



Conco Services Corporation

# Reducing Water and Fuel Consumption Through Optimization of Plant Cooling Systems



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# 7.4 Billion People on Earth

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- Half of population already live in urban areas
  - 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation
  - 1.3 billion lack access to clean water
  - 1.4 billion lack access to electricity

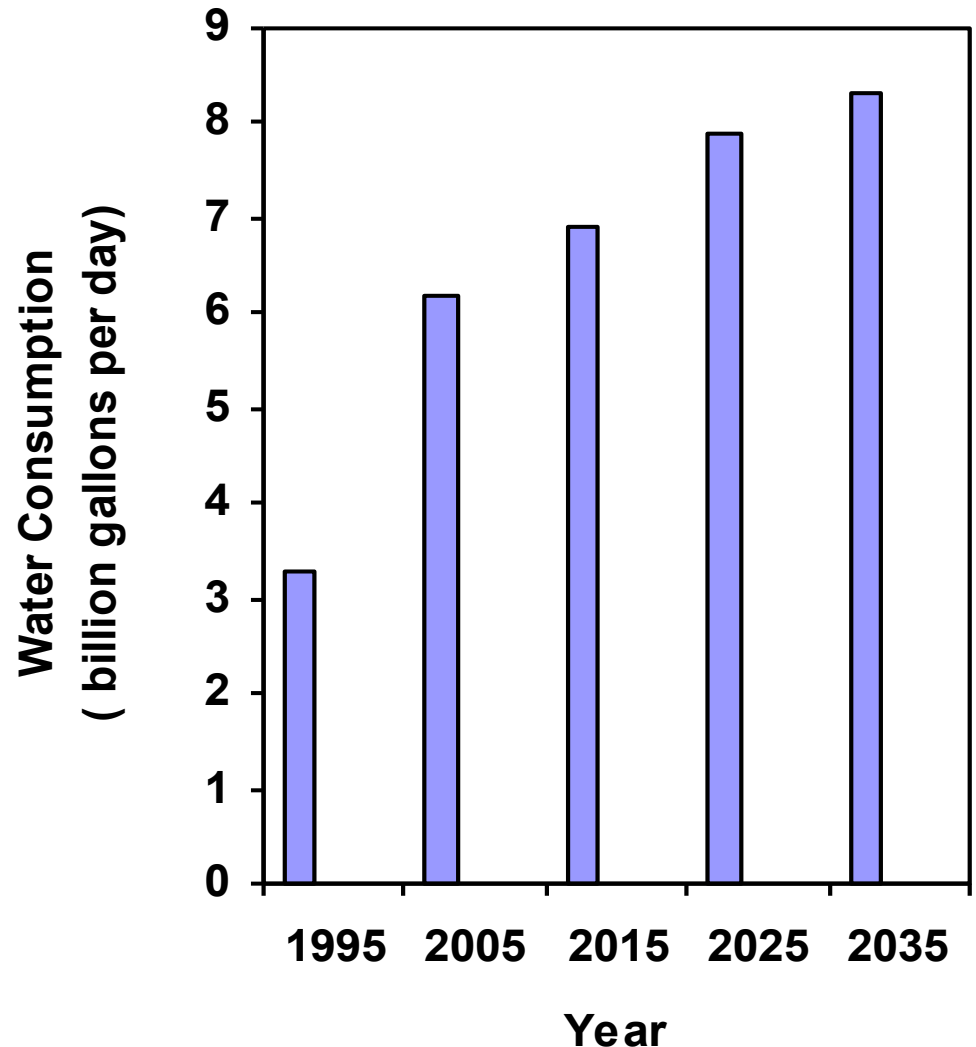
# Energy-Water Nexus



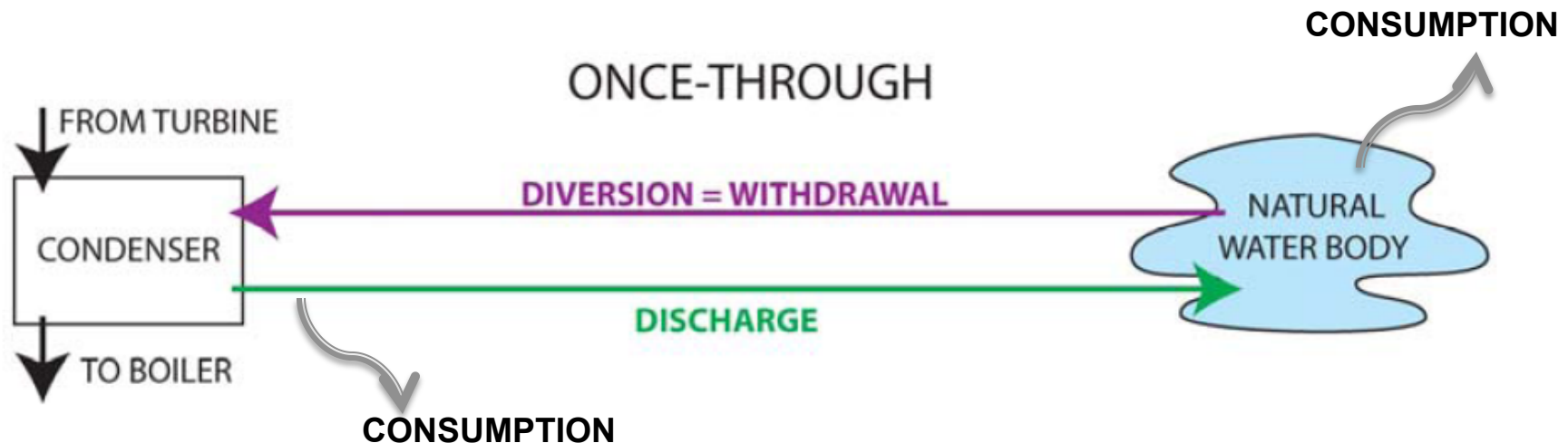
- ASME's initiative via the ASME Energy-Water Interdisciplinary Council
- Modern society is driven by a plethora of industrial, agricultural, and residential activities involving the consumption of energy and water.
- The energy-water nexus covers a broad array of activities and technologies.

# Water Demands for Future Electric Power Development

- Water demands could almost triple from 1995 consumption for projected mix of plants and cooling
- Carbon emission requirements will increase water consumption by an additional 1-2 Bgal/day

