

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

GUIDELINE MANUAL

**Gas Reburning-Low NO_x Burner System
Cherokee Station Unit 3
Public Service Company of Colorado**

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ABSTRACT

Under the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Coal Technology Program (Round 3), a project was completed to demonstrate control of boiler emissions that comprise acid rain precursors, especially NO_x. The project involved operating gas reburning technology combined with low NO_x burner technology (GR-LNB) on a coal-fired utility boiler. Low NO_x burners are designed to create less NO_x than conventional burners. However, the NO_x control achieved is in the range of 30-60%, and typically 50%. At the higher NO_x reduction levels, CO emissions tend to be higher than acceptable standards. Gas Reburning (GR) is designed to reduce the level of NO_x in the flue gas by staged fuel combustion. When combined, GR and LNBs work in harmony to both minimize NO_x emissions and maintain an acceptable level of CO emissions.

The demonstration was performed at Public Service Company of Colorado's (PSCO) Cherokee Unit 3, located in Denver, Colorado. This unit is a 172 MW_e wall-fired boiler that uses Colorado bituminous, low-sulfur coal and had a pre GR-LNB baseline NO_x emission of 0.73 lb/10⁶ Btu. The target for the project was a reduction of 70 percent in NO_x emissions. Project sponsors included the U.S. Department of Energy, the Gas Research Institute, Public Service Company of Colorado, Colorado Interstate Gas, Electric Power Research Institute, and the Energy and Environmental Research Corporation (EER).

EER conducted a comprehensive test demonstration program over a wide range of boiler conditions. Over 4,000 hours of operation were achieved. Intensive measurements were taken to quantify the reductions in NO_x emissions, the impact on boiler equipment and operability, and all factors influencing costs. The results showed that GR-LNB technology achieved excellent emission reductions. Although the performance of the low NO_x burners (supplied by others) was somewhat less than expected, a NO_x reduction of 65% was achieved at an average gas heat input of 18%. The performance goal of 70% reduction was met on many test runs, but at higher gas heat inputs. The impact on boiler equipment was determined to be very minimal.

Toward the end of the testing, the flue gas recirculation (used to enhance gas penetration into the furnace) system was removed and new high pressure gas injectors were installed. Further, the low NO_x burners were modified and gave better NO_x reduction performance. These modifications resulted in a similar NO_x reduction performance (64%) at a reduced level of gas heat input (~13%). In addition, the OFA injectors were re-designed to provide for better control of CO emissions. Although not a part of this project, the use of natural gas as the primary fuel with gas reburning was also tested. The gas/gas reburning tests demonstrated a reduction in NO_x emissions of 43% (0.30 lb/10⁶ Btu reduced to 0.17 lb/10⁶ Btu) using 7% gas heat input.

Economics are a key issue affecting technology development. Application of GR-LNB requires modifications to existing power plant equipment and as a result, the capital and operating costs depend largely on site-specific factors such as: gas availability at the site, gas to coal delivered price differential, sulfur dioxide removal requirements, windbox pressure, existing burner throat diameters, and reburn zone residence time available. Based on the results of this CCT project, EER expects that most GR-LNB installations will achieve at least 60% NO_x control when firing 10-15% gas. The capital cost estimate for installing a GR-LNB system on a 300 MW_e unit is approximately \$25/kW_e plus the cost of a gas pipeline (if required). Operating costs are almost entirely related to the differential cost of the natural gas compared to coal.

Title IV, Phase 2 of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 specify a NO_x emissions limit of 0.46 lb/10⁶ Btu (regulation for the year 2000) for wall-fired boilers. For the Cherokee Unit #3 application, low NO_x burners alone will produce a NO_x emission level of 0.46 lb/10⁶ Btu. Although sufficient to meet the regulatory limit, the CO control was not achieved unless low levels of GR were used. Also, any future more stringent limits will not be met with burners alone; additional control will be required. For this unit it was demonstrated that GR could be cost competitive with other NO_x reduction techniques due to its low capital and operating cost (with small levels of heat input from natural gas). Based on the success of the project, the host utility elected to retain the GR-LNB equipment for future use.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CCT	Clean Coal Technology
CRT	Cathode Ray Tube
EER	Energy and Environmental Research Corporation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute
ESP	Electrostatic Precipitator
DOE	U. S. Department of Energy
FGD	Flue Gas Desulfurization
FGR	Flue Gas Recirculation
FWEC	Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation
GRI	Gas Research Institute
GR	Gas Reburning
GR-LNB	Gas Reburning w/low NO _x burners
HVT	High Velocity Temperature
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
OFA	Overfire Air
OTR	Ozone Transport Region
PSCo	Public Service of Colorado
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RACT	Reasonably Available Control Technology
SCR	Selective Catalytic Reduction
SNCR	Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction

– **LIST OF UNITS**

acfm	Actual Cubic Foot per Minute
Btu	British Thermal Unit
°F	Degree Fahrenheit
ft ³	Cubic Foot
gal	Gallon
in	Inch
kW	Kilowatt
kW _e	Kilowatt Electric
kWhr	Kilowatt Hour
lb	Pound
lb/hr	Pound per Hour
MWe	Megawatt Electric
psig	Pound per Square Inch (Gauge)
TPY	Ton per Year
W.C.	Water Column
10 ⁶ Btu	Million Btu
"	Inch
%	Percent

..GLOSSARY OF TERMS

C_2H_2	Acetylene
C_2H_4	Ethylene
$Ca(OH)_2$	Calcium Hydroxide
CH	Hydrocarbon Radical
CH_2	Hydrocarbon Radical
CH_4	Methane
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
Fe	Iron
H_2	Hydrogen (diatomic)
H_2S	Hydrogen Sulfide
H_2O	Water
N_2	Nitrogen (diatomic)
NH_3	Ammonia
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
O_2	Oxygen (diatomic)
S	Sulfur
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Guideline Manual is to provide recommendations for the application of combined gas reburning-low NO_x burner (GR-LNB) technologies to pre-NSPS boilers. The manual includes design recommendations, performance (prediction versus field data), economic projections and comparisons with competing technologies. The report also includes an assessment of boiler impacts.

The site for the GR-LNB demonstration was PSCo's Cherokee Station, located in Denver, Colorado. Cherokee Unit #3 was the host unit for the GR-LNB demonstration. It was constructed in 1962 and was not required to meet New Source Performance Standards required by the Clean Air Act Amendments (applies only to units constructed after 1971). The boiler is a balanced draft wall-fired unit, the original burners being Babcock and Wilcox flare-type PC burners. It has a rating of 172 MW_e gross, or 158 MW_e net. It fired pulverized western U.S. bituminous coal, with a sulfur content of 0.4% and an ash content of 10% through 16 burners on the front wall of the unit.

Low NO_x burners (LNBs) are designed to create less NO_x than conventional burners. However, the NO_x control achieved is normally in the range of 30-60% and typically 50%. Also, at the higher NO_x reduction levels, CO emissions tend to be above acceptable standards. Gas reburning (GR) is designed to reduce NO_x in the flue gas by staged fuel combustion. When combined, gas reburning and low NO_x burners work in harmony to minimize NO_x emissions and maintain acceptable levels of CO emissions. Several benefits are derived from adding gas reburning to LNBs:

- Low capital cost
- Compatibility with high-sulfur coal
- Incremental reduction in SO₂ emissions, since natural gas contains no sulfur
- No adverse effects on boiler thermal performance
- Minimal system operating complexity

The objective of the project was to demonstrate the commercial readiness of the GR-LNB technology for application to older pre-NSPS utility boilers. These older boilers have one of several common firing configurations with the wall-fired type being the most common. The specific goal was to demonstrate that high levels of NO_x reduction could be achieved over the long term with minor impacts on other areas of unit operation including combustion performance (quantified by unburned carbon-in-ash), furnace slagging or corrosion, convective pass fouling, steam capacity and final steam conditions, and other areas of unit performance. The target was a reduction of 70 percent in NO_x emissions.

This project, completed under the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Coal Technology Program (Round 3), was sponsored by:

- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- Gas Research Institute (GRI)
- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- Colorado Interstate Gas (CIG)
- Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo)
- Energy and Environmental Research Corporation (EER)

Process Design

The technology is a co-application of two previously demonstrated technologies, GR and LNB. *The co-application of GR and LNB yields greater NO_x emission reductions than either technology could achieve alone.* LNBs reduce emissions of NO_x by staging the mixing of coal and air resulting in flame fuel-rich regions, longer flames, and lower peak flame temperatures. While LNBs reduce NO_x, they may yield higher levels of unburned carbon and CO emissions. This is the result of incomplete combustion due to burner staging of coal combustion (coal/air mixing). The LNB technology is standard, off-the shelf technology, so the emphasis in this report is placed more on the GR technology as it is integrated with the LNB technology.

GR involves reducing the levels of coal and combustion air introduced through the primary burners and injecting natural gas above the burners (reburn zone). This is followed by the injection of overfire air (OFA) above the reburn zone. A reducing reburn zone is created in the boiler furnace wherein NO_x created in the excess air primary zone is reduced to atmospheric nitrogen in the reburn zone. OFA is injection above the reburn zone to complete the combustion process. Each of these three zones has a unique stoichiometric ratio (SR, ratio of air to that theoretically required for complete combustion) as determined by the flow of coal, burner air, natural gas, and OFA. Flue gas recirculation (FGR) may be used to provide added momentum to the injected natural gas. FGR has a low O_2 content and has a minor impact on the reburn and burnout zone SRs.

The process design for application of GR-LNB technology was developed using a methodology that involves the application of various experimental and analytical tools. Functional design requirements are based on the characteristics of the subject boiler, the GR-LNB process requirements, and the desired system performance goals. Process considerations that are essential to the design and practical application of the reburning system are: the reburn zone stoichiometric ratio, the temperature (or location) at which the natural gas is injected, the OFA injection location, and any impacts on boiler thermal performance. Rapid and complete mixing of the reburn fuel and OFA with the local furnace gases is critical to the successful application of the GR process.

Detailed information concerning the flow field of the subject boiler was developed by isothermal flow modeling. Flow visualization was accomplished using smoke and neutrally buoyant bubble injection. Velocity measurements were made within the model using hot wire anemometer and Kurtz probe instrumentation. The hot wire anemometer was used in combination with observations of yarn tufts to produce velocity and mass distribution profiles at various measurement planes in the model. Dispersion measurements were made to determine the degree of mixing at locations downstream of the proposed natural gas and OFA injectors.

FGR was used initially in this demonstration to provide added momentum to the natural gas reburn fuel to achieve good furnace flue gas penetration. During long term testing, it was determined that the FGR had a minimal effect on NO_x emissions. The Cherokee Unit #3 had a reburn zone residence time of 0.5 sec. which has been found to be sufficient in many applications to preclude the need for FGR. A second design was completed. The natural gas injectors were re-designed to increase the velocity of the injected gas (higher gas pressures were used) and the OFA ports were modified to enhance mixing. This technology is referred to as Second Generation Gas Reburning. FGR adds substantially to the capital cost of the GR system and also contributes slightly to increased superheat attemperation water spray rates. Elimination of FGR is therefore an obvious benefit.

Engineering Design

Installation of a GR-LNB system involves retrofit of the equipment onto an existing boiler. Due consideration must be given to the design of the following items and areas:

- Supply of natural gas, pressure, piping size requirements
- Mass flow rate requirement for flue gas recirculation (if needed)
- Injector configuration vs. boiler structural constraints
- Cooling medium for injectors
- Existing burner throat size before LNB installation
- Existing windbox air pressure
- Boiler tubewall penetrations
- Equipment footprint
- Electrical power distribution
- Plant and instrument air
- Existing controls system

System Operation

Control and monitoring of the GR-LNB system may be accomplished with any modern process control system. For the demonstration project a Westinghouse Electric Process Control WDPF system was used. The system consisted of a variable mix of functional units (drops) communicating freely and rapidly via the WDPF Data Highway. The WDPF sends and receives signals from various components in the GR-LNB system, in addition to interfacing with other microprocessors.

The First Generation GR system is composed of three integrated systems: (1) natural gas injection, (2) FGR, and (3) OFA injection. The natural gas flow rate is controlled to the desired value for optimum NO_x destruction. The FGR flow is controlled to a value to give the natural gas momentum for optimum distribution in the furnace. The OFA is controlled to a value to complete combustion of all unburned fuel leaving the reburning zone. The three integrated systems were interlocked, operated and monitored by the WDPF control system. In the Second Generation GR system the FGR control was eliminated.

Technology Performance

The new LNBs, installed by Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation (FWEC), reduced NO_x emissions from a pre-construction baseline of 0.73 lb/10⁶ Btu to 0.46 lb/10⁶ Btu at 3.5% O₂. This was a reduction of 37% but below the target goal of 45%. Also, carbon-in-ash and CO could not be maintained at acceptable levels.

When GR was introduced, the NO_x emissions level dropped to an average of 0.25 lb/10⁶ Btu at 3.25% O₂ providing an overall GR-LNB reduction of 66%, or a 46% drop from the LNB only emissions. The gas heat input to accomplish this level of NO_x reduction was 18%. With GR-LNB, both unburned carbon and CO emissions were at acceptable levels.

Following installation of the Second Generation equipment, the system achieved similar reductions in NO_x emissions. The post-mod LNB's yielded a baseline NO_x emission level of 0.41 lb/10⁶ Btu at 3.5% O₂, but CO and unburned carbon were still high. When GR was introduced through the modified high velocity injectors (w/o FGR) , the NO_x emissions level dropped to an average of 0.26 lb/10⁶ Btu at 3.2% O₂ to provide an overall GR-LNB NO_x reduction of 64% or a decrease of 37% from modified LNB only operation. The gas heat input to accomplish this level of NO_x reduction was 12.5%. With the modified GR-LNB, both unburned carbon and CO emissions were also at acceptable levels. These tests confirmed that the Second Generation GR system, that excludes the need for FGR (an added capital cost), is also a very effective NO_x control technique

The reburning zone operates at slightly fuel rich conditions. This suggests the possibility of increased tube wastage due to removal of the protective oxide layer and/or sulfide attack. Accordingly, the field evaluations included a comprehensive program of non-destructive (ultrasonic tube thickness) evaluations. The evaluations showed no evidence of increased tube wastage attributable to GR.

Although not considered a part of this project, the opportunity presented itself to perform testing with natural gas as the primary fuel coupled with gas reburning. The gas/gas reburning testing demonstrated a reduction in NO_x emissions of 43% (0.30 lb/10⁶ Btu reduced to 0.17 lb/10⁶ Btu) using 7% gas reburn heat input.

Boiler Impacts

In steam generating units, the heat released from the combustion of fuels is absorbed by heat exchangers with high efficiencies. GR operation can affect the thermal performance of the unit in two ways. First, GR affects the furnace heat release profile and second, GR operation changes local stoichiometric ratios and particulate loading resulting in minor changes in lower and upper furnace deposition patterns. The demonstrations showed that

the overall impact of GR operation on the heat absorption profile was very minor. There was a reduction in thermal efficiency of approximately 0.8% @ 12.5% natural gas heat input due to the increased H/C ratio of the natural gas compared to coal. A higher H/C ratio translates to greater moisture (latent evaporation) heat loss to the atmosphere.

GR operation did not exacerbate slagging in the furnace. Long term operation of the GR system did not show any trend toward additional slagging or fouling beyond that which occurred when operating without GR in service. Some slagging was noted around the LNBS, but this was attributed to the abnormal functioning of the burners.

In the reburn zone, slag formed around some of the gas injection nozzles on a random basis. However, this did not cause a problem with the reburn gas injection system performance. The injection nozzles were designed with removable inspection covers and clean out ports to determine if the gas injection nozzle tips were plugged. Generally, no more than two gas nozzles per wall would be plugged at a time, and usually only one nozzle per wall would require slag removal. When a nozzle did become plugged, it was a simple matter to "rod" out the nozzle and remove the slag from the nozzle orifice.

In the OFA zone, heavy slag deposits formed around three of the six OFA injectors after about three months of operation. The slag formation was attributed to higher flue gas temperatures in this area with the GR in operation. The air injected through the OFA ports would "chill" the entrained molten ash particles so that they would stick and solidify at this location. The buildup of slag progressed over time due to a lack of sootblowers in this area of the furnace. Slag would build up on the refractory around the ports, and without sootblowers in place for removal, the deposits would continue to grow until a significant "eyebrow" would form and solidify around the port. These deposits were removed during regularly scheduled outages.

results and the favorable results of two previous EER DOE-CCT projects involving GR, EER and the utility determined that tube wastage did not appear to be a problem.

Economics

The cost and performance data from the Cherokee project were used to estimate the costs of installation, operation and performance for commercial installation of GR-LNB onto a 300 MW_e power plant. The estimate is based on mature technology; i.e., a so-called "nth" plant which incorporates process improvements resulting from experience gained in earlier installations. The total cost for a Second Generation GR system, w/o FGR, including a 15% project contingency, is at \$7.70 million or \$25.66/kW_e (1996 dollars). The GR and LNB system capital costs can be easily separated from one another for they are independent systems. The capital cost for the GR system only is estimated at \$3.54 million or \$11.79/kW_e, and the LNB system capital cost is estimated at \$4.16 million or \$13.87/kW_e.

EER conducted analyses to evaluate the fixed and variable (operating) costs of a GR system for a 300 MW_e coal wall-fired power plant (net heat rate of 10,000 Btu/kWhr before GR-LNB). The total annual incremental gross operating cost for the GR-LNB system, excluding fixed charges, is estimated at \$2.59 million. If an SO₂ allowance credit is taken based on the reduction of fuel sulfur when firing natural gas, the net operating cost is estimated at about \$2.10 million. This SO₂ credit was based on an allowance of \$95/ton (Feb. 1996). Variable operating cost for the GR-LNB is about \$2.26 million and the fixed cost, excluding fixed charges, is about \$0.33 million.

Based on the developed capital and fixed/variable operating costs, economic projections were made using current dollars which include an inflation rate of 4.0%, and constant dollars which ignore inflation; see the table below. NO_x reduction (64% or 3,990 TPY) costs were based on a 65% capacity factor for the unit with 12.5% of the heat input

GR-LNB PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS

Summary of Data

Power Plant Attributes

	Units	Value
Plant capacity, net	MWe	300
Power produced, net	10 ⁹ kWh/yr	1.71
Capacity factor	%	65
Plant life	yr	15
Coal feed	10 ⁶ tons/yr	683,280
Sulfur in coal	wt %	3.0

Emissions Control Data

	Units	Value
Removal efficiency	%	64
Emissions standard (EPA 40CFR Part 76 - 12/19/96)	lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.46
Emissions without controls	lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.73
Emissions with controls	lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.26
Amount reduced	tons/yr	3,990

Levelized Cost of Power

	Current Dollars		Constant Dollars	
	Factor	Mills/kWhr	Factor	Mills/kWhr
Capital Charge	0.160	0.72	0.124	0.56
Fixed O&M Cost	1.314	0.25	1.000	0.19
Variable Operating Cost	1.314	1.74	1.000	1.32
Total Cost		2.71		2.07
SO ₂ Credits	1.314	(0.37)	1.000	(0.28)
Total Cost w/SO₂ Credits		2.34		1.79

Levelized Cost--NOx Basis

	Current Dollars		Constant Dollars	
	Factor	\$/ton Removed	Factor	\$/ton Removed
Capital Charge	0.160	309	0.124	239
Fixed O&M Cost	1.314	109	1.000	83
Variable Operating Cost	1.314	744	1.000	566
Total Cost		1,161		888
SO ₂ Credits	1.314	(160)	1.000	(122)
Total Cost w/SO₂ Credits		1,001		766

Basis: 64% NOx reduction based on unit with 0.5 seconds reburn zone residence time

supplied by natural gas at a gas to coal price differential of \$1.00/million Btu. The incremental increase in the levelized cost of power, including capital charges is estimated at 2.07 mills/kWhr in constant dollars and 2.71 mills/kWhr in current dollars.

If an SO₂ credit is applied based on fuel sulfur reduction when firing natural gas, the net incremental increase in the levelized cost of power is estimated at 1.79 mills/kWhr in constant dollars and 2.34 mills/kWhr in current dollars. The levelized cost of NO_x removal is estimated at \$888/ton and \$1,161/ton for the constant and current dollar projections, respectively. If an SO₂ credit is applied based on fuel sulfur reduction, the net levelized cost of NO_x removal is estimated at \$766/ton and \$1,001/ton for constant and current dollar projections, respectively.

Based on the levelized cost (in constant dollars) for reducing nitrogen oxides, excluding SO₂ credits, the capital charge component made up around 27% of the total cost of NO_x reduction. The fixed operation and maintenance costs represented only 9%, and the variable cost made up the 64% of the cost for removing NO_x. The variable operating cost is dominated by the differential price between natural gas and coal.

The economics developed for the 300 MW_e system were used to determine the economic effects of varying the selected parameters shown below:

- Fuel cost differential between gas and coal
- Wall-fired unit size
- Onstream capacity factor
- Sulfur dioxide allowance credits

The GR-LNB capital costs developed for a range of power plant sizes was based on scaling the power plant cost based on a 0.75 power factor. The effects of the above variables, including an annual 12.4% fixed charge rate, are discussed below. NO_x reduction costs are based on constant dollars and include SO₂ allowance credits. Of the

four parameters that were varied, clearly the price of natural gas is the most dominant parameter regarding the cost of NO_x emission reductions.

Effect of plant size The size of plant on economics becomes less significant for unit sizes of 300 MW_e and greater. For example, the cost of NO_x emissions for a 300 MW_e unit is \$118/ton less than a 150 MW_e plant and when increasing the size to 450 MW_e the cost is reduced only \$56/ton.

Effect of capacity factor The onstream capacity factor impact is linear. For example, the cost of NO_x emissions for a 55% capacity factor is \$37/ton more than that for 65% and when it increases from 65% to 75% the cost is reduced \$33/ton. These two values are not identical; linearity occurs with the ratio of the two capacity factors.

Effect of gas to coal price differential The price of natural gas has a linear effect on the NO_x reduction costs. For every \$0.25/10⁶ Btu change, either an increase or decrease in the gas to coal price differential, there is a corresponding \$253/ton cost effect.

Effect of SO₂ allowance price The price of SO₂ allowances also has a linear effect on the NO_x reduction costs. For every \$50/ton change, either an increase or decrease in price, there is a corresponding \$64/ton effect.

An independent study completed for the U.S. EPA (Contract No. 68-D2-0168) "Investigation of Performance and Cost of NO_x Controls as Applied to Group 2 Boilers", compared the costs of competing NO_x control technologies. The Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) costs developed in this study were used for comparison with other NO_x control technologies.

In the table that follows, the cost of Gas Reburning, Low NO_x Burners, Second Generation GR-LNB and Coal Reburning, developed by EER, were compared to the cost of SNCR and SCR, based on \$/kW_e and \$/ton of NO_x removed. The comparison is made for 300 MW_e wall-fired unit applications. The NO_x control technologies show a cost per ton of NO_x removed that ranges from approximately \$230 to \$770. Based on this comparison low NO_x burners are the least expensive. SNCR and GR-LNB are the most expensive. GR, coal

reburning and SCR are similar when the price differential between the gas and the primary coal is \$1.00 /10⁶ Btu (GR case).

300 MW_e WALL-FIRED NO_x CONTROL COMPARISON

Technology	NO _x Reduced %	Capital Cost \$/kW _e	NO _x Removed ⁵ \$/ton
Gas Reburning ¹ (GR only)	60	11.8	527 ⁶
Low NO _x Burners (LNBs only)	45	13.9	227
GR ¹ -LNB (2nd Generation)	64	24.6	766 ⁶
Coal Reburning ²	50	28.0	592
SNCR ³	35	9.0	700
SCR ⁴	50	44	575

- (1) Natural Gas @ \$2.47/10⁶ Btu and Coal @ \$1.47/10⁶ Btu
- (2) No added pulverizer requirement
- (3) 50% Urea solution @ \$0.75/gal
- (4) Anhydrous Ammonia @ \$162/ton & SCR catalyst replacement (3 yr life) @ \$350/ft³
- (5) Base levelized costs using current dollars
- (6) Includes a \$95/ton SO₂ allowance credit

For NO_x reduction beyond what is possible with one particular technology, it is possible to combine technologies for deeper reduction. Besides the GR-LNB technology, Advanced GR is currently being developed and marketed by EER. It involves the simultaneous application of GR and SNCR. Overall NO_x reduction is expected to be in the range of 75 to 90 percent.

1.0 OVERVIEW

1.1 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the Guideline Manual is to provide recommendations for the application of combined Gas Reburning and Low NO_x burners (GR-LNB) to utility boilers for obtaining deep NO_x reduction from utility boilers. The manual includes design recommendations, performance predictions versus actual field data, economic projections and comparisons with other competing deep NO_x reduction technologies. The report also includes an assessment of boiler impacts.

1.2 Basis of the Report

A full-scale demonstration conducted as a part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Coal Technology Program (Round 3) forms the basis of the Guideline Manual. The GR-LNB demonstration was performed on Public Service of Colorado's (PSCo) Cherokee Unit #3, located in Denver, Colorado. This unit is a 172 MW_e wall-fired boiler that fires low sulfur Colorado bituminous coal. The PSCo unit was larger than the previous units that demonstrated GR and provided an excellent design methodology scale-up test based on prior laboratory/pilot testing.

The objective of the project was to demonstrate the commercial readiness of the GR-LNB technology for application to older pre-NSPS utility boilers. These older boilers have one of several firing configurations, with the wall-fired type being the most common. The specific performance goal was to demonstrate that NO_x reductions of 70% could be achieved with minor impacts on other areas of unit operation. This goal was achieved and showed that the pilot scale to full scale design methodology developed by EER was valid.

Following design, installation and startup of the GR and LNB systems, optimum operational setpoints were established through a series of pre-planned parametric tests. Optimum conditions are defined as those providing the maximum benefit (reduction of NO_x emissions) for the minimum cost (natural gas usage) when operating within established boiler constraints. Parametric testing was followed by normal operation for approximately one year.

1.3 Reference Material

For more details on this GR-LNB demonstration project, please refer to the following reports:

- 1) Evaluation of Gas Reburning and Low NO_x Burners on a Wall-fired Boiler
"Design and Technical Performance Report"
- 2) Evaluation of Gas Reburning and Low NO_x Burners on a Wall-fired Boiler
"Performance and Economics Report"

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For additional information, please refer to the technical papers listed in the references and the technical reports listed in the bibliography of this report.

2.0 PROCESS DESIGN

The technology evaluated for this demonstration was a combination of sequential NO_x reduction techniques, low NO_x burners (LNB) used in combination with Gas Reburning (GR). This project demonstration complemented two other full-scale GR demonstrations completed under a prior U.S. DOE CCT-1 program by EER. Previous demonstrations involved the co-application of GR with furnace sorbent injection (SI) for reducing both NO_x and SO₂ emissions at the following sites:

- Illinois Power (Hennepin, IL)
Hennepin Station Unit 1
80 MW_e (gross) tangentially-fired unit
GR reduced NO_x by 67% using 18% gas heat input
- City Water Light and Power (Springfield, IL)
Lakeside Station Unit 7
33 MW_e (gross) cyclone-fired unit
GR reduced NO_x by 66% using 22% gas heat input

The GR-LNB demonstration was performed on Public Service of Colorado's (PSCo) Cherokee Unit #3, located in Denver, Colorado. This unit is a 172 MW_e (gross) wall-fired boiler that uses Colorado bituminous, low-sulfur coal. The PSCo unit was larger than the previous units where GR was demonstrated and provided an excellent scale-up demonstration from laboratory testing. The target for the project was a reduction of 70 percent in NO_x emissions.

The gas reburning system was designed by EER and the low NO_x burners were provided by Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation. Based on the successful results of the program, the installed GR-LNB equipment was retained by PSCo.

The co-application of GR and LNB yields a higher NO_x emissions reduction than either technology could achieve alone. LNBs reduce NO_x by 30 to 50%, while GR nominally achieves a 60% reduction. The target NO_x reduction for this demonstration was 70%. EER's portion of this work related to the GR system performance when used in combination with low NO_x burners. Since the burners were provided by Foster Wheeler Corporation, the EER GR system is stressed and addressed more comprehensively within this report than the low NO_x burners.

2.1 Gas Reburning

Gas Reburning (GR) is a very flexible NO_x reduction technology that can be run in several ways to provide varying degrees of NO_x reduction. The GR-LNB system can be operated under three modes of operation.

2.1.1 Modes of Operation

Baseline mode with no reburn fuel Under this condition, although no reburn fuel is being added, there are low rates of cooling air flowing around the gas injectors and through the overfire ports. Based on maintaining the same oxygen level in the flue gas exiting the furnace as for the pre-GR-LNB application, a slight air staging occurs that will reduce NO_x emissions slightly compared to pre-GR-LNB retrofit emissions. Carbon burnout under this mode of operation will be very similar to the pre-GR-LNB retrofit.

Overfire air (OFA) only By adding overfire air without the use of reburn fuel, staged combustion can be put into place to reduce NO_x emissions. In this mode of operation, as the overfire air rate is increased, the air rate to the primary burners automatically decreases to maintain the O₂ set point at the exit of the boiler economizer.

With a reduced air rate to the burners, the localized burner zone becomes hotter which has the tendency to increase NO_x production under oxidizing conditions, but since there is less fuel being fired through the burners a greater percentage of heat is absorbed in the furnace walls that would cool the burner zone. Even if the localized temperatures increase, the temperature mechanism for increasing NO_x emissions is more than offset by the reduced partial pressure of the oxygen in the burner zone. The lower the partial pressure of oxygen, the lower the NO_x production, and in the burner zone the oxygen concentration is controlling.

With this type of staged combustion approach, overfire air is added at a point downstream of the burners where the flue gas is cool enough to minimize the production of thermal NO_x. With deeper staging (lowering of excess air levels in the primary burner zone) NO_x emissions will reduce. The degree of staging is partially limited by the potential for higher corrosion in the hot burner zone due to higher CO concentrations; the deeper the staging the greater the potential for corrosion.

The other limiting factor is the carbon in the fly ash which increases with deeper staging. High carbon in ash could affect the ability of the utility to sell its fly ash to the cement industry. Overall NO_x reduction using a near optimum overfire air addition rate, taking into consideration the concerns delineated above, will yield approximately a 35% reduction compared to pre-GR retrofit operation.

