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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Edwin S. Olson et al.

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DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION C**

We, John Pavlish and Nicholas Lentz, declare and say as follows:

1. I, John Pavlish, have been the Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President of Midwest Energy Emissions Corporation since November 16, 2014. Prior to this, I served as an Executive Consultant Advisor to Midwest Energy Emissions Corporation. Prior to joining Midwest Energy Emissions Corporation, I was a Senior Research Advisor and the Director of the Center for Air Toxic Metals Program at the Energy & Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota. I have over 25 years of mercury-related experience and am regarded as an international expert on the topic of mercury. My primary areas of interest and expertise include research, technical consultation and development of mercury control technologies, in particular, for coal combustion and gasification systems. I am an inventor of a number of patented mercury control technologies and have years of experience in development and testing of these technologies for commercial applications. Over the last 15 years, I have spent much time evaluating the efficacy of a number of different mercury control technologies/approaches and their cost competitiveness in the commercial market. I also have years of power plant experience and have worked for an engineering/consulting company, Black & Veatch, where I served as Unit Leader/System Engineer. I am a professional engineer, a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and a member of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA). I serve on numerous professional and

technical committees and am a U.S. Representative on the Mercury Emissions from Coal International Experts Working Group on Reducing Emissions from Coal and a member of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership, Reduction of Mercury Releases from Coal Combustion. I have published over 200 papers, articles, and reports on various mercury-related topics and issues.

2. I, Dr. Nicholas Lentz, Field Technical Manager for Midwest Energy Emissions Corporation, have more than 10 years of experience conducting mercury research and tests, both in the lab and in the field with over 30 full-scale mercury test programs and also numerous bench- and pilot-test projects. I am also an expert in the identification and development of new analytical methods for the advancement of elemental and small molecule analysis in a wide range of matrices including coal and coal by-products, CO<sub>2</sub> capture solutions, oil and gas fuels; analysis for combustion flue gas, syngas, fuel oil, and biowaste. Prior to my current position, I was an Associate Director for Energy Technology Applications in the Institute for Energy Studies at the University of North Dakota. I also previously was a Center for Air Toxic Metals (CATM) Program Area Manager and Research Scientist at the Energy & Environmental Research Center where I was responsible for managing a portfolio of measurement-based research projects in the Analytical Measurement Area of CATM as well as experimental design and analysis related control technologies to remove mercury, trace metals, and halogens from combustion and gasification systems. I have a B.S. in Chemistry from Bemidji State University and Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Iowa State University. I have authored and co-authored numerous publications.

3. All websites referenced in this document were accessed 3/15/2019.

4. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “bromine” as “a nonmetallic halogen element that is isolated as a deep red corrosive toxic volatile liquid of disagreeable odor. See, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bromine>. Wikipedia defines “bromine” as “...a chemical element with symbol Br and atomic number 35. It is the

third-lightest halogen, and is a fuming red-brown liquid at room temperature that evaporates readily to form a similarly coloured gas.” See, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bromine>. Dictionary.com defines “bromine” as “an element that is a dark-reddish, fuming, toxic liquid and a member of the halogen family: obtained from natural brines and ocean water, and used chiefly in the manufacture of gasoline antiknock compounds, pharmaceuticals, and dyes. Symbol: Br; atomic weight: 79.909; atomic number: 35 ...” See, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/bromine>.

5. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “chlorine” as “a halogen element that is isolated as a heavy greenish-yellow diatomic gas of pungent odor and is used especially as a bleach, oxidizing agent, and disinfectant in water purification.” See, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/chlorine>. Wikipedia defines “chlorine” as “...a chemical element with symbol Cl and atomic number 17. The second-lightest of the halogens, it appears between fluorine and bromine in the periodic table and its properties are mostly intermediate between them. Chlorine is a yellow-green gas at room temperature.” See, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorine>. Dictionary.com defines “chlorine” as “a halogen element, a heavy, greenish-yellow, incombustible, water-soluble, poisonous gas that is highly irritating to the respiratory organs, obtained chiefly by electrolysis of sodium chloride brine: used for water purification, in the making of bleaching powder, and in the manufacture both of chemicals that do not contain chlorine, as ethylene glycol, and of those that do. Symbol: Cl; atomic weight: 35.453; atomic number: 17.” See, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/chlorine>.

