1 2	The Behavior of Mercury Emissions from a Commercial Coal-Fired Power Plant: The Relationship between Stack Speciation and Near-Field Plume Measurements
3	
4	
5	Matthew S. Landis' and Jeffrey V. Ryan US EPA Office of Persearch and Development, Persearch Triangle Park, NC 27700
0 7	US EFA, Office of Research and Development, Research Thangle Fark, NC 27709
8	Arnout ter Schure
9	Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, CA 94304
10	Dennis Levelal
11 12	Dennis Laudai Energy & Environmental Research Center, Grand Forks, ND 58202
12	Energy & Environmental Research Center, Grand Forks, TVD 50202
14	
15 16	Corresponding author; phone: (919) 541-4841; fax: (919) 541-0960; landis.matthew@epa.gov
17	
18	Abstract
19	The reduction of divalent gaseous mercury (Hg ^{II}) to elemental gaseous mercury (Hg ⁰) in a
20	commercial coal-fired power plant (CFPP) exhaust plume was investigated by simultaneous
21	measurement in-stack and in-plume as part of a collaborative study among the U.S. EPA, EPRI,
22	EERC, and Southern Company. In-stack continuous emission monitoring data were used to
23	establish the CFPP's real-time mercury speciation and plume dilution tracer species (SO ₂ , NO _x)
24	emission rates, and an airship was utilized as an airborne sampling platform to maintain static
25	position with respect to the exhaust plume centerline for semi-continuous measurement of target
26	species. Varying levels of Hg^{II} concentration (2.39-3.90 µg m ⁻³) and percent abundance (~87-
27	99%) in flue gas and in-plume reduction were observed over the multi-day test program. The
28	existence and magnitude of Hg^{II} reduction to Hg^0 (0-55%) observed varied with respect to the
29	types and relative amounts of coals combusted, suggesting that exhaust plume reduction
30	occurring downwind of the CFPP is influenced by coal chemical composition and characteristics.
31	
32 33	Keywords: mercury emissions, mercury speciation, redox chemistry, coal fired power plants

34 Introduction

Anthropogenic sources of mercury (Hg) to the atmosphere have been extensively studied (1, 2, 3, 35 4, 5), with the most recent global estimate established as 1960 tonnes being emitted in 2010 (6). 36 About 16% of these global anthropogenic emissions were attributed to commercial coal-fired 37 power plants (CFPPs). In North America, coal combustion was the largest Hg source category, 38 contributing an estimated 43.4 tonnes (71%) of the estimated 60.7 tonnes emitted in 2010 (7). 39 Mercury in the exhaust plume of a CFPP typically consists of three main fractions: elemental 40 gaseous mercury (Hg⁰), divalent gaseous mercury (Hg^{II}), and particulate-bound mercury (Hg(p)). 41 It is important to ascertain the relative distribution of Hg fractions emitted since each has 42 different physicochemical properties that strongly determine its environmental fate (8). 43 Theoretically, Hg^{II} and Hg(p) fractions should deposit on local or regional scales via wet and dry 44 atmospheric deposition processes because of their solubility, reactivity, and higher deposition 45 velocities; while Hg⁰ is more likely to be transported long distances and contribute to the global 46 atmospheric burden (8, 9, 10, 11). Field measurements have demonstrated that Hg emissions 47 from CFPPs have near-source impacts, and contribute to enhanced wet and dry atmospheric 48 deposition on local and regional scales in regions with significant coal-burning sources (12, 13, 49 14). 50

51

Several recent studies hypothesized the reduction of Hg^{II} to Hg⁰ in CFPP plumes after emission 52 from the stack, which if parameterized and incorporated into deterministic model runs would 53 54 partially mitigate the near-field impact of atmospheric Hg deposition currently estimated using contemporary in-stack speciation estimates (15, 16, 17, 18). Briefly, Hg⁰, Hg^{II}, and Hg(p) 55 measured at three sites in the southeastern U.S. for 21 plume-impact events showed that total 56 gaseous mercury (TGM; $Hg^0 + Hg^{II}$) was essentially conserved from the point of emission to the 57 sites, and that Hg⁰ was the dominant form (84%). However, emission estimates indicated that 58 Hg⁰ should represent approximately 42% of the TGM. Results showed that observed Hg^{II}:SO₂ 59 ratios were lower by a factor of 2-4 compared to expected ratios. In-plume reduction of Hg^{II} to 60 Hg^0 was postulated as one of several possible explanations (15). Nine of the aforementioned 61 plume-events were simulated with the Reactive & Optics Model of Emissions (ROME) in a 62 separate study (18). The simulations first failed to reproduce the measured depletion in Hg^{II}, but 63 when two possible reduction pathways for Hg^{II} (a pseudo-first-order decay and an empirical 64

⁶⁵ reaction with SO₂) resulted in better agreement with the observations.

66

In 2002 a study was conducted to investigate in plume Hg behavior at the Plant Bowen (GA, 67 USA) CFPP using a fixed-wing aircraft as an airborne sampling platform (19). The investigators 68 flew repeated crosswind transects through the plume to collect sufficient mass for integrated 69 manual Hg speciation analysis. The researchers found that Hg^{II} concentrations appeared to 70 decrease slightly in samples taken approximately 20 km downwind of the stack, as compared to 71 levels in integrated stack samples. The Hg⁰/Hg^{II} ratio was 84% of the estimated in-stack ratio 72 suggesting reduction of Hg^{II} to Hg⁰ as the plume was advected. A combination of deposition 73 and/or chemical changes in the plume was suggested to explain these results (19). In 2003, a 74 second CFPP in-plume study was conducted at the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant (WI, USA). The 75 76 study also used a fixed-wing aircraft and a similar sampling design. The researchers estimated a 44% reduction in the fraction of RGM between the stack exit and the first sampling location (0.5 77 78 km downwind), and a 66% reduction from the stack to 8 km downwind, with no additional reduction between 8 and 16 km downwind (20, 21). While both of these studies were suggestive 79 of in-plume Hg^{II} reduction to Hg⁰, the lack of concurrent time-resolved stack and plume data, 80 and the small number of measurements precluded robust statistical conclusions. 81 82

A recently published multi-season experiment was conducted in 2000 to study the mercury speciation in the plume of the 3640 MW Nanticoke coal-fired power plant in Southern Ontario (22). A fixed-wing aircraft equipped with semi-continuous instrumentation for Hg⁰ and manual sampling systems for Hg^{II} was used. While the authors observed significant discrepancies between dilution-corrected estimated and measured in-plume Hg^{II} concentrations, they concluded the lower in plume Hg^{II} concentrations could be explained by potential bias between in-stack and in-plume measurement techniques.

90

Projecting the effectiveness of planned controls in reducing mercury emissions from CFPPs depends on an accurate understanding of the reduction/oxidation chemistry of Hg species in the atmosphere and associated changes to deposition phenomena. Since contemporary air quality models use emission rates and speciation estimates based on in-stack measurements, any near field in-plume reactions that significantly alters Hg speciation will affect the accuracy of the

- 96 model dispersion and deposition estimates. Although the in plume Hg reduction reactions
- 97 hypothesized by surface ambient observations (15) and some initial in-plume measurements (20,
- 98 21) may alter the source attribution of CFPPs to local and regional Hg deposition, the existence
- 99 of a significant reduction is still open to debate (22) and our understanding of a plausible
- 100 reduction/oxidation chemical mechanism remains limited (23, 24).
- 101

This paper presents results from a new study designed to provide data for a statistically robust 102 analysis of the plume reduction hypothesis, using simultaneous high temporal resolution 103 measurements of Hg fractions (TGM, Hg⁰) and tracer gases (SO₂, NOy) in-stack and in-plume 104 conducted at a CFPP located in the southeastern USA. In-stack continuous emission monitoring 105 (CEM) data were used to establish the CFPP's real time Hg and tracer species emission rates, 106 and an airship was utilized as an airborne sampling platform to maintain position in the exhaust 107 plume for semi-continuous measurement of target species. The relationship between observed 108 and expected in-stack *versus* in-plume Hg fraction concentrations based on observed dilution 109 ratios (DRs) and the implications for in-plume Hg^{II} reduction to Hg⁰ are presented and discussed. 110

111

112 Methods

113 Study Design

This study tested the null hypothesis that Hg^{II} is not significantly reduced to Hg⁰ in the emissions 114 115 plumes of CFPPs. Simultaneous high-resolution (2.5 min) speciated Hg measurements were made in a CFPP stack and in the resulting exhaust plume using an airship. The novel aspects of 116 117 this study included (i) utilizing the same automated continuous measurement techniques in the stack and in the plume, thereby reducing the potential for measurement bias, and (ii) the use of 118 119 an airship to maintain constant position with respect to the exhaust plume centerline (Supporting Information (SI) Figure 1) at various dilution ratios (distances) rather than traversing back and 120 forth across the plume with fixed-wing aircraft, resulting in a larger number of independent 121 observations on which to test the null hypothesis relative to the SO_2 and NO_Y dilution tracer 122 species. 123

- 125 Selection of CFPP
- 126 After a thorough review of candidate facilities (see SI), the Crist Plant located in Pensacola,

Florida was selected for this study. The facility is owned by Gulf Power Company (Pensacola, 127 FL), a subsidiary of Southern Company (Atlanta, GA). The Crist Plant consists of four coal-128 fired units sharing two stacks. During the selected sampling period of February 18 – March 1, 129 2008 units #4 and #5 that feed one of the stacks were both shut down for maintenance. The 130 remaining boilers, unit # 6 (320 MW) and unit #7 (500 MW) shared a common 138 meter tall 131 stack. Both units had cold-side electrostatic precipitators (ESPs) for particulate control and Unit 132 #7 had selective catalytic reduction (SCR) that operates year round for NOx control. Both units 133 were burning a blend (nominally 50%) of Illinois (high in sulfur and high in halogens) and 134 South American (Columbian) bituminous coal (low is sulfur and low in halogens). The coal was 135 manually "blended" by a front end loader alternately dumping loads of coal from two separate 136 storage piles onto a conveyor belt. The terrain surrounding the plant is essentially flat, and no 137 138 other significant near-field Hg emission sources were identified.