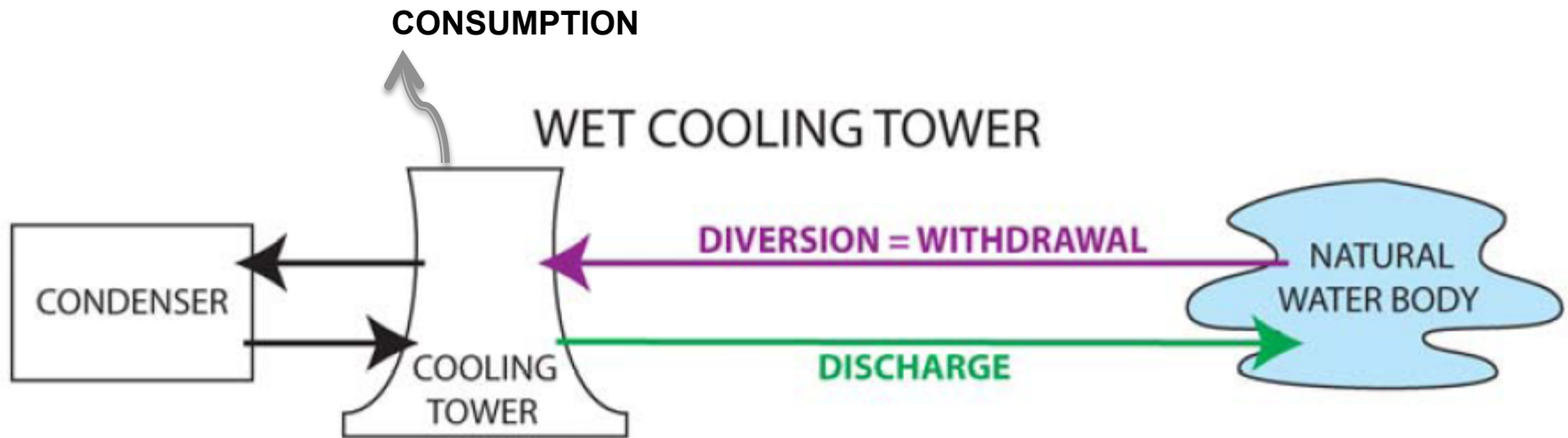


# Once-through Cooling



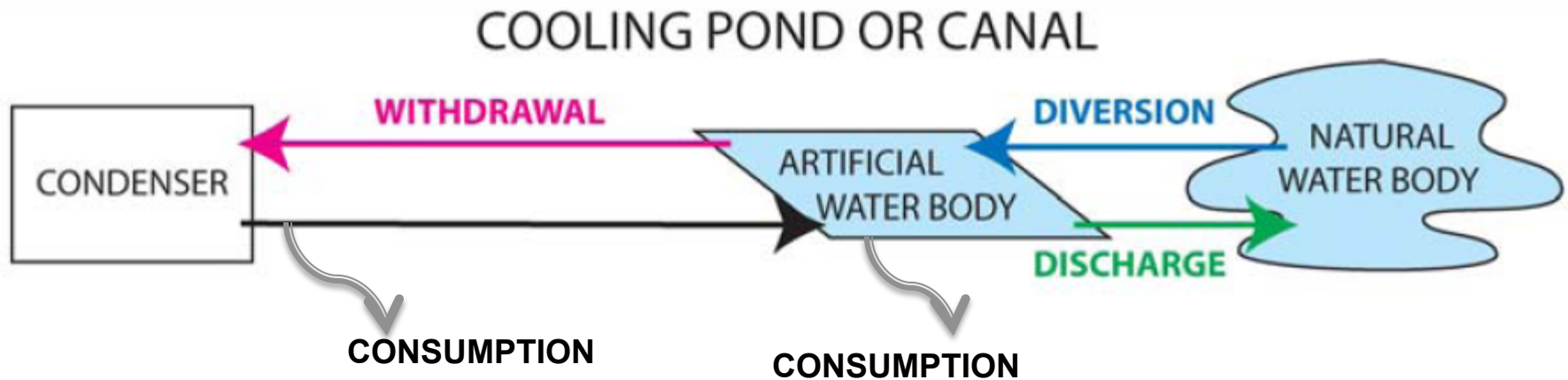
Adapted from *Form EIA-923: Power Plant Operations Report Instructions*. U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2011.

# Recirculating Cooling



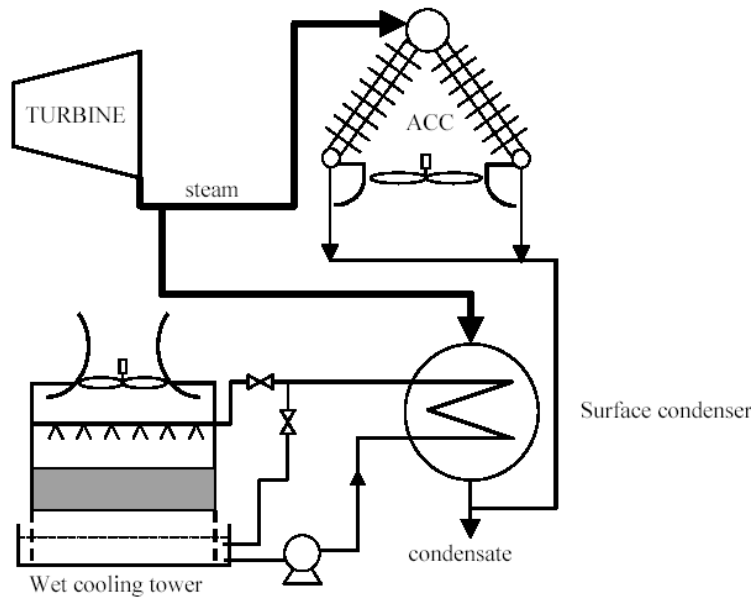
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# Pond Cooling



