Acquisition



- 20 year collaboration with Dr. William Cox (Corrosion Management)
- EN Technology
- Advantages
  - Sensitive and Instantaneous response allowing real time measurement
  - Direct indication of corrosion
  - Quantitative measurement
  - Response can be related to corrosion mechanism, with aid of modeling
- Disadvantages
  - Quantity of data
  - Complexity of installation

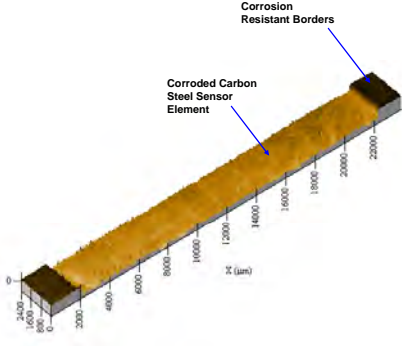
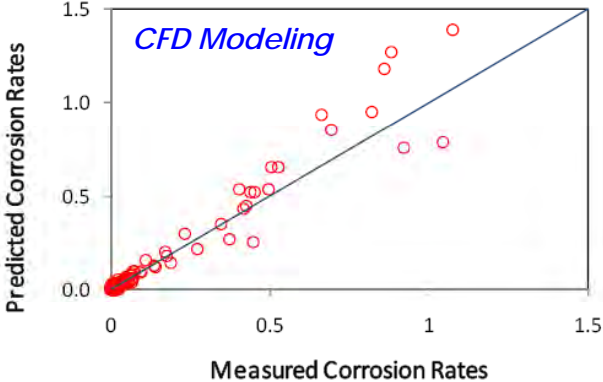
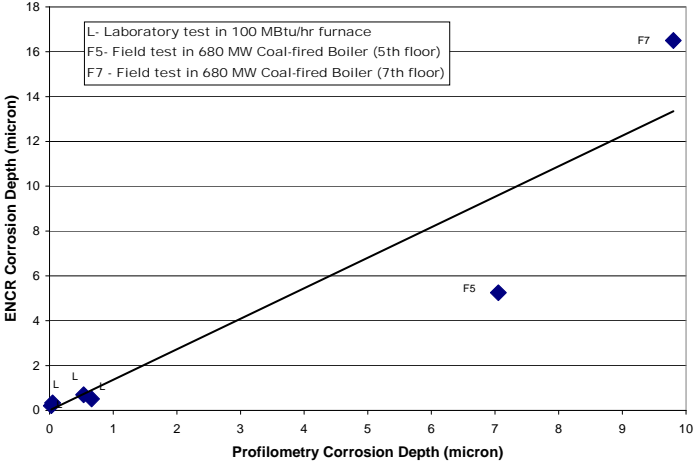


