



**Uniform Air Quality Training  
Program**

# **Electrostatic Precipitators**

**Course #281**

**Presented by Joe Yager**

California Environmental Protection Agency



**AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

**Compliance Division**





# Course Overview

- **Background/Applications**
- **Theory of Operation**
- **Major Types of ESPs**
- **Design Considerations**
- **ESP Components**
- **Performance Monitoring**
- **Inspecting ESPs**

# U.S. Mortality Figures

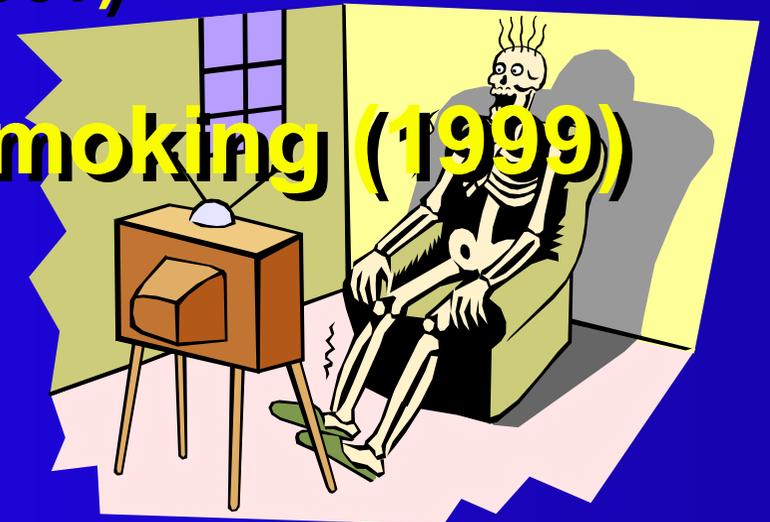
**64,000 = Deaths from particulate air pollution (1996 report)**

**40,676 = Traffic accident fatalities (1994)**

**32,179 = AIDS deaths (1995)**

**32,436 = Handgun fatalities (1997)**

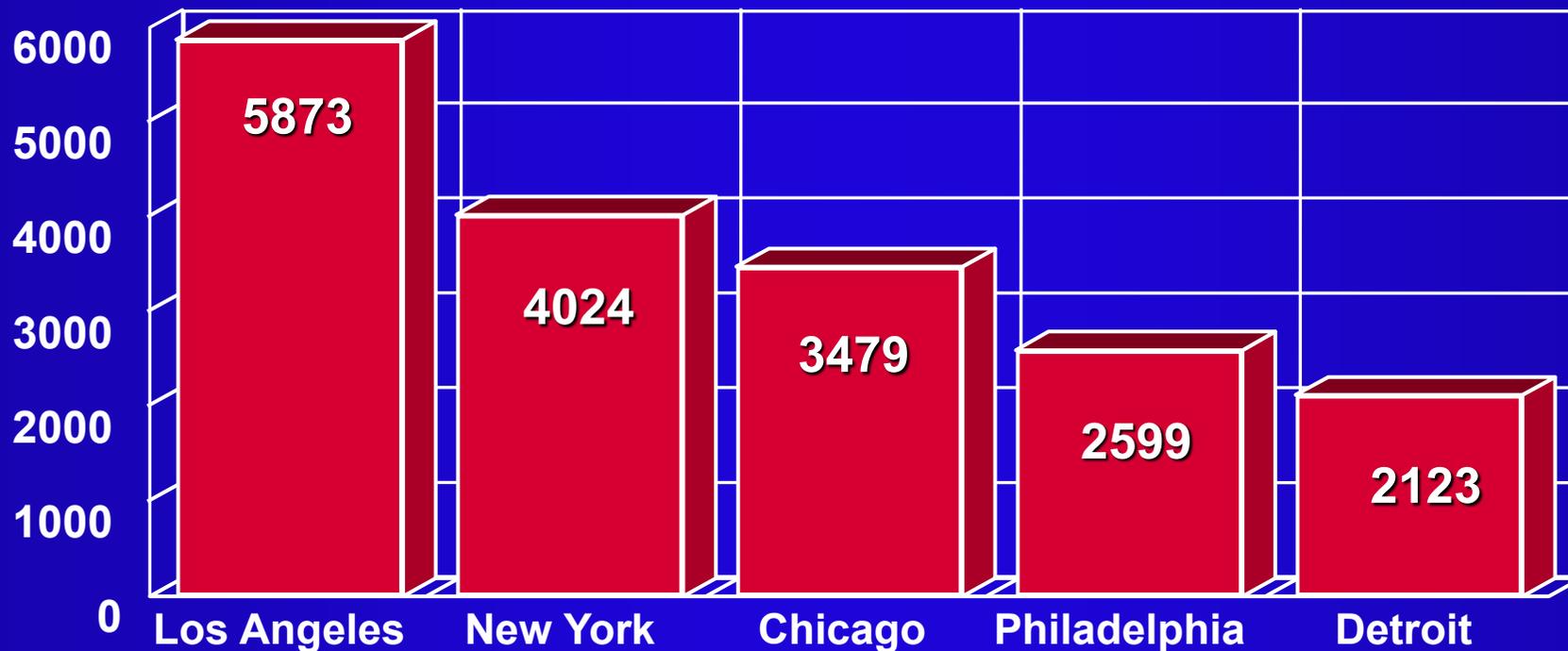
**430,700 = Deaths from smoking (1999)**



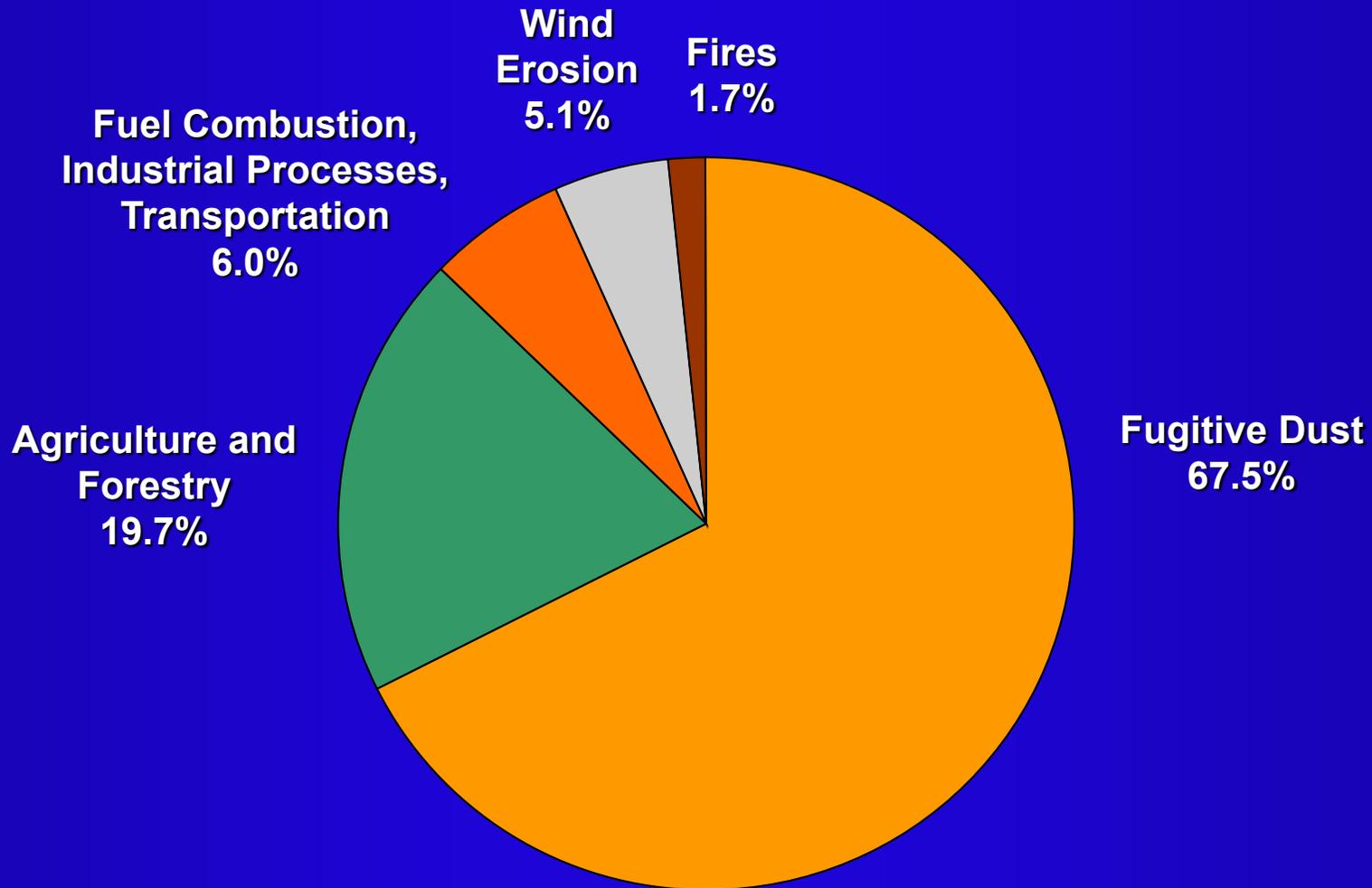
# Particulate Air Pollution-Related Deaths

Based On 1996 Report

## Premature Deaths Per Year

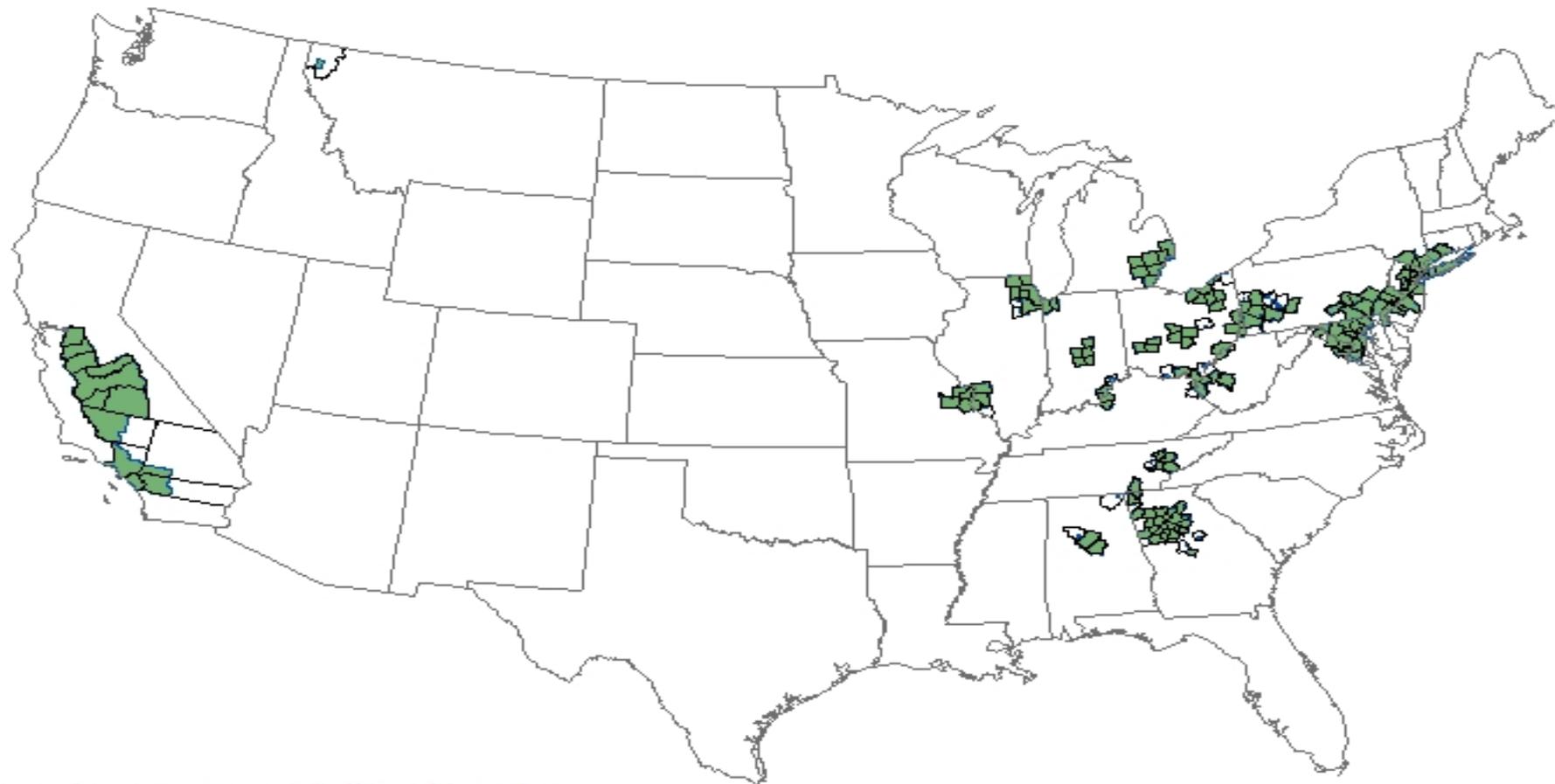


# PM<sub>10</sub> Emissions by Source Category (1995)



Source: EPA Trends Reports, Oct 1996

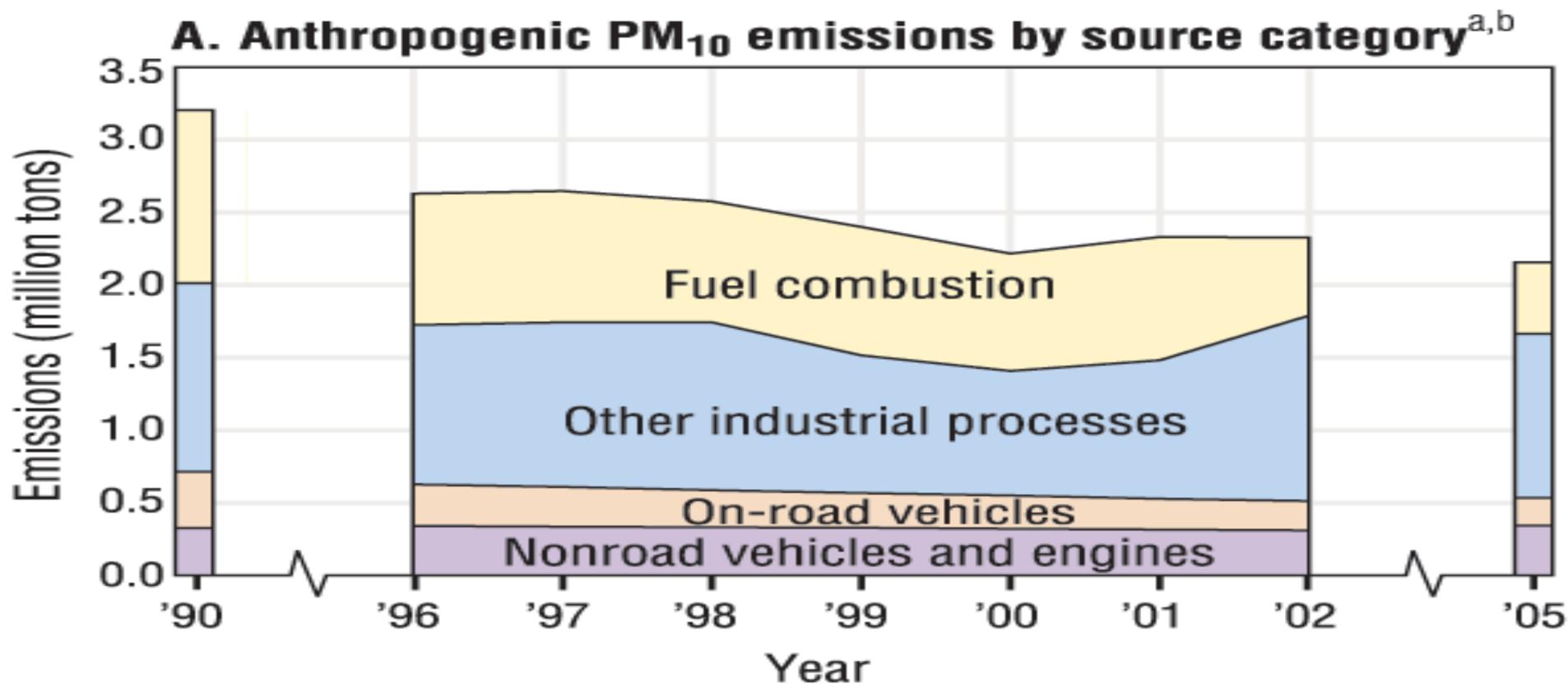
## PM-2.5 Nonattainment Areas (1997 Standard)



Nonattainment areas are indicated by color.  
When only a portion of a county is shown in color,  
it indicates that only that part of the county is within  
a nonattainment area boundary.

3/2012

## Exhibit 2-16. PM<sub>10</sub> emissions in the U.S. by source category, 1990, 1996-2002, and 2005



<sup>a</sup>Data are presented for 1990, 1996-2002, and 2005, as datasets from these inventory years are all fully up-to-date. Data are

**B. Relative amounts of PM<sub>10</sub> emissions from anthropogenic and other sources, 2005<sup>b</sup>**

**Miscellaneous**



# History



***Single-Stage:***

**1913 Cottrell (US);**

**Lodge (UK)**

***Two-Stage:***

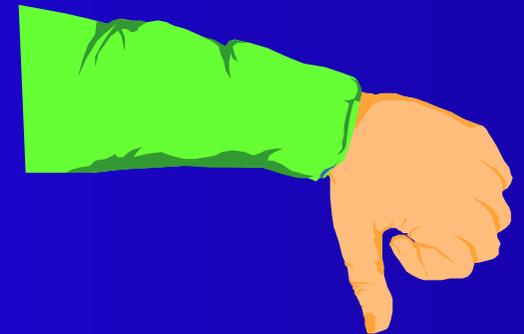
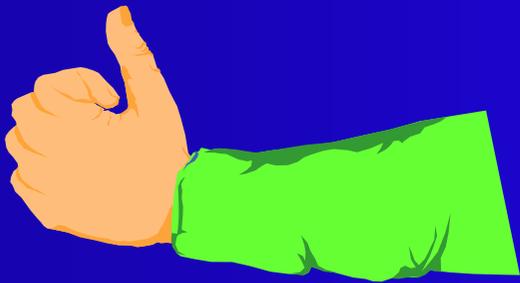
**1933 Penney**





# Background

- **Advantages**
- **Disadvantages**
- **Applications**





# Two-Stage



# Single -Stage

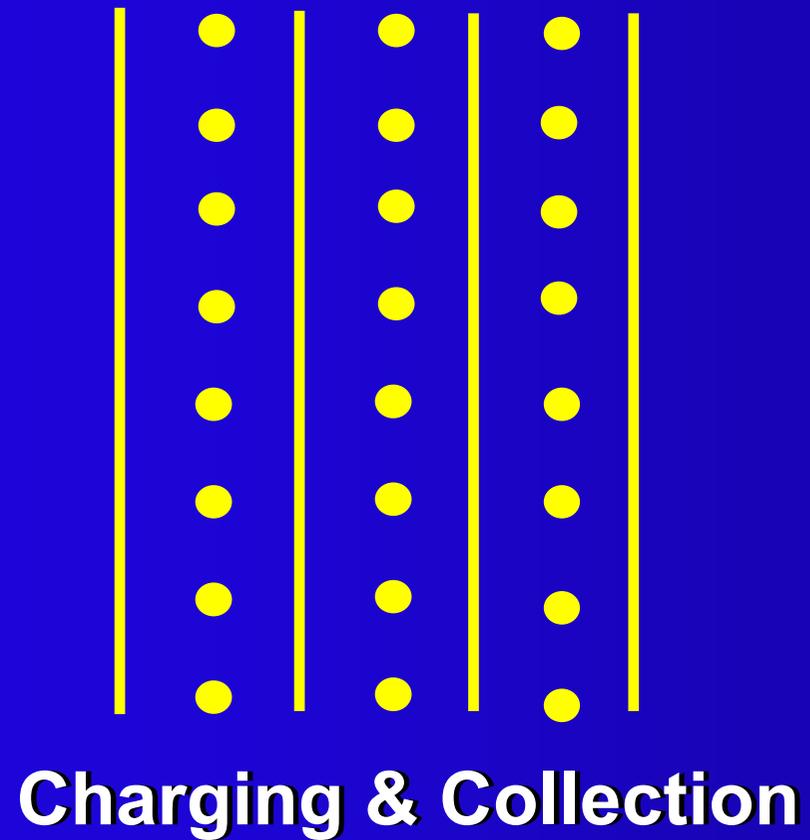
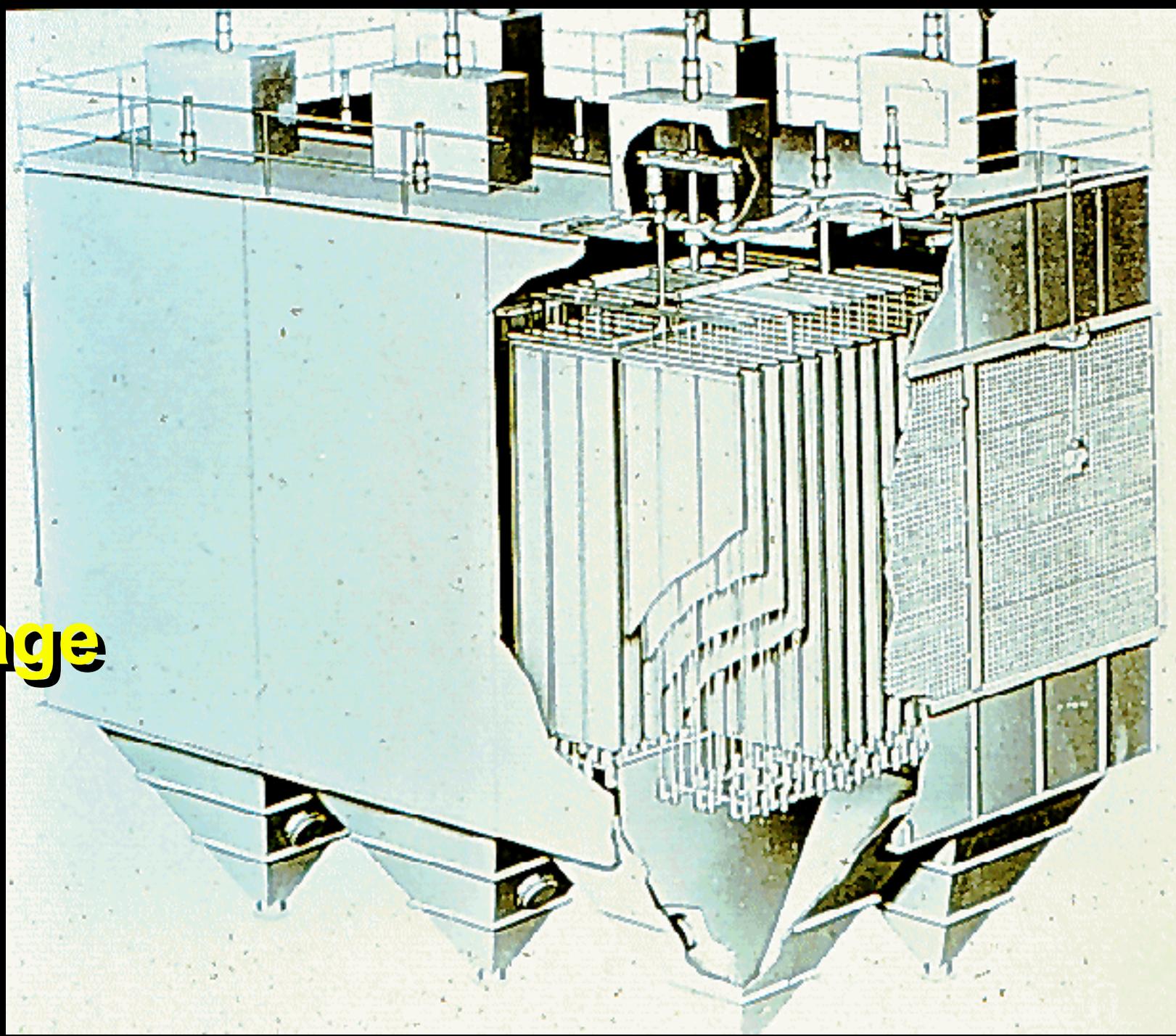


