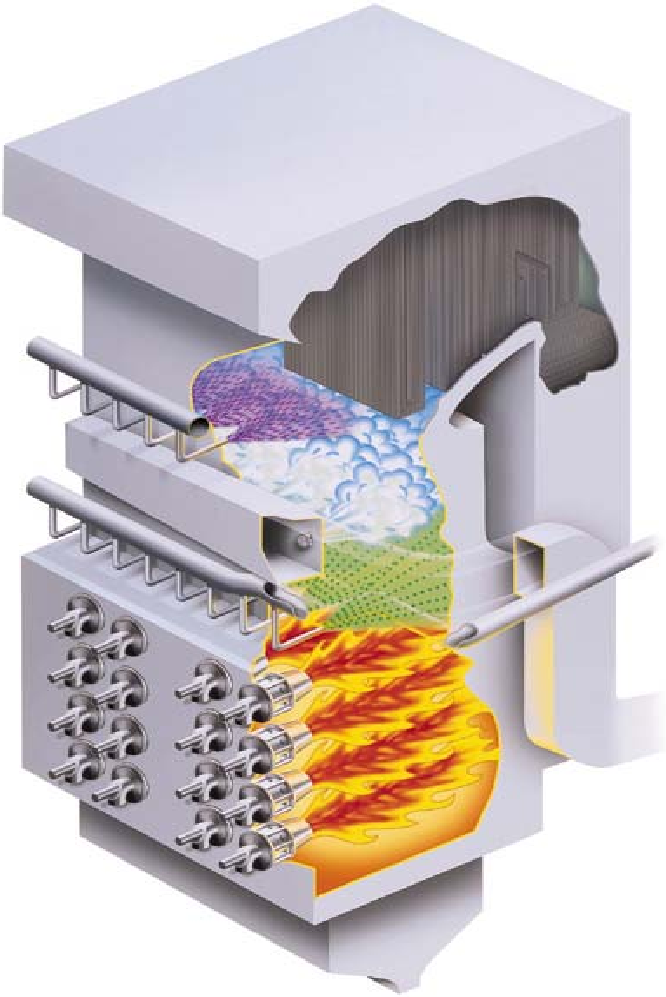
Worldwide Pollution Control Association

IL Regional Technical Seminar

August 3-4, 2010

Visit our website at www.wpca.info

Particulate Collection External Factors



WPCA IL Regional Technical Seminar

Tim Stark

August 2010

imagination at work

PM Collection – External Factors

- A large part of our daily lives is spent maintaining PM emission limits.
- When emissions approach compliance limits, we get a call to correct the problem.
- Our first action is generally to review operation of the fabric filter.
- Aside from maintenance issues, it is likely that the source of the problem is not the PM control device, but process conditions.
- For this reason, it is critical to consider the whole system when addressing emissions issues.

You have a PM control event

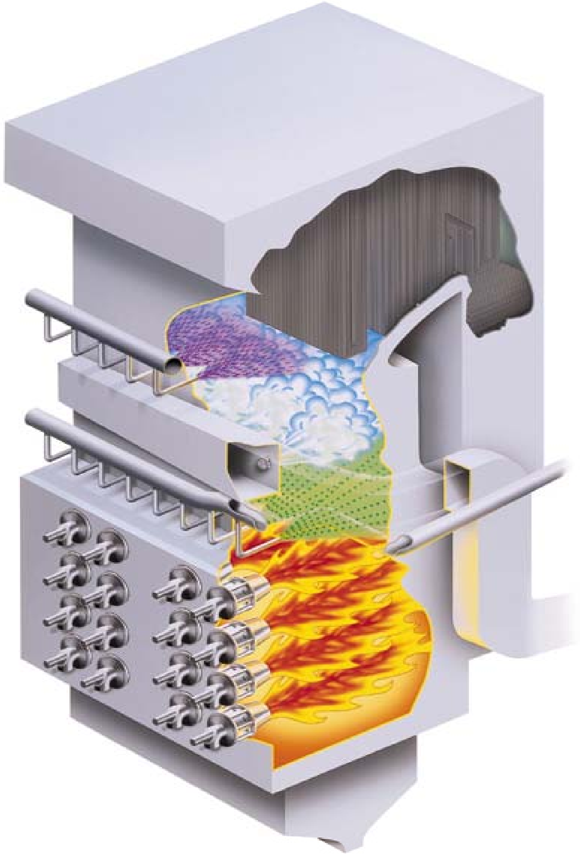
Define the nature of the event to focus your efforts:

- Characterize emission levels
  - Rapid spikes
  - Gradual increase
- Characterize PM event
  - Random in nature
  - Cyclical based on time or process condition
- Fabric filter
  - High emissions isolated to a single compartment
  - Multiple compartments experiencing increased emissions

Where should you look first?

