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Electrochemical membrane technology for carbon dioxide capture from flue gas

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FuelCell Energy

Ultra-Clean, Efficient, Reliable Power



Electrochemical Membrane Technology for CO₂ Capture from Flue Gas

Stephen Jolly, Hossein Ghezel-Ayagh, and William A. Steen

CO₂ Summit II: Technologies and Opportunities

April 10–14, 2016

Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, USA

Ultra-Clean | Efficient | Reliable Power

Research & Development

- *Global fuel cell technology platform*
- *Robust intellectual property portfolio*
- *Leveraging core technology for new market opportunities*



Sales, Manufacture & Project Execution

- *Project development – Direct Sales*
- *Global manufacturing (200+ MW capacity)*
- *Engineering, Procurement and Construction*

Services

- *Operate & Maintain power plants*
- *100+ DFC® plants operating at 50+ sites globally*
- *>4 billion kWh ultra-clean power produced*
- *> 300 MW installed/backlog*



1.4 MW power plant



11.2 MW fuel cell system

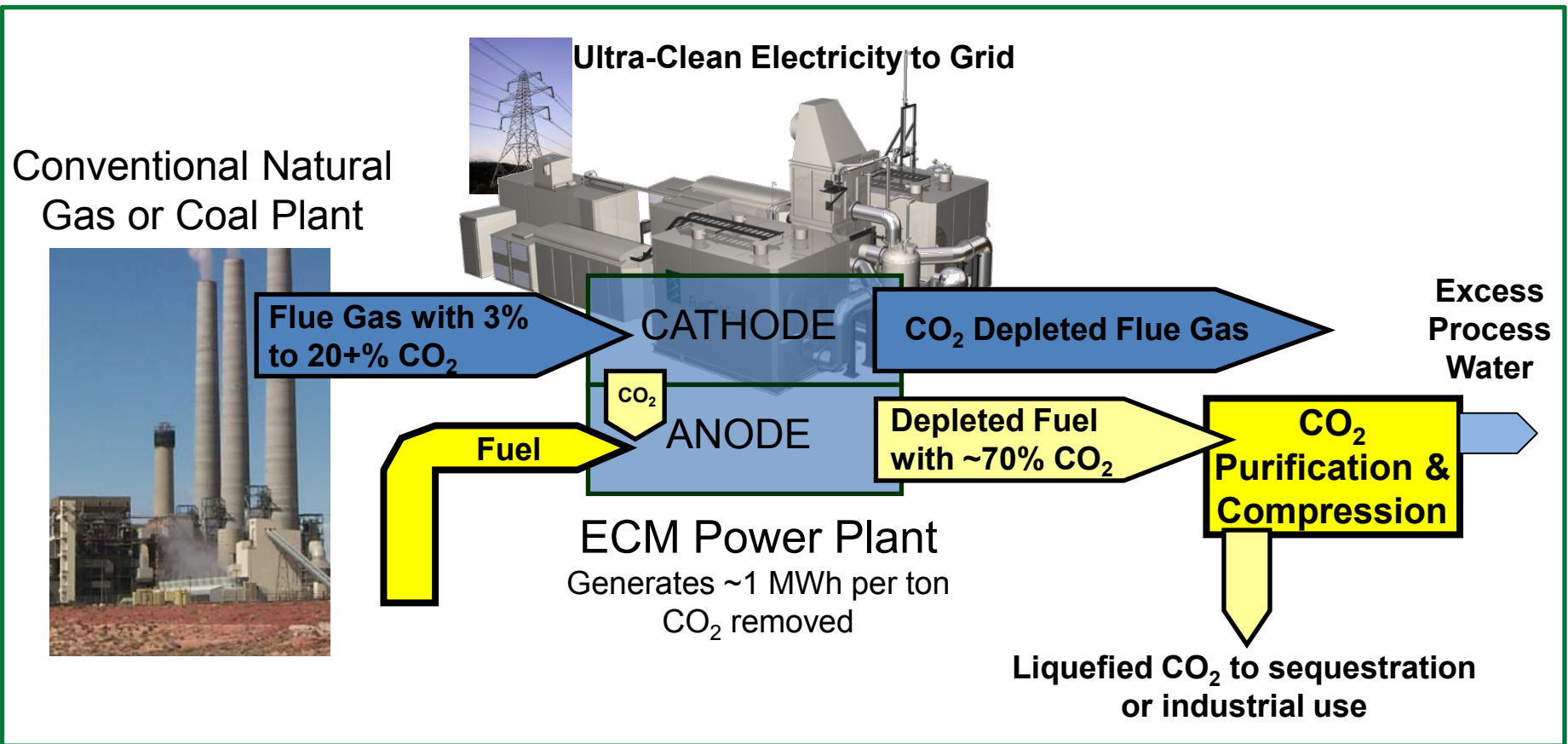