Reburn mode Under full GR implementation, the combustion process is divided into three zones as illustrated in Figure 2-1. In the primary zone, the main fuel is fired through conventional burners but at a reduced rate to compensate for the reburning fuel which is injected downstream. In the reburning zone, injection of the reburning fuel consumes the excess air (oxygen) from the primary zone, producing a slightly fuel rich region where NO_x is reduced by reactions with hydrocarbon radicals, carbon monoxide and hydrogen. Flue gas recirculation (FGR) may be used to provide momentum to the natural gas injection.

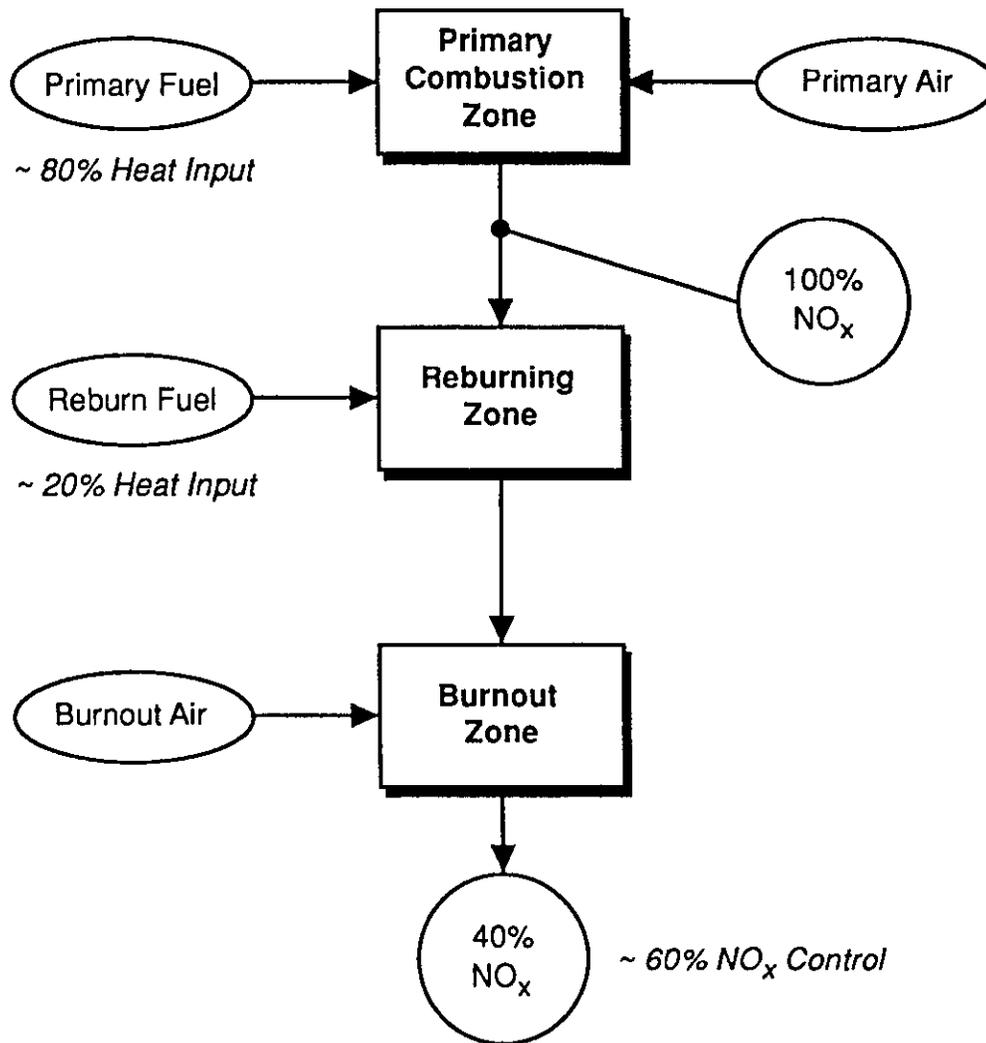


Figure 2-1. The reburning process

FGR has a low O₂ content and therefore has a minor impact on reburning and burnout zone stoichiometric ratios. OFA is added in the burnout zone to complete the combustion of the fuel gases produced in the reburning zone and to adjust the overall excess air to yield good carbon burnout. Thus, except for relatively minor changes in boiler efficiency, the total heat input to the furnace is the same as baseline operation, but is divided into two fuel streams. Similarly, the total air supplied to the furnace remains essentially unchanged but is divided into two streams, supplying air to the conventional burners and also to the OFA ports.

The three zones are described in more detail as follows:

- Primary (burner) Zone: Coal is fired at a rate corresponding to 75 to 90 percent of the total heat input, under low excess air (SR = 1.05 to 1.15). NO_x emissions in this zone are reduced by the lower heat release and the reduced oxygen concentrations.
- Reburn Zone: Reburn fuel (natural gas in this case) injection creates a fuel rich region wherein hydrocarbon fragments (CH, CH₂, etc.) and carbon monoxide and hydrogen are formed which react with NO_x, reducing it to diatomic or atmospheric nitrogen. In most applications the best reburning zone stoichiometric ratio is approximately 0.90, achieved by injecting natural gas at a rate corresponding to about 15 to 20 percent of the total heat input. FGR may be injected with the natural gas to provide for better penetration and mixing with the furnace flue gas.
- Burnout (exit) Zone: OFA is injected higher up in the furnace to complete the combustion. OFA is typically 20 percent of the total air flow; a minimum excess air of 15 percent is maintained. OFA injection is optimized to minimize CO emissions and unburned carbon-in-fly ash.

With the GR system, natural gas is routed to the reburning zone of the boiler and is introduced into the boiler gas stream through a series of injection nozzles. The flow rate of gas to the reburn injectors is controlled automatically by the boiler operation control system. FGR, if used, is extracted from the boiler backpass, enhanced by a booster fan

and injected simultaneously with the natural gas. To complete the fuel combustion, air at 500 to 600°F is extracted from the secondary air duct or windbox and is injected into the boiler downstream of the reburning zone through a series of OFA injection nozzles (see the GR-LNB schematic Figure 2-2). With GR, depending on initial NO_x concentrations and reburn zone residence time, NO_x reductions of 60 to 75% may be achieved.

A minimal flow of hot secondary air is maintained through the OFA injection nozzles when the GR system is not in service to keep the OFA nozzles cool and ambient air is used to cool the gas injection nozzles.

2.1.2 GR Process Design Guidelines

Since reburning requires no physical changes to the main combustion system, it can be applied to furnaces with virtually any firing configuration and fuel. The reburning process can be applied to all types of firing equipment including cyclone, tangential, wall, and stoker coal fired boilers. In addition, reburning can be applied to furnaces fired with any fossil fuel (coal, oil, gas, etc.). Reburning can also be applied to municipal waste incinerators, industrial boilers, and a range of industrial process furnaces.

The variables to be considered for an effective retrofit of a GR system to an existing utility boiler are many, see Table 2-1. First of all, baseline NO_x must be determined and the desired level of NO_x reduction must be set. An evaluation must be made concerning the boiler configuration as input into determining the available residence times for the Reburn and OFA zones. A detailed boiler inspection is required to determine any physical constraints imposed regarding the locations of the gas reburn piping, OFA ducting, and reburn and OFA injectors.

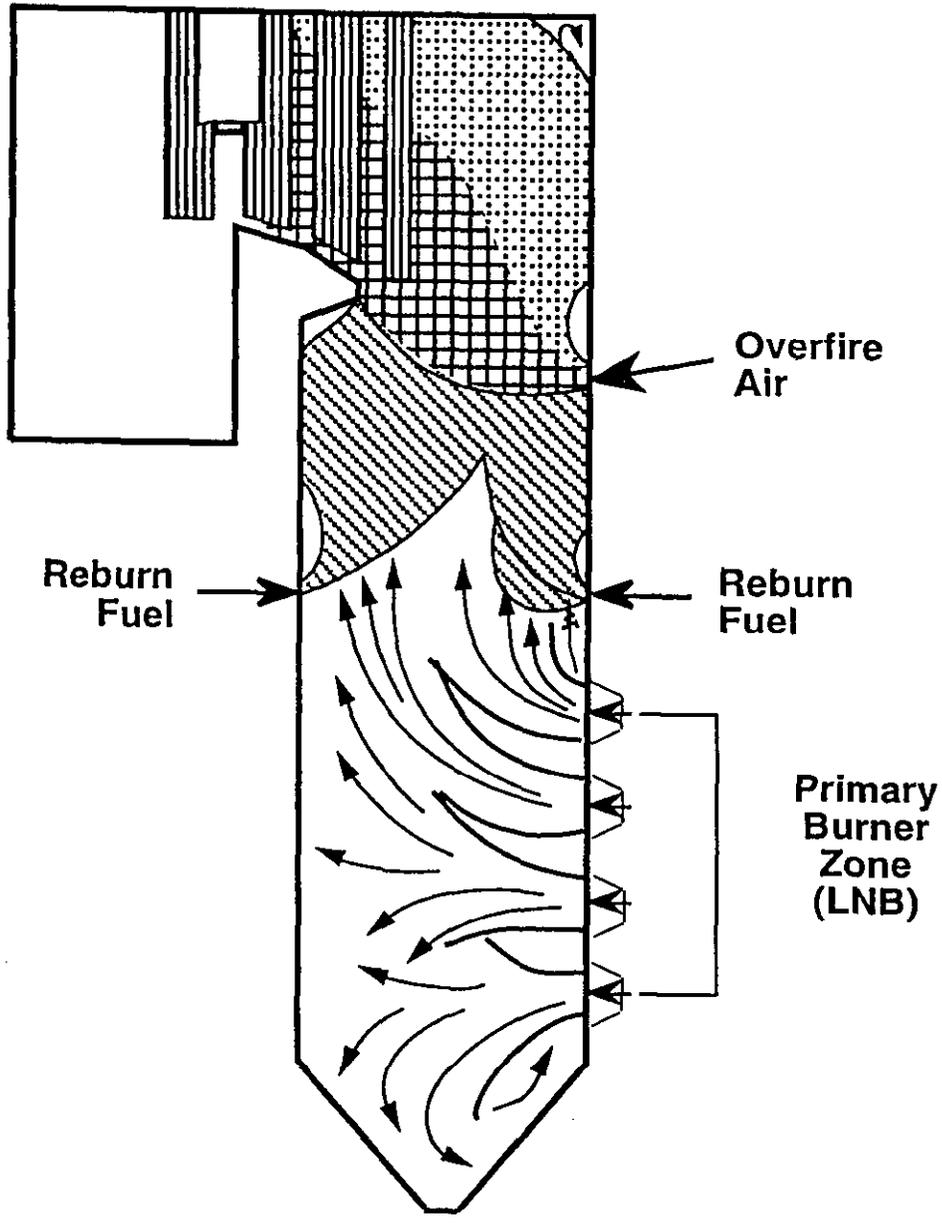


Figure 2-2. Schematic of GR-LNB Process

TABLE 2-1. GR DESIGN GUIDELINES

Parameter	Units	Value	Comments
Primary Stoichiometry	SR	~1.10	As low as possible commensurate with good lower furnace performance and good carbon burnout
Reburn Injector Vertical Location	NA	Maximum temperature zone above burners	Primary burner fuel combustion must be essentially complete
Reburn gas flow	% of total heat input	~18	Design for a maximum of 25% for flexibility
Reburn zone Stoichiometry	SR	~0.90	Varies with gas injection rate to control NO _x and primary burner zone SR
Reburn injector array	NA	Rapid and complete mixing across furnace cross section	Site specific design
Reburn gas carrier fluid	NA	Flue gas recirculation (FGR) is preferred	Carrier gas with zero oxygen is the best, FGR, low in O ₂ is the most cost effective
Reburn zone residence time	Sec.	0.25 minimum 0.50 and up is best	Above 0.50 sec., FGR may not be required
Overfire air (OFA) vertical position	NA	Located as high in the furnace as possible with complete combustion prior to convective pass entry	Site specific design
Overfire air (OFA) injector array	NA	Rapid and complete mixing across the furnace cross section	Site specific design
Overfire air (OFA) zone	SR	1.15 to 1.20	Sufficient to achieve baseline flue gas O ₂ May be adjusted to affect carbon burnout

Primary Zone The low NO_x burners in the primary zone are operated in a normal manner. However, the burners should be operated in a balanced mode and with the lowest excess air commensurate with acceptable lower furnace performance considering flame stability, carbon in ash, flame impingement and waterwall corrosion. Typically the optimum air for burner operation with GR is a rate that provides for about a 10% excess air condition in the primary zone.

Reburning Zone The reburn fuel injectors should be located above the uppermost row of burners. Optimum performance is achieved by positioning the injectors at the highest possible temperature (which means a location closest to the burners) where the burner fuel combustion is essentially complete. This point can be established by field testing using in-furnace measurements to establish O₂, CO and carbon in ash augmented by visual flame inspection through available ports. Optionally, or in addition to this empirical approach, the burner flame zones can be analytically modeled. It may also be necessary to make some adjustments to the vertical location of the injectors to avoid buckstays, platforms or other interferences external to the boiler.

It is assumed that the objective of each utility, based on economics, will be to achieve the maximum possible NO_x reduction with the least amount of gas reburn fuel. The optimum condition for achieving this typically occurs when the rate of reburn fuel is set to yield about a 0.90 stoichiometric air/fuel ratio in the reburn zone. Based on the 10% excess air example for the primary zone, a 90% theoretical air in the reburn zone will require a reburn fuel rate that provides about 18% of the total boiler fuel input. To provide a margin of comfort regarding the optimum rate, the system should be designed to handle somewhat more gas flow, say 25%. It should be recognized that the gas flow rate is a variable and will be adjusted during operation as NO_x control needs vary; higher gas rates yield higher NO_x reductions and vice versa.

Once the vertical position for the gas injectors has been established, the injector array can be designed. The injectors must be designed to achieve uniform and complete mixing of the reburn gas across the full boiler cross section. The rate of mixing should be accomplished in minimum time so as to maximize reburn zone residence time. The variables to adjust to achieve this include the number and position of reburn injectors and injection design parameters (mass flow rate of gas and any carrier gas, injection velocity, and injection angle). A number of analytical and empirical techniques are used to design the injector array; see Section 2.1.3.

A carrier gas, such as FGR, in certain applications can help to maximize the NO_x reductions of a GR system. Two injection techniques were demonstrated, one using FGR with low pressure natural gas and one using a high pressure natural gas injector without FGR. Carrier gas is used to increase the penetration and rate of mixing of the natural gas throughout the reburn zone. A carrier gas may be required to provide adequate penetration in large furnace boxes or for applications where the reburn zone residence times are short (<0.50 sec.).

The carrier gas has the following impacts on reburning:

- Provides rapid and effective mixing, the momentum of the injected gas can be enhanced by injecting the gas along with a carrier medium.
- Oxygen in the carrier medium is deleterious to reburn performance. The reason is that optimum NO_x reduction is achieved under fuel rich conditions. As oxygen is added to the reburn zone via the carrier gas, additional reburn gas must be injected to consume this oxygen. This can result in a significant increase in the amount of natural gas required to achieve a specific NO_x emissions level. Since the natural gas cost is the most significant component of the operating cost, this has the potential to adversely affect economics. Three carrier mediums can be considered: air, steam and flue gas. Air has 21% O₂ and therefore is a poor choice based on gas consumption. Similarly a reburn injector, configured as a burner with air injected along with the fuel, requires more gas. Steam doesn't introduce O₂; however, it has to be produced which requires both energy and water

treatment. Flue gas is typically the best carrier medium. It has low O₂ (typically 3%) and requires no energy to produce. It does require a dust collector, fan and duct work.

- Provides the advantage of being able to control injection parameters independent of the natural gas flow. Typically, the FGR carrier flow rate significantly exceeds the gas flow rate. Therefore as the gas flow rate varies, the injection velocity and flow rate are nearly constant. This allows for good mixing of the reburn fuel with the furnace gases as the natural gas flow is turned down. Alternately, by varying the carrier medium flow, mixing conditions can be adjusted independent of the gas injection rate. This provides operational flexibility.

The reburn zone residence time is also an important GR design parameter. Residence time refers to the time of passage of combustion products flowing through the reburn zone from the point of gas injection to the point of overfire air injection. Once the gas has been mixed with the flue gas, most of the NO_x reduction occurs within 100 milliseconds.

Although NO_x reduction reactions occur rapidly, due to limited mixing rates, longer residence times result in additional NO_x reduction. Allowing for mixing times, a residence time on the order of 0.25 seconds is adequate to achieve good performance (this was the residence time available for the CCT-1 GR demonstration on CWLP's 33 MWe cyclone-fired unit. A residence time of 0.50 seconds and greater provides for good NO_x reduction performance. Cherokee Unit #3 had a reburn zone residence time of 0.50 seconds.

EER uses a NO_x model to calculate the NO_x reduction for a specific application. It is applied considering the finite mixing rates. It should be noted that in some boilers there is significant flow separation. For example in the cyclone unit tested in this program at CWLP, a large recirculation region was present in the upper furnace. The residence time of concern for reburning is the residence time passing through the non-separated region.

Overfire Air The vertical position of the overfire air ports is established by balancing the need to maximize reburn zone residence time (which suggests ports higher in the furnace)

and the need to ensure complete combustion prior to the convective pass (which suggests ports lower in the furnace). An oxidation model is applied to evaluate the conditions necessary to essentially complete combustion prior to the convective pass.

The overfire air injection rate should be sufficient to raise the stoichiometric ratio of the combustion products to an excess air condition typical of baseline operation (~3-4% excess O₂). It should be noted that in a conventional single stage combustion system, the overall excess air is the same as the burner excess air. In such a system, the operating excess air is established by the operators considering its impact on burner performance, ash deposition in the lower and upper furnace, steam temperature and carbon burnout.

In a reburning system, the burner performance is de-coupled from the overall excess air. This provides the boiler operators with enhanced flexibility to adjust overfire air. By designing an overfire air system for rapid and complete mixing, it may be possible to operate the unit at excess air levels lower than baseline while still achieving good carbon burnout.

Once the vertical position has been established, the overfire air injector array can be designed. The overfire air injector performance impacts carbon burnout and more specifically the minimum excess O₂ necessary to achieve burnout.

The overfire air injectors must be designed to achieve uniform and complete mixing of the overfire air across the full boiler cross section in minimum time. The variables to adjust to achieve this include the number and position of the overfire air injectors, and injection parameters (injection velocity and injection angle). A number of analytical and empirical techniques can be used to design the injector array as indicated in Section 2.1.3 that follows.

2.1.3 GR Process Design Tools

The design of the GR-LNB system was completed according to a standardized methodology developed by EER. It includes the use of tools such as an isothermal physical flow model, computational heat transfer model, and kinetics (NO_x reduction) model. The overall approach to the GR system design is illustrated in Figure 2-3.

The process design began with a site characterization of the host unit in a brief field test. The data generated in this test included emissions (normal NO_x and O₂ levels), furnace gas temperatures, velocity measurements at available monitoring ports, and detailed boiler operating and steam cycle data. An extensive pre-existing data base and field data formed the basis for developing preliminary GR process and injector specifications.

A two or three dimensional heat transfer code was then used to evaluate the impacts of GR on the boiler gas temperature profile and heat transfer characteristics. The heat transfer code in conjunction with a boiler performance code were used to evaluate the mean gas temperature profile, heat absorptions by the heat exchangers, temperatures of the heat exchanger surfaces, steam generation rate, and final steam temperature.

A reduced scale isothermal physical flow model was built and fitted with the preliminary GR injection scheme. The natural gas/FGR and OFA injector configurations were evaluated for dispersion and mixing and optimized for these parameters through an iterative procedure. After flow rates and injection details of the reburn fuel and OFA were finalized, the kinetics code was run to predict the final NO_x level. The process design was completed by evaluating potential impacts on various areas of boiler performance such as slagging, fouling, tubewall wastage, baghouse performance, ash disposal, and overall auxiliary power consumption cost impacts.

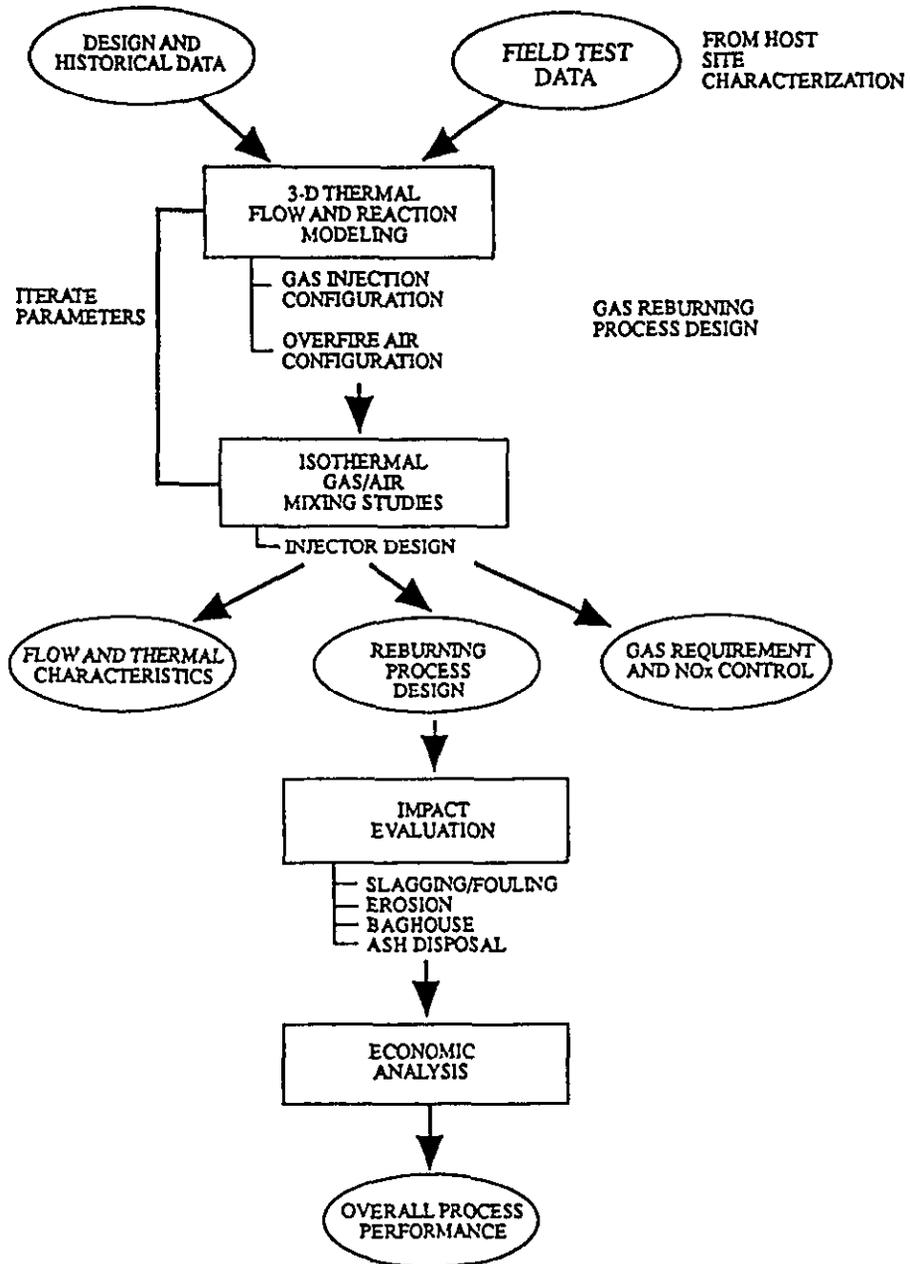


Figure 2-3. Technical approach to process design

A $1/15$ scale isothermal physical flow model of the Cherokee Unit #3 boiler was constructed. The model was of Plexiglas construction and was designed to match the velocity profile and pressure drop coefficient of each heat exchanger to those of the full-scale unit. The injection configurations for the reburn fuel with FGR and OFA were evaluated for dispersion and mixing using visual and tracer dispersion mapping techniques. Visual jet mixing patterns were observed using smoke and neutrally buoyant soap bubbles. Tracer dispersion was determined through injection of methane and final tracer mapping at selected planes of interest.

A two dimensional steady state heat transfer code was used to evaluate the impacts of GR on the heat transfer characteristics. The model divided the furnace into a grid of radial/axial zones. The heart of the code was a radiation heat transfer model which used a semistochastic approach to follow the radiative beams through the processes of emission, reflection and absorption within a prescribed numerical tolerance. The model also calculated convective heat transfer in the sections of the boiler where radiation heat transfer was dominant. The boiler performance code developed a steam side energy balance, but also calculated flue gas side temperature changes in parts of the boiler where convective heat transfer dominated. The output of both of the codes was the mean gas temperature profile in the furnace, heat absorption by each heat exchanger, temperature of deposit surfaces, and impacts on steam flow rate and temperature.

A NO_x control code was run using the temperature profile and mixing rate data as inputs. This code was programmed with the kinetics of chemical reactions involved in hydrocarbon combustion and fixed nitrogen reactions to yield final predicted NO_x emissions/reductions. This code includes 200 fundamental reactions and has been extensively validated with field measurements.

2.1.4 GR Comparison of Theory with Practice

In three electric utility retrofits, GR has been applied to boilers with very different gross capacities and firing arrangements: an 80 MW_e tangentially fired unit, a 33 MW_e cyclone-fired unit, and a 172 MW_e wall-fired unit, see Figure 2-4. The results of these demonstrations have largely validated the design methodology and have provided insight into the influence of GR on NO_x emissions and boiler performance. In all three cases, NO_x control goals have been met or exceeded.

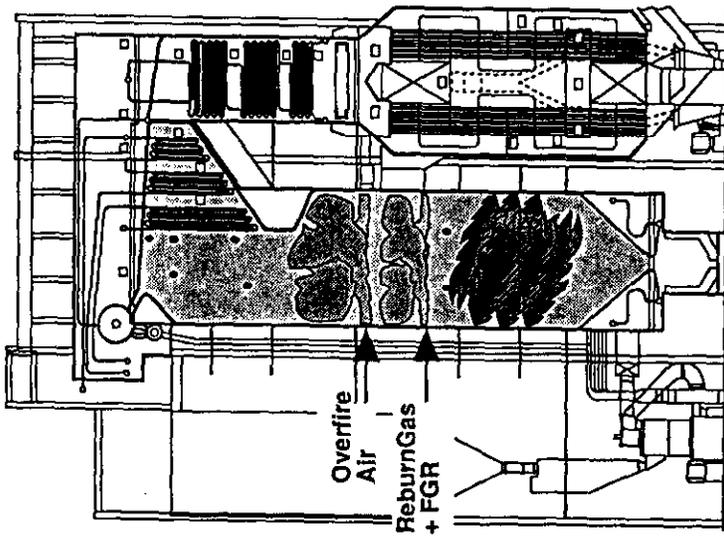
Due to the substantial design differences among boilers and furnaces, reburning must be custom designed to match site specific factors. The objective of EER's design methodology is to develop a site specific reburning system that maximizes the NO_x control potential of the system taking into account site specific constraints, and to project the impacts of the design on NO_x emissions and boiler performance.

Under U.S. DOE CCT projects, EER applied Gas Reburning to three coal fired utility boilers. The site specific GR designs are discussed below.

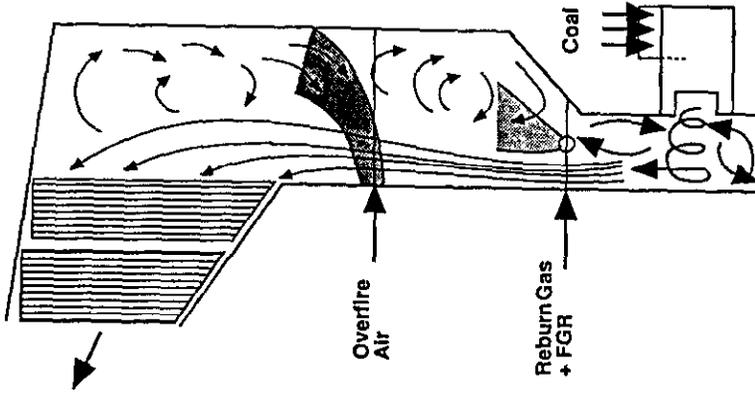
Hennepin Station Unit #1

An integrated gas reburning-sorbent injection (GR-SI) system was designed for Illinois Power's Hennepin Station Unit #1. Unit #1 is tangentially fired with three burner elevations. It has a nominal capacity of 80 MW_e (gross).

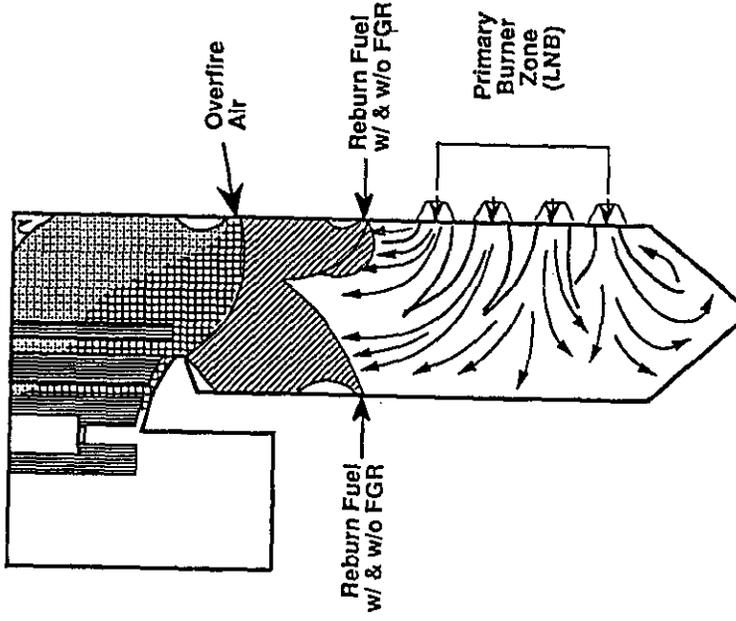
The GR system was designed to operate with or without the SI system in operation. The Hennepin furnace had good access between the upper row of burners and the furnace nose. This allowed the GR system to be designed with a reburning zone residence time of 0.55 seconds. The reburning fuel was injected along with FGR through tilting nozzles on the furnace walls near the corners at the top of the windbox. The overfire air ports were located on the furnace walls near the corners below the nose.