6. Encyclopedia Britannica online states that “[a]t room temperature and atmospheric pressure the halogen elements in their free states exist as diatomic molecules.” <https://www.britannica.com/science/halogen-element>. The Chemistry LibreTexts Library states that “[h]alogens form diatomic molecules (of the form X<sub>2</sub>, where X denotes a halogen atom) in their elemental states. The bonds in these diatomic molecules are non-polar covalent single bonds” See, [https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic\\_Chemistry/Supplemental\\_Modules\\_\(I](https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic_Chemistry/Supplemental_Modules_(I)

norganic Chemistry)/Descriptive Chemistry/Elements Organized by Block/2 p-Block Elements/Group 17%3A The Halogens/0Group 17%3A Physical Properties of the Halogens/Group 17%3A General Properties of Halogens. ThoughtCo.com states that “[h]alogens range from solid (I<sub>2</sub>) to liquid (Br<sub>2</sub>) to gaseous (F<sub>2</sub> and Cl<sub>2</sub>) at room temperature. As pure elements, they form diatomic molecules with atoms joined by nonpolar covalent bonds.” See, <https://www.thoughtco.com/halogen-elements-and-properties-606650>.

7. Sigma-Aldrich gives the properties of elemental bromine, Br<sub>2</sub> as including a molecular weight of 159.81 g/mol, a boiling point of 58.8 °C, and a melting point of -7.2 °C. See,

<https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/catalog/product/sigald/207888?lang=en&region=US>.

8. Sigma-Aldrich gives the properties of Cl<sub>2</sub> as including a molecular weight of 70.91 g/mol, a boiling point of -34 °C, and a melting point of -101 °C. See,

<https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/catalog/product/aldrich/295132?lang=en&region=US>.

9. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “bromide” as “1: a binary compound of bromine with another element or a radical including some (such as potassium bromide) used as sedatives.” See, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bromide>.

Wikipedia defines “bromide” as “...a chemical compound containing a bromide ion or ligand. This is a bromine atom with an ionic charge of -1 (Br<sup>-</sup>); for example, in caesium bromide, caesium cations (Cs<sup>+</sup>) are electrically attracted to bromide anions (Br<sup>-</sup>) to form the electrically neutral ionic compound CsBr. The term “bromide” can also refer to a bromine atom with an oxidation number of -1 in covalent compounds such as sulfur dibromide (SBr<sub>2</sub>).” See, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bromide>. Dictionary.com defines “bromide” as “1. A salt of hydrobromic acid consisting of two elements, one of which is bromine, as sodium bromide, NaBr; 2. A compound containing bromine, as methyl bromide.” See, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/bromide>.

10. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “chloride” as “1: a compound of chlorine with another element or group especially: a salt or ester of hydrochloric acid; 2: a monovalent anion consisting of one atom of chlorine.” See, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/chloride>. Wikipedia defines “chloride” as “...a compound of chlorine with a salt or ester of hydrochloric acid” and as “...the anion (negatively charged ion) Cl<sup>-</sup>.” See, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chloride\\_\(disambiguation\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chloride_(disambiguation)) and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chloride>. Dictionary.com defines “chloride” as “1. A salt of hydrochloric acid consisting of two elements, one of which is chlorine, as sodium chloride, NaCl; 2. A compound containing chlorine, as methyl chloride, CH<sub>3</sub>Cl.” See, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/chloride>.

11. Wikipedia defines “hydrogen halides” as “... diatomic inorganic compounds with the formula HX where X is one of the halogens: fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, or astatine. ... Hydrogen halides are gases that dissolve in water to give acids which are commonly known as hydrohalic acids. The direct reaction of hydrogen with fluorine and chlorine gives hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen chloride, respectively. Industrially these gases are, however, produced by treatment of halide salts with sulfuric acid. Hydrogen bromide arises when hydrogen and bromine are combined at high temperatures in the presence of a platinum catalyst. The least stable hydrogen halide, HI, is produced less directly, by the reaction of iodine with hydrogen sulfide or with hydrazine.” See, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen\\_halide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_halide).

