



Improving Power Plant Efficiency and Power Generation

August 8th, 2013

GREAT RIVER ENERGY®

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Coal Creek Station

▶ Coal Creek Units #1 and #2...

- 2 X 600 MW Natural Circulation
- Tangentially Fired, Dual Furnace
- 8 X 8 burners, plus SOFA
- Eight Pulverizers per Unit
- Mine Mouth, ND Lignite
 - 6,200 BTU/lb (14.4 MJ/kg)
 - 38% moisture
- Commissioned 1979, 1981
- Base Loaded
- Wet FGD's, No SCR's
- Closed Loop Cooling



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Efficiency Improvements: GRE

- Turbine blades
- Cooling Towers
- Simulator
- Ventilation
- Variable packing
- Fans
- Controls
- Leak detection
- Compressed air
- 605,771 tons
- Coal Drying/beneficiation
- 4%, 400,000 tons

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Problem Statement:

- Plant performance is based on 6,800 BTU/lb (15.8 MJ/kg) fuel (with normal margins), but delivered fuel HHV has rarely exceeded 6,200 BTU/lb (14.4 MJ/kg)
- As a result....
 - Lost Boiler And Cycle Efficiency
 - **9% Higher Coal Flow Rate Than Design**
 - **20 MW Of Station Service Power**
 - **20% Higher Flue Gas Flow Rate Than Design**
 - **High Exit Gas Temperature**
 - Lost Spare Mill Capability
 - Increased Operating And Maintenance Costs
 - **Flue Gas Flow Limited Scrubbers!**

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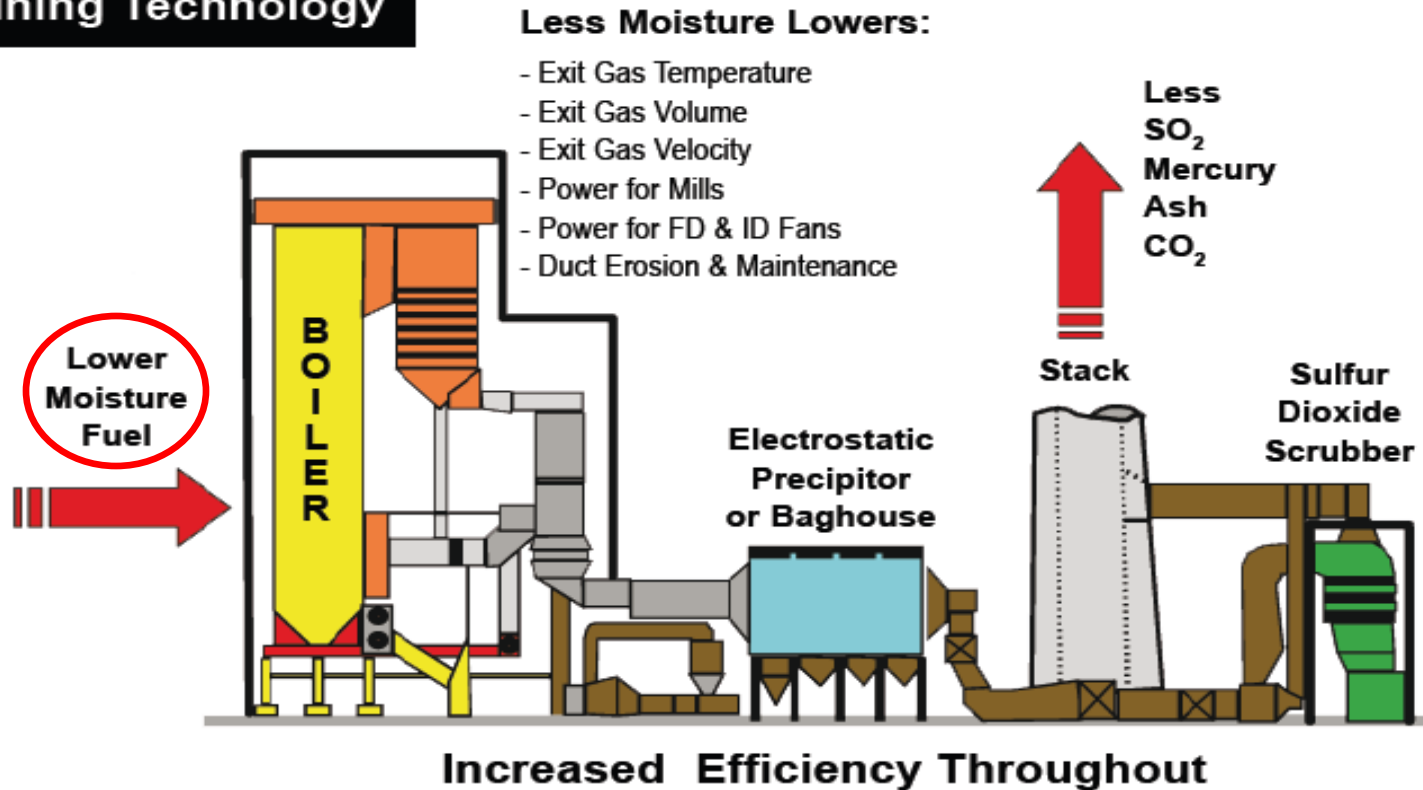
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DryFinishing™ Process