Hennepin Unit #1



Lakeside Unit #7



Cherokee Unit #3

Figure 2-4. Schematics of three units that GR was applied to under the DOE CCT projects

Lakeside Station Unit #7

City Water, Light and Power's Lakeside Station is located in Springfield Illinois. Unit 7 is a cyclone-fired unit with a capacity of 33 MW_e. The boiler is equipped with two cyclone burners which discharge into a secondary furnace. As with the Hennepin unit, EER designed an integrated GR-SI system for the Lakeside unit, although the reburning system could be operated with or without the SI system in operation. This application was the most challenging of the three and illustrates the potential to configure gas reburning to complex situations. The two counter-rotating cyclones discharge into a refractory lined well. Within the well, the combustion products transition into a jet moving up the rear wall. This high velocity region and the divergence of the furnace walls produce a large recirculation zone extending across most of the furnace. As a result, the available residence time in the reburning zone was limited to 0.25 seconds.

The gas and FGR injectors were located along the rear wall and side walls at the top of the refractory well. Although the penetration distance was short, fast mixing was required due to the limited reburning zone residence time. Overfire air was injected from the rear wall in the upper furnace. This also posed a challenge since any overfire air which penetrated through to the recirculation zone could be transported down to the reburning zone.

Cherokee Station Unit #3

A GR system was retrofitted to Unit #3 of Public Service Company of Colorado's Cherokee Station. Unit #3 is front wall fired with 16 burners and has a gross capacity of 172 MW_e. The retrofit involved integration of Foster Wheeler low NO_x burners with the GR system. The GR system was designed using the baseline NO_x performance of the unit and the projected NO_x reduction performance of the Foster Wheeler burners. In the First Generation GR system that was installed and tested, the reburning fuel was injected with the FGR through ports on the front and rear furnace walls above the top burner row. In the Second Generation system that was later installed and tested, the FGR was eliminated. Overfire air was injected through ports on the front wall only just below the nose. This configuration provided a reburning zone residence time of 0.5 seconds.

Thermal Performance

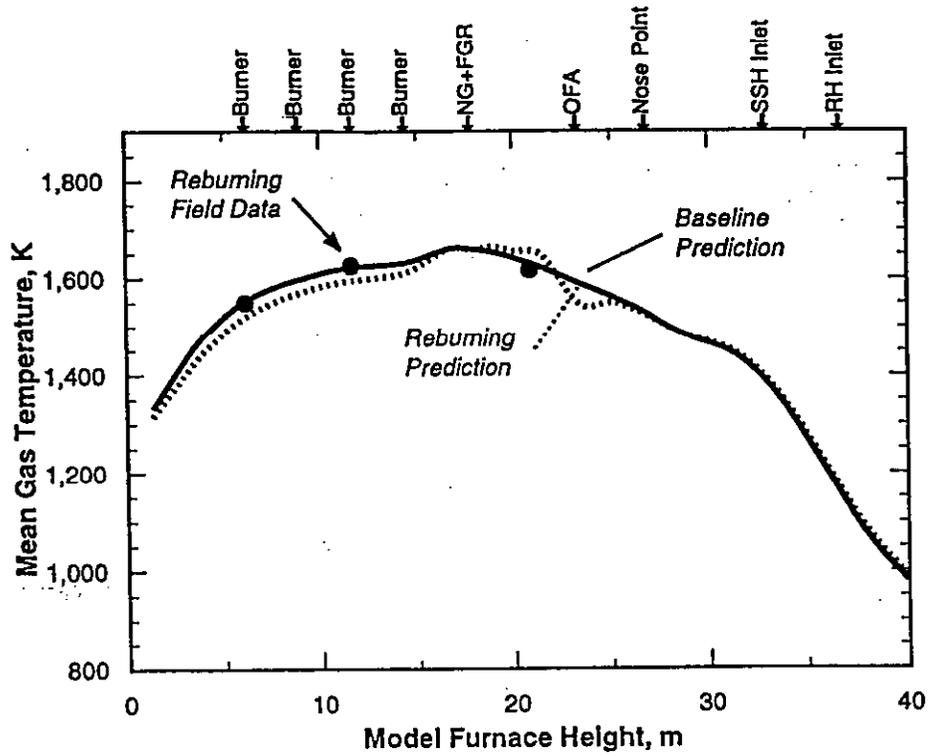
The use of GR is expected to have some impact on boiler performance. The addition of the reburning fuel to the furnace above the primary heat release zone effectively shifts a portion of the heat absorption into the upper furnace. In addition, the use of air or flue gas as a carrier for the reburning fuel can also impact the distribution of heat absorption between the furnace and the convective pass. Boiler efficiency can also be influenced by changes in the hydrogen/carbon ratio of the reburning fuel and in carbon in ash.

Thermal performance models were used to evaluate the potential effects of reburning on the operation of each of the three demonstration boilers. The predicted impact of gas reburning on the mean gas temperature profile and heat absorption distribution for the Cherokee boiler are shown in Figures 2-5. The model predictions compared well to field data. It is also seen that the overall impact of gas reburning on the furnace thermal profile is minimal. The results shown indicate that the heat absorption pattern is modified such that more heat is absorbed in the reheater and superheater sections and less heat is absorbed in the radiant furnace. These impacts do not strongly influence boiler operation as long as sufficient attemperation capacity exists, as it did at each of the three demonstration sites.

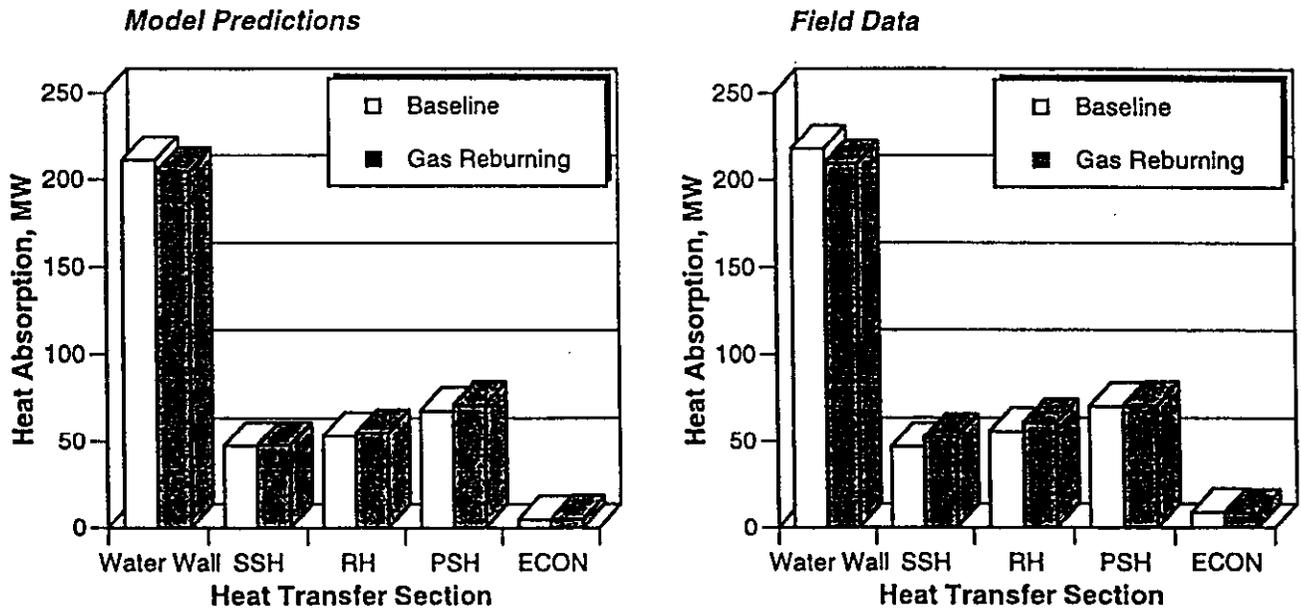
The overall impacts of reburning on unit performance was found to be moderate and well within the control capabilities of each of the boilers. Due to the use of natural gas as a reburning fuel, a slight reduction in boiler efficiency was experienced. During long term testing on each of the units, the reductions in boiler efficiency ranged from 0.5 to 1.7 percent.

NO_x Control Performance

Prior to retrofitting reburning to each of the boilers, the emissions control performance was estimate using a kinetic model of the reburning process. For the Hennepin unit a NO_x reduction of 62 percent was projected. For the Lakeside boiler with the shorter reburning zone residence time the NO_x control performance was projected at 60 percent reduction



Thermal Profile



Heat Absorption Distribution

Figure 2-5. Impacts of GR on Cherokee Unit #3 thermal profile and heat absorption

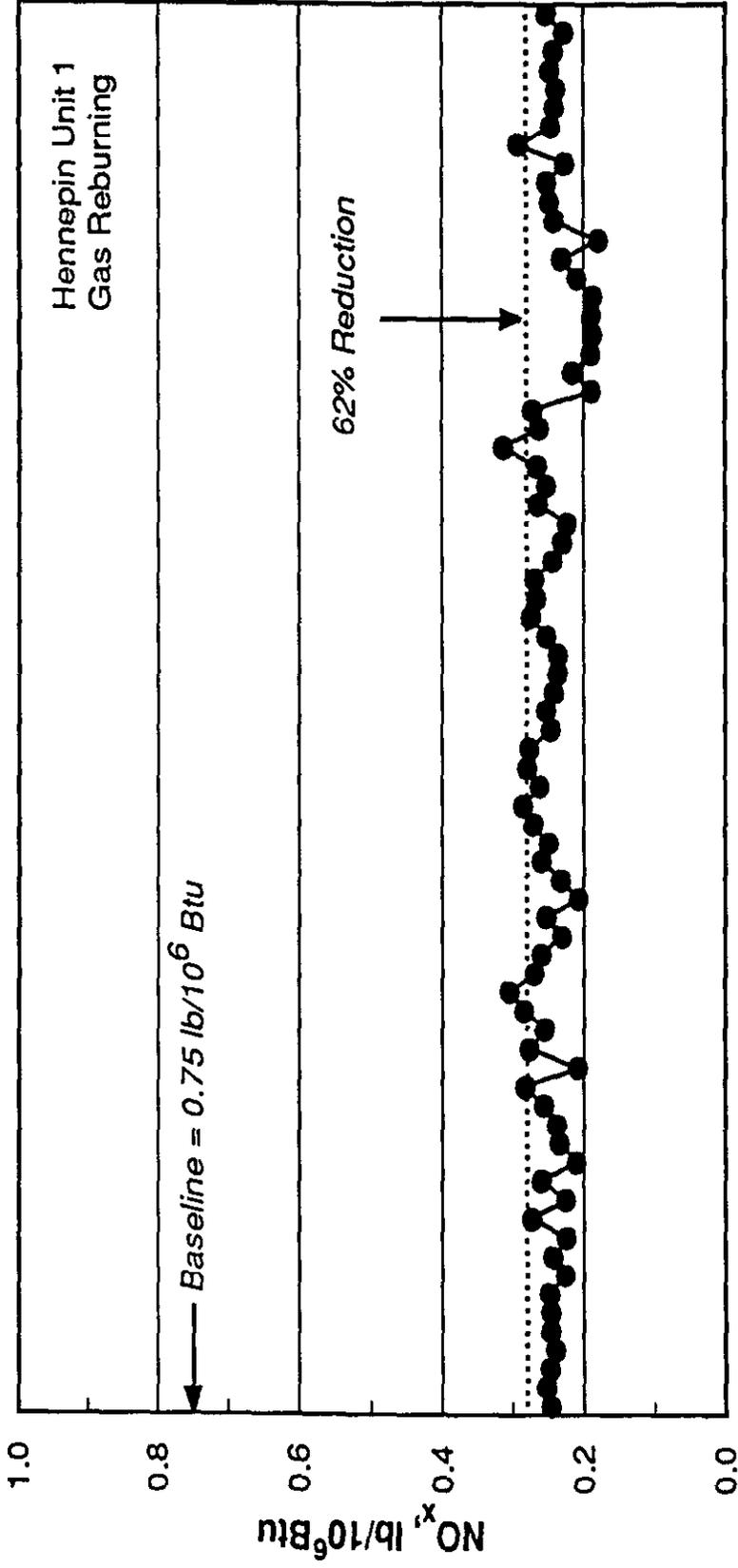
even though the initial NO_x level was higher than that of the Hennepin unit. At Cherokee, NO_x emissions were expected to be controllable to 70% when reburning was used in conjunction with low NO_x burners.

Hennepin Unit #1 Prior to the retrofit, NO_x emissions from the Hennepin unit were 0.75 lb/10⁶ Btu. Following startup and optimization of the reburning system, the plant personnel operated the GR system following the normal load dispatch which involved a significant level of cycling. Figure 2-6 shows the measured field NO_x emissions compared to the predicted level of NO_x reduction (62%). The average measured NO_x emission level, over long term testing, was 0.245 lb/10⁶ Btu, a 67% reduction from baseline.

Lakeside Unit #7 Since this is a cyclone-fired unit that has a hotter barrel/furnace, baseline NO_x emissions were higher than that of the Hennepin Unit (0.95 lb/10⁶ Btu). Even so, this unit was small (33 MW_e) and had a lower baseline NO_x than larger (hotter) cyclone units which can range up to 2.0 lb NO_x/10⁶ Btu. As at Hennepin, GR was operated by the plant in normal commercial service following optimization tests. This boiler is typically operated as a peaking unit during winter and summer months.

Figure 2-7 shows the predicted NO_x emissions based on reburn zone stoichiometric ratios showing baseline and GR field data and EER prediction curves. The prediction band represents the impacts of the distribution of time-temperature histories experienced by the reburning fuel in the complex flow fields illustrated in Figure 2-4.

Two sets of model predictions are compared: one set in which the effects of entrainment of overfire air into the reburning zone is taken into account, and one in which this phenomenon is neglected. Relatively good agreement between the model predictions and the field data have been obtained using this modeling technique. The good agreement between the model predictions and the measured results indicates that all major parameters which influence reburning performance are correctly accounted for in the model.



Test Date (10 January to 19 October, 1992)

Figure 2-6. GR predicted and field testing NO_x reductions on Hennepin Unit #1

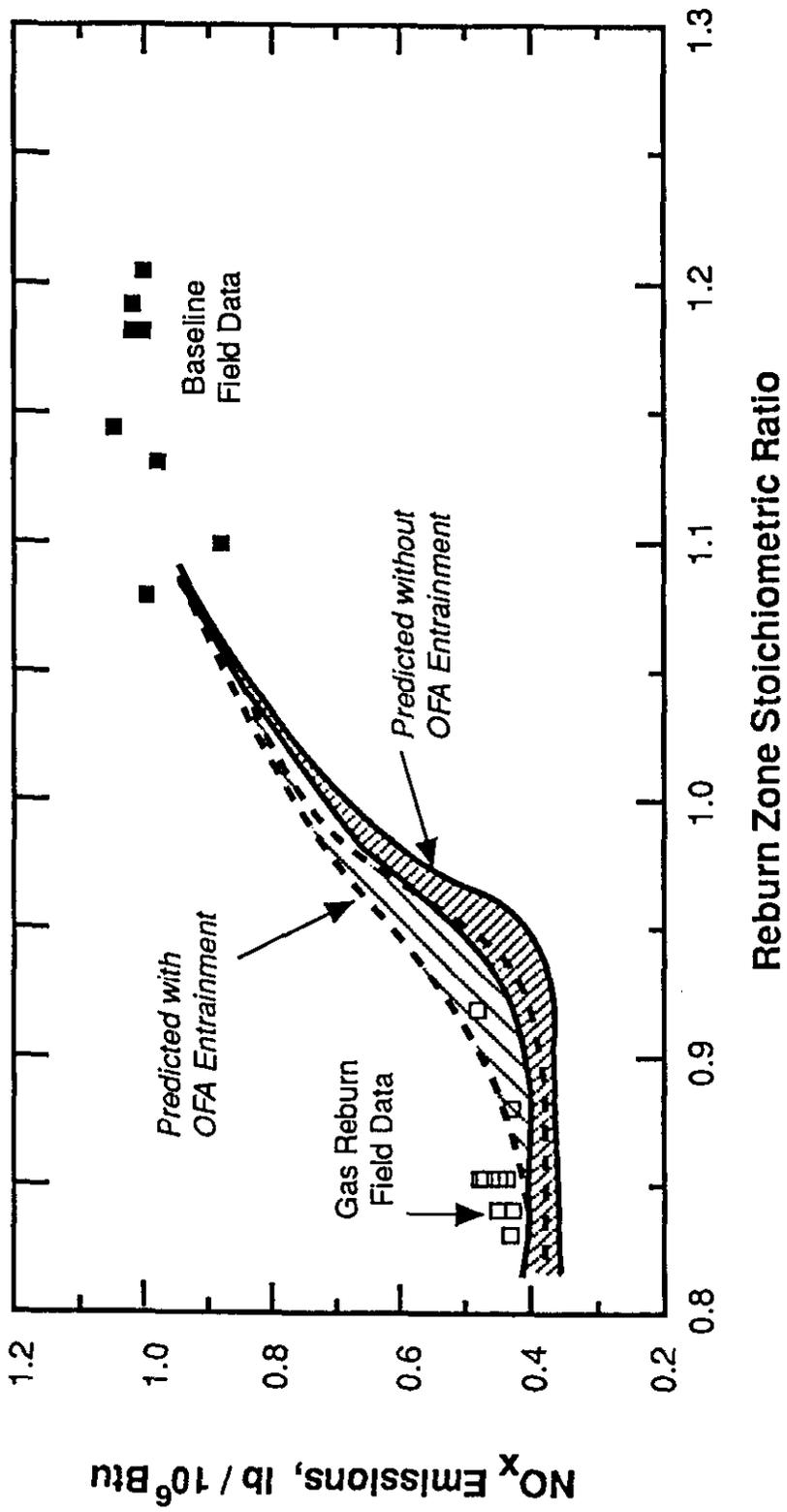


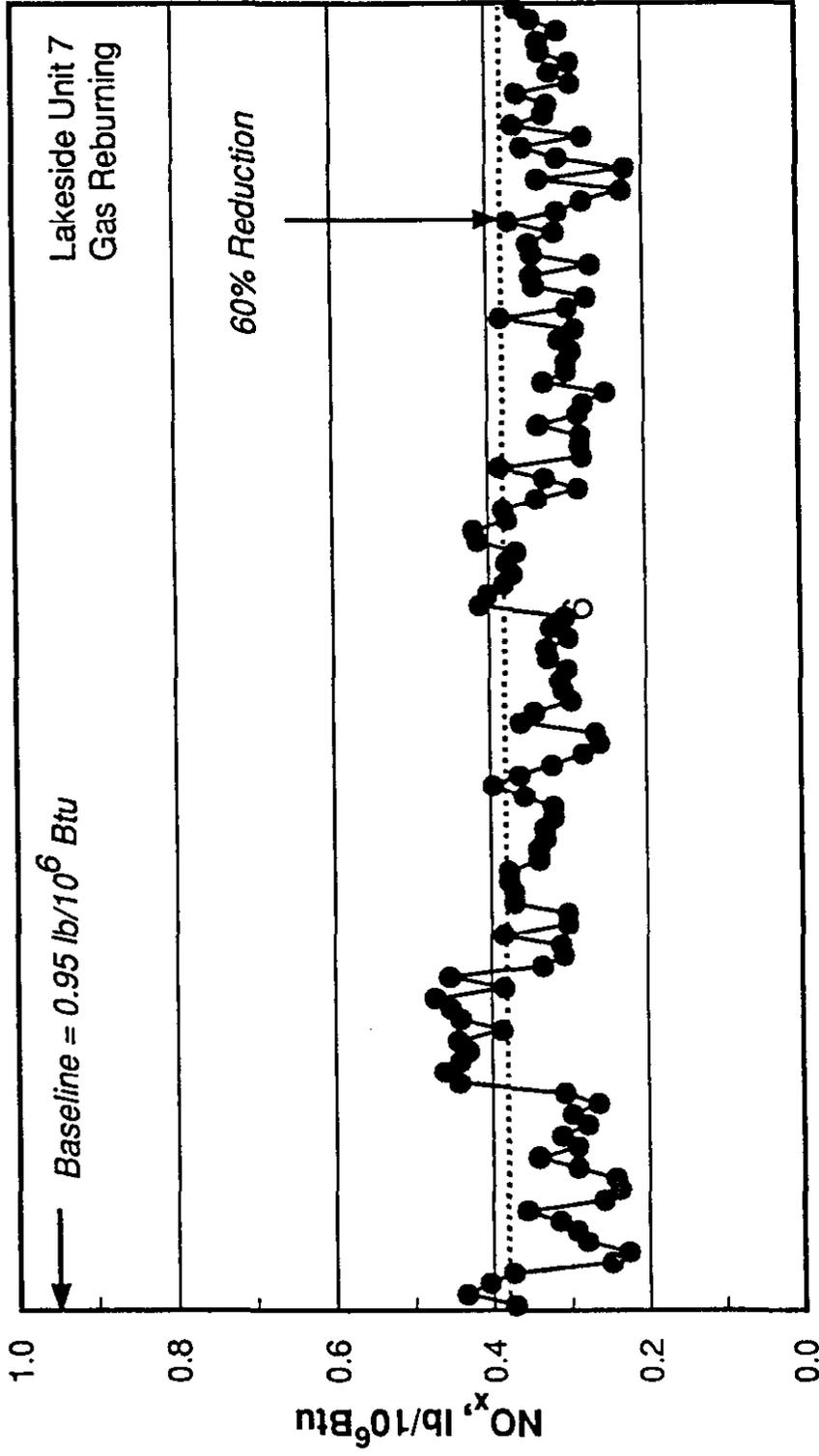
Figure 2-7. Reburn zone stoichiometric ratio versus predicted and measured NO_x reductions for Lakeside Unit #7

Figure 2-8 shows the predicted (60% reduction) versus field NO_x reductions for the long term test on this unit. The average field data emissions were 0.344 lb NO_x/10⁶ Btu, a 66% reduction from baseline.

Cherokee Unit #3 NO_x emissions from the Cherokee boiler were 0.73 lb/10⁶ Btu prior to the retrofit of any equipment, and were reduced to 0.48 lb/10⁶ Btu by the initial design of the low NO_x burners. Figure 2-9 shows the NO_x emissions measured during the long term tests where the unit was operated under normal dispatch conditions. For this period, the average emissions were 0.26 lb/10⁶ Btu, a 64% reduction from baseline. The level of NO_x emission reduction was lower than that projected (70%) for the combined use of GR-LNB due to the lower than expected levels of control provided by the low NO_x burners.

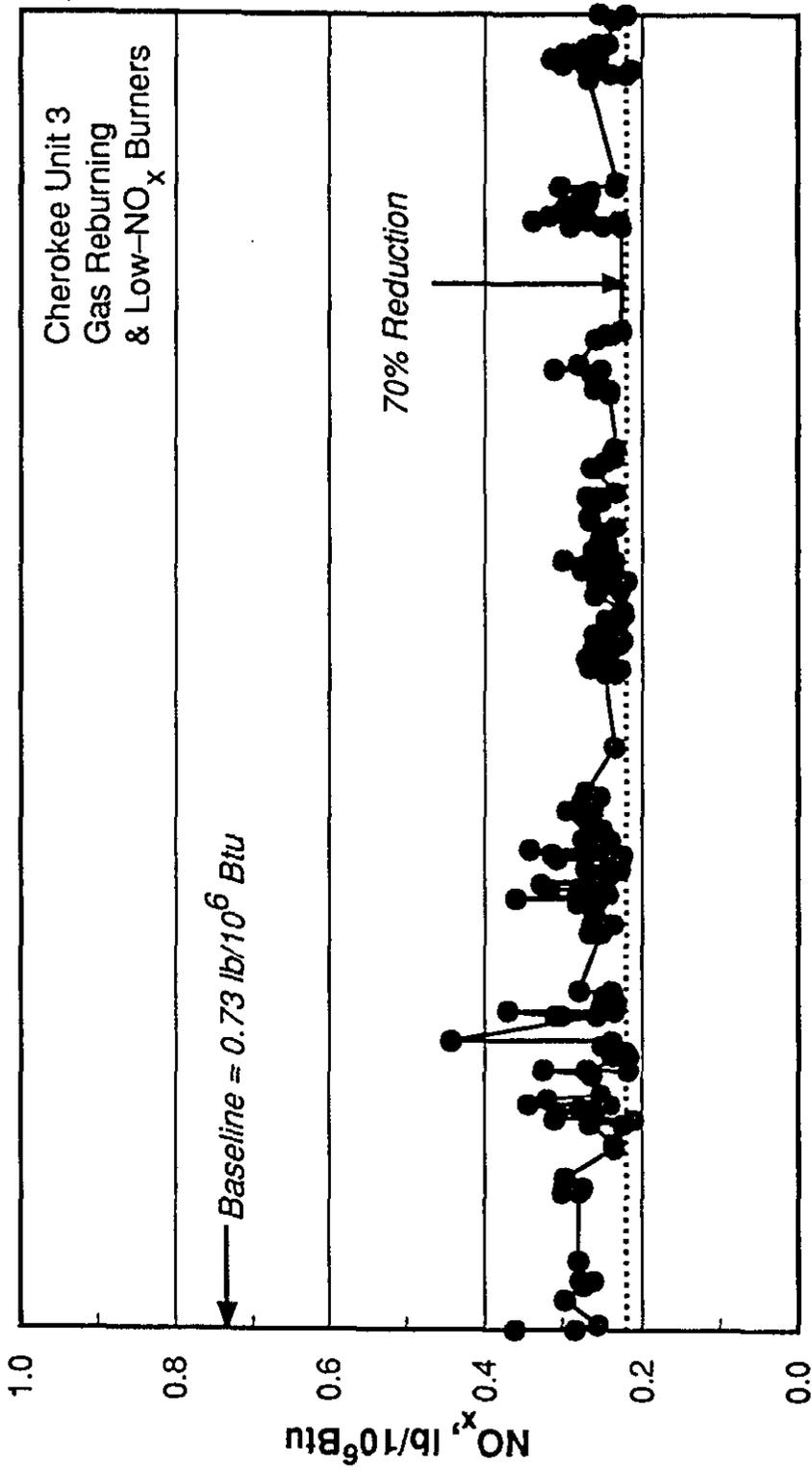
Following the initial tests of the Cherokee unit, the gas reburning system was modified to eliminate flue gas recirculation to the nozzles to boost the reburning fuel momentum. The modified nozzles used high velocity gas injection to provide the energy necessary for reburning fuel mixing. In addition to this modification, the overfire air ports were modified to provide improved carbon monoxide control at low reburning fuel flow rates, and the low NO_x burners were modified to improve carbon in ash. Figure 2-10 compares the NO_x emissions from the initial and modified systems. The results are similar, with the modified systems performing slightly better at higher reburning zone stoichiometric ratios (less reburn gas).

Field Results Comparison Figure 2-11 compares the field data of NO_x emissions for the three GR installations as a function of reburn gas heat input. The variation in the baseline data for the installations are the result of varying excess air levels (i.e., the higher the O₂ concentration in the flue gas, the higher the NO_x emissions). For all three installations, NO_x decreases as the reburn gas heat input increases. For the tangential and wall-fired units, the slope of the curve is relatively flat over the reburn fuel heat input range of 10 to 20%, while for the cyclone unit (with shorter reburning zone residence time), NO_x declines significantly by increasing the reburn gas heat input from 10 to 20%.



