

# Oxy-Combustion System Process Optimization (Contract No. DE-FE-0029090)



**Gökhan Alptekin, PhD**  
**Ambal Jayaraman, PhD**  
**Mike Bonnema**  
**Jerrod Hohman**  
**Freya Kugler**  
**Mike Ware**

**2018 CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Technology  
Meeting**

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# Project Summary

- **The objective is to optimize the Pressurized Oxy-Combustion (POxC) process to minimize the Cost of Electricity (COE)**
  - System analysis and design work to optimize POxC process, including thermal management, heat integration, power cycle optimization using process design and modeling supported with Aspen Plus® process simulations
  - Develop a new chemical absorbent-based CO<sub>2</sub> purification system to remove the residual oxygen that contaminates the recovered CO<sub>2</sub>
- **Major Project Tasks**
  - Sorbent Optimization and Evaluation
    - Performance validation via long-term cycling tests
  - Process, System Design and Modeling
  - Techno-economic analysis
    - Various configurations with different ASU and O<sub>2</sub> removal options
    - High fidelity engineering analysis and process simulation

# Project Partners



## Project Duration

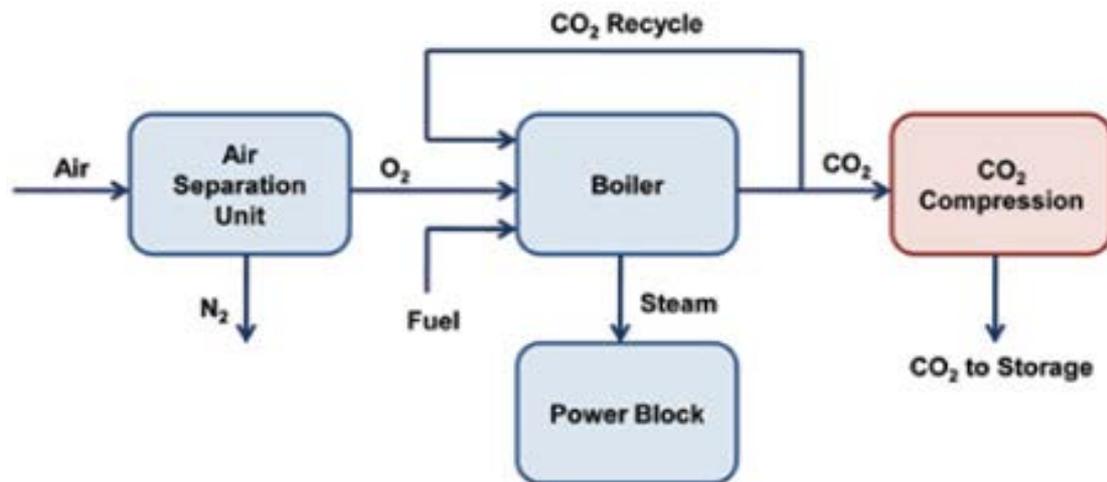
- Start Date = October 1, 2016
- End Date = September 30, 2019

## Budget

- Project Cost = \$1,375,042
- DOE Share = \$1,099,998
- TDA and UCI = \$275,044

# Oxy-Combustion & Carbon Capture

- In oxy-combustion fuels is burned in O<sub>2</sub> instead of air, which results in a flue gas of primarily CO<sub>2</sub> with trace levels of impurities
- POxC reduces energy and capital costs of the equipment used to purify and compress the CO<sub>2</sub>
- DOE/NETL objective is to optimize the POxC process to limit the COE increase to less than 20% over the no-capture case
- The main cost contributors POxC process includes:
  - Air Separation Unit
  - CO<sub>2</sub> Purification system



	COE (\$/MWh)	Increase in COE(%)*
NETL Non-Capture Ref., Air-fired SC w/o CCS	58.90	--
NETL Base Case Current Technology	91.07	54.6
NETL Cumulative Technology Case	78.15	32.7
Proposed Goal	70.68	20.0

\*Relative to the non-capture case

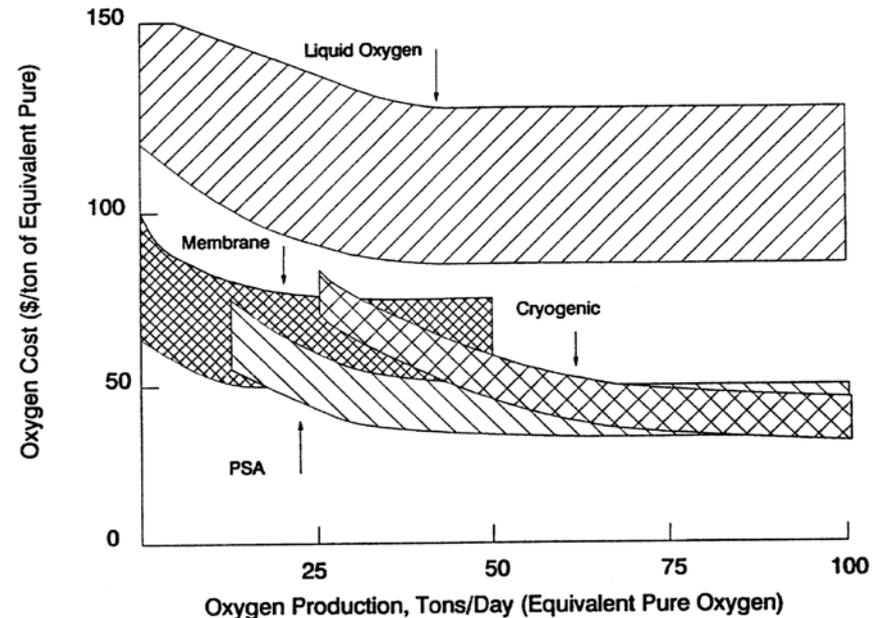
Source: Cost of Electricity for Low Pressure Oxy-Combustion Technologies (NETL 2012).

# Air Separation Options

- **ASU is one of the largest cost contributors to oxy-combustion (consumes over 5% of plant power and constitutes ~20% of plant cost)**
- **Cryogenic air separation is the choice of technology at large-scale**
  - 600 MW plant requires ~170 ton O<sub>2</sub>/day
- **Cryo-separation is highly energy intensive due to the thermal inefficiencies inherent in the low operating temperatures**
- **Alternatives**
  - Ion Transport Membranes
    - High TRL
  - Sorbent-Based Air Separation System (TDA Technology developed under DE-FE0026142)
    - Low TRL