DryFinishing Technology



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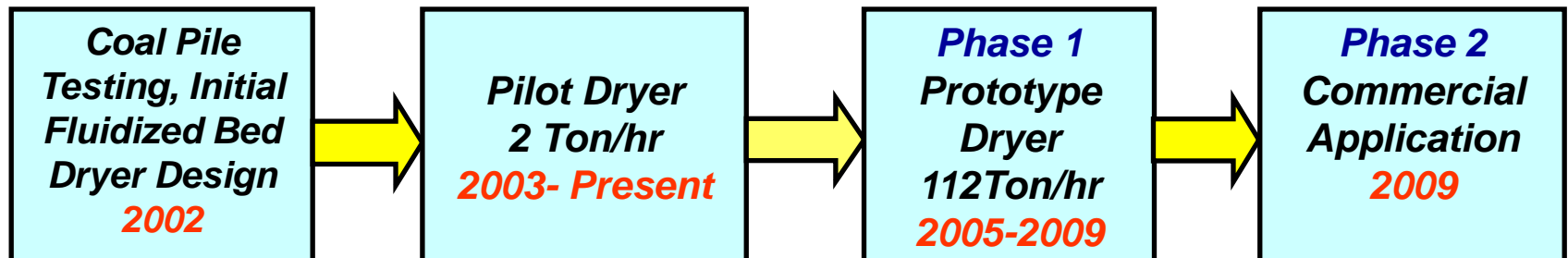
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Solution

- Objective....
 - Restore lost performance by removing moisture in the incoming fuel stream just prior to bunkering
- How....
 - Employ waste heat to reduce moisture content of the lignite conveyed to the bunkers
- Approach....
 - Demonstrate and Select Basic Drying Process Concept
 - Develop “Proof Of Concept” Pilot Plant
 - Develop Dryer Design And Predictive Performance Modeling
 - Prototype Full Scale Dryer Design
 - Integrate Full Scale Commercial Demonstration Into Existing Plant Project