Major factors affecting PM removal;

- Inlet Dust Load
- Flue Gas Flow Rate
- Flue Gas Temperature
- Flue Gas Composition
- Particle Size Distribution
- Carbon Content of Ash



(This assumes it really isn't the PM control devices fault!)

PM Collection – External Factors

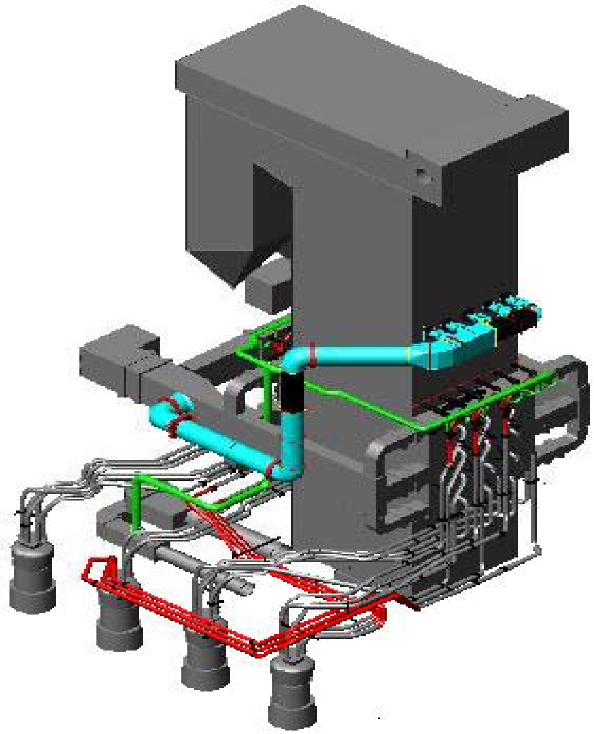
- Most of the fly ash is a constituent of the fuel burned.
- As a result, dust loading is proportional to firing rate and ash content of fuel.
- Why does inlet dust burden change?
  - Change in load
  - Change in fuel ash constant
  - Increased unburned carbon in ash
  - Injection of sorbent ahead of PM device
  - Short term activities such as soot blowing

Impact of Combustion on Particulate Collection

Consider an example 250 MW coal fired boiler burning a Powder River Basin coal:

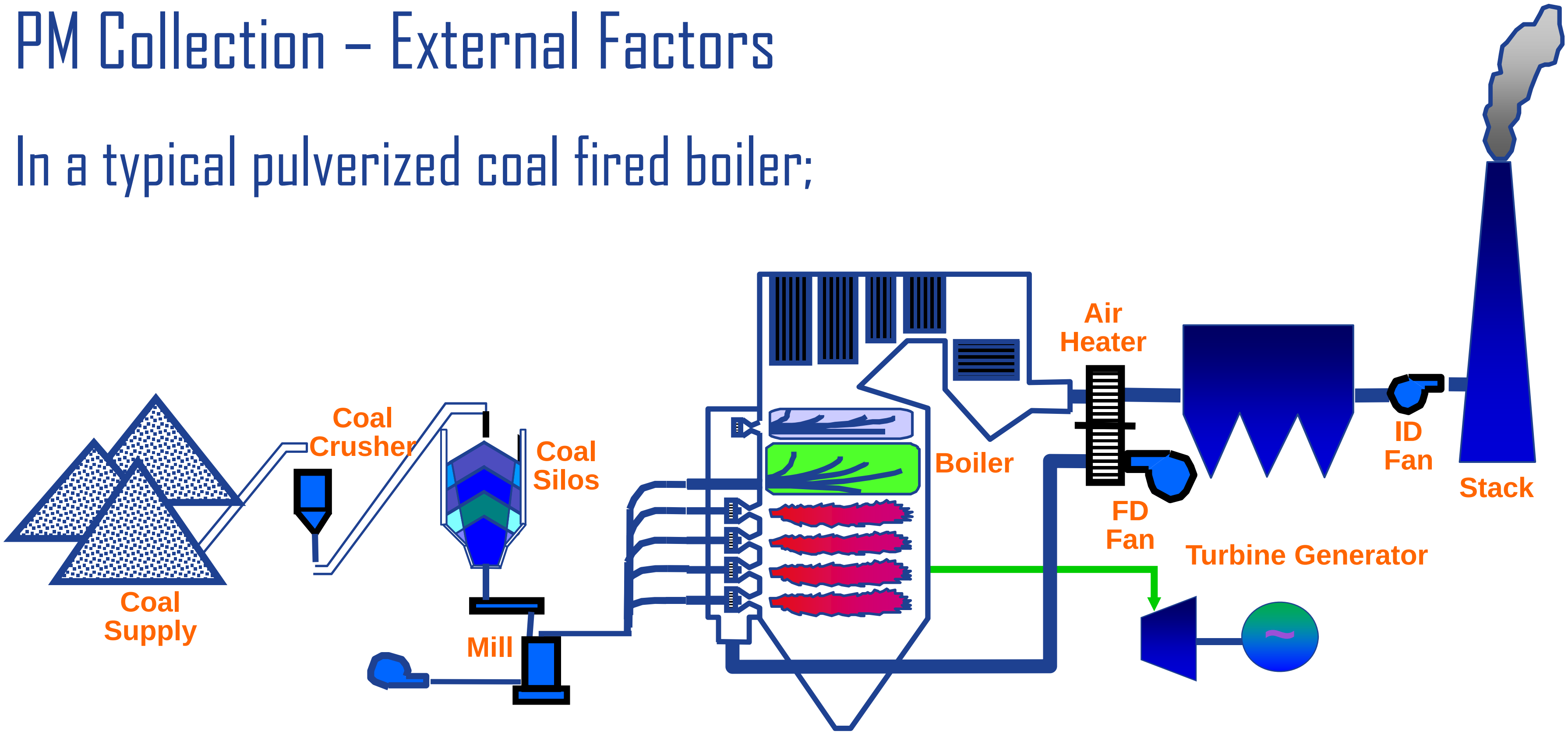
- Coal burn rate: 306,000 lb/hr
- Heating value: 7,850 BTU/lb
- Ash content: 6.5%
- Gas volume: 1,088,000 ACFM
- Gas temperature: 325°F
- Gas pressure: -6" WC
- Dust burden: 6.6 lb/mmBTU