Figure 301.2

# Single-Stage Industrial ESP









# Concentric Plate Wet ESP

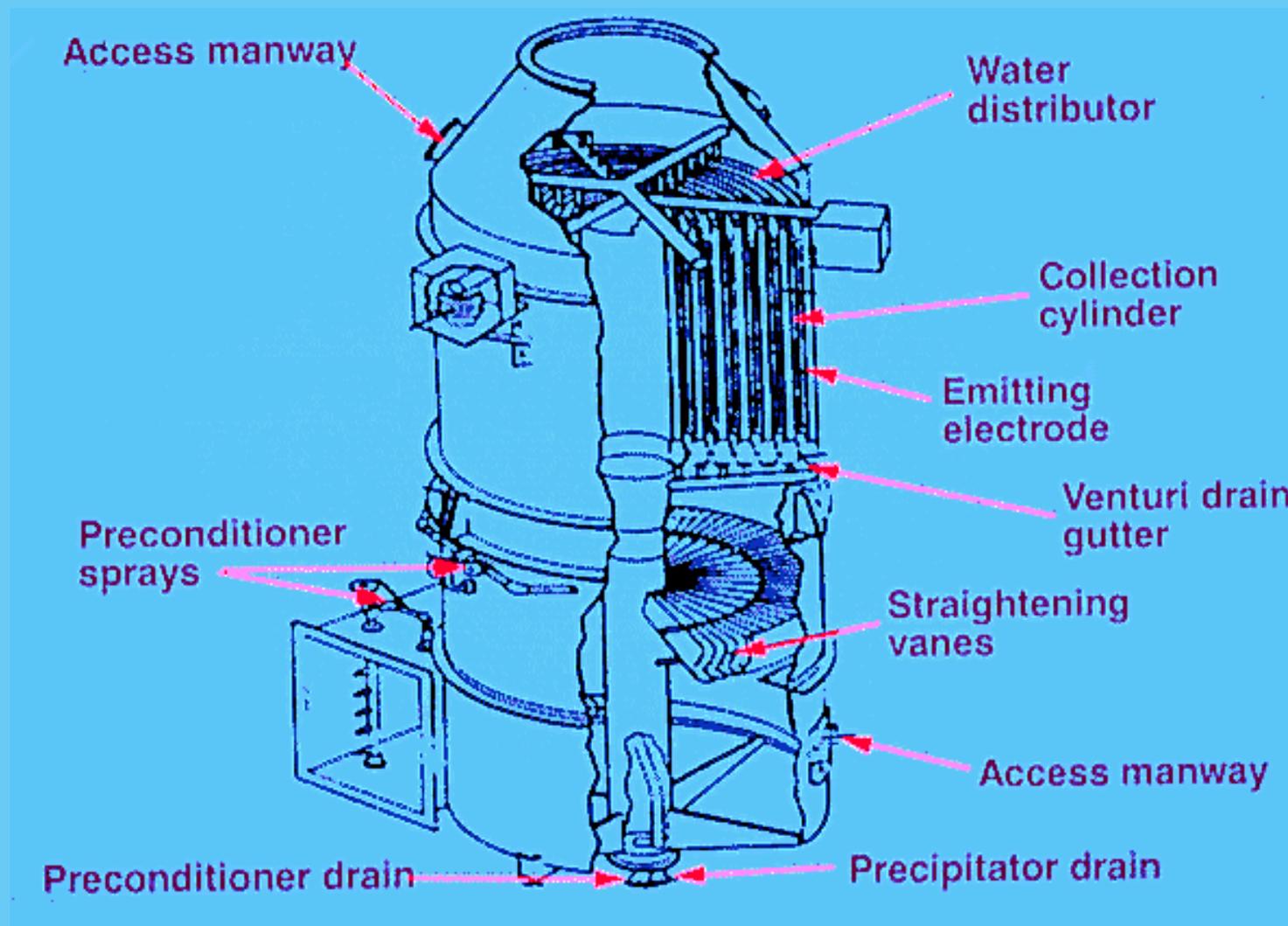
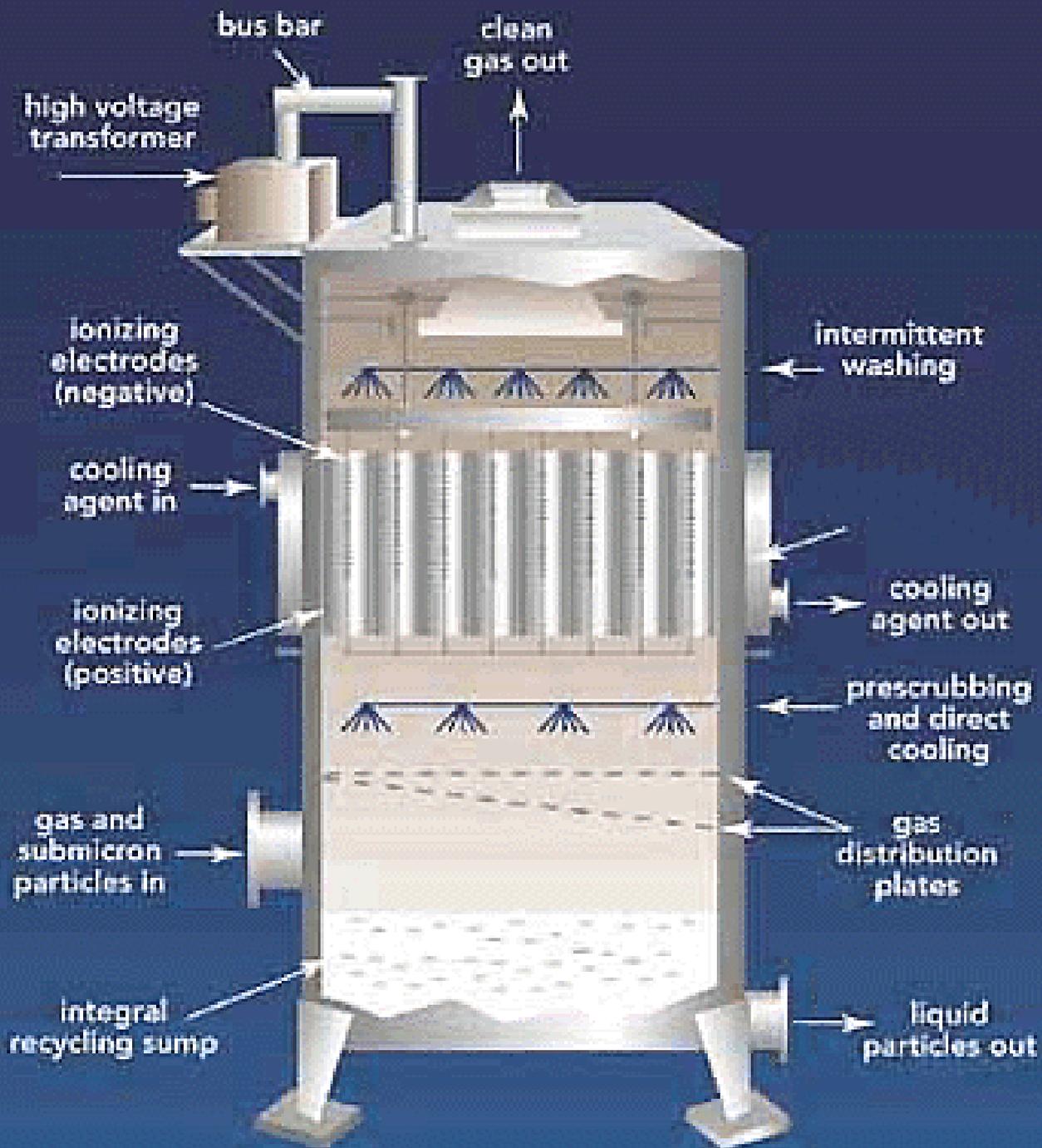


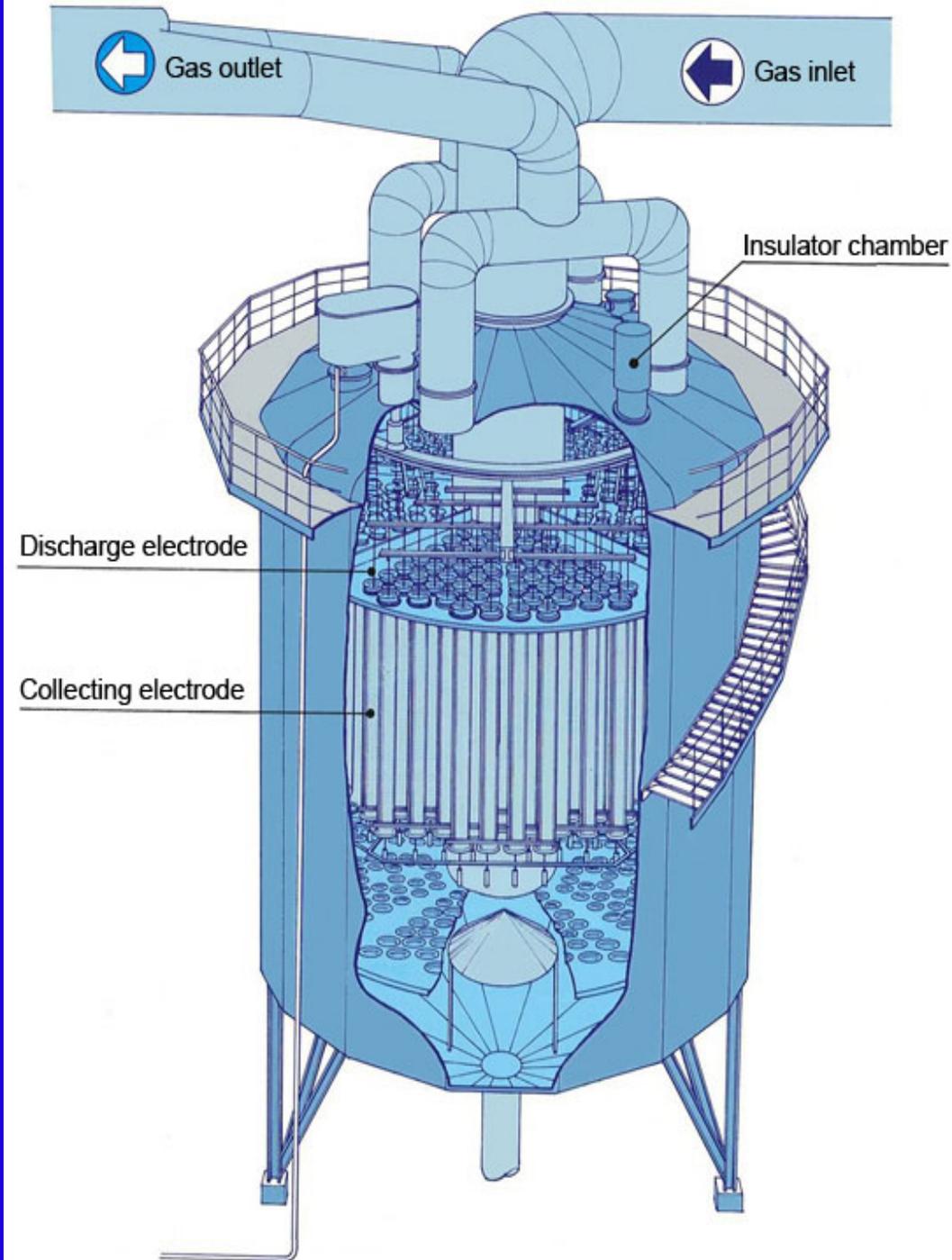
Figure 303.4

# Tubular Condensing Wet ESP



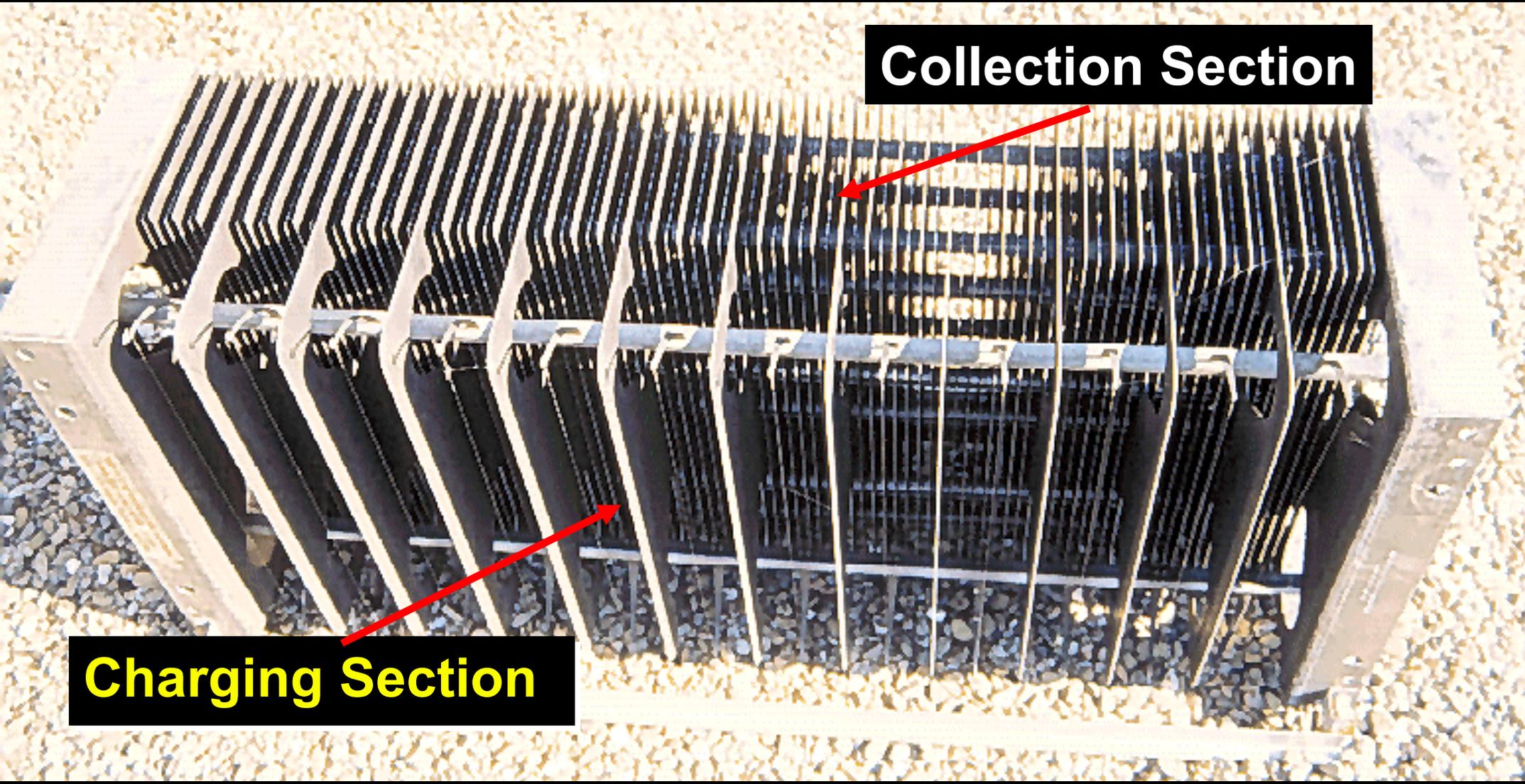
*Courtesy Croll-Reynolds*

# Hitachi Tubular Wet ESP

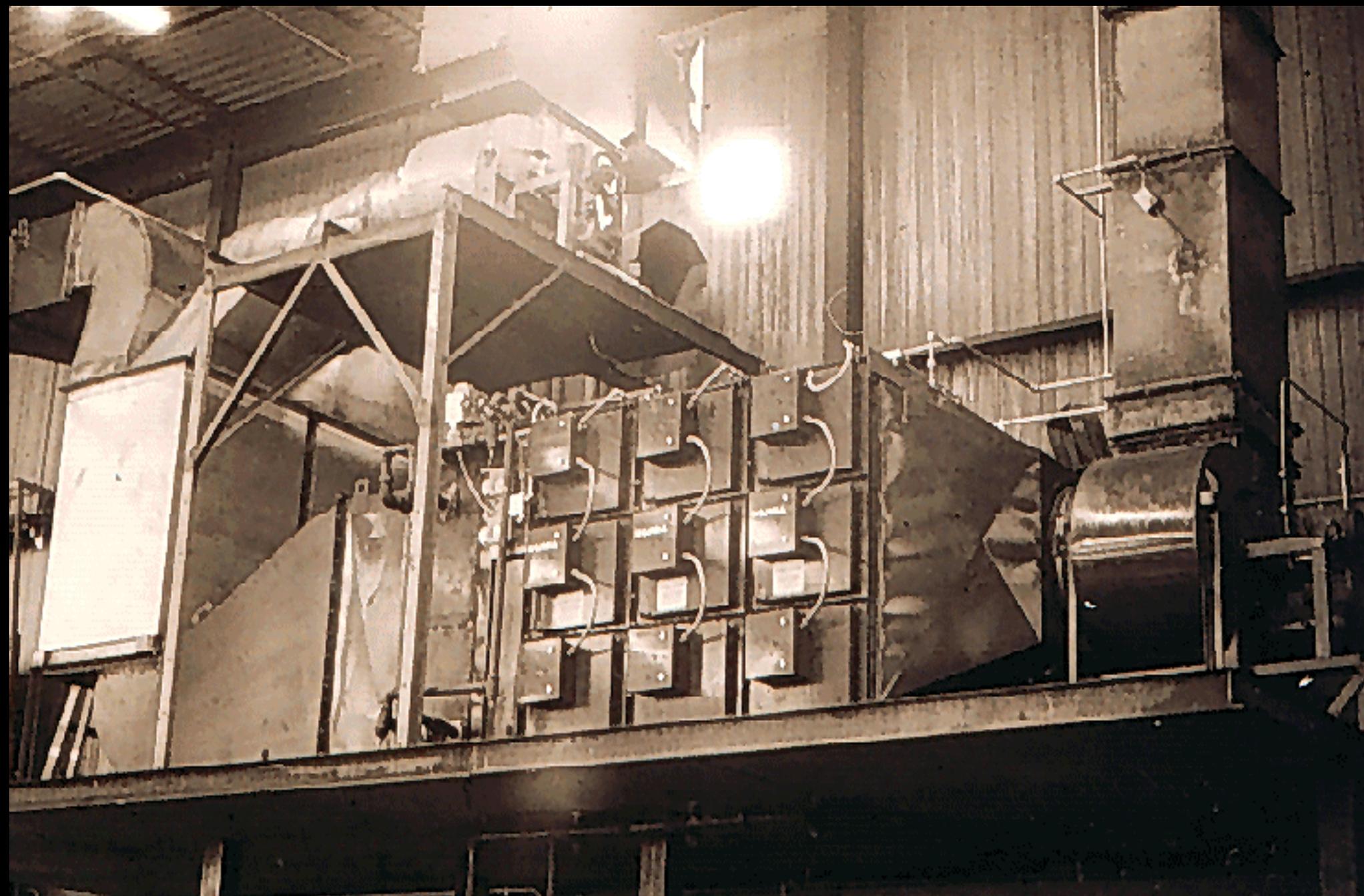


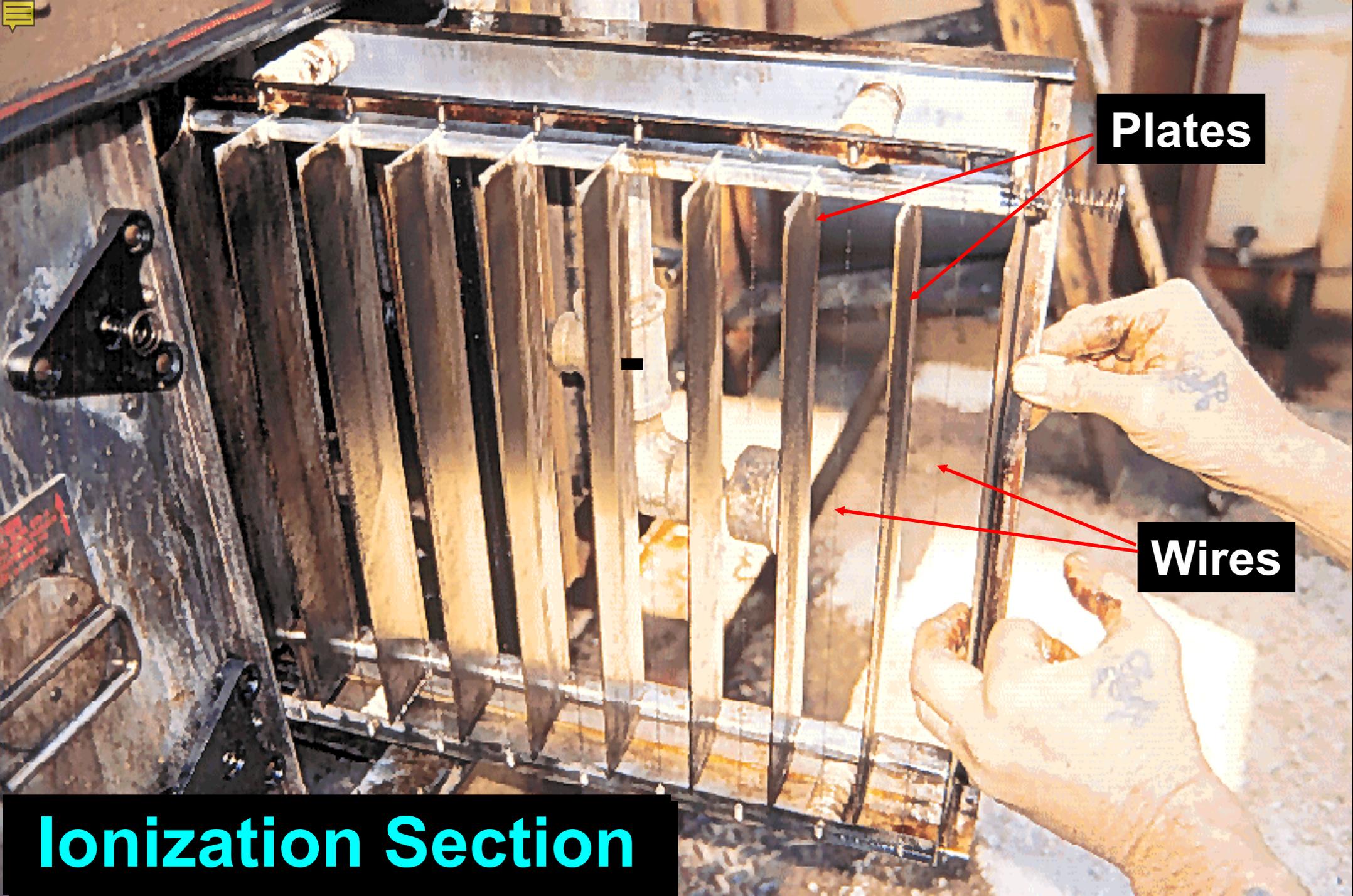


# Two-Stage Module









**Plates**

**Wires**

**Ionization Section**



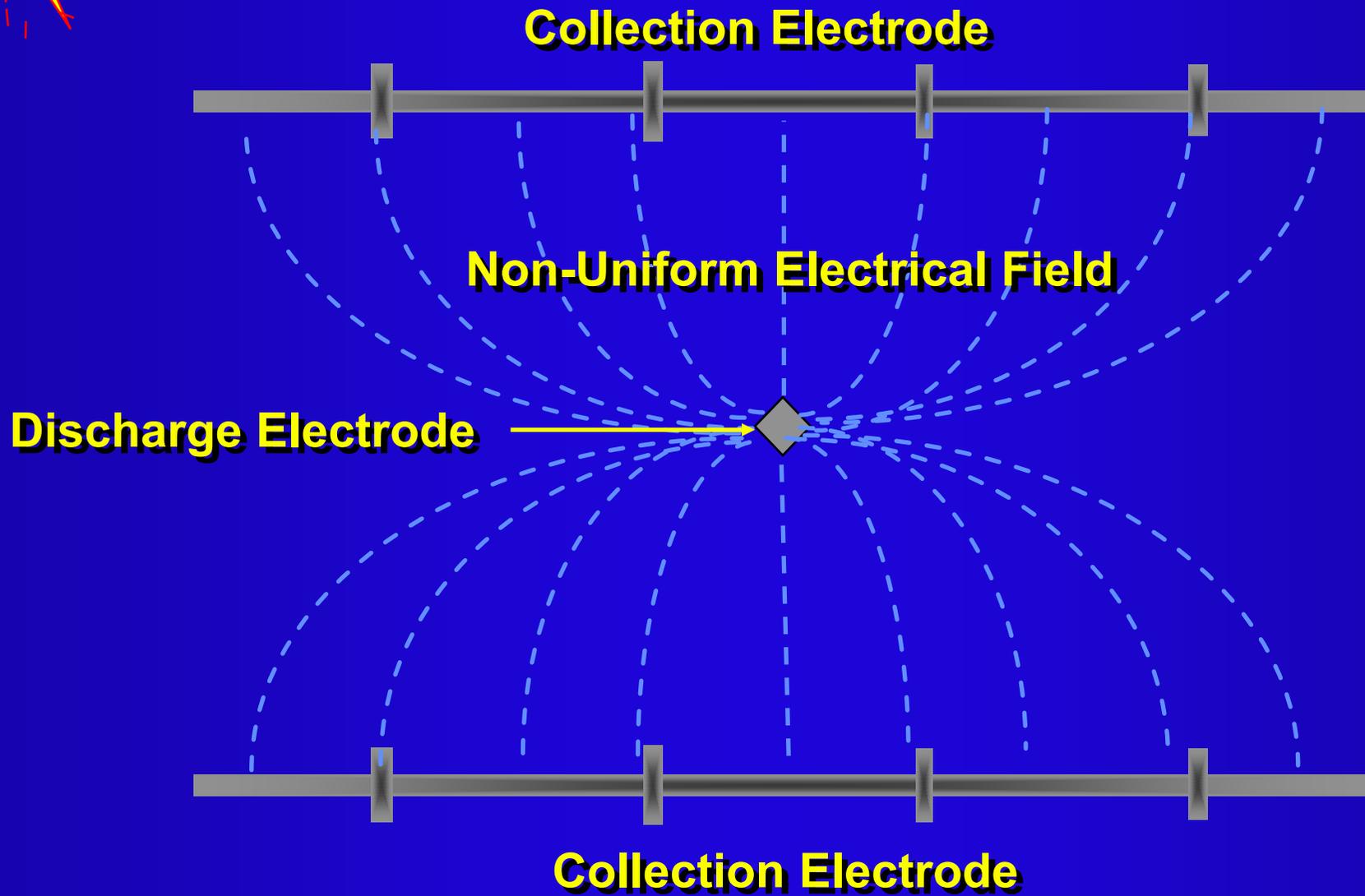




# ESP Processes

- **Charging**
- **Collection**
- **Removal**

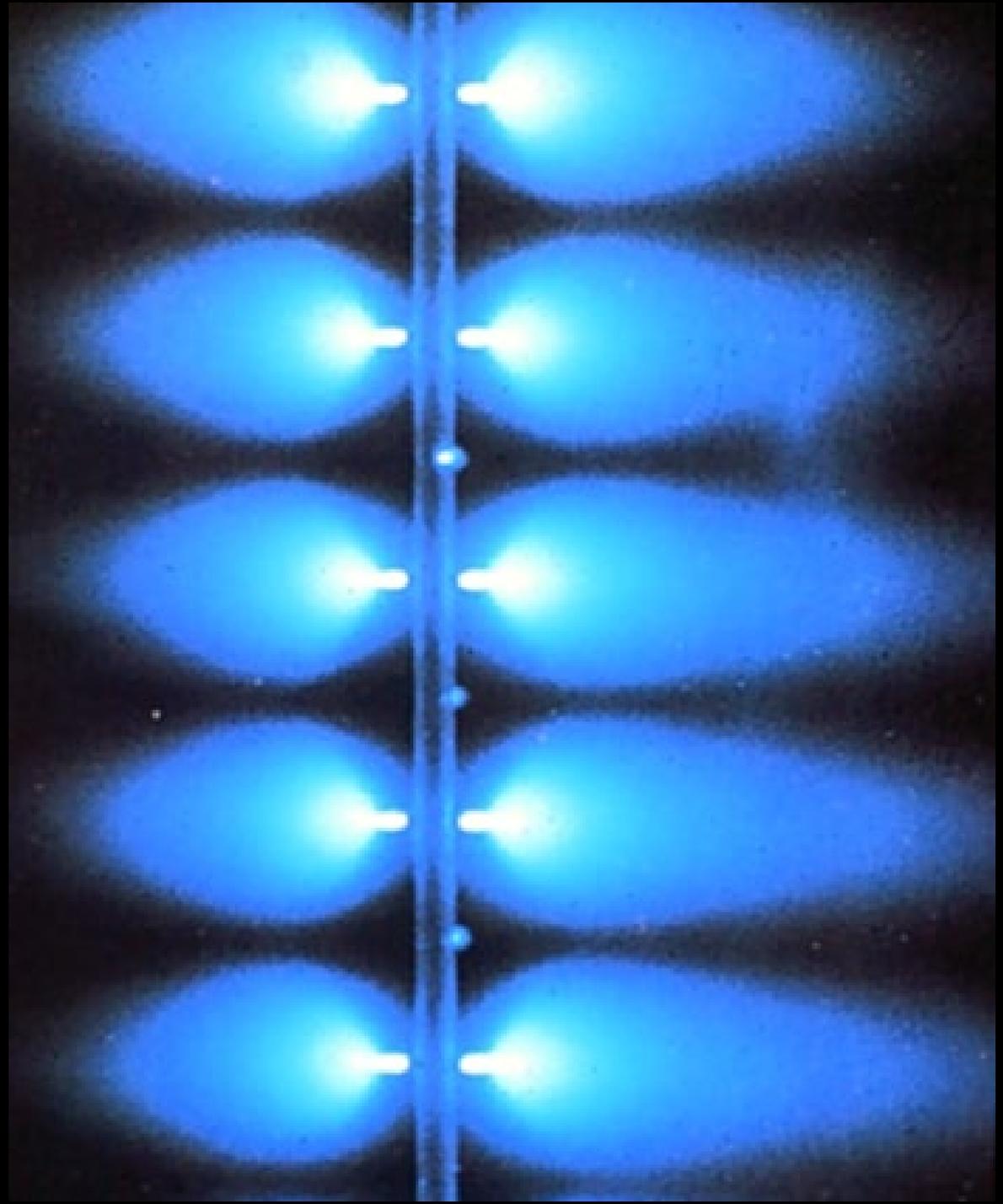
# Electric Field Generation





# Corona

(voltage negative)