Source: Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

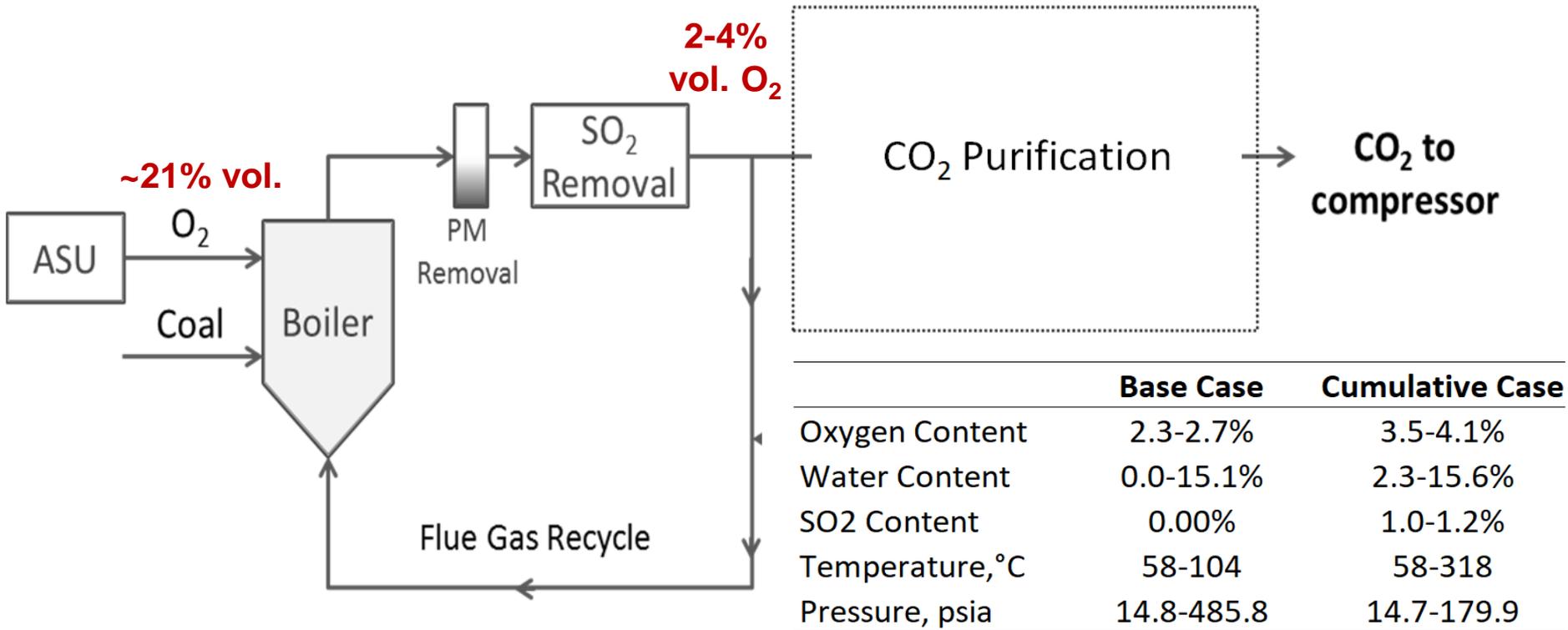


Source: Kobayashi, 2002

# Process Optimization Case Matrix

Case	Power Cycle psig/°F/°F	Subsystem Concept Evaluated	Oxidant	Sulfur Removal
1 (Base)	Supercritical Steam 3500/1110/1150	Current ASU	95% O <sub>2</sub> Cryogenic ASU	Wet FGD
2	Supercritical Steam	Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Membrane w/ Preheat in Boiler	~100% Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Membrane (Ion Transport)	Wet FGD
3	Supercritical Steam	Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Membrane w/ Preheat by Natural Gas Firing	~100% Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Membrane (Ion Transport)	Wet FGD
4	Supercritical Steam	Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Sorbent (TDA) w/ Preheat in Boiler	95%+ Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Sorbent (TDA)	Wet FGD
5	Supercritical Steam	Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Sorbent (TDA) w Preheat by Natural Gas Firing	95%+Advanced O <sub>2</sub> Sorbent (TDA)	Wet FGD
6	Supercritical Steam	CO <sub>2</sub> Purification by Catalytic De-oxidation with Natural Gas	Two cases chosen from Case 1 through Case 5 (e.g., one TDA & one Ion Transport)	Wet FGD
7	Supercritical Steam	CO <sub>2</sub> Purification by Chemical Looping	Two cases chosen from Case 1 through Case 5 (e.g., one TDA & one Ion Transport)	Wet FGD
8	Supercritical Steam	Advanced CO <sub>2</sub> & ASU Compression	Two cases chosen from above (one TDA & one Ion Transport)	Wet FGD
9	Ultra-supercritical Steam 4000/1350/1400	Ultra-supercritical Steam Cycle with Advanced Materials	Same as Case 8 except steam cycle (one TDA & one Ion Transport)	Wet FGD
10	Ultra-supercritical Steam	Co-sequestration	Same as Case 9 without CO <sub>2</sub> Purification (TDA & Ion Transport)	Co-capture with CO <sub>2</sub>
11	Supercritical CO <sub>2</sub> Conditions: TBD	Supercritical CO <sub>2</sub> Cycle with Advanced Materials	Same as Case 8 except working fluid (one TDA & one Ion Transport)	Wet FGD

# CO<sub>2</sub> Purification Need in POxC



**Source: Cost of Electricity for Low Pressure Oxy-Combustion Technologies (NETL 2012).**

- The oxygen content in the CO<sub>2</sub> product has to be reduced to less than 1,000 ppmv prior to CO<sub>2</sub> compression
- Heat integration/optimization is critical
  - 10-15% of plant's energy output

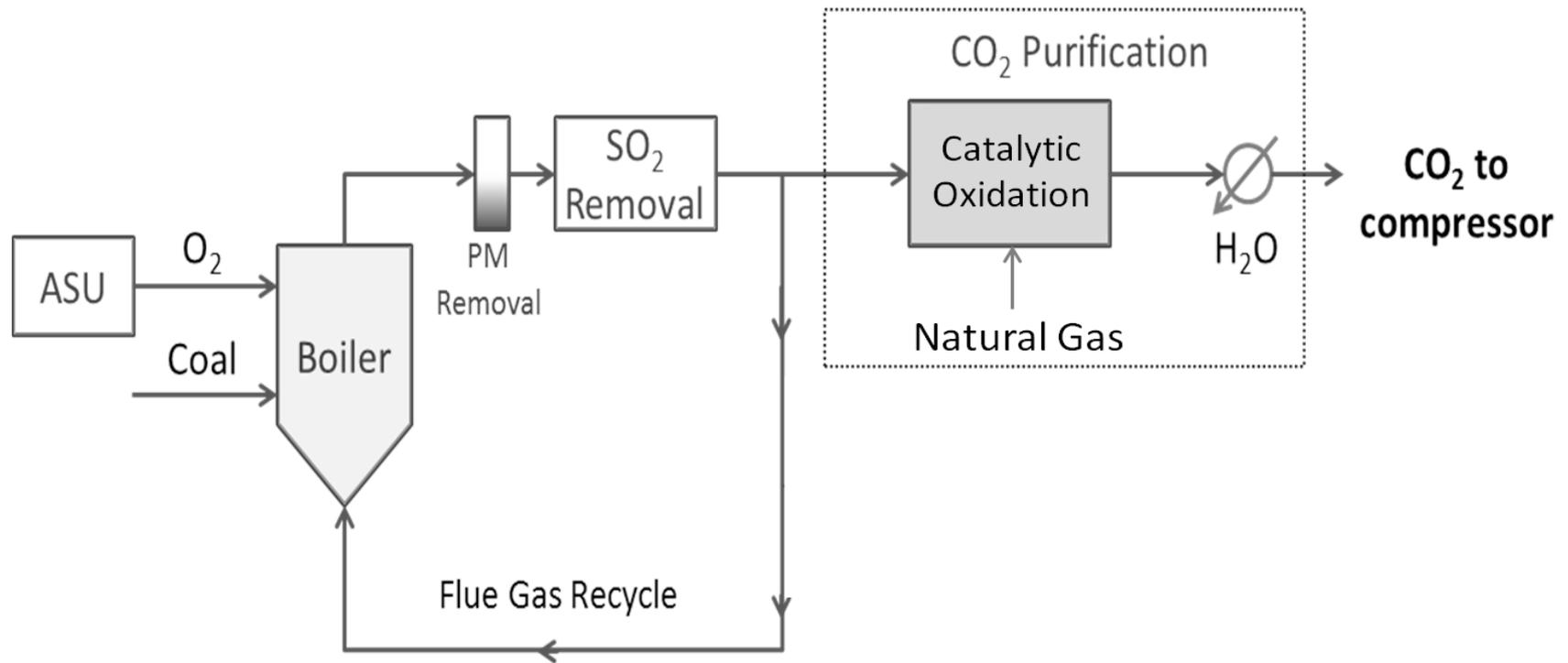
# CO<sub>2</sub> Purity Specifications

Component	Unit (Max unless Otherwise noted)	Carbon Steel Pipeline		Enhanced Oil Recovery		Saline Reservoir Sequestration		Saline Reservoir CO <sub>2</sub> & H <sub>2</sub> S Co-sequestration	
		Conceptual Design	Range in Literature	Conceptual Design	Range in Literature	Conceptual Design	Range in Literature	Conceptual Design	Range in Literature
CO <sub>2</sub>	vol% (Min)	95	90-99.8	95	90-99.8	95	90-99.8	95	20 – 99.8
H <sub>2</sub> O	ppmv	500	20 - 650	500	20 - 650	500	20 - 650	500	20 - 650
N <sub>2</sub>	vol%	4	0.01 - 7	1	0.01 - 2	4	0.01 - 7	4	0.01 – 7
O <sub>2</sub>	vol%	0.001	0.001 – 4	0.001	0.001– 1.3	0.001	0.001– 4	0.001	0.001 – 4
Ar	vol%	4	0.01 – 4	1	0.01 – 1	4	0.01 – 4	4	0.01 – 4
CH <sub>4</sub>	vol%	4	0.01 – 4	1	0.01 – 2	4	0.01 – 4	4	0.01 – 4
H <sub>2</sub>	vol%	4	0.01 - 4	1	0.01 – 1	4	0.01 – 4	4	0.02 – 4
CO	ppmv	35	10 - 5000	35	10 - 5000	35	10 - 5000	35	10 - 5000
H <sub>2</sub> S	vol%	0.01	0.002 – 1.3	0.01	0.002 – 1.3	0.01	0.002 – 1.3	75	10 - 77
SO <sub>2</sub>	ppmv	100	10 - 50000	100	10 - 50000	100	10 - 50000	50	10 - 100
NO <sub>x</sub>	ppmv	100	20 - 2500	100	20 - 2500	100	20 - 2500	100	20 - 2500
NH <sub>3</sub>	ppmv	50	0 - 50	50	0 - 50	50	0 - 50	50	0 - 50
COS	ppmv	trace	trace	5	0 - 5	trace	trace	trace	trace
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub>	vol%	1	0 - 1	1	0 - 1	1	0 - 1	1	0 - 1
C <sub>3</sub> +	vol%	<1	0 - 1	<1	0 - 1	<1	0 - 1	<1	0 - 1
Particulates	ppmv	1	0 - 1	1	0 - 1	1	0 - 1	1	0 - 1
HCN	ppmv	trace	trace	trace	trace	trace	trace	trace	trace
Glycol	ppbv	46	0 - 174	46	0 - 174	46	0 - 174	46	0 - 174

\* Not enough information is available to determine the maximum allowable amount for HCl, HF, Hg, MEA and Selexol solvent.