  2.87 gr/dscf



PM Collection – External Factors

In a typical pulverized coal fired boiler;



About 15% to 20% of Ash Falls out as Bottom Ash

About 80% to 85% Passes Through Boiler as Fly Ash

For a 250 MW Plant – 9.5 to 10.0 Tons/hr ash

7.5 to 8 Tons/hr fly ash

imagination at work

PM Collection – External Factors

Example 250 MW Plant

Coal HHV - 7,850 BTU/lb (from Ultimate Analysis)

Heat input – 2,400 mmBTU/hr (Boiler rating)

Fuel burn rate = (2,400 mmBTU/hr) / (7,850 BTU/lb /1,000,000)

= 306,000 lb coal /hr or 153 tons coal /hr

Coal Ash Content 6.5%

Ash= 306,000 lb coal /hr * .065 lb ash/lb coal

=19,890 lb ash/hr or 9.95 tons ash/hr

At 80% conversion of ash to fly ash

=19,890 lb ash/hr * 0.8

=16,000 lb fly ash/hr or 8 tons fly ash/hr @ 6.5% ash

=24,615 lb fly ash/hr or 12.3 ton fly ash/hr @ 10% ash

imagination at work

What happens when dust load increases?

Fabric Filter

- Increased pressure drop
- Need to reduce pulse cleaning interval
- Increased bag wear.
- Increased compressed air consumption.
- Reduced hopper evacuation cycles.

What can I do when dust loading increases?

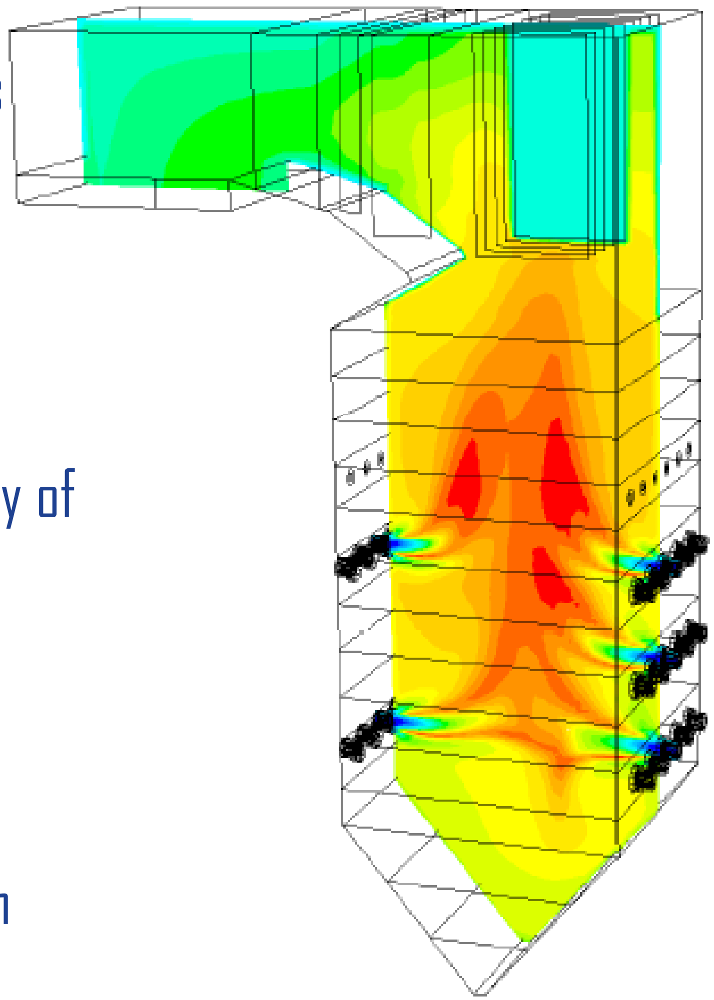
Fabric Filter

- Increase hopper evacuation rate.
- If using POD, monitor upper pressure set point limit versus pulsing interval.
- If using timer pulsing, decrease interval between pulses.
- Monitor sample bags for signs of wear.