2 Ton/Hr Pilot Coal Drying



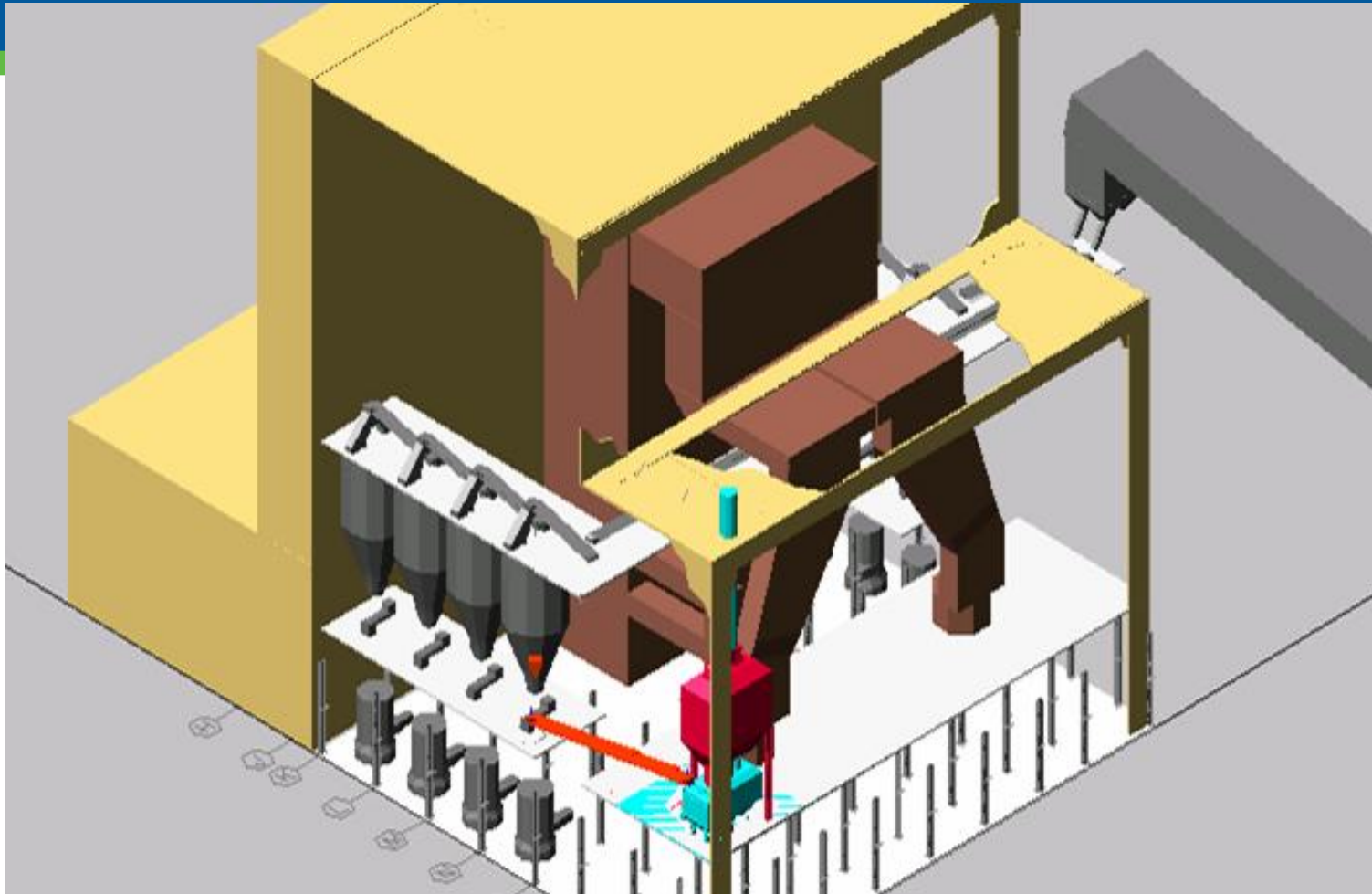
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Prototype Dryer: Unit 2 East



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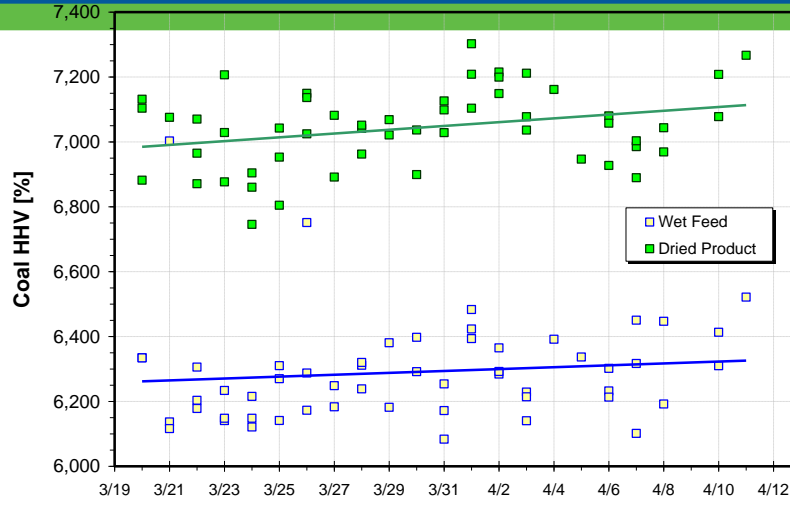
Prototype Coal Dryer