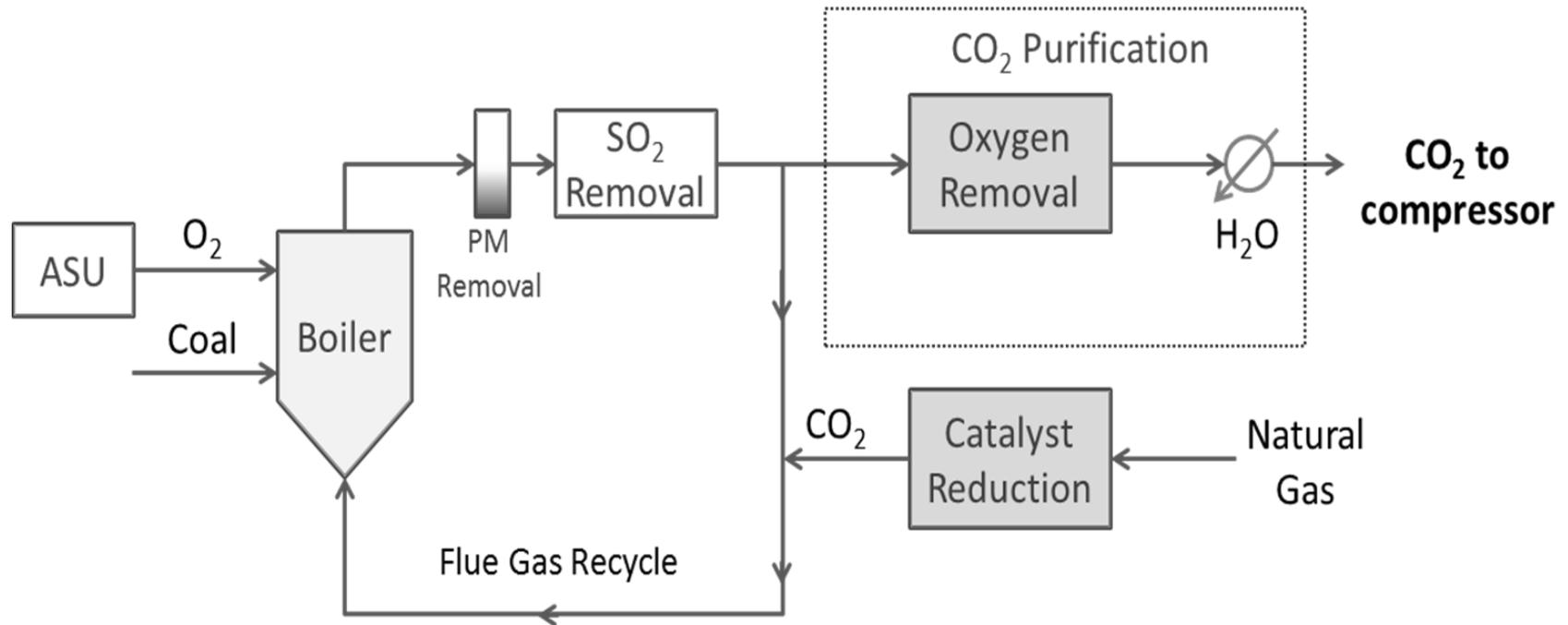
- **Stringent requirements for O<sub>2</sub> (and other contaminants) in compressed CO<sub>2</sub>,**
  - **<0.001% vol. O<sub>2</sub>**

# CO<sub>2</sub> Purification via Catalytic Oxidation



- **Catalytic oxidation is mature technology**
- **Challenges with catalytic oxidation**
  - **To meet the O<sub>2</sub> concentration requirements, natural gas has to be used in greater quantities than required by the reaction stoichiometry**
  - **Excess natural gas ending in the CO<sub>2</sub> will reduce system efficiency**
  - **Limit on CH<sub>4</sub> is high (1% vol.) but tighter on heavier HCs**

# TDA's CO<sub>2</sub> Purification System



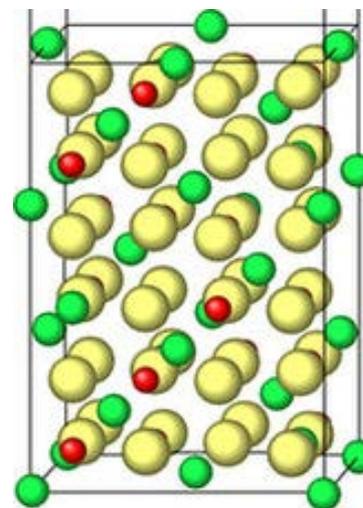
- TDA proposes a chemical absorbent-based oxygen removal system
  - Low O<sub>2</sub> concentration in the treated CO<sub>2</sub> can be readily achieved
  - Excess natural gas can be recycled back to the boiler
- Does not use precious metal catalysts; low cost metal oxide catalyst could polish off impurities

# TDA's Sorbent

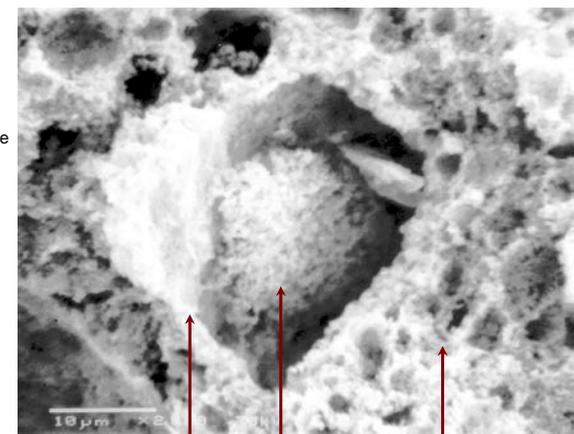
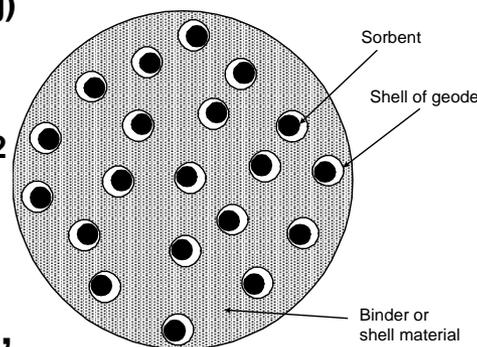
- TDA sorbent consists of a high surface area (>100 m<sup>2</sup>/g) mixed metal oxide A<sub>x</sub>B<sub>y</sub>O<sub>z</sub> phase that selectively reacts with the oxygen in the compressed CO<sub>2</sub> at moderate temperatures (<200 to 500°C)



- Sorbent can effectively reduce O<sub>2</sub> content to less than 100 ppmv
  - No equilibrium limitations
- TDA's sorbent uses a unique structure referred to as a "geode"
  - High mechanical integrity
  - High chemical stability
  - High surface area



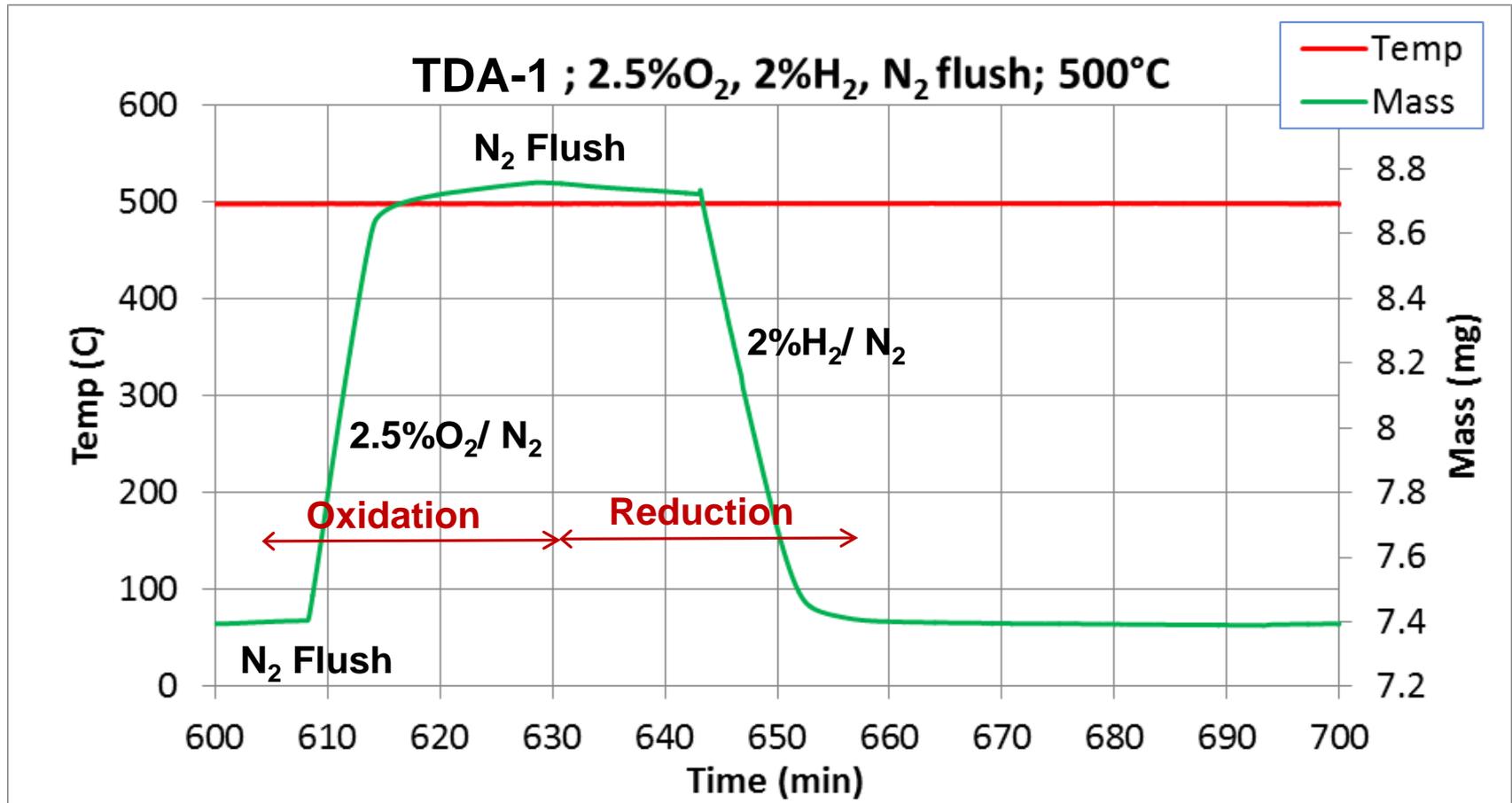
Crystal model for A<sub>x</sub>B<sub>y</sub>O<sub>z</sub>



