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EVALUATION OF GAS-REBURNING AND LOW NO_x BURNERS ON A WALL FIRED BOILER

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Colorado Interstate Gas Company
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Clean Coal Technology (CCT) implies the use of coal in an environmentally acceptable manner. Coal combustion results in the emission of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), which are precursors of both acid rain and ozone formation. The primary objective of this CCT project is to evaluate the use of Gas Reburning and Low NO_x Burners (GR-LNB) for NO_x emission control from a wall fired boiler. It is anticipated that, if the demonstration is successful, the GR-LNB technology could become commercialized during the 1990's and will be capable of (1) achieving significant reduction in the emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide (another acid rain precursor) from existing facilities to minimize environmental impacts such as transboundary and interstate pollution and/or (2) providing for future energy needs in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Low NO_x burners are designed to delay the mixing of the coal fuel with combustion air to minimize the NO_x formation. Typically, one may obtain up to 50% reduction in NO_x emissions through the use of LNB. For LNB applications, the technology is developed and a number of LNB designs are commercially available.

With GR, about 80-85 percent of the coal fuel is fired in the main combustion zone. The balance of the fuel is added downstream as natural gas to create a slightly fuel rich environment in which NO_x is converted to N_2 . The combustion process is completed by over-fire air addition. SO_x emissions are reduced to the extent that natural gas replaces sulfur-containing coal. The level of NO_x reduction achievable with 15-20% natural gas is on the order of 50-60%. Thus the emission reduction target of the combination of these two developed technologies is about 70%.

Specifically, the technical objectives of this project are to:

1. Demonstrate the full effectiveness of GR-LNB for NO_x emission control. This includes the performance of the separate technologies and of the integrated GR-LNB technology.

2. Demonstrate the compatibility of GR-LNB with existing wall fired boilers.
3. Demonstrate the additional reductions in SO₂, particulate and CO₂ achievable with GR-LNB.
4. Demonstrate the synergism of GR-LNB with sorbent injection for SO₂ control if a sorbent injection system is installed outside the scope of this project.
5. Develop a data base which can be used to establish the commercial viability of GR-LNB to meet existing and projected emission control regulations.
6. Transfer the project results to industry to ensure that GR-LNB is a recognized cost effective competitor for utility boiler emission control.

This project is being conducted in three phases at the host site, a 172 MW_e wall fired boiler of Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), Cherokee Unit 3 in Denver, Colorado: Phase I - Design and Permitting, Phase II - Construction and Start-up, and Phase III - Operation, Data Collection, Reporting and Disposition. Technology transfer to industry is accomplished through the formation of an industry panel.

Phase I of the project commenced on October 13, 1990 and was completed June 30, 1992.

Phase II of the project commenced on June 13, 1991, and was completed on September 2, 1992.

Phase III of the project was approved and commenced on April 15, 1992. Phase III activities during this reporting period involved the completion of parametric testing, and the start of long term testing.

Key Words

SO _x	Ash	Emission
SO ₂	Coal	Control
NO _x	Gas	Boiler
NO	Low NO _x Burners	Precipitator

Burners

Start-up

CEMS

Reburning

BPMS

Construction

Instrumentation

Industry Panel

Injection

Flue Gas

Contracts

Baghouse

Ducts

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The specific goal of this project is to demonstrate NO_x emission reductions of 70 percent or more as a result of combining LNB and GR on a utility boiler having the design characteristics mentioned above. A Host Site Agreement has been signed by EER and a utility company in the State of Colorado: Public Service Company of Colorado (Cherokee Unit No. 3, 172 MW_e) front wall fired boiler near Denver.

To achieve the objectives of the project, it is being conducted in the following three phases at the host site.

- Phase I: Design and Permitting
- Phase II: Construction and Start-up
- Phase III: Operation, Data Collection, Reporting and Disposition

Phase I is complete.

Phase II is complete.