12. Merriam-Webster defines “hydrogen bromide” “a colorless irritating gas HBr that fumes in moist air and yields hydrobromic acid when dissolved in water.” See, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hydrogen%20bromide>. Dictionary.com defines “hydrogen bromide” as “a colorless gas, HBr, having a pungent odor: the anhydride of hydrobromic acid.” See, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/hydrogen-bromide>. Wikipedia defines “hydrogen bromide” as “...the diatomic molecule with the formula HBr. It is a colorless compound and a hydrogen halide. Hydrobromic acid is a solution of HBr in water. Both the anhydrous and aqueous solutions of HBr are common

reagents in the preparation of bromide compounds. ...Hydrogen bromide (along with hydrobromic acid) is produced by combining hydrogen and bromine at temperatures between 200 and 400 °C. The reaction is typically catalyzed by platinum or asbestos.”

13. Merriam-Webster defines “hydrogen chloride” as “a colorless pungent poisonous gas HCl that fumes in moist air and yields hydrochloric acid when dissolved in water.”

See, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hydrogen%20chloride>.

Dictionary.com “hydrogen chloride” “a colorless gas, HCl, having a pungent odor: the anhydride of hydrochloric acid.” Wikipedia defines “hydrogen chloride” as “[t]he compound hydrogen chloride has the chemical formula HCl and as such is a hydrogen halide. At room temperature, it is a colorless gas, which forms white fumes of hydrochloric acid upon contact with atmospheric water vapor. Hydrogen chloride gas and hydrochloric acid are important in technology and industry. Hydrochloric acid, the aqueous solution of hydrogen chloride, is also commonly given the formula HCl. ...pure chlorine gas can be combined with hydrogen to produce hydrogen chloride in the presence of UV light:  $\text{Cl}_2(\text{g}) + \text{H}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 2 \text{HCl}(\text{g})$ .”

14. Sigma-Aldrich gives the properties of HBr as including a molecular weight of 80.91 g/mol, a boiling point of -67 °C, and a melting point of -87 °C. See, <https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/catalog/product/aldrich/295418?lang=en&region=US>.

15. Sigma-Aldrich gives the properties of HCl as including a molecular weight of 36.46 g/mol, a boiling point of -85 °C, and melting point of -114 °C. See, <https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/catalog/product/aldrich/295426?lang=en&region=US>.

16. Wikipedia defines the “octet rule” as “... a chemical rule of thumb that reflects observation that atoms of main-group elements tend to combine in such a way that each atom has eight electrons in its valence shell, giving it the same electron configuration as a noble gas. The rule is especially applicable to carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and the

halogens, but also to metals such as sodium or magnesium.” See,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octet\\_rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Octet_rule).

17. As shown by items 3-16 herein, hydrogen halides are diatomic molecules including a halogen atom and a hydrogen atom; in contrast, elemental halogens are diatomic molecules including two of the same halogen atom. HBr and HCl each include a hydrogen atom and one halogen atom, while Br<sub>2</sub> and Cl<sub>2</sub> each include two halogen atoms. Hydrogen halides have different properties than elemental halogens and are therefore different compounds. HBr has a molecular weight of 80.91 g/mol, while Br<sub>2</sub> has a molecular weight of 159.81 g/mol; HBr has a boiling point of -67 °C, while Br<sub>2</sub> has a boiling point of 58.8 °C; HBr has a melting point of -87 °C, while Br<sub>2</sub> has a melting point of -7.2 °C. HCl has a molecular weight of 36.46 g/mol, while Cl<sub>2</sub> has a molecular weight of 70.91 g/mol; HCl has a boiling point of -85 °C, while Cl<sub>2</sub> has a boiling point of 70.91 g/mol; HCl has a melting point of -114 °C, while Cl<sub>2</sub> has a melting point of -101 °C. Hydrogen halides are not part of and cannot be extracted or isolated from elemental halides; rather, only via a chemical reaction that results in a chemical and structural change can hydrogen halides be formed from elemental halides. Hydrogen bromide is produced by reacting hydrogen and Br<sub>2</sub> at about 200-400 °C, a reaction that is typically catalyzed by platinum or asbestos. Hydrogen chloride is produced by reacting hydrogen and chlorine with one another. Therefore, elemental halogens are not hydrogen halides, and do not include hydrogen halides—Br<sub>2</sub> is not HBr and does not include HBr, and Cl<sub>2</sub> is not HCl and does not include HCl.