TDA's geode sorbent structure as seen in SEM

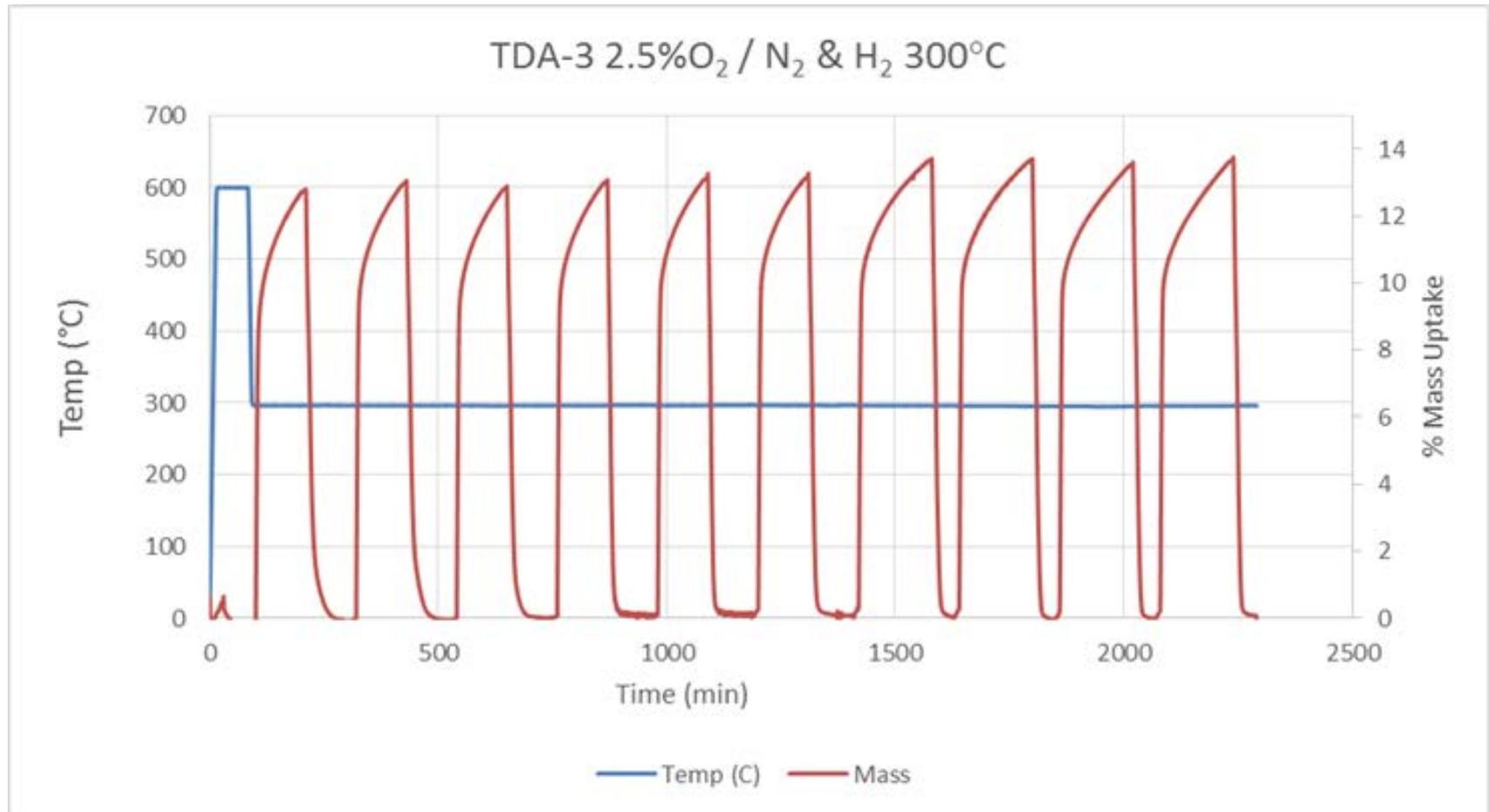
↑ Geode shell  
↑ Active material  
↑ Porous exterior

# Typical RedOx Cycle - TGA Tests



- Fast oxidation/reduction kinetics at 500°C
- 18-20% O<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity (kg O<sub>2</sub> removed per kg sorbent)

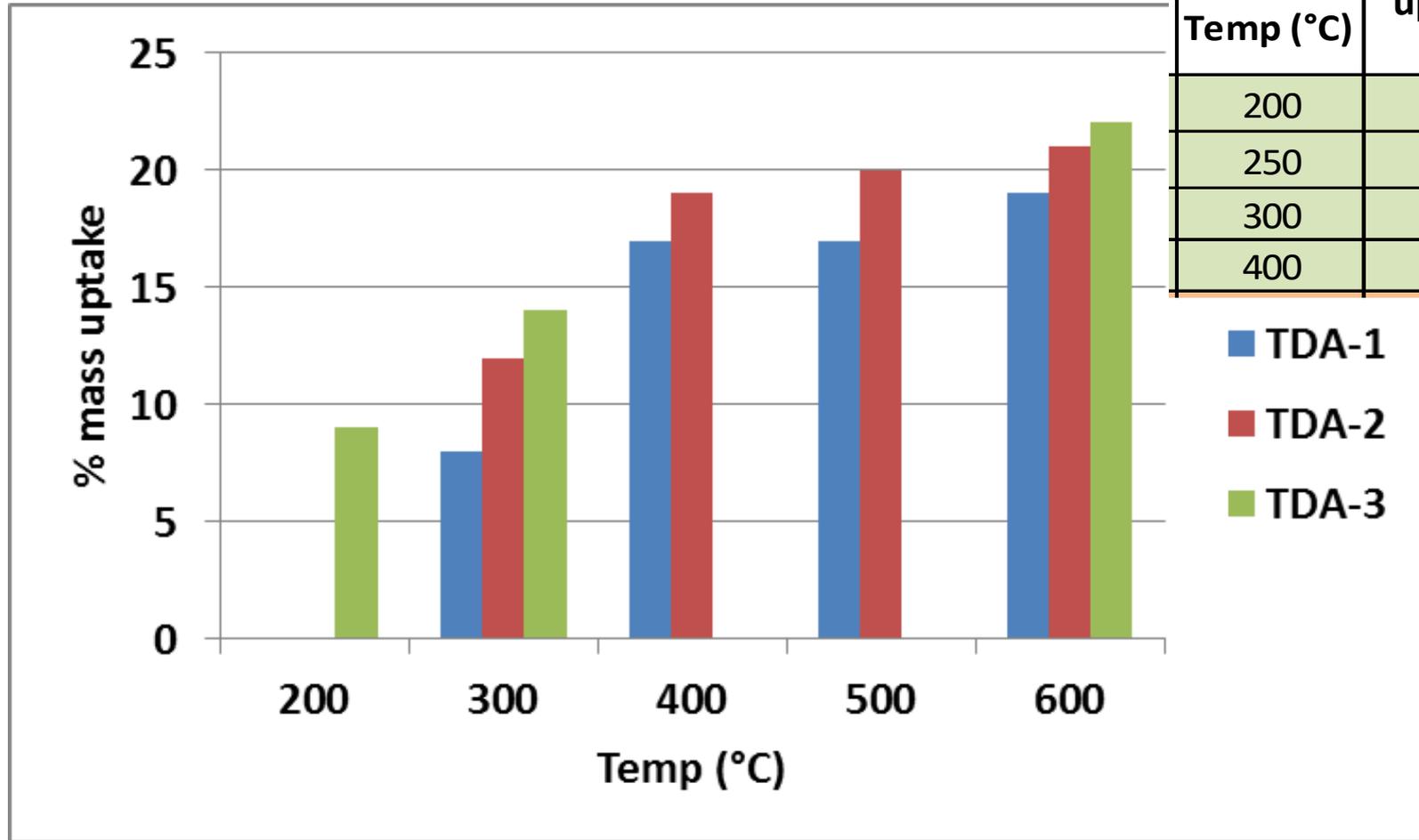
# TGA Cycles at 300°C



- Formulations were modified using promoters to improve kinetics and oxygen uptake at lower temperatures
- Modified samples showed high capacity (12+% wt. O<sub>2</sub>) at 300°C