Adapted from *Form EIA-923: Power Plant Operations Report Instructions*. U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2011.

# Research Program for Electric Power Sector



## Hybrid Wet-Dry Cooling System

- Improve dry and hybrid cooling system performance
- Improve ecological performance of intake structures for hydro and once-through cooling
- Improve materials and cooling approaches compatible with use of degraded water
- Electric grid infrastructure upgrades to improve low water use renewable technology integration



# Surface Cleaning an ACC



# Effective Utilization or Optimization of Existing Technology

- For Improvements to Condenser Efficiency by:
  - Effectively Cleaning the Condenser
  - Using Tracer Gas Leak Detection for Air and Water In-leakage
  - Performing Eddy Current Testing NDE
- Well Maintained Cooling Systems Optimize Value of the Cooling Water
- Less Fuel is Consumed

# Mechanical Cleaning Options

- Most frequently chosen
- Generally applicable and effective
- Fast and easy to use

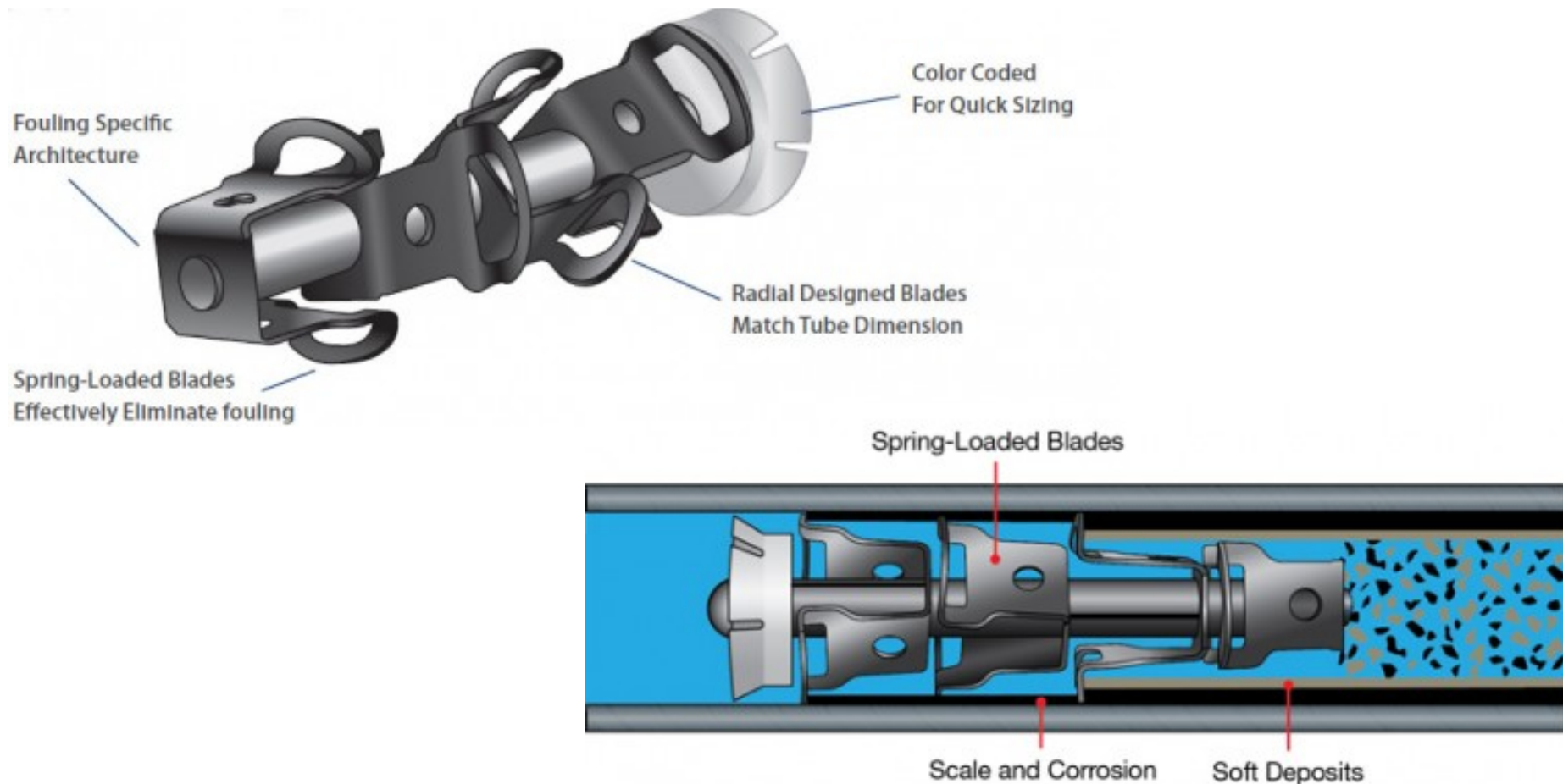
## More Importantly:

- Improve heat transfer
- Protection from under-deposit corrosion
- Restore flow

# Mechanical Tube Cleaning

- Minimizes unit downtime – normal crew can clean 5000 tubes during a 10-hour shift
- Cleaners are effective on all types of deposits and will remove:
  - Fouling deposits
  - Corrosion products
  - Physical obstructions
  - Tube surface roughness

# Spring-Loaded Cleaner in Action



# Innovations in Tube Cleaners



**Hex Cleaner**



**Cal-Buster™**



**Stainless Steel Tube Cleaning Brush**



# Tube Cleaning

- Select the most effective tube cleaner.
- Insert the tube cleaners into each tube.
- Utilizing the water gun and pump system the cleaners are “shot” through the tubes.



# Potential Savings from Improving Back Pressure

Pressure Deviation (inches Hg) (Excess Back Pressure)	Turbine Rating (MWatts)			
	100	400	600	1,000
0.1	\$31,250	\$125,000	\$187,500	\$312,500
0.2	62,500	250,000	375,000	625,000
0.3	91,750	375,000	562,500	937,500
0.4	125,000	500,000	750,000	1,250,000
0.5	156,250	625,000	937,500	1,562,500

**Source:** “Operation and Maintenance of Steam Surface Condensers”, Fossil Plant News, EPRI



# Typical Results

## Pre and Post Cleaning

		<u>Before</u>	<u>After</u>	<u>Chg.</u>
A Back Pressure	Inches Hg.	3.6	2.8	-0.8
B Back Pressure	Inches Hg.	4.3	2.9	-1.4
Circ Water Velocity	Ft/sec	5.7	6.5	+0.8
Net Generation	MW	659.4	686.5	+27.1

# Additional Benefits

- Economic Benefit
  - Immediate Return on Investment
  - Reduced Costs
- Recovery of lost megawatts or increased generation capacity
- Fuel savings
- Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Extended useful life of the condenser

# Quick Calculations

## Heat Rate

- Assume .3 hg condenser backpressure is equivalent to 10% improvement in condenser performance
- Each 10% improvement in the condenser correlates to 1% improvement in HR (10,000 btu/kWh) or MW output