2.8 MW power plant



5 unit fuel cell park

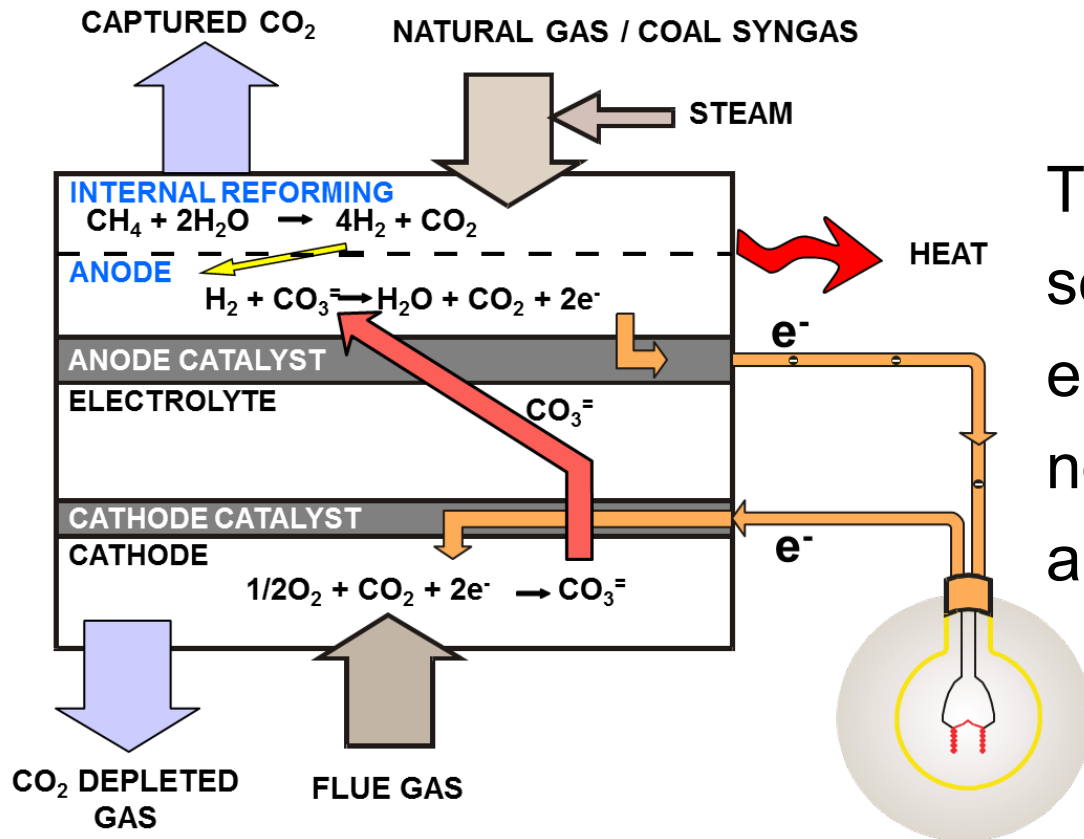
Electrochemical Membrane (ECM) for CO₂ Capture



Net Results

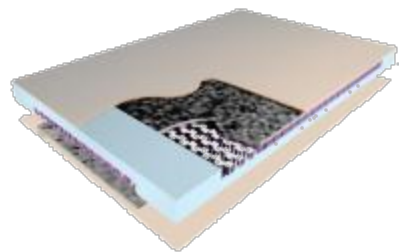


- Re-application of commercially-proven DFC[®] technology as Electrochemical Membrane for CO₂ Capture
- Simultaneous Power Production and CO₂ Separation from Flue Gas of an Existing Facility
- Excess Process Water Byproduct

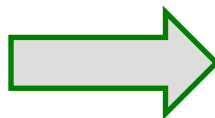


The driving force for CO_2 separation is electrochemical potential, not pressure differential across the membrane

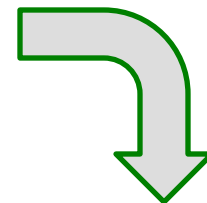
- ECM offers complete selectivity towards CO_2 as compared to N_2
- Fast electrode kinetics at 600°C operating temp. make ECM suitable for flue gases with $<15\%$ CO_2 , typical of coal or gas-fired plants
- Due to the planar geometry and large gas flow channels, ECM can process large gas volumes without significant back pressures (5-8 cm of water)



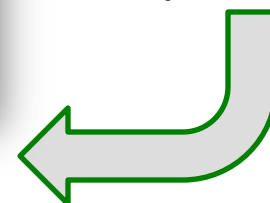
ECM Assembly



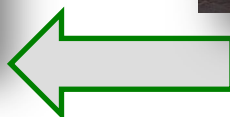
**ECM Stack
(Using 400 ECM
Assemblies)**



