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# ADA Carbon Solutions

“On-site determination of the quality of commercial sorbents for the removal of mercury from combustion and process gas streams.”

# How to Evaluate Mercury Sorbent?

Ash?

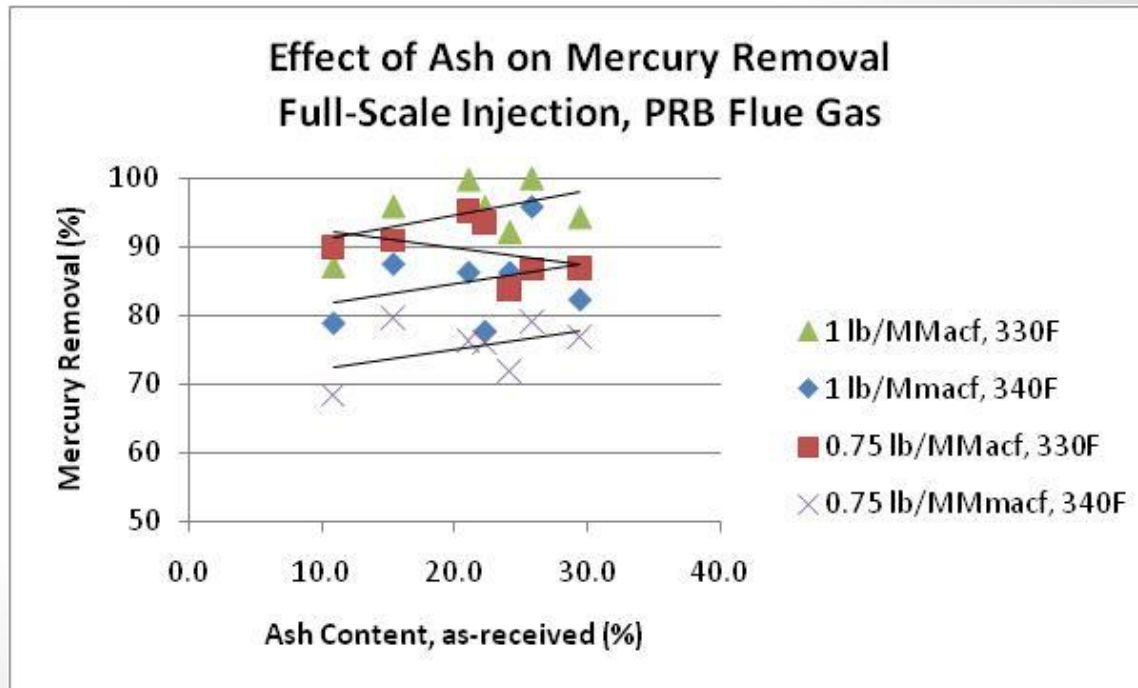
Moisture?

Tannin Value?

Iodine Number?

Methylene Blue?

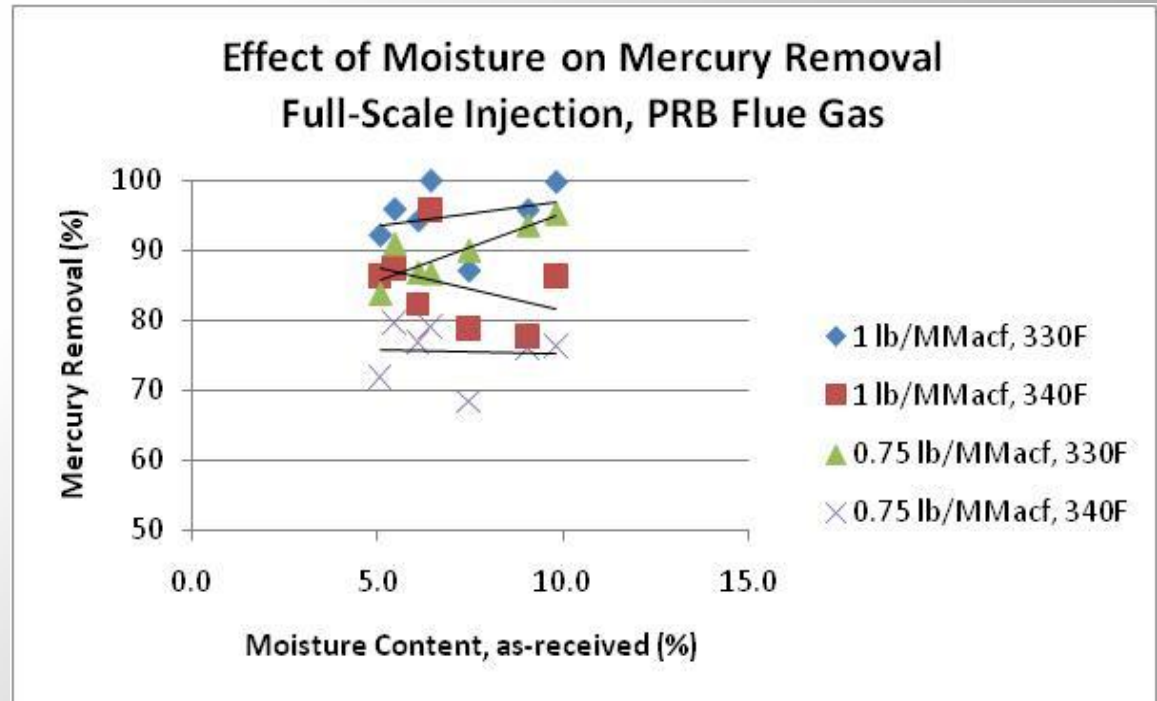
Molasses Number?