139

140 Crist Plant Stack Emissions Measurements

As the stack serving the two active boilers during this study did not have integrated sampling 141 142 ports for emissions monitoring access, all continuous emissions monitoring systems (CEMs) were installed in the exhaust ducts of each boiler unit prior to discharge into the common stack 143 144 collocated with the facility's CEM systems. As a result, overall reported stack emissions are calculated as the proportional average of each exhaust duct normalized to its flow rate. As a 145 146 function of the Crist Plant's participation in EPA's Acid Rain Program, the plant staff measured sulfur dioxide (SO₂), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and volumetric exhaust gas flow in each boiler 147 148 exhaust duct in accordance with 40 CFR Part 75 (see SI).

149

Total and speciated Hg emission measurements were made by EPA in each of the two boiler unit
ducts using EPA's Tekran Instruments Corporation (Knoxville, TN) model 3300 series speciated
Hg CEM systems (SI Figure 2 and associated description). In the standard Tekran 3300

153 configuration as deployed during this study, TGM and Hg^0 measurements are made sequentially

using a single Tekran Model 2537A cold vapor atomic fluorescence spectrometer (CVAFS) that

switches between and alternately samples each channel (SI Figure 3). The Tekran 3300 systems

- were programmed to measure TGM and Hg⁰ semi-continuously over a 2.5 min
- 157 collection/analysis cycle. The reported Hg^{II} fraction is calculated as the difference between

- sequentially measured TGM and Hg⁰ concentrations. An initial multipoint calibration was
- 159 performed with Hg⁰ on each Tekran CEM following installation and conditioning. Continued
- 160 measurement performance of each Hg CEM was verified through daily System Integrity/Drift
- 161 Tests using Hg^0 and $HgCl_2$ gas standards as described in EPA Method 30A (25). The Hg CEM
- 162 stack sampling systems were continuously monitored by on-site personnel during the plume
- 163 sampling periods to ensure data were available during all airship flight sorties.
- 164

165 Additional Speciated Hg Measurements

- 166 The reliable measurement of Hg^0 and Hg^{II} was a critical component of this study. Many
- variables contribute to the quality and reliability of speciated Hg measurements, including the
- effects from particulate matter which can not only capture gaseous Hg, but can also oxidize Hg^0
- 169 (26). Verifying the quality of the Hg CEMs speciated Hg measurements is difficult and is
- 170 primarily accomplished by comparison to other speciated Hg measurement techniques, including
- the Ontario-Hydro (OH) method. For this study, the quality of the speciated Hg CEMs
- measurements was assessed through comparison to three independent speciated Hg measurementapproaches (See SI).
- 174

175 Crist Plant Coal Measurements

The coal burned as fuel during the study was sampled at each of the two active unit feeders once a day during each flight-day using a grab sample technique. The coal's composition was then analyzed on an "as received" wet and dry weight basis. The coal was analyzed for a suite of constituents including halogens and trace metals.

180

181 Airship Operations

EPA contracted with Integrated Systems Solutions, Inc. (ISSI; California, Maryland) to provide an airborne sampling platform for this study. ISSI provided an Airship Management Services (AMS; Greenwich, CT) Skyship 600B and flight crew. The AMS Skyship 600B is 61 m long, 19 m wide, 20 m high, and holds approximately 7,200 m³ of helium. The airship was powered by two engines with vectorable propellers which allowed for vertical launch, three-dimensional maneuverability, and the ability to maintain a fixed position in winds up to 11 m s⁻¹. The airship met our specifications to accommodate a 2300 kg instrument payload, three scientists, and provide 40 amps of 120 VAC power. In addition, the airship had a 650 km range and an
endurance of 8 h at a cruising speed of 65 km h⁻¹. The airship was equipped with a state-of-theart avionics package including an encoding altimeter, air temperature sensor, and redundant
global positioning systems.

193

194 The operational flight window for this study was from February 18-March 1, 2008. Conducting the study in the winter was advantageous in that (i) the plume thermal buoyancy was maximized 195 and in general kept the plume at a safer sampling altitude, and (ii) lower atmospheric turbulence 196 minimized initial emission plume dispersion. Each sampling day consisted of approximately 7-8 197 hours of airship flight time (depending on wind speed and the resultant fuel burn required to 198 maintain airship positioning). The first hour of each flight was used to establish the upwind 199 200 background concentrations at the estimated sampling altitude (n = 24 discrete 2.5 min integrated semi-continuous Hg measurements). The airship was then maneuvered downwind of the exhaust 201 stack as close to the stack emission point as safely possible, approximately 200 - 800 m. The 202 subsequent downwind sampling locations were determined based on the airship crew's ability to 203 204 identify and maintain the airships position in the dissipated exhaust plume.

205

206 Airship Measurements

The automated Hg speciation and criteria gas measurements in the stack and in the airship were 207 208 made using similar instrumentation manufactured by Tekran and Thermo Electron, respectively. Two minor differences in the configuration of the Tekran speciation systems were (i) the stack 209 210 system used an inertial sampling probe to extract sample gas from the stack exhaust stream while the airship configuration did not require this component, and (ii) the stack measurement system 211 212 utilized one 2537A cold vapor atomic fluorescence spectrometer (CVAFS) instrument that was switched between the Hg⁰ and TGM channels while the airship system utilized two 2537A 213 CVAFS instruments to continuously sample both channels. The criteria gas measurements were 214 made using Thermo Electron model 43i pulsed fluorescence (SO₂) and model 42i 215 chemiluminescence (NO_Y) dual-range federal reference equivalent method certified instruments 216 217 (See SI for calibration information). All instruments were kept energized on ground power while the airship was moored to keep analytical bench temperatures stable. 218 219

Each Tekran 2537A used during this study was thoroughly evaluated and calibrated (27) prior to 220 and after each flight day (See SI). The raw Hg⁰ data generated by the Tekran 2537A instrument 221 in the airship was corrected to account for the effect of atmospheric pressure changes with 222 altitude and reported in units of mass per standard m⁻³ (See SI). Despite rigorous laboratory 223 testing of the modified Tekran 3320 conditioner deployed in the airship and application on a 224 previous motor vehicle study, the motion of the equipment during air operations caused 225 substantial migration of mist chamber water into the heated catalyst reaction chamber 226 invalidating all TGM measurements (SI Figure 3). The Hg⁰ channel measurements were not 227 affected and were deemed to be valid. 228

229

During sampling, a twenty meter heated sampling umbilical line was lowered from the airship 230 gondola to project the sampling inlets into the plume while minimizing the impact of the airship 231 on the measurements. A heated (120 °C) Teflon particulate matter filter (Hg, SO₂) and heated 232 (350° C) molybdenum converter (NO_Y) enclosure was attached to the inlet of the umbilical line. 233 The umbilical line encapsulated three Teflon sampling lines and was heated to 120 °C. It was 234 235 used for continuous Hg, SO₂, and NO_Y sample transport into the gondola. One of the lines was used to introduce ultra-carrier grade N₂ gas (99.9995%) to the inlet to purge lines and provide 236 237 zero air value confirmation between in-plume sample points. Supplemental sample line flow was provided using a vacuum pump to maintain a sample line retention time of less than five 238 239 seconds and ensure synchronous sampling through the two sampling lines.

240

Data provided by Gulf Power estimated that (i) Hg^{II} would constitute approximately 84% of the 241 total Hg emission from the Crist Plant, (ii) Hg^{II} stack emission concentration would be 242 approximately 0.47 ppb or 3.94 μ g m⁻³ (as Hg⁰) at full load, and (iii) Hg⁰ stack emission 243 concentration would be 0.09 ppb or 0.75 μ g m⁻³ at full load. Based on historical data, Gulf 244 Power indicated that it was expected that the Crist Plant units #6 and #7 would be operating at 245 between 80-95% full load. For planning purposes, an 80% total combined load on the two units 246 was anticipated. Estimated stack exhaust concentrations of Hg and tracer species for 80% total 247 combined load were calculated and are presented in SI Table 1. 248 249

250 Based on the dilution rates from the Plant Bowen experiment (19), our ability to quantify Hg^{II}

using the Tekran speciation system was calculated to be of the same magnitude as our ability to

quantify NO_Y and SO₂ (SI Table 2) and effectively ranged between DR of 100 and 25,000 or

approximately 0 to 32 km. Even with a limiting case scenario for Hg^{II} reduction equating to

254 TGM/Hg^{II} ratio of 10, we anticipated still being able to quantify our key tracers (SO₂, NO_Y) as

well as Hg^{II} up to a DR of 25,000.