# Avalanche Multiplication

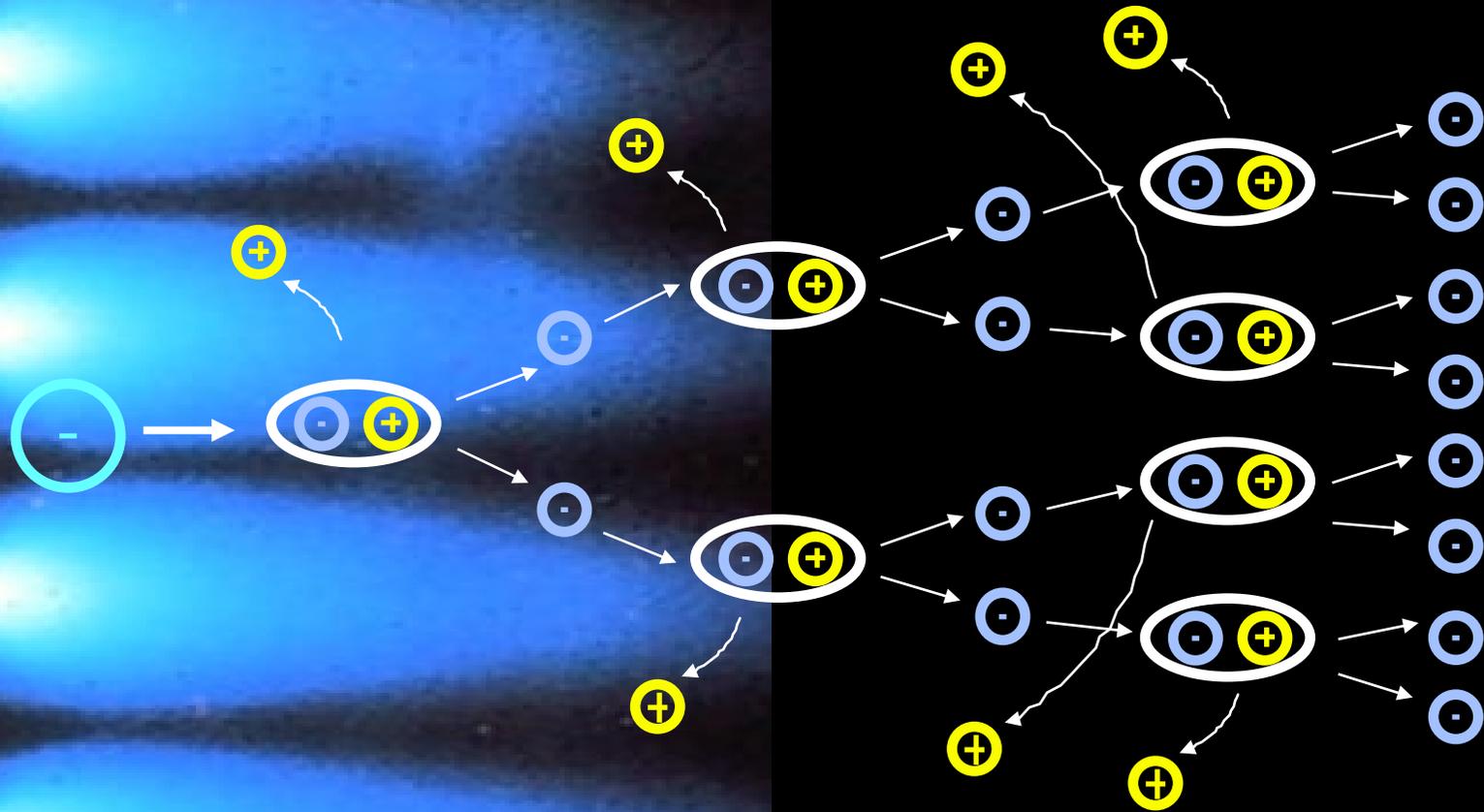


Figure 301.3



# Charging and Collection



.....so far

1. "Corona" generated at discharge electrode  
= high-velocity electrons
2. Flue gas molecules ionized by high-velocity  
electrons = positive gas ions + free electrons
3. Free electrons migrate towards positive  
collection electrode
4. Free electrons captured by gas molecules  
= negative gas ions
5. Negative gas ions attach to particles which  
migrate to collection electrode

# Charging & Collection

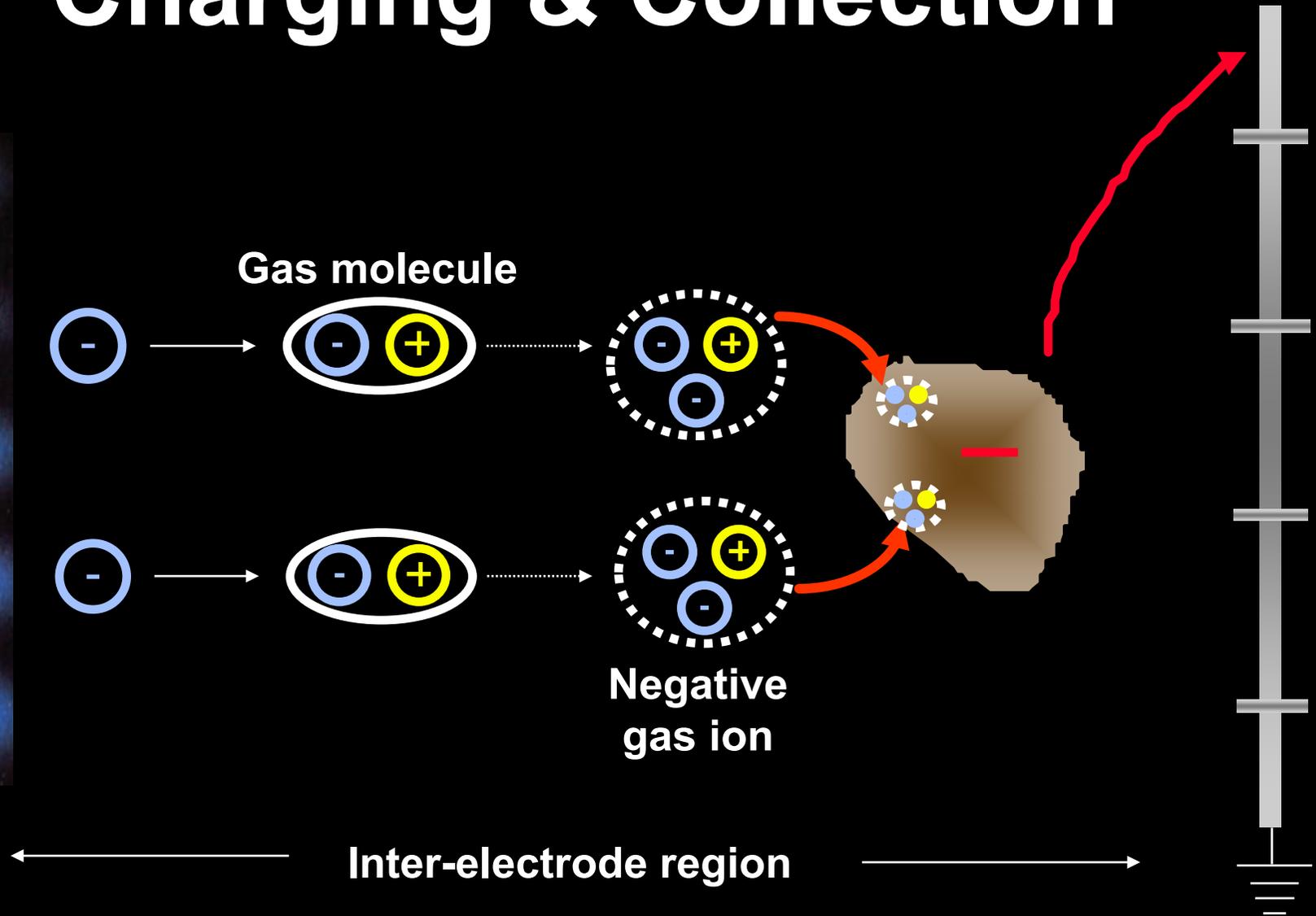
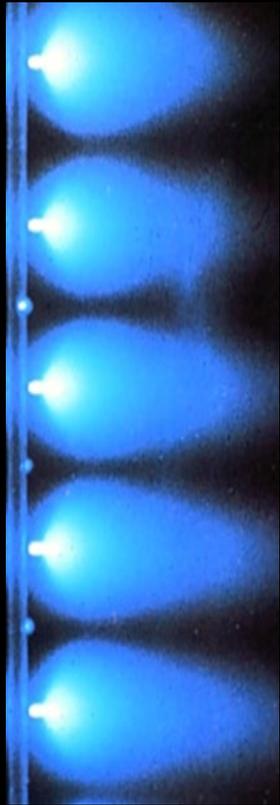
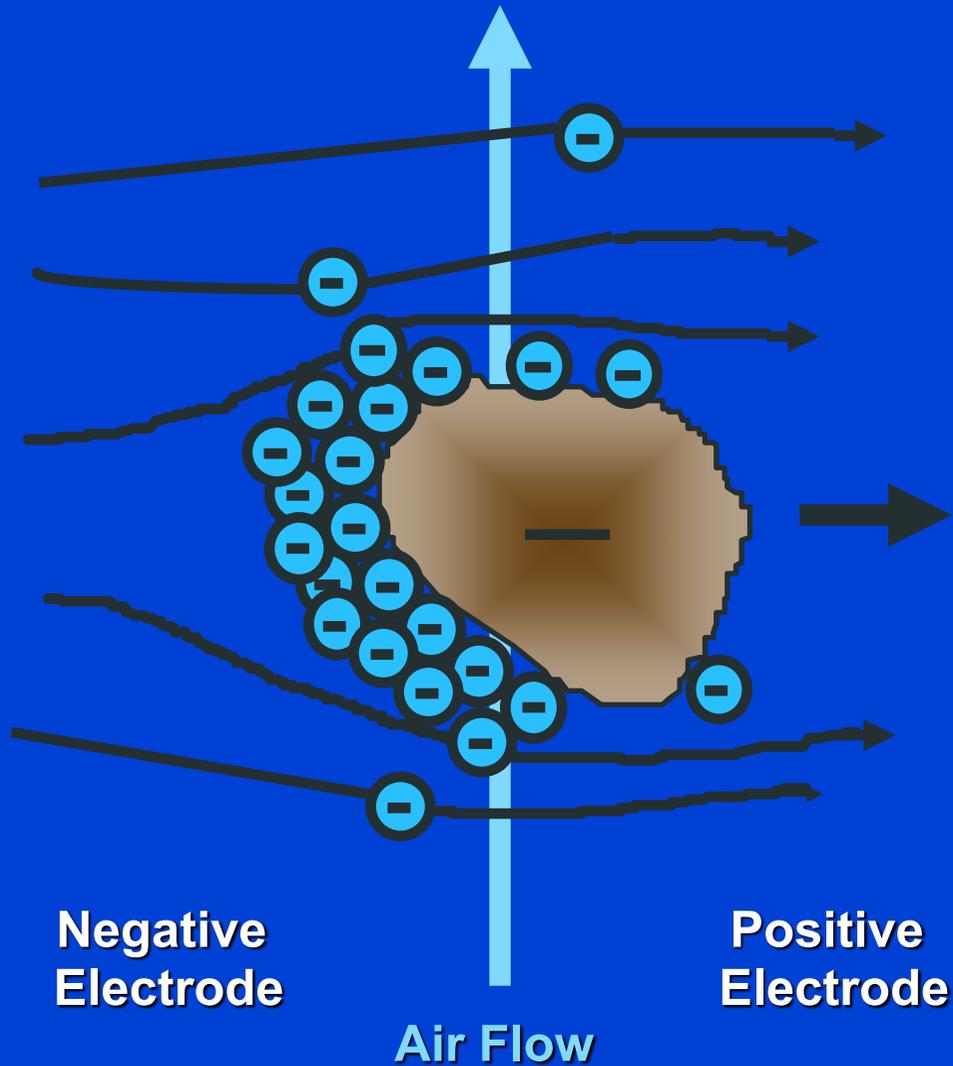
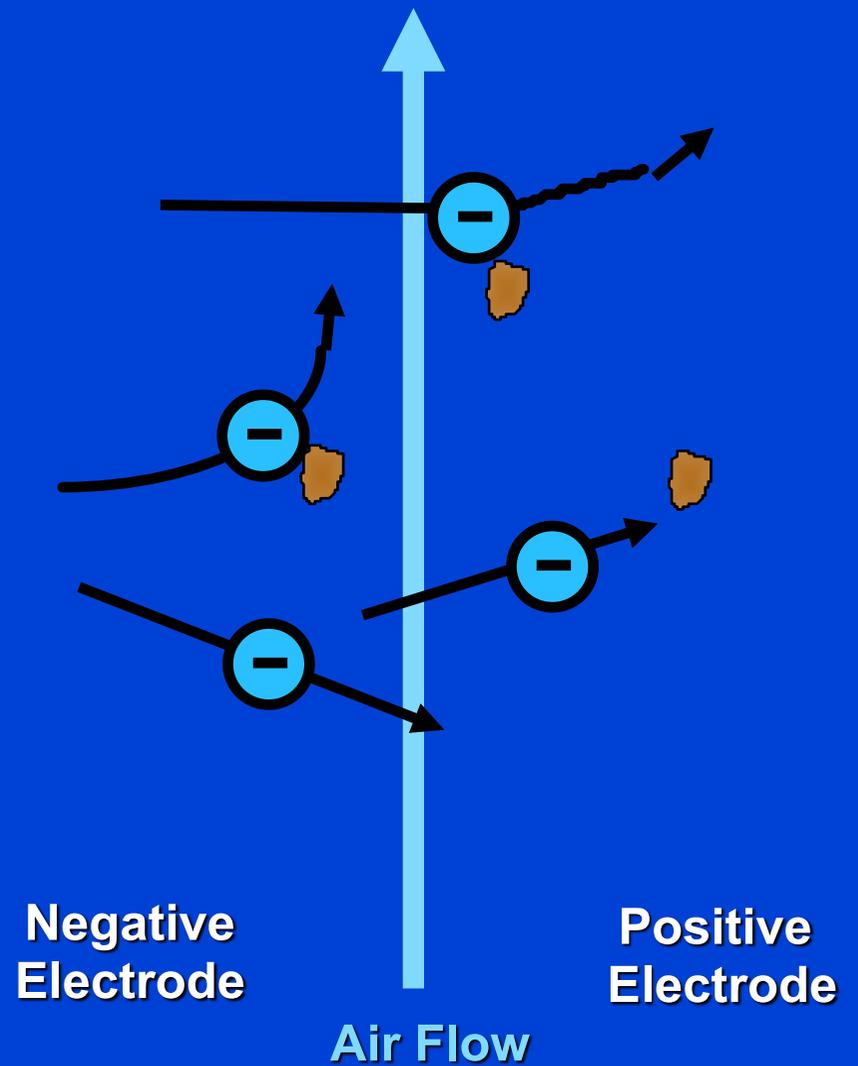


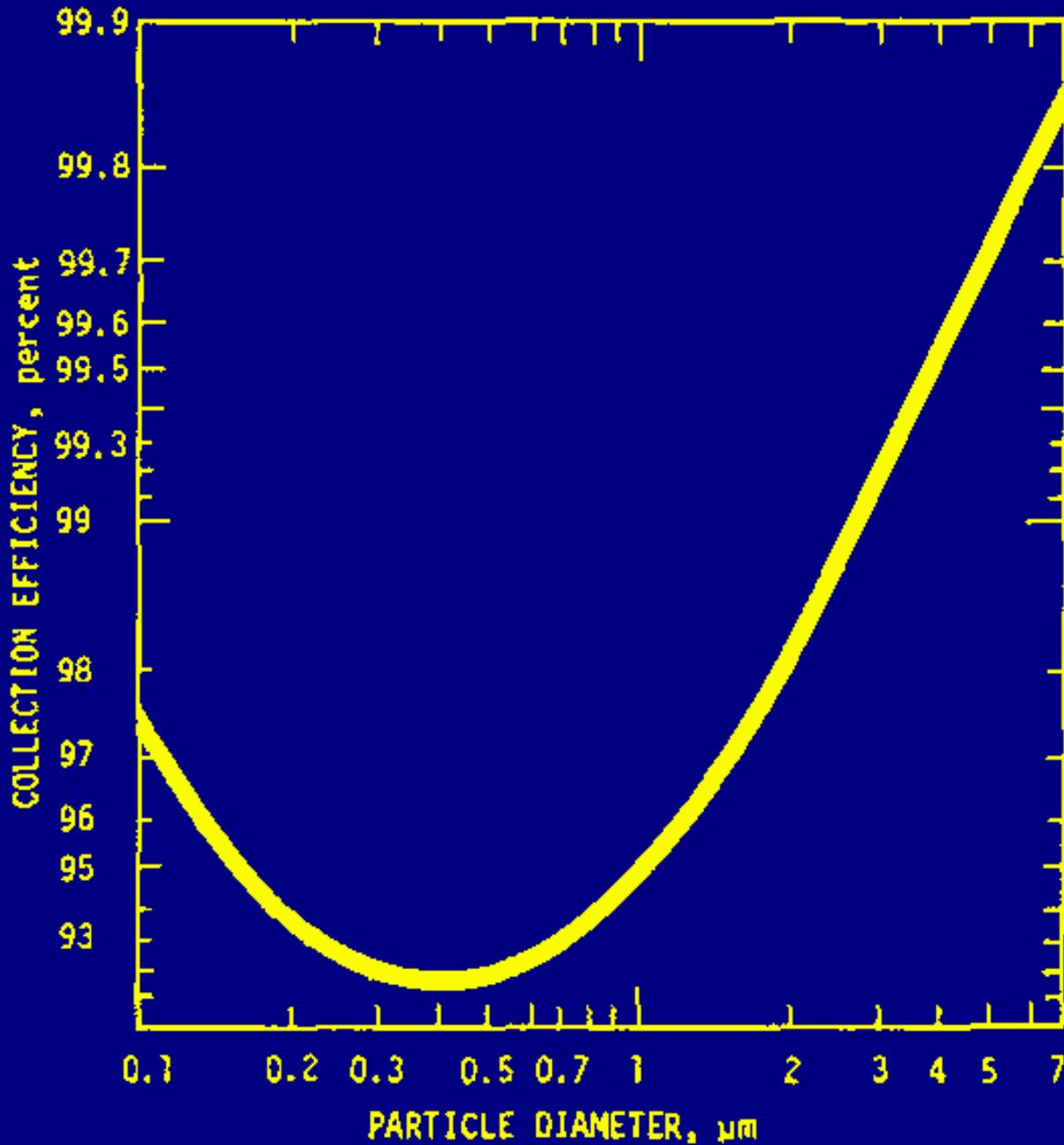
Figure 301.3

# Field Charging



# Diffusion Charging



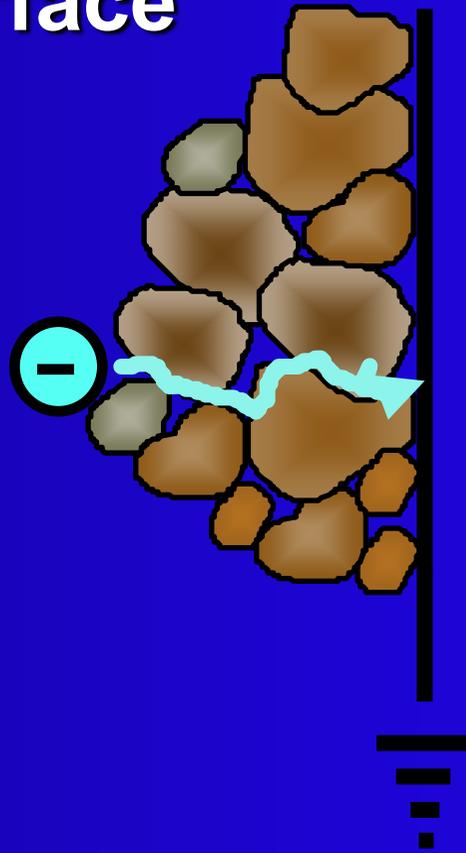


## Particle Size & Collection Efficiency

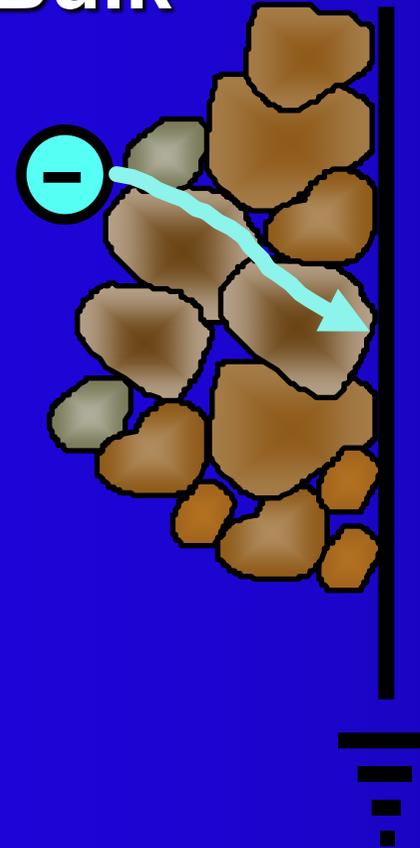
Figure 305.5

# Conduction Mechanisms

Surface



Bulk



# Two-stage precipitator

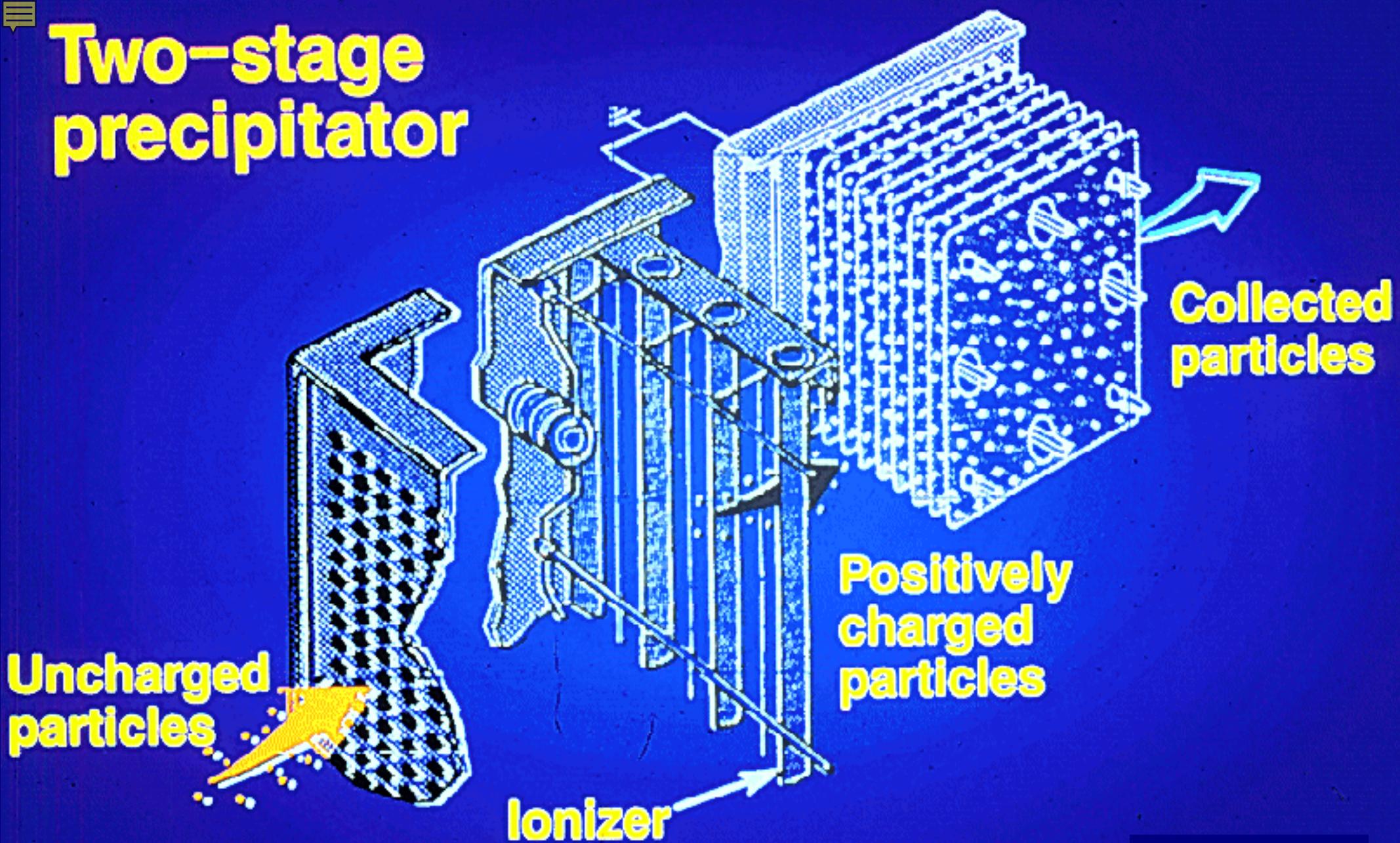


Figure 303.1



# Design Considerations

*(garbage in/cleaner air out)*

- **Dust Properties**
- **Gas Flow Rate**
- **Gas Temperature**



# Migration Velocity



- **Characteristic of type and size of particles**
- **Experimentally determined or calculated**
- **Used with *collection area* and *gas flow rate* to calculate *efficiency***



# Resistivity

- ✦ **Tendency of a particles to retain a charge after collection**
- ✦ **Resistance of collected dust layer to flow of electrical current**
- ✦ **Affected By:**
  - **Chemical make-up of dust**
  - **Temperature**
  - **Moisture**
  - **Sulfur content of flue gas**