18. As shown by items 3-16 herein, chlorine has an atomic number of 17, meaning it has 17 protons and 17 electrons, giving it an electron configuration of 1s<sup>2</sup>2s<sup>2</sup>2p<sup>6</sup>3s<sup>2</sup>3p<sup>5</sup>, having 7 electrons in its outer shell. Bromine has an atomic number of 35, meaning it has 35 protons and 35 electrons, giving it an electron configuration of 1s<sup>2</sup>2s<sup>2</sup>2p<sup>6</sup>3s<sup>2</sup>3p<sup>6</sup>3d<sup>10</sup>4s<sup>2</sup>4p<sup>5</sup>, also having 7 electrons in its outer shell. According to the octet rule, a halogen atom desires to fill its outer shell with 8 electrons total by gaining one electron. A halide ion is a halogen atom that has accepted an electron from an

electron doner, in the case of chloride giving it 18 total electrons to give a total charge of -1, and in the case of bromide giving it 36 total electrons to give a total charge of -1. Halogen atoms do not donate electrons to other atoms, because this would result in a halogen atom losing an electron to have 6 electrons in its outer shell, an unstable configuration according to the octet rule. In the case of an elemental halogen, which exists as a diatomic molecule, instead of donating electrons to one another, each halogen atom shares one of its electrons in the outer shell with the other halogen atom via overlapping electron orbitals in a covalent bond, allowing each halogen atom to have a filled octet while the diatomic molecule remains neutrally charged. Therefore, a halogen atom does not donate electrons to another halogen atom to form a halide, and a diatomic halogen molecule never includes a halide; Br<sub>2</sub> is not and does not include Br<sup>-</sup>, and Cl<sub>2</sub> is not and does not include Cl<sup>-</sup>.

19. As described in the paper “Effect of HBr formation on mercury oxidation via CaBr<sub>2</sub> addition to coal during combustion”, Y. Yang et al., RSC Adv., 2016, 6, 59009-59015 (“Yang”), in a bench-scale simulated coal-fired power plant, CaBr<sub>2</sub> was added in various concentrations to three different types of coal that were combusted and the concentration of HBr and Br<sub>2</sub> in the released combustion gases were analyzed by quantitative gas analysis mass spectrometry. See, Yang at Sections 2.1-2.2. Section 3.4 states at page 59012 bridging to page 59013 that “[t]he results confirmed the generation of HBr in coal-fired flue gas due to the CaBr<sub>2</sub> additive in coal, but Br<sub>2</sub> was not detected.” Near the end of Section 3.4 at page 59013 Yang states that “[t]he HBr concentration in flue gas increased with increasing amounts of CaBr<sub>2</sub> additive....” At the top of the right column on page 59013, Yang proposes the following formula for the generation of HBr from CaBr<sub>2</sub>:  $\text{CaBr}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CaO} + \text{HBr}$ , stating at page 59013 from the left column bridging to the right column that the water is generated by hydrogen-containing organisms in coal during combustion via  $\text{C}_n\text{H}_m\text{OH} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2$ .

20. As described in the paper “Mercury control evaluation of calcium bromide injection into a PRB-fired furnace with an SCR”, M. Berry, Proceedings of the Air



Quality VI Conference, Arlington, VA, 2007 (“Berry”), a  $\text{CaBr}_2$  was injected at various concentrations into the furnace of a full-scale coal-fired power plant and the concentration of  $\text{HBr}$  in the released combustion gases were analyzed at the ESP inlet and at the ESP outlet. Berry found that  $\text{HBr}$  content increased with increasing calcium bromide injection. See, Berry at page 5, top two paragraphs and Figure 3.

21. As described in the book “Coal Combustion Products (CCPs) Characteristics, Utilization, and Beneficiation”, T. Robl et al., Woodhead Publishing, 2017, (“Robl”), at page 91, last full paragraph and last partial paragraph:

As described previously, eastern coals with a higher chlorine content produce mostly oxidized mercury in their flue gases, while western coals, such as PRB coals, that have a low chlorine content tend to produce mostly elemental mercury. ...