256

257 Airship Data Screening and Validation

Identifying the location of the plume boundaries and maintaining airship position with respect to 258 the stack exhaust plume proved challenging during the study. While a portion of the plume was 259 visible from the ground due to the associated condensed water vapor, it was not visible while in 260 flight. In addition, when close to the stack exhaust the resulting turbulence and thermal impact 261 262 on the airship helium envelope challenged the pilots to maintain position with respect to the plume. We utilized a combination of approaches to identify the plume location including: a 263 FLIR (Boston, MA) infrared camera, radio contact with ground observers, use of a Thermo 264 Electron model 43i SO₂ instrument, and a personal exposure SO₂ monitor in the cockpit. 265 266 Ultimately, the cockpit SO₂ monitor was the most successful tool as the pilots had direct feedback from the monitor's audible signal without radio direction from the scientific flight 267 crew. To screen the airship data for periods that it was successfully positioned "in-plume", the 268 ratio of the measured in-stack SO₂/NO_X to the airship measured SO₂/NO_Y and Hg⁰ 269 270 concentrations were utilized. In the hypothetical ideal case, the ratio of the in-stack SO₂/NO_X divided by the in-plume SO₂/NO_Y ratio should equal 1 and the measured Hg⁰ concentration 271 should be greater than background. In this case, a SO_2/NO_X criterion of 1 ± 0.35 and 272 background corrected Hg⁰ value >0.1 ng m⁻³ was used to characterize 2.5 min integrated data 273 points as being "in-plume"; data points that did not meet this criterion were invalidated. 274 275

Although we were unable to measure TGM in-plume and therefore directly calculate in-plume Hg^{II} concentrations due to the malfunction of the Tekran model 3320 gas conditioner TGM channel in the airship, we were able to test the null hypothesis that Hg^{II} was not reduced to Hg⁰ in the Crist Plant exhaust plume using the difference in the expected versus observed Hg⁰ concentrations. For each in-plume run the airship Hg⁰, SO₂ and NO_Y concentrations were first corrected for their corresponding average levels measured during the upwind background runs of

- that same day. The effective DR, in-stack SO_2/NO_X /in-plume SO_2/NO_Y ratios, and the percent Hg⁰ of total Hg in-stack were then calculated for each 2.5-min integrated data point.
- 284

Due to the plume's thermal buoyancy, loss of Hg from the plume due to depositional processes is unlikely to occur over the short distances measured downwind of the stack exit. Therefore, TGM is expected to be conserved in-plume, with concentrations depending on the plume's DR. In addition, if no reduction or oxidation of Hg species occurs in the plume, the percent of Hg^0 instack: $(Hg^0_{in-stack}/TGM_{in-stack})*100\%$; is the same as the percent Hg^0 in-plume. Based on these assumptions, the % $Hg^0_{in-plume}$ was calculated using equation 1.

- 291
- 292

$$\% Hg_{in-plume}^{0} = \left(\frac{Measured Hg_{in-plume}^{0}}{Expected TGM_{in-plume}}\right) * 100$$
(1)

293

294 Where: Expected $TGM_{in-plume} = TGM_{in-stack}/Plume DR$ 295 Plume DR = SO₂ (in stack)/SO₂ (in plume)

296

The %Hg^{II} reduction was then calculated by subtracting the % Hg⁰_{in-plume} from the measured %Hg⁰_{in-stack}.

299

300 Meteorological Measurements

An EPA Remtech (St. James, NY) phased array Doppler SODAR system was deployed at the University of West Florida campus to determine local meteorological conditions aloft such as vector wind speeds, wind direction, and mixing layer height. Data from the SODAR system was used to support airship operations and estimate plume aging time (SI Equation 3).

305

306 Statistical Analysis

307 Data processing and all statistical analyses were performed using SAS v.9.3 (SAS Institute,

308 Cary, NC). The assumptions of the parametric procedures were examined using residual plots,

309 skewness and kurtosis coefficients, Shapiro-Wilk test, and the Brown-Forsythe test. The t-test

310 for independent samples parametric procedure was applied where appropriate. If data seriously

violated the assumptions of the parametric procedure, then a Wilcoxon test was utilized. A level

of significance of α =0.05 was used for all statistical procedures.

313

314 **Results and Discussion**

315 Stack Emissions

A summary of the plant's daily operational process parameters (electrical load and stack flow) 316 and combustion emissions (SO₂, NO_x, and Hg) are presented in Table 1. The average values 317 represent the period of time each day when valid Hg CEM measurements data were collected 318 319 (typically 10:00-18:00). While plant emissions measurement data are routinely available 24 hours/day, Hg CEM data are not, due to automated quality control checks performed at the 320 321 beginning and end of each test day. Subsets of these same data are presented in SI Table 3 322 summarizing the emission measurements for the actual flight time periods that airship sampling 323 was conducted. The gaseous emissions for these same time frames are graphically depicted in SI Figures 4a and 4b to illustrate the stability as well as temporal variability of the process 324 325 emissions. While the CFPP stack emissions are relatively stable over the nominal 8h test day, it can be seen that day-to-day emissions were highly variable. This variability is attributed to 326 variations in coal blend. During the study, the plant experienced a malfunction to the primary 327 coal feeding system that resulted in additional variation to the coal charged into the boilers from 328 329 February 25-29, 2008 as coal was directly fed from the bulk storage piles into the boilers. The reported nominal 50/50 blend of Illinois and Colombian bituminous coal became highly variable. 330 This variability is evidenced in the daily coal analyses presented in Table 2 as well the daily 331 stack emissions averages presented in Table 1. 332

333

A significant shift in stack emissions was observed on 2/28 as evidenced by the lower SO₂ 334 emissions as well as the significant decrease in %Hg^{II} distribution. A closer examination of the 335 daily coal analyses and the daily stack emissions indicates that there is not consistent agreement 336 between measured coal elemental levels (e.g., sulfur) and stack emissions (SO₂). This is likely 337 due to the "inexact" manual blending approach combined with the single point-in-time coal 338 sampling. The six coal samples collected between 02/22-02/24 are clearly representative of the 339 Columbian coal with low lower sulfur (0.6 ± 0.1 ; mean \pm standard deviation), lower chlorine 340 (70 ± 16) , and higher bromine/chlorine ratio (0.051 ± 0.021) , while the four samples collected 341 between 02/28-02/29 are clearly representative of Illinois coal with higher sulfur (1.0±0.1), 342

chlorine (2031±142), and lower bromine/chlorine ratio (0.003±0.001; Table 3). The resulting
stack emissions are clearly the definitive basis for assessing coal blend characteristics.

345

The coal blend changes resulted in a highly variable net chlorine content (ranging from <100 346 ppm to >2000 ppm) as well as moderate variations in sulfur and Hg content. The chloride 347 content in coal is known to be an important component in determining Hg speciation in CFPP 348 flue gas (28, 29). So the increase in the relative proportion of Columbian coal should result in a 349 moderate decrease in SO₂ and a major decrease in chlorine in the combustion flue gas, reducing 350 the overall Hg⁰ oxidation potential. The relationship between measured daily integrated stack 351 Hg^{II} and SO₂ concentrations is presented in Figure 1a, and the relationship between %Hg^{II} and 352 SO_2 is presented in Figure 1b. The result of the significant relationship (p=0.0026) between in-353 stack SO₂ and Hg^{II} concentration is consistent with varying blends of Columbian and Illinois 354 coal. The significant (p=0.0012) exponential relationship between in-stack SO₂ concentration 355 and %Hg^{II} suggests that once SO₂ concentration reaches approximately 450ppm, the formation 356 of Hg^{II} levels off and is no longer sensitive to shifts in coal blend. But when the increase in the 357 358 Columbian coal fraction results in SO₂ concentrations lower than approximately 450ppm the production of Hg^{II} is reduced, similar to what we believe occurred on 02/28-02/29 when there 359 was a 3-4 fold increase in Hg^0 in the flue gas on the 2/28 with the mean % Hg^{II} in-stack 360 decreasing ~13% compared to the previous day (Table 1). While the short term variability of in-361 362 stack SO₂ and Hg speciation observed by CEMs over the course of the individual 1-h airship sampling periods was low, day-to-day variability was substantially higher in response to the 363 changing blend of coal being charged into the boilers (Table 1, SI Figures 4a-4b). 364

365

366 Characterizing the Quality of the Speciated Hg Stack Measurements

The ability to characterize the quality of the speciated Hg stack measurements is integral to the interpretation of the speciated in-plume Hg measurements. As a result, emphasis was placed on obtaining speciated Hg measurements by multiple techniques as the primary means for characterizing the quality of the Hg CEM speciated Hg stack measurements. In addition to the CEM and OH measurements, speciated Hg measurements were also made using the sorbent traps and FUME approaches.