PM Collection – External Factors

Flue gas Flow Rate

- Flue gas is a combination of combustion products and air in- leakage.
- Combustion products are a function of the fuel constituents and the excess air utilized during burning.
- Perfect combustion would require a stoichiometry of "1", as defined by fuel composition (Ultimate Analysis)
- Real world, excess is air required since fuel/air mixing less than perfect
- Air in-leakage accounts for significant increase in volume



imagination at work

PM Collection – External Factors

Why does gas volume change?

Factors affecting flue gas volume:

- Fuel burn rate
- Fuel characteristics
- Integrity of the casing and duct work
- Moisture content of the gas]
- Temperature of the gas

Impact of air in-leakage on Gas Volume

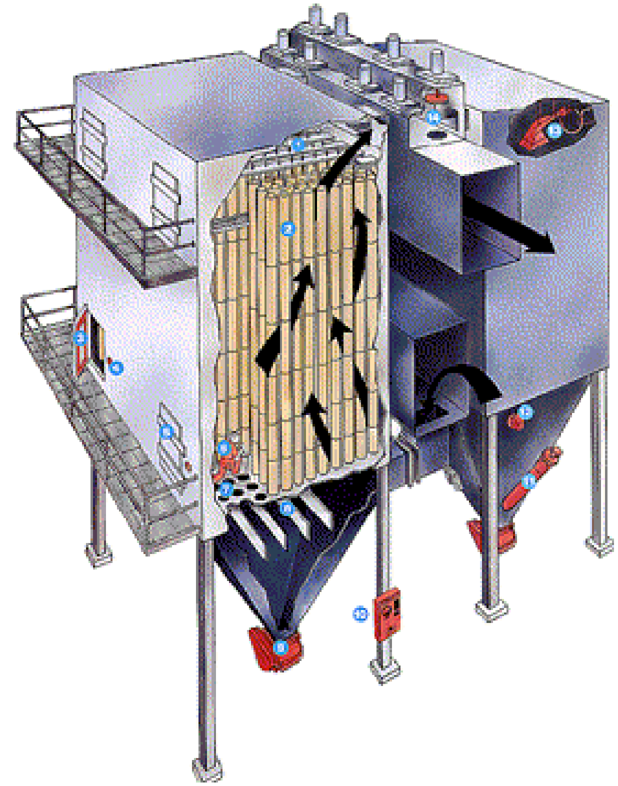
- In a negative pressure PM control device, ambient air will leak into the flue gas.
- Consider gas volume at two O_2 levels:
    - 4.5% O2   ~1,088,000 ACFM
    - 6.5% O2   ~1,250,000 ACFM
- Significant increase in flue gas flow results from in-leakage.
- What impact does that have on PM equipment?

imagination at work

Impact of Gas Volume on Fabric Filter

Air to Cloth Ratio

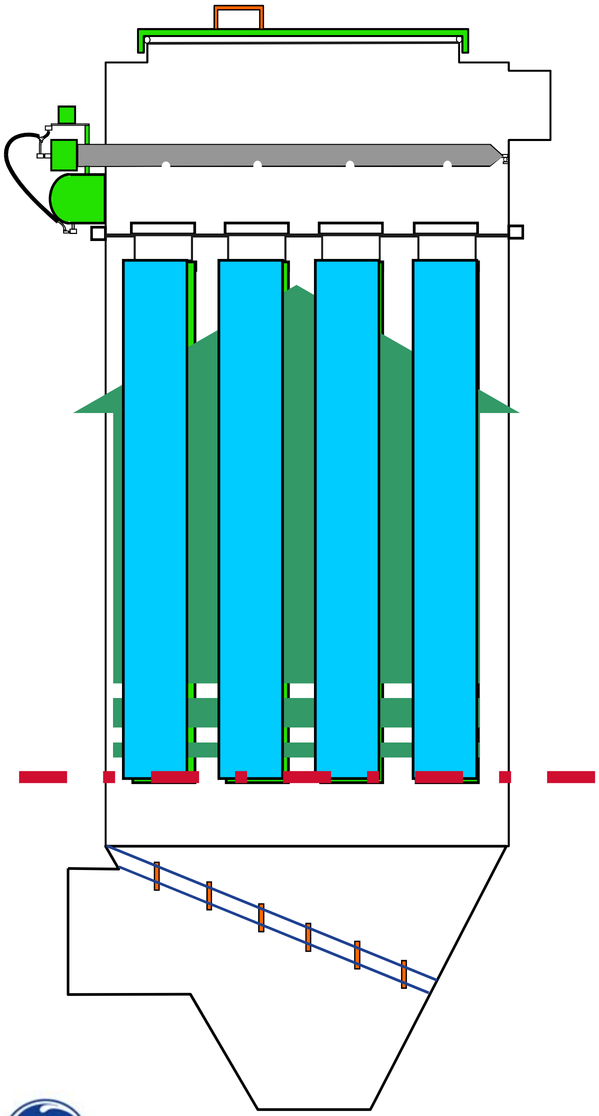
- Air to cloth ratio = Total gas volume ACFM / Total filter area Ft2
- Filter dia. X length x 3.1415 = Filter area
- Total # Filters x Filter Area = Total Filter Area
- Typical pulse jet air to cloth ratios for utility boilers 2.0 through 4.0 ft/min.