## Response of corrosion sensors to step changes in SR at UofU's U-furnace

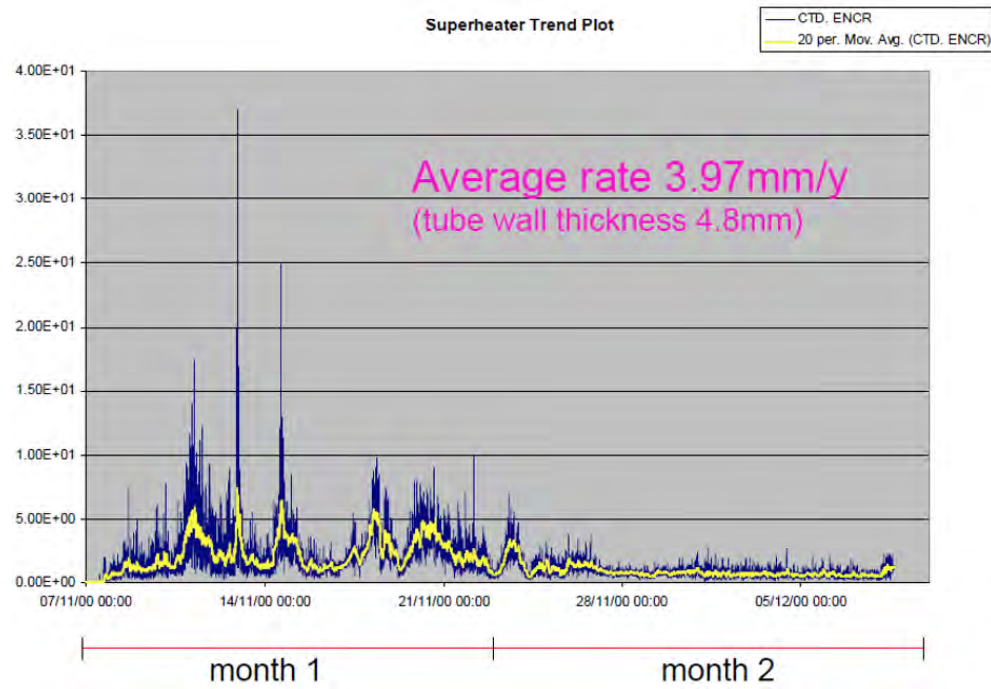


# Quantitative Validation

*Profilometry*



# Superheater Corrosion

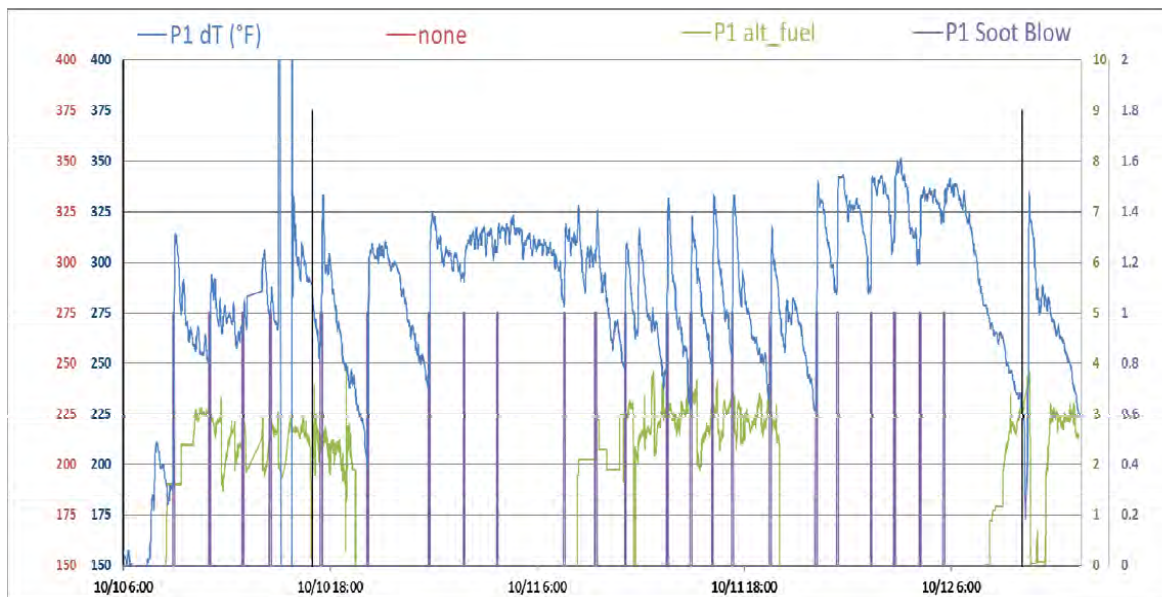


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# **Fouling/Slagging Monitoring and Modeling**

