



Removal of Mercury from Flue Gas by Fixed Sorbent System

Background

Requirement of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Controlling the emissions of mercury is required by Minamata Convention and local laws in most countries worldwide. Article 8 of the Minamata Convention relates to emissions from the point sources of mercury listed in the Annex D, including coal-fired power plants. Flue gas treatment method for mercury removal is commonly used and can be universally applied to industrial processes. Such a method that does not require treatment of any resulting process effluent streams is more desirable for facility operators.

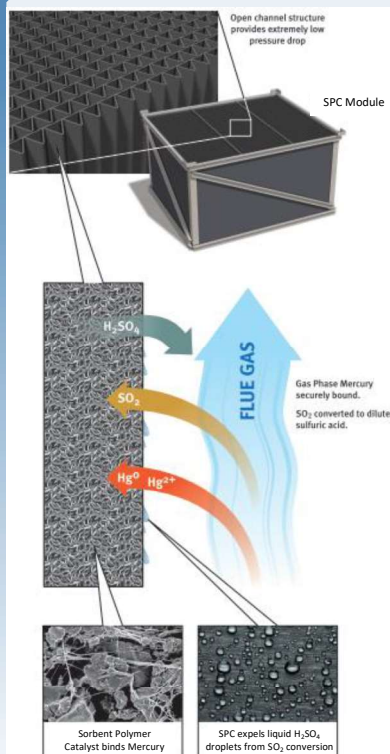
Overview of the Technology

Mercury Control Method

There are multiple methods to remove mercury from industrial flue gas. Some rely on physical adsorption while others involve chemical reactions. Among these methods, fixed sorbent system utilizes a composite structure containing chemical sorbents and catalysts in a polymeric matrix to chemically capture and bind mercury. The table below outlines key attributes of common mercury removal techniques.

Mercury Removal Selection Matrix:

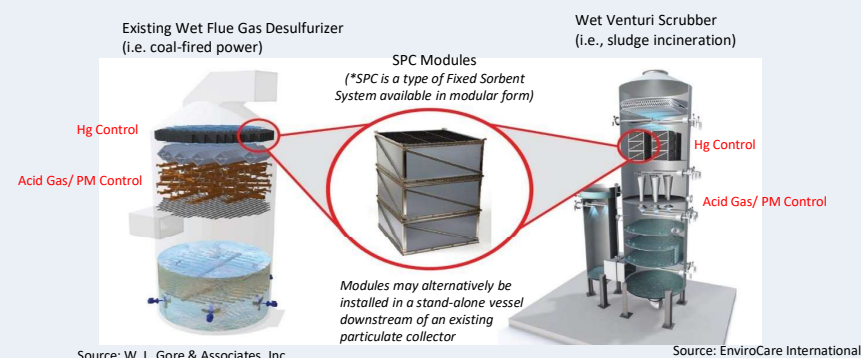
Hg Reduction Technology	Pros	Cons
Activated Carbon Injection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Low Capital CostHigh removal efficiency with baghouseSmall footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potentially high operating cost depending on injection rateAdditional particulate matter introducedContamination of process dust with Hg on carbon
Oxidizing Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Low Capital CostLow Operating CostSmall footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited Hg removalRelies on wet scrubber to capture oxidized mercuryPotential for corrosion of process equipment and waste water treatment impacts
Chelating Agents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Low Capital CostControls Re-emissions from wet scrubberSmall footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited Hg removalOnly effective for binding mercury already in soluble formPotentially high operating cost depending on injection rate
Traditional Fixed Carbon Bed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Capable of very high mercury removalLow process impactLong history – established technologyPassive Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not designed for saturated gas streams – requires pre-conditioning which adds significant costHigh Pressure DropLarge footprint
Fixed Sorbent System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Low Operating CostLow Pressure DropPassive OperationLow process impactSmall or zero footprintSO₂ removal co-benefit (reported removal up to 75%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initial capital costCommercial experience limited (2013 to present)Difficult to operate over 100C~



Source: W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

Advantages/Strengths

Fixed sorbent system can be universally applied to the tail end of almost any industrial processes and have no adverse impact on usual/existing the operation of the process. It provides continuous mercury removal from the process without the use of any chemicals or reagents. Mercury is securely bound in a safe, environmentally sound form and treatment of fly ash/effluents for mercury removal is not necessary.



- Requires No Chemicals or Reagents
- Extremely Low Operating Cost
- Simple Passive Operation
- Low Pressure Drop
- Almost No Impact on Existing Process
- Substantial SO₂ Removal Co-benefit - can eliminate need for scrubber upgrade or enable lower SO₂ limits to be met
- Scalable Design

Applicability

Fixed sorbent system offers an alternative method to control gas phase mercury emissions from industrial applications while providing additional SO₂ removal. These systems have been successfully installed globally in coal fired power plants, sewage sludge incinerators, and various metals/ minerals applications for over a decade. This system can be incorporated into existing industrial processes with minimal to no disruption of the existing plant operations. Byproducts such as fly ash or gypsum from coal fired power plants are unaffected enabling their continued beneficial use. Similarly, process dust collected from metals/minerals applications may continue to be recycled within the process without concern over cycling up mercury concentrations.

Further Reading

- Mercury removal technology from the flue gas at Sewage Sludge Treatment Facility
<http://www.jefma.or.jp/jefma/68/pdf/jefma68-10.pdf>
- Innovative technology reduces mercury emissions to keep Ohio's Sewage Sludge Incinerators hot and costs cool , WEF Residuals and Biosolids Conference 2017
https://www.gore.com/sites/g/files/ypype116/files/2017-08/WEF-Residuals-Conference2017-Incinerator-Emission-Control-for-SSI_Footer_8_07_17.pdf

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