- Collection efficiency is not volume dependent.
- Increased gas volume results in increased ΔP

imagination at work

Impact of Gas Volume on Fabric Filter



Can Velocity

In a pulse jet fabric filter, "can" velocity is the upward gas velocity between filter bags.

It is calculated at the horizontal cross section at the bottom of the filter bags.

Excessive can velocity prevents dust from settling into hoppers.

Increased gas volume results in increased can velocity.

Impact of air in-leakage on Gas Volume

At 2.87 gr/dscf inlet dust, the impact on Fabric Filter

- 4.5% O2 ~1,088,000 ACFM
  - 3.5 ft/min Air to cloth ratio
  - 205 ft/min
- 6.5% O2 ~1,250,000 ACFM
  - 4.05 ft/min Air to cloth ratio
  - 235 ft/min

FF pressure drop
~30% increase

Impact of Increased Gas Volume

Fabric Filter

- Increased pressure drop
- Reduction in cleaning cycle interval
- Reduced bag life
- Inability of dust to settle
- Abrasion from swinging bags

What should you do when gas volume increases?

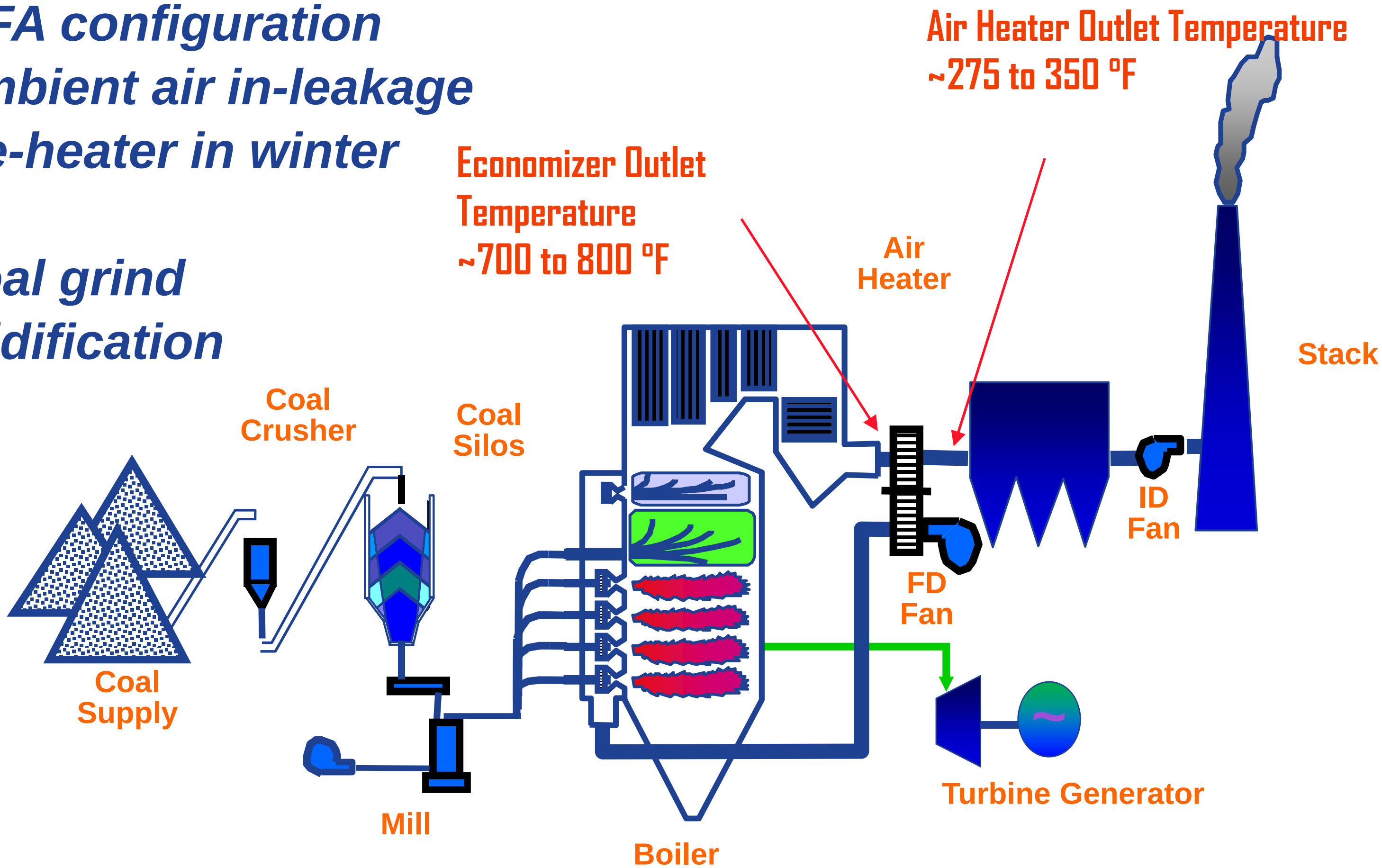
Fabric Filter

- Reduce interval between cleaning cycles, increase upper pressure set point.
- Identify and repair sources of in-leakage.
- Compare inlet gas temperature to normal conditions.
- Bring all compartments on-line.
- Obtain sample bags and inspect.

Impact of Gas Temperature

Changes in PM device inlet temperature affects its' operation. Temperature change may result from:

- ***Slagging or fouling in furnace***
- ***Change in OFA configuration***
- ***Excessive ambient air in-leakage***
- ***Use of air pre-heater in winter***
- ***Load change***
- ***Change in coal grind***
- ***Loss of humidification***



High or Low Temperature is a problem