**ECM Module
(4 Stacks)**

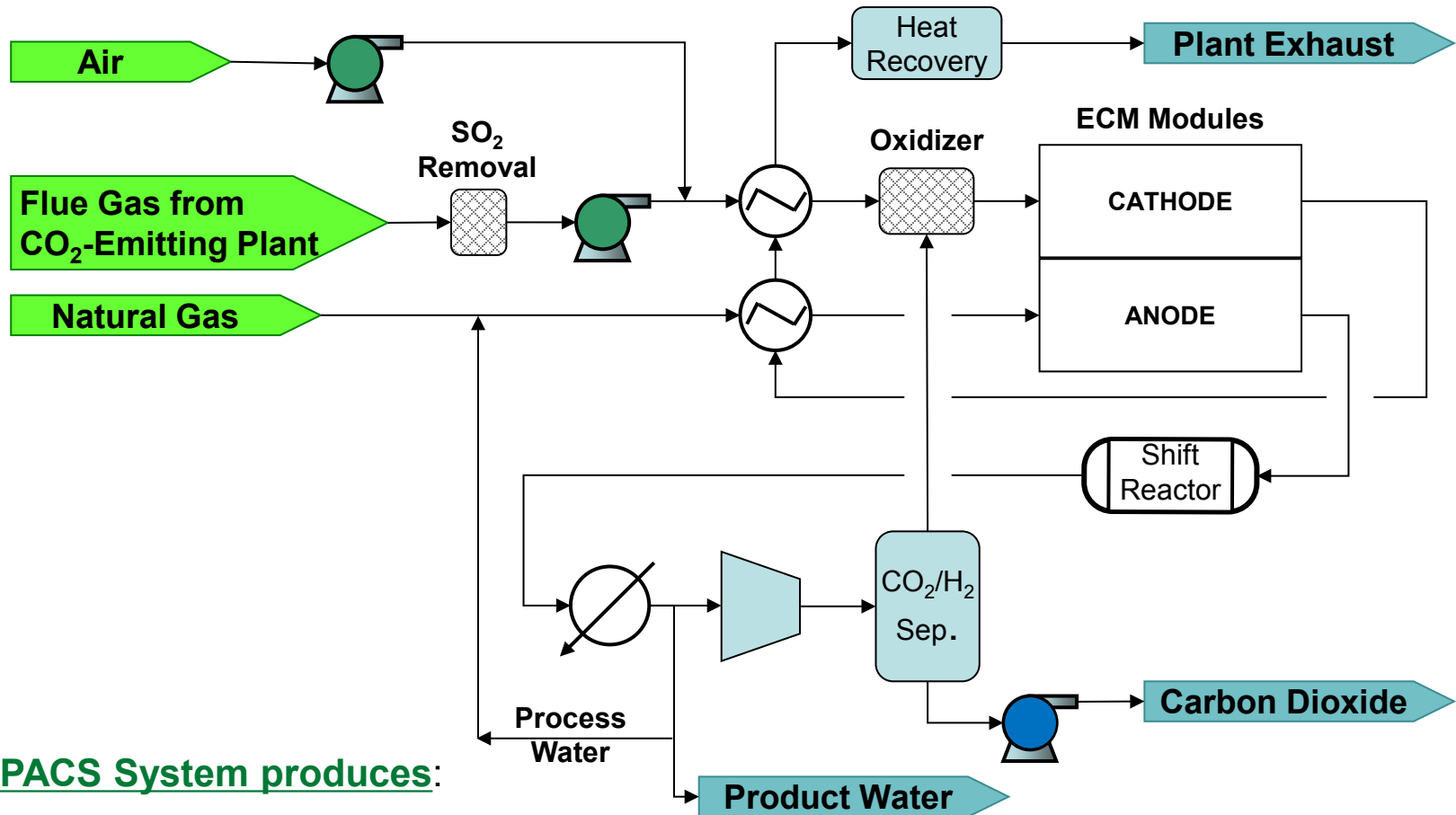


**Enclosed
Module**



**Modules Utilized in Large-
Scale Applications**

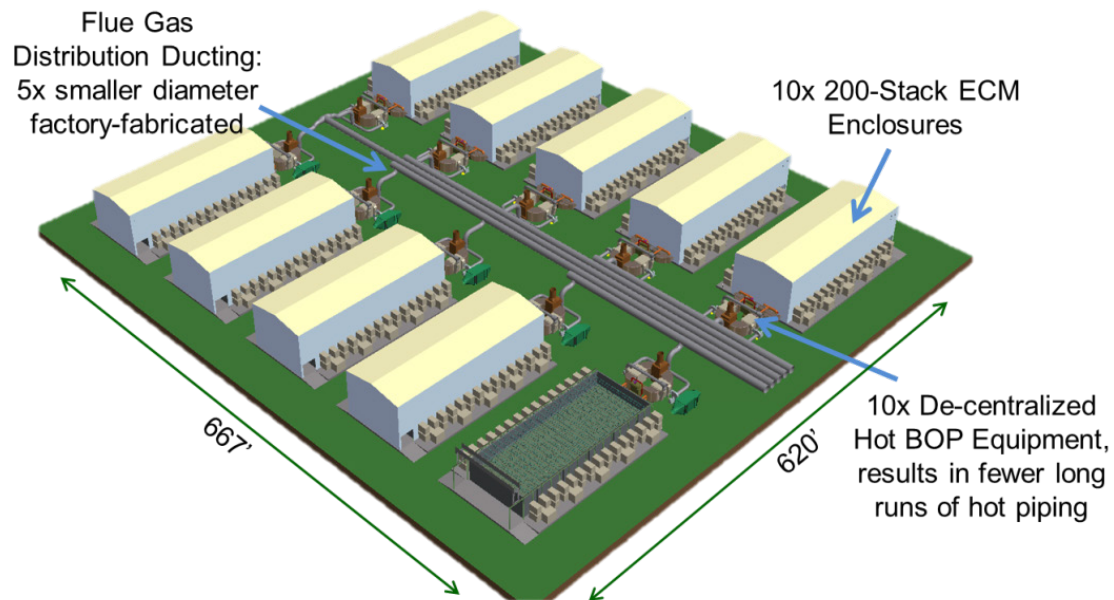
Combined Electric Power and Carbon-dioxide Separation (CEPACS) System