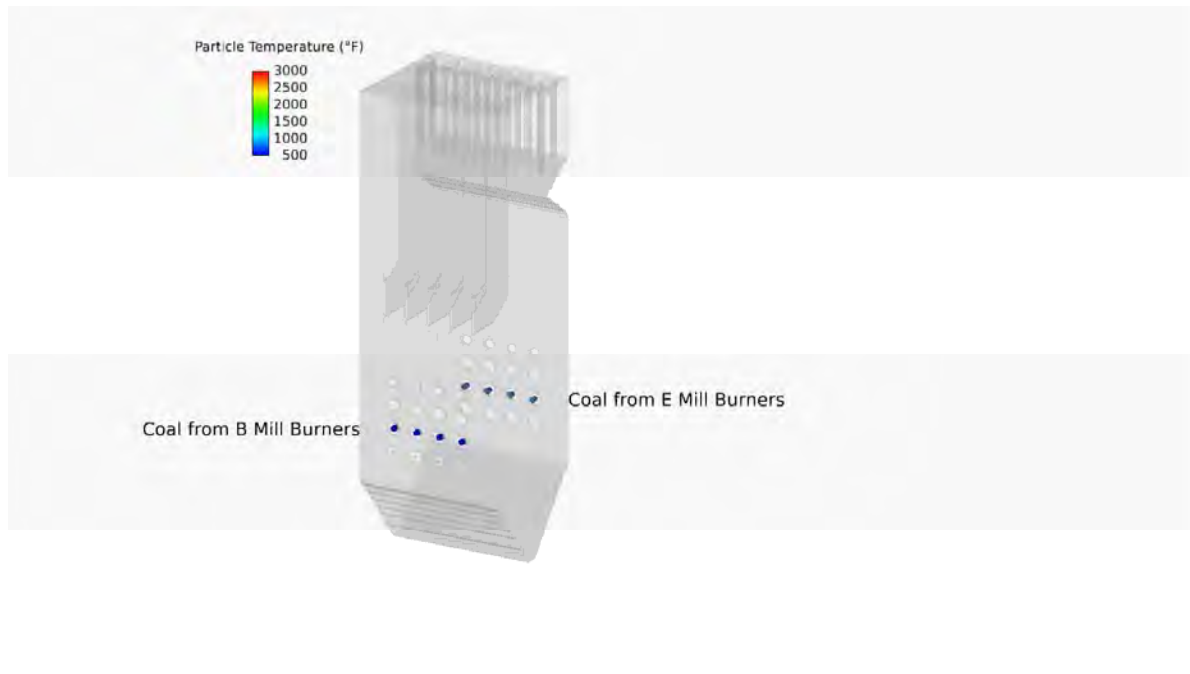


## Effects of co-firing (green) and soot blowing on deposition on probe surfaces



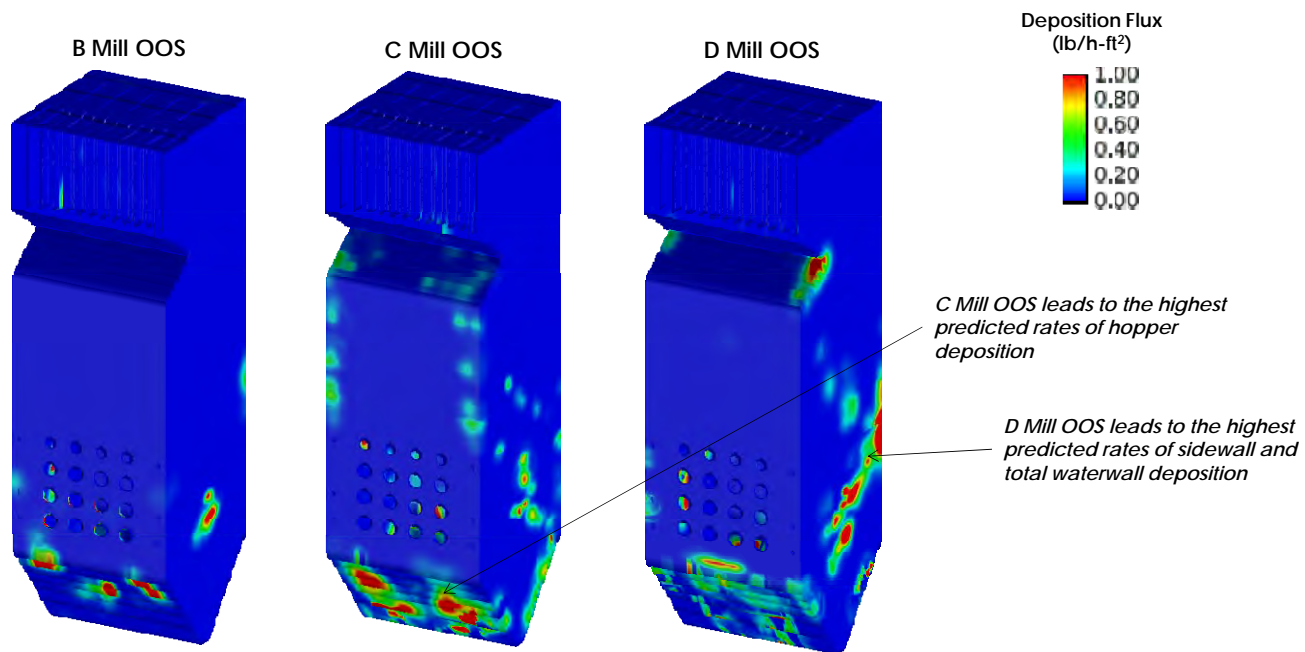
# Coal Particle Trajectories

*Effects of Mill OOS*



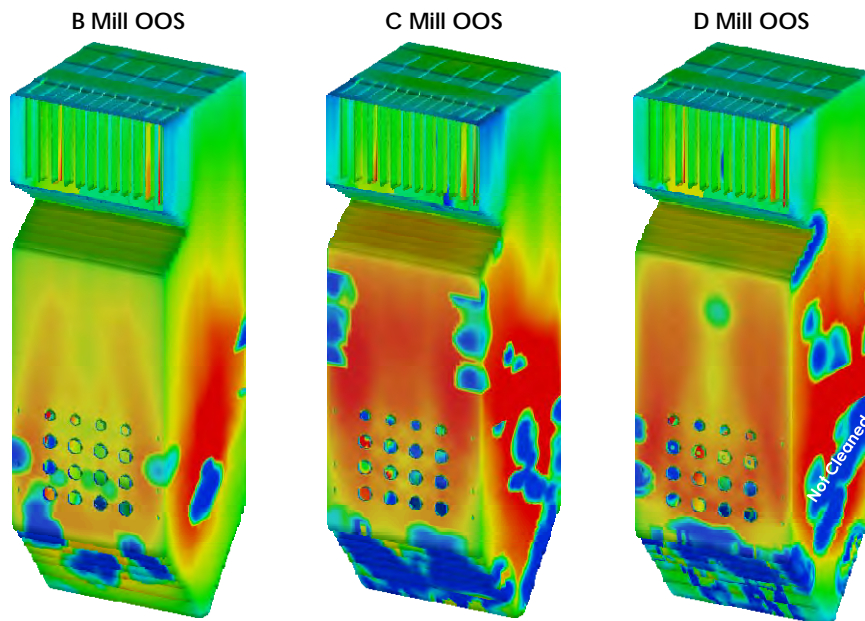
# Particulate Deposition Flux

## Effects of Mill Configuration



# Net Heat Flux

## Effects of Mill Configuration



*Reduced total waterwall heat transfer with C mill and D mill OOS is the result of higher deposition rates compared B mill OOS*

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## Energy Department Selects Additional Advanced Combustion Projects to Receive \$3.3M

AUGUST 9, 2018

2. *Combustion Performance and Emissions Optimization through Integration of a Miniaturized High-Temperature Multi-Process Monitoring System* – **Reaction Engineering International** (Murray, UT) will design, prototype, and demonstrate a monitoring system for boiler condition management. The key objectives are to miniaturize the design; combine quantitative heat flux, deposition rate, relative surface temperature, and metal wastage measurements into a single sensor; and integrate monitoring output with a plant distributed control system (DCS). The project will culminate with a demonstration and characterization of corrosion, deposition, heat flux, and temperature at multiple locations within a full-scale pulverized coal-fired power plant.

3. *Development of Miniaturized High-Temperature Multi-Process Monitoring System* – **Reaction Engineering International** (Murray, UT) will design, prototype, and demonstrate a miniaturized monitoring system, which can provide a real-time indication of tube surface conditions at key locations in a coal combustion boiler. The prototype system will be tested in pilot-scale combustion environments, and advanced profilometry techniques will validate accuracy of the resulting corrosion data. The project will culminate with a system-level demonstration of the miniaturized, self-regulating sensors at a full-scale pulverized-coal-fired plant.

**BEPC Leland Olds Station  
ND Lignite**

**PacifiCorp Hunter Plant  
Bituminous Coal**



# Basin Electric Power Cooperative Leland Olds Station



Jamey Backus, Plant Manager

- Located near Stanton, North Dakota