Impact of Temperature on PM Collection

Fabric Filter

- Increased gas volume
- Reduced fabric life
- Loss of filter bags
- Possible increase in corrosion.

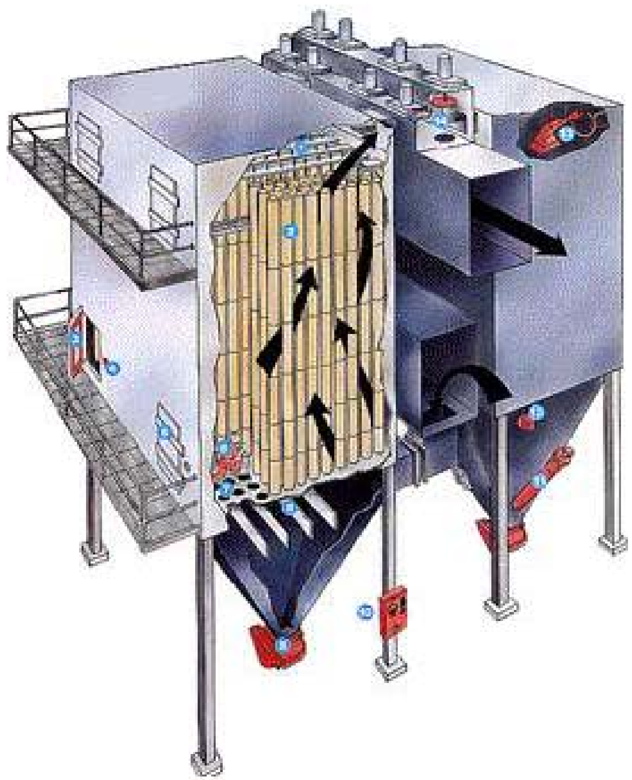
What can I do?

Fabric Filter

- Monitor temperature relative to media limits.
- If temperature too high, bleed in ambient air or introduce EGC.
- If temperature too low, reduce in-leakage or reduce water injection rate.

Impact of Fuel Composition

- As shown previously, composition of the coal affects dust burden and gas volume.
- In addition, gas composition can affect other factors:
    - Sulfur & iron oxide affect acid dew point
    - Moisture affects volume and acid dew point
    - Incomplete combustion increases carbon monoxide and carbon content of ash.



imagination at work

Bag House Basics Filter Media Selection

Oper. Vari.	Polyester	Acrylic	Fiberglass	Aramid	PPS	P84
Max. Oper. Temperature	275°F (134°C)	265°F (130°C)	500°F (259°C)	400°F (204°C)	375°F (190°C)	500°F (259°C)
Abrasion	Excellent	Good	Fair	Excellent	Good	Fair
Filtration Properties	Excellent	Good	Fair	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Moist Heat	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Alkalines	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Excellent	Fair
Mineral Acids	Fair	Good	Poor**	Fair	Excellent	Good
Oxygen(15%+)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Excellent
Relative Cost	X	XX	XXX	XXXX	XXXXXX	XXXXXXX

imagination at work

Impact of Coal Composition

Fabric Filter

- Increased moisture can lead to bag blinding
- Increased acids can degrade fabrics
- Excessive oxygen can degrade some fabrics
- Excessive moisture can degrade some fabrics.