Test Data (5 October 1993 to 2 June 1994)

Figure 2-8. GR predicted and field testing NO_x reductions on Lakeside Unit #7



Test Data (27 April 1993 to 10 January 1994)

Figure 2-9. GR predicted and field testing NO_x reductions on Cherokee Unit #3

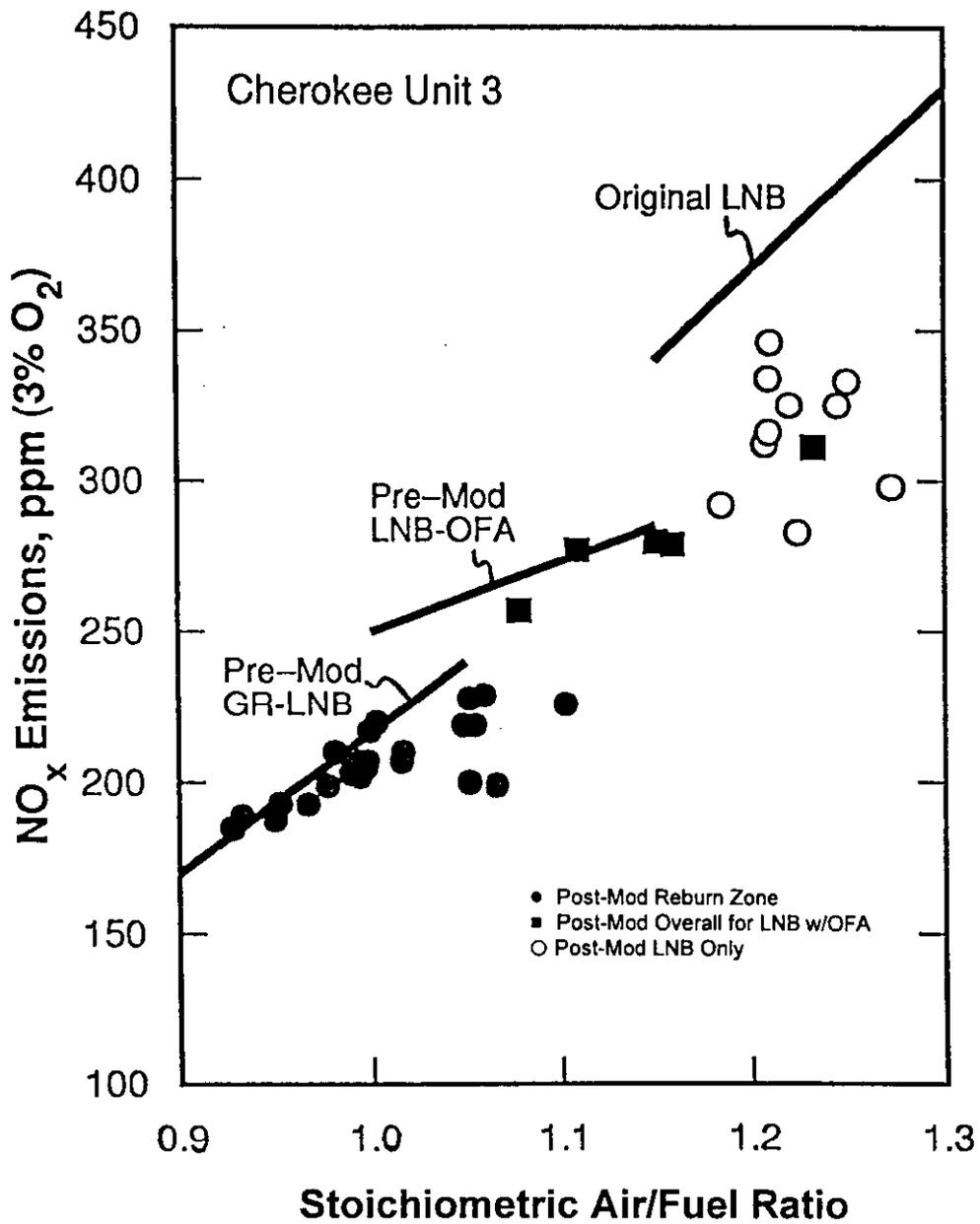


Figure 2-10. NO_x reduction performances of Cherokee GR-LNB Modifications

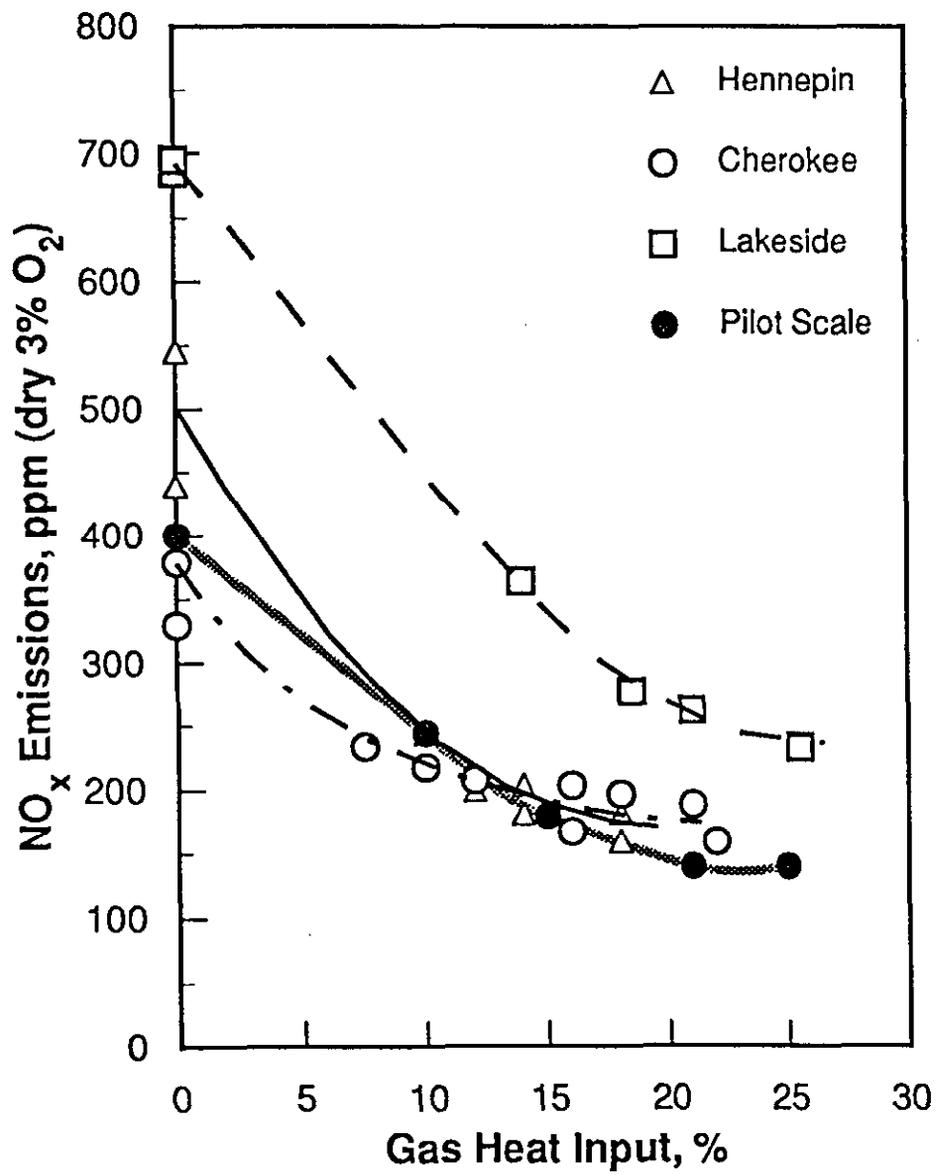


Figure 2-11. NO_x reduction performances of pilot unit and three GR demonstrations

Conclusions

A design methodology has been developed that permits reburning to be applied to boilers of different sizes and firing configurations, including tangentially, wall- and cyclone-fired boilers. The methodology has been used to successfully design reburning systems for three utility boilers covering the range of 33 to 172 MW_e. The impacts of reburning on boiler performance and emissions have been predictable to a large extent. The overall impacts of reburning on unit performance have been found to be moderate, and well within the control capabilities of each of the boilers. No significant operational or durability problems were encountered. NO_x reductions exceeded 60 percent at each of the sites.

The results of these three field evaluations have validated EER's design methodology. Based on these successes, EER has completed a GR system installation on a 108 MW_e tangentially fired unit (New York State Electric & Gas). In addition, EER has completed a reburning system using micronized coal as the reburn fuel. This micronized coal reburn system was installed on a 50 MW_e cyclone-fired unit (Kodak). EER is currently starting up a GR system that was applied to a Tennessee Valley Authority cyclone-fired unit and are working on the designs for two cyclone-fired unit applications for Baltimore Gas & Electric.

2.2 Low NO_x Burners

LNBs reduce NO_x emissions by staged combustion. This is accomplished through the mixing of coal and air producing a fuel-rich region within the flame zone and also producing longer flames to lower the peak flame temperatures. These burners generally use dual concentric secondary/tertiary air registers to accomplish this. Different air swirl patterns are applied to these two zones to create the reducing zone and longer flames.

LNB retrofits may involve increasing the burner throat. Larger burner throat diameters generally favor a more gradual coal/air mixing that translates to lower NO_x emissions. If the throat is increased certain furnace tubes will have to be removed and new bent tubes

installed. If the burner throat diameter is adequate to achieve the desired NO_x reduction then only minor modifications, such as a change in refractory, may be required. Conventional burners (not low NO_x designs) may also be modified rather than replaced to provide for lower NO_x emissions. While LNBS reduce NO_x, they can also yield higher levels of unburned carbon-in-ash and higher emissions of CO than conventional burners. Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation's Controlled Flow/Split Flame low NO_x burners were installed and tested on Cherokee Unit #3.

3.0 ENGINEERING DESIGN

The GR-LNB system is designed to reduce NO_x emissions by 70%. Further, it is to be designed in such a way as to minimize potentially harmful impacts, such as furnace wall corrosion and superheater tubewall erosion. The gas reburning and low NO_x burner technologies, although there are synergies in operation, are totally independent NO_x control technologies, i.e., one can be applied without the other. For this reason the engineering designs are discussed separately.

3.1 Gas Reburning System

The First Generation GR system is comprised of three subsystems: natural gas injection, FGR injection, and OFA injection. These subsystems are integrated to provide the proper fuel, FGR and air flows into the appropriate regions of the furnace to reduce NO_x and to supply the heat needed for steam generation at the units rated capacity. In the Second Generation GR system, FGR is eliminated. It is comprised of only two subsystems: natural gas injection and OFA injection. These subsystems are integrated to provide the proper fuel and air flows into the appropriate regions of the furnace to reduce NO_x and to supply the heat needed for steam generation at the unit's rated capacity.

3.1.1 Natural Gas System

For full scale electric utility GR applications, whether First or Second Generation GR technology is used, approximately 15 to 25 percent of the total heat input to the furnace is supplied by natural gas for the reburning process. Based on this gas heat input, one can roughly size the volumetric rate (scfm) requirements for the natural gas to be supplied to the furnace. Standard piping design practices in conjunction with the rate requirements are used to size supply and distribution piping from existing headers within the facility and also, in some applications, pipelines off site.

Gas line pressures are designed to accommodate the volumetric requirements while maintaining reasonable pipe sizes. Normal pressures are 100 psig in headers, 20 psig at the control valve trains, and 1-4 psig at the injection nozzles.

Studies conducted by EER determined the effect of penetration and mixing in the reburn zone. It was found that the natural gas had to be injected in such a way so that it would cover the cross-sectional area normal to flue gas flow in order for the reburn process to be most effective. Also, if the injection momentum of the natural gas was not sufficient, the injected fuel would simply follow a flow path adjacent to the boiler wall where it was injected. On GR installations with FGR as the inert to assist penetration and mixing of the natural gas with the furnace gases, the natural gas pressure supplied to the injection nozzles (~15 to 20" W.C.) is slightly higher than the pressure of the flue gas at the nozzle. In the Second Generation GR process where FGR is eliminated, higher gas pressures (~30 to 40 psig) are delivered to the gas injection nozzles to provide the necessary momentum to adequately penetrate the furnace flue gases and provide for good mixing.

To survive the high temperatures of the furnace environment, both water-cooled metal and high temperature ceramic GR injection nozzle designs have been used. Nozzle provisions when using FGR should also be made to resist erosion from fly ash. Cooling fans are required to provide cooling air to the injection nozzles during non-operation of the GR system and to provide seal air for positive pressure units.

Control of natural gas flow into the furnace is critical not only for optimizing the GR process, but for maintaining boiler firing control and safety. GR itself is a chemical process that is different from combustion, but natural gas flow into the boiler is treated as another fuel input. Specific equipment and design recommendations with regard to gas firing are available in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards 85B, "Prevention of Furnace Explosions in Natural Gas-Fired Multiple Burner Boiler-Furnaces", and 85C, "Prevention of Furnace Explosions/Implosions in Multiple Burner Boiler-Furnaces".

3.1.2 Flue Gas Recirculation System

The mass flow rate of natural gas injected into the reburning zone does not always have sufficient momentum to penetrate into the furnace flue gases for adequate mixing. As such, an inert gas may be added to the smaller rate of natural gas before injection into the furnace via several high velocity jets. The combination of the higher velocity with a higher mass flow will then provide the necessary momentum for good in-furnace mixing.

The logical source of the inert gas is the combustion flue gas at the boiler exit. At this location in the process, oxygen levels in the flue gas are at their lowest since air heater leakage downstream may significantly increase the oxygen concentration of the flue gas. The temperature of the flue gas extracted at this location eliminates the need for pre-heating the gas. Note that injection of low temperature gas streams into the furnace may quench the reburning process and contribute to ash and slag formations known as "eyebrows" at the openings.

Selection of the GR nozzle configuration (size, jet velocity, number, and location) is based on furnace gas flow modeling with prime consideration being given to penetration and mixing with the furnace combustion gases. As with any of the process streams, FGR flow must be metered to control the reburn process. A venturi is the preferred metering device since it can accommodate the ash loading and high temperatures (600°F). A clean air purge assembly is attached that prevents fly ash obstructions in the pressure sensing lines.

3.1.3 Overfire Air (OFA) System

OFA is injected into the boiler to complete combustion of the reburn fuel. OFA is typically 15-20 percent of the total air flow. When applying reburning, it is desirable to minimize the overall excess air level to maintain high thermal efficiencies. However, the OFA must also be adjusted to minimize CO emissions. The OFA flow capacity is bound by (1) the

minimum air requirements to consume the remaining combustibles and (2) the maximum air available from the windbox.

The penetration and mixing of the OFA has to cover the entire cross-sectional area of the furnace perpendicular to the upward flowing furnace gas to achieve acceptable CO emission levels leaving the OFA or burnout zone. Each furnace of varying size will have a certain required minimum OFA pressure to provide the penetration and mixing desired. The injection angle may be pointed downward in some cases to provide for a longer time for penetration and mixing of the OFA into the upward flowing furnace gas. The OFA ports are normally cooled with an air supply from a small fan.

3.2 Low NO_x Burners

There are many low NO_x burner manufacturers in the world and EER is one of them. Since EER does not have formal design information on its competitors' low NO_x burners, the burners discussed here are the EER FlamemastEER™ low NO_x burners only. In 1987, EER participated in a joint development program with Elkraft Power, a Danish utility, and Burmeister & Wain Energi (BWE), a Danish boiler and combustion system manufacturer, to develop a reliable, high quality, high performance low NO_x burner capable of reducing NO_x emissions by 50%. The burner developed is shown in Figure 3-1. These low NO_x burners have been installed in both Europe and North America. The burner has similar components and yields similar NO_x performance results compared to other commercial low NO_x burners. The mechanical construction of the burner is unique and has several advantages over other low NO_x burners. The key features of the design include:

- Variable combustion air supply through separate secondary and tertiary passages
- Variable swirl on both the tertiary and secondary air
- Flameholder attached to the coal nozzle

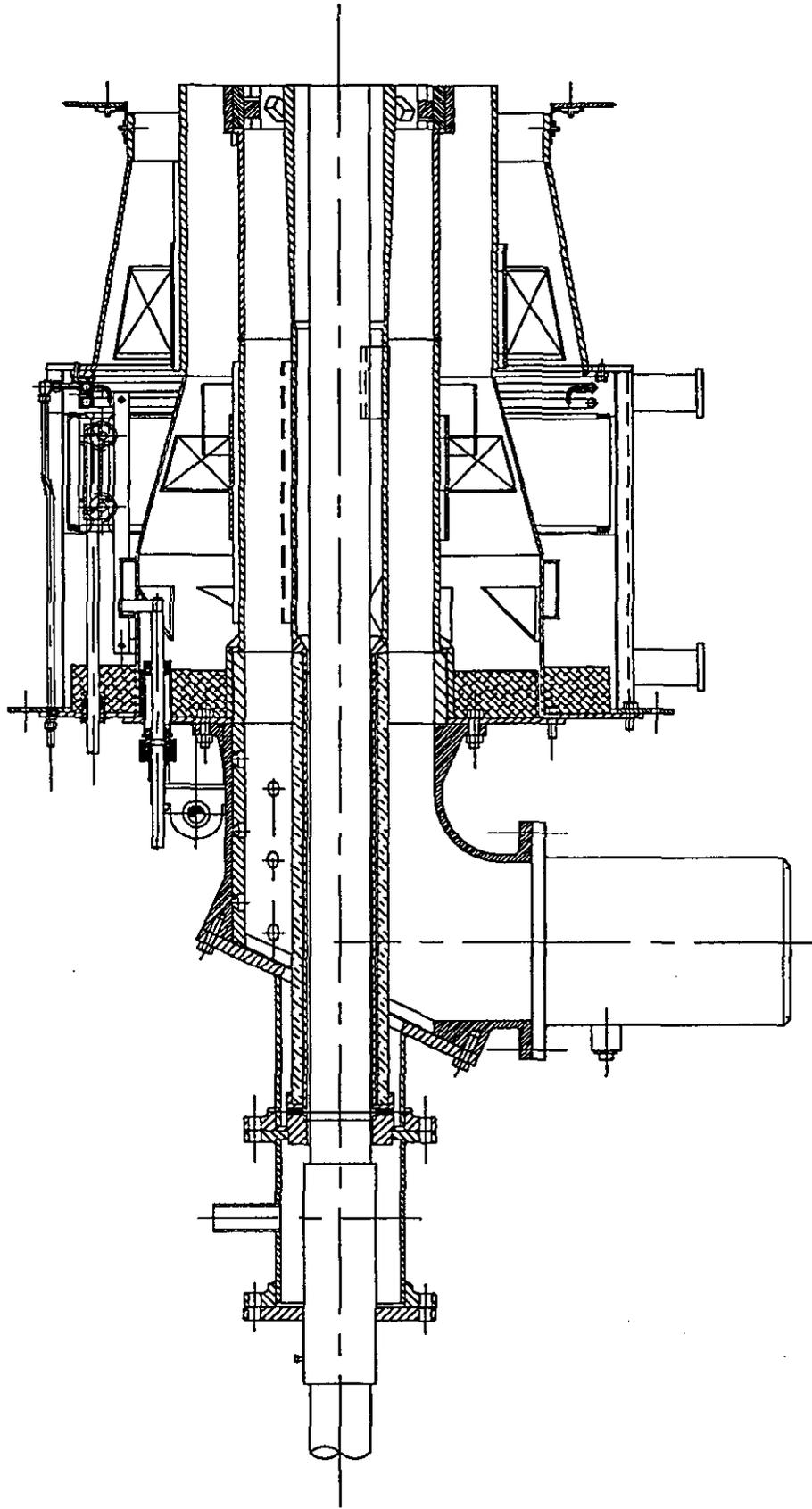


Figure 3-1. FlamemastEER™ low NO_x burner

Mechanically, the burner has been designed to minimize the number of moving parts. Those parts which do move slide axially, eliminating complex linkages and gears. The secondary and tertiary swirl control vanes, called turbolators, move back and forth within conical passages of the burner. As the turbolators are moved toward the narrow end of the cone more air passes through the vanes, increasing the amount of swirl. As the turbolator is moved in the opposite direction, the air follows the path of least resistance and by-passes the vanes, resulting in less swirl. The amount of combustion air entering each burner is controlled by a sliding ring damper. Similarly, the split between secondary and tertiary (outer zone) air is controlled by a second ring damper. The parts of the burner which are subjected to a high heat flux are fabricated from a high strength, heat resistant alloy.

By setting the air distribution between the secondary and tertiary zones and by moderating the tertiary air swirl the burner flame is lengthened across the firing depth. The longer, cooler flame in combination with reducing zones within the flames represents the main variables to reduce NO_x emissions. The low primary air/coal velocity and flameholder are designed to provide good flame stability and acceptable flame characteristics for a wide range of operating conditions and fuel characteristics. The flameholder establishes local recirculation zones and promotes local mixing between the coal and the secondary air. This leads to a rapid devolatilization of the coal and liberation of fuel nitrogen in a low excess air environment resulting in reduced NO_x formation.

With deregulation of the electric utility industry approaching, many utilities are looking for lower cost alternatives to reduce NO_x emissions. Justifying new low NO_x burners on a boiler that is 30-40 years old and has limited remaining life is difficult. EER has developed a technique to modify existing conventional burners to reduce NO_x emissions, and rather than buying new burners for a GR-LNB retrofit the burner modification approach provides the utility with a lower cost option. Modifications are usually 2 to 4 times less expensive than new low NO_x burners.

Units which are the best candidates for burner modifications include:

- Older units where the expense of new burners is difficult to justify over the remaining boiler life.
- Units operating under a system-wide NO_x averaging strategy, where compliance on all boilers is not essential, and where burner modification offers an economical option for smaller units.
- Units requiring greater than 55% NO_x reduction, where burner modifications can provide an economical NO_x reduction. GR, SNCR, SCR, or other technologies may then be coupled with it to provide the deep NO_x reduction required.
- Units with first generation low NO_x burners where only moderate additional NO_x reduction is required.
- Units with conventional burners firing sub-bituminous or other highly reactive coals.

The modifications to be performed for each application will vary widely according to the type of burner, the NO_x reduction required, and site specific information such as coal, burner area heat release rate, etc. To perform an initial evaluation, specific site information is required. After completing preliminary calculations, based on site information, the next step is usually a windbox inspection of the existing burners. Some projects then require a reduced scale isothermal modeling study of the existing burner to determine the exact detailed modifications. Other projects that are similar to previous jobs or only require a small NO_x reduction do not require modeling.

The goal of modeling is to determine the specific modifications required to simulate the burner mixing rates and exit aerodynamics of EER's commercial LNB. The hardware modifications are usually configured so that the existing burner does not have to be removed from the windbox, which is a major advantage when old boilers contain asbestos.

3.3 Furnace / Boiler -

3.3.1 Bent Tube Openings

Depending on results of the process design, application of the GR-LNB technology may require as many as thirty tube wall penetrations to be made in the furnace water walls to accommodate the GR injection nozzles and the furnace gas temperature monitoring equipment. Each water wall opening may require from four to eight bent tubes to be installed, possibly affecting over one hundred of the water wall tube circuits.

Further, for certain low NO_x burner applications a larger burner throat diameter may be required which would also require the bending of more furnace wall tubes. In considering the application of GR-LNB, the impact of the bent tube openings on circulation and steam generation in the lower furnace water walls should be investigated.

3.3.2 Combustion Air (Overfire Air Source)

Air required for the OFA system is usually taken from the combustion air system. It has been preheated and may have a sufficient velocity head for injection through the OFA nozzles into the furnace gases. Process design information will provide the necessary OFA flow and velocity head requirements. The existing combustion air supply system is reviewed in terms of fan capacity and available velocity head. Available velocity head can be increased by closing dampers that supply air to the primary combustion zone. However, the capacity of the forced draft fan(s) may be limiting. If capacity is available but the velocity head is not sufficient, a booster fan will be required for the OFA supply. The LNBs are replacement burners and as such, the existing combustion air supply will normally require only minor modifications.

3.3.3 FGR Source

FGR is used as an inert propellant for natural gas in the reburning process. Flue gas is drawn after the last heat transfer tube bank (economizer or boiler bank) so as to not affect steam temperatures, and prior to the air heater since leakage there increases the oxygen level of the FGR. The configuration of the duct work leading from the boiler outlet to the air heater inlet should be reviewed with respect to a location for the flue gas tap. The tap should be located such that access to the center of the flue gas duct is possible to minimize tramp air entry. Tramp air (from casing leaks on balance draft units) and seal or cooling air from burners or other furnace water wall penetrations enters the flue gas and follows the furnace and duct walls. The flue gas tap should also be located to allow placement of a multi clone dust collector as close to the gas source as possible. Since the gas is cleaned of particulate immediately after being extracted from the boiler exit, problems with ash accumulation and erosion in the FGR duct work are eliminated.

3.3.4 Equipment Footprint

Installation of GR-LNB systems will require the placement of equipment, duct work and piping in a boiler house that may already be space limited. Following is a list of major GR-LNB equipment, duct work and piping for which space requirements should be considered in a GR-LNB retrofit:

GR System

- GR and OFA bent tubes for injection ports
- Natural gas metering, control, and shut-off valve station, and supply, distribution and vent piping
- FGR fan (if required), cooling fans, multi clone ash collector, flow measuring venturi, and interconnecting duct work
- OFA duct work and booster fan (if required)

LNB System

- May require larger burner throat diameter thus straight furnace wall tube sections may have to be replaced with bent tube sections

Ancillary Equipment

- New electrical power transformers and motor control centers
- Existing ductwork/piping modifications to accommodate the new GR piping and OFA ductwork

3.4 Balance of Plant

3.4.1 Electrical Power Distribution

GR-LNB equipment may be supplied power from the plant's auxiliary power system. However, the existing capacity of the electrical distribution and control system must be reviewed in light of the GR-LNB process needs. The primary electrical power consumers are cooling fan and OFA booster fan (if required) motors. Critical equipment such as cooling and booster fans, boiler controls, and turning gear should be supplied from motor control centers having redundant feeds to insure un-interruptible supply.

3.4.2 Plant and Instrument Air

GR-LNB system equipment, controls, and instrumentation will require dry instrument quality air for control valve operation, and also seal and cooling air. If the furnace is a positive pressure design, plant air will be required for the aspirated boiler waterwall penetrations. Existing plant and instrument air systems should be reviewed in terms of capacity and air quality (oil and water content) to determine if the needs of the proposed GR-LNB equipment can be met.

3.4.3 Controls

Process control equipment and instrumentation installed as part of the GR-LNB system will undoubtedly be state-of-the-art digital equipment. A wide variety of boiler control equipment exists in use at utilities representing various generations of pneumatic, analog, and digital control equipment. Equipment installed on any one unit may be a mixture of these technologies, e.g., pneumatic, analog and digital field devices tied to microprocessor-based digital bench board equipment in the control room.

Consideration must be given to the control scheme for the new process equipment, especially in regard to interface capabilities relating to safety interlocks, firing control, and safety trips. If the interface capability is present, the utility may opt to add the new process equipment to the existing control equipment provided necessary input/output space is available or can be added, or add additional control equipment for GR-LNB operation which interfaces with the existing boiler controls. Particular attention must be paid to proper buffering and isolation of the two control systems so that the integrity and reliability of the existing boiler control system is maintained, but the transfer of data is also maintained between systems to ensure proper control strategy. Lacking the proper interface capability, an upgrade of the entire control room equipment may be warranted.

Since the GR process relies on setting precise stoichiometric ratios in the main burner, reburn, and burnout zones, above average combustion air control methods are required. Control systems that operate from an air-to-coal curve (lbs. of air per lb. of coal) do not lend themselves well to retrofit of the GR technology. This control method does not make adjustments for changes in coal heating value, moisture content, and air density, and actual stoichiometric ratios may differ from those desired. Since with GR, natural gas replaces a portion of the coal input to the unit, complicated control schemes are required on units operating under an air-to-fuel curve. The addition of boiler O₂ trim into the air control scheme can overcome these awkward limitations and optimize the GR process.

O₂ trim is provided by in-situ flue-gas oxygen analyzers located at the boiler outlet. State of the art control systems allows O₂ trim to be biased for the oxygen not participating in the combustion and burn-out processes which enters the flue gas via tramp air sources (wall box seal air or casing leakage).

4.0 SYSTEM OPERATION

4.1 Control System

Control and monitoring of the GR-LNB system is not complicated and may be accomplished with any modern control system that can be integrated into an existing boiler control system. The design of the GR-LNB control system is based on the following criteria:

- All normal operations that are required to start, stop, or modulate the various pieces of equipment shall be performed in the control room.
- Sufficient information shall be displayed in the control room to enable the operator to determine the status of all equipment. The operator interface shall be designed so that the above information is displayed in a manner to enable rapid understanding of system status.
- Certain operations shall be interlocked to prevent inadvertent operation of equipment when such operation may present an operating hazard or other undesirable condition.
- Certain shutdown procedures shall be initiated automatically by the control system when such operations are deemed necessary for safety or good operating practice.
- Microprocessor based technology shall be used for the controls and interlocks.
- Operator interface shall be of the keyboard-CRT type with custom graphics.
- The system will readily interface with existing plant instrumentation and be of a design that will enable operator familiarity and understanding with a minimum of training.

Interlocks are included which are designed to start the equipment in an orderly fashion and prevent the operator from allowing the unit's safety to become compromised either through erroneous operation or due to equipment failure. All major commands issued by the

control system are verified by a feedback signal. Trip signals are continuously monitored and will prevent startup or shutdown of equipment already in operation.

4.2 Operation

4.2.1 GR System

The First Generation GR system is composed of three integrated systems: (1) natural gas injection, (2) FGR, and (3) OFA injection. The natural gas flow rate is controlled to the desired value for optimum NO_x destruction. The FGR flow is controlled at a rate that provides adequate natural gas momentum for optimum mixing in the furnace. The OFA is controlled to a rate to complete combustion of all unburned fuel leaving the reburning zone. The three integrated systems are interlocked, operated and monitored by the control system. With the Second Generation GR system the FGR is eliminated but the gas injection and OFA control remain the same.

The control logic for natural gas injection consists of a flow controller which receives a calculated set point from the boiler master and the natural gas flow transmitter. A comparison is made in the fuel controller between the set point and feedback signals and the controller output modulates the natural gas control valve to reduce any error to zero. The boiler master controls gas flow with coal flow to obtain the Btu input needed over the load range. A percentage of the boiler master signal is calculated and becomes the set point for the desired natural gas flow.

The desired FGR (when applied) flow control set point is a calculated value determined from the boiler master signal. This set point signal is compared with the actual value of FGR flow rate in a PID controller which acts upon any detected error signal. The control system will automatically adjust the FGR fan to reduce the error to zero.

Control of the OFA system consists of sending a set point signal calculated from the boiler master signal to a controller where it is compared with the total of the OFA air flows. The OFA nozzles are modulated to reduce any detected difference in the set point and total OFA flow to zero. The control system compares the signals from the OFA flow transmitters to balance the flow of air.

Another control feature of the GR system is the cross limit between the OFA flow and natural gas flow. The set point for natural gas is compared with the OFA flow. If the natural gas flow set point is greater than the amount of OFA flow required for complete combustion of natural gas, the control system will decrease the natural gas set point to a value that permits complete combustion of the natural gas by the OFA. If the natural gas flow is greater than the OFA flow, the set point signal for OFA is increased to a value that will permit complete combustion of the natural gas. The above sequence is called cross limiting between the fuel (natural gas) and OFA and is very similar to the cross limiting features in the main combustion control between the coal feed and secondary air flow.

There is another cross limit between the FGR flow and the natural gas flow. If the FGR flow falls below a value that insures optimum penetration of the natural gas into the boiler (i.e., good mixing with the products of the coal combustion process), the set point for natural gas flow will be reduced to a safe value.

4.2.2 LNB System

The low NO_x burners are operated as an independent system to GR with the exception of the permissive regarding the flame scanners. A select number of burner flame scanners must see a flame before the GR system may be put in service. The opposite is true also; if there are not enough burners sensing a flame the GR system will automatically shut down.

The burners are controlled from the boiler master control system. The main secondary air flow dampers to each burner row are controlled by load demand. With the FlamemastEER™ burners, the air swirl settings for the secondary and tertiary air are normally set manually during initial startup and then the main damper to each row of burners is controlled by the pulverizer coal rate set point. There is one other variable that is normally changed when GR is combined with LNBs and that is the excess air to the burners. The LNBs under GR operation will normally be run at about 10 per cent excess air compared to 15 to 20% excess air with LNBs only.