Halogen salts such as calcium chloride ( $\text{CaCl}_2$ ), calcium bromide ( $\text{CaBr}_2$ ), or potassium iodide ( $\text{KI}$ ) can be added to the coal as a means of supplementing the coal chlorine content. Salts added with the coal or injected into the furnace decompose at furnace temperatures to form vapor-phase acids ( $\text{HCl}$ , hydrogen bromide ( $\text{HBr}$ ), or hydrogen iodide ( $\text{HI}$ )) in the flue gas.

22. Typical temperatures in a coal-combustion furnace range from 2,400-4,200 °F, with internal flame temperatures reaching 4,000-4,200 °F or higher. Table 1 lists select halide salt boiling points. Coal-combustion furnace temperatures are higher than the boiling points of halide salts such as  $\text{NaBr}$  and  $\text{CaBr}_2$ . Thus, the conditions and environment inside the furnace/boiler are adequate for boiling of halide salts (whether in a solid state, in a liquid solution, or as part of the coal) to form gaseous molecules.

Table 1. Common Halide Salt Boiling Points.<sup>1</sup>

Compound	Boiling point, °F
NaBr	2,534
NaCl	2,669
NaI	2,379
CaCl <sub>2</sub>	3,516
CaBr <sub>2</sub>	3,299
CaI	2,012
NH <sub>4</sub> Br	745
NH <sub>4</sub> Cl	640
NH <sub>4</sub> I	761

23. The FactSage program (see, <http://www.factsage.com/>) is one of the largest fully integrated database computing systems for chemical thermodynamics calculations. The FactSage program is a series of information, database, calculation, and manipulation modules that access databases containing properties of materials. The FactSage program can calculate the conditions for multiphase, multicomponent equilibria, with a wide variety of tabular and graphical output modes, under a large range of constraints. Equilibrium calculations performed by the FactSage program can be used to determine equilibrium molecular decomposition states as a function of temperature. These thermodynamic models can be used to predict the chemical species that will be present to react with other molecules present in the flue gas at the same time, such as radicals, ionic compounds, elemental forms of chemical elements, and the like. FactSage was used to calculate equilibrium concentrations of materials present for a 100 g solid NaBr sample in a coal-combustion furnace as a function of temperature, shown in Figure 1. Figure 1 clearly shows the rapid emergence of gaseous NaBr molecules once the NaBr boiling point of 2,530 °F is reached. At temperatures of around 3,000 °F, nearly all the solid NaBr has been converted to gas phase NaBr molecules. As the gas phase NaBr molecules are brought to temperatures beyond 3,000 °F, dissociation into gaseous sodium atoms and bromine atoms occurs.

<sup>1</sup> Lide, D.R., 1995, CRC handbook of chemistry and physics: a ready-reference book of chemical and physical data, CRC press.