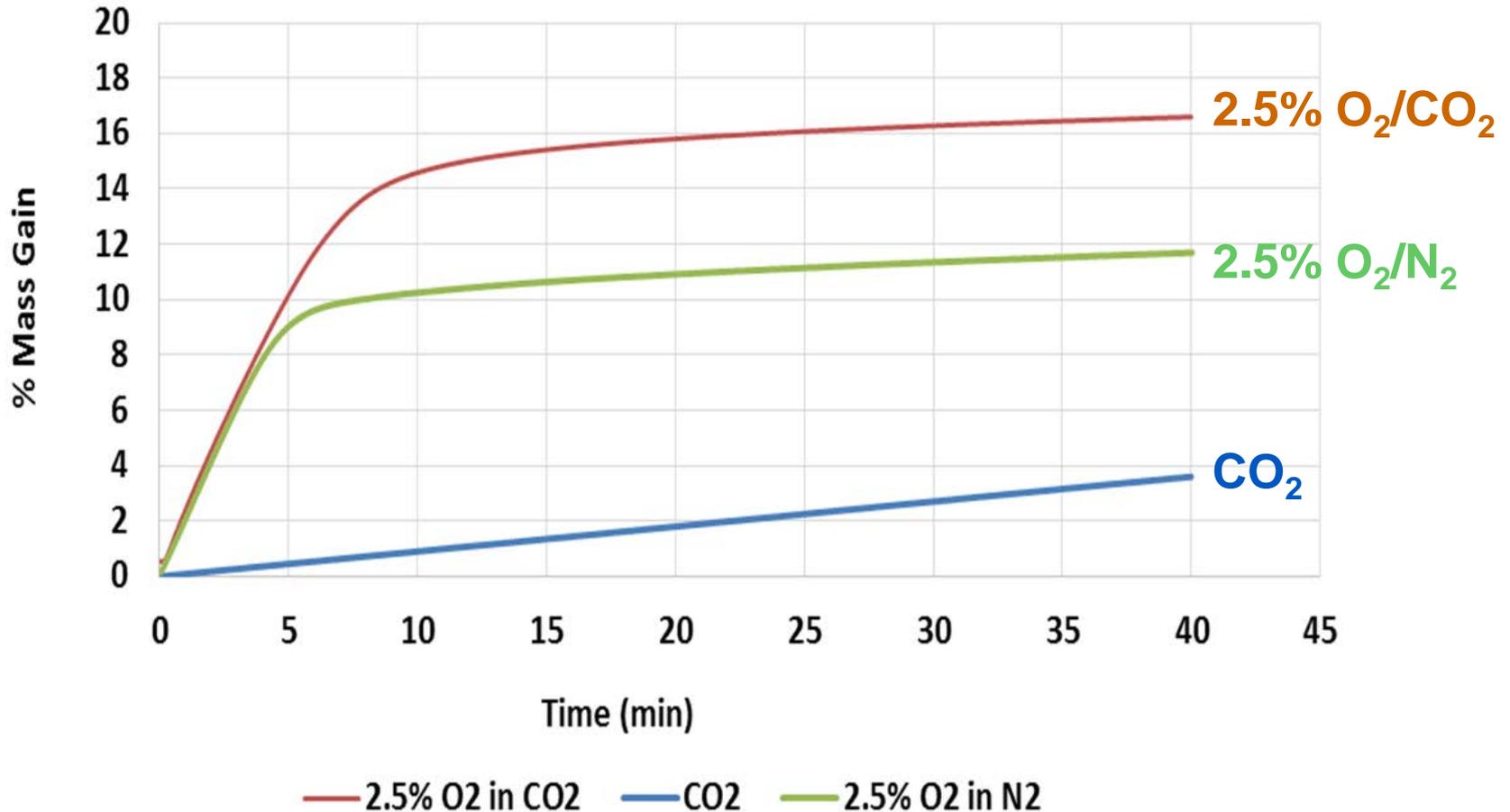
# Impact of Temperature

Gases: 2.5%O<sub>2</sub> /N<sub>2</sub> & 2% H<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>



- TDA-3 showed better oxygen uptakes at all temperatures

# O<sub>2</sub> Uptake in the Presence of CO<sub>2</sub>



- Some metal oxide carbonation was evident
- Oxidation is much faster than carbonation (from CO<sub>2</sub> reaction)

# Fixed Bed Reactor Tests

## Test Capabilities

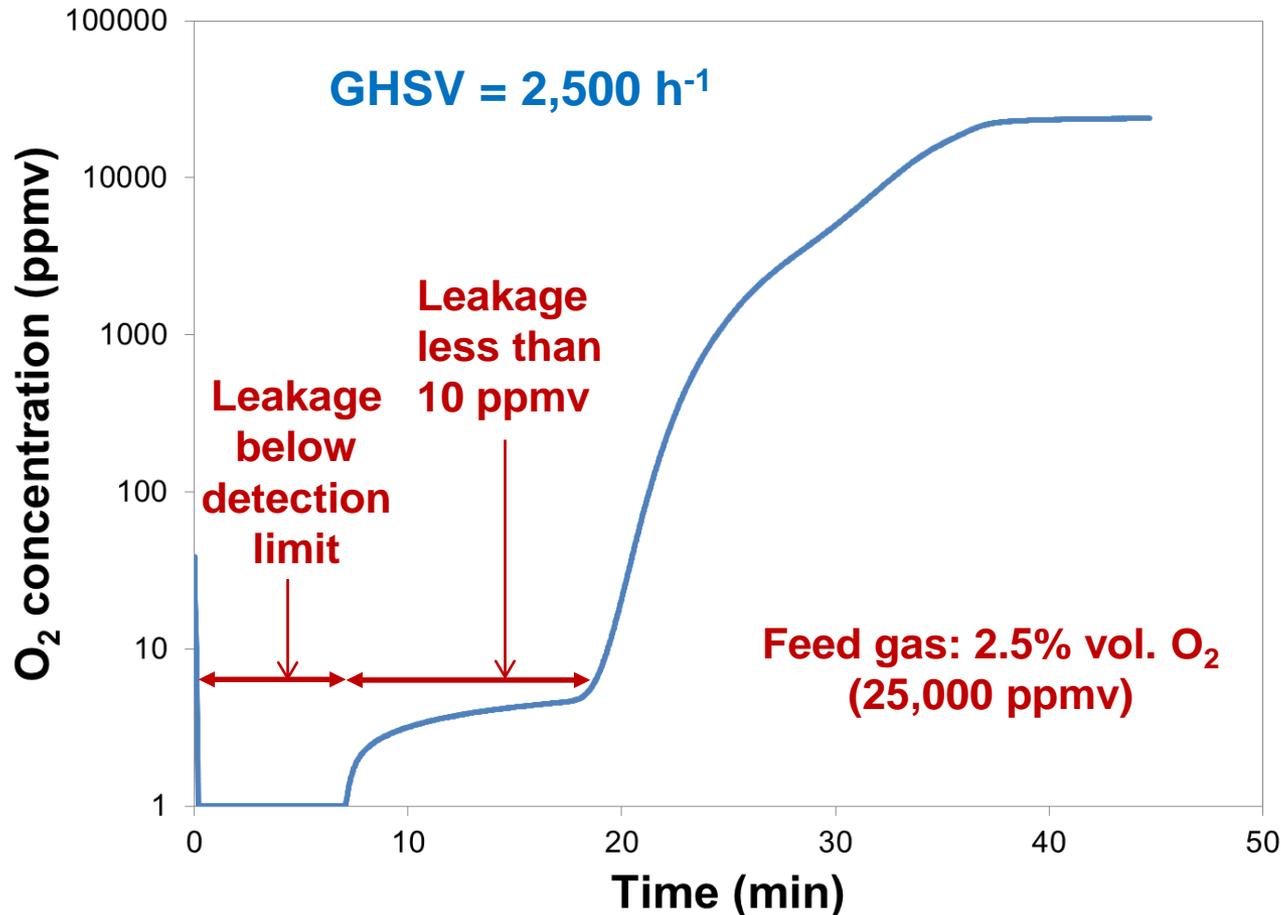
- Breakthrough tests
- Life cycle tests

## Variables

- Temp. 200-550°C
- Space velocity = 500-10,000 h<sup>-1</sup>
- Pressure = 1-20 bar
- Absorption: 0.1-5% O<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub>
- Regeneration: 0.1-100% H<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>4</sub>
- An electro-chemical O<sub>2</sub> analyzer (ZR800 Zirconia Oxygen Analyzer) with 1 ppmv O<sub>2</sub> detection capability was used to measure the O<sub>2</sub> concentration
- California Analytical NDIR analyzer for CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, CH<sub>4</sub> measurements