374 A summary of the Unit 7 speciated Hg measurements by all available techniques is presented in SI Table 4. These results show that not only are Unit 7 Hg^{II} emissions consistently greater than 375 90% (with the exception of those made on 2/28), but that all the speciated Hg measurements 376 techniques reported consistent results. The Hg CEMs speciated Hg^{II} measurements were slightly 377 higher relative to the other techniques, with the OH speciated measurements consistently 378 measuring the lowest relative Hg^{II} (-7.1±2.9%). The speciated trap and FUME Hg^{II} speciated Hg 379 measurements also agree well with those observed by the Hg CEMs measurements ($-0.3\pm0.7\%$ 380 and $-3.3\pm2.2\%$, respectively). As a result of the excellent agreement between the Hg CEMs, the 381 OH speciated Hg measurements as well as the alternative speciated Hg measurements, the 382 speciated Hg data reported in this study are based solely on the Hg CEMs. 383

384

The Unit 7 Hg^{II} emissions are also relatively consistent over the duration of the test program, averaging ~96% \pm 5% Hg^{II} for the Hg CEMs Hg^{II} measurements. However, a significant drop in Hg^{II} emissions is observed on 2/28 and 2/29 for all speciated Hg measurement techniques due to a significant shift in coal blend (as discussed in the previous section).

389

390 In-plume Measurements

391 A summary of each valid in-plume measurement run is presented in Table 4 and an integrated study average compared to other published data is presented in Table 5. The average 2.5-min 392 integrated %Hg⁰_{in-stack} during the valid in-plume measurement periods was $6.2 \pm 5.8\%$ and 393 ranged from 0.0 to 16.1%. The calculated % Hg⁰_{in-plume} during the same periods was $11.1 \pm 9.9\%$ 394 and ranged from 1.4 to 58.8%. The unexpected malfunction of the Crist Plant coal blending 395 system provided a unique opportunity to observe the facility Hg emission rate, in-stack 396 speciation, and resulting in-plume dynamic response to changing sulfur, chloride, and Hg 397 concentrations in the feed coal. In-stack and concurrent in-plume measurements conducted on 398 February 24, 2008 during typical coal blending operations showed a relatively small but 399 significant in-plume reduction of Hg^{II} to Hg^{0} (3.2 ± 1.5%) that was not significantly related to 400 plume aging time (Table 4; Figure 2a). 401 402

403 On February 28, 2008 following the malfunction of the automated coal charging system and during the manual charging of mostly Colombian coal (low sulfur and halide content), we 404 observed no significant reduction of Hg^{II} to Hg⁰. On March 1, 2008 after the automated coal 405 charging system was back on-line and the coal blend was transitioning back to normal, we 406 observed a larger significant in-plume reduction of Hg^{II} to Hg^0 (11.2 ± 13.8%) that was 407 significantly related to plume aging time (Table 4; Figure 2b). The highest Hg^{II} to Hg⁰ reduction 408 rate of 58.8% was observed at the furthest point away from the exhaust stack (1.5 km), and was 409 well within the range of Edgerton et al. (15) estimated Hg^{II} to Hg⁰ reduction based on surface 410 observations downwind of the Crist Plant. 411

412

It has been generally assumed (30, 31, 32) and was later confirmed (12, 13, 14) that Hg^{II} present in CFPP plumes deposits, on average, closer to its emission source then Hg^{0} , causing near field deposition enhancement due to its chemical/physical properties. However this study and recent field/modeling studies suggest that in-plume reduction of Hg^{II} to Hg^{0} can also occur depending on coal composition that may moderate the near field impact (15, 16, 17). But as these results demonstrate, coal characteristics can play a major role in determining in-stack and in-plume Hg concentration and speciation when all other plant variables remain equal.

420

It is assumed that Hg^{II} in the atmosphere exists primarily as mercuric chloride (HgCl₂). However, 421 422 the mechanisms of interaction between Hg in flue gas, fly ash, chlorine-containing species, SO₂, NO, water vapor, and trace elements from different coal types and sources remain ambiguous 423 (17, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35). In bench reactor tests using simulated flue gas, it has been shown that 424 Hg oxidation rates decreased in the presence of SO₂, NO, and water vapor, while Hg reduction 425 426 rates increased. In addition, Hg reduction rates increased as flue gas temperature rose, while reduction rates declined as dichloride (Cl₂) concentrations increased (15). Hence, SO₂, NO, and 427 H₂O may affect the concentrations of chloride ions and free chlorine in flue gas and determine 428 how effectively chlorine will form the chlorinated sites on unburned carbon needed to oxidize 429 Hg⁰ (17, 28, 29). The effect of Cl₂, SO₂, and NO on the formation of Hg^{II} in simulated flue gas 430 has also been predicted (33). In the presence of Cl₂, about 80% of the Hg⁰ was oxidized to Hg^{II}. 431 Adding SO₂ to the flue gas mixture lowered the oxidation rate to 30%. NO had little to no effect 432 on the mercury oxidation rate (33). Tong et al. (34, 35) tested variables that potentially affect 433

- 434 heterogeneous photoreduction of HgCl₂. It was found that sulfur in fly ash possibly enhanced
- 435 photoreduction, while chlorine, carbon, and iron inhibited photoreduction. The reduction of Hg^{II}
- to Hg^0 was only observed in the presence of light, with average reduction rates of 20–30% per
- 437 hour when normalized to real-world clear sky atmospheric intensities (34, 35).
- 438
- The flue gas SO_2 concentrations on February 28, when we observed no significant Hg^{II} reduction 439 in the plume, were the lowest of all our measurement days ranging from 315-321 ppm (Table 1; 440 SI Table 3) suggesting our field observations were consistent with the laboratory observations of 441 Zhao et al. (17). On March 1 when we observed the highest degree of Hg^{II} reduction to Hg⁰ of 442 up to 55.3%, SO₂ flue gas concentrations were higher (ranging from 430-450 ppm; SI Table 3) 443 indicating a higher proportion of Illinois coal with correspondingly higher chlorine, bromine, and 444 iron (Table 3) consistent with conditions favoring more reduction of Hg^{II} in the flue gas (17, 33, 445 34, 35). Also on February 24, when significant mercury reduction was observed, SO₂ flue gas 446 and %Hg^{II} conditions were similar to that of March 1 again suggesting a higher proportion of 447 Illinois coal with correspondingly higher chlorine and iron (Table 3). 448
- 449

Our results are (i) generally in agreement with those from previous in-plume studies (Table 5) 450 demonstrating instances of significant Hg^{II} to Hg⁰ reduction (15, 16, 17, 18), as well as instances 451 of no significant plume speciation change (22), and (ii) highlight the importance of coal 452 453 composition in driving in-stack and in-plume Hg species dynamics. The results of this study further confirm that in-plume reactions exist that result in the reduction of Hg^{II}. Moreover, 454 variable levels of Hg^{II} reduction were observed. As a result of the significant variation in the 455 relative amounts in the coals blended during this study and their diverse chemical composition, 456 the data suggest that coal chemical composition and characteristics are a major influence on Hg^{II} 457 production and in-plume reduction chemistry. Therefore, measurements made under specific 458 conditions at CFPPs cannot be generalized to other facilities or operating conditions. 459

460

Acknowledgements: The United States Environmental Protection Agency through its Office of
Research and Development funded this research partially through an Advanced Monitoring
Initiative Grant. It has been subjected to Agency review and approved for publication. Mention
of trade names or commercial products do not constitute an endorsement or recommendation for

use. We thank John Jansen and Justin Walters (Southern Company), and Dwain Waters (Gulf 465 Power) in particular for access to the Crist Plant and collaboration with the project; Airship 466 Management Services (AMS) and Integrated Systems Solutions Incorporated (ISSI) for airship 467 operations and logistical support; Ed Brown (EPA) for Hg measurement support; Mike Wheeler 468 (Alion) and Chris Winterrowd (ARCADIS) for instrument calibration support; and Jane Caffery 469 (University of West Florida) for providing laboratory space and hosting our Sodar system. We 470 also thank Eric Edgerton from Atmospheric Research and Analysis, and Leonard Levin from 471 EPRI for their contributions to this project. 472 473

- 474 Supporting Information Available: This information is available free of charge via the
- 475 Internet at <u>http://pubs.acs.org/</u>.

477 List of Figures

- Figure 1. Relationship between daily (10:00 18:00) integrated in-stack CEM (a) Hg^{II} and SO₂
 concentration, and (b) percent Hg^{II} and SO₂ concentration (February 23 March 1, 2008).
- Figure 2. Relationship between calculated Hg^{II} to Hg⁰ reduction and plume aging time for sorties
 flown on (a) February 24, 2008, and (b) March 1, 2008 when individual sample periods
 were categorized as plume impacted.
- 484
- 485 Figure 1a.