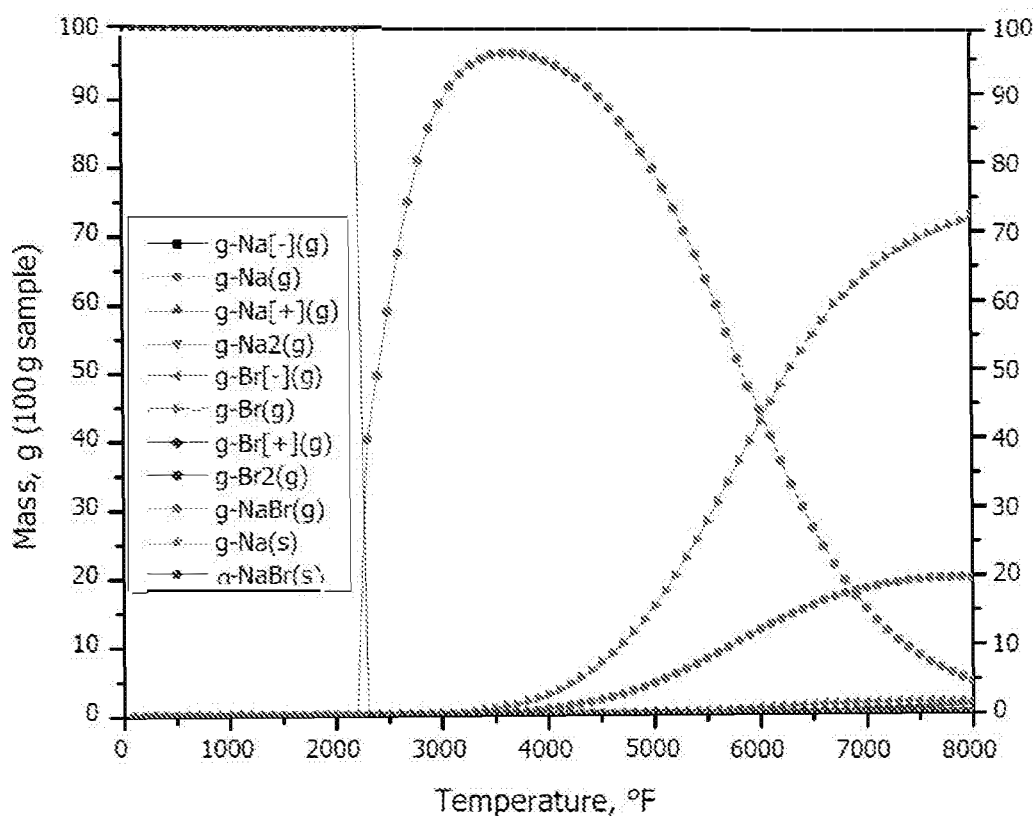


Figure 1. NaBr FactSage equilibrium calculation.

24. Not shown in Figure 1, the gaseous NaBr reacts with water molecules in the flue gas to form HBr, via  $\text{NaBr} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{NaOH} + \text{HBr}$ , see, Yang and discussion thereof at item 19 herein. The HBr is then available to react with  $\text{Hg}^0$  released by the coal and with activated carbon sorbent that has been introduced further downstream into the flue gas.

25. The effect of chlorides in coal on flue gas HCl content has been studied much more than the effect of bromides on coal on flue gas HBr content, due in part to federal HCl emission regulations. Chlorides, like bromides, also exhibit a similar transformation to hydrogen chloride in coal combustion flue gas, see, Robl and discussion thereof at item 21 herein. Hydrogen chloride, as an acid gas, is one of the emission categories that the EPA regulates through the Mercury Air Toxics Standards (MATS)<sup>2</sup>. The MATS includes specific HCl limits that power plants must comply with by performing quarterly EPA

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/mats>

Method 26(A)<sup>3</sup> stack sampling to verify compliance. Inorganic and organically bound chlorides in the coal are volatilized and decomposed in the furnace and form HCl in the flue gas.

26. As shown in the report “Pilot- and full-scale demonstration of advanced mercury control technologies for lignite-fired power plants”, S. Benson et al., Energy & Environmental Research Center, Final report, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, February 2005 (“Benson 1”), at figure 31 on page 37, addition of NaCl to lignite coal in a pilot-scale coal combustion system caused an increased HCl concentration in the flue gas. The HCl concentration in the flue gas increased with increased amounts of NaCl on the coal. Benson 1 shows at figure 36 on page 41 that addition of CaCl<sub>2</sub> to the coal caused increased HCl concentration in the flue gas. The HCl concentration in the flue gas increased with increasing amounts of CaCl<sub>2</sub> on the coal. Figures 31 and 36 of Benson 1 are reproduced below.