4.3 Optimization

4.3.1 GR System

Optimization of the GR system is performed using a series of parametric tests to characterize the independent reburning variables and associated responses of the system at various boiler loads. By using these data, the appropriate set points can be established for a range of NO_x emissions reductions. Prior to optimization, baseline tests are performed in order to establish both the pre- and post-installation boiler conditions without GR in operation. Five independent variables are involved in the parametric tests including:

- Boiler load -- A sufficient number of load conditions must be tested to develop the curve generators for the control system that enable automatic load-following.
- Percentage of total heat input proportioned to natural gas The coal flow is reduced in direct proportion to the natural gas injected into the reburning zone.
- Percentage of total flue gas used in FGR The FGR system (if required) is used to provide momentum to the injected natural gas for optimum mixing with the boiler flue gas. The level of FGR can directly impact the NO_x conversion capabilities of the system. It has a greater impact for those applications where there are short reburn zone residence times (<0.5 sec.).

- Percentage of total combustion air used at OFA OFA impacts the ability to burnout the combustibles in the reburn zone gas.
- Primary zone stoichiometric ratio (SR₁) A low SR₁ is optimal for NO_x reduction. However, the utility must establish the lower limit of SR₁ that minimizes the potential for corrosion in the bottom of the boiler. Flame appearance must also be acceptable. For cyclone boilers, there will be little change in SR₁ due to the operational fuel-to-air ratio constraints characteristic of cyclones. The optimum SR₁ therefore will be in the range of 1.05 to 1.15, depending on boiler type.

Dependent variables include:

- Reburning zone stoichiometric ratio (SR₂) SR₂ is directly proportional to the natural gas heat input for an established SR₁ condition. At a zero gas condition, SR₂ is equal to SR₁. As gas is introduced, SR₂ decreases. The optimum level of SR₂ is around 0.90.
- Burnout zone stoichiometric ratio (SR₃) All combustion air not used in the primary zone becomes OFA. Depending on the excess air level selected by the utility, SR₃ will be approximately 1.15.

Stoichiometric ratios are calculated using boiler data collected during testing. The following additional data are used to measure boiler emissions and assess operating characteristics:

- Stack emissions These include NO_x, O₂, CO, and CO₂.
- Control room data Data are used to calculate the stoichiometric ratios, thermal efficiency and heat absorption.
- Coal samples Samples are evaluated to determine coal fineness, composition and volatility.
- Ash samples Samples are evaluated to determine carbon-in-ash and loss of ignition.
- In-furnace measurement HVT tests are used to characterize the temperature and flow stratifications in the boiler for comparison with process design models. The HVT is also used to assess CO distribution.
- Visual observation The potential for slagging and fouling of boiler tubes and other areas of the boiler are assessed.

Parametric testing is performed using a pre-planned test matrix. The matrix involves various combinations of the five dependent variables listed above to determine the effects on NO_x emissions and other boiler responses. Evaluation of these results plus consideration of any unique boiler operating constraints are required to approximate the optimal set points for reburning operation. Additional tests are performed using minor adjustments to the dependent variables to fine tune the system. Once the set points are established for various load conditions, the data are entered into the control system providing for an automatic load following capability.

4.3.2 LNB System

Optimization of the LNB system is performed in the field during startup wherein the LNB secondary and tertiary air swirl settings are optimized to yield low NO_x emissions and good carbon burnout over the boiler load range. Normally the longer the coal flame, the less NO_x produced. Considering carbon in the fly ash, the shorter the flame the better the carbon burnout and the lower the carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. Therefore, the final swirl settings for the secondary and tertiary air zones are dictated by these two aspects of combustion.

Another parameter that affects LNB NO_x reduction performance and carbon burnout is the amount of excess air used. Normally, the lower the excess air, the higher the NO_x reduction but the higher the carbon in ash and flue gas CO. Therefore, the concentration of oxygen at the exit of the boiler is also a critical operating parameter for the LNB system. A finer grind of coal will normally allow the furnace exit oxygen concentration to be reduced slightly and that will improve NO_x reduction but also provide for good carbon burnout and low CO emissions.

5.0 TECHNOLOGY PERFORMANCE

The objective of the test program was to demonstrate the effectiveness of combined GR-LNB technology in reducing NO_x emissions from a wall-fired power generating unit. This section presents the results of the demonstration showing the data from both short-term parametric/optimization and long-term tests. The presentation includes First Generation and Second Generation GR plus the results of gas w/gas reburning tests.

5.1 Baseline Testing

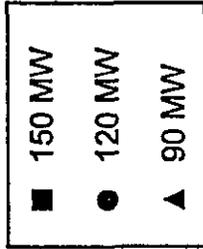
Baseline testing on Cherokee Unit #3 was conducted prior to the GR-LNB retrofit. The testing was designed to monitor the daily operation of the boiler and auxiliary equipment under predetermined load conditions in a manner consistent with normal operation. The parameters which were varied during testing were excess O₂ and load. No attempt was made to optimize the operation of the boiler before testing, since the purpose was to document the "as found" condition.

A detailed Baseline Test Report was prepared during Phase I and submitted for record. The NO_x emissions data from the report are summarized in Figures 5-1 for full load conditions, adjusted to a dry 3%O₂ basis.

At near full load (150 MW_e net) the average emissions measured were:

NO _x	541 ppm (0.73 lb/10 ⁶ Btu)
SO ₂	355 ppm
CO	67 ppm
Carbon-in-ash	4.4 wt %

Cherokee Unit 3
Pre-Construction
Baseline Results



Conventional burners
Four mill operation

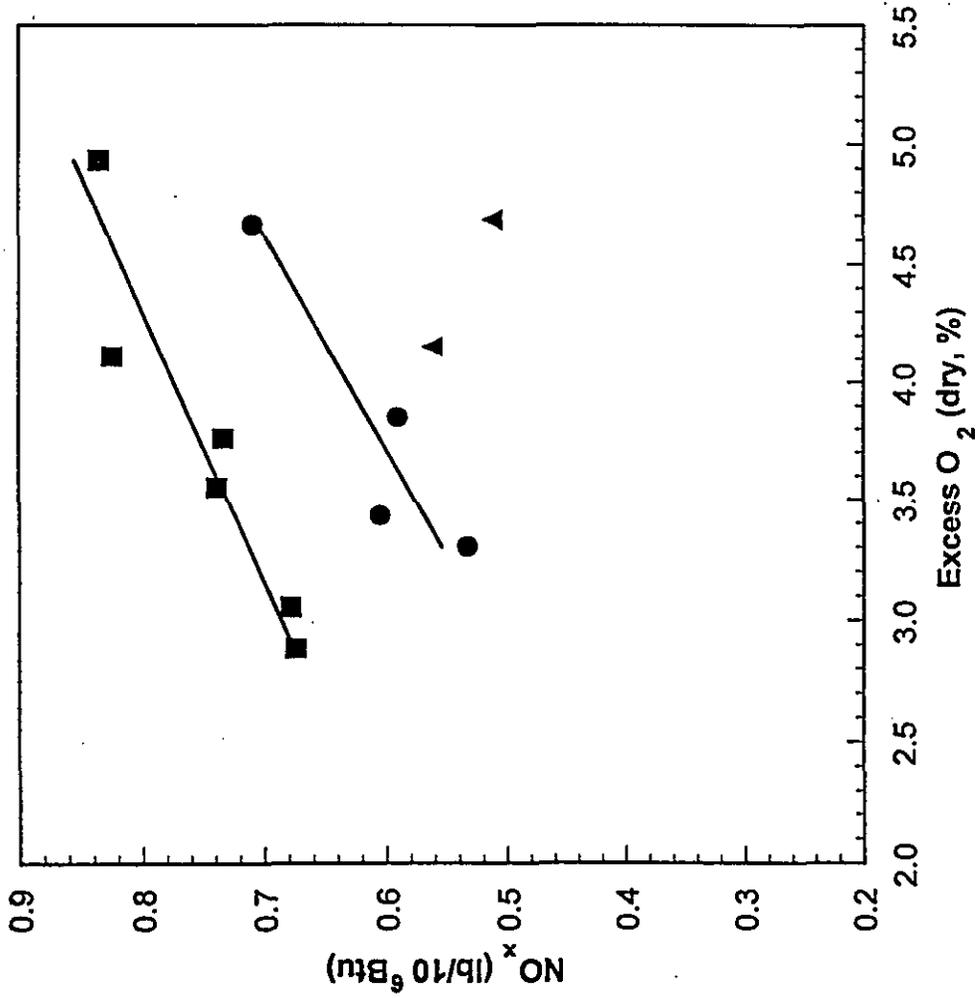


Figure 5-1. Baseline NO_x versus furnace exit flue gas O₂

NO_x The baseline NO_x emission levels were considered reasonable and comparable to other wall-fired units of similar design, size and age. As expected, NO_x emissions increased as excess O₂ increased.

SO₂ The baseline SO₂ emission levels were reflective of the low-sulfur coal that was fired.

CO The baseline CO emission levels increased as excess O₂ was decreased. During the tests, in some cases, the CO emission rates were high. It was believed that the high CO levels were caused by coal fineness out of specification on three of the four mills and the use of wet coal due to rain occurring during the test program.

CO₂ The CO₂ levels were typical for the fuel fired.

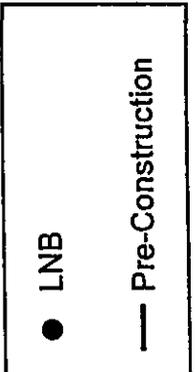
Carbon-in-ash The carbon-in-ash levels increased with decreasing excess air, but were generally less than 5%.

5.2 LNB Baseline

The existing sixteen burners were replaced with FWEC internal fuel-staging LNBs. The burners employ dual combustion air registers which allow for control of air distribution at the burner, providing independent control of the ignition zone and flame shape. A NO_x reduction of 45% from baseline was projected at the full load condition.

The purpose of the baseline test series was to (1) compare the performance with that of the original boiler equipment, and (2) establish stabilized conditions prior to the start of each GR-LNB parametric test. The NO_x reduction results of the test series is presented in Figure 5-2.

Cherokee Unit 3
 First Generation GR
 Low NOx Burners
 LNB Baseline Results



140-160 MWe (net)
 0% Gas
 0% OFA

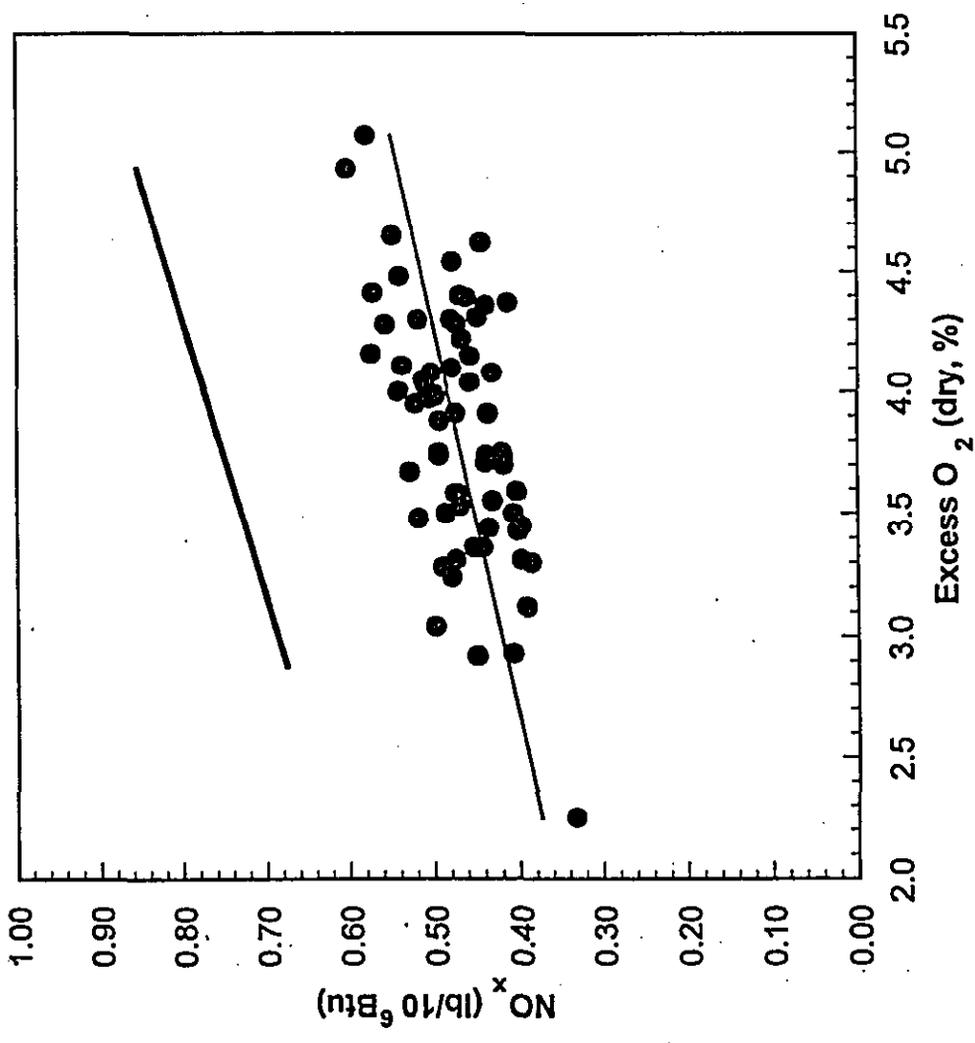


Figure 5-2. LNB baseline NO_x versus furnace exit flue gas O₂

The NO_x emissions, carbon-in-ash and CO emissions for LNB only operation are shown below, summarizing the average results and comparing them to the original equipment baseline values:

Furnace exit O ₂	<u>3%</u>	<u>4%</u>	<u>5%</u>
NO _x (lb/10 ⁶ Btu)			
baseline	0.68	0.77	0.86
LNB	0.42	0.49	0.54
% change	-38%	-36%	-37%
Carbon-in-ash			
baseline	5%	5%	4%
LNB	8%	5%	2%
CO (ppm)			
baseline	<300	<50	<50
LNB	<1000	<500	<100

The data show that the LNBs reduced NO_x emissions by about 37%. However, carbon-in-ash and CO could not be maintained at acceptable levels at the normal excess air level (~3%O₂). By boosting the excess air, the carbon-in-ash and CO could be lowered to approximately baseline conditions, but at the expense of higher NO_x emissions. Note that the targeted LNB reduction in NO_x emissions (45%) was not achieved; the achievement of this level of reduction with LNBs served the basis EER used for predicting an overall 70% reduction for the GR-LNB system.

The combustion air to the LNBs was varied to establish the relationships between primary zone stoichiometric ratio (SR₁) and boiler emissions and performance. If SR₁ could be reduced, the level of NO_x reduction per amount of reburn fuel added would increase. In addition, reducing SR₁ results in lower NO_x emissions from the burners. The normal operating SR₁ for the LNBs was approximately 1.23. When this ratio is lowered there is a reduced level of oxygen available that decreases the formation of fuel bound and thermal NO_x in the primary zone.

SR₁ has a lower limit (unique for each boiler) to avoid localized pockets of oxygen deficient flue gas, otherwise known as reducing atmospheres, which could result in accelerated corrosion in the lower furnace. It should be noted that there were no indications of reducing atmospheres in the burner zone of the furnace and no evidence of accelerated boiler tube corrosion rates at any time during the test program.

The test results for the series are displayed in Figure 5-3 NO_x versus SR₁. As expected, NO_x emissions were lower when SR₁ was reduced. The rate of reduction tapered off as SR₁ fell below 1.10. CO for the most part remained below 150 ppm, demonstrating that as SR₁ is reduced, CO can be controlled by the OFA ports. A negative impact was the higher level of carbon-in-ash (greater than 7%). A goal of the GR technology was to avoid increasing the unburned carbon.

5.3 GR-LNB (First Generation GR)

The test program was designed to (1) evaluate the impacts of GR-LNB on gaseous emissions, boiler performance and operability, and operating costs, and (2) to determine the boiler set points required to reduce the NO_x emissions to the program goal of 70%. This section presents the results of the parametric/optimization tests performed on the First Generation GR (w/FGR) system.

Optimization of the GR system was accomplished by systematically varying the process parameters of the system which affect overall NO_x emissions. The results of each parametric variation was used to establish the basis for the next parametric variation in succession. Thus the testing proceeded in logical fashion until all parameters were varied and their effects evaluated.

Cherokee Unit 3
First Generation GR
LNB-OFA
SRI Variation Results

140-160 MWe (net)
0% Gas

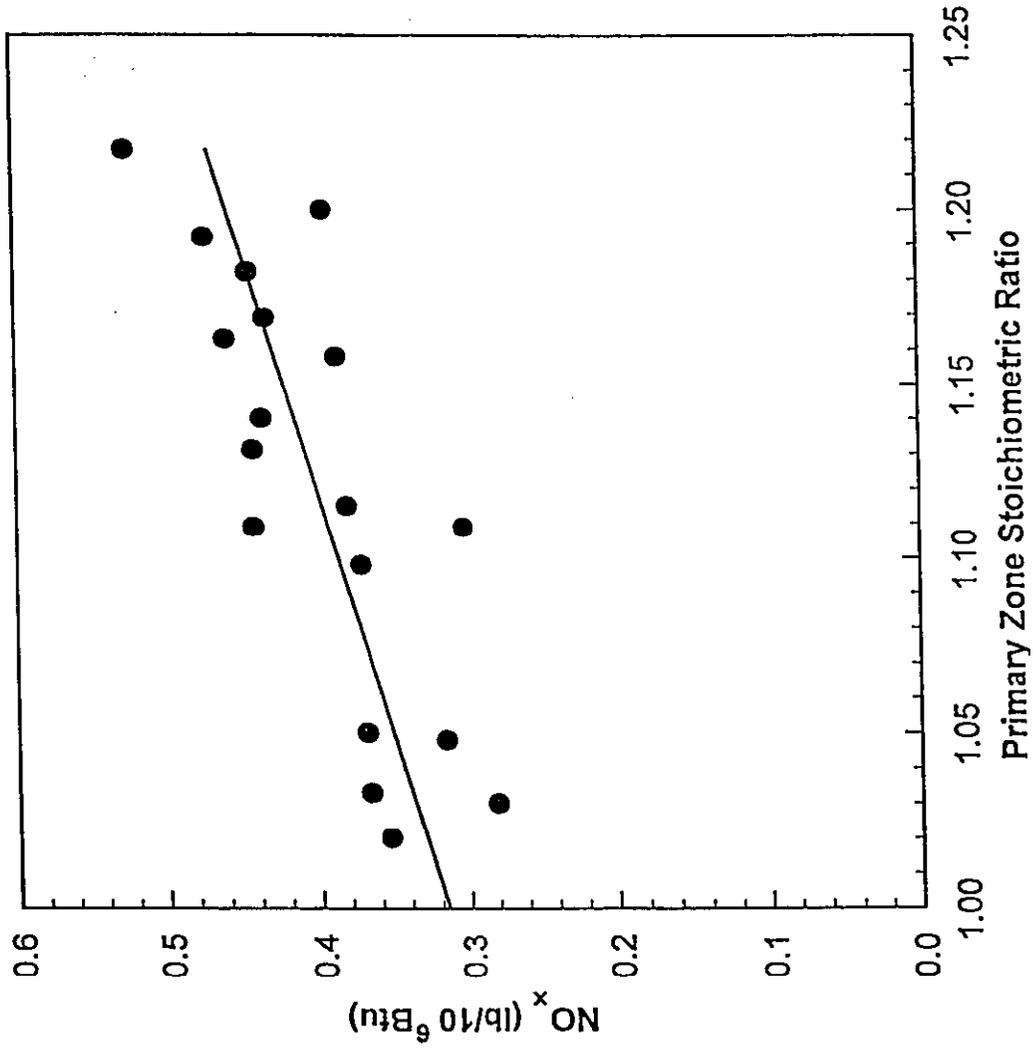


Figure 5-3. LNB w/OFA NO_x versus primary zone stoichiometric ratio (SR₁)

The sequence of testing was as follows:

- LNB emissions were measured without GR in operation and compared to the original baseline.
- The excess air fired in the burners was varied to determine the minimum excess air level at which the burners could be operated commensurate with maintaining acceptable carbon loss and CO emissions. These tests were performed with and without the OFA system in operation.
- The natural gas was varied to determine the relationship between NO_x emissions and gas heat input. The impact on carbon-in-ash was also assessed. The test series was used to study the effects of changes to the reburn zone stoichiometric ratio on reburn performance.
- The OFA was varied to determine the relationship between CO and excess air. The test series was used to identify the optimum overall excess air levels for reburn operation.

The majority of the tests were performed at near full load (150 MW_e). However, a significant number of tests were performed at reduced load (120 and 90 MW_e).

5.3.1 Gas Heat Input Variation

The tests of variable gas heat input were designed to establish its relationship with NO_x emissions. SR₂ is influenced by the amount of combustion air directed into the primary zone and the amount of gas injected into the reburn zone, measured as a percentage of total heat input to the boiler. Normally, the stoichiometric ratio of the flue gas exiting the primary zone is greater than 1.0. As natural gas is injected into the boiler, this ratio decreases and eventually creates a substoichiometric zone (SR₂ < 1.0) that is conducive to NO_x reduction. As the oxygen concentration in the flue gas entering the reburn zone decreases, less gas is required to reach the optimum reburn zone stoichiometric ratio. Note that SR₂ is directly proportional to the gas heat input.

Small scale results have shown that overall NO_x reductions are highest when SR₂ is in the region of 0.90. Reducing the stoichiometric ratio below this level does not generally produce a significantly higher NO_x reduction. The natural gas flow rate is determined by the lowest attainable operating SR level of the LNBs (including mills out-of-service), and the boiler load.

Figure 5-4 presents the relationship between NO_x emission and gas heat input. Increasing the amount of reburn fuel lowers NO_x emissions. However, the greatest reburning benefit occurs within the first 10% of gas heat input.

Limited carbon-in-ash data are available. However, the results show that at the more desirable (lower) SR₁, the carbon-in-ash is no worse than that of the LNBs. Also, lower values of carbon-in-ash were observed at the higher gas heat input levels.

5.3.2 Overfire Air (OFA) Variation

OFA is injected into the boiler to complete combustion of the reburn fuel. OFA is typically 15-20 percent of the total air flow. When applying reburning, it is desirable to minimize the overall excess air level to maintain high thermal efficiencies. However, the OFA must also be adjusted to minimize CO emissions. The OFA flow capacity is bound by (1) the minimum air requirements to consume the remaining combustibles and (2) the maximum air available from the windbox. The OFA variation tests showed, as anticipated, minimal effects on NO_x emissions.

5.3.3 Flue Gas Recirculation (FGR) Variation

In the parametric tests the rate of carrier flue gas was varied from 4,000 to 14,000 scfm. The maximum design flow for the reburn fuel carrier flue gas was 3.4% of total boiler flue gas flow, nominally 12,000 scfm.

Cherokee Unit 3
First Generation GR
GR-LNB
Gas Variation Results

140-160 MWe (net)
SR1: 1.08-1.10
with OFA

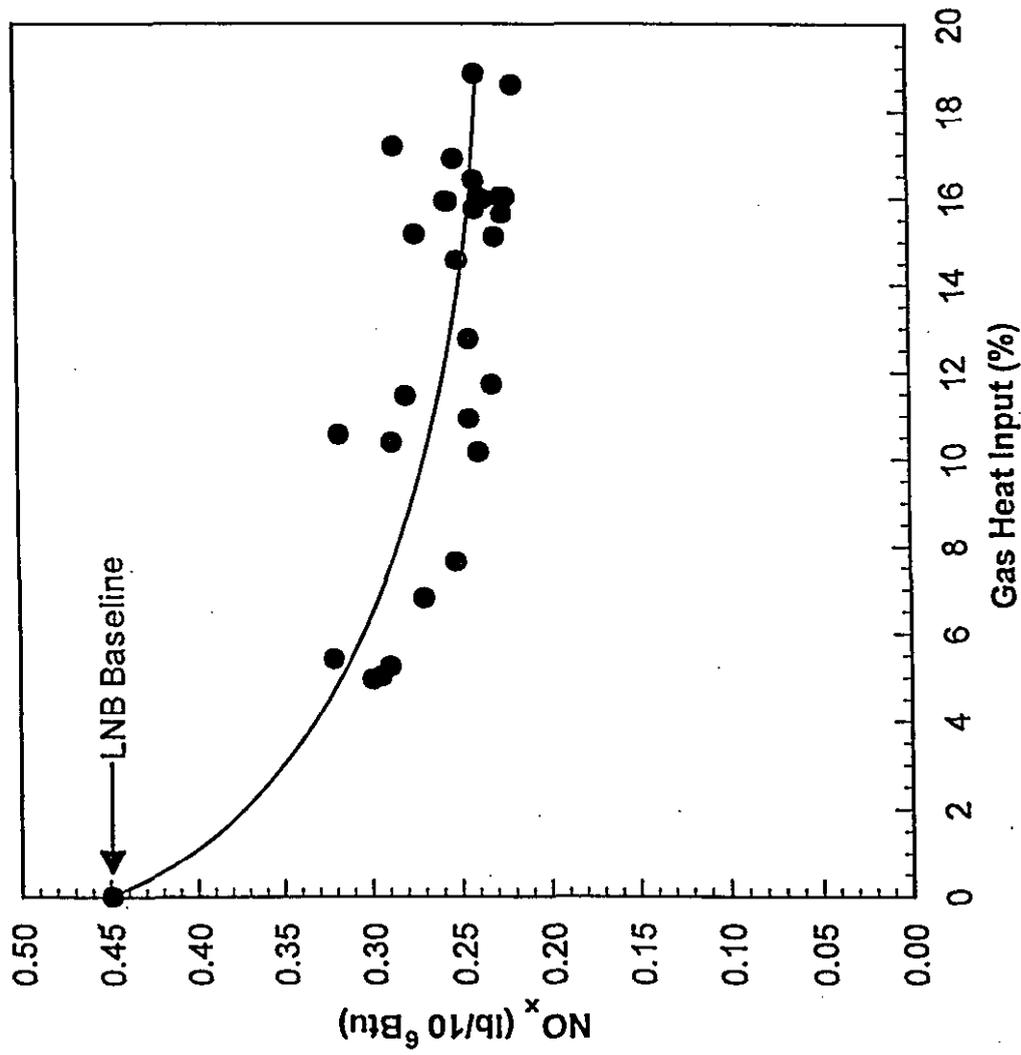


Figure 5-4. GR-LNB NO_x versus natural gas heat input reburn fuel

The effects of the FGR variation are displayed in Figure 5-5. The data show that the quantity of FGR which was injected into the reburn zone had little effect on NO_x emissions. In the initial stages of the parametric test program, 10,000 scfm was identified as the optimum amount of FGR, but later tests showed that 4,000 scfm was sufficient for good penetration of the reburn fuel into the furnace.

Use of the minimum 4,000 scfm rate of FGR resulted in only slightly less NO_x reduction. It was demonstrated that any FGR rate in the range of 4,000 scfm to 14,000 scfm (maximum obtainable) could be used for the purpose of reburn fuel injection and for cost reasons, the lower the rate the better. The use of FGR resulted in higher steam attemperation water flow due to the release of heat higher up in the furnace.

5.3.4 Assessment of Results

The goals of the GR-LNB project were as follows:

- Reduce NO_x emissions by 70% from baseline which corresponds to a NO_x emissions level of 0.22 lb/10⁶ Btu (94 mg/MJ)
- Maintain the operational integrity of the unit during operation of the GR-LNB system
- Hold CO emissions to acceptable levels (100 ppm or lower)
- Verify the long term operability of the combined technology while operating in the normal power generating mode of unit control by load dispatch over long periods of time

A series of parametric tests were performed to determine the optimum boiler set points that would achieve these goals. The parametric test results are discussed as they were used to establish these set points.

Cherokee Unit 3
First Generation GR
GR-LNB
FGR Variation Results

140-160 MWe (net)
15-19% Gas

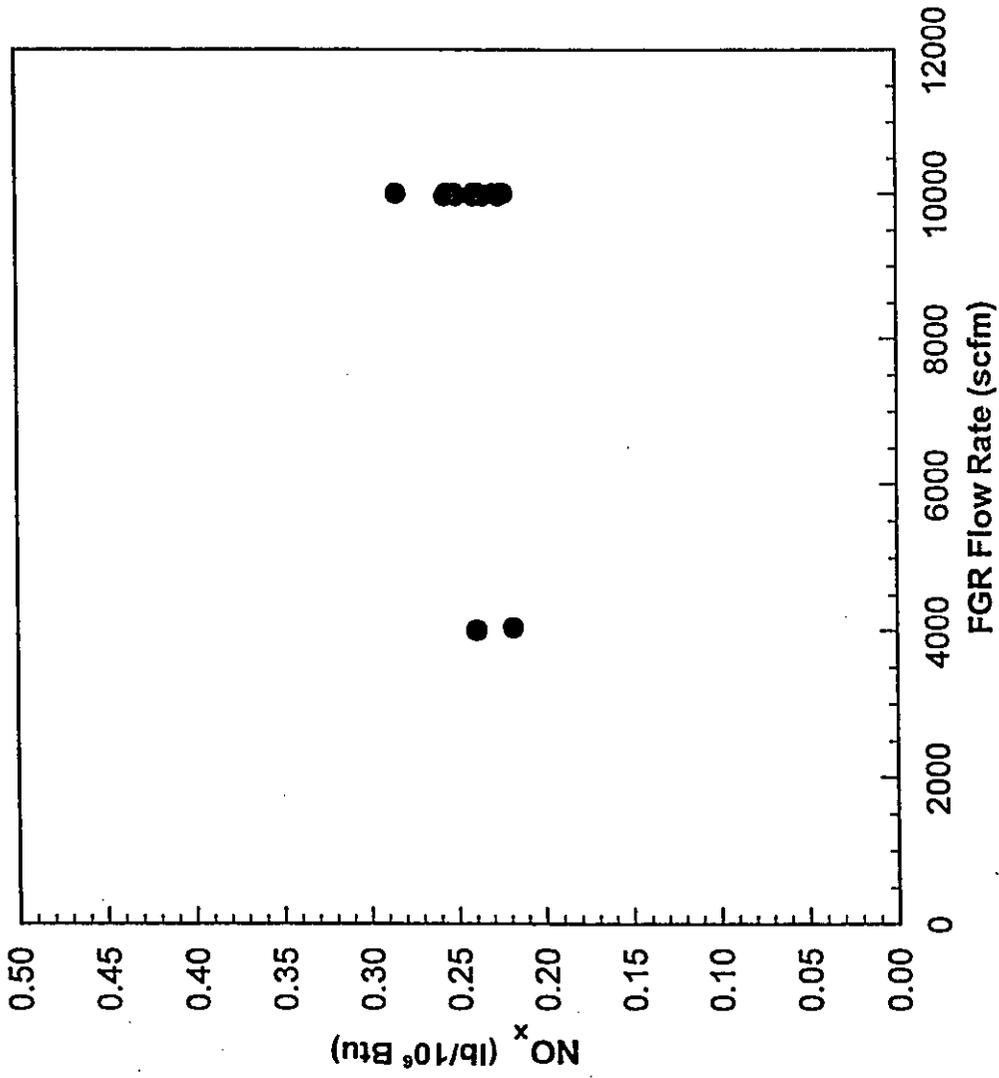


Figure 5-5. GR-LNB NO_x versus FGR flowrate

A series of tests were performed with LNBS only and with GR-LNB to determine the lower limit of SR_1 . Note that the lowest attainable level of SR_1 results in the minimum natural gas usage required to reach the optimum SR_2 . However, SR_1 is lowered at the expense of higher carbon-in-ash. The results of these tests indicated that the optimum SR_1 was 1.08 with a carbon-in-ash level of 4.5 wt %.