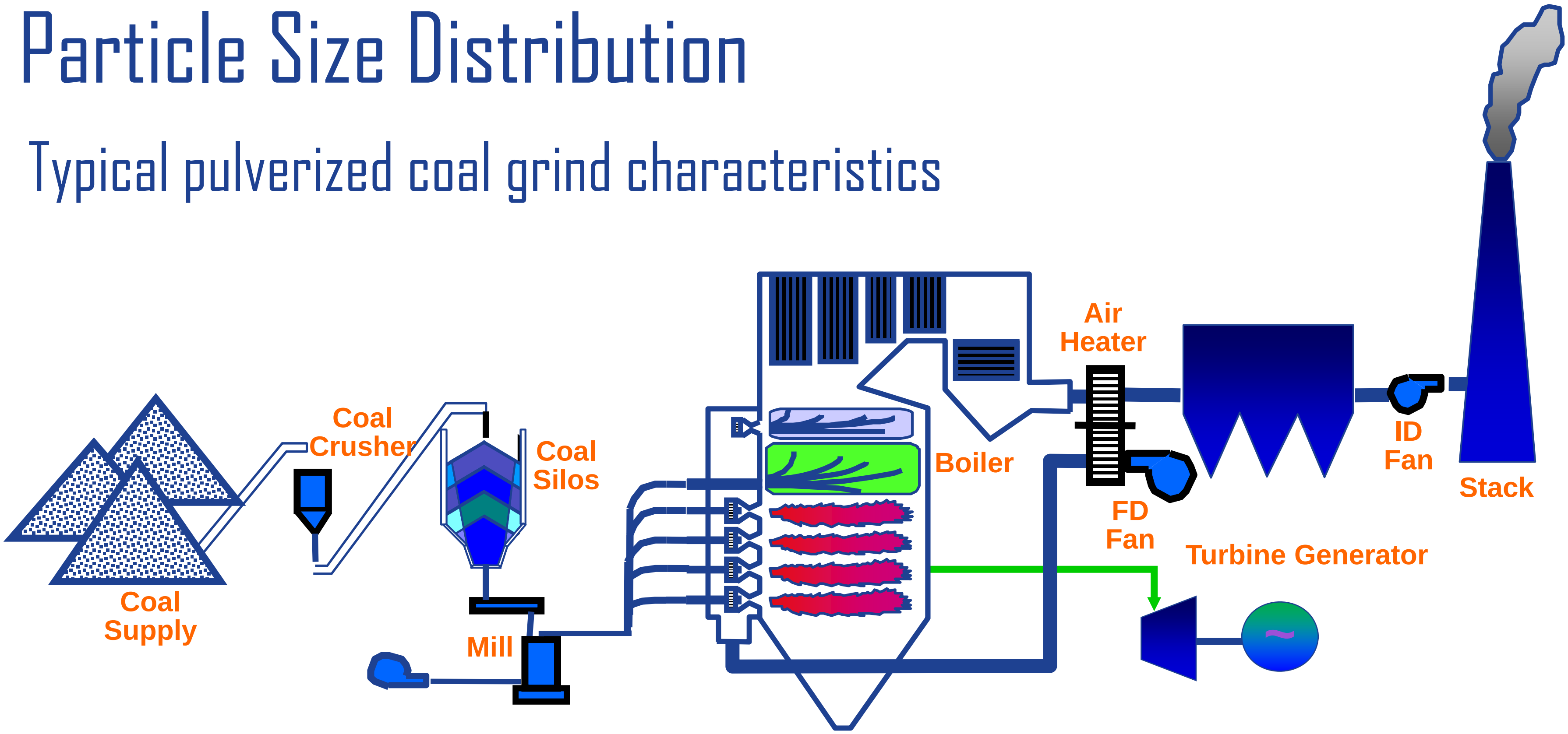
Response to Coal Composition

Fabric Filter

- Increase pulse frequency when moisture make dust sticky.
- Monitor change in acids relative to media capabilities.
- Inject alkali ahead of FF to react with acids.

Particle Size Distribution

Typical pulverized coal grind characteristics



Crusher ~ 1" "particles"

Mills - 70% through 200 mesh screen – 125 microns

Fly ash particle size is a function of coal grind and coal characteristics (volatile content influences)

imagination at work

Impact of Reduced Particle Size

Fabric Filter

- Potential bag blinding
- Fabric "bleed Thru"
- Possible increased emissions
- Increased pressure drop due to lack of settling
- Elevated impact on opacity

What can I do?

Fabric Filter

- Pre-coat filter bags.
- Change to felt from woven.
- Consider membrane laminated filter media.
- Decrease pulse pressure and cycles.
- Consider agglomeration

Carbon in Fly Ash

Sources of Carbon in Fly Ash

- Incomplete combustion.
- Mercury control strategies utilizing carbon based sorbents.
- Powdered activated carbon is injected into the gas stream ahead of the PM control device.
- This process increases the dust burden to the PM control device.