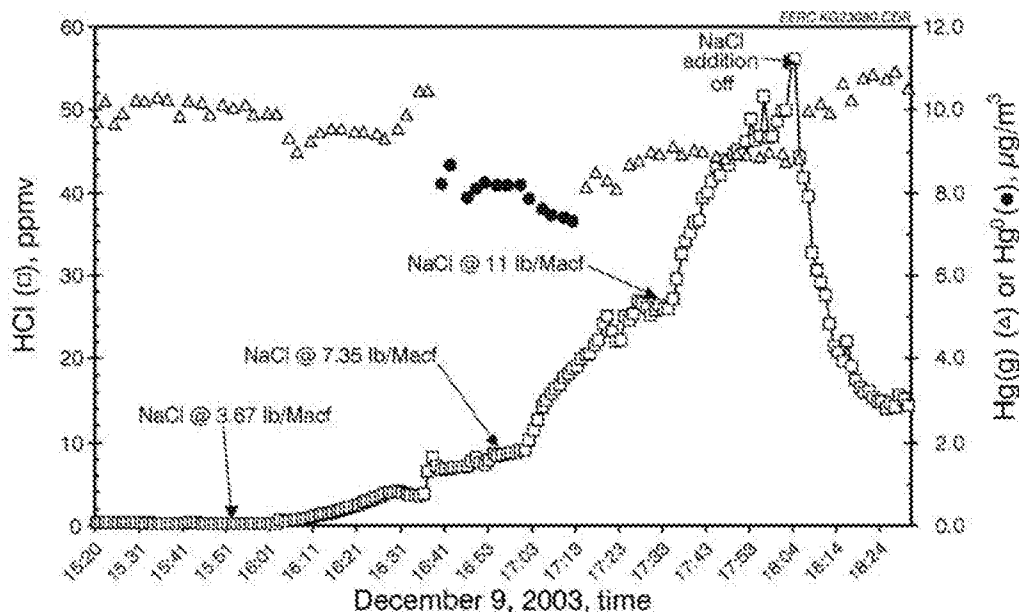


Figure 31. Temporal variations in SDA inlet HCl and FF outlet Hg(g) and Hg<sup>0</sup> concentrations as NaCl was added to the Center lignite coal.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/emc/method-26a-hydrogen-halide-and-halogen-isokinetic-method>

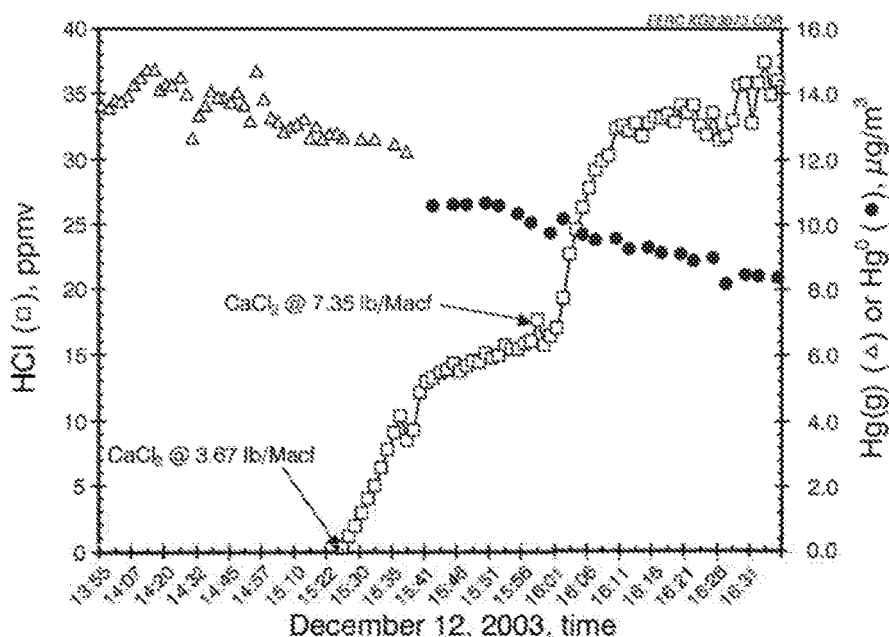


Figure 36. Temporal variations in SDA inlet HCl and FF outlet Hg(g) and Hg<sup>0</sup> concentrations during CaCl<sub>2</sub> additions to the Center lignite coal.

27. As shown in the report “JV Task 73—Mercury control technologies for electric utilities burning subbituminous coals”, S. Benson et al., Energy and Environmental Research Center, Draft final report, June 2005 (“Benson 2”), at figure 11-11 at page 48, addition of CaCl<sub>2</sub> to subbituminous coal in a pilot-scale coal combustion system caused an increased HCl concentration in the flue gas. The HCl concentration in the flue gas increased with increased amounts of CaCl<sub>2</sub> on the coal. Figure 11-11 of Benson 2 is reproduced below.