Phase III of the project (Operation, Data Collection, Reporting and Disposition) officially began on April 15, 1992 with Task 1, Project Management work. Due to delays such as the rebuilding of pulverizers, Task 2, Optimization commenced mid-September, 1992. Planned and unplanned boiler shutdowns delayed completion of Task 2 until late April 1993. Task 3, Long Term Testing began on April 27, 1993 with Gas Reburn controls configured in automatic to provide a load following test condition.

Major work performed during this past quarter was as follows:

1. Completed the remainder of Parametric testing.
2. Completed final tuning of Gas Reburn Controls.
3. Completed minor modifications to Gas Reburn equipment.
4. Started Long Term Load Following testing.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Within the final phase of the project, the following tasks will be performed to demonstrate the cost effective control of NO_x and SO_x emissions from pre-NSPS coal fired utility boilers:

Phase III: OPERATION, DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING AND DISPOSITION

Task 1 - Project Management

- Continuation of Phases I and II project management activities.
- Conducting final project review at conclusion of project.

Task 2 - Optimization Testing

- Optimization of LNB installation.
- Optimization of GR-LNB technology
- Evaluation of effects of process variables on emission control performance.
- Determination of operating conditions for optimum overall performance.

Task 3 - Long Term Tests

- Operation of GR-LNB equipment under optimized conditions for approximately one-year duration.
- Measurement of emission control system performance.
- Determination of boiler impacts.

Task 4 - Evaluation of Field Test Results

- Analysis of test data.

- Preparation of guideline manuals for application of GR-LNB technology, including design recommendations, cost projection and comparisons with competing technologies.

Task 5 - Restoration

- Disposition of GR-LNB equipment installation:
To be retained by host site or removal and restoration work.

Task 6 - Technology Transfer

- Continuation of technology transfer activities from Phases I and II.
- Meeting with Industry Panel to review results obtained.

4.0 PROJECT STATUS

4.1 Phase I Design and Permitting Phase I is Complete.

4.2 Phase II Construction and Startup Phase II is Complete.

4.3 Phase III Operation, Data Collection, Reporting and Disposition

4.3.1 Task 1 - Project Management

Project management activities this reporting period consisted of coordinating and planning parametric testing, long term load following testing, data analysis and issuance of reports as required by the cooperative agreement.

4.3.2 Task 2 - Optimization Testing

Planned parametric tests were completed. Data was analyzed to allow final adjustment of the Gas Reburn controls to result in maximum NO_x reduction during automatic operation.

4.3.3 Task 3 - Long Term Testing

Long term testing was started this quarter. However, the boiler has had numerous problems such as tube leaks and feedwater pump problems. Gas Reburn equipment required some minor modifications such as the addition of a pressure switch and valve replacements to the instrument air dryer and fine tuning of the flame scanners controls. These problems reduced planned Gas Reburn operating time. Correction of the problems allowed for increased Gas Reburn operation in June, 1993.

4.3.4 Task 4 - Evaluation of Results

Data evaluation will be done throughout the entire test program.

4.3.5 Restoration

If requested by the host, restoration will be done after completion of all testing.

4.3.6 Technology Transfer

A paper titled "Reducing Stack Emissions by Gas Firing in Coal-Designed Boilers -- Field Evaluation Results" was presented, by John Pratapas of the GRI, at the EPRI/EPA Joint Symposium at Miami Beach, Florida May 24 - 27, 1993.

Also presented at the EPRI/EPA Joint Symposium was a paper titled "Applying European Low NO_x Burner Technology to U.S. Installations".

A paper on Advanced NO_x Control Technologies was submitted to the POWER-GEN Europe '93 conference held in Paris, France May 25 - 27, 1993.

5.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

During the next quarter (July through September, 1993) the following work is planned:

1. Project Management continues into the next quarter concentrating on successful operation of the Long Term Tests.
2. Data evaluation will continue throughout the Long Term Test period.
3. Gas Reburn equipment will be serviced as per maintenance schedules.

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