As expected, higher gas levels (15-19%) were required to achieve the NO_x reduction goal. Carbon-in-ash levels were also lower at higher gas levels. To achieve the targeted SR_2 level of 0.90, a gas heat input of 18% (4,850 scfm) was required. Although a 70% reduction in NO_x was achieved for short periods of time, the average was 65%. Significantly higher gas heat inputs were required to consistently maintain a 70% reduction.

Tests of the OFA system indicated that CO was controllable to less than 100 ppm with a SR_3 of approximately 1.15. This corresponds to an air flow of 68,000 scfm, which is about 30% of total air flow to the unit. At low gas flow, CO emissions were found to be high. Low gas operation requires reduced OFA flow, leading to reduced jet penetration and mixing and elevation of CO emissions. CO emissions were also high during operation with LNBS only.

The SR in each zone could vary by about ± 0.02 with equally effective NO_x reduction results. The variation in SRs is primarily attributable to the process control systems on the unit. The output of the forced draft (FD) fans that supply combustion air to the unit could easily vary by $\pm 2\%$ which could produce a variance of ± 0.02 in the furnace zone SR's. This is not considered an abnormal condition and could occur in most power plants. During the controlled parametric tests, process outputs such as combustion air flow from the FD fans could be adjusted manually. In this way, the desired furnace SRs could be controlled to a target average.

The results of the parametric testing were used to establish the operating conditions that would yield the desired test objectives. For full load, these conditions were as follows:

SR ₁	1.08
SR ₂	0.90
SR ₃	1.15
Gas heat input	18%
FGR	4,000 - 10,000 scfm
OFA	68,000 scfm
O ₂	3.25%
NO _x	0.25 lb/10 ⁶ Btu (107 mg/MJ)
NO _x reduction	66%
CO	43 ppm
Carbon-in-ash	4.50%

The combined technology GR-LNB proved to be effective, but the total NO_x reduction was not as great as could have been achieved with better LNB performance. LNBs reduced NO_x emissions by 37% but never achieved the anticipated reduction of 45% over the normal load range of 80 to 150 MW_e. This diminished the potential NO_x reduction that could be obtained for the combined GR-LNB system. An estimated 5% to 10% decline in the overall system NO_x reduction potential was attributable to the substandard LNB performance.

Also, the sluggish action of the combustion air control valve (old pneumatic type) did not keep the excess air at or near the desired levels during the long term test phase. This resulted in higher than desired excess air levels at times that yielded higher NO_x emissions. Based on the results of the parametric tests, nominal operating conditions for long term testing were established as follows:

SR ₁	1.10
SR ₂	0.90
SR ₃	1.20
Gas heat input	18%

The long term test series lasted for approximately nine months. During this time the average NO_x reduction was 65% (Figure 5-6), while CO was maintained below an emission level of 100 ppm. The goal of 70% NO_x reduction was achieved for short periods when the combustion controls were in manual mode for better control of excess air to the unit. When the unit was operated in the load-following mode, the nominal operating parameters were difficult to maintain and there was a continual variation from the desired operating conditions. The reaction time for changes in the GR set points was about 20 minutes after the demand signal was received. As mentioned, this was due to an antiquated pneumatic bellows arrangement on the combustion air flow valve that did not react quickly enough to changes in air flow demand.

5.3.5 Reduced Load Testing

One objective of this project was to demonstrate a GR system that would be effective for NO_x reduction throughout the entire operating range of the boiler while in load-following mode under dispatch control. Optimization tests were conducted at loads from 60 to 150 MW_e, but it became apparent that the effective operating load range of the boiler was at loads of 70 MW_e and higher. The boiler load range for practical operation of the GR system was 80 to 150 MW_e. This was due to the difficulty in maintaining stable loads while operating below 80 MW_e and the necessity to operate the boiler at high levels of excess air to maintain final superheat and reheat steam temperatures.

Boiler load impacts GR performance in terms of the primary zone NO_x emission level and the furnace gas temperature profile. As load was reduced, the NO_x formation in the primary zone was reduced as a result of less fuel being burned, and temperatures throughout the furnace were lower due to the reduced thermal input to the boiler. To maintain the main and reheat steam outlet temperatures at reduced loads, excess air was increased, shifting some of the heat transfer within the boiler from the radiant section (furnace tube walls) to the convection passes (superheat/reheat tube banks).

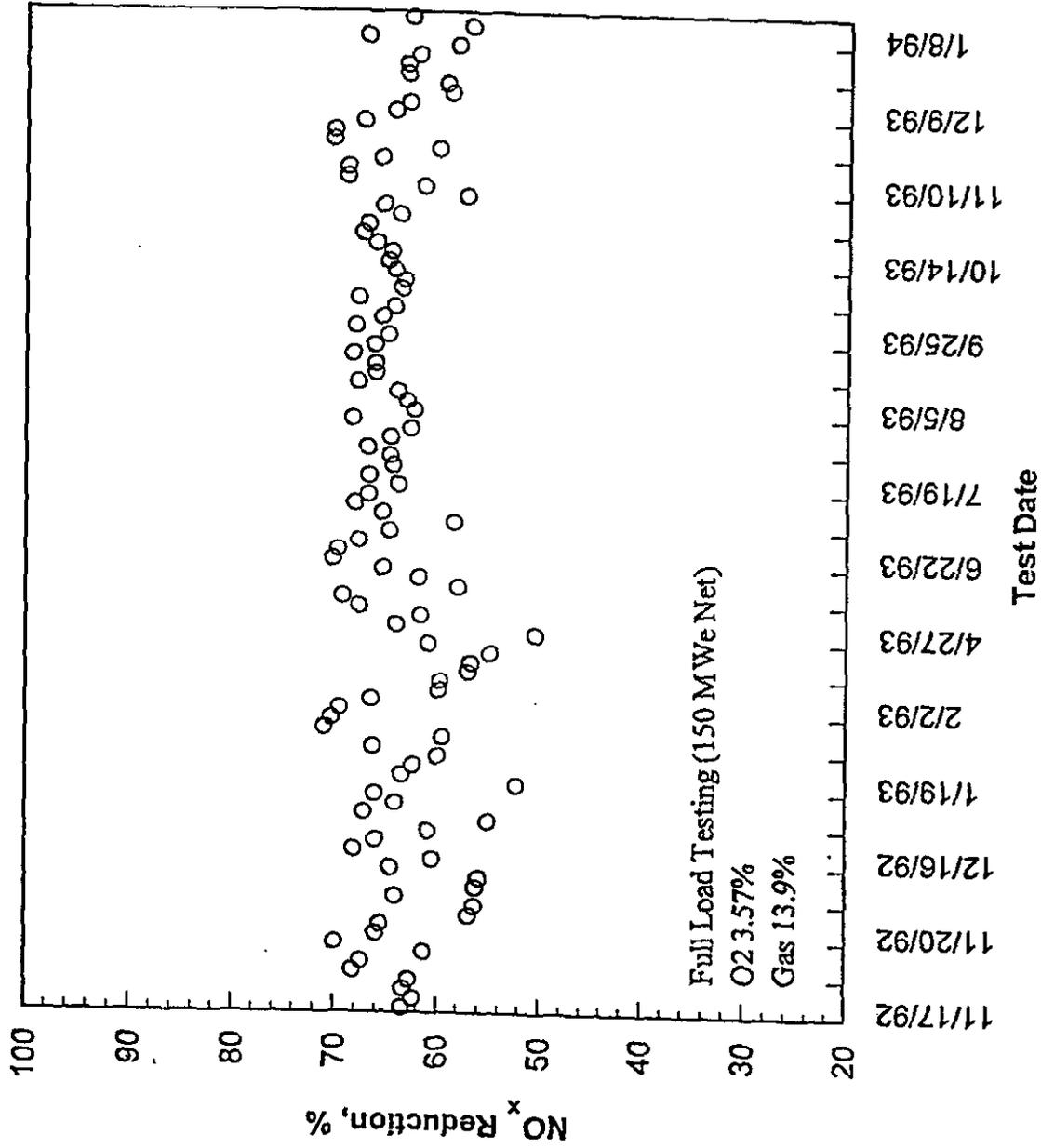


Figure 5-6. GR-LNB NO_x reduction versus time

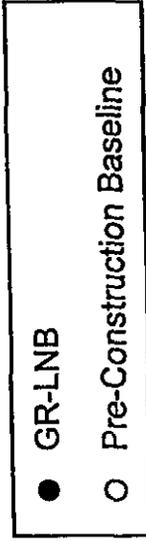
Design data showed that lower NO_x levels and lower gas temperatures entering the reburning zone resulted in a decrease in the overall GR system NO_x reduction performance on a percentage basis from baseline levels. This was confirmed during the optimization testing.

Figure 5-7 shows NO_x emission levels as a function of gas heat input for the boiler operating load range. The results show that NO_x emission reductions decreased as load was reduced. However, NO_x emission levels remained near 0.20 lb/10⁶ Btu.

At Cherokee Unit #3, the normal mode of operation is to have all four mills in service at full load and to have three mills in service for loads below 120 MW_e. Operation with less than three mills resulted in unstable boiler operating conditions. The burners are fed by mills D to A, from the top row to the bottom row. Tests were conducted at 120 MW_e and 150 MW_e with D mill and its associated top row of burners out of service to determine the operational effects of combustion staging in combination with GR. To obtain full load with D mill out of service, it was necessary to inject a total of about 20% natural gas in the GR system.

The effect of combustion staging at full load was about a six percent improvement in NO_x reduction, from 66% with four mill operation to 72% with three mill operation. A greater NO_x reduction was expected from combustion staging with GR, but the previously discussed performance problems with the LNBS probably prevented combustion staging from being more effective in reducing NO_x emissions. Also, excess air fluctuations were experienced during testing which probably had a negative impact on the results. An indication of combustion problems during the three mill operation test was high carbon-in-ash which ranged from 6 to 9%.

Cherokee Unit 3
 First Generation GR
 GR-LNB
 Reduced Load Results



15-19% Gas

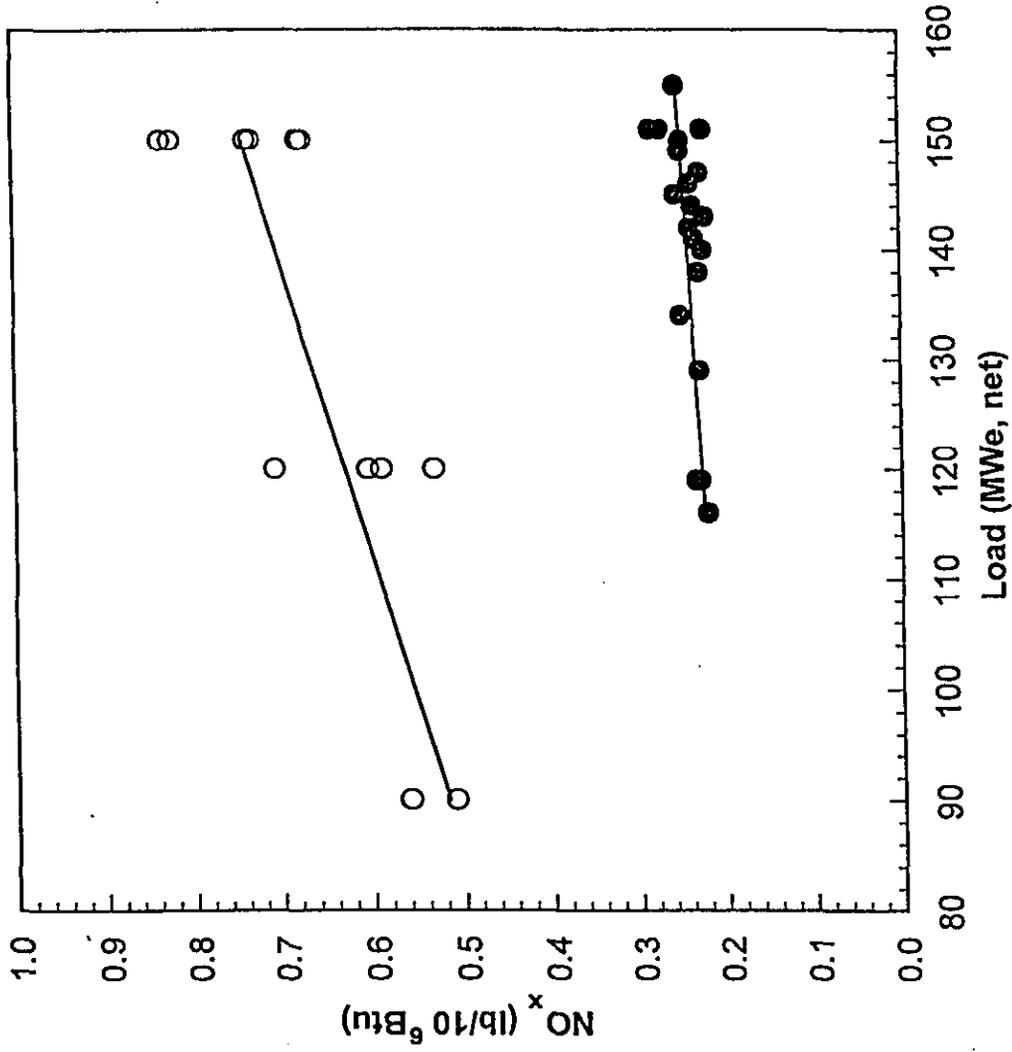


Figure 5-7. NO_x versus load

Limited testing was conducted at three mill operation because of Unit #3 operational problems and the requirement by dispatch management for full load operation during the time period scheduled for this testing.

5.4 GR-LNB (Second Generation GR)

FGR was used initially to provide momentum to the natural gas to achieve optimum boiler penetration and mixing. However, it was determined that the FGR had minimal effect on NO_x emissions. Certain problems associated with the FGR ash removal system made it attractive to consider a re-design of the gas injection system in order to eliminate the need for FGR altogether. The small amount of FGR required to transport the gas into the boiler, along with the lower amount of gas required for effective NO_x reduction, led to this decision.

It was determined that a gas injection pressure in the range of 1 to 5 psig would adequately penetrate and cover the cross-sectional area of the furnace to provide the necessary reducing conditions in the reburn zone. This eliminated the need for the FGR booster fans, duct work, and the multiclone dust collectors. The elimination of FGR will result in significant cost savings on future GR system installations.

A second series of tests was added to evaluate the modified configuration and judge its impact. This technology is referred to as Second Generation GR and is described as follows:

- The FGR system, originally designed to provide momentum to the natural gas, was removed. The change would result in reduced capital costs on future designs.
- Natural gas injection was optimized at 13% gas heat input, compared to the First Generation operating value of 18%. FGR elimination required incorporation of high velocity jet injectors that made good use of the available

natural gas pressure. The change resulted in reduced operating cost due to lower gas usage.

- The OFA ports were modified to provide higher jet momentum, especially at low total flows.
- The OFA ports were also modified to provide air swirl capability and velocity control. The modification was designed to improve lateral coverage of the furnace and turbulence in mixing with unburned fuel. This change provided CO control at lower gas levels, which was a concern with the First Generation design.

Prior to startup of the modified system, Foster Wheeler performed some modification work on the LNBS in an attempt to improve their NO_x reduction performance. The first tests following startup characterized the LNBS without GR in operation.

5.4.1 LNB Modifications

At the start of each Second Generation GR parametric test, the conditions of the boiler were stabilized before the data were taken. Data taken at the end of these startup periods were used as baseline data, since only LNBS were in operation during the start of each test. The results were used to compare the performance of originally-installed LNBS with the modified LNBS. Figure 5-8 presents a chart of NO_x versus excess air for LNB operation. Compared to the originally-installed LNB's and at an excess air level of 3.5%, the NO_x emissions showed a favorable improvement of 11%.

Compared to the conventional burners at the same excess air, the NO_x emissions were reduced by 44%, which was an improvement from the LNB baseline. However, the CO and carbon-in-ash levels were still unacceptably high. CO was in the 100-200 ppm range and carbon-in-ash was as high as 8%. Also, long flames persisted in the upper furnace region. Although the burner modifications now reduced NO_x emissions to the near target level of 45%, the performance was unacceptable from a CO and carbon-in-ash standpoint.

Cherokee Unit 3
Second Generation GR
GR-LNB
Gas Variation Results
140-160 MWe (Net)

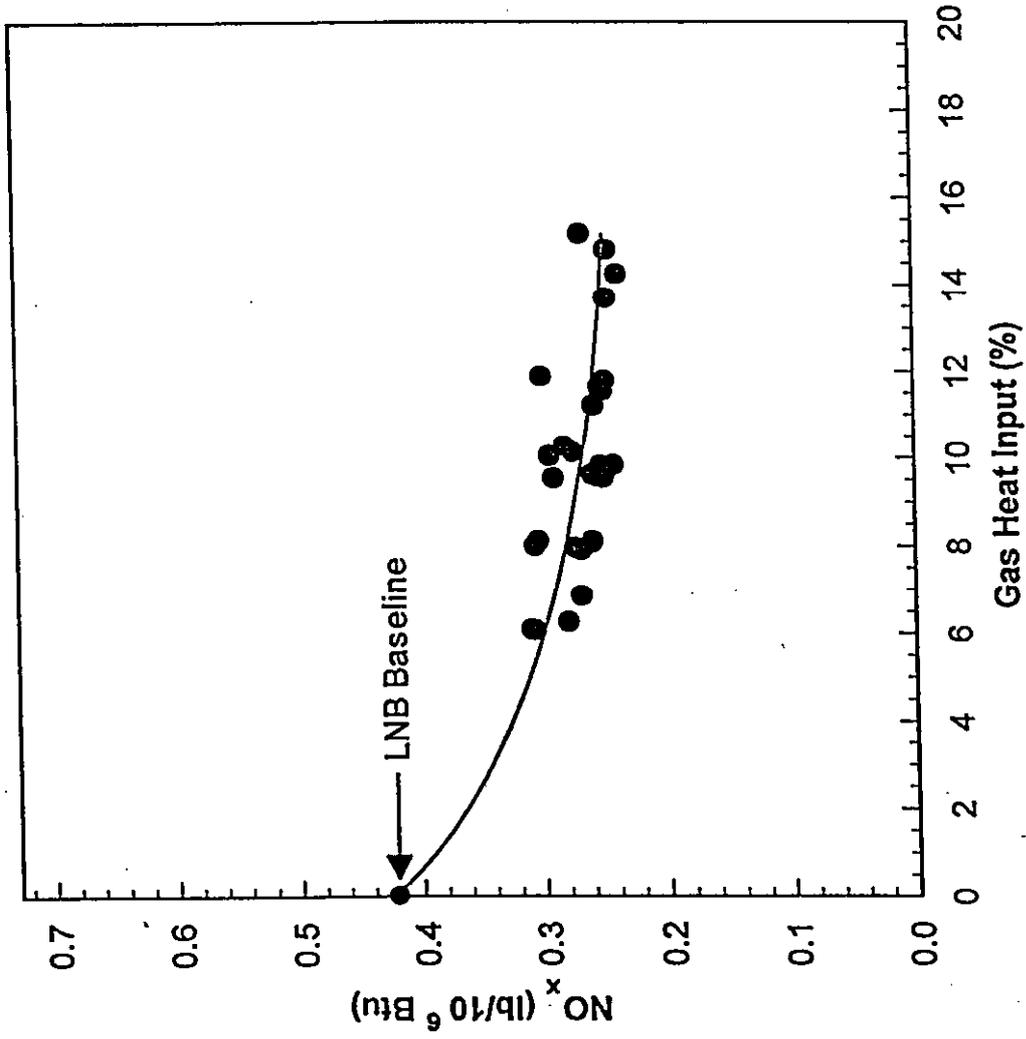


Figure 5-8. LNB-Modified baseline NO_x versus furnace exit flue gas O₂

5.4.2 Modified GR- LNB System

The results of the Second Generation GR-LNB test series are shown in Figure 5-9. The NO_x vs. gas heat input plot shows increased NO_x reduction as the level of gas increases, again similar to First Generation GR. At a gas heat input level of 12.5%, the NO_x level was 0.26 lb/10⁶ Btu (64% reduction). Carbon-in-ash levels were at or below the pre-construction baseline levels when the excess O₂ was above 3.5%. CO levels were somewhat higher than First Generation GR, but approximated the pre-construction levels when excess O₂ was above 3.5%.

Extended GR-LNB tests were conducted to verify the system performance. The tests were conducted both at constant loads and with the system under dispatch operation, where unit load was adjusted in order to meet the varying plant electrical output requirements. The load would vary from about 80 to 155 MW_e based on grid demand. The tests ranged in duration from one hour to several days. The results of long term testing are presented in Figure 5-10. As the figure shows, there was no relative change in NO_x emissions reduction between First and Second Generation GR, even with a reduced gas level.

5.4.3 Assessment of Results

FGR was used initially to provide momentum to the natural gas to achieve good boiler penetration. During long term testing it was determined that the FGR had minimal effect on NO_x emissions. Therefore, a second test series was added to evaluate the modified configuration and gage its impact. This Second Generation GR modifications included:

- Removal of the FGR system
- Installation of high velocity gas injectors

Cherokee Unit 3
Second Generation GR
GR-LNB
Gas Variation Results
140-160 MWe (Net)

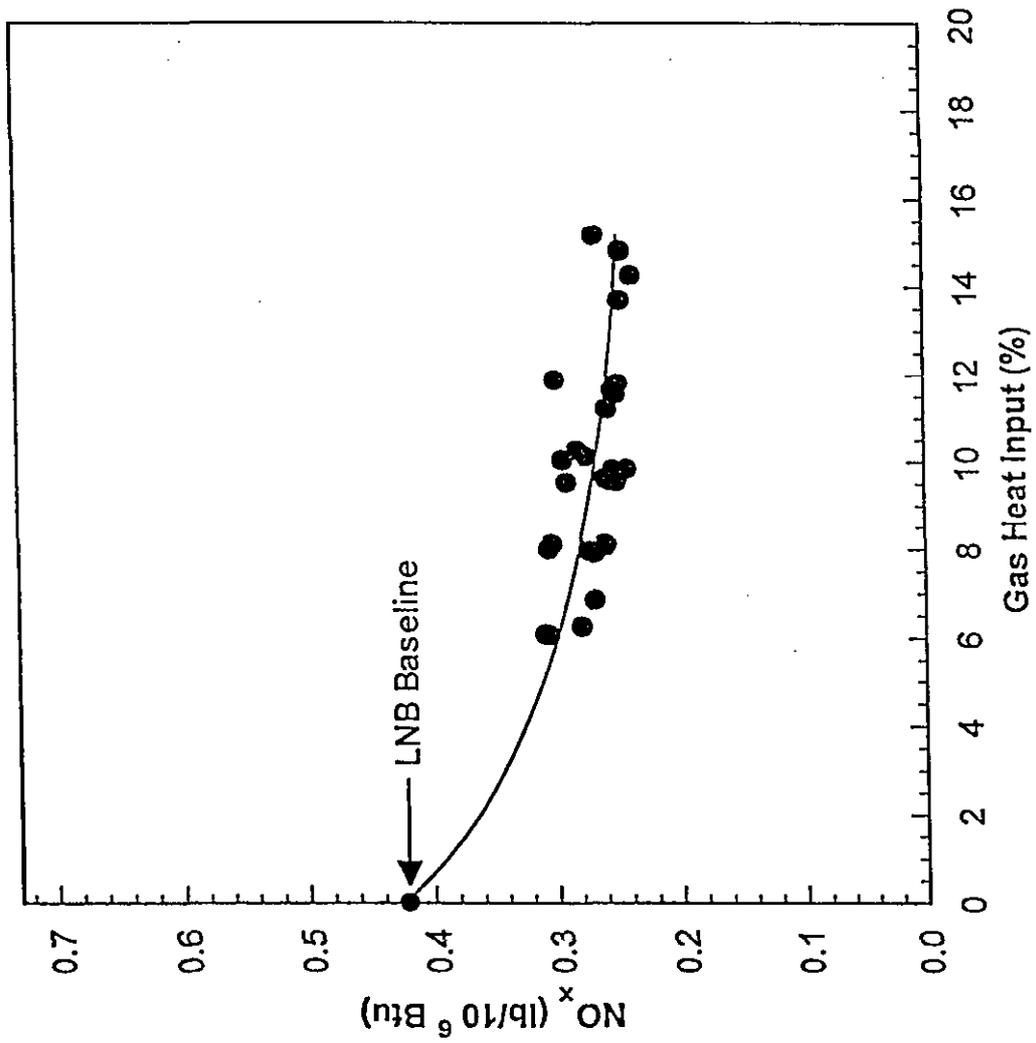


Figure 5-9. Second Generation GR-LNB NO_x reduction versus gas heat input

Cherokee Unit 3
 First and Second Generation GR
 GR-LNB
 140-160 MWe (Net)

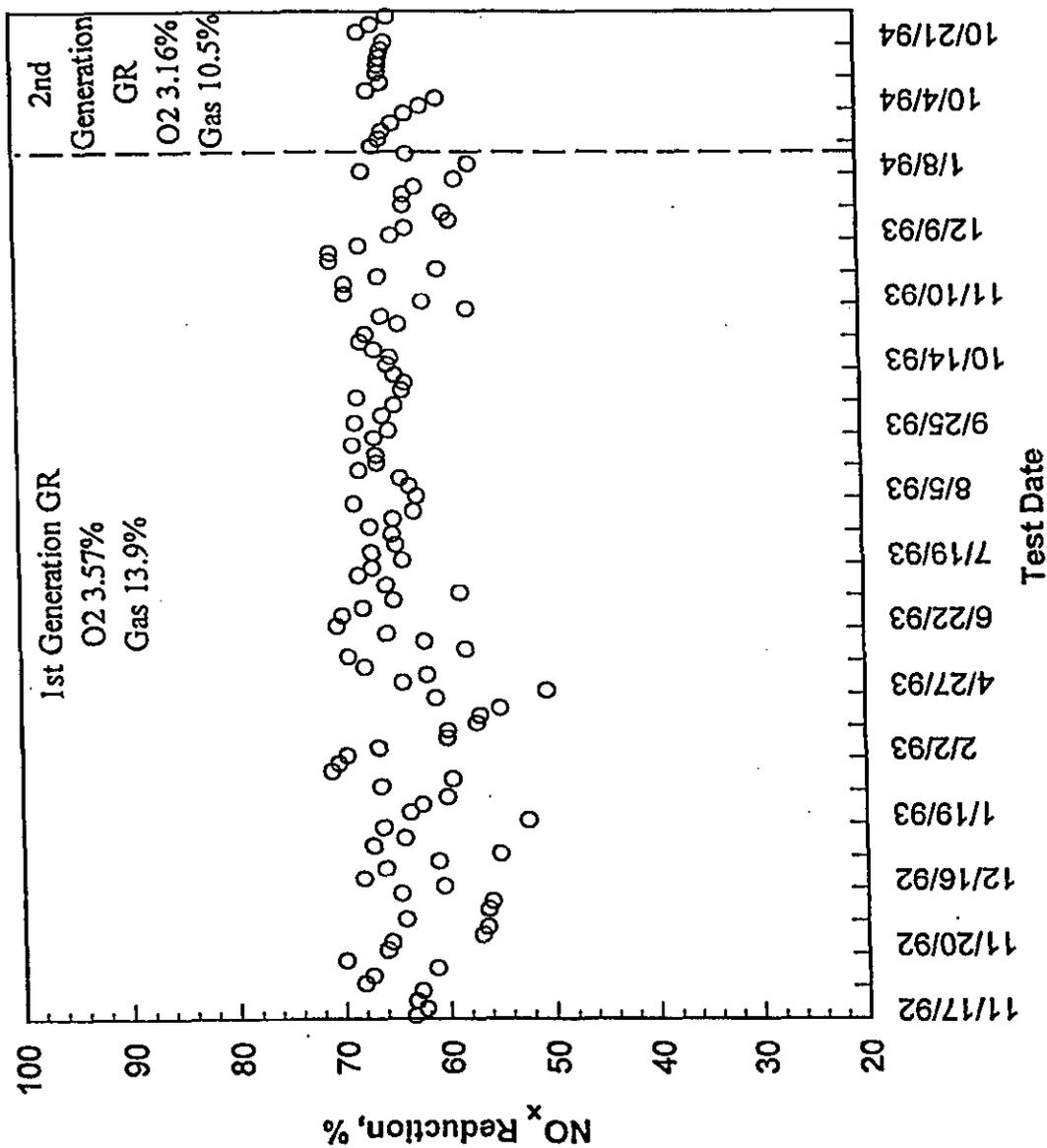


Figure 5-10. First and Second Generation GR-LNB NO_x reduction versus time

- Modifications to the OFA ports to provide higher jet momentum, air swirl capability and velocity control. The modifications were designed to improve furnace lateral coverage and turbulence in mixing with unburned fuel. This change provided CO control within acceptable limits at the lower gas levels.