Impact of Carbon in Fly Ash

<u>Fabric Filter</u>

- Hydrocarbons can blind filter bags
- Potential for hopper fires
- Inability to sell fly ash

What can I do?

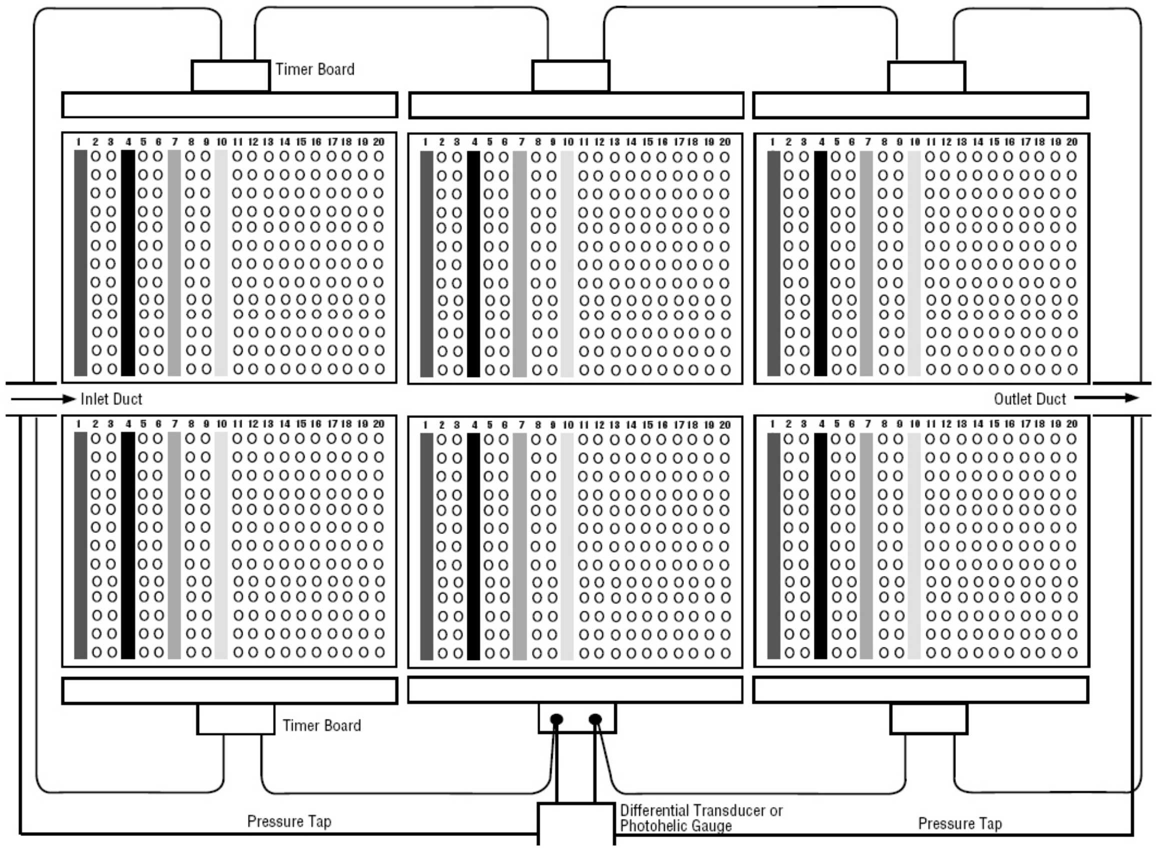
Fabric Filter

- Pre-coat new filter bags to avoid blinding.
- Consider membrane laminated filter media.
- Establish "sacrificial" start-up compartment.
- Empty hoppers frequently.
- Minimize hopper in-leakage.
- Monitor operation of hopper heating equipment.

Summary

- The PM control device may not be the source of emission problems.
- Multiple external factors impact operation of the PM control device.
- The PM device has no direct influence over these parameters.
- Understanding conditions associated with "Normal" operation helps when trouble shooting.
- Define process parameters that have most impact on equipment operation and establish trending.
- Understand the result of changes in any of the critical parameters.
- Do not focus on any single area, the problem is likely a combination of issues.

Multi-Compartment Cleaning



Impact of PAC Injection on Dust Burden

Total Dust Burden				
PAC Rate lb/mmBTU	Inlet Dust gr/acf	PAC Injection gr/acf	Total Burden gr/acf	% Increase
1.5	1.5	0.011	1.511	0.73
3	1.5	0.022	1.522	1.50
7	1.5	0.049	1.55	3.33
Polishing Mode				
PAC Rate lb/mmBTU	Inlet Dust gr/acf	PAC Injection gr/acf	Total Burden gr/acf	% Increase
1.5	0.015	0.011	0.026	173.00
3	0.015	0.022	0.037	247.00
7	0.015	0.049	0.064	427.00

- Injecting PAC ahead of ESP has minimal impact on FF inlet dust burden.
- Injecting after ESP has major impact on FF dust burden. (Polishing mode)