**Ex: .6 hg = 20% CF = 2% HR = 2 MW**

## MW loss

- 8760 hrs./yr.
- Capacity Factor
- Price per MWh
- MW

**Ex:  $8760 \times .70 \times \$60.00 \times 2 \text{ MW} =$   
US \$ 735,840.00**

**Ex:  $8760 \times .70 \times \$60.00 \times 3 \text{ MW} =$   
US \$1,103,760.00**

# Tracer Gas Leak Detection

Leakage of air or water into the condenser will adversely affect plant efficiency, reliability and availability

- Increased plant heat rate
- Increased risk to turbine components
- High levels of dissolved O<sub>2</sub> in feedwater means increased deterioration of boiler and feed systems

# When Plants Need to Test

## Proactive Testing

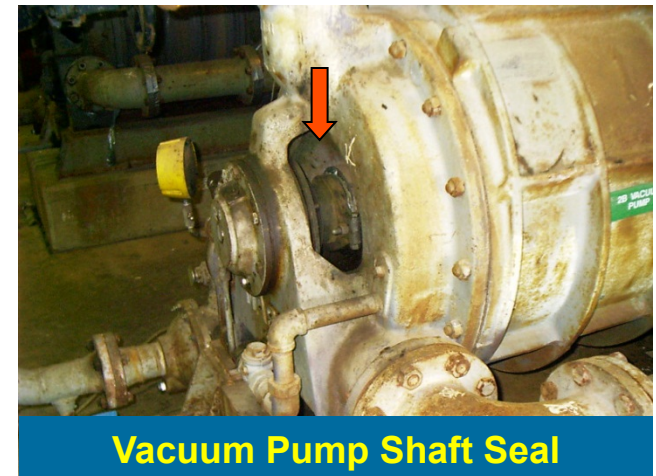
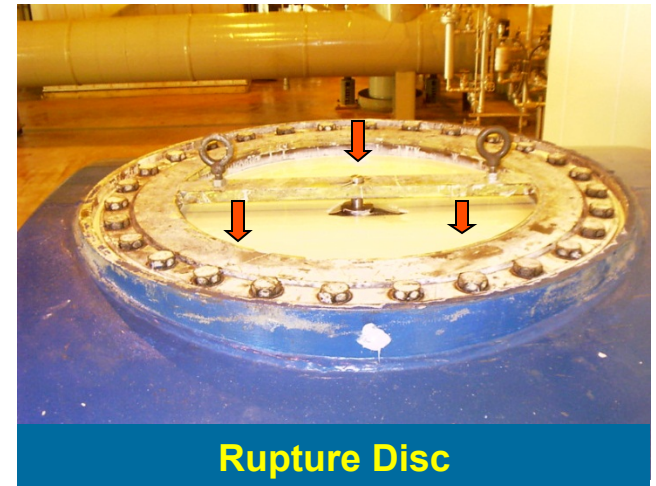
- Routine inspection to understand where potential failures will occur
- Before an outage so components in need of repair are scheduled for repair
- After an outage to insure all repairs were made successfully

## Reactive Testing

- Emergency inspections as a result of catastrophic failure or because inleakage has exceeded the air removal system capability

# Sources of Air Inleakage

- Inleakage to shell
- Rupture discs
- Shaft seals
- Test probe penetrations
- Man ways
- Vacuum pumps
- Flanges
- Bolt holes



# Sources of Water Inleakage

- Water box flanges
- Faulty tube plugs
- Leaking hotwell components
- Through-wall penetrations
- Tube to tubesheet joints