# Resistivity of Dusts at Various Temperatures

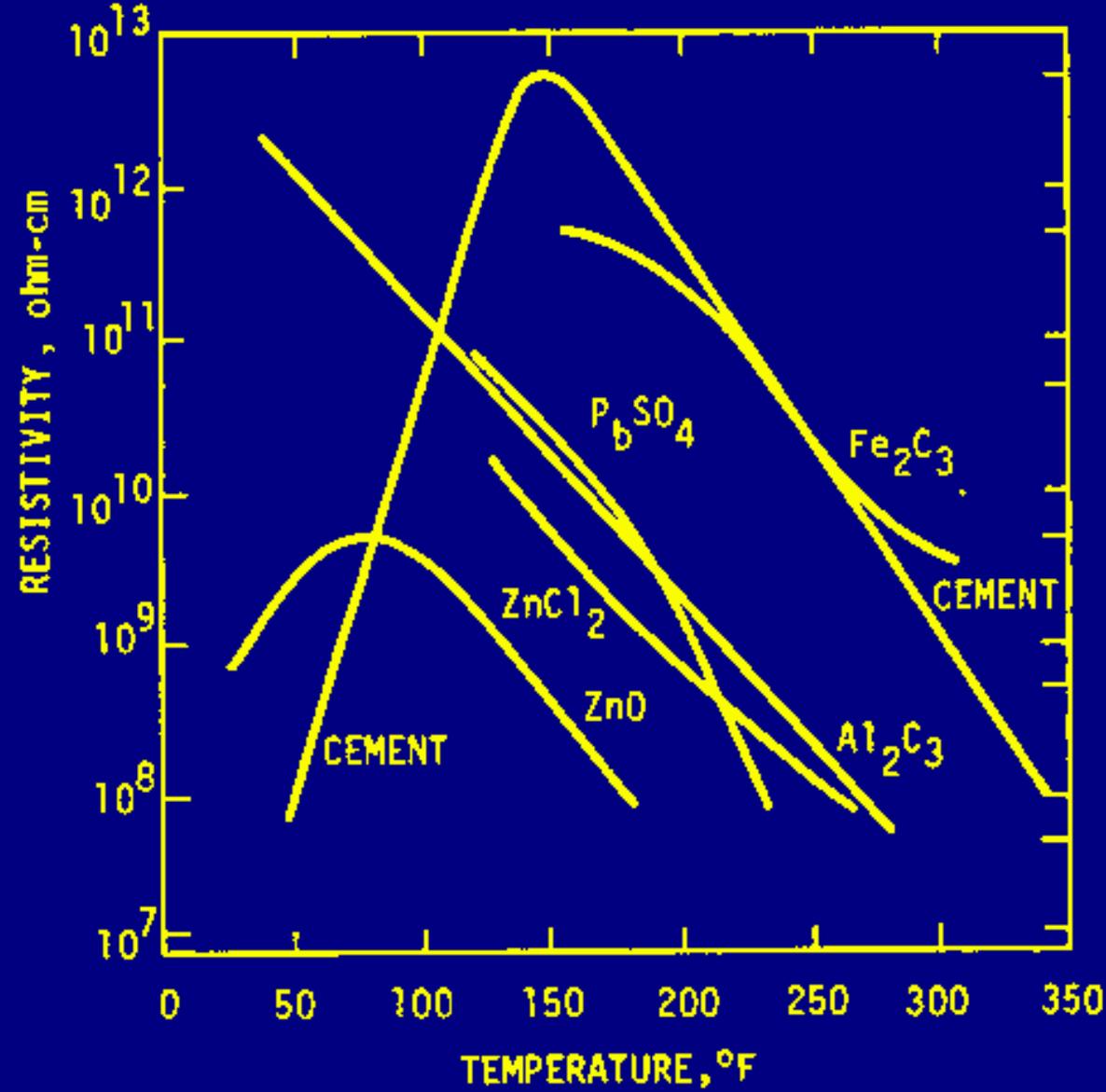
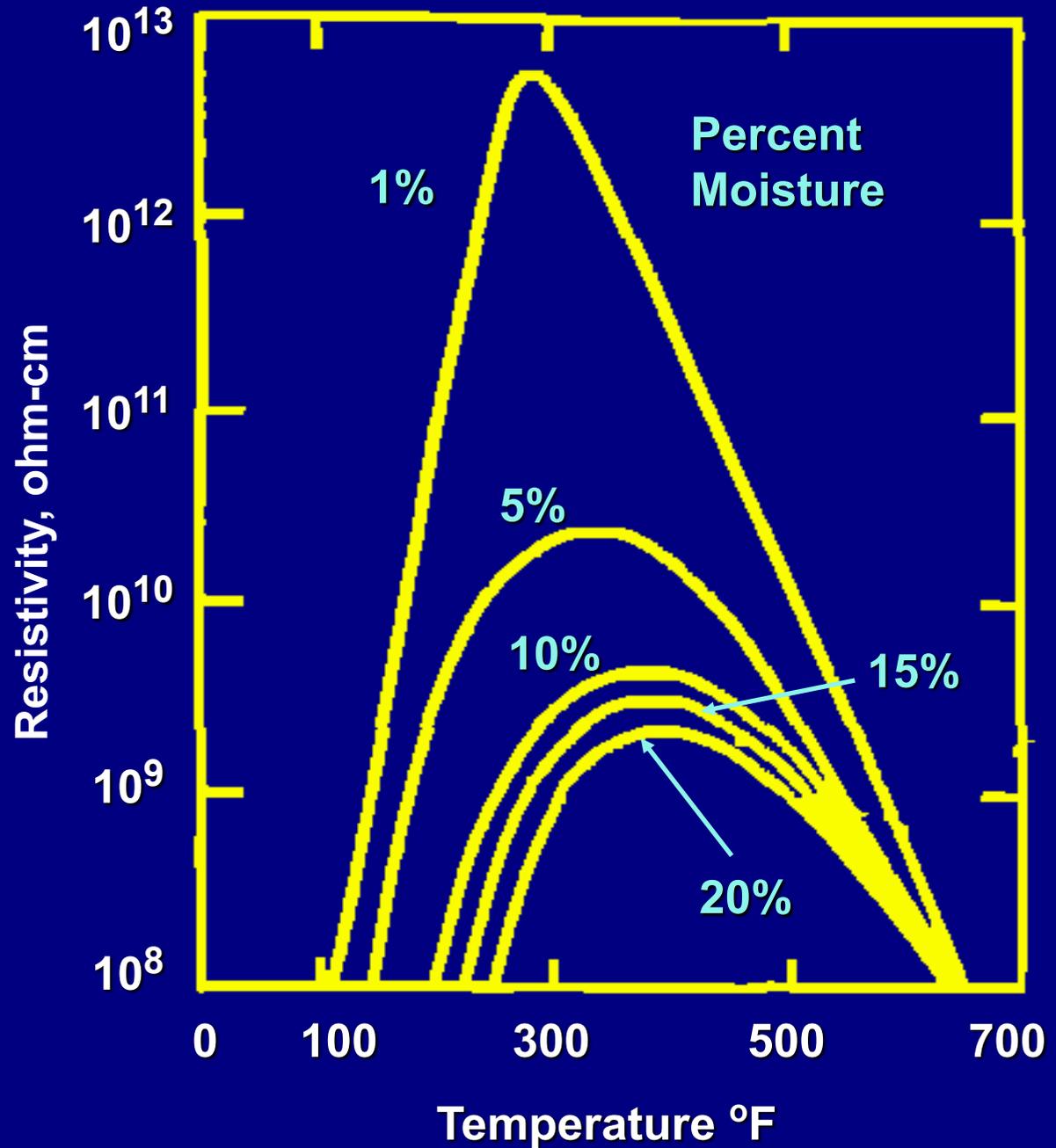
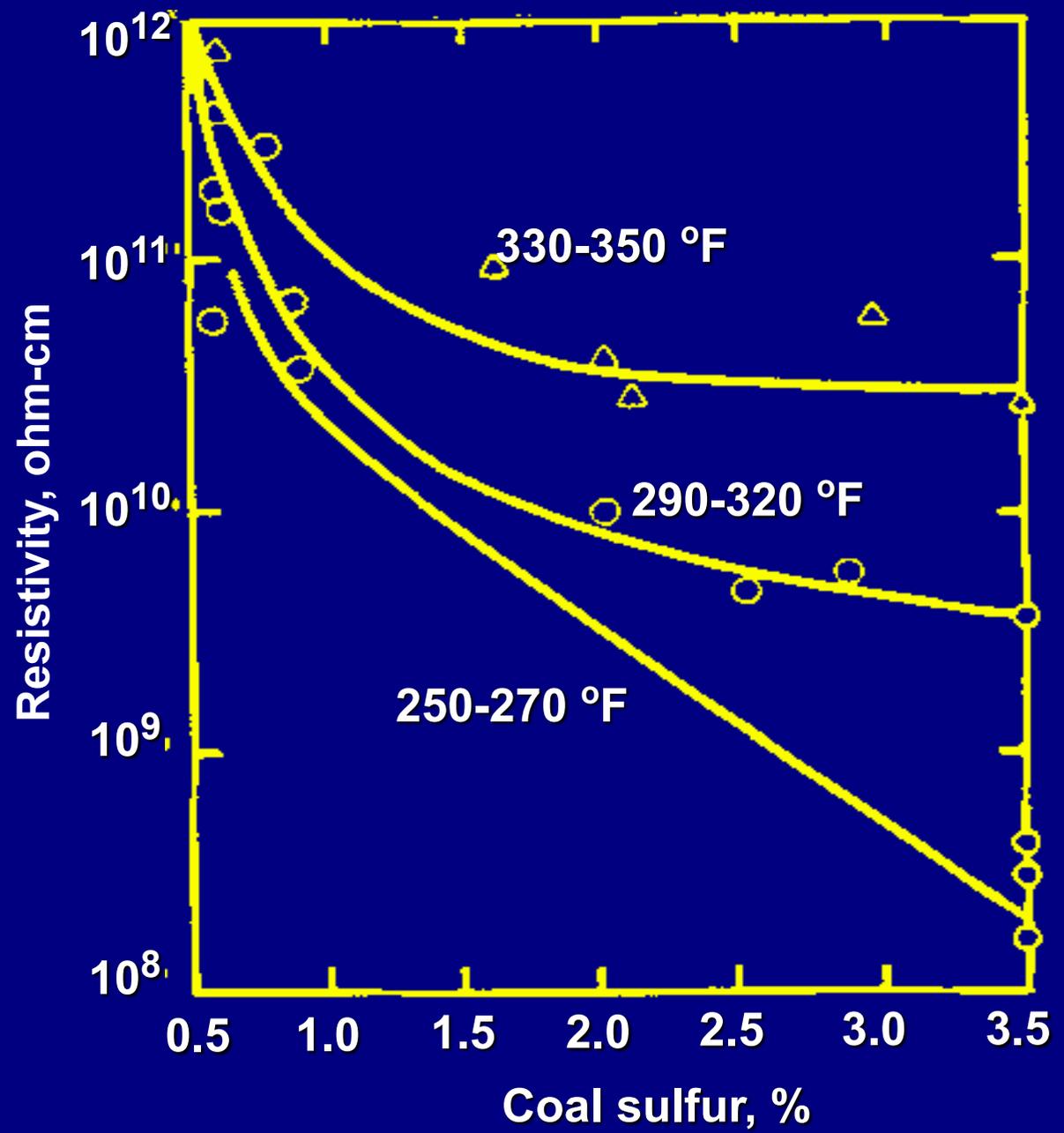


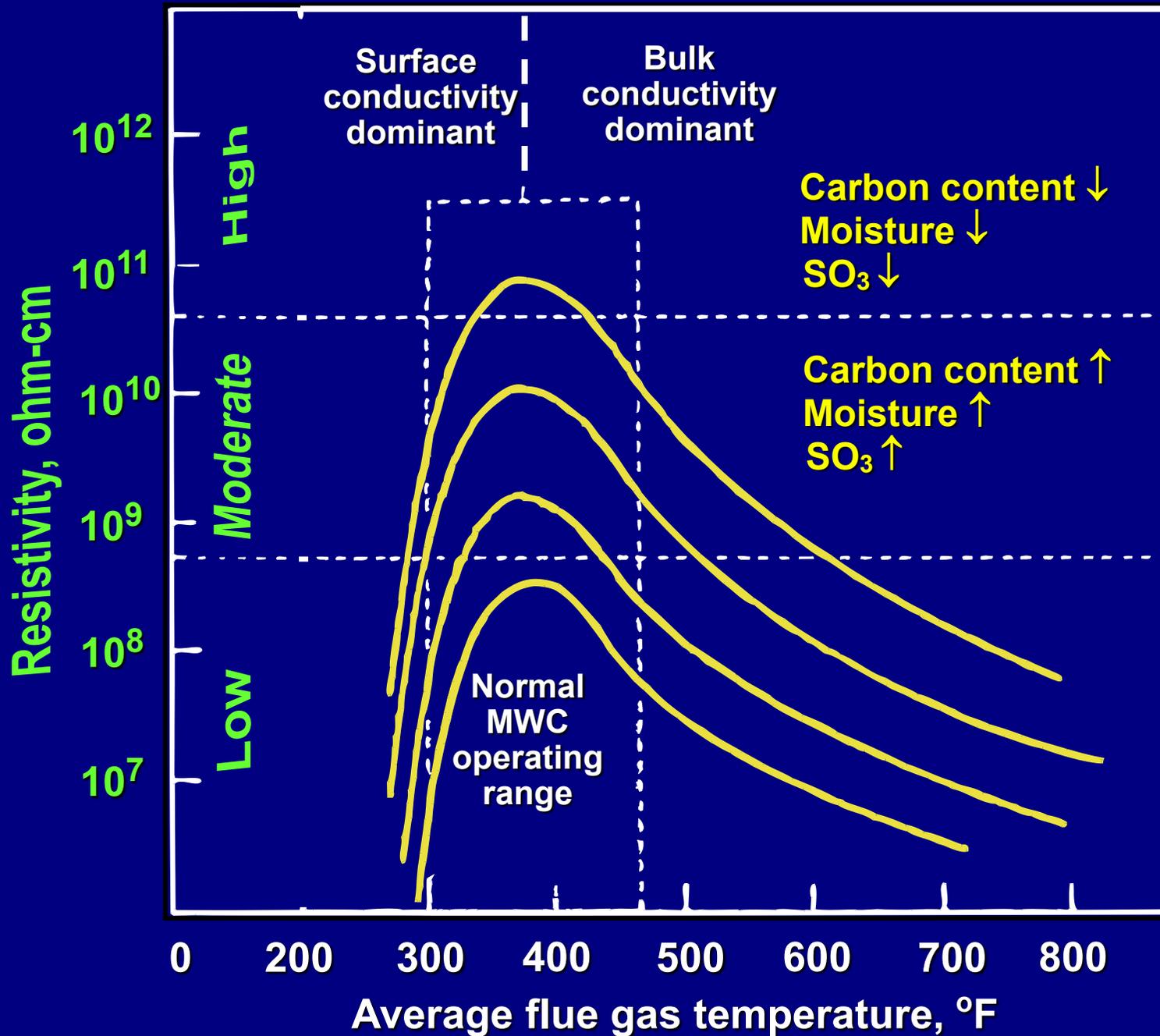
Figure 305.4

# Effect of Temperature & Moisture on Resistivity of Cement Dust



# Fly Ash Resistivity Versus Coal Sulfur Content





**Generalized  
Effect of  
Temperature  
on  
Resistivity  
of Fly Ash**

# Problem Resistivity Conditions



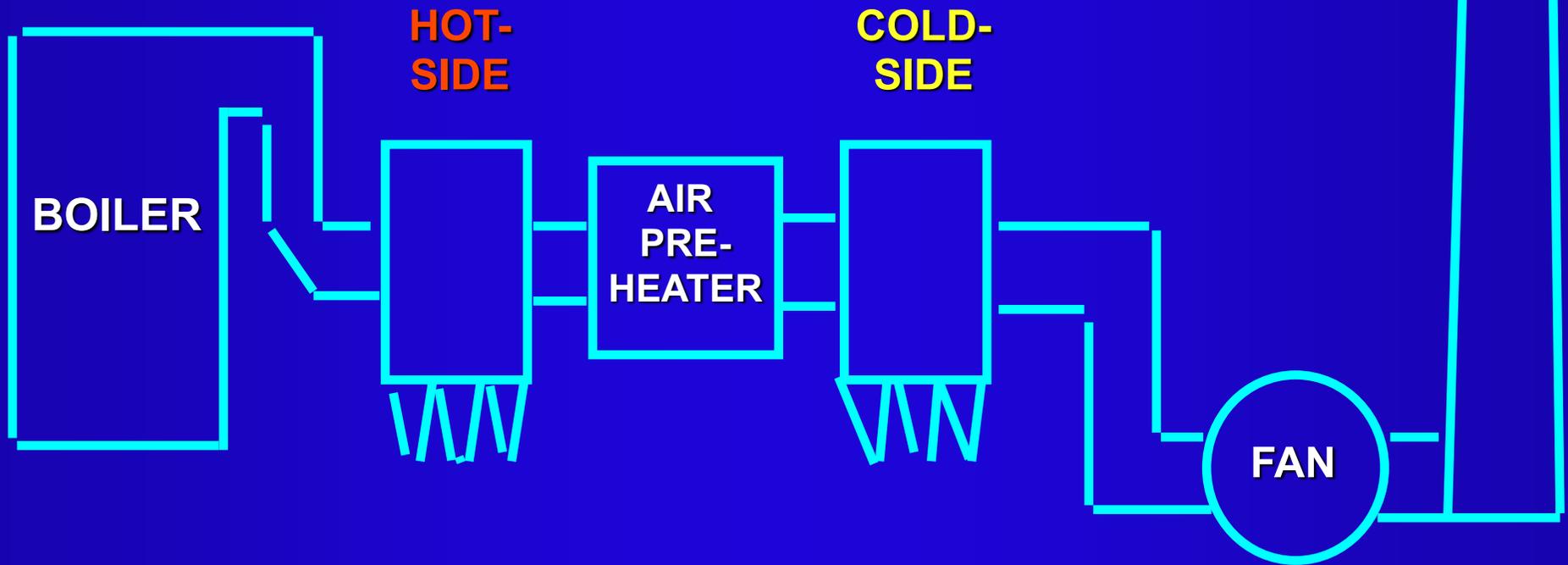
**High**

- Slower migration rate
- Excessive rapping forces
- "Back Corona"

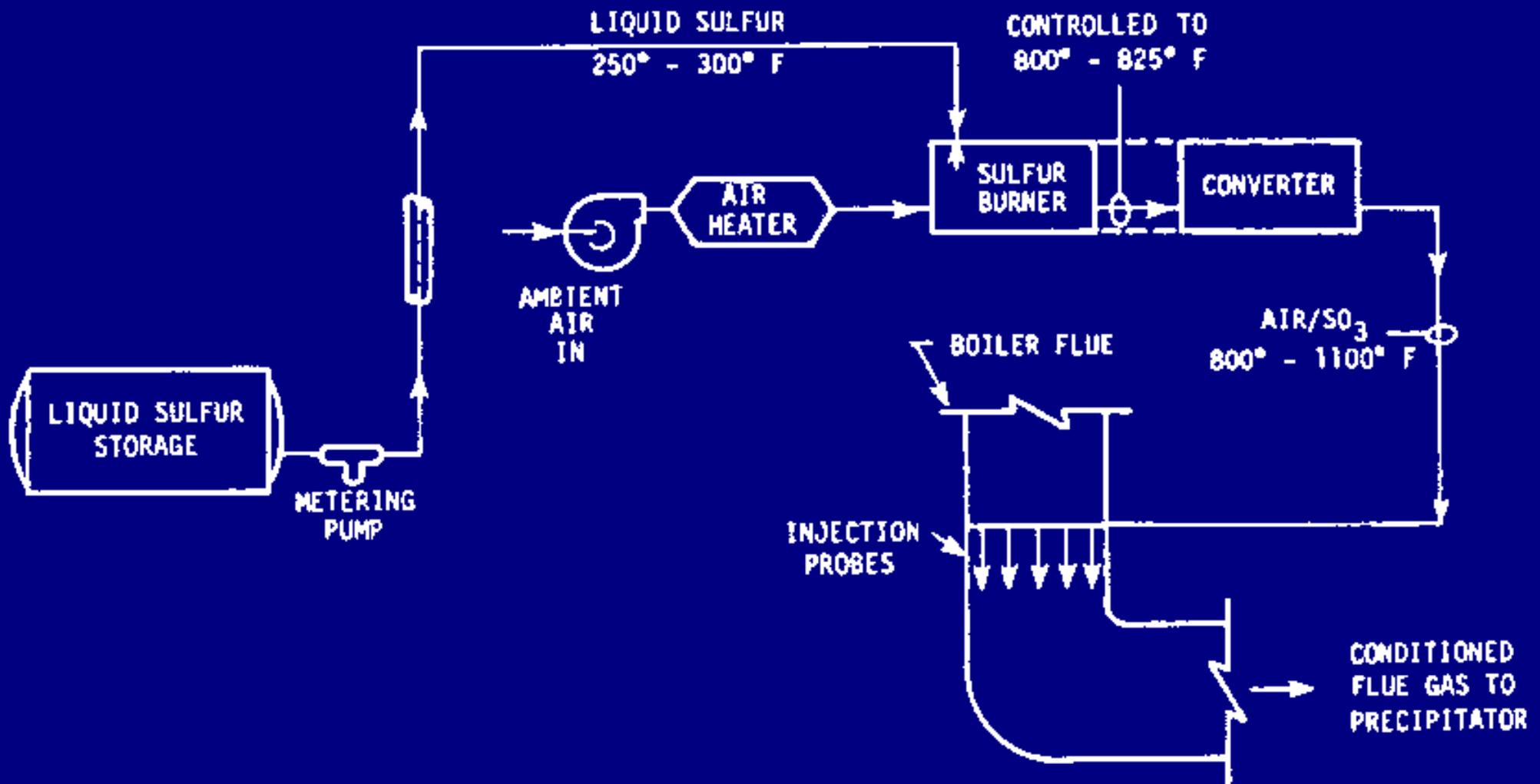
**Low**

- Reentrainment

# Where should ESP be put it?



# Flue Gas Conditioning System





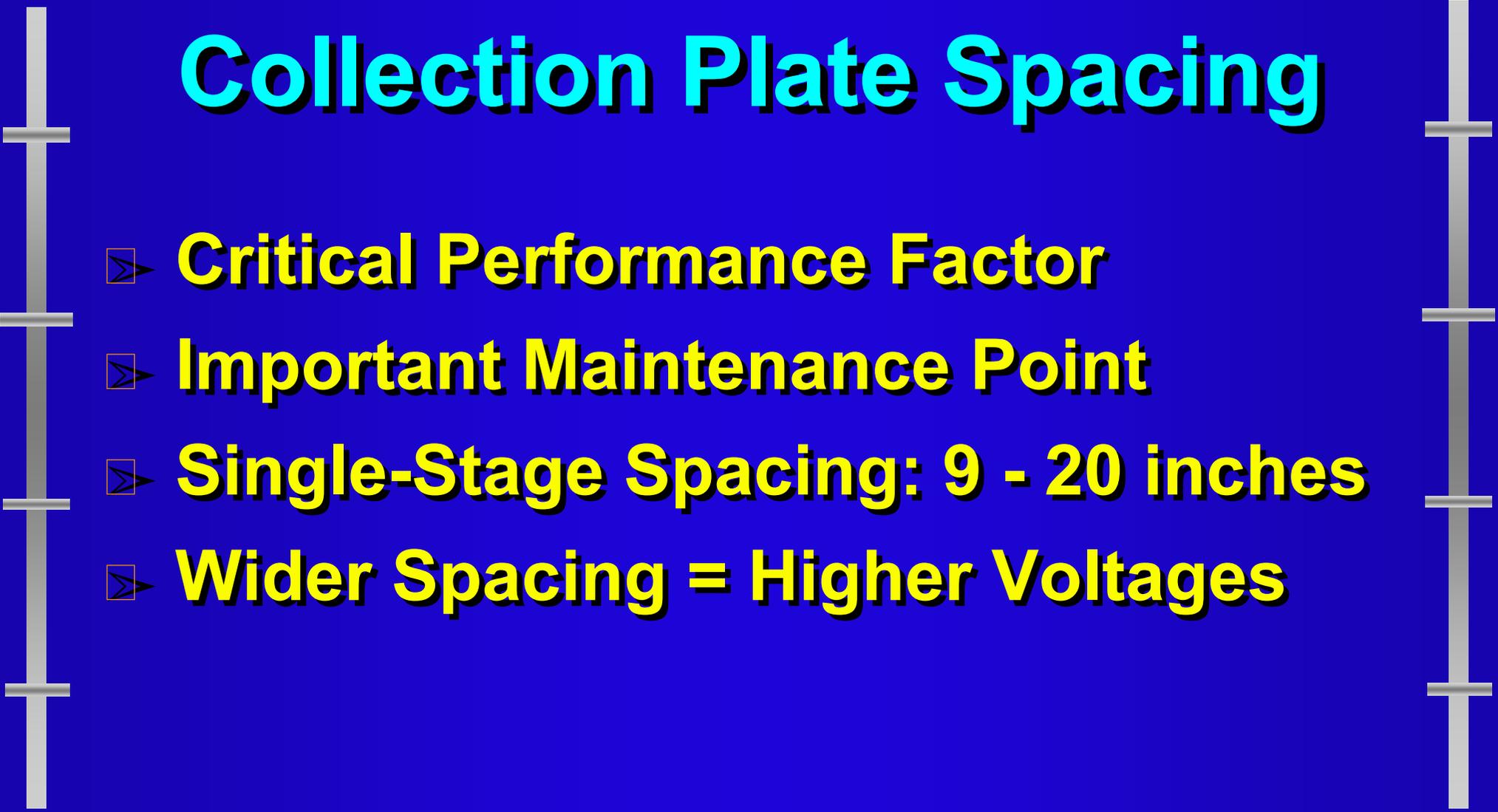
# Design Factors Affecting Performance

*(Making Your ESP Work)*

- **Specific Collection Area**
- **Aspect Ratio**
- **Collection Plate Spacing**
- **Sectionalization**
- **Power Requirements/Spark Rate**


$$\text{Aspect Ratio} = \frac{\text{Effective Length}}{\text{Effective Height}}$$

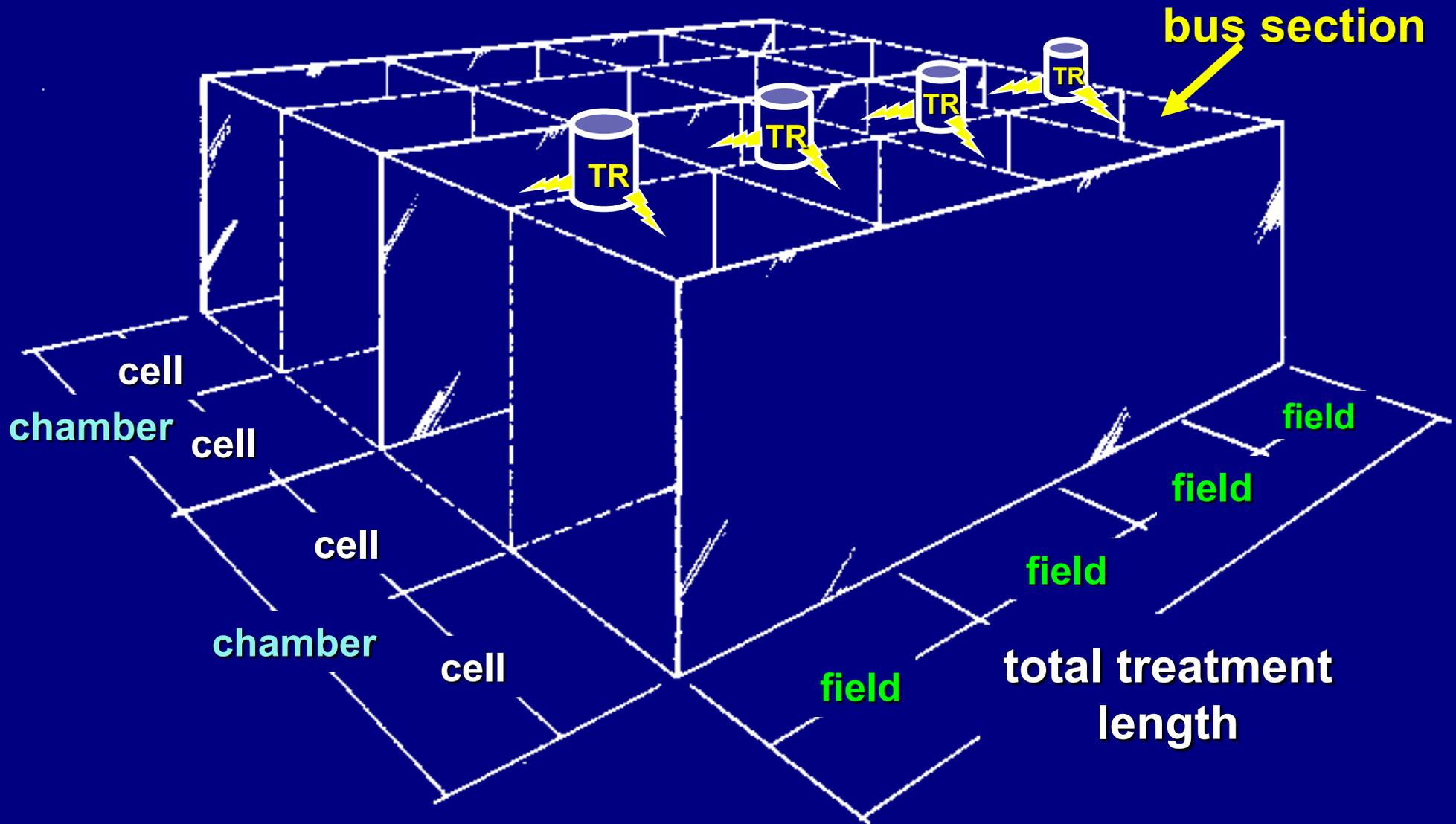
- For efficiencies of 99% or higher, should be at least 1.0 to 1.5