499 List of Tables

- 500 Table 1. Daily (10:00 18:00) Summary of CEM Stack Measurements, Shaded Samples Indicate Associated Airship Flight Days
- Table 2. Summary of Coal Grab Sample Composition, Shaded Samples are Most Indicative of Unblended Columbian (February 22 24) and Illinois (February 27-28) Bituminous Coals
- 503 Table 3. Characteristics of Columbian and Illinois Categorized Coal Samples
- 504 Table 4. Summary of All Valid In-plume Measurements
- 505 Table 5. Comparison of Independent Coal-Fired Power Plant Mercury Plume Studies
- 506
- 507

508 Table 1.

509

	NO _x	SO_2	CO_2	Flow	Load	Hg Con	centrations µg	m ⁻³ wet	Hg ^{II}
	ppm wet	ppm wet	% wet	kcfm	MW	Hg^{T}	Hg^0	Hg ^{II}	%
02/23/2008	68.2 ± 1.9	439.1 ± 14.4	11.05 ± 0.08	2288 ± 36	804 ± 3	3.37 ± 0.18	0.14 ± 0.06	3.23 ± 0.15	96.0 ± 1.6
02/24/2008	67.4 ± 2.1	409.4 ± 25.7	10.93 ± 0.13	2317 ± 56	795 ± 7	3.39 ± 0.09	0.09 ± 0.08	3.30 ± 0.13	97.2 ± 2.5
02/25/2008	61.5 ± 2.1	470.1 ± 18.6	10.96 ± 0.07	2114 ± 33	720 ± 8	3.68 ± 0.42	0.03 ± 0.01	3.65 ± 0.42	99.2 ± 0.4
02/26/2008	72.1 ± 1.8	566.5 ± 13.3	11.03 ± 0.08	2271 ± 43	793 ± 4	3.93 ± 0.38	0.03 ± 0.01	3.90 ± 0.39	99.2 ± 1.4
02/27/2008	69.9 ± 1.9	393.5 ± 10.9	11.12 ± 0.10	2173 ± 37	816 ± 3	2.93 ± 0.13	0.06 ± 0.03	2.87 ± 0.13	98.1 ± 1.1
02/28/2008	68.3 ± 2.3	319.2 ± 4.3	11.27 ± 0.09	2135 ± 56	795 ± 22	2.95 ± 0.17	0.39 ± 0.08	2.56 ± 0.12	86.8 ± 2.1
02/29/2008	69.5 ± 2.3	356.8 ± 22.9	11.27 ± 0.80	2190 ± 30	804 ± 8	2.58 ± 0.13	0.19 ± 0.13	2.39 ± 0.10	92.9 ± 4.7
03/01/2008	67.1 ± 3.1	438.1 ± 7.7	10.95 ± 0.23	2234 ± 98	776 ± 41	2.93 ± 0.26	0.08 ± 0.03	2.85 ± 0.27	97.3 ± 1.3

510

513	Table 2.

			As R	Received (W	et Basis)			D	Dry Weight I	Basis			
Unit	Date	Carbon	Sulfur	Mercury	Chlorine	Bromine	Carbon	Sulfur	Mercury	Chlorine	Bromine	Br/Cl	Iron Oxide*
6	02/20/00	%	%		1201	mg kg ⁻¹	%	%	mg kg ⁻¹	1510	$mg kg^{-1}$		% 0
6	02/20/08	64.3	0.8	0.08	1301	4.6	/4.6	0.9	0.09	1510	5.5	0.004	10.8
6	02/21/08	64.1	0.7	0.07	1281	5.5	74.6	0.9	0.08	1490	6.4	0.004	11.1
6	02/22/08	63.0	0.5	0.07	66	7.3	74.3	0.6	0.08	78	8.6	0.110	8.2
6	02/23/08	65.3	0.8	0.07	83	3.4	75.6	0.9	0.08	93	-	0.041	12.7
6	02/24/08	66.0	0.6	0.09	55	2.8	73.8	0.7	0.10	62	3.1	0.051	8.6
6	02/25/08	64.6	0.9	0.08	1769	7.3	75.3	1.0	0.09	2062	8.5	0.004	13.9
6	02/26/08	64.7	0.7	0.07	1198	4.6	74.8	0.8	0.08	1386	5.3	0.004	11.6
6	02/27/08	66.3	1.0	0.09	1909	6.6	75.0	1.2	0.10	2158	7.4	0.003	12.9
6	02/28/08	64.8	0.9	0.07	1939	4.6	75.1	1.1	0.09	2247	5.3	0.002	13.7
6	02/29/08	63.5	0.7	0.07	891	3.6	74.2	0.8	0.08	1042	4.2	0.004	10.3
6	03/01/08	64.4	0.5	0.06	150	-	74.6	0.6	0.07	174	-	-	8.7
6	03/02/08	66.8	1.0	0.09	1763	3.7	75.0	1.1	0.10	1979	4.2	0.002	12.7
7	02/20/08	64.2	0.7	0.07	1286	4.7	74.8	0.9	0.08	1500	5.5	0.004	11.0
7	02/21/08	63.9	0.7	0.09	1051	3.7	74.0	0.8	0.10	1217	4.3	0.004	10.6
7	02/22/08	62.7	0.5	0.08	87	3.6	74.4	0.6	0.10	103	4.3	0.042	8.0
7	02/23/08	64.1	0.4	0.06	74	6.4	74.2	0.5	0.07	86	7.4	0.087	7.7
7	02/24/08	65.2	0.6	0.07	52	1.9	73.8	0.7	0.08	59	2.1	0.035	8.3
7	02/25/08	64.1	0.9	0.07	1669	7.2	75.3	1.0	0.09	1960	8.4	0.004	13.3
7	02/26/08	64.6	1.0	0.08	1850	14.5	75.1	1.1	0.09	2150	16.8	0.008	13.9
7	02/27/08	66.8	1.1	0.09	2052	5.7	75.1	1.2	0.10	2307	6.4	0.003	14.3
7	02/28/08	65.6	1.0	0.08	2222	3.7	75.0	1.2	0.10	2538	4.2	0.002	13.8
7	02/29/08	63.9	0.7	0.06	910	0.9	74.7	0.8	0.07	1065	1.1	0.001	10.3
7	03/01/08	65.1	0.5	0.07	124	-	75.0	0.5	0.08	143	-	-	9.0
7	03/02/08	66.8	0.9	0.08	1601	9.4	74.5	1.1	0.09	1786	10.5	0.006	11.8
*Coal a	ash basis												

517 Table 3.

518

Coal	Sulfur	Mercury	Chlorine	Bromine	Br/Cl	Iron Oxide*
	%	mg kg ⁻¹	mg kg⁻¹	mg kg⁻¹	Ratio	%
Columbian	0.6 ± 0.1	0.07 ± 0.01	70 ± 16	3.6 ± 1.7	0.051 ± 0.021	9.1 ± 2.1
Illinois	1.0 ± 0.1	0.08 ± 0.01	2031 ± 142	5.2 ± 1.3	0.003 ± 0.001	13.7 ± 0.6

519 *Coal ash basis

520

521 Table 4.

522

Run	Date	nA	%Hg ⁰ In-stack ^B	%Hg ⁰ In-plume ^{в, с}	%Hg ^{II} Reduction ^B	Distance ^D	Wind Speed ^{B,E}
5	02/24/08	18	1.58 ± 0.74	4.57 ± 1.64	2.99 ± 1.72	0.56 ± 0.11	8.2 ± 0.8
6	02/24/08	8	0.22 ± 0.24	3.90 ± 0.69	3.68 ± 0.71	1.20 ± 0.23	6.5 ± 0.5
15	02/28/08	12	14.13 ± 0.68	14.42 ± 7.37	0.29 ± 7.43	0.57 ± 0.21	7.3 ± 1.2
17	02/28/08	14	14.20 ± 0.94	14.54 ± 5.06	0.34 ± 5.32	0.69 ± 0.34	7.5 ± 0.2
22	03/01/08	13	2.25 ± 0.67	7.22 ± 3.75	4.97 ± 4.03	0.80 ± 0.20	8.9 ± 2.8
23	03/01/08	4	3.24 ± 0.22	39.17 ± 16.70	35.93 ± 16.54	1.31 ± 0.18	7.6 ± 0.8
24	03/01/08	9	4.71 ± 0.34	13.95 ± 9.98	9.24 ± 9.89	1.09 ± 0.08	9.1 ± 0.3
Total		78					

523 ^ANumber of valid 2.5 min samples within each run

524 ^B Values are mean \pm standard deviations

525 ^c Calculated by dividing the measured Hg^0 levels in-plume by the calculated TGM levels in-plume

526 ^DEffective three dimensional distance downwind from stack exit (km)

527 ^E Remtech SODAR (m s⁻¹) at airship altitude

528

529 Table 5.

	Plant Crist*	Plant Bowen (19)	Pleasant Prairie (20)	OLF Ambient Site (15)
	Pensacola, FL	Atlanta, GA	Kenosha, WI	Pensacola, FL
Hg ^{II} Reduction to Hg ⁰	0 - 36%	~12%	~44 - 54%	37 - 74%
Plume Reaction Time	< 1 - 5 min			2 - 5 hours
Stack Distance (km)	0.4 - 1.6	~10 - 12	0.6 - 16	14.6