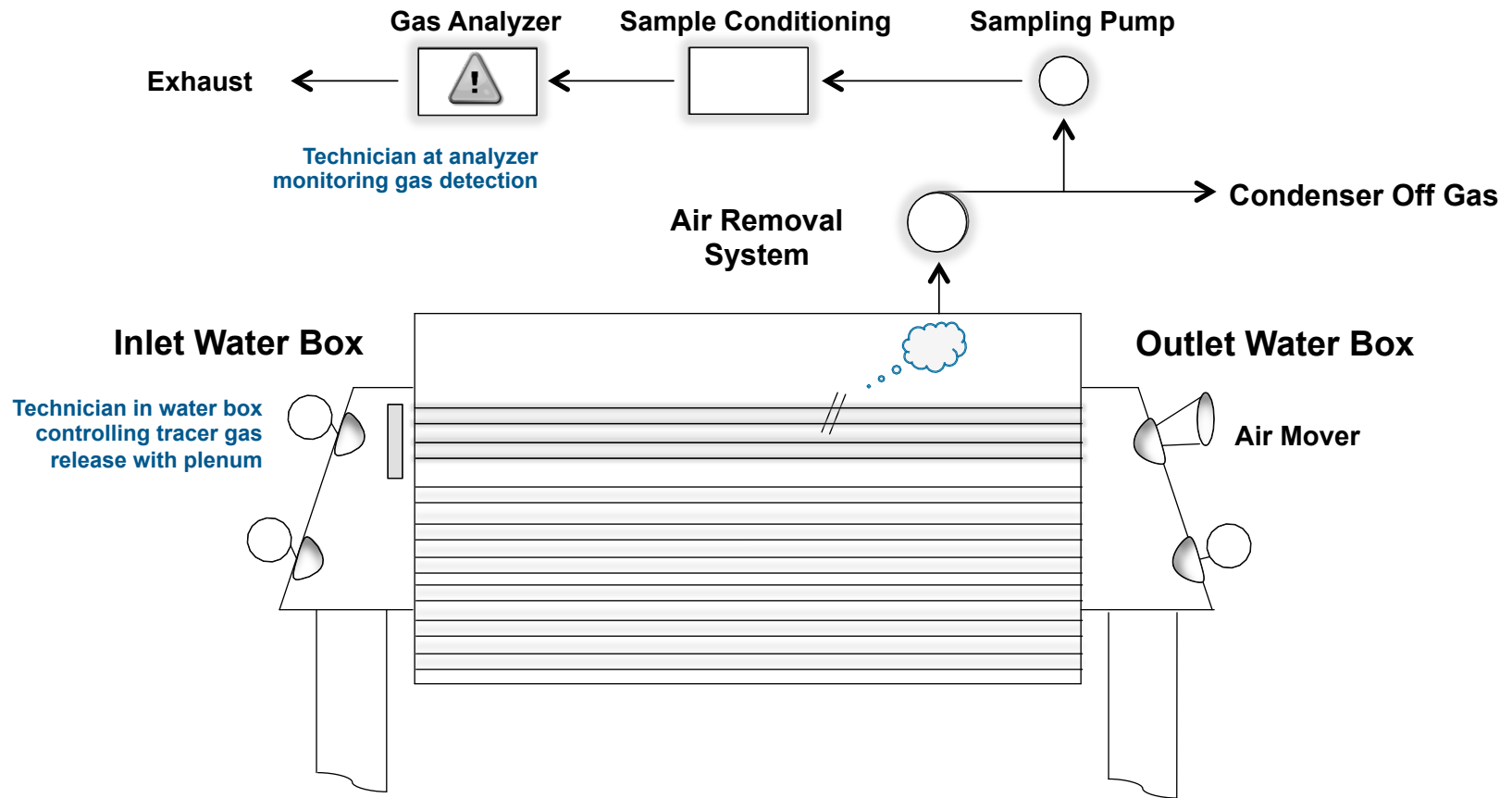


**Tubesheet joints**



**Through-wall penetrations**

# Tube Inspection Set Up





# Air In-Leakage

- Air and water inleakage continues to cost generators hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars annually
- Condenser tube leaks cause more than 6,000 forced outages annually and rank as one of the highest concerns among plant chemists
- In addition to reactive leak detection, a proactive regimen of testing can keep total air inleakage in check
- ROI for leak detection maintenance dollars spent are usually in the 1000% + range, so don't wait!