The Second Generation GR was designed to provide performance and economic benefits compared to the First Generation GR. These include:

- Reduced capital cost through elimination of the FGR system
- Reduced operating cost through reduction in the gas heat input
- The same NO_x reduction as First Generation GR with less gas
- Reduced levels of CO at low natural gas flows

Through LNB equipment modifications the NO_x emission reductions increased somewhat. No change was indicated in CO emissions. There was only a slight reduction in GR-LNB NO_x emissions from an average of 65% to an average of 64% but with less natural gas. At higher gas levels, 68% was achieved. A gas heat input of 12.5% was selected for Second Generation GR testing, which was a reduction of 5.5% from First Generation GR. The SR₂ setting of 0.90 was maintained, but SR₁ was reduced to compensate for the reduced level of gas heat input. Compared to LNB only, CO emissions were reduced when the GR system was in service. The results show that modified GR-LNB technology achieved excellent emissions reductions and all goals of the Second Generation GR system were achieved. The test results are summarized below:

	<u>First Gen.</u>	<u>Second Gen.</u>
Gas heat input	18%	12.5%
Baseline NO _x	0.73 lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.73 lb/10 ⁶ Btu
Average NO _x reduction (LNB)	37%	44%
Average NO _x reduction (GR-LNB)	65%	64%

5.5 Gas/Gas Reburning Testing

A limited amount of GR testing was performed with the boiler operating on 100% natural gas (no coal) to determine the reduction in NO_x and assess the impact on CO emissions. The primary fuel (natural gas) was fired through the LNBS and gas also injected into the reburning zone. No equipment modifications were made to operate in this configuration.

The NO_x emissions results for full load are presented in Figures 5-11 and 5-12. The data show a reduction from a baseline of 0.30 lb/10⁶ Btu to 0.17 lb/10⁶ Btu (43%) at a reburning gas heat input of 7%. For the most part, CO emissions were below 100 ppm. The baseline (100% gas/no reburning) and optimum gas/gas reburning conditions for full load were as follows:

	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>Optimum</u>
SR ₁	1.15	1.03
SR ₂	1.15	0.94
SR ₃	1.16	1.17
Reburn Gas heat input	0%	7%
O ₂	3.06%	2.36%
NO _x	0.30 lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.17 lb/10 ⁶ Btu
NO _x reduction	0%	43%
CO	2 ppm	32 ppm

At mid-load (120 MW_e) the NO_x was reduced from 0.22 lb/10⁶ Btu to 0.11 lb/10⁶ Btu at 8% reburning gas heat input and CO at 80 ppm. At low load the NO_x was reduced from 0.10 lb/10⁶ Btu to 0.06 lb/10⁶ Btu at 6% reburning gas heat input and CO at 52 ppm.

The normal test configuration was injection of reburning gas through the 8 rear wall injectors. However, some full-load injector biasing testing was performed. Shifting half of the gas to the front wall showed no change in NO_x emissions, although an increase in CO was observed. When using all 16 injectors (8 front and 8 rear) and 12% gas, NO_x emissions remained the same as for 7% gas, but the CO emissions increased dramatically.

Cherokee Unit 3
 Second Generation GR
 GR-LNB
 100% Gas Firing Results
 140-160 MWe (Net)

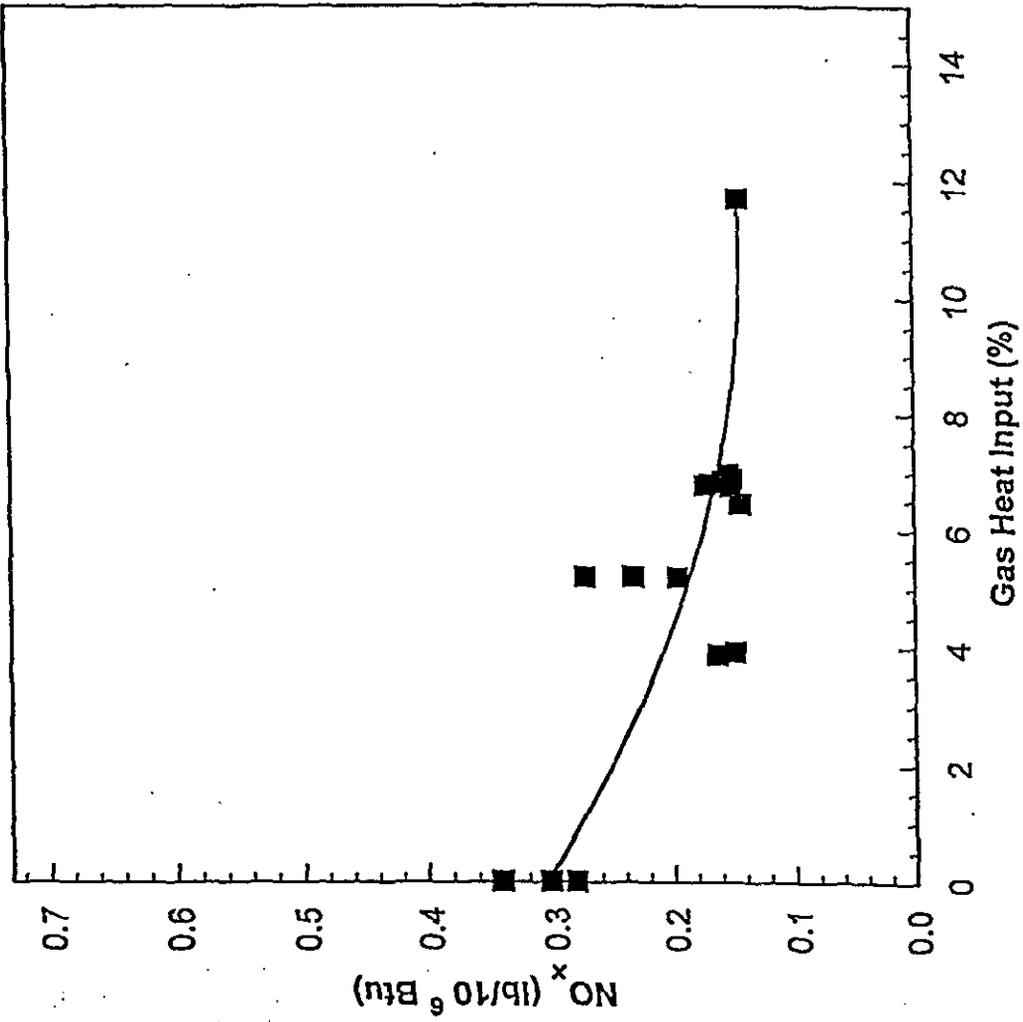


Figure 5-11. GR-LNB 100% gas w/GR NO_x versus gas heat input

Lower load biasing tests showed similar results. Therefore, the optimum configuration was to use the 8 rear wall injectors only.

The gas-firing with gas reburning results showed that a reduction in NO_x emissions can be achieved using reburn technology on a 100% gas-fired system while maintaining levels of CO emissions below 100 ppm.

6.0 BOILER IMPACTS

6.1 Thermal Performance

The impacts of GR-LNB on boiler thermal performance and efficiency were projected in the process design study. The study predicted that the unit would produce steam at its rated capacity during GR-LNB, but with a slightly lower thermal efficiency. Also, there would be minor changes in the heat absorption profile.

During the parametric and long term testing, data were collected to compare the GR-LNB results with baseline data and also for comparison with the projections. Tables 6-1 through 6-3 present these data for both First and Second Generation LNB and GR-LNB operation over the boiler load operating range. The data were collected and evaluated to ensure that the unit operated under full load at its rated capacity with proper steam temperatures and to verify that there were no adverse impacts on steam conditions/heat absorption.

Furnace Exit O₂ The average O₂ observed during non-test baseline conditions prior to installation of the GR-LNB system was 3.2%. Following installation of the LNBs, the unit was operated at 2.85% under full load but was returned to the 3.2% O₂ level following LNB modifications to lower CO emissions during the LNB only tests. For both the First and Second GR-LNB system operations the excess O₂ under full load conditions was controlled at about 2.6%.

Steam Side Temperatures As predicted in the process design, increases were observed in both the main and reheat steam temperatures. This was due to the modified heat distribution in the boiler when the GR system is in operation. The increase was lessened with Second Generation GR since the amount of gas heat input was reduced. Steam temperatures were adequately controlled through steam attemperation.

TABLE 6-1. THERMAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (Full Load - 150 MW_e)

Thermal Parameters	LNB		GR-LNB	
	1st Gen.	2nd Gen.	1st Gen.	2nd Gen.
Process variables				
Exit Plant O ₂	2.85	3.21	2.63	2.60
Gas heat input (%)			13.72	10.23
OFA (% total air)			19.86	22.30
Steam side temperatures (deg. F)				
Main steam temperature	969	971	992	985
Hot reheat temperature	945	946	984	964
Attemperator outlet temperature (deg. F)	774	782	778	785
Heat transfer (10 ⁶ Btu/hr)				
Furnace	743	747	712	737
Secondary superheater	164	160	173	165
Reheater	163	157	169	153
Primary superheater	231	238	231	239
Air heater	193	192	190	184
Economizer	29	30	29	31
Cleanliness factors				
Furnace	1.028	1.025	1.009	1.026
Secondary superheater	1.038	0.999	1.118	1.045
Reheater	0.901	0.861	0.958	0.849
Primary superheater	1.034	1.053	1.067	1.077
Air heater	1.045	1.032	1.061	1.005
Economizer	1.022	1.047	1.024	1.075
Econ. gas outlet temp. (deg. F)	699	707	713	707
Heat loss (%)				
Dry gas	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.60
Moisture from fuel	1.11	1.11	0.96	0.99
Moisture from combustion	4.26	4.25	5.14	4.90
Combustible in refuse	0.61	0.61	0.53	0.55
Radiation	0.19	0.19	0.21	0.20
Unmeasured	0.83	0.81	0.86	0.83
ASME heat loss efficiency (%)	88.00	88.13	87.51	87.93
Net heat rate (Btu/kWh)	10,208	10,153	10,104	10,103

TABLE 6-2. THERMAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (Mid Load - 120 MW_e)

Thermal Parameters	LNB		GR-LNB	
	1st Gen.	2nd Gen.	1st Gen.	2nd Gen.
Process variables				
Exit Plant O ₂	3.07	3.80	3.30	3.33
Gas heat input (%)			14.25	9.39
OFA (% total air)			21.32	22.87
Steam side temperatures (deg. F)				
Main steam temperature	974	964	989	969
Hot reheat temperature	926	910	958	941
Attemperator outlet temperature (deg. F)	760	777	773	771
Heat transfer (10⁶ Btu/hr)				
Furnace	608	585	595	660
Secondary superheater	140	116	139	142
Reheater	131	118	136	132
Primary superheater	166	173	180	192
Air heater	156	152	163	165
Economizer	22	26	22	30
Cleanliness factors				
Furnace	1.046	1.039	1.024	1.052
Secondary superheater	1.083	0.924	1.073	1.025
Reheater	0.907	0.884	0.945	0.844
Primary superheater	0.986	1.071	1.071	1.036
Air heater	1.092	1.098	1.139	1.052
Economizer	1.027	1.252	1.034	1.255
Econ. gas outlet temp. (deg. F)	667	678	689	690
Heat loss (%)				
Dry gas	5.06	4.88	5.04	4.43
Moisture from fuel	1.11	1.10	0.95	0.99
Moisture from combustion	4.26	4.24	5.17	4.82
Combustible in refuse	0.61	0.61	0.52	0.50
Radiation	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.26
Unmeasured	1.12	1.16	1.13	1.03
ASME heat loss efficiency (%)	87.55	87.70	86.90	87.92
Net heat rate (Btu/kWh)	10,303	10,143	10,275	10,617

TABLE 6-3. THERMAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (Low Load - 90 MW_e)

Thermal Parameters	LNB		GR-LNB	
	1st Gen.	2nd Gen.	1st Gen.	2nd Gen.
Process variables				
Exit Plant O ₂	3.87	4.69	4.03	5.00
Gas heat input (%)			15.32	10.95
OFA (% total air)			23.55	25.86
Steam side temperatures (deg. F)				
Main steam temperature	956	998	978	980
Hot reheat temperature	906	974	930	930
Attenuator outlet temperature (deg. F)	752	782	760	772
Heat transfer (10 ⁶ Btu/hr)				
Furnace	486	483	474	497
Secondary superheater	103	104	107	104
Reheater	109	104	111	98
Primary superheater	124	144	129	137
Air heater	126	136	133	134
Economizer	17	24	16	25
Cleanliness factors				
Furnace	4.040	1.036	1.027	1.049
Secondary superheater	0.972	0.991	1.022	0.973
Reheater	0.960	0.917	0.987	0.845
Primary superheater	1.013	1.173	1.070	1.098
Air heater	1.153	1.240	1.229	1.195
Economizer	1.063	1.558	1.060	1.550
Econ. gas outlet temp. (deg. F)	648	67	666	665
Heat loss (%)				
Dry gas	5.28	4.67	5.59	4.73
Moisture from fuel	1.11	1.09	0.94	0.97
Moisture from combustion	4.26	4.21	5.25	4.90
Combustible in refuse	0.61	0.61	0.52	0.54
Radiation	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.37
Unmeasured	1.37	1.37	1.38	1.35
ASME heat loss efficiency (%)	87.00	87.68	85.95	87.12
Net heat rate (Btu/kWh)	10,954	10,871	10,858	11,182

Heat Transfer GR operation can affect the thermal performance by altering the furnace heat release profile and by changing the local stoichiometric ratios and particulate loading resulting in minor changes in lower and upper furnace deposition patterns. Although heat transfer in the furnace was reduced and the heat transfer in the superheater and reheater increased during First Generation GR, the heat transfers improved considerably with the Second Generation GR. The furnace temperature in the reburn zone affects the rate of NO_x reduction. Higher temperatures increase the rate of speed of the chemical reactions that result in NO_x destruction. The temperatures attained in the reburn zone were typically 2300° to 2500° F, which are consistent with the predicted reburn zone temperatures.

ASME Heat Loss A reduction in thermal efficiency was calculated using ASME Power Test Code 4.1 (heat loss method). A slight reduction in efficiency was observed with GR-LNB as compared to LNB-only due to dry gas heat loss, moisture in fuel heat loss, and heat loss due to moisture from combustion. The decrease in heat absorption and resulting rise in the flue gas temperature increases the dry gas heat loss, especially for GR-LNB operation. Fuel switching, i.e. replacement of coal heat with heat from natural gas, results in a reduction in boiler efficiency due to increased fuel moisture heat loss. Since natural gas has a higher hydrogen-to-carbon ratio than coal, its combustion results in the formation of more moisture and consequently higher moisture from combustion heat loss. Nevertheless, the total reduction in efficiency was less than 1% for all conditions.

6.2 Furnace Conditions

GR operation did not exacerbate slagging in the furnace. Long term operation of the GR system did not show any trend toward additional slagging or fouling beyond that which occurred when operating without GR in service. Some slagging was noted around the LNBs, but this was attributed to the abnormal functioning of the burners. Later in the test program, one LNB (D3) nozzle and internals melted, evidently due to combustion inside the burner.

In the reburn zone, slag formed around some of the gas injection nozzles on a random basis, but this did not cause a problem with the reburn gas injection system performance. The injection nozzles were designed with a removable inspection cover and clean out port to determine if the gas injection nozzle tip was plugged.

Generally, no more than two gas nozzles per wall would be plugged at a time, and usually only one nozzle per wall would require slag removal. When a nozzle did become plugged, it was a simple matter to "rod" out the nozzle and remove the slag from the nozzle orifice.

In the OFA zone, heavy slag deposits formed around three of the six OFA injectors after about three months of operation. The initiation of the slag formation was attributed to higher flue gas temperatures in this area with GR in operation. The air injected through the OFA ports would "chill" the slag so that it would solidify at this location. The unrestrained buildup of slag progressed over time due to a lack of sootblowers in this area of the furnace. Slag would build up on the refractory around the ports, and without sootblowers in place for removal, the deposits would continue to grow until a significant "eyebrow" would form and solidify around the port. These deposits were removed during regularly scheduled outages.

In the convection pass of the boiler, the bridging of slag deposits in the secondary superheater section occurred when flames from the LNBS swept up into this area. It was difficult to keep the LNB flames at the correct length, and they were generally too long and would bounce off the rear wall and continue up to the arch region at the exit of the furnace. When the FWEC personnel adjusted the burners for proper operation, this usually did not occur. It should be noted that the phenomenon of flames reaching the upper regions of the furnace occurred independent of GR operation.

The overall conclusion is that GR does not have a significant adverse impact upon boiler operation. The slagging and fouling that occurred did not significantly impact GR operation

or performance. However, LNB operation did contribute to slagging in the primary burner zone and in the secondary superheater sections.

6.3 Tubewear

During reburning, a reducing or fuel-rich condition is established in the reburning zone. It is well known that fuel-rich conditions can enhance tube wastage due to two mechanisms:

- When fuels containing sulfur are burned under oxygen deficient conditions, some of the sulfur forms reduced sulfur species such as COS and H₂S. These species react with iron in the tubes via Fe and H₂S - FeS. The FeS scales off the tube leading to wastage (corrosion).
- In normal fuel lean operation, the tubes are protected by a thin oxidized layer. Reducing conditions, particularly fluctuating (oxidizing/reducing) conditions, can continuously degrade this protective layer.

Normal rates of tube wastage in coal-fired boilers are normally in the range of 0.001" to 0.003" per year; however, some boilers inherently have massive tube wastage. As part of the field demonstration described above, the boiler tubes were subjected to non-destructive testing to determine if GR operation jeopardized the life of the tubes. Specific areas were targeted for investigation where the mechanisms listed above suggested a potential for significant tube wastage. The prime goal of the testing was to determine if there was a significant increase in tubewall wastage from GR-LNB. A secondary goal was to determine the incremental change in the tube thickness and project this change to the end of the boiler useful life.

Ultrasonic tube thickness measurements were obtained at two time points: in January 16, 1990 prior to GR startup, and in February 21, 1993 following parametric GR testing. Based on the accuracy of the measurement technique (± 0.005 "), no significant tube wastage was found. Given these results and the favorable results of two previous EER DOE-CCT projects involving GR, EER and the utility determined that no further testing was warranted.

6.4 Additional Observations

A multiclone mechanical dust collector system had been installed to remove the flyash from the FGR. However, one problem with this ash removal system was the recurring need to unplug the multiclones periodically to remove the collected fly ash. The multiclone and associated piping were mounted at a second floor location which made removal of the flyash very difficult. Also, during winter months when the ambient temperature was below 32°F, moisture in the fly ash would freeze and plug the multiclone. This problem was later obviated when the gas injection and OFA systems were redesigned. The new high pressure gas injection system eliminated the need for FGR.

Temperature measurements were conducted to determine the gas temperature profile in the furnace at points leaving the primary zone, the reburn zone, and the burnout zone. A very limited number of boiler penetration locations were available for obtaining temperature measurement in the primary zone. The following average furnace gas temperature profiles were obtained from full load tests:

	Coal Firing (no GR)	19% Gas Heat Input (GR)
Primary zone	2541 °F	2389 °F
Reburn zone	2381 °F	2453 °F
Burnout zone	1840 °F	1917 °F

The temperatures displayed for the various zones are the average of all temperatures measured for a given test. As shown from the above data, the gas temperature profile was shifted upwards in the furnace, with the GR system in operation. With GR in operation, the primary zone temperature dropped about 150°F while the reburn and burnout zones increased in gas temperature by about 70°F and 60°F respectively. This is the expected result with the GR system in operation, since some of the heat input is shifted from the primary zone to the reburn zone. The temperature profile tabulated above was recorded during the test with the greatest NO_x reduction performance for the GR system.

7.0 ECONOMICS

This section provides the estimated costs of installation, operation and performance for commercial installation of GR-LNB on a 300 MW_e wall-fired boiler. The estimate is based on mature technology; i.e., a so-called "nth" plant which incorporates process improvements resulting from experience gained in earlier installations. The economics here, as opposed to those presented in the project "Performance and Economics Report" reflect the Second Generation GR technology wherein FGR is not required.

The capital and operating costs for the GR-LNB system for NO_x emissions reduction are based on a retrofit of a 300 MW_e wall-fired power plant. The degree of complexity regarding retrofit costs were factored based on the retrofit cost for the GR-LNB demonstration completed under this DOE contract.

7.1 GR-LNB Economic Parameters

The capital cost estimates presented summarize major equipment cost, approximate bulk material take-offs, and installation labor to arrive at direct construction costs. Construction indirects are added which include: field supervision, construction overhead and fee, and freight. In addition, costs for detailed engineering, project management, procurement, construction management, startup, and contingency are included to develop the total installed system cost.

All engineering and construction costs are representative of a turn-key contract arrangement. EER considers these estimates to be Class II, Preliminary Estimates. The estimates are expected to be representative of the actual cost -15%/+30%. This is based on the information available at this time which includes preliminary process design and conceptual engineering completed, recent major equipment quotes, bulk material takeoffs and average expected labor rates and productivity.

This section provides the basis for the estimating procedures, along with a list of assumptions used for estimating installation man-hours and costs. The cost estimates have been developed using the following sources of information for equipment pricing and for the development of labor costs:

- Richardson's Rapid System 1993 edition of Process Plant Construction Estimating Standards
- Questimate Cost Estimating software by Icarus Corp.
- Means Electrical Cost Data 1991 edition
- Vendor Quotations for Major Equipment
- EER's database of previous equipment purchases

Data from all of these sources were summarized using EER cost estimating software. Once the direct costs were determined, costs for field supervision, contractor overhead and fee, freight, engineering, project management, construction management, start-up, and contingency were added to determine the total installed cost. Table 7-1 shows the cost parameters for developing the capital cost of the installed retrofit of the GR-LNB system on a 300 MW_e wall-fired unit. These values are commonly encountered in economic calculations and were used in recent studies of CCT processes by the U.S. Department of Energy. No changes were made to the parameters proposed by DOE.

7.2 GR-LNB Capital Cost

The design of the GR-LNB system included three integrated systems: 1) low NO_x burners, 2) natural gas injection and 3) OFA injection. It is further based on the Second Generation GR design wherein FGR is eliminated. Existing conventional burners are removed and replaced with low NO_x burners. A natural gas header was assumed to exist at the station and a tie-in was made to this supply header to provide the natural gas for the GR system.

TABLE 7-1. COST FACTORS

Item	Units	Value
Cost of debt	%	8.5
Inflation rate	%	4.0
Construction period	mos.	9
Remaining life of power plant	-	15
Year for cost presented in this report	-	1996
Royalty allowance based on total process capital	%	0.5
Capital charge factor - current dollars	-	0.160
Capital charge factor - constant dollars	-	0.124
O&M cost levelization factor - current dollars	-	1.314
O&M cost levelization factor - constant dollars	-	1.000
Power plant size	MW _e (net)	300
Power plant type	Wall-fired	-
Power plant capacity factor	%	65
Property Taxes and Insurance	%	3
Sales tax rate	%	5.0
Cost of freight	%	2.0
Engineering/home office fees of total process capital	%	10.0

The tie-in pipe supplied gas to a control and metering station and from this station natural gas was distributed to gas injection nozzles located above the low NO_x burners. The natural gas valve train, common to all of the injection nozzles, included flow metering and control equipment, and safety shut-off valves.

OFA was assumed supplied from the existing hot secondary combustion air windbox. The existing windbox pressure on a wall-fired unit may not be adequate, so booster fans were assumed to be required. The installation of the natural gas injectors and OFA ports requires furnace tubewall modifications. There are no unusual boiler access hindrances that would inhibit normal installation of equipment. No asbestos removal is required during installation. The reburning system is assumed to be installed during a normally scheduled plant outage, negating downtime costs. A list of the major equipment associated with the GR-LNB retrofit is shown in Table 7-2. The sizes and quantities shown are for a standard 300 MW_e unit.

TABLE 7-2. MAJOR EQUIPMENT LIST

Item No.	Item Name	Number		Unit Capacity	Design Conditions*	Material of Construction
		In Use	Spare			
1	Low NOx Burner	30	0	100 x 10 ⁶ Btu/burner		Steel
2a	Natural Gas Delivery System	1	0	3,840 scfm 60 psi	National Electric Code Class 1, Division 2	Miscellaneous
2b	Natural Gas Injector	16	0	240 scfm/ injector		Steel
3a	Overfire Air System	1	0	200,000 scfm		Miscellaneous
3b	Overfire Air Booster Fan	1	0	200,000 scfm		
3c	Overfire Air Injector	8	0	15,000 scfm/ injector		Steel
4	Control System	1	0	n/a		(Electronic)

* Pressure, temperature, composition, flowrate, surface area, viscosity, special considerations (code, corrosion tolerance, etc.)

Table 7-3 shows the major equipment costs. The total cost for the major equipment items of the GR-LNB system is \$2.31 million. This cost estimate is slightly less than the cost presented in the Performance And Economics Report. It assumes that the windbox pressure is adequate to provide cooling air to the natural gas injectors and the cost presented in the Performance and Economics Report includes the installation of a separate cooling fan. Table 7-4 presents the overall capital cost for the GR-LNB system. This cost

includes both equipment and installation costs. The total cost, including a 15% project contingency, is at \$7.70 million or \$25.66/kW_e. The GR and LNB system capital costs can be easily separated from one another for they are independent systems. The capital cost for the GR system only is estimated at \$3.54 million or \$11.79/kW_e, and the LNB system capital cost is estimated at \$4.16 million or \$13.87/kW_e.

TABLE 7-3. MAJOR EQUIPMENT COST

Item No.	Item Name	Cost/Unit			No. of Units	Total Cost \$1,000s
		F.O.B. Equipment	Sales Tax (5%)	Total		
1	Low NOx Burners	55.7	2.8	58.5	30	1,754.6
2	Natural Gas Injectors & Tubewall Penetrations	5.1	0.3	5.4	8	42.8
3a	Overfire Air Booster Fan	351.8	17.6	369.4	1	369.4
3b	Overfire Air Injectors & Tubewall Penetrations	17.4	0.9	18.3	8	146.2
	Total	430.0	21.5	451.5	1	2,312.9

7.3 GR-LNB Operating Cost

EER conducted an analysis to evaluate the fixed and variable operating costs of a GR system, exclusive of fixed charges, for a 300 MW_e coal wall-fired unit (heat rate of 10,000 Btu/kWhr before GR-LNB); contributing cost factors were as follows:

1. Reburning Fuel Cost Differential Since gas costs more than coal on a heating value basis (\$/10⁶ Btu), there is a cost related to the amount of gas fired. This was calculated based on the delivered costs of gas and coal, the percentage of gas fired (12.5% of the total heat input). A value of \$1.00/10⁶ Btu was used as the differential between the delivered price of natural gas (\$2.47/10⁶ Btu) and the delivered price of coal (\$1.47/10⁶ Btu).

TABLE 7-4. GR-LNB CAPITAL COST

Capital Cost		
Category	\$10⁶	\$/kWe
Equipment	2.46	8.20
Construction Labor	1.23	4.10
Construction Indirects	0.76	2.53
Other (6%), Freight (2%) & Taxes (5%)	0.32	1.07
Gas Supply ^[1]	0.00	0.00
Gas Metering & Reduction Station	<u>0.45</u>	<u>1.50</u>
<i>Total Process Capital</i>	5.22	17.40
Engineering (10% of process capital)	0.52	1.74
Project Management (8%) /Owners Costs (5%)	0.68	2.26
Project Contingency @ 15%	<u>0.96</u>	<u>3.21</u>
Total Plant Cost	7.38	24.61
Allowance for Funds During Construction ^[2]	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Plant Investment (TPI)	7.38	24.61
Royalty Fees @ 0.5% of Total Process Capital	0.03	0.09
Startup Costs @ 3% TPI	0.22	0.74
Working Capital @ 0.9% TPI	0.07	0.22
Cost of Construction Downtime (28 days) ^[3]	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Capital Requirement	7.70	25.66

[1] Gas supply availability at site assumed adequate

[2] No allowance included based on DOE guideline

[3] Assumed downtime to be during scheduled major outage

2. Changes in Boiler Efficiency Since the boiler efficiency is lower when using gas as the reburning fuel there needs to be an increase in the amount of fuel fired. This increase was based upon the boiler efficiency loss (0.80% w/12.5% gas) for GR and a composite fuel cost of \$1.60/10⁶ Btu.
3. Auxiliary Power Since the GR fuel contributes a significant portion of the boiler fuel, there is a corresponding percentage decreased load on the coal pulverizers. However, there is added power required for the natural gas and OFA cooling air fans. The electricity cost was based on an auxiliary power cost of \$0.02/kWhr.
4. Operating Labor All reburning system operation is performed in the automatic control mode. Therefore, no additional plant operators are required.
5. Maintenance Items/Spare Parts An allowance of 2% of the total plant investment was used for total maintenance; 40% of the 2% was allocated for maintenance items and spare parts. Since the LNBs are replacement units, no additional maintenance cost is included for this equipment.
6. Maintenance Labor An allowance of 2% of the total plant investment was used for total maintenance; 60% of the 2% was allocated for maintenance labor. No additional labor is required to operate the GR-LNB system; however, additional maintenance is required due to the added equipment.
7. Administration and General Overhead An allowance of 60% of plant labor was added to cover administration and general overhead.
8. Local Property Taxes and Insurance An allowance of 3% of total plant investment was used to cover taxes and insurance.

The total annual incremental gross operating cost for the GR-LNB system, excluding fixed charges to payback capital, is estimated at \$2.59 million (see Table 7-5). If an SO₂ allowance credit is taken based on the reduction of fuel sulfur when firing natural gas, the net operating cost is estimated at about \$2.10 million. This SO₂ credit was based on an allowance of \$95/ton (Feb. 1996). Variable operating cost for the GR-LNB is about \$2.26 million and the fixed cost, excluding fixed charges, is about \$0.33 million.