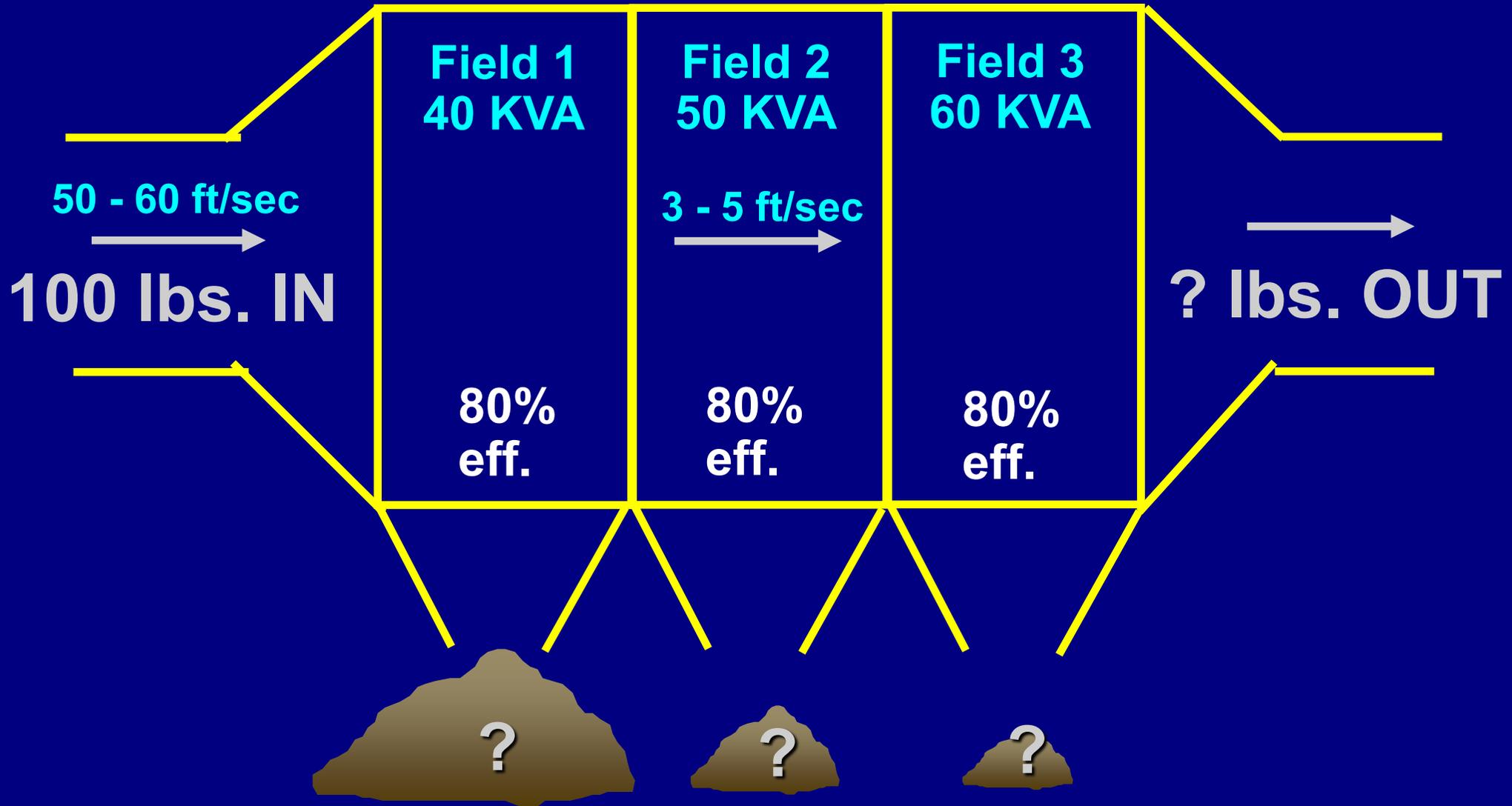
# Collection Plate Spacing

- **Critical Performance Factor**
- **Important Maintenance Point**
- **Single-Stage Spacing: 9 - 20 inches**
- **Wider Spacing = Higher Voltages**

# Sectionalization



# Fields and Yields

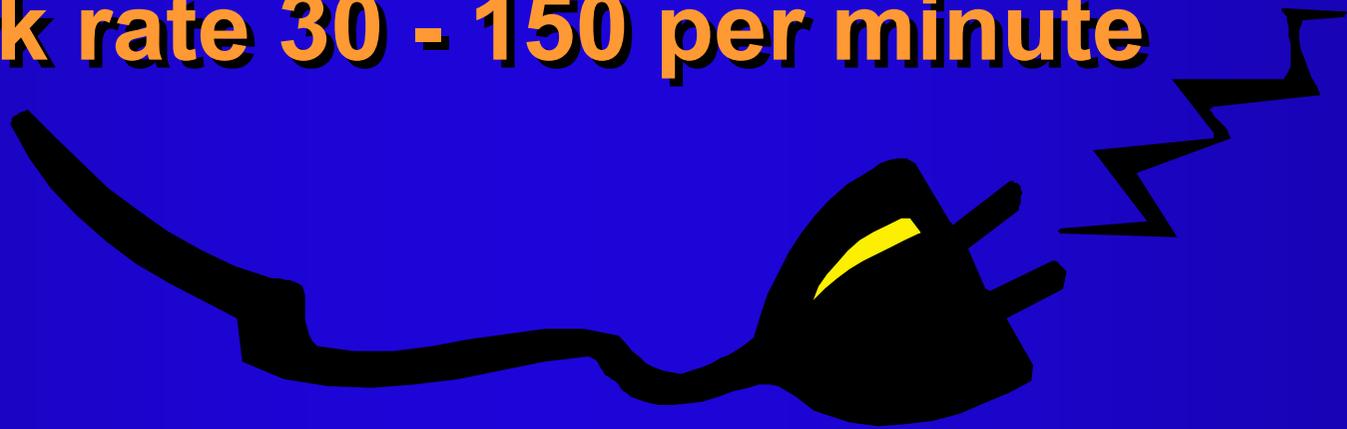


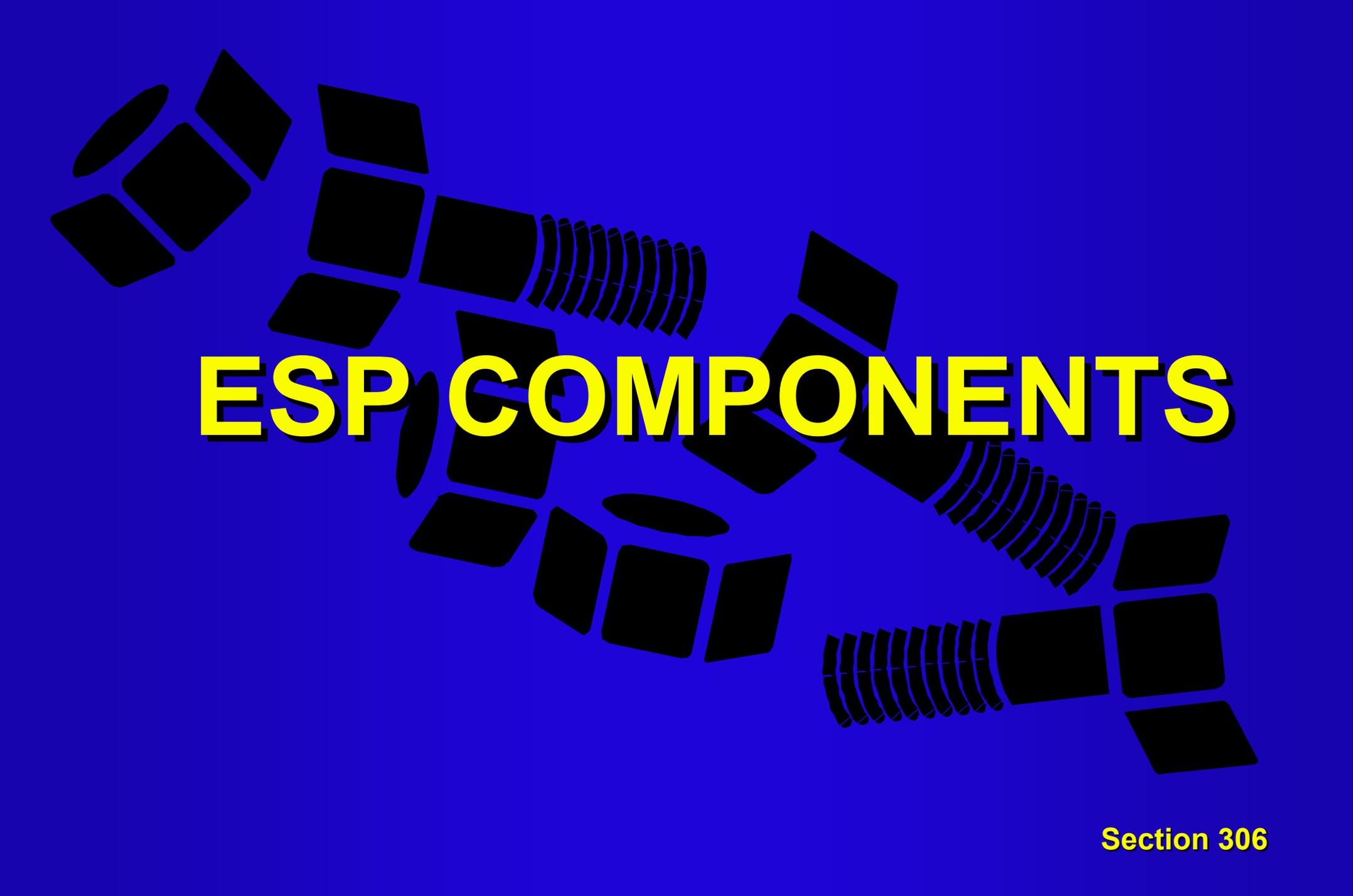


# Power Requirements/ Sparking



- ✦ **Corona Power = Voltage x Current**
- ✦ **Most ESPs designed to produce maximum corona power with spark rate 30 - 150 per minute**



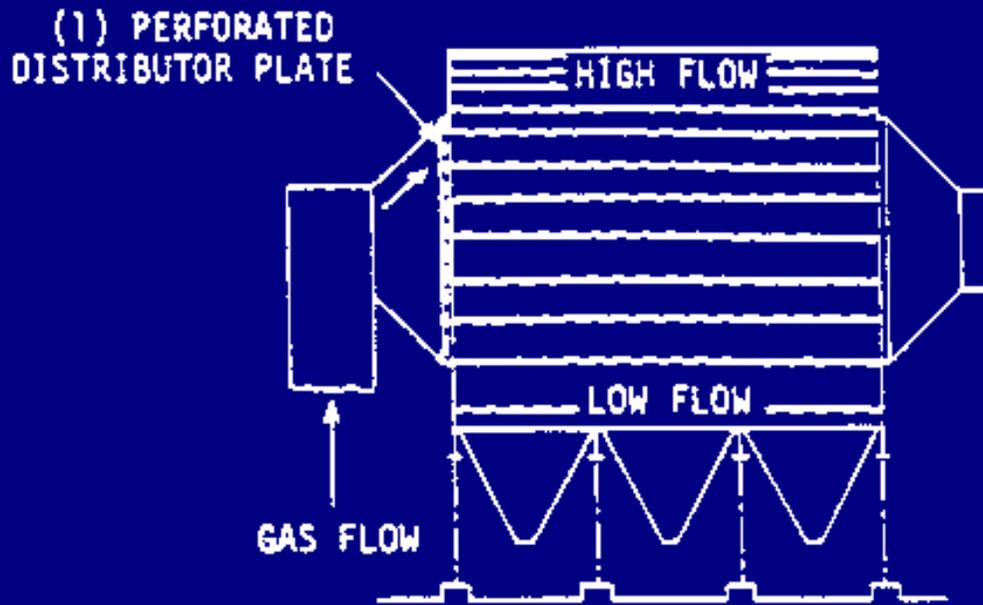
The background of the slide features a collection of black silhouettes of various mechanical parts, including bolts, nuts, washers, and nuts with washers, arranged in a scattered, overlapping pattern. The text 'ESP COMPONENTS' is centered over this background in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline.

# ESP COMPONENTS

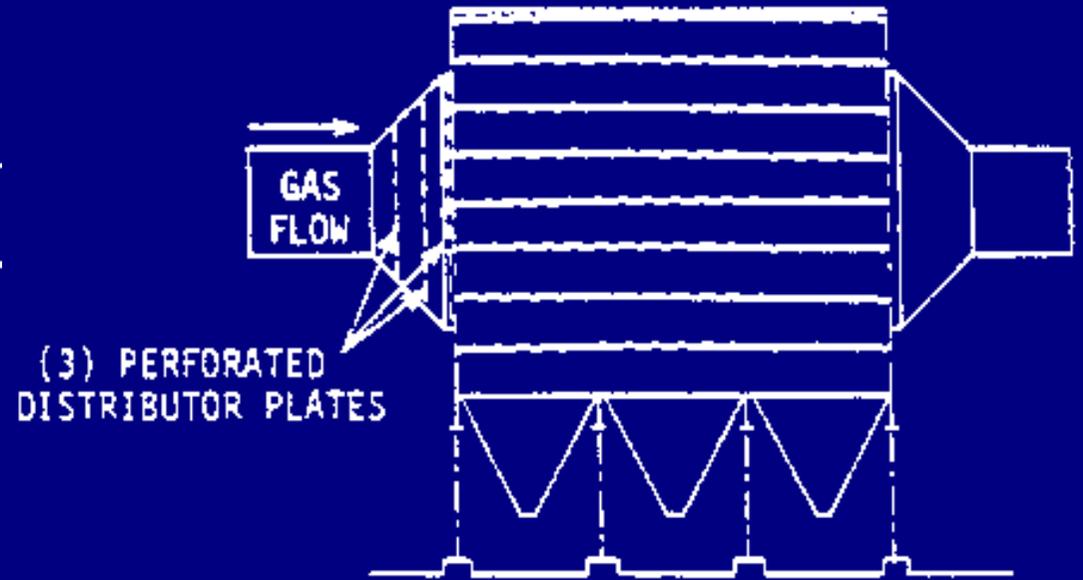
**Inlet Duct**



# Gas Flow Distribution

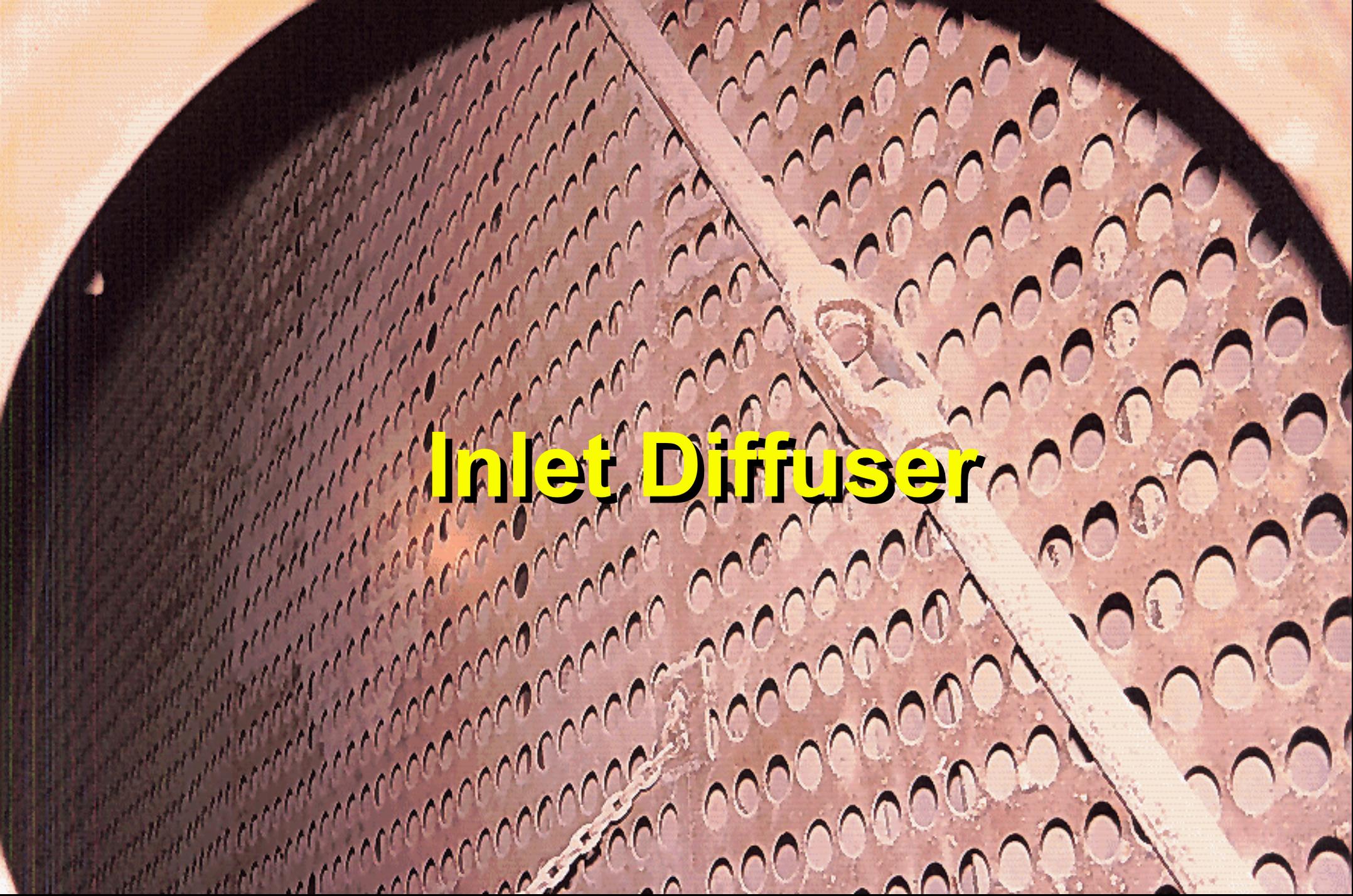


**Not So Good**



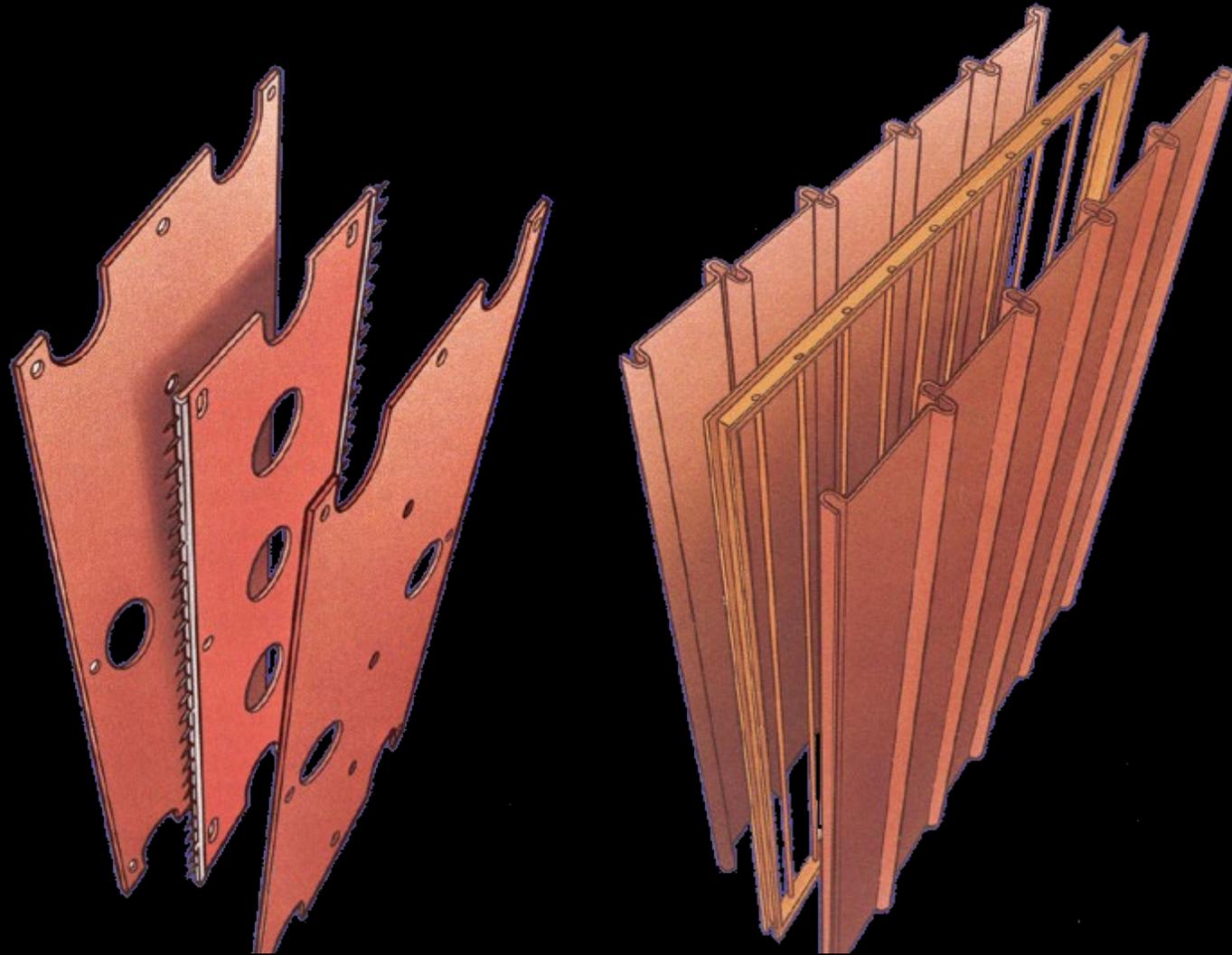
**Better**

Figure 306.9

A close-up photograph of a circular, perforated metal inlet diffuser. The diffuser is made of a dark, possibly stainless steel, material with a regular grid of small, circular holes. A metal rod or support structure is visible, running diagonally across the diffuser. A metal chain is attached to the rod, hanging down from the bottom left. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the metal and the pattern of the holes.

# Inlet Diffuser

# Discharge Electrodes





# Weighted-Wire Discharge Electrodes & Charging System

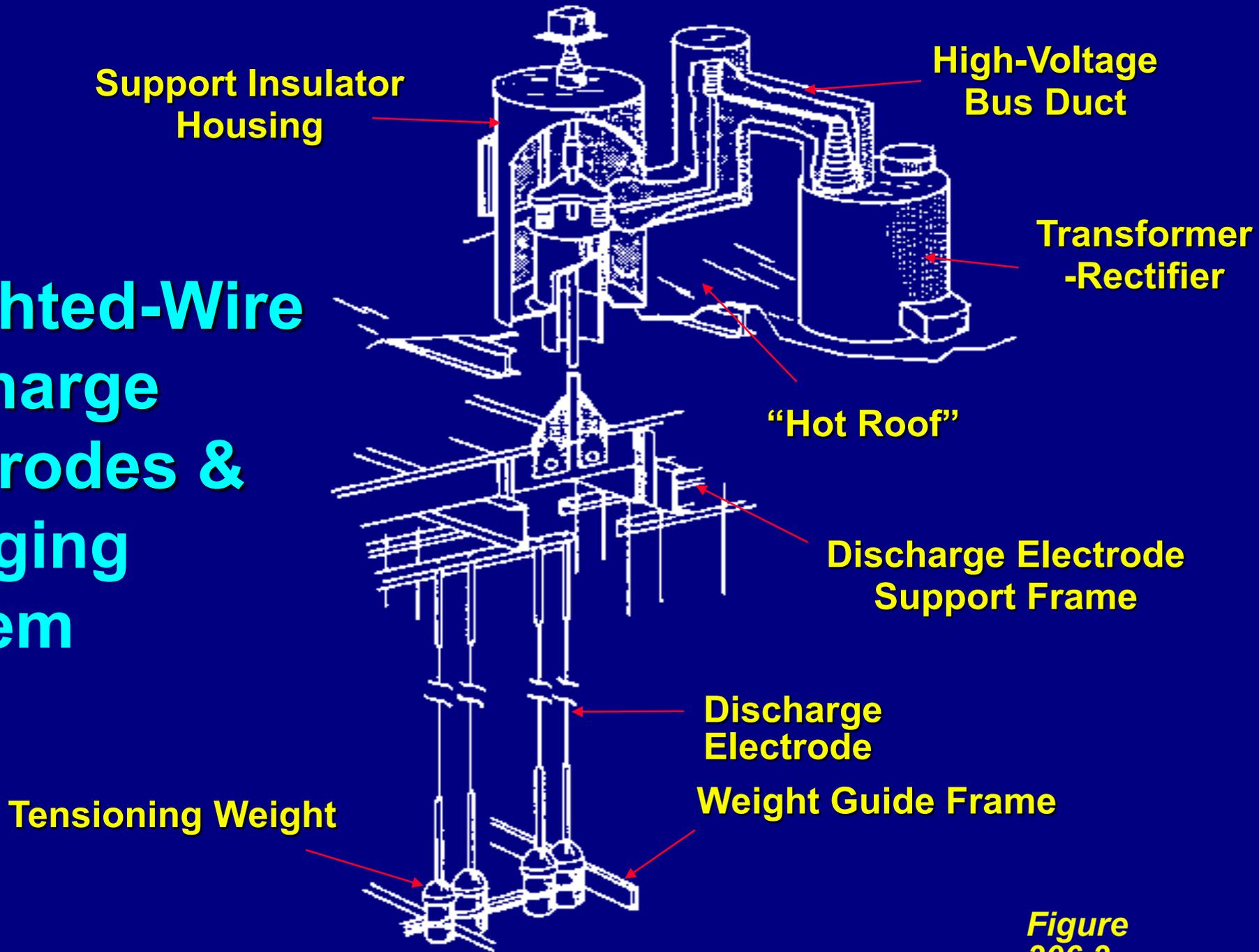
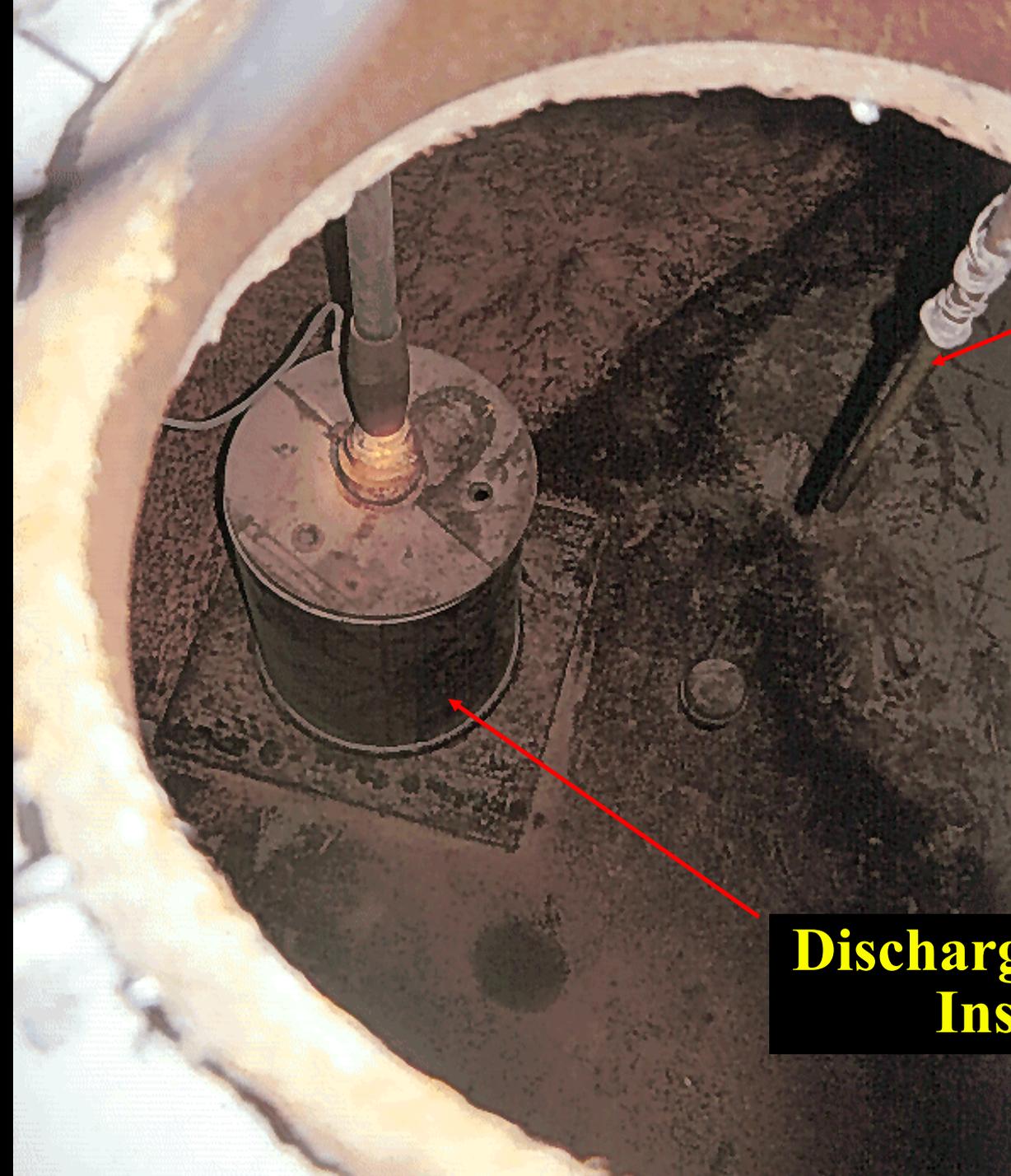