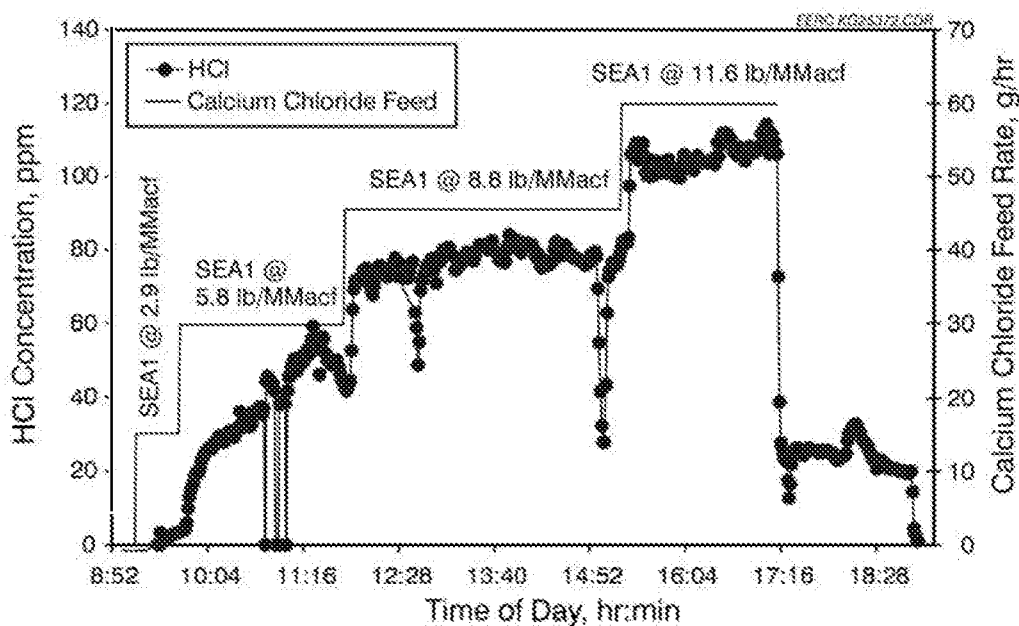


Figure 11-11. Temporal variations in ESP outlet HCl concentrations and SEA1 (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) addition rates.

28. As shown by items 19-27 herein, in a coal-fired power plant, placing halide salts on the coal or in the combustion chamber results in formation of gaseous halide salt in the flue gas and formation of the respective hydrogen halide in the flue gas. Placing bromide salts such as NaBr or CaBr<sub>2</sub> on the coal or in the combustion chamber results in formation of gaseous NaBr or CaBr<sub>2</sub> in the flue gas, as well as formation of HBr in the flue gas. Likewise, placing chloride salts such as NaCl or CaCl<sub>2</sub> on coal or in the combustion chamber results in formation gaseous NaCl or CaCl<sub>2</sub> in the flue gas, as well as the formation of HCl in the flue gas.

29. Wikipedia defines “salt” as “...an ionic compound that can be formed by the neutralization reaction of an acid and a base. Salts are composed of related numbers of cations (positively charged ions) and anions (negative ions) so that the product is electrically neutral (without a net charge). These component ions can be inorganic, such as chloride (Cl<sup>-</sup>), or organic, such as acetate (CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>-1</sup>); and can be monatomic, such as

fluoride ( $F^-$ ), or polyatomic, such as sulfate ( $SO_4^{2-}$ ).” See,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt\\_\(chemistry\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt_(chemistry)).

30. Dictionary.com defines “bromide” as “Wikipedia defines “NaBr” as “a salt of hydrobromic acid consisting of two elements, one of which is bromine, as sodium bromide, NaBr.” See, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/bromide>.

31. Dictionary.com defines “salt” as “a Wikipedia defines “NaCl” as “a crystalline compound, sodium chloride, NaCl, occurring as a mineral, a constituent of seawater, etc., and used for seasoning food, as a preservative, etc.” See,

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/salt?s=t>.

32. Sigma-Aldrich has an online products page entitled “Sodium Salts” that includes sodium bromide and sodium chloride. See, <https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/materials-science/material-science-products.html?TablePage=19295381>.

33. As shown by items 29-32 herein, NaBr is a salt that includes  $Na^+$  ions and  $Br^-$  ions. NaCl is a salt that includes  $Na^+$  ions and  $Cl^-$  ions.  $CaBr_2$  is a salt that includes  $Ca^{2+}$  ions and  $Br^-$  ions.  $CaCl_2$  is a salt that includes  $Ca^{2+}$  ions and  $Cl^-$  ions.

34. We further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and/or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: March 20, 2019

By: / John Pavlish /

John Pavlish

Dated: March 15, 2019

By: / Nicholas Lentz /

Nicholas Lentz