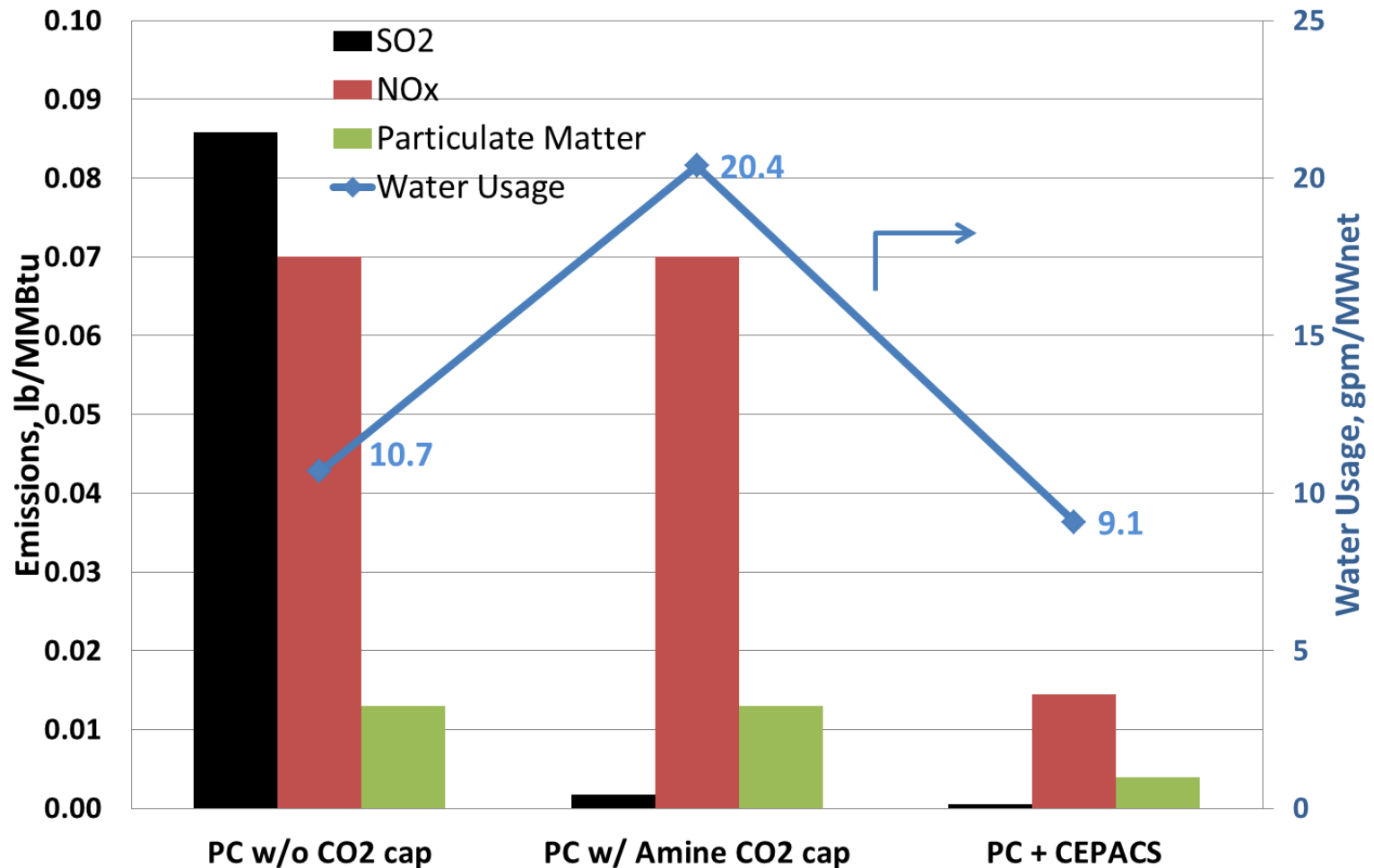


CEPACS System produces:

- Excess Process Water
- Supercritical CO₂ (90% CO₂ capture from PC Plant)
- Additional clean AC power

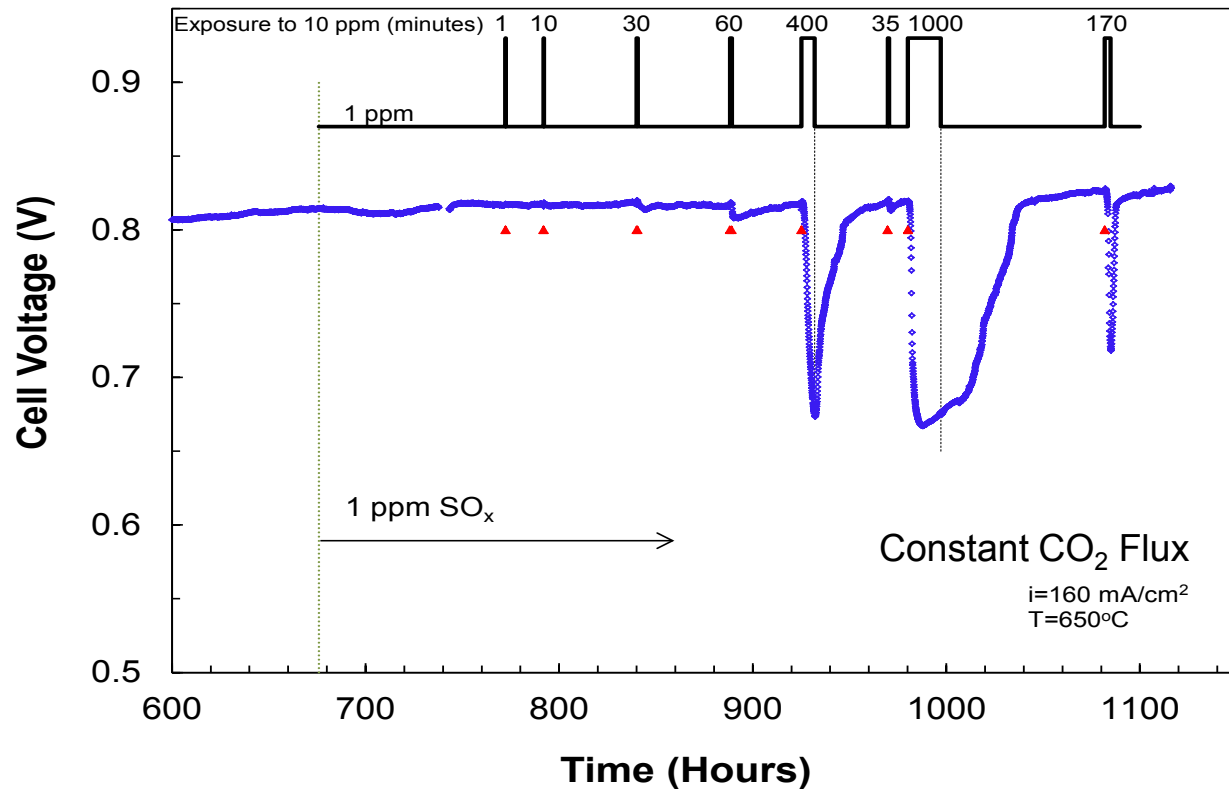
- **420MW ECM-based system would capture 90% of CO₂ from 550MW Pulverized Coal (PC) plant**
- 4.9 Million tons of CO₂ capture per year
- 3.2GWh ultra-clean power generated per year
- System designed for achieving high availability (>90%) for capture from large scale coal plants
- Cost of CO₂ captured less than \$40/ton, or less than \$0.02/kWh





- PC plant retrofitted with CEPACS system has lower emissions of NO_x, SO_x, and Hg than a PC plant retrofitted with Amine scrubber for CO₂ capture
- CEPACS system produces excess process water, reducing the total plant water usage

To simulate flue gas cleanup system upsets, ECM response to spikes of SO_2 concentrations was studied:



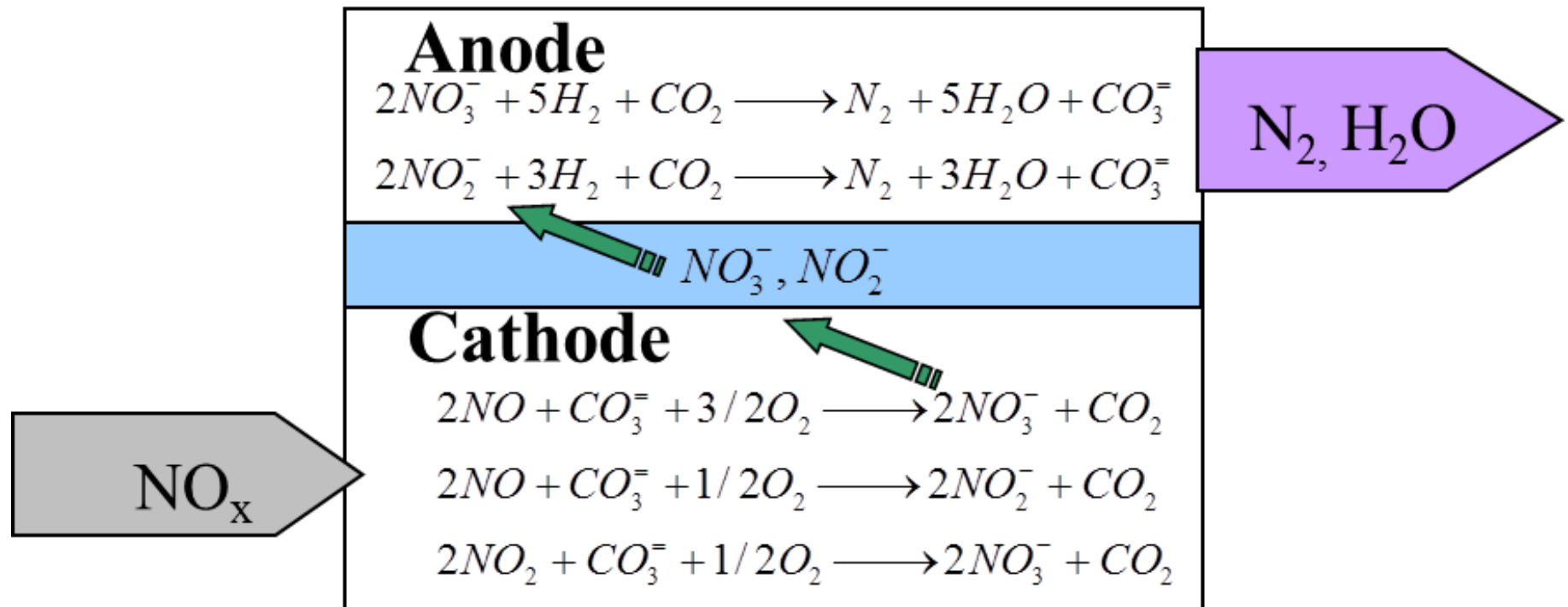
- ECM performance is stable using a polishing equipment which reduces upstream SO_2 concentration in the flue gas (cathode gas) to $<1 \text{ ppm}$
- Performance loss was fully recoverable after exposing ECM to 10 ppm transients SO_2 of varying lengths with recovery time proportional to length of transient

ECM Flue Gas Contaminants Tolerance: Summary

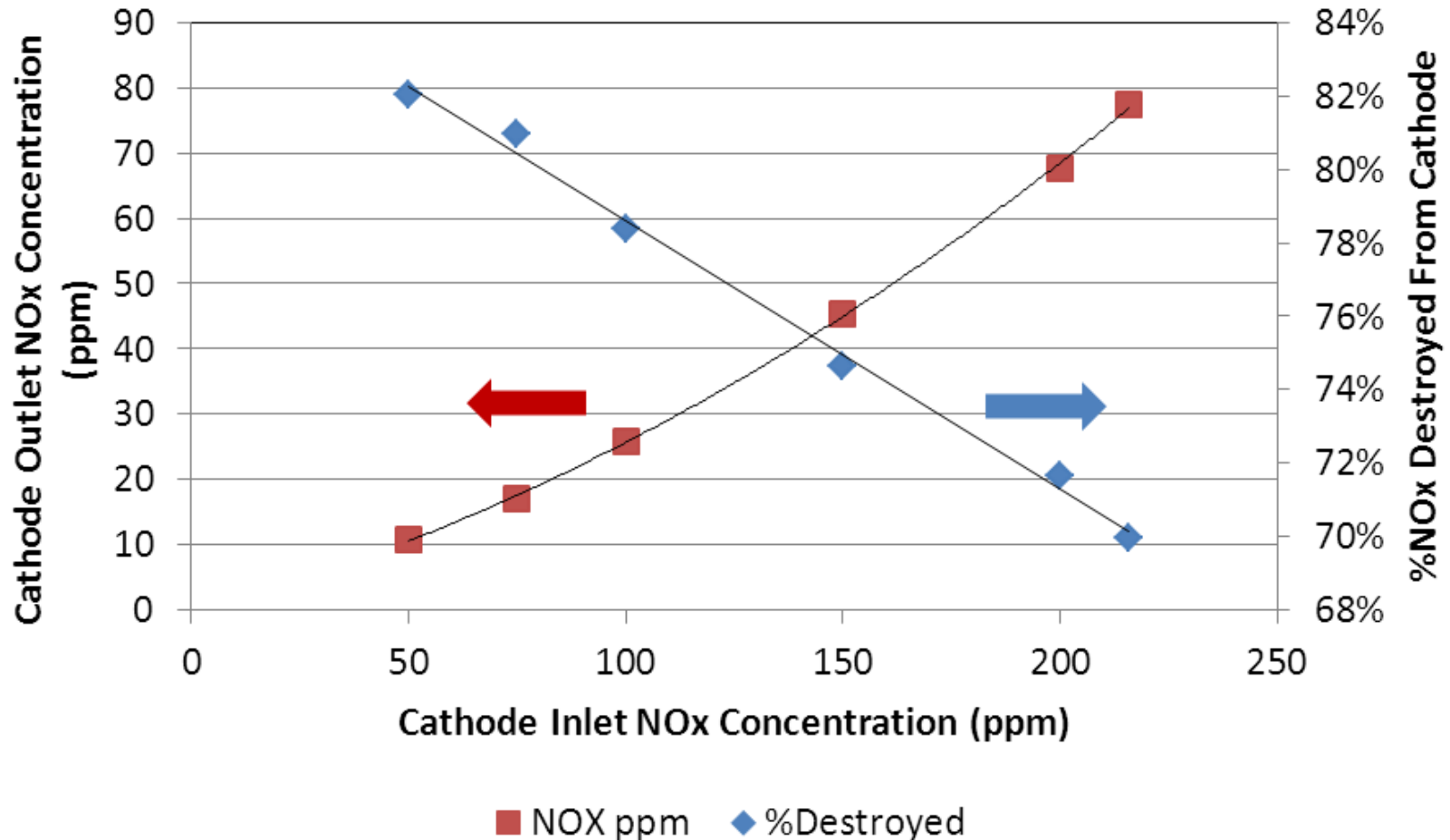
Flue Gas Contaminant	Concentration in Cathode Inlet Gas After Polishing FGD, Estimated by AECOM		Highest Concentration Tested by PNNL, with low/no power degradation		Notes
SO ₂	0.18	ppmv	1	ppmv	Performance losses due to short-term SO ₂ exposure up to 40ppm were fully reversible
Se	0.30	ppbv	10	ppbv	No apparent degradation over 860 hours.
Hg	0.08	ppbv	250	ppbv	Expected form is predominantly elemental Hg. No apparent degradation over 1100 hours.
HCl	12.7	ppbv	200	ppbv	No apparent degradation over 900 hours.