Figure 306.3



**Rapper shaft**

**View into  
Penthouse**

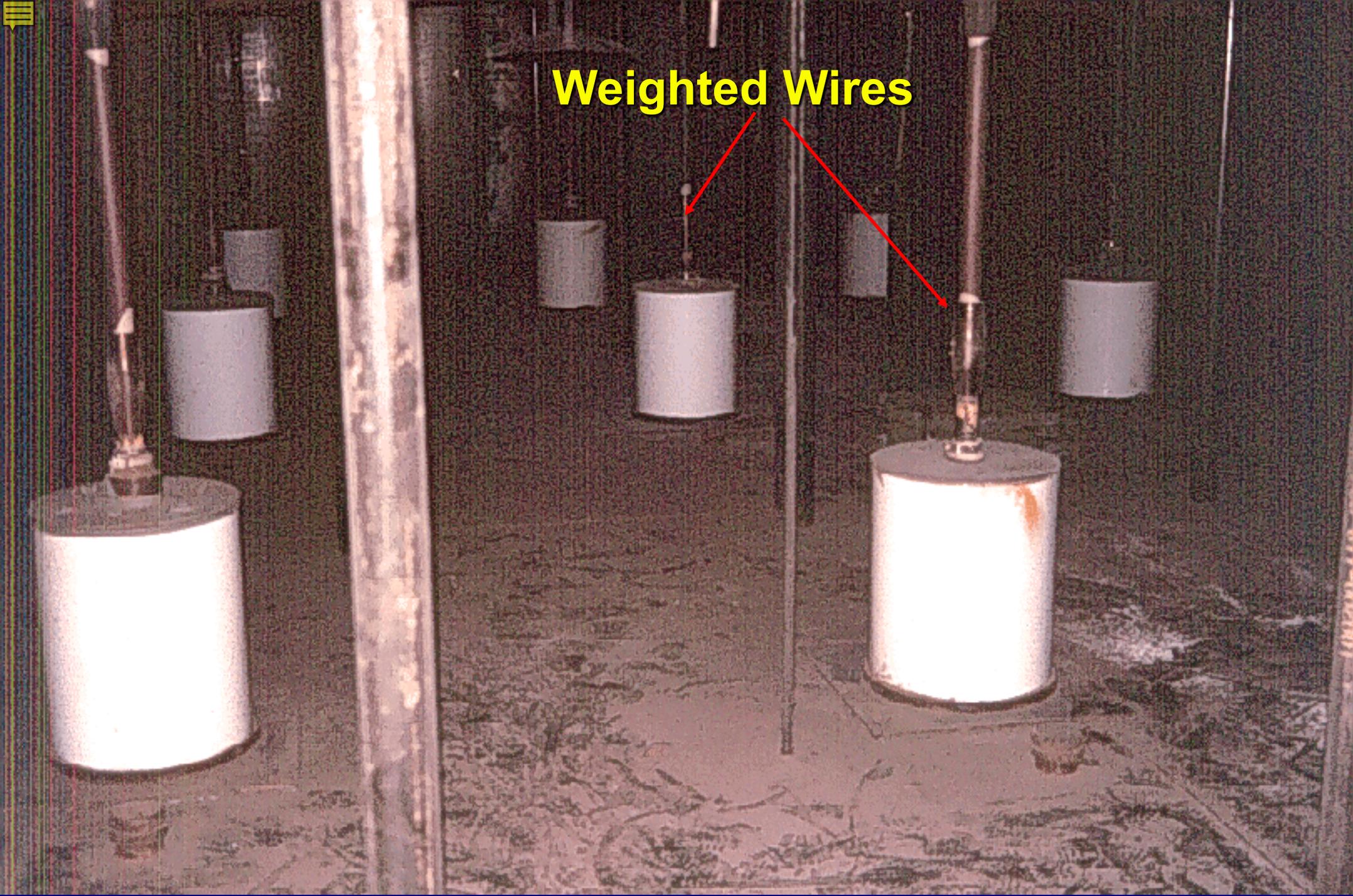
**Discharge Electrode  
Insulator**



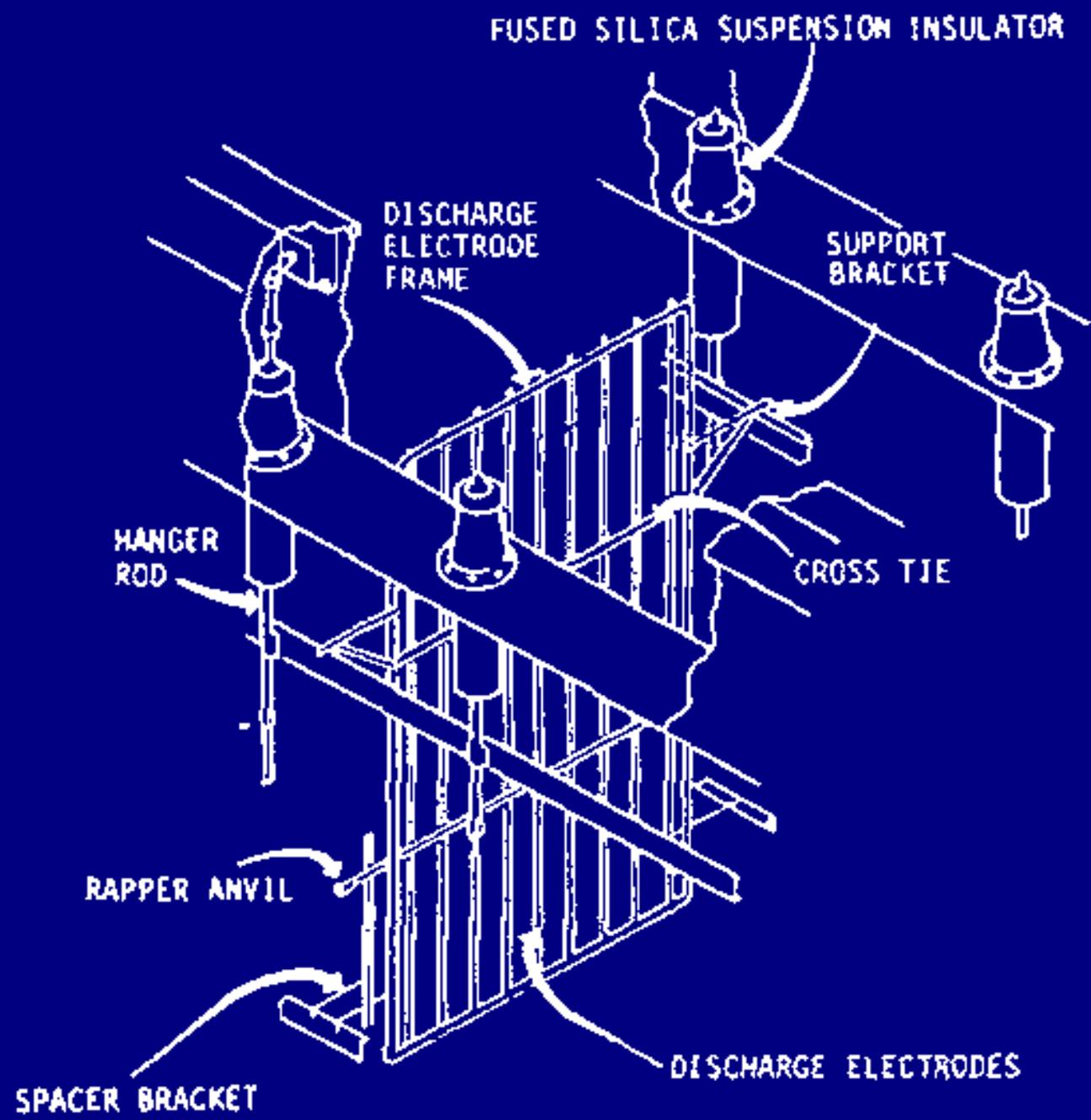
**Water Tracks**



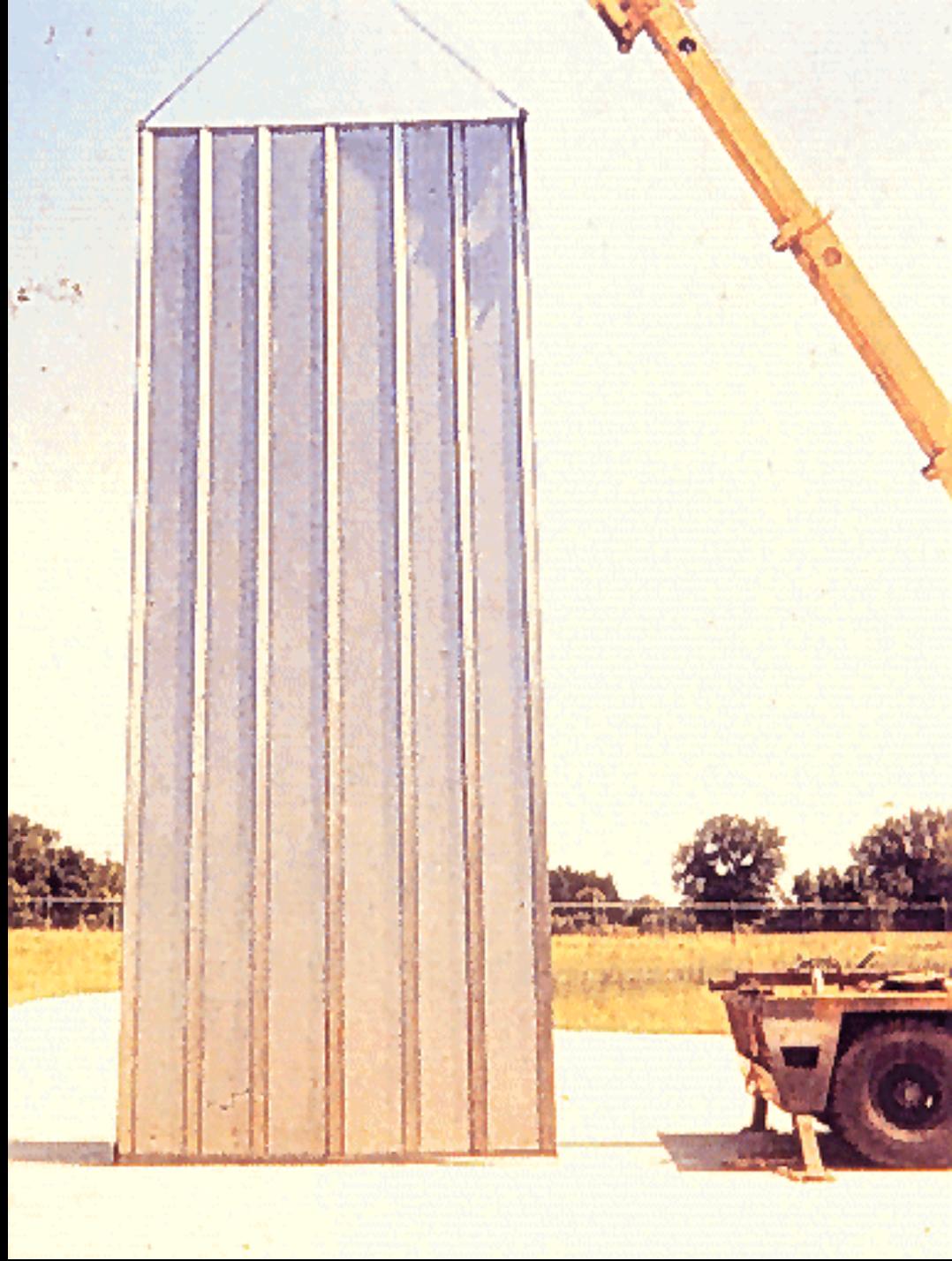
**Weighted Wires**



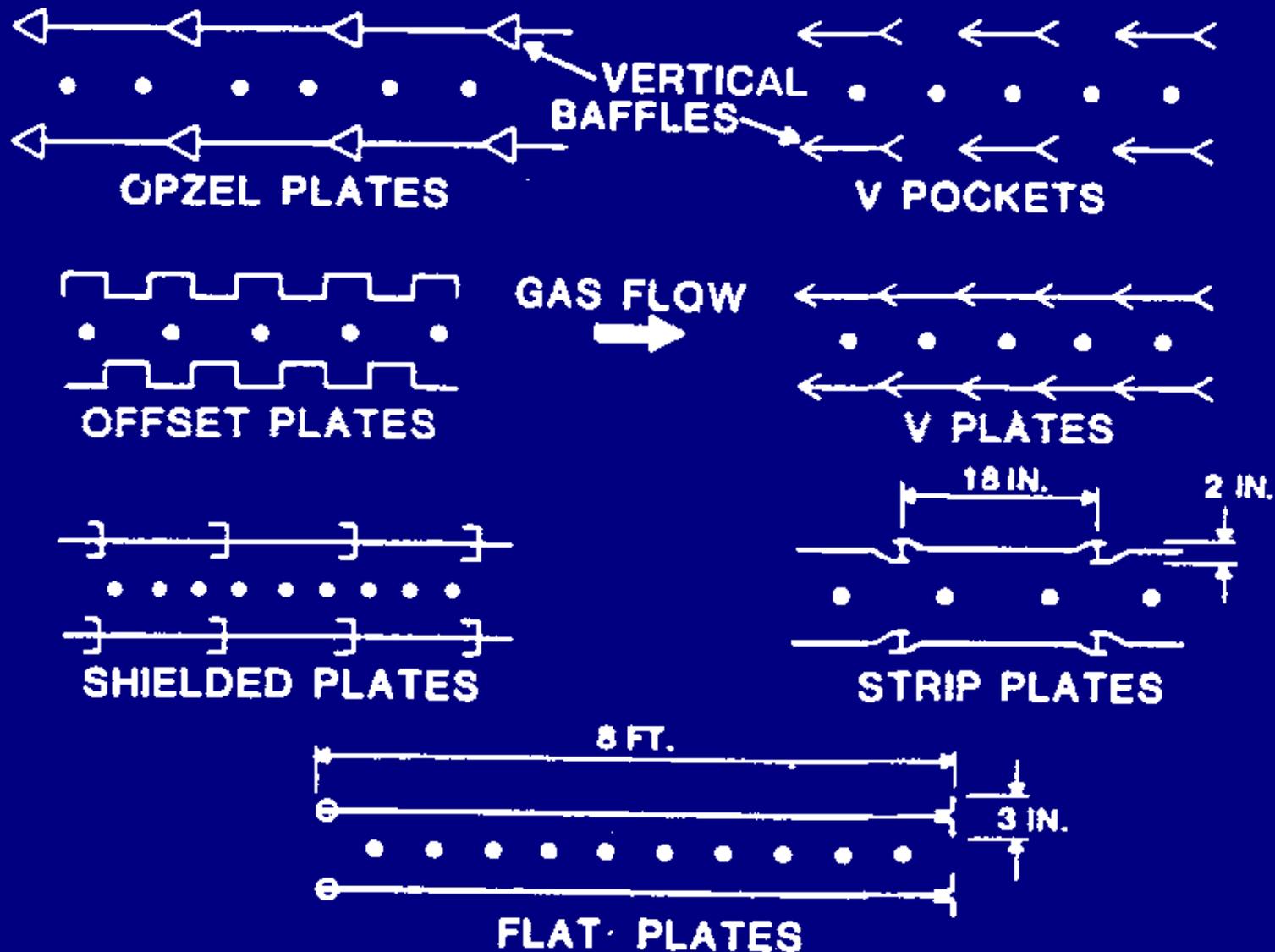
# Frame-Type Discharge Electrodes



# Collection Plate



# Collection Plate Designs





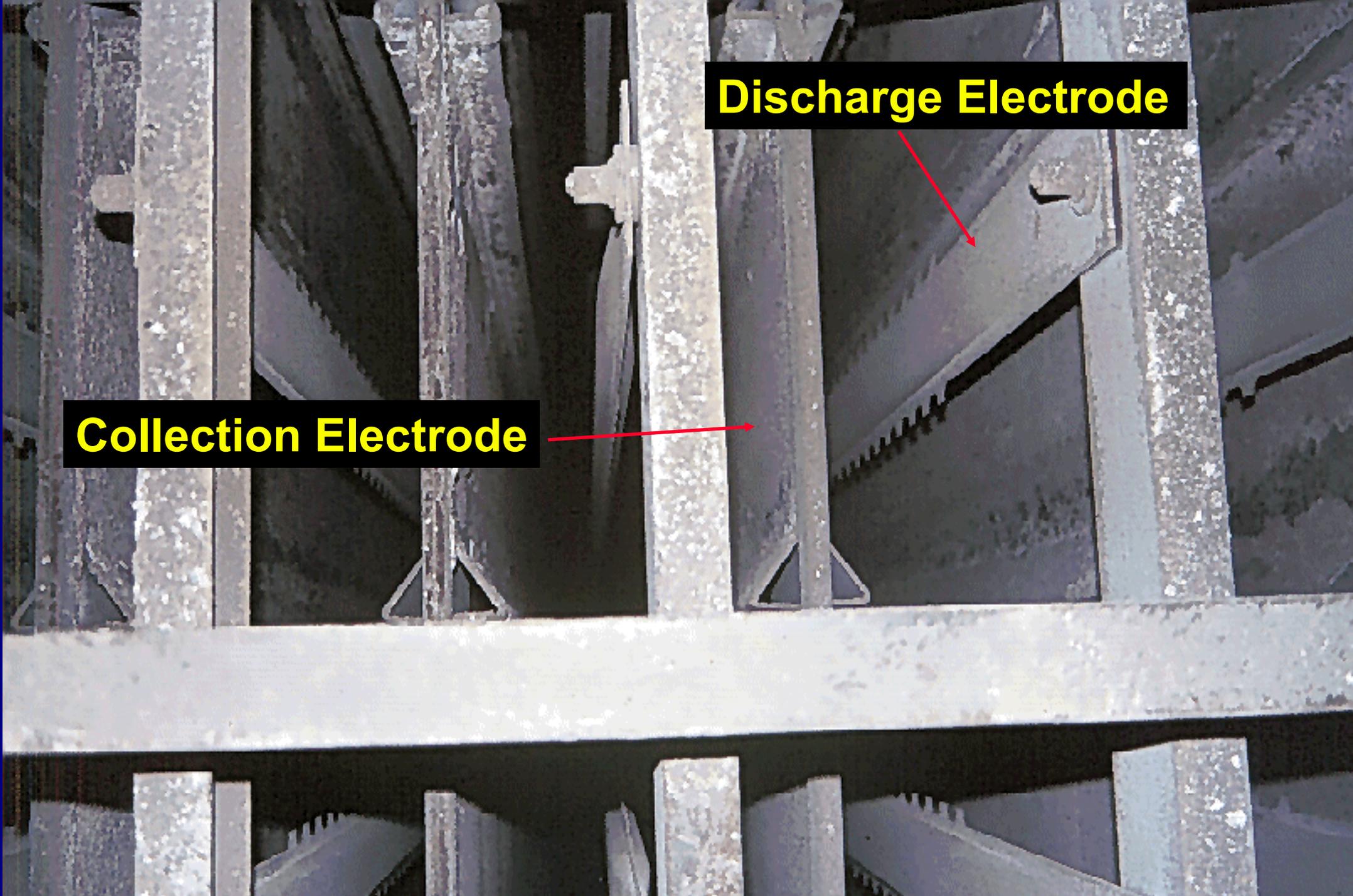
Energy Control  
Work in Progress



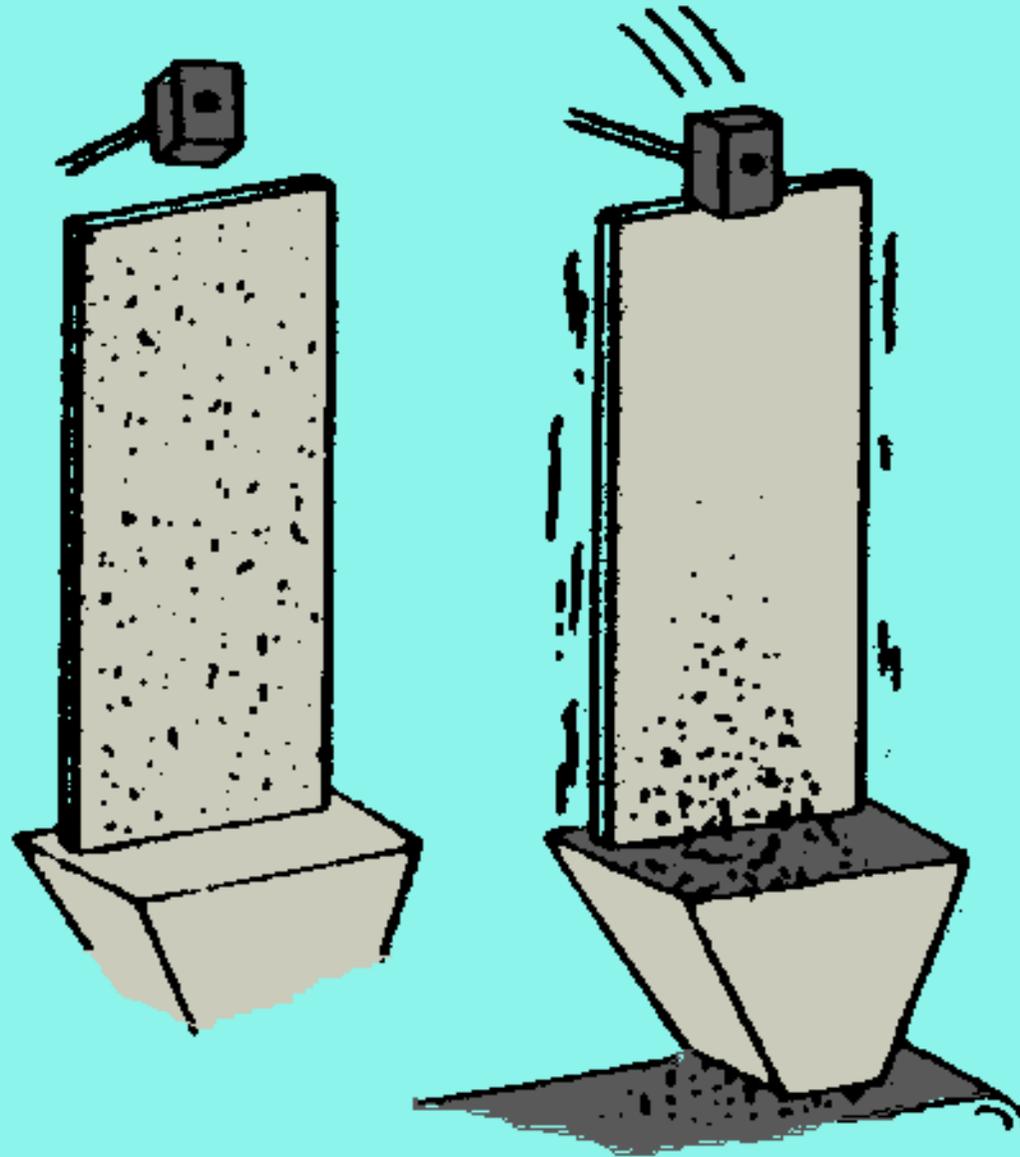
**View into  
side port**

**Discharge Electrode**

**Collection Electrode**



# Particulate Removal

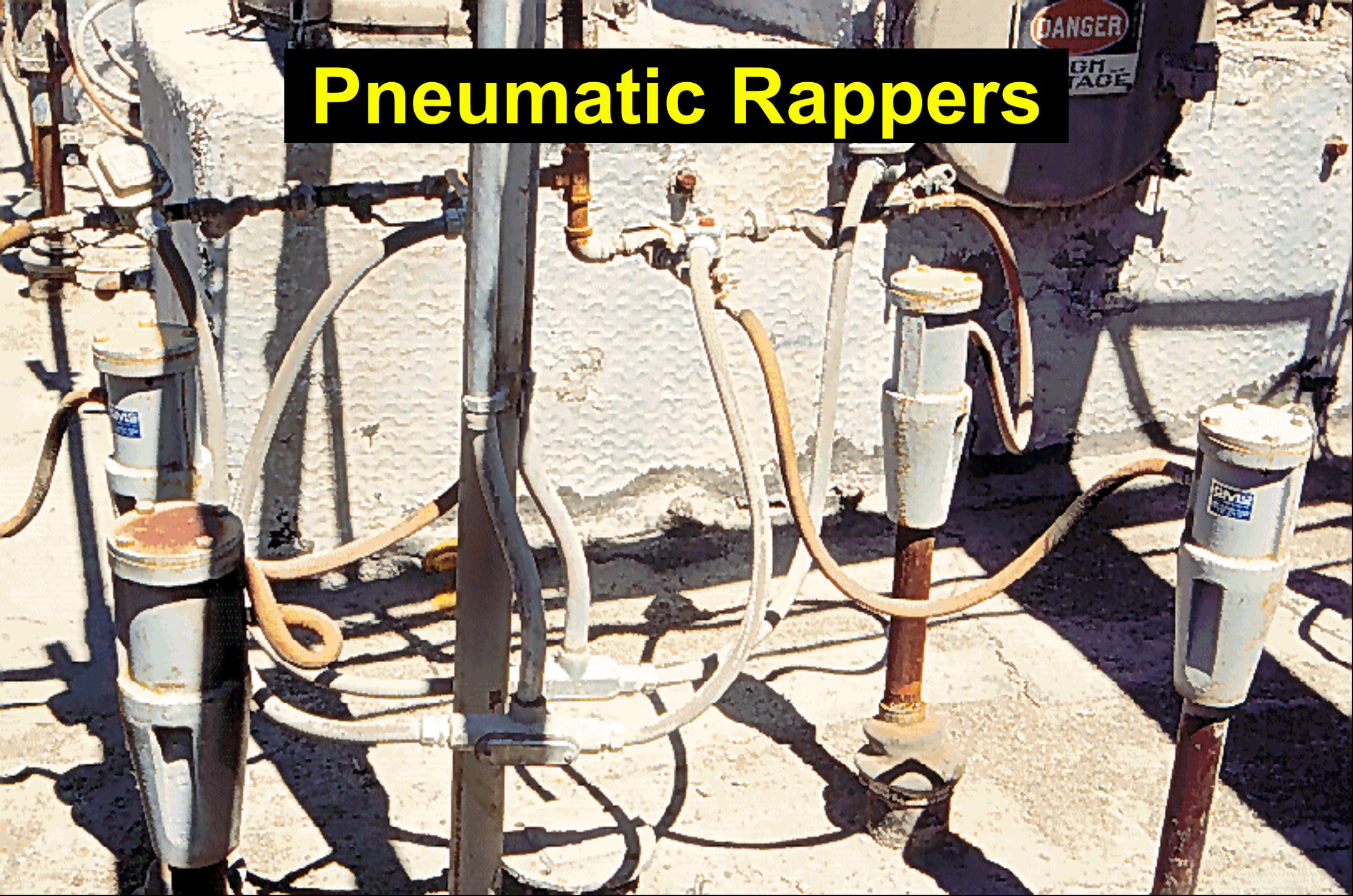




# Rapper Types

- **Pneumatic**
- **Magnetic-Impulse,  
Gravity-Impact (MIGI)**
- **Hammer and Anvil**
- **Vibratory**