530 *This Study – stack distance is minimum - maximum

532 Literature Cited

- (1) Pacyna, E. G.; Pacyna, J. M. Global Emissions of Mercury from Anthropogenic Sources in 1995. *Water Air Soil Pollut.* **2002**, 137, 149–165.
- (2) Pacyna, J. M.; Pacyna, E. G.; Steenhuisen, F.; Wilson, S. Mapping 1995 Global Anthropogenic Emissions of Mercury. *Atmos. Environ.* **2003**, 37, 109–117.
- (3) Pacyna, E. G.; Pacyna, J. M.; Steenhuisen, F.; Wilson, S. Global Anthropogenic Mercury Emission Inventory for 2000. *Atmos. Environ.* **2006**, 40, 4048–4063.
- (4) Wilson, S. J.; Steenhuisen, F.; Pacyna, J. M.; Pacyna, E. G. Mapping the Spatial Distribution of Global Anthropogenic Mercury Atmospheric Emission Inventories. *Atmos. Environ.* 2006, 40, 4621–4632.
- (5) Streets, D. G.; Zhang, Q.; Wu, Y. Projections of Global Mercury Emissions in 2050 *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, **2009**, 43, 2983-2988.
- (6) United Nations Environment Programe, 2013. Global Mercury Assessment 2013: Sources, Emissions, Releases and Environmental Transport. UNEP Chemicals Branch, Geneva, Switzerland. <u>http://www.unep.org/PDF/PressReleases/GlobalMercuryAssessment2013.pdf</u>. Last accessed October 15, 2014.
- (7) Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme/United Nations Environment Programe, 2013. Technical Background Report for the Global Mercury Assessment 2013. AMAP, Oslo, Norway/UNEP Chemicals Branch, Geneva, Switzerland. <u>http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/Technical-Background-Report-for-the-Global-Mercury-Assessment-2013/848</u>. Last accessed October 15, 2014.
- (8) Schroeder, W.H.; Munthe, J. Atmospheric Mercury An Overview. *Atmos. Environ.* **1998**, 32, 809-822.
- (9) US Environmental Protection Agency, 1997. Mercury Study Report to Congress, Vol. 3, EPA-452/R-97-003. Office or Air Quality Planning and Standards, Office of Research and Development, Washington, DC. (Chapter 4).
- (10) Lindberg, S.E.; Stratton, W.J. Atmospheric Mercury Speciation: Concentrations and Behavior of Reactive Gaseous Mercury in Ambient Air. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, **1998**, 32, 49–57.
- (11) Pehkonen, S.O.; Lin, C.J. Aqueous Photochemistry of Mercury with Organic Acids. J. Air Waste Manage. Assoc. 1998, 48, 144-150.
- (12) Keeler, G.J.; Landis, M.S.; Norris, G.A., Christianson, E.M.; Dvonch, J.T. Sources of Mercury Wet Deposition in Eastern Ohio, USA. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2006, 40, 5874-5881.
- (13) White, E.M.; Keeler, G.J.; Landis, M.S. Spatial Variability of Mercury Wet Deposition in Eastern Ohio: Summertime Meteorological Case Study Analysis of Local Source Influences. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2009**, 43, 4946-4953
- (14) Pancras, J.P.; Vedantham, R.; Landis, M.S.; Norris, G.A.; Ondov, J.M. Application of EPA UNMIX and Non-parametric Wind Regression on High Time Resolution Trace Elements and Speciated Mercury in Tampa, Florida Aerosol. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2011, 45, 3511-3518
- (15) Edgerton, E. S.; Hartsell, B. E.; Jansen, J. J., Mercury Speciation in Coal-Fired Power Plant Plumes Observed at Three Surface Sites in the Southeastern US. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2006, 40, 4563-4570.
- (16) Lohman, K.; Seigneur, C.; Edgerton E.; Jansen, J. Modeling Mercury in Power Plant

Plumes. Environ. Sci. Technol. 2006, 40, 3848-3854.

- (17) Zhao, Y.; Mann, M.D.; Olson, E.S.; Pavlish, J.H.; Dunham, G.E. Effects of Sulfur Dioxide and Nitric Oxide on Mercury Oxidation and Reduction under Homogeneous Conditions. *J. Air & Waste Manage. Assoc.* **2006**, 56, 628–635.
- (18) Vijayaraghavan, K.; Karamchandani, P.; Seigneur, C.; Balmori, R.; Chen S.-Y. Plume-ingrid modeling of atmospheric mercury, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **2008**, 113, D24305, doi:10.1029/2008JD010580.
- (19) Prestbo, E.; Levin, L.; Jansen, J.J.; Monroe, L.; Laudal, D.; Schulz, R.; Dunham, G.; Aljoe, W.; Valente, R.J.; Michaud D.; Swartzendruber, P.; 2004. "Interconversion of emitted atmospheric mercury species in coal-fired power plant plumes." Presented at the 7th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, Ljubljana, Slovenia; *RMZ-Materiali in Geookolje*, 2004, 51, 1732–1733.
- (20) EPRI, 2005. Evaluation of Mercury Speciation in a Power Plant Plume. Palo Alto, CA: 1011113.
- (21) EPRI, 2006. Mercury Chemistry in Power Plant Plumes. Palo Alto, CA: 1010142.
- (22) Deeds; D.A.; Banic, C.M.; Lu, J.; Daggupaty, S. Mercury Speciation in a Coal-fired Power Plant Plume: An Aircraft-based Study of Emissions from the 3640 MW Nanticoke Generating Station, Ontario, Canada. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres*, 2013, 118, 4919-4935. doi:10.1002/jgrd.50349.
- (23) Gardfeldt, K.; Jonsson, M. Is Bimolecular Reduction of Hg(II) Complexes Possible in Aqueous Systems of Environmental Importance. *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*, 2003, 107, 4478-4482.
- (24) Seigneur, C.; Vijayaraghavan, K.; Lohman, K. Atmospheric Mercury Chemistry: Sensitivity of Global Model Simulations to Chemical Reactions. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres*, **2006**, 111 (D22306).
- (25) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Method 30A DETERMINATION OF TOTAL VAPOR PHASE MERCURY EMISSIONS FROM STATIONARY SOURCES (INSTRUMENTAL ANALYZER PROCEDURE)." Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 60, Appendix A. http://www.epa.gov/ttn/emc/promgate/Meth30A.pdf
- (26) Ryan, J.V., and R. Keeney. *The Ontario Hydro Method for Speciated Mercury Measurements: Issues and Considerations* in proceeding of 2004 Symposium on Air Quality Measurement Methods and Technology, April 19-22, 2004, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.
- (27) Landis, M.S., Stevens, R.K., Schaedlich, F., Prestbo, E.M. Development and characterization of an annular denuder methodology for the measurement of divalent inorganic reactive gaseous mercury in ambient air. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2002**, 36, 3000–3009.
- (28) Cao, Y.; Duan, Y.; Kellie, S.; Lingchuan, L.; Xu, W.; Riley, J.T.; Pan, W.; Chu, P.; Mehta, A.K; Carty, R. Impact of Coal Chlorine on Mercury Speciation and Emission from a 100-MW Utility Boiler with Cold-Side Electrostatic Precipitators and Low-NOx Burners, *Energy & Fuels*, **2005**, 19, 842-854.
- (29) Effect of Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) and Ammonia on Mercury Speciation and Removal: 2003 Summary Report, EPRI, Palo Alto, CA, U.S. Department of Energy, Pittsburgh, PA, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC: 2004. 1008494.
- (30) Schroeder W., Munthe J., 1998. Atmospheric Mercury An Overview, Atmospheric

Environment, 32, 809-822.

- (31) Mason R.P., Sheu G.R., 2002. Role of Ocean in the Global Mercury Cycle, *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 16, 1093, doi:10.1029/2001GB001440.
- (32) Pehkonen S.O., Lin C.-J., 1998. Two-phase Model of Mercury Chemistry in the Atmosphere, *Atmospheric Environment*, 32, 2543–2558.
- (33) Krishnakumar, B., Helble, J.J., Understanding Mercury Transformations in Coal-Fired Power Plants: Evaluation of Homogeneous Hg Oxidation Mechanisms, *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2007**, 41, 7870-7875.
- (34) Tong Y., Eichhorst T., Olson M. R., McGinnis J. E., Turner I., Rutter A. P., Shafer M. M., Wang X., Schauer J. J., Atmospheric Photolytic Reduction of Mercury(II) in Dry Aerosols. *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts.* **2013**, 15, 1883-1888.
- (35) Tong Y., Eichhorst T., Olson M. R., Turner I., Rutter A. P., Shafer M. M., Wang X., Schauer J. J., Comparison of Heterogeneous Photolytic Reduction of Hg(II) in the Coal Fly Ashes and Synthetic Aerosols. *Atmospheric Research.* **2014**, 138, 324-329.

The Behavior of Mercury Emissions from a Commercial Coal-Fired Power Plant: The Relationship between Stack Speciation and Near Field Plume Measurements

Matthew S. Landis, ^{*}Jeffrey V. Ryan, Arnout ter Schure, Dennis Laudal

Supporting Information Figures

- Figure 1: Airship sampling Crist Plant stack emission plume exhaust
- Figure 2: Schematic of Tekran Model 3300 CEM system
- Figure 3: Schematic of standard Tekran 3320 conditioner showing the Hg⁰ (A) and TGM (B) sampling channels. NOTE: Airship version did not have selector valve as both channels had associated Tekran Model 2537A CFAFS instruments
- Figure 4: Time series plot of in-stack (a) NOx and SO₂ (b) total mercury concentrations
- Figure 5: Relationship between 2.5-min integrated CEM in-stack (a) Hg^{II} and SO₂ concentrations, and (b) percent Hg^{II} and SO₂ concentration (February 23 March 1, 2008; n = 1333).