- Based on PNNL testing and AECOM performance estimates, a polishing wet-FGD scrubber is designed to sufficiently clean flue gas for ECM operation

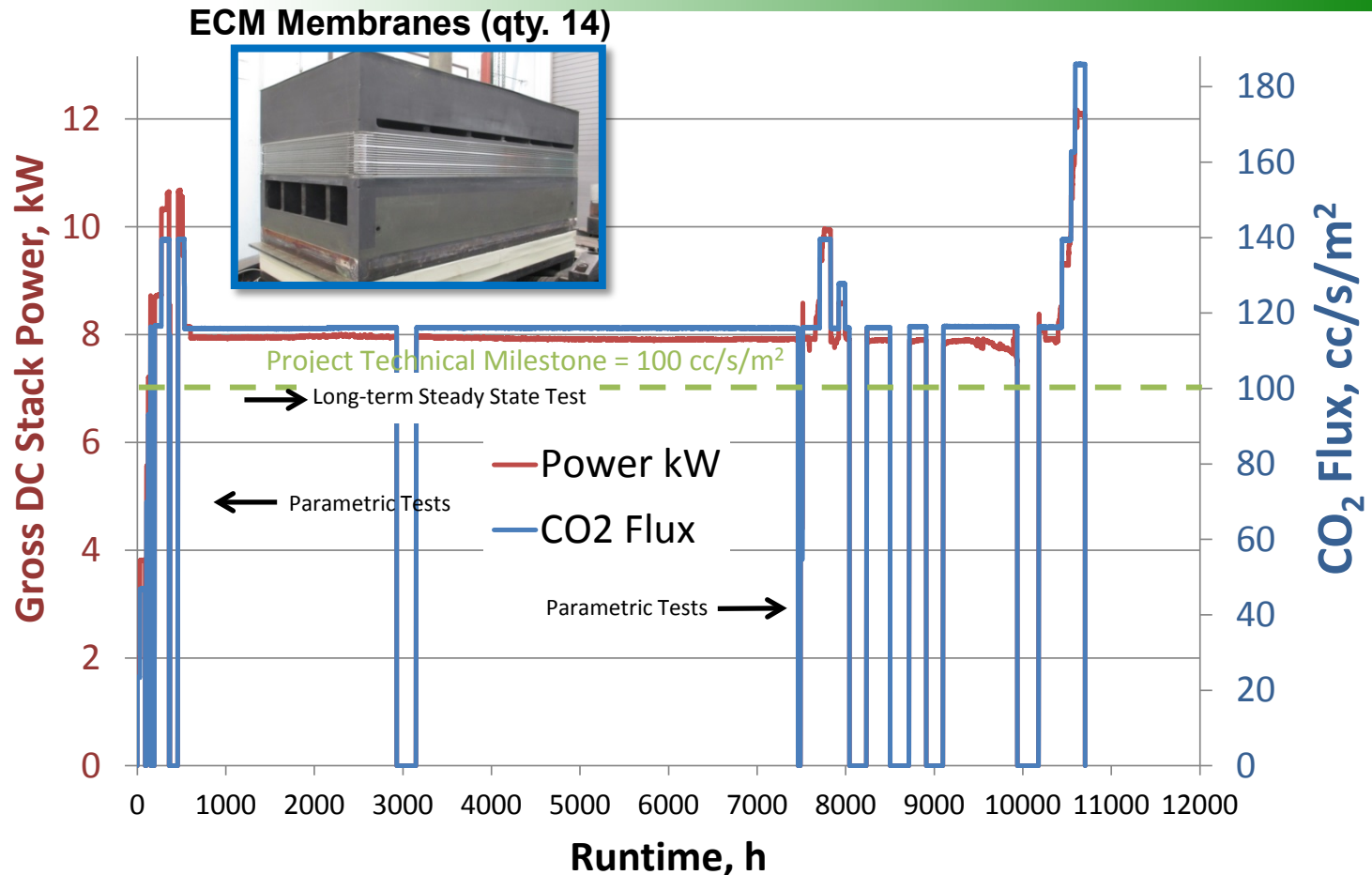
- Based on FCE's prior experience:
 - ECM materials are not expected to be degraded by NO_x in flue gas
 - CEPACS system offers co-benefit of NO_x reduction