# Pneumatic Rappers





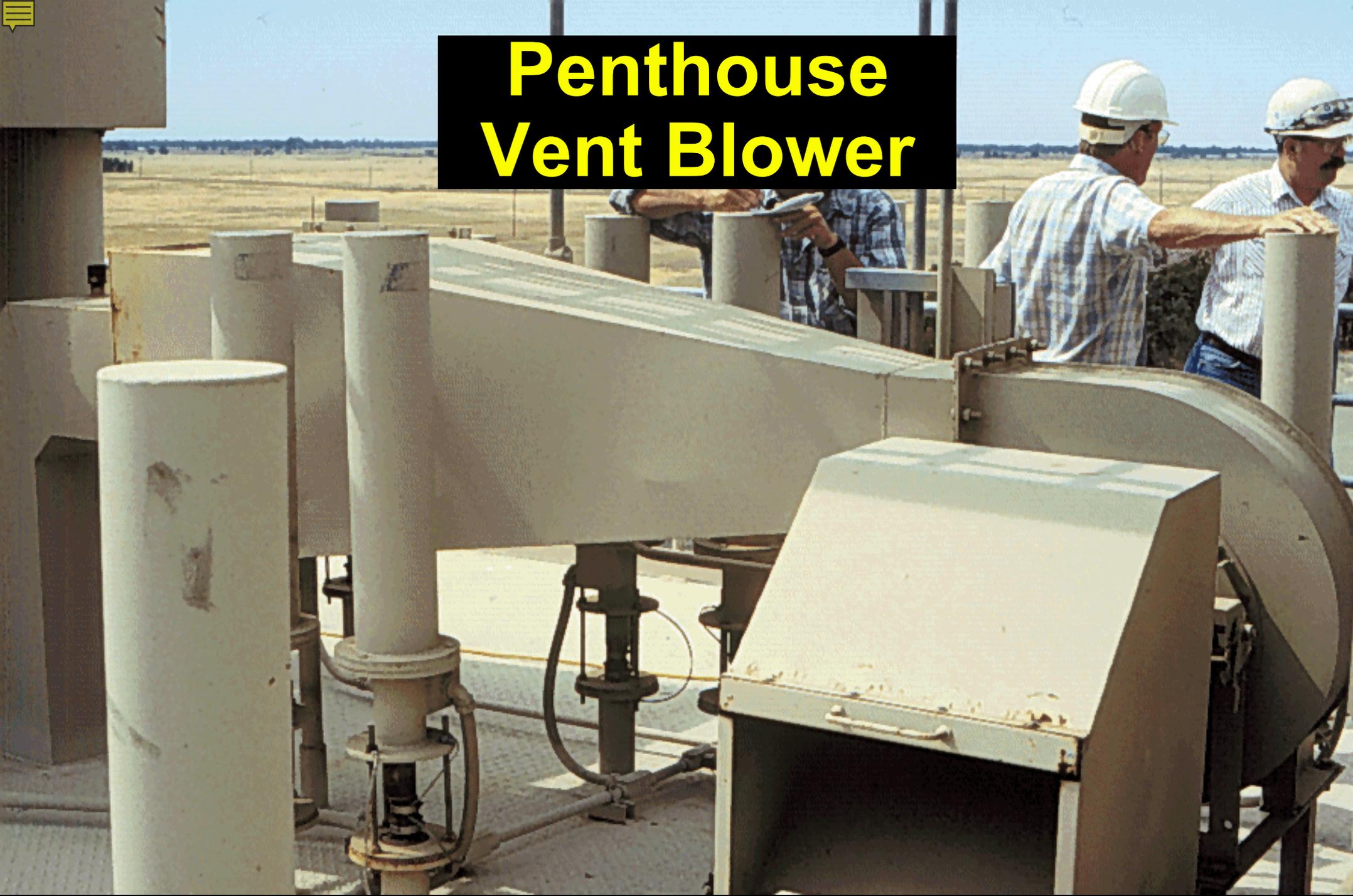
# Magnetic Impulse Rappers



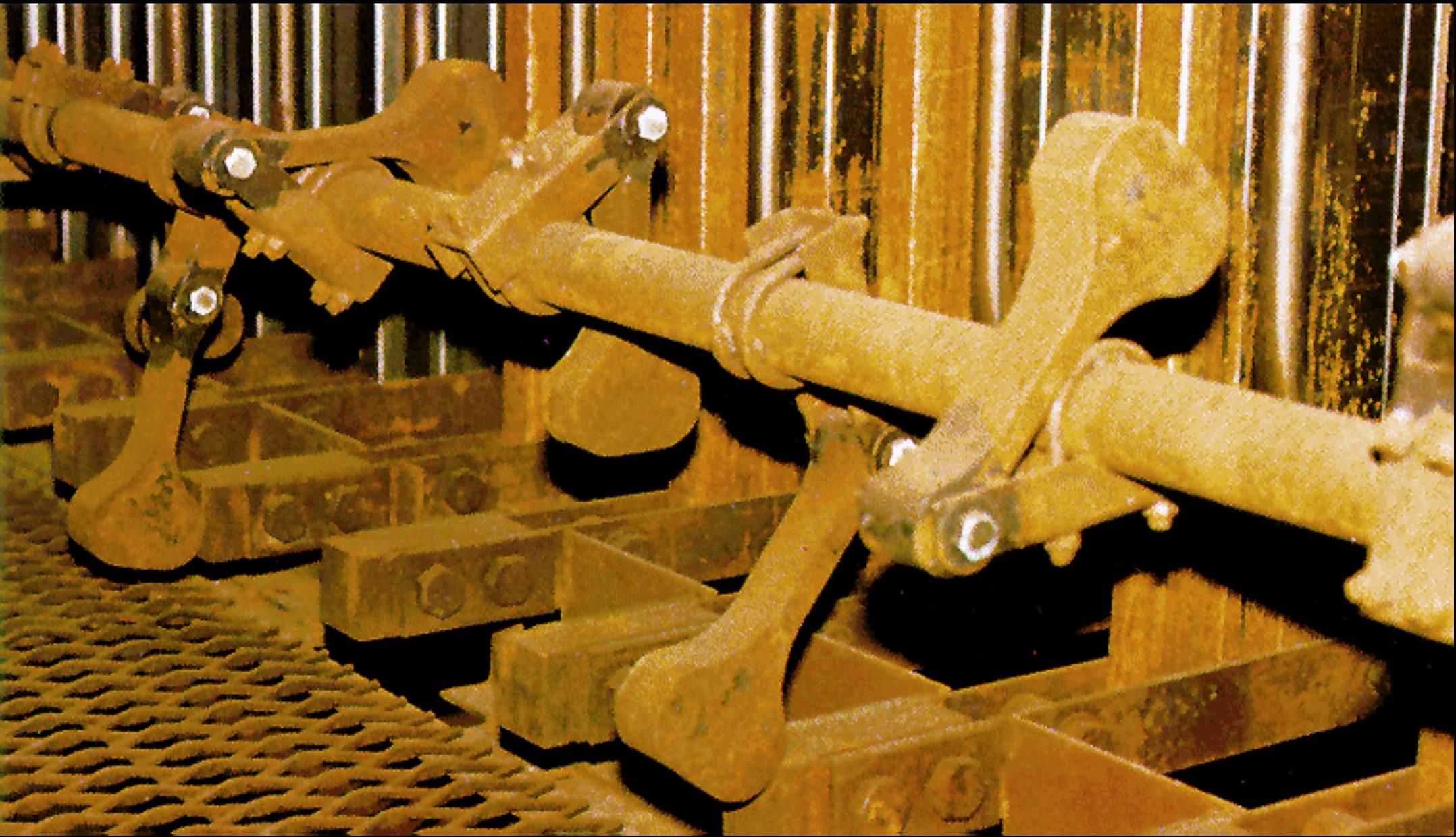
**Magnetic-Impulse  
Gravity-Impact  
(MIGI) Rapper**



# Penthouse Vent Blower



# Hammer-Anvil Rappers

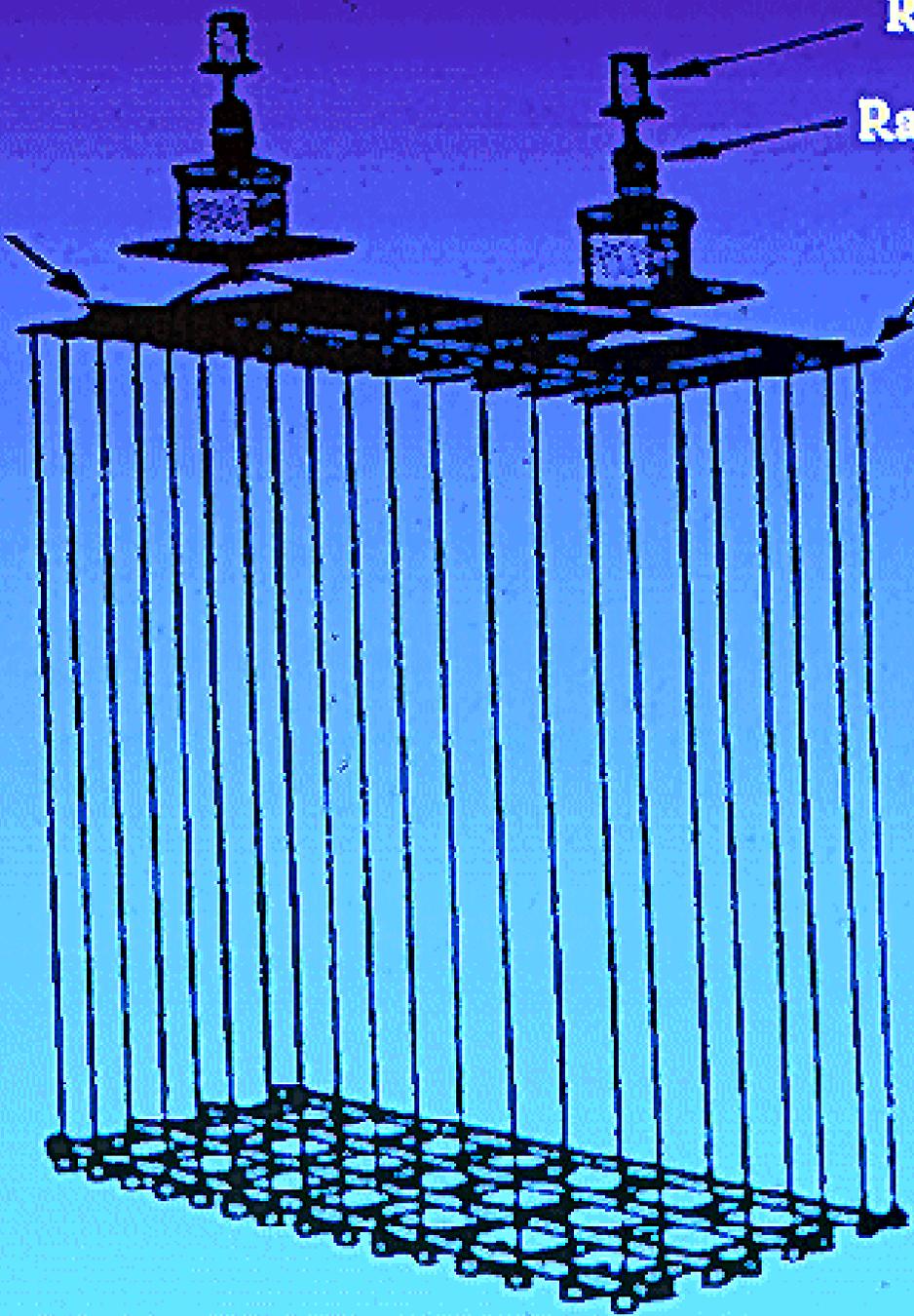


High Voltage Frame

Rapper

Rapper Insulator

Wire Support Channel



VIBRATOR  
RAPPERS FOR  
DISCHARGE  
ELECTRODES

# Research-Cottrell

SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY

## MICROPROCESSOR RAPPER CONTROL

LOCAL	INTENSITY	RAP/VIB #	ALARM
•	300	026	
REMOTE			CPU FAIL

CLOCK #	HOURS	MINUTES	SECONDS
06	00	02	10

### ALARM CODES

- A0—STOP
- A1—MANUAL CLOCK DISABLE
- A2—MANUAL RAPPER DISABLE
- A3—LOW LEVEL ALARM
- A4—MEDIUM LEVEL ALARM
- A5—HIGH LEVEL ALARM

SELECT	STEP	REPEAT	SEQ
0	1	2	3
CYCLE DOWN	STEP DOWN	INTEN	INTEN UP
4	5	6	7
# OF RAPS	ENABLE	CODE	ALARM CHECK
8	9	.	—
CLEAR	LOCAL REMOTE	ENTER	START STOP