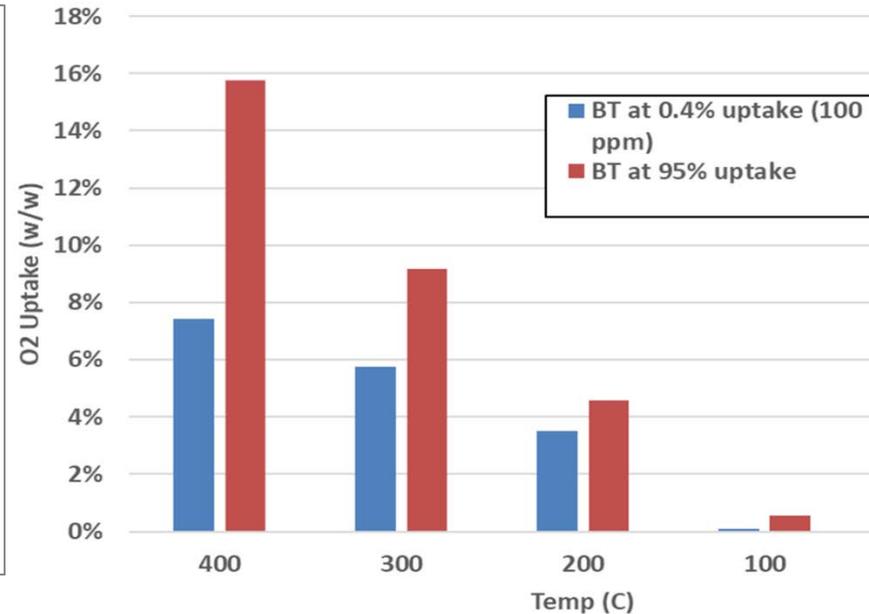
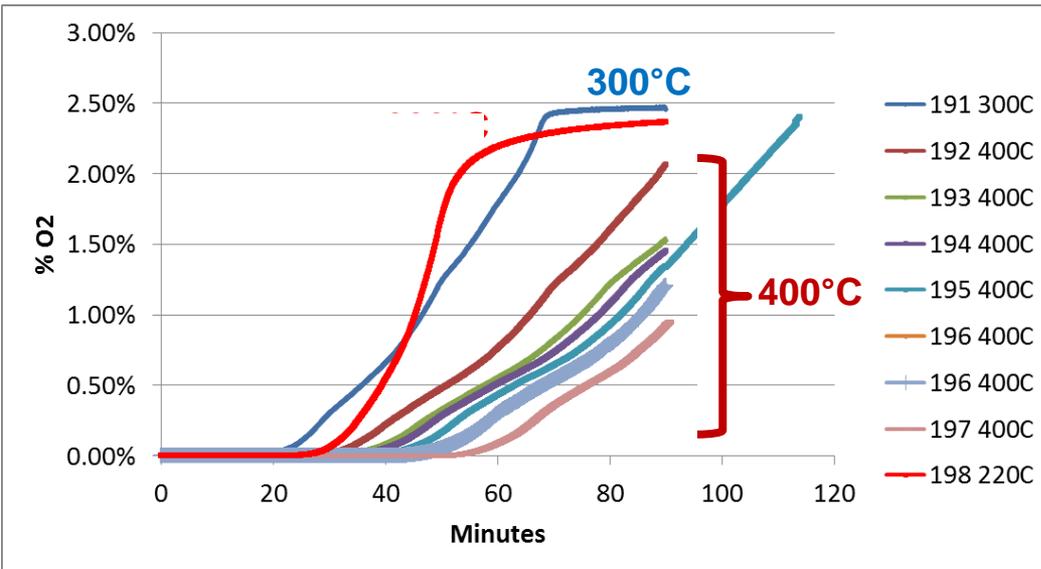
# Breakthrough Tests



- Breakthrough tests confirmed very high oxygen removal efficiency
- O<sub>2</sub> concentration in treated gas can be lowered to <10 ppmv

# Multiple Cycle Tests

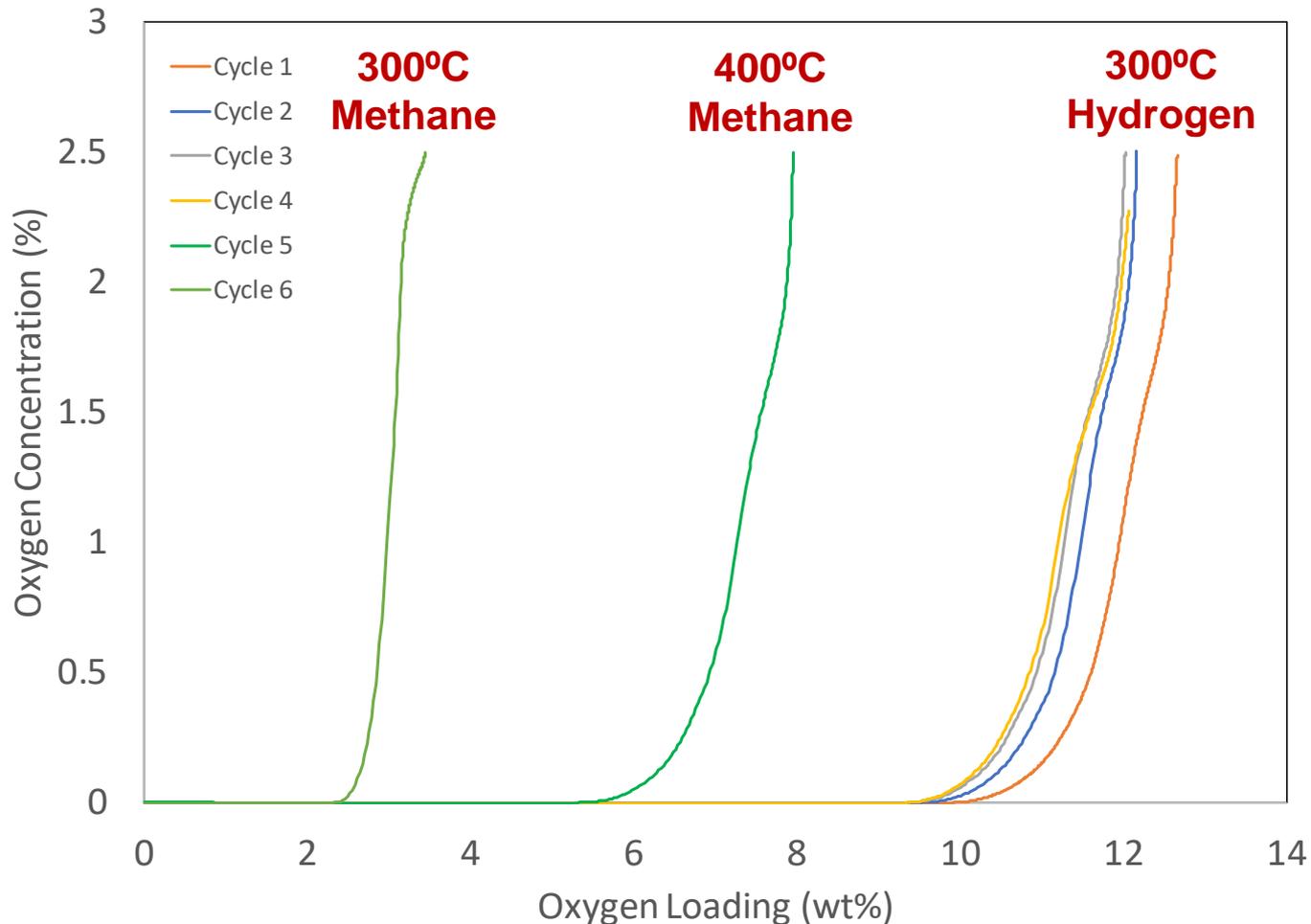
## Cycle # 191 – 198: 400°C



- **Stable performance was observed over 300 cycles; both isothermal and TSA cycles in 200-500°C range**
  - **At 400°C ~7.4%wt. O<sub>2</sub> capacity at 100 ppmv breakthrough**
  - **15.77% wt. O<sub>2</sub> capacity at 95% O<sub>2</sub> uptake**

Temp (°C)	100 ppm BT (0.4% O <sub>2</sub> uptake)	Saturation BT (95% O <sub>2</sub> uptake)
400	7.42%	15.77%
300	5.75%	9.18%
200	3.50%	4.59%
100	0.09%	0.54%
50	0.03%	0.06%

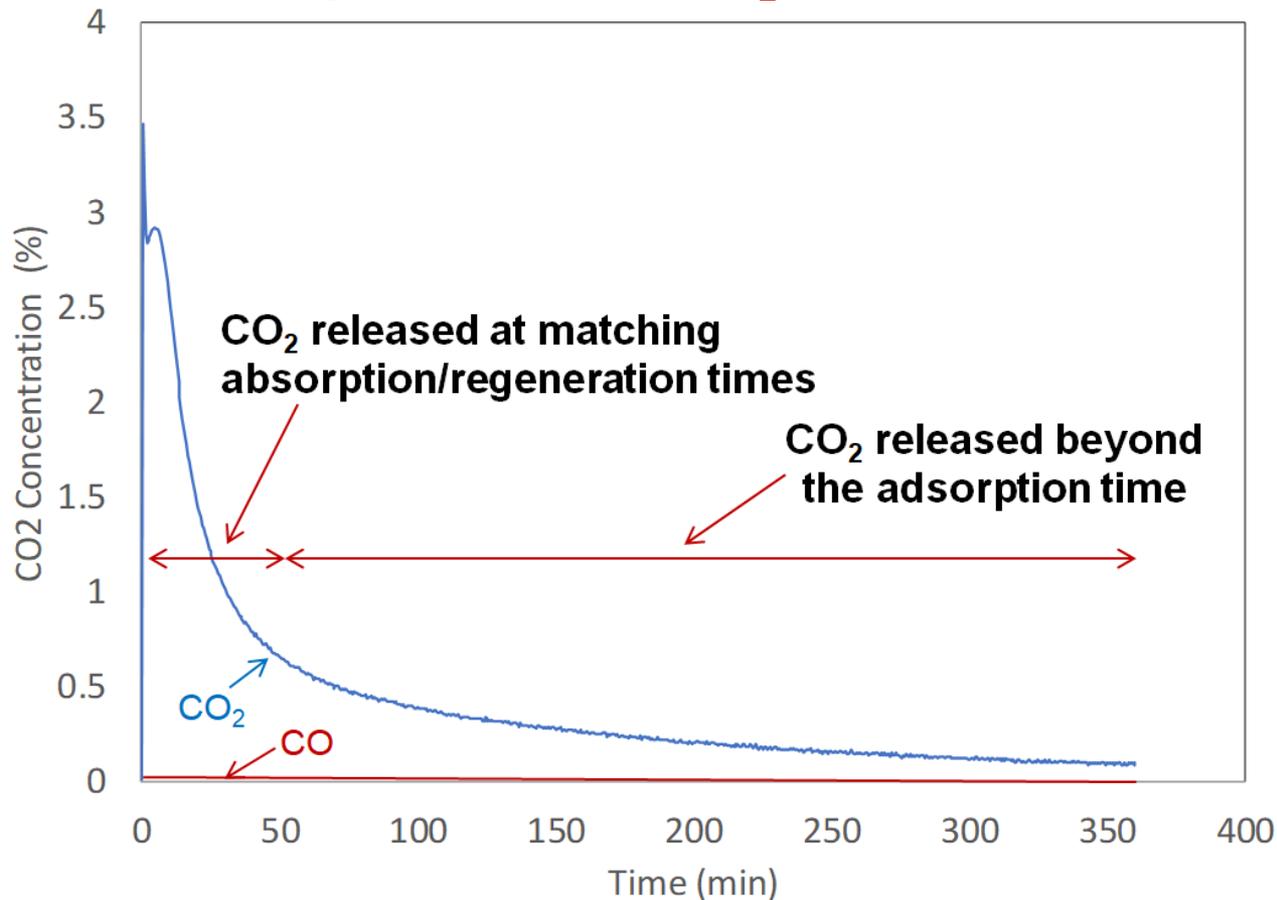
# Using Methane as Reduction Gas



- When CH<sub>4</sub> is used instead of hydrogen the oxygen uptake decreased due to incomplete regenerations (lower reduction rates with CH<sub>4</sub>)