Reaction Mechanism by which NO_x is removed from the Flue Gas (cathode-side), transferred to the anode-side along with CO₂, and subsequently destroyed



- ECM Capability for NO_x Destruction Remains > 70% at High Inlet NO_x Concentration (200 ppm) During Carbon Capture under System Conditions

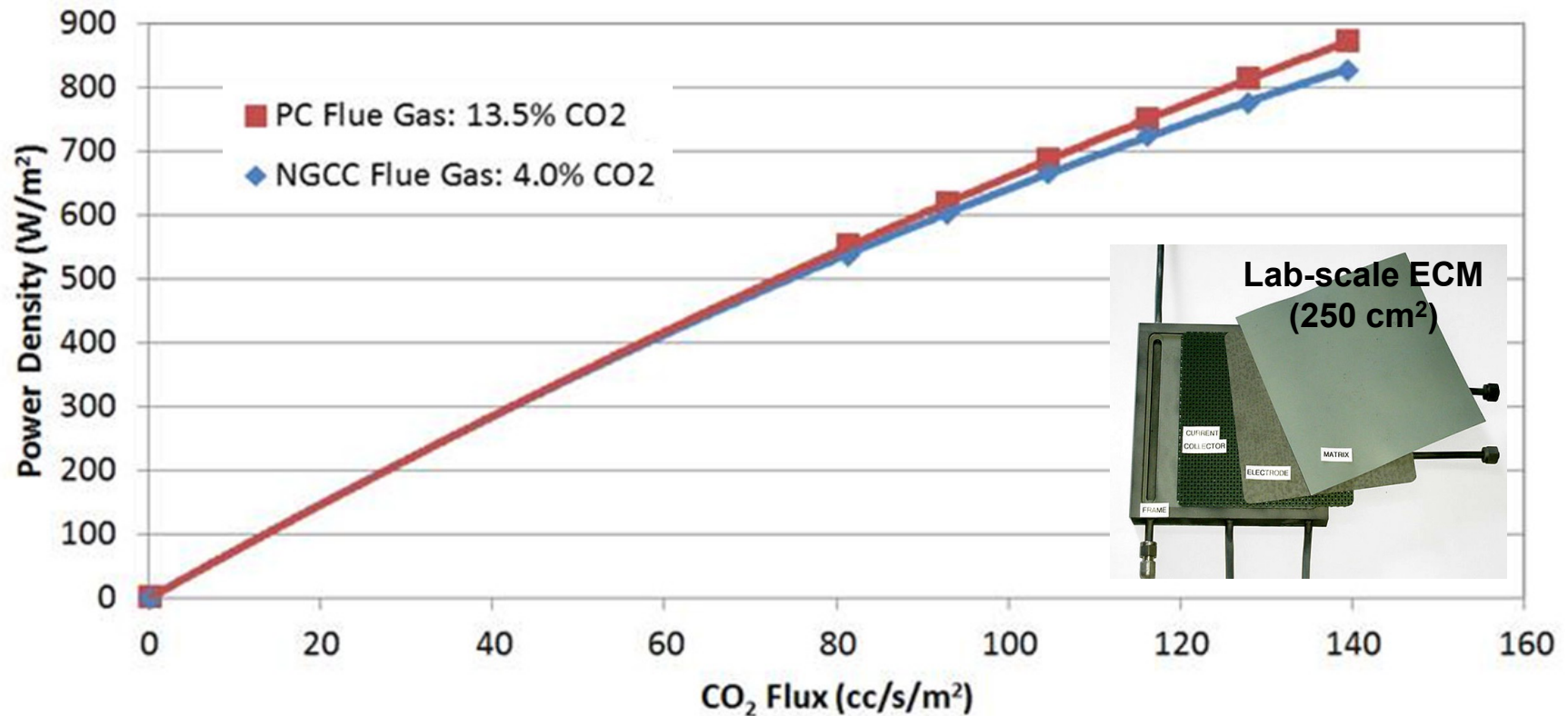


CEPACS demonstration system for PC flue gas currently undergoing testing at FCE:

- 100 tons/year liquid CO₂ product
- >10 kW peak power production
- Bench-scale CEPACS test results verified high CO₂ flux and stable operation for >10,000 hours

ECM Performance: Effect of Flue Gas Composition

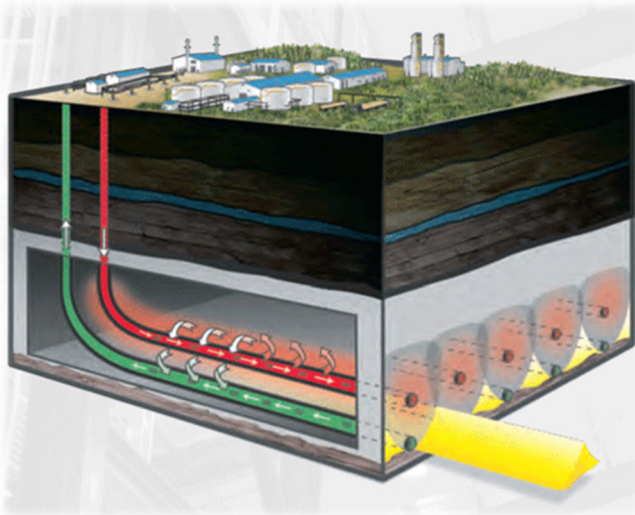
ECM cell performance data for NGCC and PC plant flue gases at 93% carbon capture:



- Due to fast electrode kinetics, ECM is capable of operating on flue gases with a wide range of CO₂ partial pressure:
 - Pulverized coal-fueled boilers
 - Natural gas-fueled boilers
 - Natural gas turbine and combined cycle plants

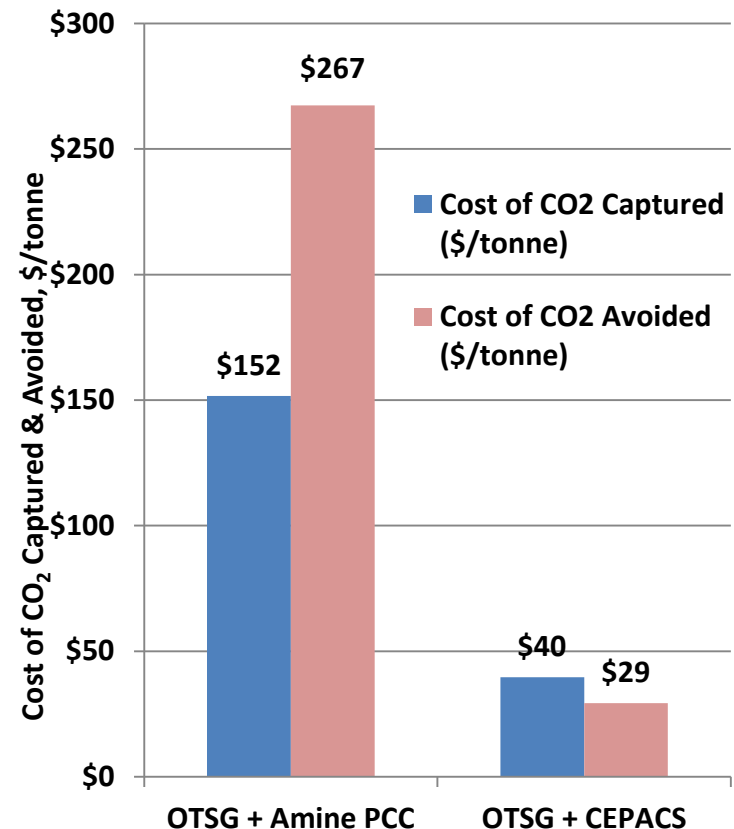
Case Study: *ECM for CO₂ Capture from SAGD Bitumen Extraction*

Jacobs Consultancy developed an independent analysis* of an ECM system for 90% CO₂ capture applied to a 33,000 BOPD Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD) facility under a study by Alberta Innovates (Alberta, Canada)

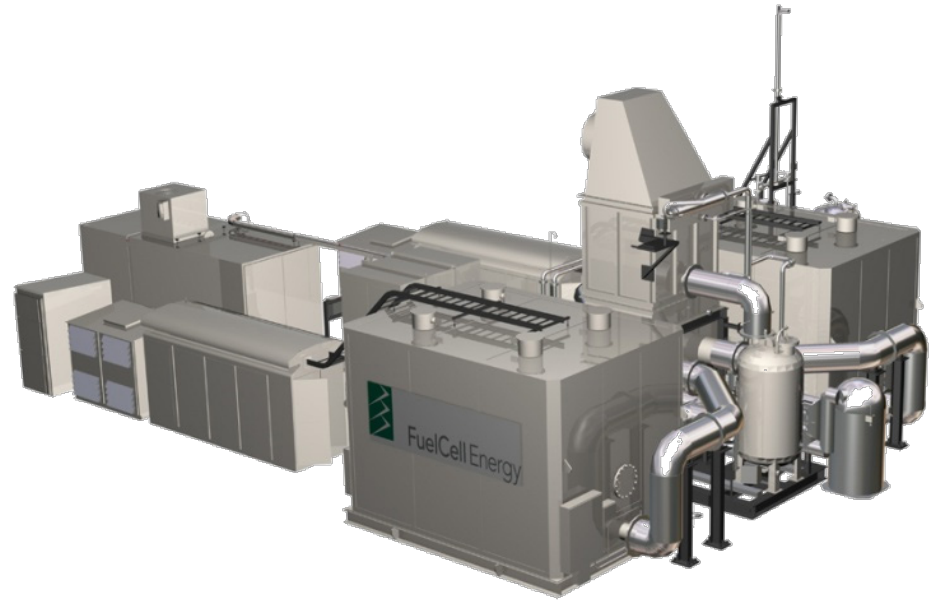


ECM system:

- Captures 90% of CO₂ from SAGD NG-fired Once Through Steam Generator (OTSG)
- Produces 62 MWe net, enough to cover all SAGD power requirements and export 48 MWe
- Reduces SAGD facility makeup water requirements by 44% (compared to without CCS)



- Recently awarded Co-operative Agreement with DOE (DE-FE0026580)
- Pilot ECM system to capture >90% of CO₂ from a 3 MWe equivalent slipstream of a PC plant flue gas
- Objective to confirm high purity (>95%) CO₂ capture with a cost of electricity <30% of state-of-the-art capture technologies in large-scale applications
- 42 months project starting 10/1/2015
- Host site selection underway



Pilot-Scale Project:

Designed to capture >58 tons CO₂ per day while simultaneously producing **>1.5 MW** of ultra-clean electricity

Captures and Concentrates exhaust from

- Coal power plant
- Natural gas power plant
- Industrial process

Proven Technology

- Leverages commercial fuel cell technology
- Project underway to demonstrate MW-class pilot plant for capture from coal flue gas

Economical

- Produces additional power vs power reduction
- Generates return on capital vs operating expense

Additional Benefits

- 70% reduction in NOx
- Clean water production



**Fuel Cell Manufacturing
Facility, Torrington, CT**



**Hwaseong, South Korea
59 MW Fuel Cell System**

ECM Carbon Capture from Coal Plants supported by DOE/NETL (Co-operative Agreements: DE-FE0007634 & DE-FE0026580)

Guidance from NETL team: José Figueroa, Elaine Everitt, Lynn Brickett, John Litynski, and others at NETL/DOE





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