- Maximum capacity - **112.5 tons/hr**
- Removed approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ of coal moisture.
 - Dried lignite from **38.5%** to **29.5%** moisture
 - Improved HHV from **6,200** BTU/lb (14.4 MJ/kg) to **7,045** BTU/lb (16.4 MJ/kg)
- Fully automated operation, integrated into the plant control system.
- Nine patent applications on dryer design and control filed by GRE (six awarded).

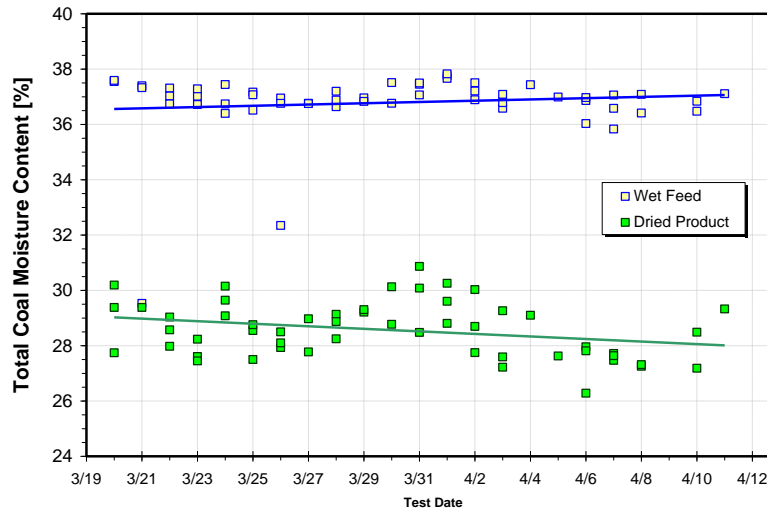


Coal Drying Testing

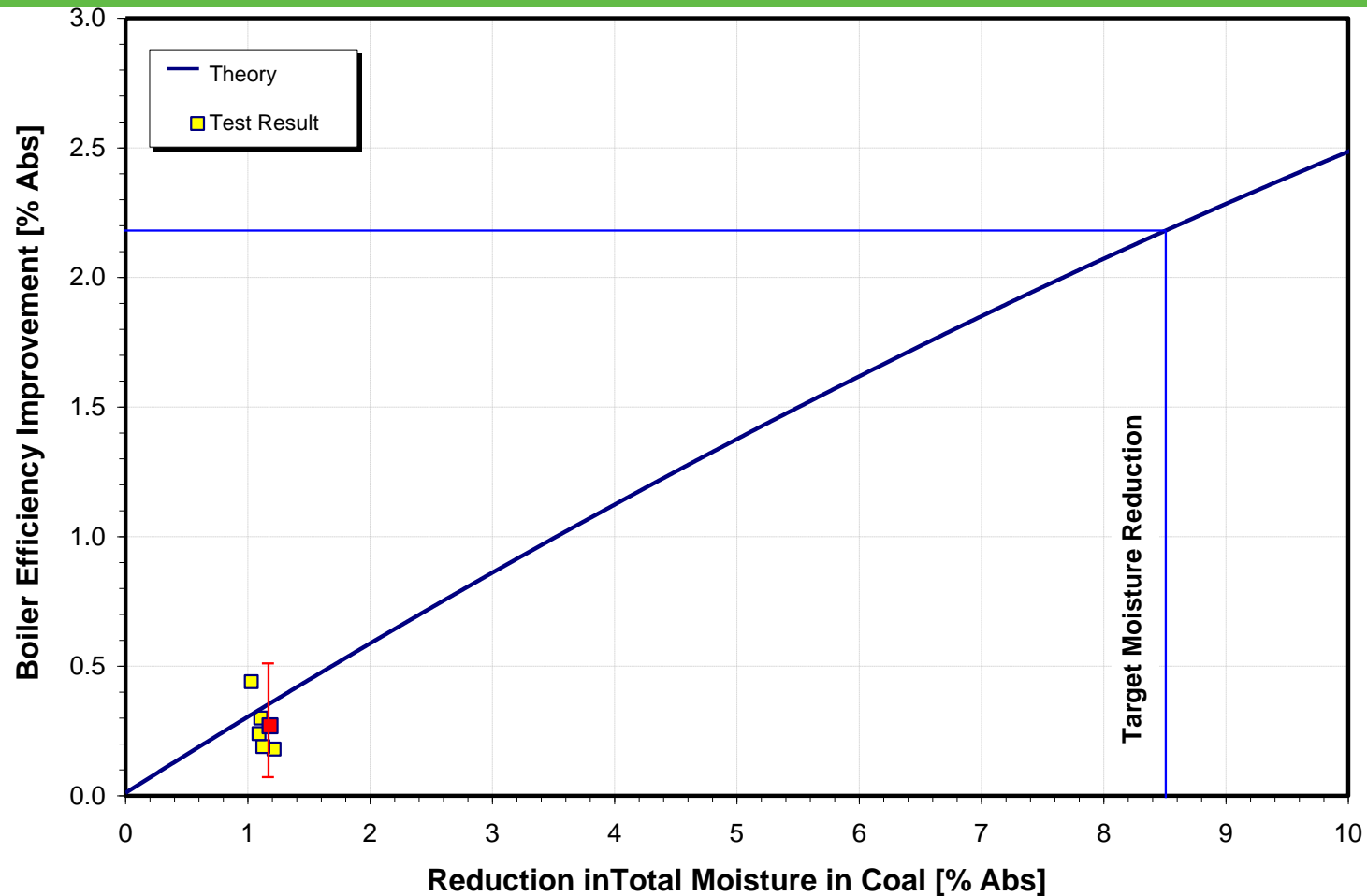
Prototype Coal Dryer Performance: March to April, 2006



Prototype Coal Dryer Performance: March to April, 2006



Boiler Efficiency Improvement



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Unit #2 “Complete” April ‘08