TABLE 7.5 GR-LNB OPERATING COST

Annual Incremental Operating Costs ^[1]			
	<u>Annual Use</u>	<u>Cost/Unit</u>	<u>Cost/Yr</u>
Variable Costs			
Fuel:			
Natural Gas	2,135,250 10 ⁶ Btu	\$1.00 /10 ⁶ Btu ^[2]	\$2,135,250
Supplemental Fuel	136,656 10 ⁶ Btu	\$1.60 /10 ⁶ Btu ^[3]	\$217,966
Utilities:			
Electricity ^[4]	(769) 10 ³ kWhr	\$20.00 /10 ³ kWhr	(\$15,374)
Ash Disposal Credit	(8,541) tons	\$9.29 /ton	<u>(\$79,346)</u>
Sub-Total			\$2,258,497
Fixed Costs			
Labor: ^[5]			
Maintenance (2% of GR TPI x 60%)			\$41,930
Supervision (20% of Maintenance Labor)			\$8,386
Supplies:			
Maintenance (2% of GR TPI x 40%)			\$27,953
Admin. and Gen. Ovhd. (60% of total labor)			\$30,190
Local Taxes and Insurance @ 3% of TPI			<u>\$221,486</u>
Sub-Total			<u>\$329,944</u>
Total Gross Operating Cost			\$2,588,441
SO ₂ Allowance @ \$95/ton ^[6]			<u><u>(\$486,336)</u></u>
Total Net Operating Cost			\$2,102,105

[1] 65% Capacity factor @ 300 MWe net capacity (10,000 Btu/kWhr heat rate) w/ 12.5% fuel heat input as natural gas

[2] Natural gas assumed delivered at \$2.47/MM Btu; coal cost at \$1.47/MM Btu

[3] Extra fuel added to make up for loss in efficiency (0.80%) at same coal/gas ratio as reburn

[4] OFA booster fan power requirement (480 kWhr @65% capacity), less pulverizer credit of 10 kWhr/ton coal

[5] Assumed no added operating labor. No incremental maintenance costs for LNBs since they are replacement parts

[6] February 1996 Allowance Credit Value, reduction based on 4.8 lb SO₂/MM Btu for coal w/coal reduction of 12.5%

7.4 Summary of Performance and Economics

Based on the developed capital and fixed/variable operating costs, economic projections were made using current dollars which include an inflation rate of 4.0%, and constant dollars which ignore inflation. The factors used in the development of the technology economics are shown in Table 7-1.

Table 7-6 shows the performance and cost for a 300 MW_e GR-LNB System that is retrofitted to a wall-fired boiler. The table reflects the NO_x reduction (64% or 3,990 TPY) costs based on a 65% capacity factor for the unit with 12.5% of the heat input supplied by natural gas at a gas to coal price differential of \$1.00/million Btu. The incremental increase in the levelized cost of power, including capital charges is estimated at 2.07 mills/kWhr in constant dollars and 2.71 mills/kWhr in current dollars.

If an SO₂ credit is applied based on fuel sulfur reduction when firing natural gas, the net incremental increase in the levelized cost of power is estimated at 1.79 mills/kWhr in constant dollars and 2.34 mills/kWhr in current dollars. The levelized cost of NO_x removal is estimated at \$888/ton and \$1,161/ton for constant and current dollar projections, respectively. If an SO₂ credit is applied based on fuel sulfur reduction, the net levelized cost of NO_x removal is estimated at \$766/ton and \$1,001/ton for constant and current dollar projections, respectively.

Based on the levelized cost (in constant dollars) for reducing nitrogen oxides, excluding SO₂ credits, the capital charge component made up around 27% of the total cost of NO_x reduction. The fixed operation and maintenance costs represented only 9%, and the variable cost made up the 64% of the cost for removing NO_x. The variable operating cost is dominated by the differential price between natural gas and coal.

TABLE 7-6. GR-LNB ECONOMICS AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Summary of Data

Power Plant Attributes

	Units	Value
Plant capacity, net	MWe	300
Power produced, net	10 ⁹ kWh/yr	1.71
Capacity factor	%	65
Plant life	yr	15
Coal feed	10 ⁶ tons/yr	683,280
Sulfur in coal	wt %	3.0

Emissions Control Data

	Units	Value
Removal efficiency	%	64
Emissions standard (EPA 40CFR Part 76 - 12/19/96)	lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.46
Emissions without controls	lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.73
Emissions with controls	lb/10 ⁶ Btu	0.26
Amount reduced	tons/yr	3,990

Levelized Cost of Power

	Current Dollars		Constant Dollars	
	Factor	Mills/kWhr	Factor	Mills/kWhr
Capital Charge	0.160	0.72	0.124	0.56
Fixed O&M Cost	1.314	0.25	1.000	0.19
Variable Operating Cost	1.314	1.74	1.000	1.32
Total Cost		2.71		2.07
SO ₂ Credits	1.314	(0.37)	1.000	(0.28)
Total Cost w/SO₂ Credits		2.34		1.79

Levelized Cost--NOx Basis

	Current Dollars		Constant Dollars	
	Factor	\$/ton Removed	Factor	\$/ton Removed
Capital Charge	0.160	309	0.124	239
Fixed O&M Cost	1.314	109	1.000	83
Variable Operating Cost	1.314	744	1.000	566
Total Cost		1,161		888
SO ₂ Credits	1.314	(160)	1.000	(122)
Total Cost w/SO₂ Credits		1,001		766

Basis: 64% NOx reduction based on unit with 0.5 seconds reburn zone residence time

7.5 Effect of Variables on Economics

The economics developed for the 300 MW_e system were used to determine the economic effects of varying the selected parameters shown below:

- Fuel cost differential between gas and coal
- Wall-fired unit size
- Onstream capacity factor
- Sulfur dioxide allowance credits

The GR-LNB capital costs developed for a range of power plant sizes was based on scaling the power plant cost based on a 0.75 power factor. The effects of the above variables, including an annual 12.4% fixed charge rate, are shown in Figures 7-1 through 7-4. NO_x reduction costs are based on constant dollars and include SO₂ allowance credits. Of the four parameters that were varied, clearly the price of natural gas is the most dominant parameter regarding the cost of NO_x emission reductions.

Figure 7-1 Effect of plant size The size of plant on economics becomes less significant for unit sizes of 300 MW_e and greater. For example, the cost of NO_x emissions for a 300 MW_e unit is \$118/ton less than a 150 MW_e plant and when increasing the size to 450 MW_e the cost is reduced only \$56/ton.

Figure 7-2 Effect of capacity factor The onstream capacity factor impact is linear. For example, the cost of NO_x emissions for a 55% capacity factor is \$37/ton more than that for 65% and when it increases from 65% to 75% the cost is reduced \$33/ton. These two values are not identical; linearity occurs with the ratio of the two capacity factors.

Figure 7-3 Effect of gas to coal price differential The price of natural gas has a linear effect on the NO_x reduction costs. For every \$0.25/10⁶ Btu change, either an increase or decrease in the gas to coal price differential, there is a corresponding \$253/ton cost effect.

Figure 7-4 Effect of SO₂ allowance price The price of SO₂ allowances also has a linear effect on the NO_x reduction costs. For every \$50/ton change, either an increase or decrease in price, there is a corresponding \$64/ton effect.

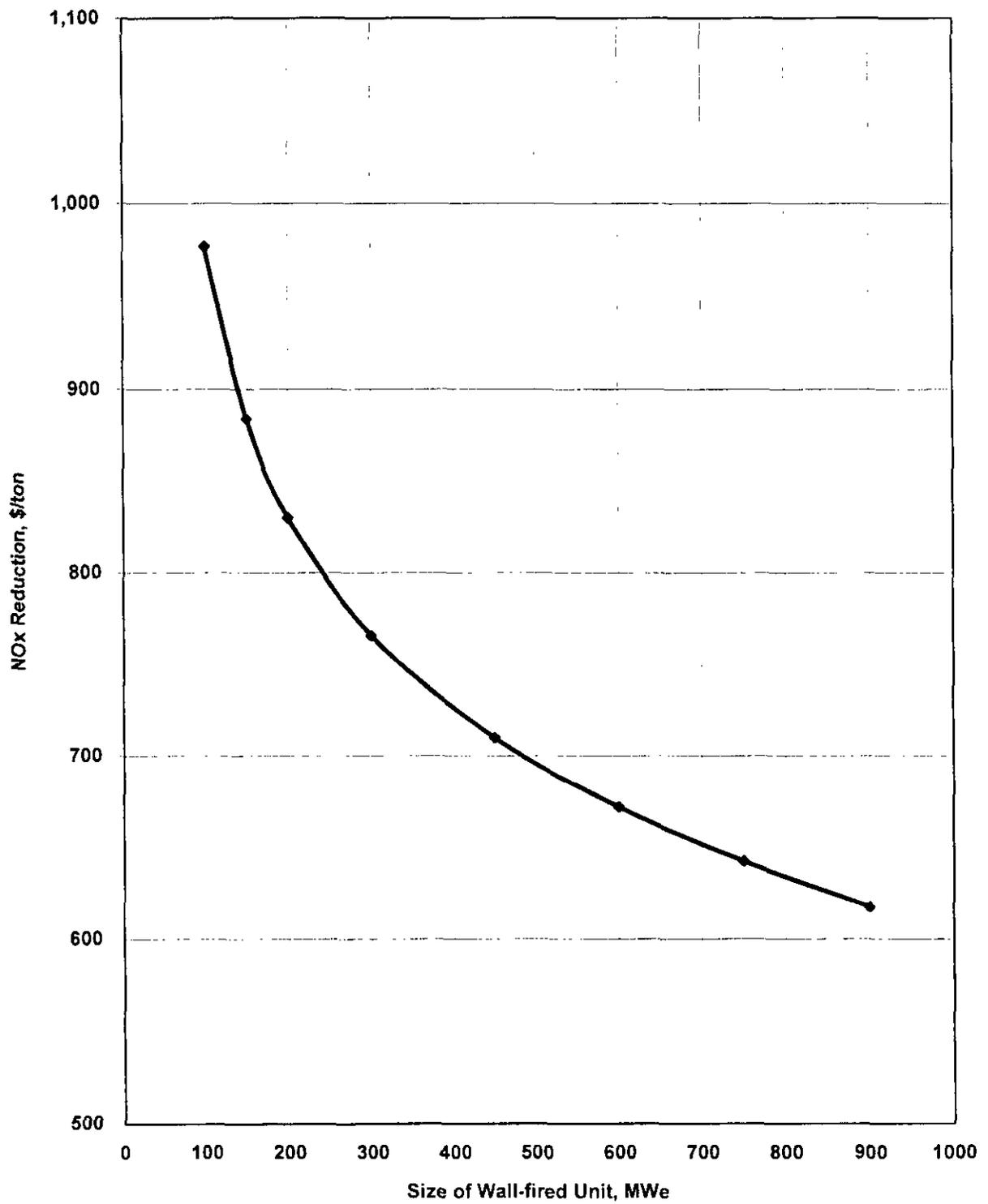


Figure 7-1. The effect of unit size on the cost of NO_x reduction

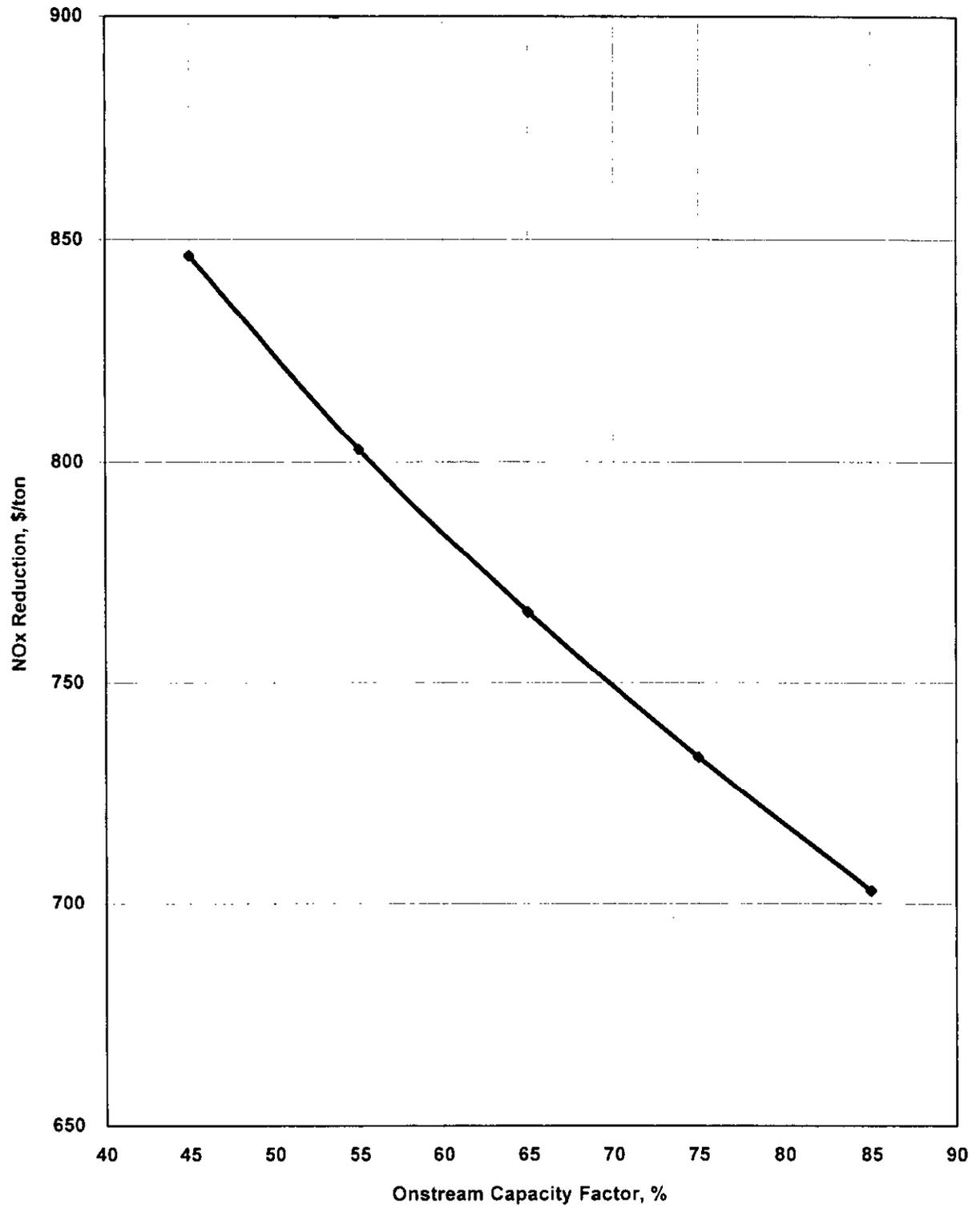


Figure 7-2. The effect of capacity factor on the cost of NO_x reduction

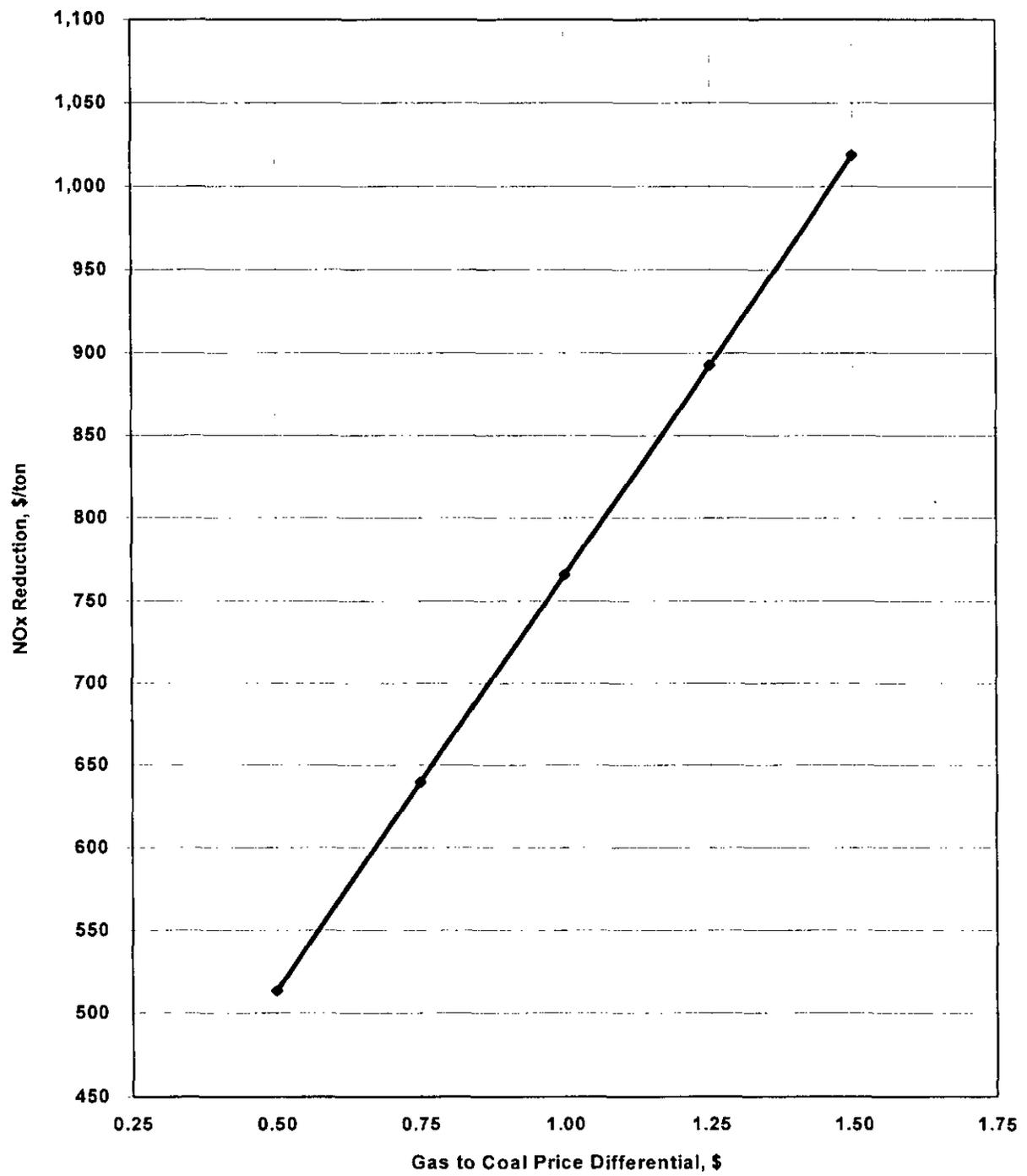


Figure 7-3. The effect of gas to coal price differential on the cost of NO_x reduction

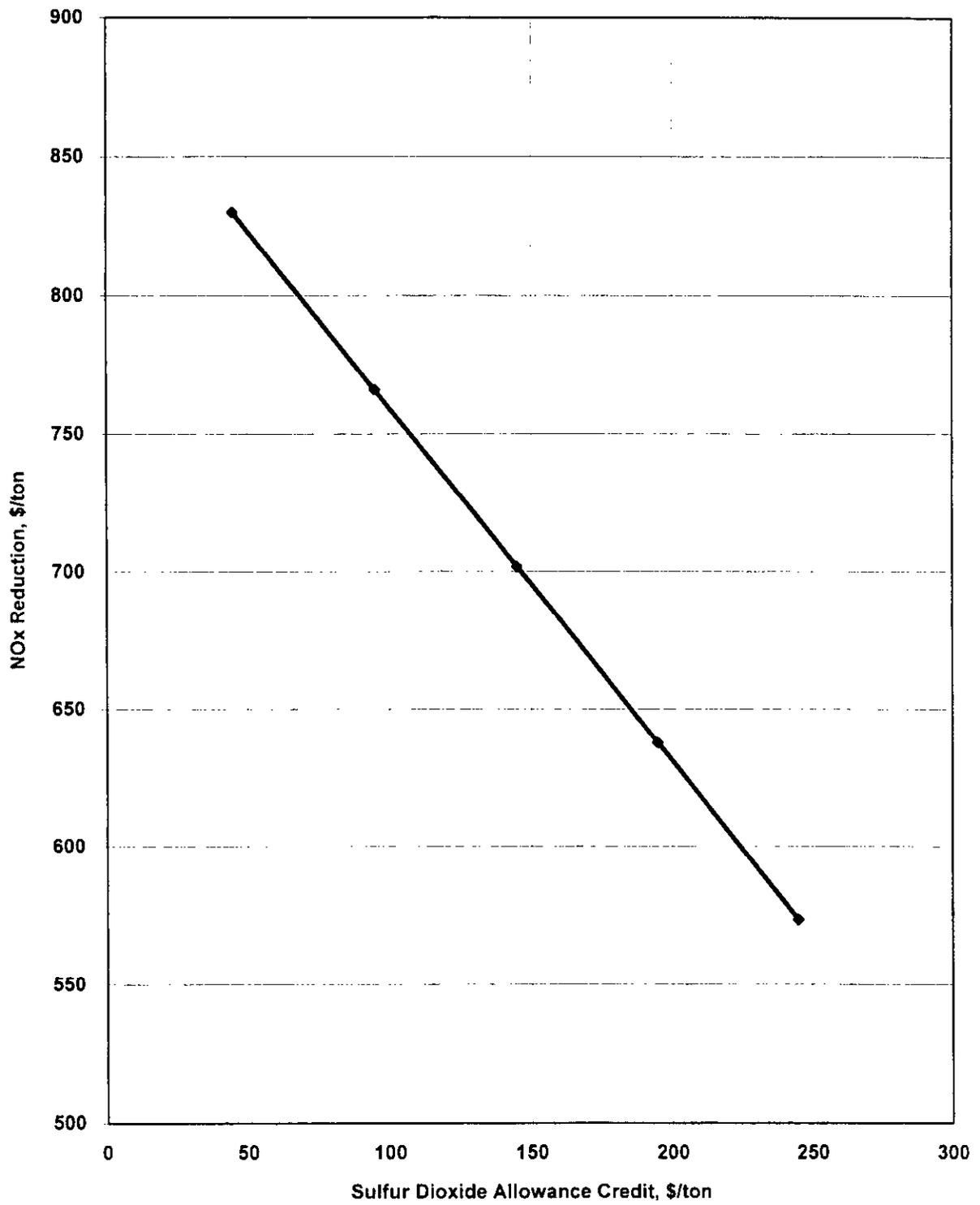


Figure 7-4. The effect of SO₂ allowance price on the cost of NO_x reduction

7.6 GR - LNB Comparison with other NO_x Control Technologies

Methods for controlling NO_x from coal-fired utility boilers include combustion modifications and post combustion treatment of the flue gas. Combustion modifications involve operating the primary combustion zone under fuel rich conditions (and therefore reduced temperatures), cooling the flame at a higher rate, and dilution of the flame to reduce adiabatic flame temperatures. Gas residence times in the high temperature zone as well as excess air levels are reduced, inhibiting the formation of fuel and thermal NO_x.

The combustion modification technique that can be applied depends on the type of boiler and method of firing the fuel. Low NO_x burner technology with OFA has been successfully applied to wall and tangentially fired pulverized coal units. Low NO_x burner technology, however, cannot be applied to cyclone units due to the configuration of the cyclone furnaces.

The importance of OFA as it relates to staging the combustion process has been determined in testing of low NO_x burner retrofits and demonstrations. This information has promoted the addition of OFA to conventional firing systems as a stand alone alternative to low NO_x burners for utilities requiring moderate reductions.

OFA systems may be "close-coupled" to the existing burner assemblies on tangentially fired units, or separated higher into the furnace on both tangentially and wall fired designs for deeper staging and increased NO_x reductions. Staged combustion with OFA also cannot be applied to cyclone-fired units with high sulfur coal feedstocks. Industry experience indicates that this combustion modification technique for high sulfur feedstocks results in high levels of corrosion in the cyclone barrels.

Post combustion techniques include reburning with all types of fuels, selective catalytic reduction (SCR), and selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR). GR is described elsewhere in this manual. Coal and coal water slurry (CWS) have also been proposed as reburning fuels. In Table 7-7 below, a relative comparison is made between the cost, design, and operating factors associated with the three reburning fuels.

TABLE 7-7. REBURNING FUEL COMPARISON

	Natural Gas	Coal	CWS
Reburning Fuel Cost	Highest	None	Low
Capital Cost	Lowest	Highest	Low
SO ₂ Reduction	Yes	None	Varies
Injector Size	Small	Large	Small
Auxiliary Power	Low	High	Moderate
Residence Time Requirement	Low	Moderate	Moderate

Natural gas is the most expensive reburning fuel, with the differential above coal averaging \$1.00 to \$1.50/10⁶Btu. Coal reburning involves no differential fuel cost since the total heat input to the unit does not change. The cost of CWS is site specific depending on the cost and the availability of the coal fines used to formulate the slurry.

CWS may be produced by wet milling the primary coal (~\$4/ton), using the minus 100 mesh froth cell product from coal cleaning plants, or recovering coal fines from coal preparation plant ponds with advanced coal cleaning techniques (delivered cost could be less than primary coal cost or higher depending on ownership of resource, quality of impounded coal and distance from power plant). Other fuels, like fuel oil and Orimulsion® (a Venezuelan bitumen-water emulsion) can also be used as effective reburning fuels.

If gas is available at the power plant, GR offers the lowest capital cost investment since there are no fuel preparation or handling equipment requirements. Coal reburning will require the addition of coal handling and milling equipment, milling equipment upgrading, or storage and handling equipment for coal fines produced elsewhere. Reburning with slurry requires CWS feeding equipment, added air compression for CWS atomization, and either onsite CWS storage or CWS formulation equipment for the delivered coal fines.

Since natural gas contains no sulfur, GR offers an additional SO₂ reduction over that provided by SI or other processes since gas replaces coal containing sulfur. For normal GR applications gas would replace coal and SO₂ emissions would be reduced some 20%.

Auxiliary power requirements for GR are relatively lower since fuel handling and preparation equipment is not necessary as it is with reburning using coal or CWS as the reburn fuels. Demonstrations of GR with FGR have shown that, with most furnace designs and adequate natural gas pressures available, the FGR may not be necessary to promote adequate mixing of the natural gas with the furnace gases. In such a case, the FGR fan can be eliminated, further reducing the auxiliary power requirements.

Consideration of the furnace geometry and available residence time may be critical in the selection of the reburning fuel. Natural gas requires the shortest residence time for the reburning process since the fuel "particle" size is at the molecular level. Coal, having larger particle sizes will require longer residence times.

Selective catalytic (SCR) and non-catalytic (SNCR) reduction are post combustion treatment methods. In the SCR process, ammonia vapor and preheated air are mixed and injected into the flue gas at the boiler exit. The optimum temperature window for this process is 550 to 750°F. Flue gas at this temperature is generally available upstream of the unit's air heater. A catalytic converter is installed in the duct work at this location. NO_x is reduced by the process to diatomic nitrogen in the converter. SCR systems are better

suited for installation downstream of a hot side precipitator since dust buildup and catalyst fouling are reduced. On systems installed upstream of a cold side precipitator, the catalyst mesh size must be increased to reduce dust build-up and catalyst fouling. The larger mesh size dictates a larger converter to provide the necessary surface area.

Ammonia slip (unreacted NH_3) is a major operating consideration with SCR systems. As the catalyst is expended, ammonia slip increases. Ammonia passing through the converter forms ammonium sulfate in particulate form which may foul equipment downstream such as air heaters, draft fans, or precipitators. Sulfates may also form in the catalyst pores to deactivate the catalyst if the flue gas temperature drops below 500°F . Unreacted ammonia may also be adsorbed by the fly ash and increase the leachability of metals in the ash, affecting the salability of the fly ash.

In the SNCR process, ammonia or urea based reagents are injected into the upper furnace at locations where flue gas temperatures range from 1600 to 2000°F . With this process the required high activation energy is provided by the temperature of the flue gas, and a converter with catalyst is not necessary.

An independent study completed for the U.S. EPA (Contract No. 68-D2-0168) "Investigation of Performance and Cost of NO_x Controls as Applied to Group 2 Boilers", compared the costs of competing NO_x control technologies. The costs for the SNCR and SCR systems were based on the above study for cyclone-fired units. The costs of SNCR and SCR should not be boiler type dependent although costs will vary based on site specific factors. The bases for the GR, GR-LNB, LNB and Coal Reburning systems were developed by EER. In Table 7-8, the cost of Gas Reburning, Coal Reburning, SNCR and SCR, based on $\$/\text{kW}_e$ and $\$/\text{ton}$ of NO_x removed are shown for 300 MW_e wall-fired units. The NO_x reduction costs are based on incremental annual operating costs that include a 12.4% fixed charge rate on total plant investment to cover investment related costs.

TABLE 7-8. 300 MW_e-WALL-FIRED NO_x CONTROL COMPARISON

Technology	NO _x Reduced %	Capital Cost \$/kW _e	NO _x Removed ⁵ \$/ton
Gas Reburning ¹ (GR only)	60	11.8	527 ⁶
Low NO _x Burners (LNBs only)	45	13.9	227
GR ¹ -LNB (2nd Generation)	64	24.6	766 ⁶
Coal Reburning ²	50	28.0	592
SNCR ³	35	9.0	700
SCR ⁴	50	44	575

- (1) Natural Gas @ \$2.47/10⁶ Btu and Coal @ \$1.47/10⁶ Btu
- (2) No added pulverizer requirement
- (3) 50% Urea solution @ \$0.75/gal
- (4) Anhydrous Ammonia @ \$162/ton & SCR catalyst replacement (3 yr life) @ \$350/ft³
- (5) Base levelized costs using current dollars
- (6) Includes a \$95/ton SO₂ allowance credit

As shown in the table, the NO_x control technologies show a cost per ton of NO_x removed that ranges from approximately \$230 to \$770. Based on this comparison low NO_x burners are the least expensive. SNCR and GR-LNB are the most expensive. GR, coal reburning and SCR are similar when with GR, the price differential between the gas and the primary coal is \$1.00 /10⁶ Btu.

The NO_x reduction for SCR assumed in the mentioned study was low, only 50%. However, SCR systems have achieved 80%+ reductions with increased catalyst volume. For NO_x reduction beyond what is possible by a particular technology, it is possible to combine some technologies for deeper reduction. For an example, Advanced GR is currently being marketed involving the simultaneous application of GR and SNCR. Overall NO_x reduction is expected to be in the range of 75 to 90 percent.

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