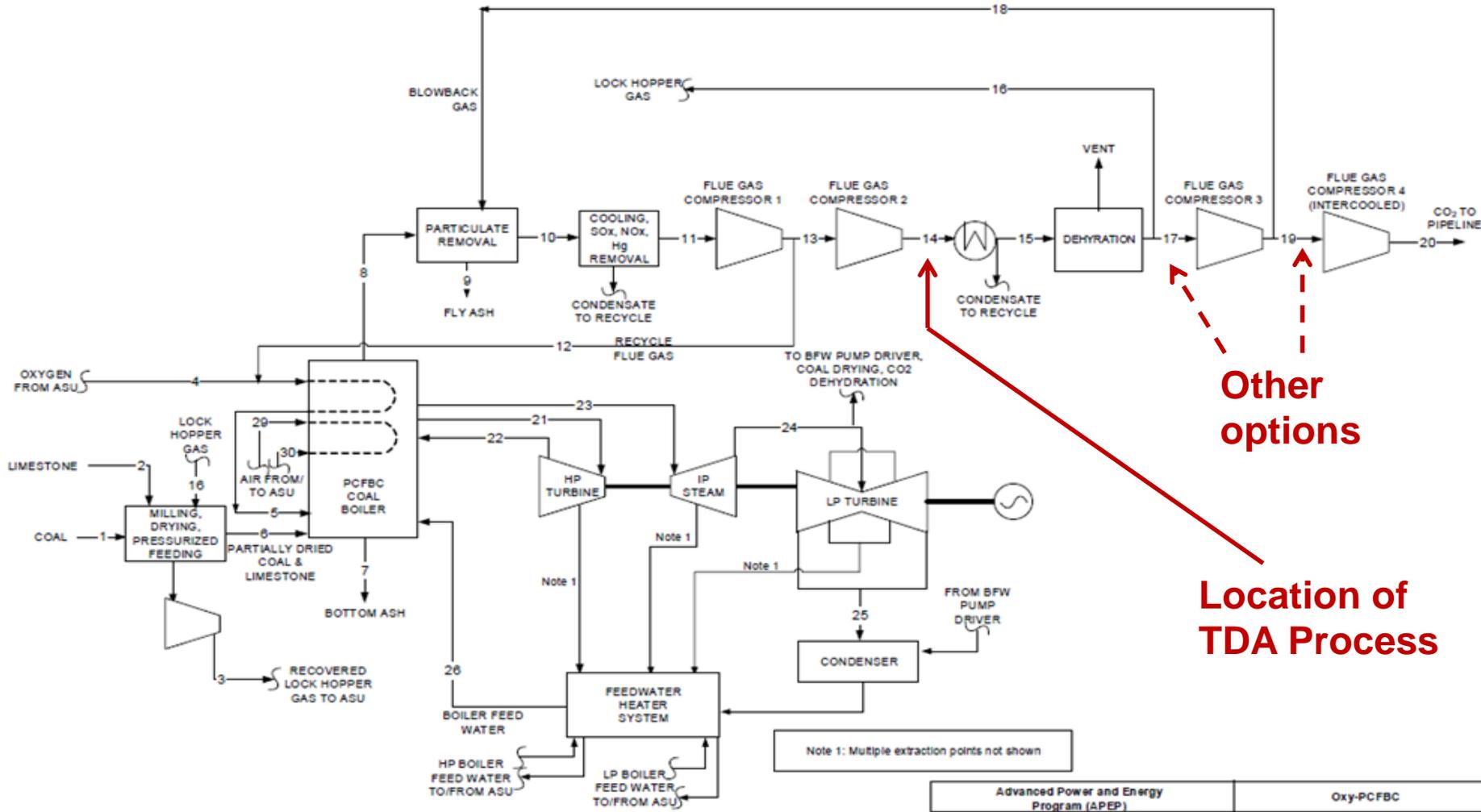
# Reaction Products - 400°C CH<sub>4</sub> Reduction

Absorption = 2.5% vol. O<sub>2</sub>, GHSV= 2,500 h<sup>-1</sup>



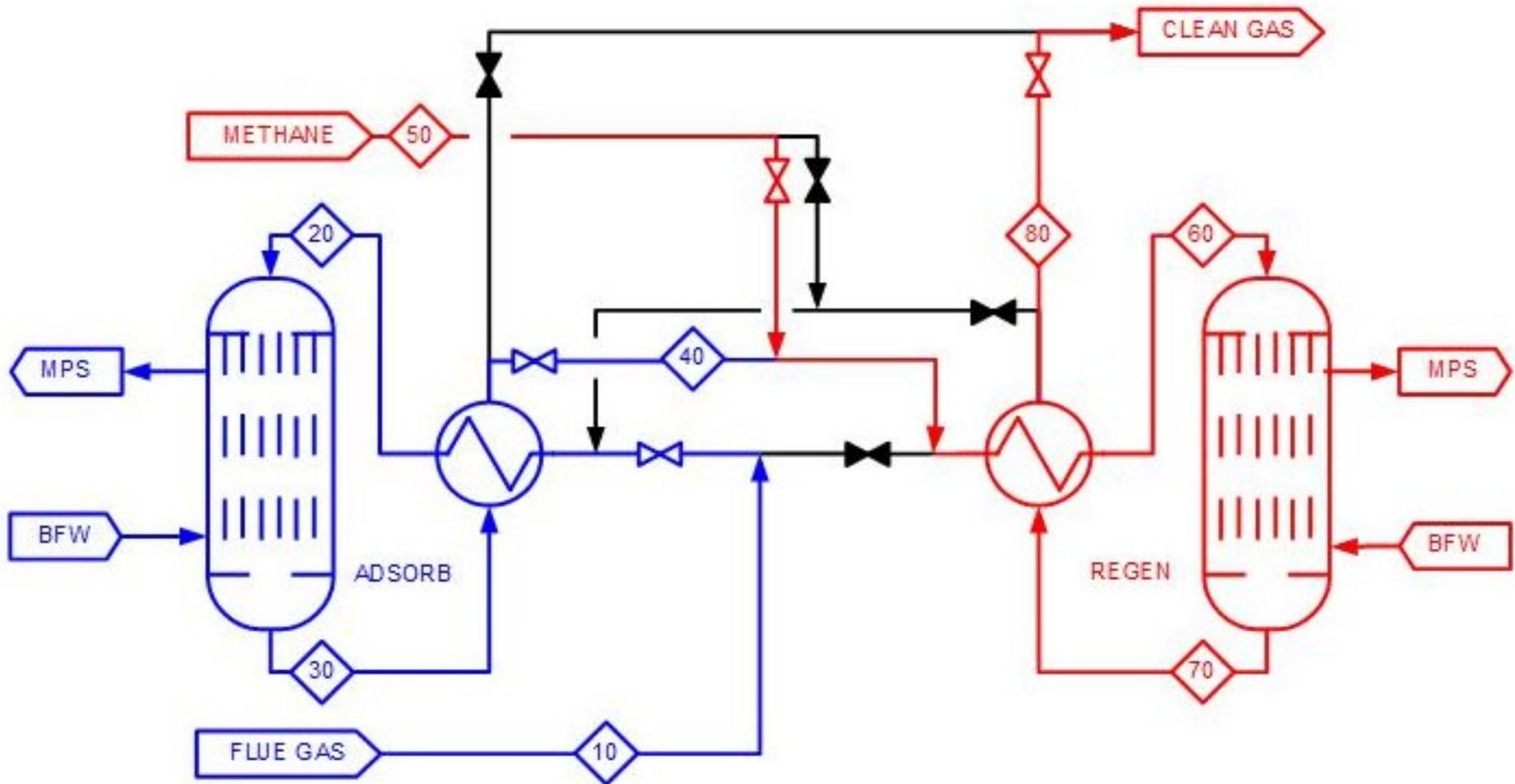
- Longer regenerations are needed for full reduction
- CH<sub>4</sub> reduction primarily generated CO<sub>2</sub> (<50 ppm CO was observed)

# CO<sub>2</sub> Purification Process Design





# Isothermal Design



- Reactors operating in series provides good flow match between the oxidation and reduction steps