Supporting Information Tables

- Table 1: Estimated stack parameters and exhaust concentrations for Crist Plant unit #6 and unit #7 atcombined 80% load based upon linear interpolation of data provided by Gulf Power for 50%and 100% total combined load
- Table 2: Estimated concentrations of target compounds emitted from Crist Plant combined units #6 and#7 at 80% load from 100 to 75,000 dilution ratios (Hg^{II} expressed as Hg⁰)
- Table 3: Flight time summary of CEM stack measurements
- Table 4: Comparison of in-stack speciation method results
- Table 5. Summary of airship in-plume measurements (mean ± standard deviation)

Supporting Information Methods

- Selection of coal-fired power plant
- Crist Plant stack emission measurements
- Additional speciated Hg measurements
- Airship criteria gas instrument calibration
- Airship Tekran evaluation and calibration
- Meteorological measurements

SI Figure 1. Airship sampling Crist Plant stack emission plume exhaust



SI Figure 2. Schematic of Tekran Model 3300 CEM system.



SI Figure 3. Schematic of standard Tekran 3320 conditioner showing the Hg⁰ (A) and TGM (B) sampling channels. **NOTE:** Airship version did not have selector valve as both channels had associated Tekran Model 2537A CVAFS instruments.





SI Figure 4a. Time series of NOx and SO₂ stack emissions.



SI Figure 4b. Time series of total mercury stack emissions.

SI Figure 5a. Relationship between 2.5-min integrated in-stack CEM Hg^{II} and SO₂ concentrations (February 23 – March 1, 2008; n = 1333).



SI Figure 5b. Relationship between 2.5-min integrated in-stack CEM percent Hg^{II} and SO_2 concentration (February 23 – March 1, 2008; n = 1333).



SI Table 1. Estimated stack parameters and exhaust concentrations for Crist Plant unit #6 and unit #7 at combined 80% load based upon linear interpolation of data provided by Gulf Power for 50% and 100% total combined load.

		Stack	Stack Parameters			Estimated Concentrations				
Load	MW	Flow (ACFM)	Temp (°C)	Velocity (m s ⁻¹)	SO ₂ (ppm)	NO _X (ppm)	CO ₂ (%)	Hg ⁰ (ppb)	Hg ^{II} (ppb)	
100	820	3,287,000	160	39.2	497	84	11.77	0.0877	0.4665	
80	656	2,778,000	146	33.1	460	73	10.93	0.0812	0.4321	
50	410	2,015,000	124	24.0	405	57	9.67	0.0715	0.3804	

SI Table 2. Estimated concentrations of target compounds emitted from Crist Plant combined units #6 and #7 at 80% load from 100 to 75,000 dilution ratios (Hg^{II} expressed as Hg^{0}).

		Esti	With Background				
	SO ₂	NO _Y	CO ₂	Hg ⁰	Hg ^{II}	Hg ⁰	Hg ^{II}
Dilution Ratio	(ppb)	(ppb)	(ppm)	(ng m ⁻³)			
100	4602	732	1093	7.55	39.41	9.05	39.42
200	2301	366	546	3.77	19.71	5.27	19.71
500	920	146	219	1.51	7.88	3.01	7.89
2000	230	37	55	0.38	1.97	1.88	1.98
5000	92	15	22	0.15	0.79	1.65	0.79
10,000	46	7	11	0.08	0.39	1.58	0.40
25,000	18	3	4	0.03	0.16	1.53	0.16
75,000	6	1	1	0.01	0.05	1.51	0.06

	Time On	Time Off	Mean Stack SO ₂	Mean Stack NOx	Mean Stack Hg ^T	Mean Stack Hg ⁰	Mean Stack Hg ^{II}	
	(Local)	(Local)			0	0	0	
Date On			ppmw	ppmw	μg m ⁻³ @	μg m ⁻³ @	μg m ⁻³ @	Mean Stack
					20°C	20°C	20°C	% Hg ^{II}
02/24/2008	12:30	13:30	403.3	68.1	3.50 ± 0.09	0.11±0.03	3.39 ± 0.08	96.7%
02/24/2008	13:58	15:33	427.2	67.7	3.36 ± 0.11	0.04 ± 0.02	3.32 ± 0.11	98.8%
02/24/2008	16:12	17:59	435.2	68.6	3.42 ± 0.08	0.01±0.02	3.41 ± 0.08	99.6%
02/28/2008	11:11	12:11	320.5	67.7	2.83 ± 0.06	0.31±0.02	2.52 ± 0.06	89.1%
02/28/2008	12:41	13:54	321.1	68.6	2.85 ± 0.07	0.41±0.03	2.44 ± 0.07	85.8%
02/28/2008	16:23	17:23	315.4	67.3	3.13 ± 0.05	0.45±0.02	2.68 ± 0.06	85.7%
03/01/2008	11:33	12:33	429.9	70.1	3.08 ± 0.06	0.05 ± 0.01	3.03 ± 0.06	98.3%
03/01/2008	12:56	13:55	448.1	67.7	3.18 ± 0.11	0.07 ± 0.01	3.11 ± 0.11	97.9%
03/01/2008	14:23	15:27	439.6	64.6	2.63 ± 0.18	0.09 ± 0.01	2.54 ± 0.19	96.7%
03/01/2008	16:03	17:01	440.6	65.7	2.73 ± 0.17	0.13±0.02	2.58 ± 0.09	95.1%

SI Table 3. Flight Time Summary of CEM Stack Measurements.

SI Table 4. Comparison of in-stack speciation method results

Percent Hg ^{II}												
Date	Hg CEM	ОН	Absolute Difference	Traps	Absolute Difference	FUME	Absolute Difference					
2-23-2008	93.8%	84.4%	-9.4%	NM	NA	NM	NA					
2-24-2008	99.7%	92.1%	-7.6%	96.8%	-2.9%	NM	NA					
2-25-2008	100.0%	93.8%	-6.2%	97.7%	-2.3%	NM	NA					
2-27-2008	98.2%	89.2%	-9.0%	95.1%	-3.1%	NM	NA					
2-28-2008	86.5%	82.4%	-4.1%	84.5%	-2.0%	NM	NA					
2-29-2008	92.8%	NM	NA	NM	NA	88.0%	-4.8%					
3-1-2008	99.7%	93.6%	-6.1%	98.4%	-1.3%	98.0%	-1.7%					
Average	95.8%	89.3%	-7.1%	94.5%	-2.3%	93.0%	-3.3%					
Std Dev	5.1%	4.9%	2.0%	5.7%	0.7%	7.1%	2.2%					

NM = Not measured

NA = Not applicable

Run	Date	nA	Hg ⁰	BC Hg ^{0B}	SO ₂	NOy	CO ₂	Airship
			ng m ⁻³	ng m ⁻³	ppb	ppb	ppm	Altitude (m)
5	02/24/2008	18	2.1 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.3	1154 ± 455	173 ± 75	608 ± 98	574 ± 73
6	02/24/2008	8	2.2 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.3	1465 ± 678	222 ± 97	702 ± 143	521 ± 39
15	02/28/2008	12	3.3 ± 1.4	1.7 ± 1.4	1225 ± 626	269 ± 121	709 ± 192	415 ± 47
17	02/28/2008	14	3.6 ± 1.4	2.0 ± 1.4	1306 ± 659	279 ± 110	701 ± 202	392 ± 46
22	03/01/2008	13	2.5 ± 0.6	0.9 ± 0.6	1781 ± 1126	276 ± 165	765 ± 222	781 ± 107
23	03/01/2008	4	2.0 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.3	195 ± 117	31 ± 21	436 ± 21	1101 ± 69
24	03/01/2008	9	1.9 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	373 ± 115	68 ± 28	475 ± 39	1155 ± 51
Total		78						

SI Table 5. Summary of airship in-plume measurements (mean ± standard deviation)

^ANumber of valid 2.5 min samples within each run

^B Background corrected

Supporting Information Methods

Selection of Coal-Fired Utility Boiler

The ideal plant for this study was identified as one that emitted a high percentage of Hg^{II} to allow for downwind measurements above our method detection limits at dilution ratios ranging from 500 to 25,000. Plants that burn eastern bituminous coal and do not utilize a flue gas desulfurization wet scrubber control system were deemed most likely to meet this criterion. Stack dilution rates relative to distance downwind in a coal-fired power plant plume during a previous fixed-wing aircraft study conducted by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) were found to be extremely variable and strongly dependent on meteorological conditions (1). The downwind dilution ratio of stack plume gas at 10 km and 20 km downwind varied from 3,600-11,000 and 9,000-25,000, respectively. In addition, the ideal plant would: (i) have a single stack at least 125 meters high, (ii) not be in an area of complex mountainous terrain, and (iii) not be in close proximity to other significant atmospheric mercury sources.

Crist Plant Stack Emissions Measurements

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) continuous emissions monitoring (CEM) measurements were made using Thermo Electron (Franklin, MA) Model 43C pulsed fluorescence SO₂ monitors, Thermo Electron Model 42C chemiluminescence NO-NO₂-NO_x monitors, and United Science Inc. (Gibsonia, PA) Model Ultraflow100 real-time volumetric flow monitors. The CEMs were installed and operated following standardized EPA monitoring and reporting requirements detailed in 40 CFR Part 75.