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December 2009



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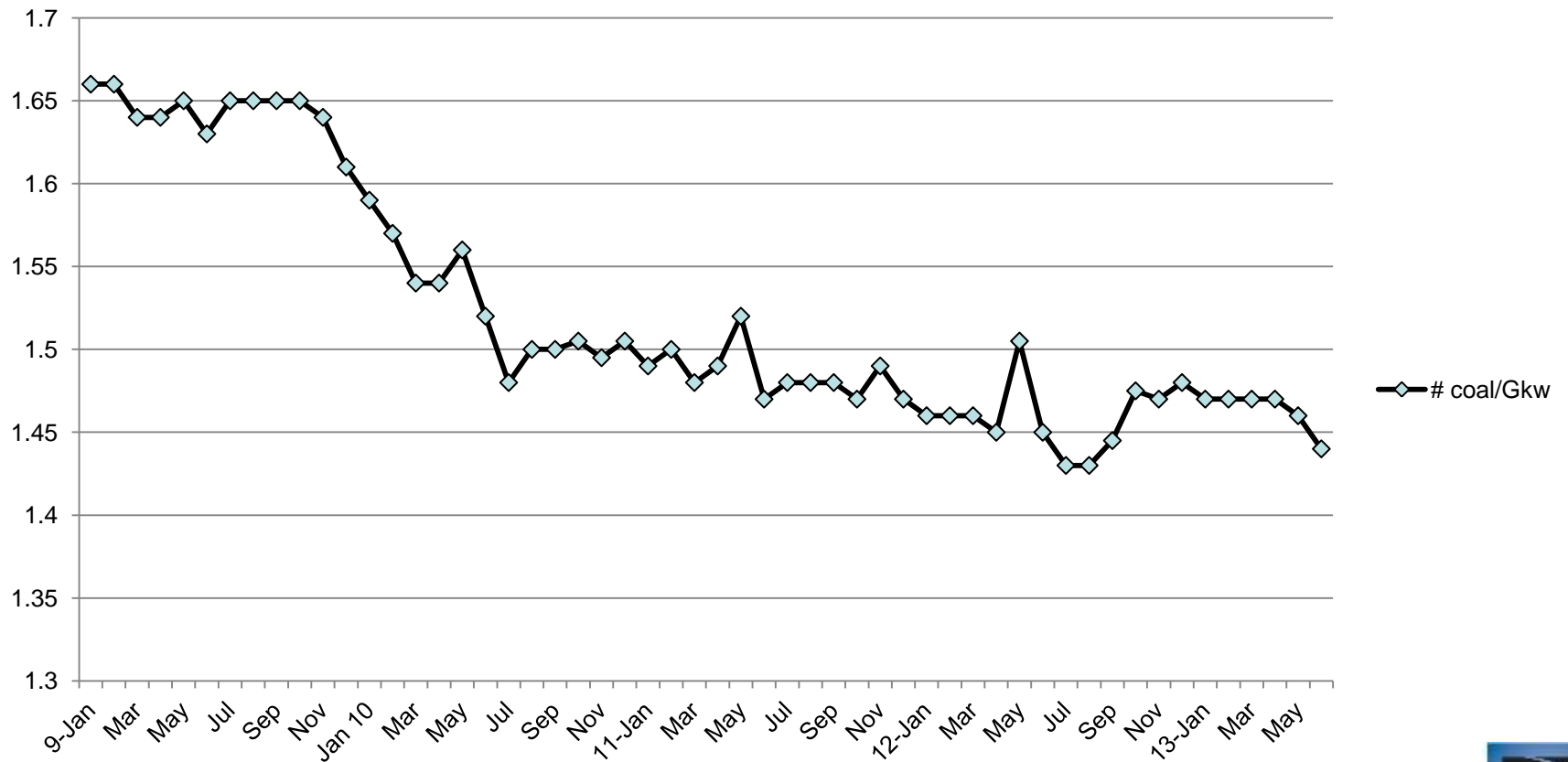
DryFining Results

- ❑ **25% less H₂O** - dry lignite from 38 to 29% moisture, improving HHV from 6,100 to 6,800 BTU/lb
- ❑ **54% less SO₂** - Segregation of ash minerals, plus improved collection efficiency
- ❑ **40% less Hg** - Segregation of ash minerals, plus improved collection efficiency
- ❑ **32% less NO_x** - Reduced volumetric release rate, improved fineness and air & fuel distribution to furnace
- ❑ **4% less CO₂** - 4% improved cycle efficiency



2009 to July 2013

coal/Gkw



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System Performance Impacts:

- **Observed:**
 - Each unit now operates with N-1 pulverizers in service
 - Total station service reduced
 - Boiler thermal efficiency increased by 3.7% (on HHV basis)
- **Expected:**
 - Further reductions in NO_x as the furnace is retuned to benefit from increased SOFA capacity and improved fuel distribution
 - Substantially reduced routine pulverizer, boiler, & AQCS maintenance costs



So, In General...

- **Coal Drying as needed**
 - On demand drying, no protracted storage limits nor risk of spontaneous combustion
- **Moisture reduction**
 - Lower fuel throughput
 - Boiler efficiency & net heat rate improvement
 - Station service reduction
 - Flue gas volume reduction
- **Emissions effects**
 - Pre-combustion segregation of Sulfur, Mercury, Iron
 - NO_x reduction from fuel distribution improvement and volumetric release reduction
 - CO₂ reduction equivalent to net heat rate improvement



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