- Two lignite-fired units with total generating capacity 669 MW
  - Unit 1 – 222 MW opposed wall-fired PC
  - Unit 2 – 447 MW opposed wall-fired cyclone

## PacifiCorp – Hunter Plant



- Located near Caste Dale, Utah
- Three units with total generating capacity 1,320 MW

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# Project Objectives

- Primary objective: Develop and demonstrate a miniaturized high temperature multi-process\* monitoring system that can provide a real-time indication of boiler condition in a full-scale lignite-fired boiler

\*metal loss rates, heat flux, metal surface temperature, ash deposit thickness and ash deposition

- Specific objectives
  - Miniaturize sensor design for easy installation in a boiler without waterwall structure change or long shut-down
  - Design sensor body to avoid active temperature maintenance for sensor elements
  - Re-design the signal conditioning unit to increase resolution
  - Implement the signal acquisition, signal processing, and wireless data communication module onto a single electronic board to reduce cost and power consumption
  - Develop quantitative correlations for heat flux and deposition rate based on the existing data
  - Validate the correlations and the system in a pilot-scale combustor and demonstrate in a full-scale lignite-firing utility power plant
  - Develop and implement logic algorithms for the plant DCS to improve boiler energy efficiency, soot blowing, and NOx emissions by automated control of boiler operations

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## Summary

- Coal is expected to remain a significant contributor to US power generation for the next decade
- Coal boilers are required to ramp more regularly to accommodate inherent variability in renewable generation sources
- Transient operation presents challenges to boiler performance and maintenance
- Condition Based Monitoring (CBM) provides a key role to maintain/improve unit reliability and efficiency
- CBM requires integration with advanced process control systems to realize potential for optimization
- New R&D programs are in place to demonstrate practical use of a miniaturized MPMS for real-time CBM and combustion optimization

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