1. Activated carbon and the mineral content is the flue gas mercury sorbent
2. Mineral component is not added as a diluent
3. Activated carbon mineral sorbents may contain 10% silicates
4. Higher mineral content in sorbent provides reduced LOI in recovered fly ash
5. Mineral content may provide acid gas, dioxin and furan sorption

**Mineral Content Is Not Directly Proportional to Mercury Removal**

1. Full scale testing
2. Pound per Pound sorbent injection
3. Moisture content between 5% and 10% produced effective mercury capture



**Moisture Content Is Not Directly Proportional to Mercury Removal**

# Measurement of Pore Size

## Test

- Tannin Value
- Iodine Value
- Methylene Blue
- Molasses Value

## Pore Size

- > 1 nm
- 0 – 2 nm
- 2 – 5 nm
- > 2 nm

All tests include a **chemical reaction** with activated carbon as well as an indication of pore size

No mercury in these compounds

Surrogate Pore Size Measurements Are Not Reliable Methods  
For Predicting Mercury Removal

# Problem ???

Ash?  
Moisture?  
Tannin Value?  
Iodine Number?  
Methylene Blue?  
Molasses Number?



## ❖ Variables

- ✓ Coal Type
- ✓ Chloride Content
- ✓ Temperature
- ✓ SO<sub>3</sub>/SO<sub>2</sub> Ratio and Content
- ✓ Capture Time
- ✓ NO<sub>x</sub> Content
- ✓ PM Removal
- ✓ ??????????????

# Solutions

# Option 1 – Full Scale Plant Test

## PROS

- Test with actual conditions
- Highest predictive capability for mercury removal in a specific environment
- Quantitative & Qualitative



## CONS

- Expensive
- Requires on site CEMS capability
- Time consuming
- Requires production scale quantities and often presents challenges for sorbent to sorbent comparisons (changing variables)

**Most Predictive Approach but Time Consuming and Expensive**

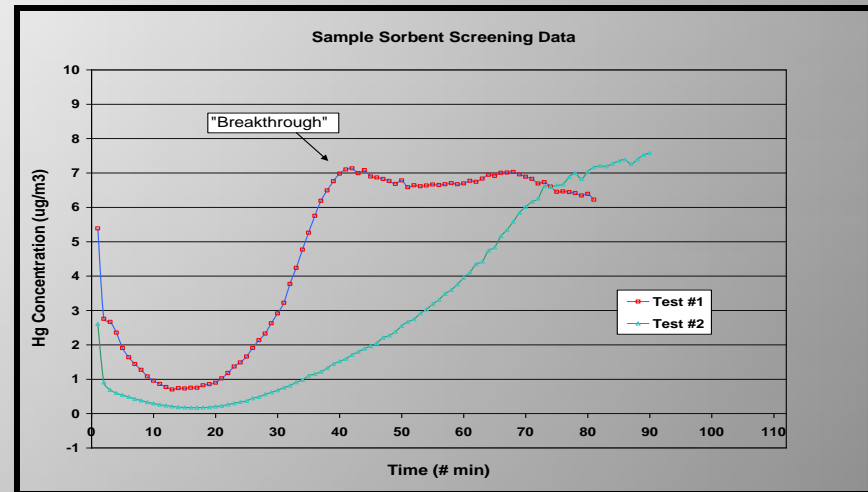
# Option 2 – Sorbent Screening Device

## PROS

- Uses actual flue gas
- Allows most sorbent to sorbent comparison under same or similar conditions
- Can be run over a period of days
- Can use sample quantities of carbon sorbent
- Removal curve can provide insight into sorbent behavior; minimum achieved, time to breakthrough, etc.

## CONS

- Moderately expensive
- Requires time for setup, actual testing and removal of test equipment(5-7 days depending on number of sorbents to be tested)
- Not practical as a QC tool



Best Approach to Compare Sorbent Performance Under Actual Flue Gas Conditions

# Option 3 – Mercury Number

## DESCRIPTION

- Fixed bed test using vapor phase mercury capture
- ADA-ES and ACS have collaborated to further improve and refine this test that can provide more meaningful predictive mercury removal data
- Field reliability testing scheduled for first quarter

## ADVANTAGES

- ✓ Can apply in lab environment under controlled conditions or apply in the field with actual flue gas
- ✓ Most efficient and lowest cost
- ✓ Portable and practical as a lab/QC test
- ✓ Can quickly get meaningful data
- ✓ Can enhance rapid proto-typing and optimization efforts

A Better Measurement of Sorbent Value in Use



# Thank You EUEC

- Thank You Contributors
- ADA Carbon Solutions
  - Brian Leen
  - Marilyn Treacy
  - Devon Santistevan
- Ohio Lumex
  - Joseph Siperstein
  - Alexandra Sipershteyn
- ADA Environmental Solutions
  - C. Jean Bustard
  - Sharon Sjostrom
  - Ken Baldrey
  - Justin McNeill
  - Connie Senior
  - Robin Stewart
  - Eric Zipp



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**The Mercury Experts**