# Isothermal Reactors

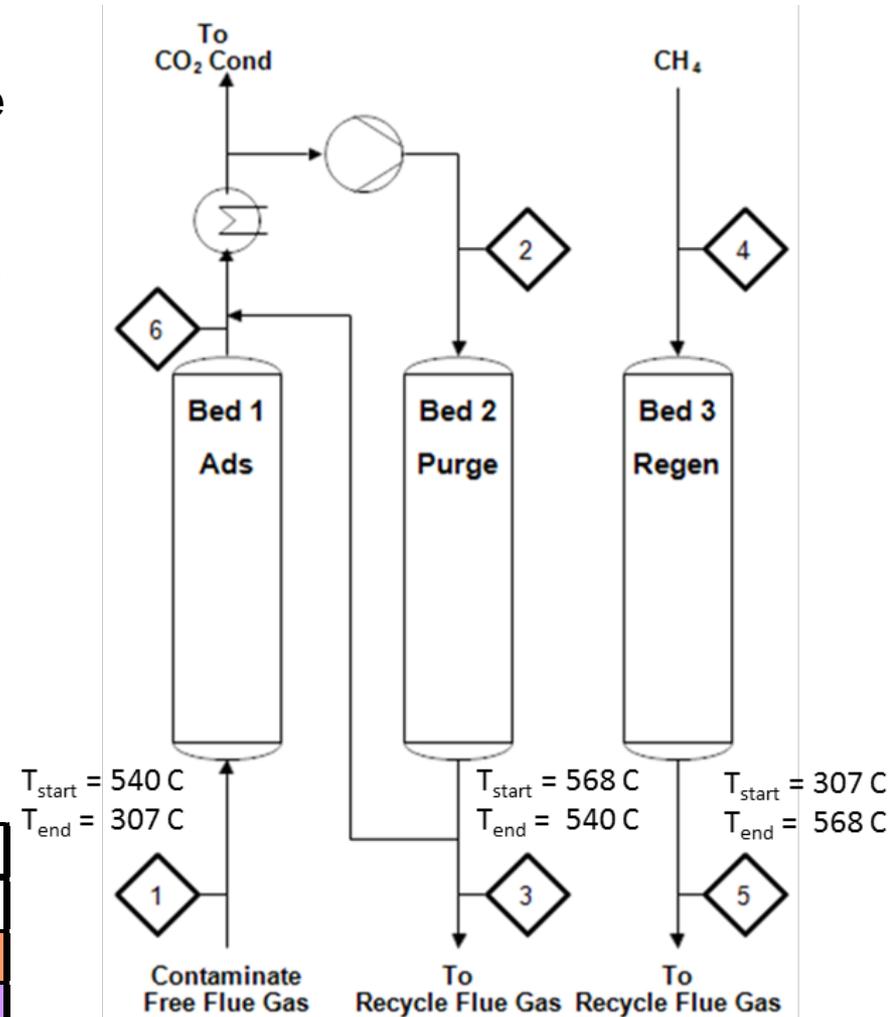
- **Two reactors operate in series to remove O<sub>2</sub> from the flue gas**
  - The first reactor receives flue gas from the compressor and the sorbent adsorbs the oxygen in the flue gas
  - The second reactor receives the clean flue gas spiked with methane to regenerate the sorbent
- **Isothermal reactors are packed tube, steam is raised using the heat generated by reaction exotherm**
- **Both reactors are equipped with feed-product heat exchangers to heat the incoming flue gas to the reaction temperature**

Stream ID	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Temperature (°C)	78	400	425	99	50	407	425	126
Pressure (bar)	23.9	23.9	22.9	22.9	22.1	22.1	22	22
Flow (10 <sup>6</sup> Sm <sup>3</sup> /day)	9	9	8.8	8.8	0.2	9	9.2	9.2
N <sub>2</sub>	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%	2.70%	0.00%	2.60%	2.60%	2.60%
O <sub>2</sub>	2.70%	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Ar	4.00%	4.00%	4.10%	4.10%	0.00%	4.00%	3.90%	3.90%
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100%	2.10%	0.10%	0.10%
CO <sub>2</sub>	90.50%	90.50%	93.00%	93.00%	0.00%	91.10%	90.60%	90.60%
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.00%	0.20%	2.80%	2.80%

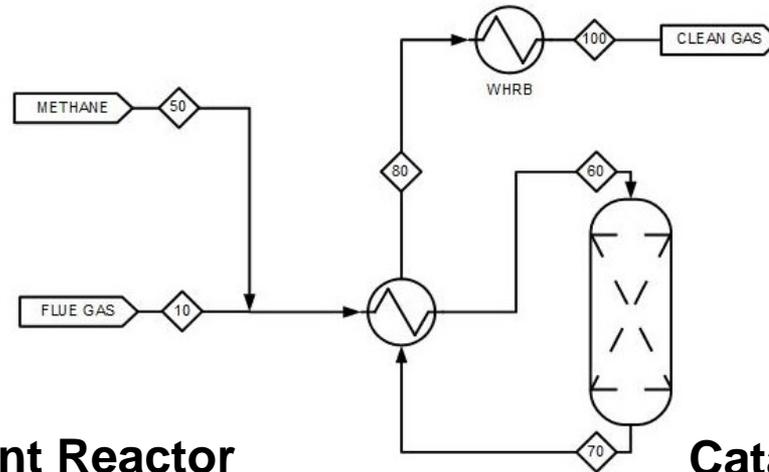
# Cycle Sequence Optimization

- In a multi-step cycle sequence, a purge step is added to purge any CH<sub>4</sub> from the bed
- At the end of the reduction step, the void spaces in the bed will be filled with CH<sub>4</sub> (2% vol. max) mixed with CO<sub>2</sub> which could be transferred into the CO<sub>2</sub> stream
- Using a small amount of the oxygen-free CO<sub>2</sub> and purge the bed into the flue gas recycle
- Any residual CH<sub>4</sub> will be combusted in the boiler

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Time (min)	2	2	2
Bed 1	Abs	Regen	Purge
Bed 2	Purge	Abs	Regen
Bed 3	Regen	Purge	Abs



# CatOx vs. Sorbent-Based O<sub>2</sub> Removal



## Isothermal Sorbent Reactor

### Reactor Type – 2 x Packed Tube Feed-Product Exchangers

- Adsorber – 63 MW<sub>th</sub> / Regen – 61 MW<sub>th</sub>

### Operating Temperatures

- Absorber Bed – 425°C
- Regeneration Bed – 425°C
- Outlet Flue Gas – 126°C

### Heat Recovery – 39 MW<sub>th</sub> from the shell side of the reactors

- Steam Generated – 59,640 kg/hr @ 45 bar (medium pressure)

## Catalytic Reactor

### Reactor Type – Single Fixed Bed Feed-Product Exchangers

- Reactor – 44 MW<sub>th</sub>

### Operating Temperatures

- Catalyst Bed – 520°C
- Outlet Flue Gas – 165°C

### Heat Recovery – 31 MW<sub>th</sub> from waste heat recovery boiler

- Steam Generated – 48,400 kg/hr @ 45 bar (medium pressure)



# Plant Performance Summary

Case #	1	2	3	4	5
<b>GROSS POWER GENERATED (AT GENERATOR TERMINALS) (KWE)</b>					
STEAM TURBINE	785,587	791,313	781,468	723,700	715,557
DEPLETED AIR EXPANDER	-	214,779	212,201	80,118	80,714
<b>TOTAL GENERATED (KWE)</b>	<b>785,587</b>	<b>1,006,092</b>	<b>993,669</b>	<b>803,818</b>	<b>796,271</b>
<b>TOTAL AUXILIARIES (KWE)</b>					
TOTAL AUXILIARIES (KWE)	235,587	456,091	443,669	253,818	246,271
<b>NET POWER (KWE)</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>
<b>NET PLANT EFFICIENCY (% HHV)</b>					
NET PLANT EFFICIENCY (% HHV)	31.24	31.01	31.23	32.61	33.00
<b>THERMAL INPUT</b>					
COAL KWT HHV	1,760,447	1,773,645	1,679,498	1,686,511	1,569,989
NATURAL GAS KWT HHV	-	-	81,458	-	96,584
<b>TOTAL KWT HHV</b>	<b>1,760,447</b>	<b>1,773,645</b>	<b>1,760,956</b>	<b>1,686,511</b>	<b>1,666,573</b>
<b>CARBON CAPTURED (%)</b>					
CARBON CAPTURED (%)	99.5	99.5	97.0	99.5	99.5

Case#	Power-Cycle¶ psig/°F/°F#	Subsystem-Concept-Evaluated#	Oxidant#
1-(Base)#	Supercritical- Steam- 3500/1110/1150#	Current- air- separation- unit- (ASU)#	95%-O <sub>2</sub> -Cryogenic- ASU#
2#	Supercritical- Steam- 3500/1110/1150#	Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> -Membrane- with- Preheat- in- Boiler#	~100%-Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> - Membrane- (Ion- Transport)#
3#	Supercritical- Steam- 3500/1110/1150#	Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> -Membrane- with- Preheat- by- Nat.- Gas- Combustion#	~100%-Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> - Membrane- (Ion- Transport)#
4#	Supercritical- Steam- 3500/1110/1150#	Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> -Sorbent- (TDA)-with- Boiler- Heat#	95%+-Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> - Sorbent- (TDA)#
5#	Supercritical- Steam- 3500/1110/1150#	Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> -Sorbent- (TDA)-with- Nat.- Gas- Combustion- Heat#	95%+-Advanced- O <sub>2</sub> - Sorbent- (TDA)#

# Acknowledgements

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- **DOE/NETL funding under the DE-FE-0029090 project is greatly appreciated**
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