# Typical Weights and Heating Values for Three Major Fuels

<b>Fuel</b>	<b>C lb/lb fuel</b>	<b>HV BTU/lb</b>	<b>lbs. CO<sub>2</sub> / MBTU loss</b>	<b>lbs. Carbon/ MBTU loss</b>
Bituminous Coal	0.86	13930	238.1	64.987
Fuel Oil	0.863	18558	179.4	48.950
Natural Gas	0.749	25128	115.0	31.376

# Impact on Emissions

- 1lb. Carbon produces 3.6644 lb. of CO<sub>2</sub>
- The table equates equivalent carbon emissions per MBtu loss

If : the fouling loss is 34.968 MBtu  
and the fuel is bituminous coal

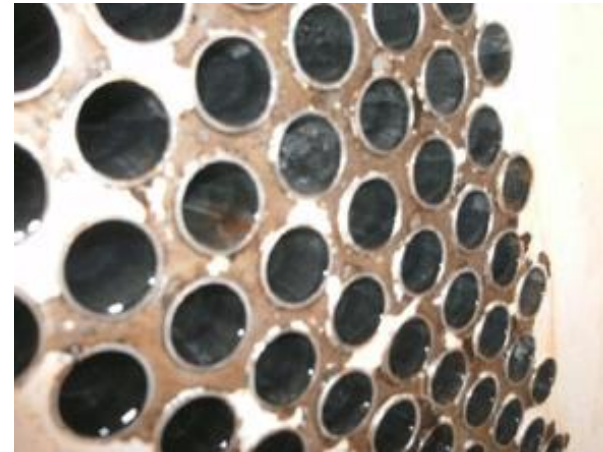
Then:

$$\text{Carbon emissions} = \frac{34.968 \times 64.987 \times 8000}{2}$$

$$= 9.09 \text{ million pounds of carbon per year}$$

# Asserraderos Arauco, Vinales CHILE

## Cleaning improves performance



*“The cleaning of the tubes using CONCO C4S cleaners was excellent, projecting a new cleaning at the next general maintenance of the plant”. (Andres Gatica, Nexxo)*

# Ethanol Production Plant, COLOMBIA

## Production rises considerably after cleaning

Heat Exchanger A  
Heat Exchanger B

Vacuum pressure before cleaning  
280 mmHg  
258 mmHg

Vacuum pressure after cleaning  
496 mmHg  
711 mmHg



*“Due to these new vacuum pressure numbers, the plant was able to obtain a significant improvement on the performance and efficiency of the two heat exchangers, normalizing the factory generation process”. (Jhon Batista, Blastingmar)*

# EDF Norte Fluminense, BRAZIL

## 1 Ton of dirt removal increases productivity and condenser efficiency



*“Switching from Hydro blasting to the CONCO technology, provided effective cleaning by removing sand and the entire silica deposits from the tube walls”. (Nelson Cansanção Neto, Expander)*



# Genelba-Petrobras, ARGENTINA

**Mitee Mouse II, Cal-Busters and C4S Cleaners demonstrated exceptional performance despite extremely hard and compact deposits**



*“The DSL group, with the support of Conco, unblocked and cleaned 30,000 tubes in 7 days, recovering the heat exchanger”. (Martin Formoso, DSL Group)*

# Conclusion

- Optimizing the value of the cooling water will reduce water consumption, incorporating the application of *state-of-the-art* technologies for condenser cleaning and air in-leakage detection major improvements can be achieved.
- This presentation demonstrates the correlation between improved condenser performance, reduced fuel consumption and a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Literally, tons of emissions and fuel have been avoided due to the implementation of these sound practices.
- The technology is available for deployment in South America.