Each Hg-CEM system included an inertial sampling probe (Tekran Model 3330), a conditioner (Tekran Model 3320), a mercury analyzer (Tekran Model 2537A); and Hg⁰ (Tekran Model 3310) and HgCl₂ (Tekran Model 3315) gaseous calibrators. Each Tekran CEM also included a computer system for controlling and monitoring system temperatures, flows, and pressures. The Tekran 3300 systems were configured to measure TGM and Hg⁰ semi-continuously over a 2.5 min collection/analysis cycle. The Tekran model 3320 sample conditioner contained two separate sample channels for TGM and Hg⁰ (SI Figure 2). The TGM channel ran the sample air stream through a heated (700°C) catalyst reaction chamber to thermally reduce all oxidized mercury fractions to Hg⁰, and then through a chilled single-pass refluxing mist chamber that was continuously supplied ASTM type II reagent grade water (18.2 M Ω ·cm) to scrub out halide species and prevent their recombination to non-detectable Hg^{II} compounds. The Hg⁰ channel ran the sample air stream through a separate chilled refluxing

mist chamber to remove the soluble Hg^{II} fraction. The reported Hg^{II} fraction was calculated as the difference between TGM and Hg^{0} .

Additional Speciated Hg Measurements

Many variables contribute to the quality and reliability of speciated mercury measurements, including the effects from particulate matter which can not only capture gaseous Hg, but can also oxidize Hg^0 (2). Verifying the quality of the Hg CEMS speciated mercury measurements is difficult and is primarily accomplished by comparison to other speciated mercury measurement techniques, including the Ontario-Hydro (OH) method. The OH method is widely considered to be the primary accepted method for speciated Hg emissions measurements and was the primary speciating method employed during this study (3). The OH method has been well investigated for its speciated measurement performance (4, 5). OH measurements were performed on Unit 7 each day of testing. While Ontario-Hydro measurements were made on Unit 6, they were performed and completed prior to the initiation of mercury CEM and airship measurements, and as a result, are not directly suitable for comparative purposes.

Method 30B, EPA's Reference Method for measuring TGM from coal combustion sources, was expanded to include and evaluate commercially-available, Ohio Lumex Company (Twinsburg, OH) model OL-Spec speciating sorbent traps as a viable mercury speciating option during these tests (6). The speciating sorbent traps are similar to the TGM traps used for EPA Reference Method 30B testing, with the addition of two sequential beds of granular potassium chloride (KCl) positioned upstream of the iodated activated carbon for TGM capture. The KCl was intended to capture Hg^{II} only. A series of quad probe measurements was performed consisting of one TGM carbon trap, one TGM carbon trap spiked with a known amount of Hg⁰ (for the Method 30B recovery test), and two speciated traps. The speciating traps were sampled and analyzed following EPA Method 30B. Only a limited number of measurements were made during these tests and all measurements were made on Unit 7 to coincide with OH sampling.

A separate CEM system was employed as an independent assessment of speciated mercury measurement quality. The Fluegas Unfiltered Mercury Emissions (FUME) system is a prototype measurement approach, developed by EPA specifically for this study, intended to reliably measure Hg^0 . The key feature of this measurement system is that no stack temperature PM filtering is employed. The measurement system consists of a probe, a series of water-containing impingers, and a Tekran model 2537 mercury analyzer. The particulate-containing gas stream is routed directly to the impingers to mitigate the PM bias effects. The system was challenged with Hg^0 , introduced at the probe, before and after each measurement event as a means of calibration and data validation. The FUME Hg^0 measurements are related to the Tekran Hg CEMS TGM measurements to derive an independent Hg^{II} measurement. FUME measurements were made on Unit 7 only on 2/29 and 3/1.

An ancillary outcome of this study is the successful use of the speciating sorbent traps with the application of Method 30B. What is unique to these tests and the overall approach is that the speciating traps can be used in conjunction with Method 30B and the 30B total Hg measurement approach. When paired with total Hg traps, speciated measurements can be made following the same procedures and performance criteria contained in 30B. Total Hg measurements can be made from the speciating sorbent traps without any deviation from Method 30B requirements. As a result, speciation estimates can be obtained without compromising Method 30B data quality. These tests afforded an opportunity to verify this tenet as well as provide for comparisons to the other speciated Hg measurements.

Airship criteria gas instrument calibration

Each Thermo Electron instrument used during this study was thoroughly evaluated and optimized prior to deployment by EPA, and included automated pressure compensation. Each unit's high- and low-range channels were calibrated using a four point calibration curve conducted to ensure a linear response over the anticipated dynamic range prior to flight. After each sampling sortie, a zero and span check was conducted to bracket each

sampling days measurements. A certified Advanced Pollution Instruments (San Diego, CA) model 700 dynamic dilution calibration and model 701 zero air generation systems were used to conduct the calibrations. Scott Specialty Gases (Plumsteadville, PA) Certified Interference FreeTM multi component EPA Protocol Gas cylinders (EPA, 1997) were used to calibrate the criteria gas instruments.

Airship Tekran evaluation and calibration

Each Tekran 2537A used during this study was thoroughly evaluated and calibrated using its internal perm tube calibration system prior to flight. After each sampling sortie, another internal perm tube calibration was conducted to bracket each sampling days measurements. The permeation tube in each of the Tekran 2537A instruments was calibrated just prior to the study as described in Landis et al. (7) using a Tekran model 2505 primary calibration unit. Manual inlet Hg⁰ standard injections using a Tekran model 2505 primary calibration unit into a zero air stream (7) were routinely performed after sampling sorties to ensure quantitative transport of Hg⁰ through the entire airship sampling and analytical system, the acceptable performance criteria for Hg⁰ recovery was $\pm 5\%$.

Tekran 2537A instruments are equipped with a mass flow controller to regulate argon analytical carrier gas flow through the CVAFS detection cell. As atmospheric pressure decreases with altitude, the volumetric flow rate increased through the cell reducing the residence time in the detector cell and the instrument overall sensitivity. The actual mean argon flow rate for each 2.5 min integrated sample was calculated using the ideal gas law as presented in SI Equation 1.

$$Flow_{Ar} = \left[\frac{(Temp_{Tek} + 273.15) \times 780}{294.26 \times Press_{Gon}}\right] * 80$$
(SI 1)

Where: Temp_{Tek}=Tekran 2537A internal temperature; Press_{Gon}=atmospheric pressure in the gondola

Laboratory experiments characterized the Tekran 2537A instrument's non-linear response to argon carrier gas flow change and each 2.5 min integrated sample was corrected using SI Equation 2.

$$Hg_{corrected}^{0} = \left[\frac{\left(1 + \left(1 - \left(1441352.4 - (12514.5 \times Flow_{Ar}) + (35.3 \times Flow_{Ar}^{2})\right)\right)\right)}{667485.5}\right] \times Hg_{Raw}^{0}$$
(SI 2)

Meteorological Measurements

An EPA Remtech (St. James, NY) phased array Doppler SODAR system was deployed at the University of West Florida campus to determine local meteorological conditions aloft such as vector wind speeds, wind direction, and mixing layer height. Data from the SODAR system in combination with predictive meteorological models interpreted by personnel from the EPA Atmospheric Modeling Division was used to support airship operations.

SODAR wind speed data were used to estimate plume aging time using SI equation 3.

$$Plume_{Age} = \left[\left(\frac{A_{dist}}{WS_{sodar}} * 1000 \right) + \left(\frac{\frac{1}{3} * A_{hgt}}{Stack_{vel}} \right) \right]$$
(SI 3)

Where: A_{dist} = Airship three dimensional distance from stack exhaust (m)

 WS_{sodar} = Wind speed at airship altitude (m s⁻¹)

 A_{hgt} = Altitude of airship above stack exhaust (m)

 $Stack_{vel}$ = Stack exhaust velocity (m s⁻¹)

References

- Prestbo, E.; Levin, L.; Jansen, J.J.; Monroe, L.; Laudal, D.; Schulz, R.; Dunham, G.; Aljoe, W.; Valente, R.J.; Michaud D.; Swartzendruber, P.; 2004. "Interconversion of emitted atmospheric mercury species in coal-fired power plant plumes." Presented at the 7th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, Ljubljana, Slovenia; *RMZ-Materiali in Geookolje*, 2004, 51, 1732–1733.
- (2) Ryan, J.V., and R. Keeney. *The Ontario Hydro Method for Speciated Mercury Measurements: Issues and Considerations* in proceeding of 2004 Symposium on Air Quality Measurement Methods and Technology, April 19-22, 2004, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.
- (3) ASTM Method D 6784-02, "Standard Test Method for Elemental, Oxidized, Particle-Bound, and Total Mercury in Flue Gas Generated from Coal-Fired Stationary Sources (Ontario-Hydro Method)."
- (4) Electric Power Research Institute. *Evaluation of Flue Gas Mercury Speciation Methods*, Final Report TR-108988, Palo Alto, CA, December 1997
- (5) Electric Power Research Institute. *Power Plant Validation of the Mercury Speciation Sampling Method*, Final Report TR-112588, Palo Alto, CA, March, 1999.
- (6) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Method 30B DETERMINATION OF TOTAL VAPOR PHASE MERCURY EMISSIONS FROM COAL-FIRED COMBUSTION SOURCES USING CARBON SORBENT TRAPS." Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 60, Appendix A. <u>http://www.epa.gov/ttn/emc/promgate/Meth30B.pdf</u>.
- (7) Landis, M.S., Stevens, R.K., Schaedlich, F., Prestbo, E.M. Development and characterization of an annular denuder methodology for the measurement of divalent inorganic reactive gaseous mercury in ambient air. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2002**, 36, 3000–3009.