### FUNCTIONS

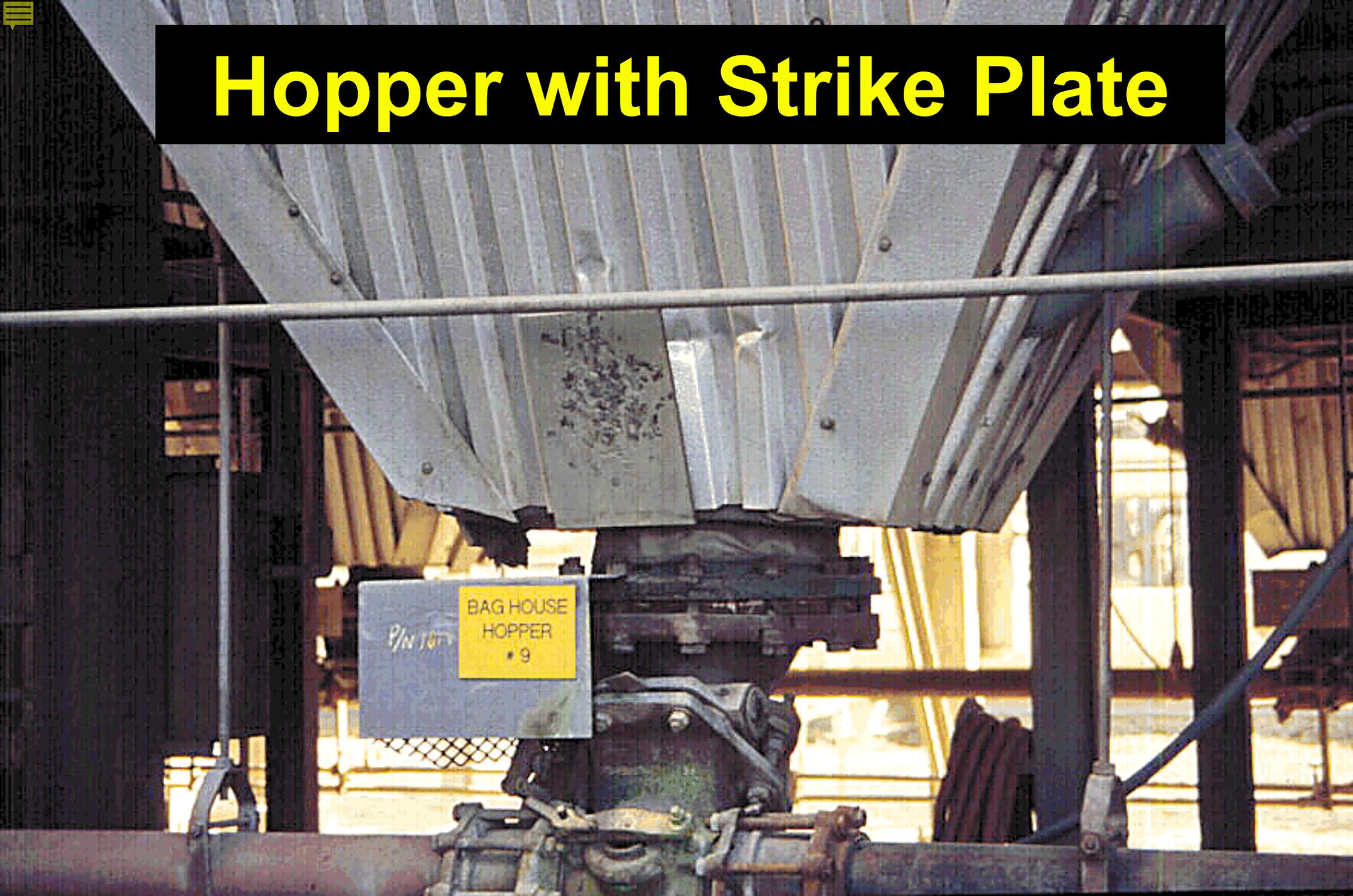
- A6—SEQUENCE
- A7—REPEAT MODE

# Rapper Control Panel

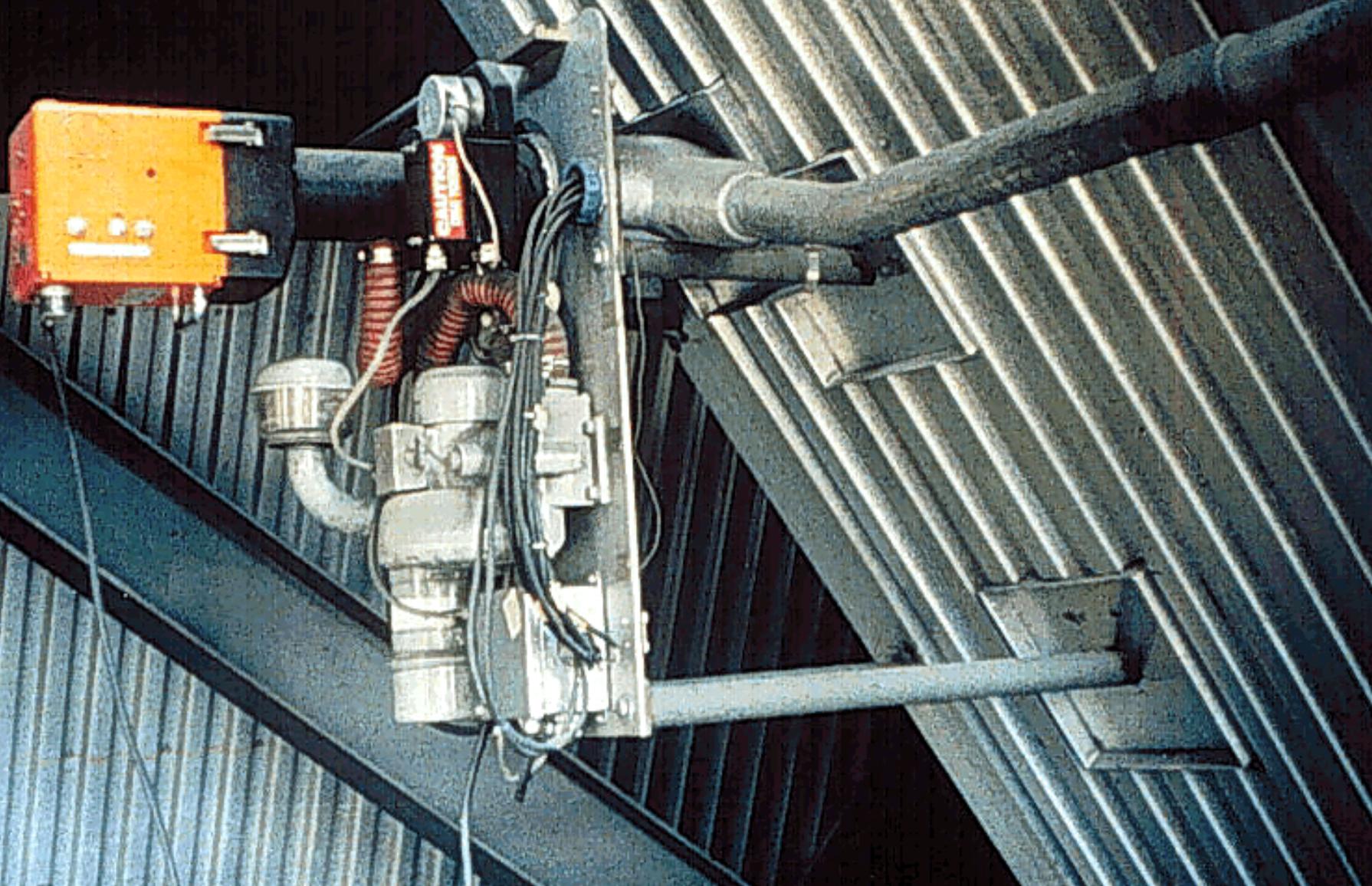
# Collection Hopper



# Hopper with Strike Plate



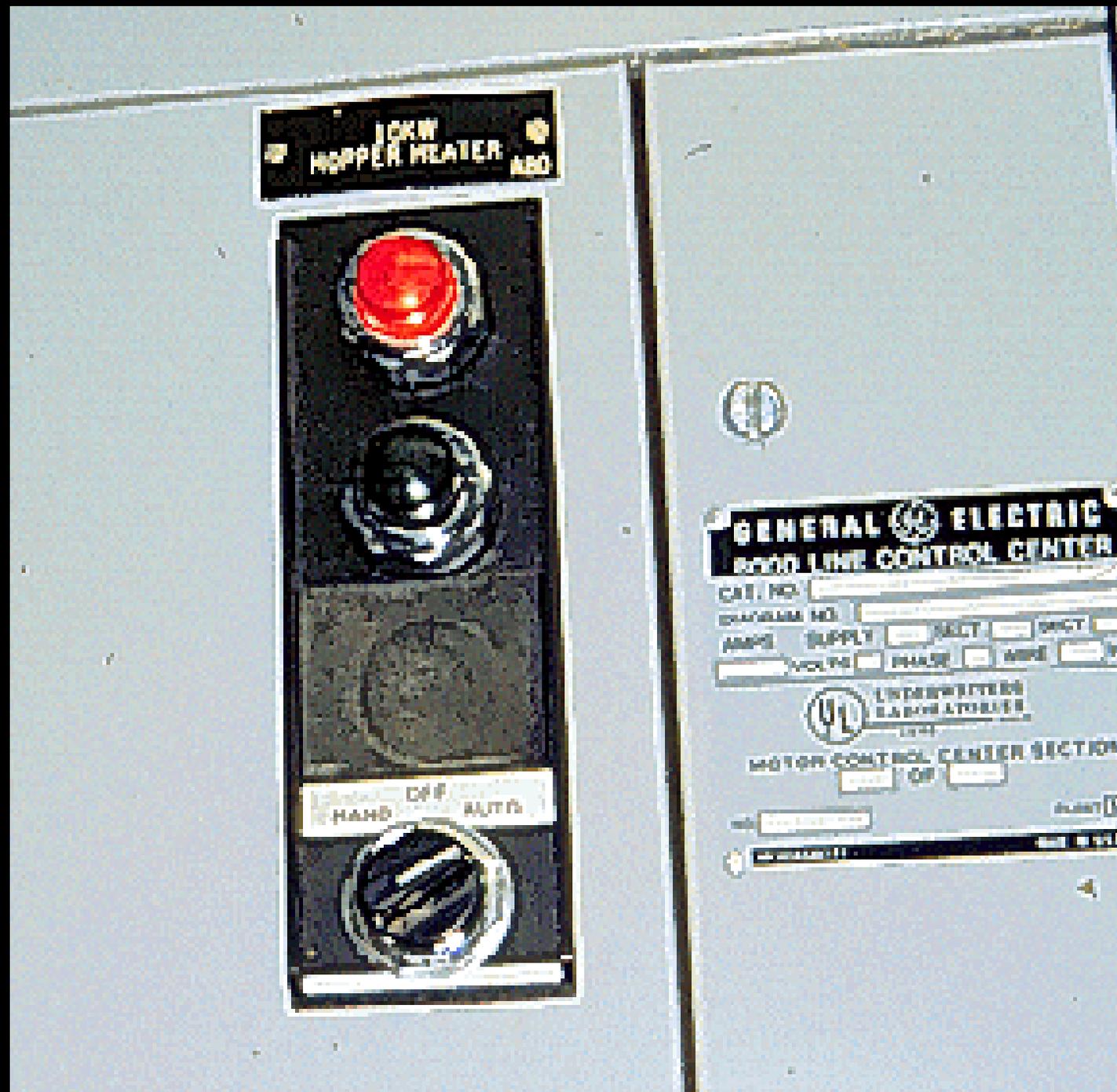
# Hopper Level Indicator System



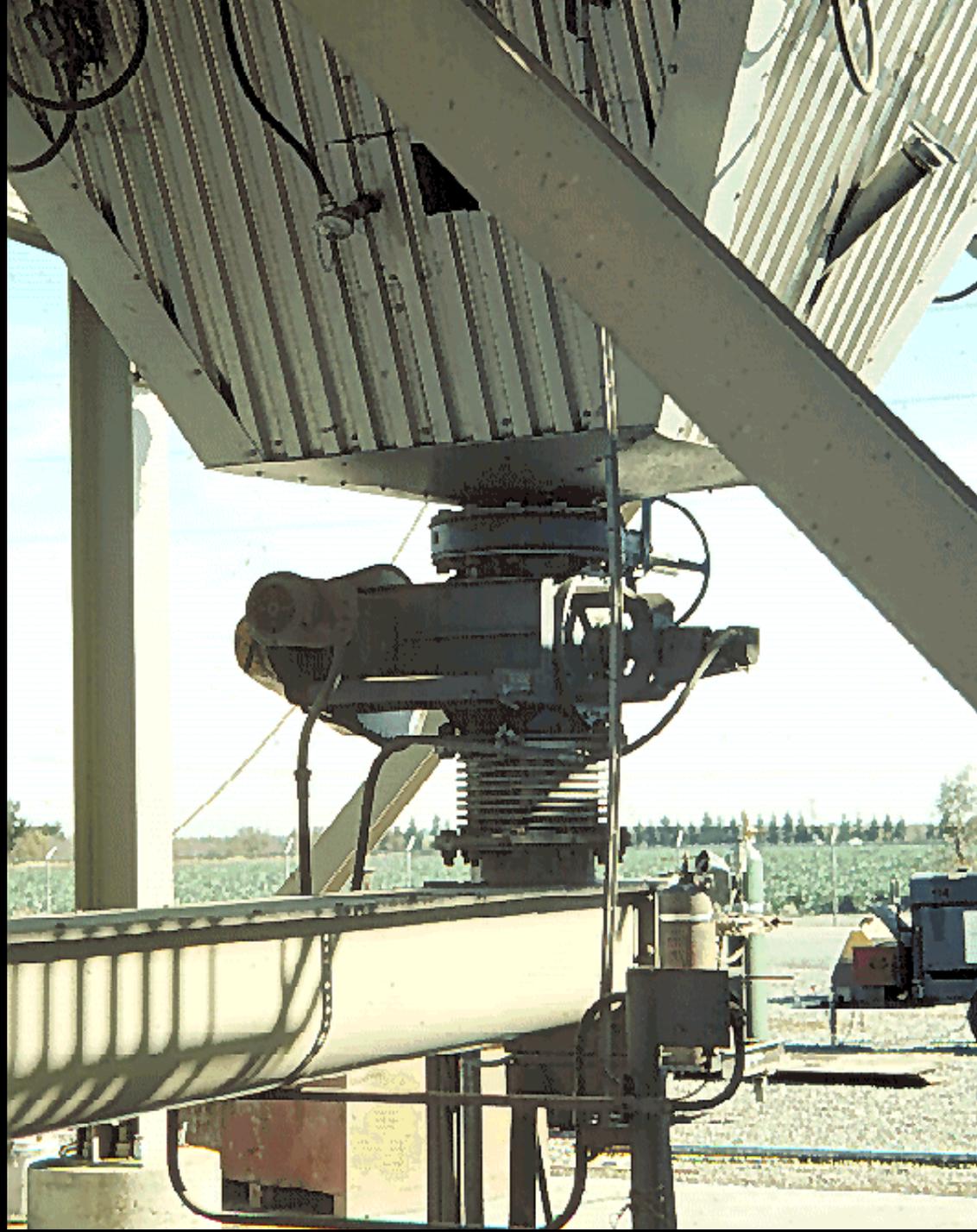
# Hopper Vibrator



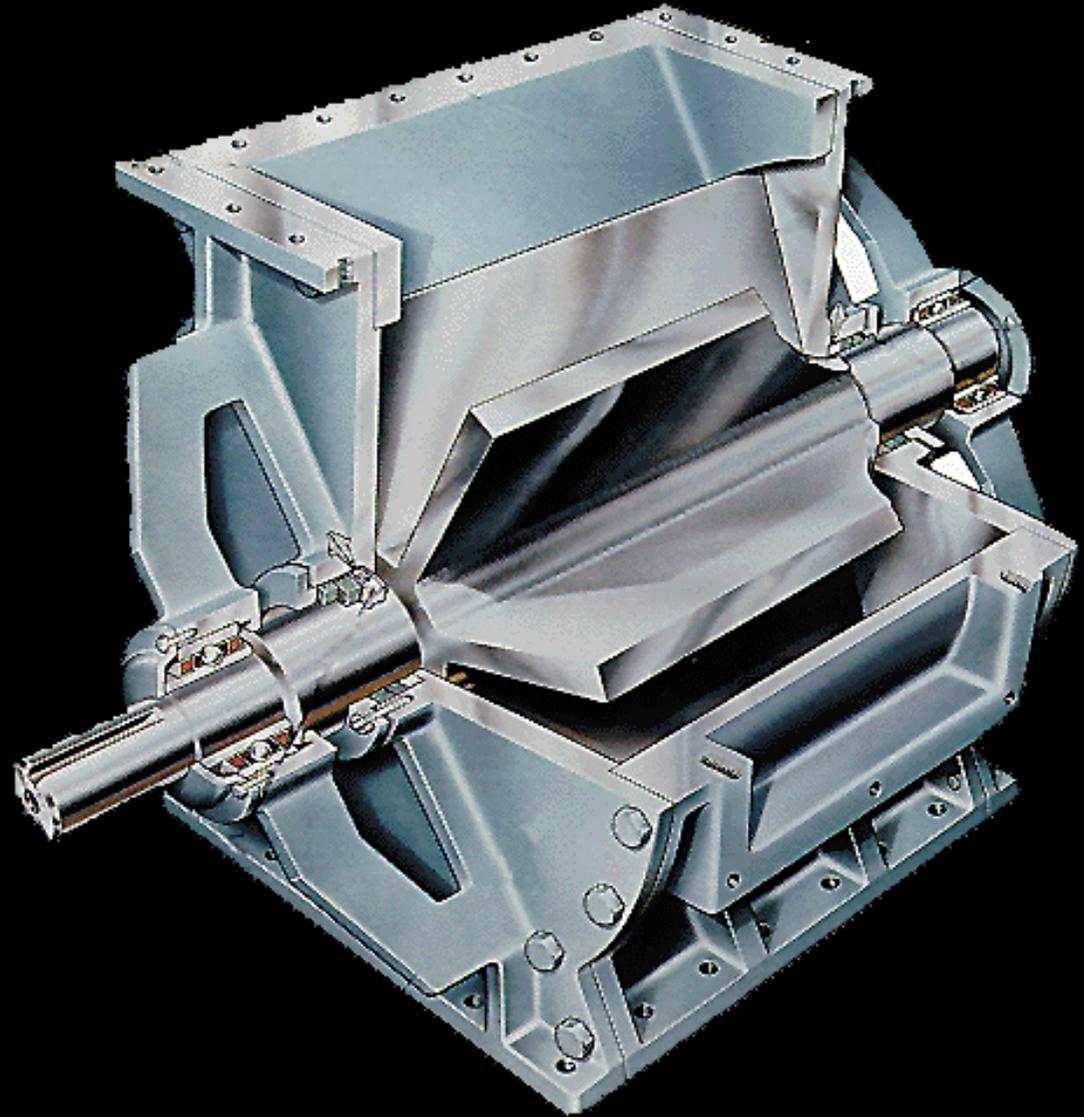
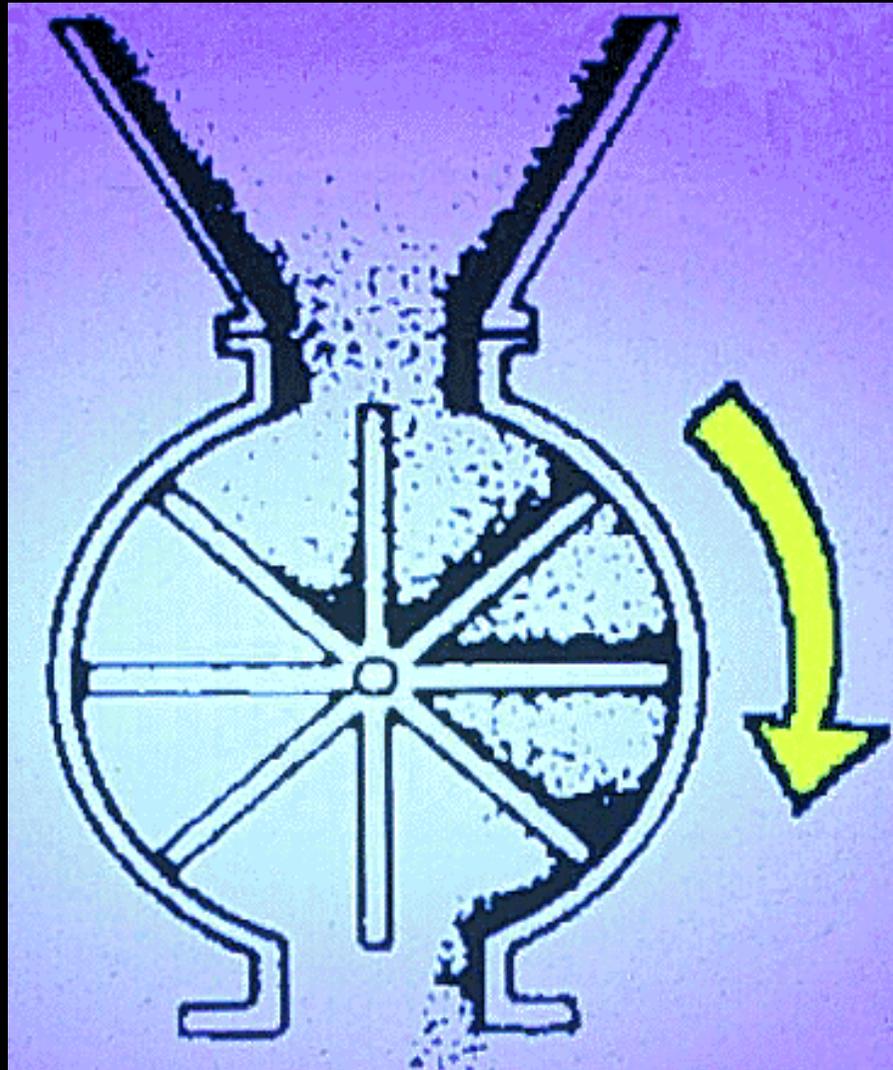
# Hopper Heater Control



# Airlock & Bin Screw



# Rotary Airlock Valve



# Pneumatic Dust Collection System





# Dust Discharge Problems



- **Inleakage**
- **Corrosion**
- **Dust Buildup**
- **Pluggage**
- **Fugitive Emissions**



# High Voltage Equipment



- **Transformer**
- **Rectifier**
- **Sensors**
- **Control System**





# Transformer-Rectifier (T-R Set)

- ***Transformer*** - Increases voltage at discharge electrodes
- ***Rectifier*** - Converts alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC)

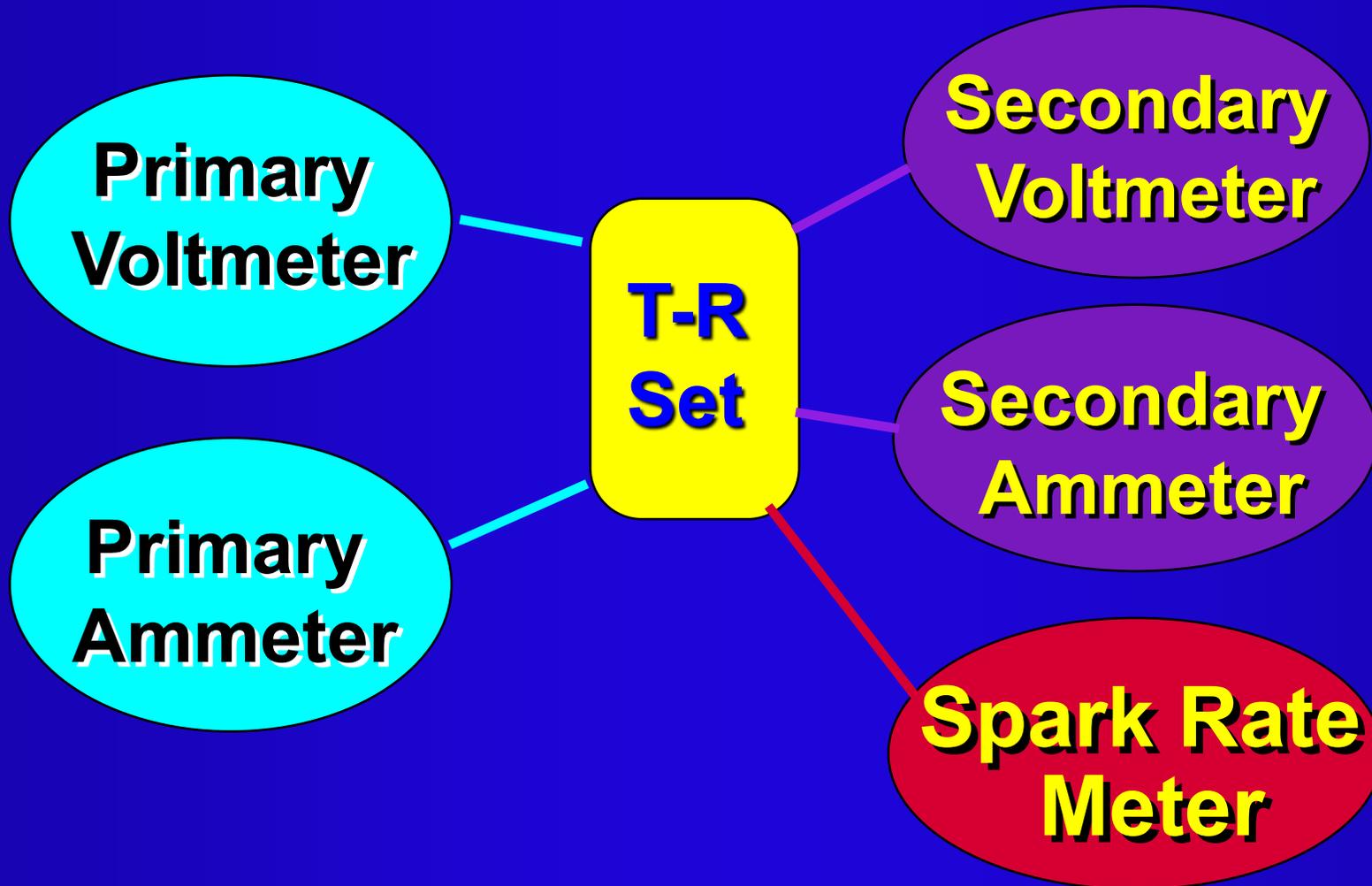


**Bus**

**Transformer-  
Rectifier Set**



# Sensors/Gauges





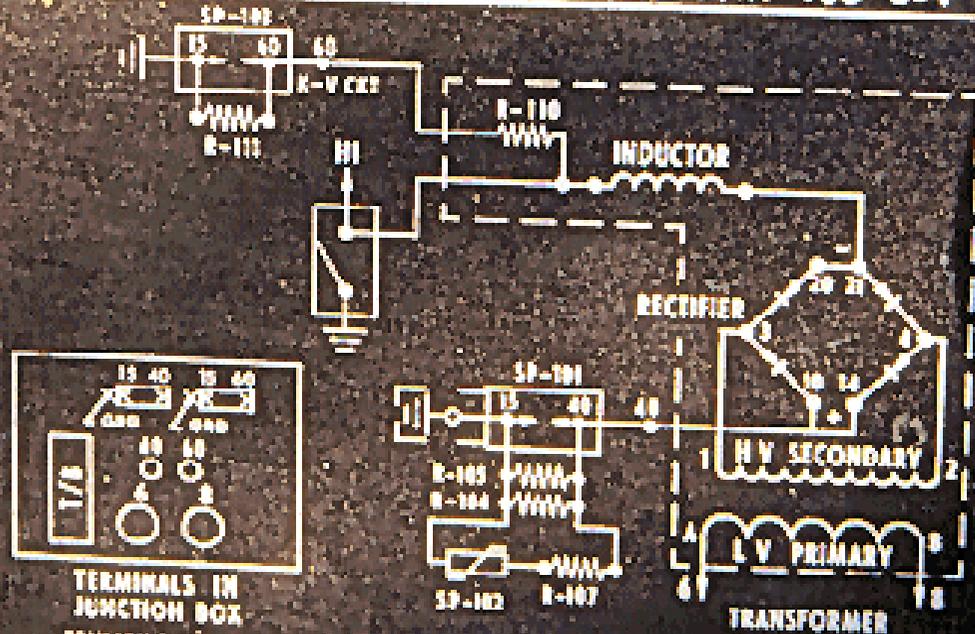
# Control System

- **Power Control Circuits**
  - ☒ **Voltage-Limit Control**
  - ☒ **Current-Limit Control**
  - ☒ **Spark Control**

# Research-Cottrell

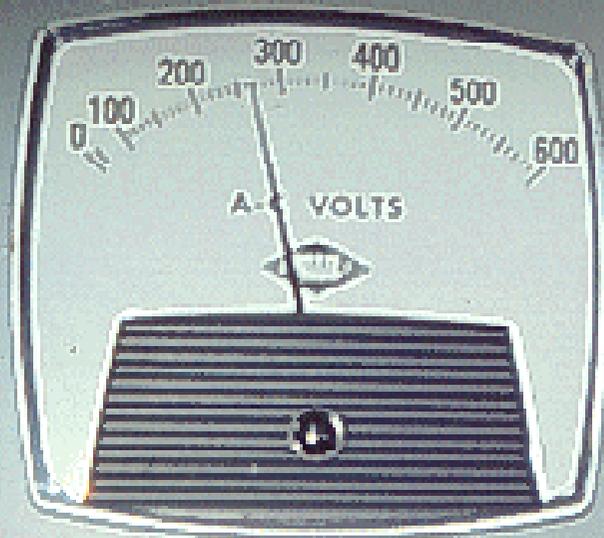
RECTIFIER		TRANSFORMER-RECTIFIER POWER UNIT	
TYPE - FULL WAVE BRIDGE		CLASS - LMAN	R - TEMP FLUID
55 KV. DC (FULL LOAD)		1 PHASE	60 HZ
750 MA 85 KV PEAK			3 IMP
TRANSFORMER		WEIGHTS	
MAX. AMBIENT 50° C		TRANS. AND RECTIFIER	1100 LB
LVA 58.7	55° C RISE	TANK AND FITTINGS	845 LB
LV 400 V.		FLUID 185 US GAL	1350 LB
HV 63175 V.		TOTAL	3295 LB
LV WDG. CURR 147 A.		S.O. 05E8945 EX BUILT 1969	
HV WDG. CURR 0.98 A.		SERIAL L050620 SIRT-100-284	

## T-R Set Spec. Plate



PRIMARY CIRCUIT MUST NOT BE OPENED OR CLOSED UNLESS PRECIPITATOR IS CONNECTED IN CIRCUIT. SECONDARY CIRCUIT MUST NOT BE OPENED UNDER LOAD. PEAK SURGE CURRENT OR MAXIMUM SHORT CIRCUIT CURRENT MUST NOT EXCEED 15 AMPERES FOR 10 CYCLES. TANK MUST BE SECURELY GROUNDED BEFORE CONNECTING INTO CIRCUIT.

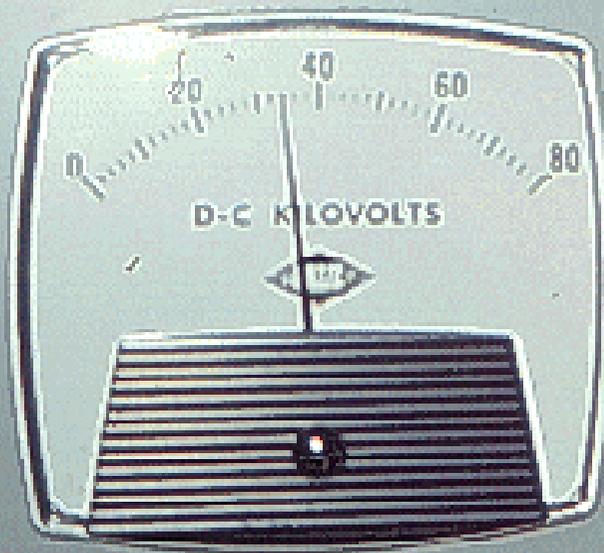
# Analog Gauges



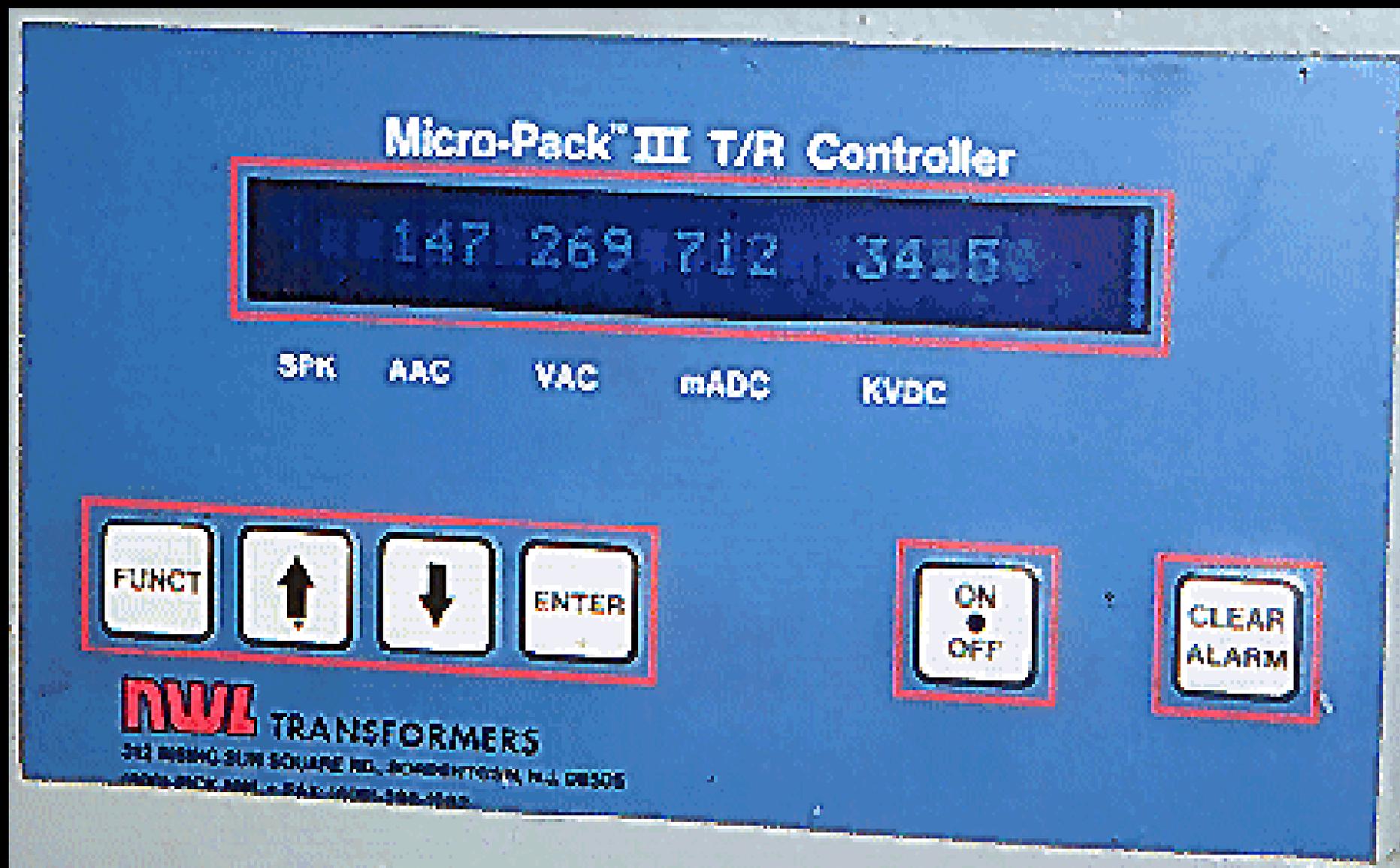
POWER ON



H.V. ON



# Digital Readouts

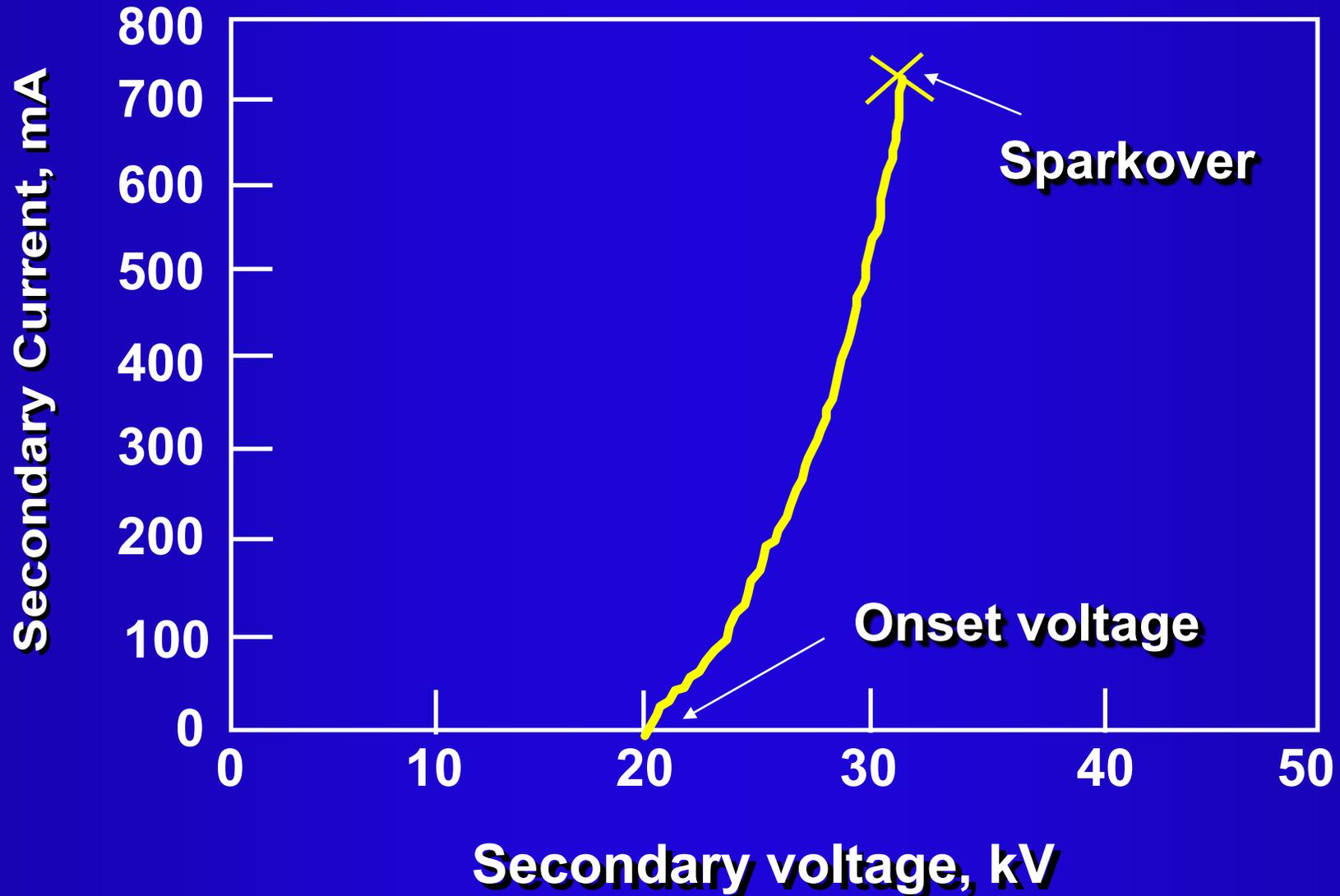


# Performance Monitoring

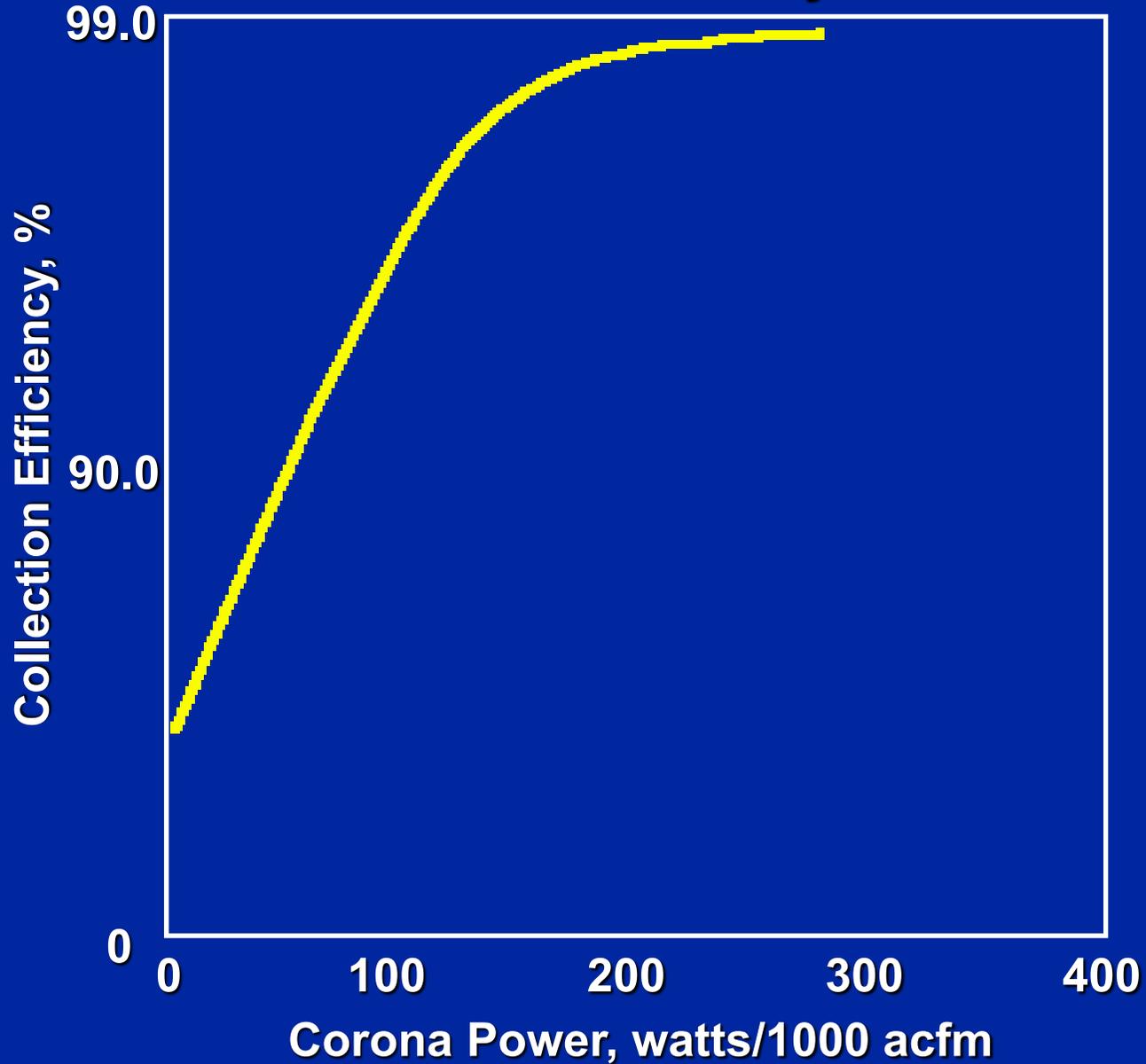
- **Air Load Testing**
- **Gas Load Testing**
- **Opacity**
- **Corona Power**
- **Spark Rate**



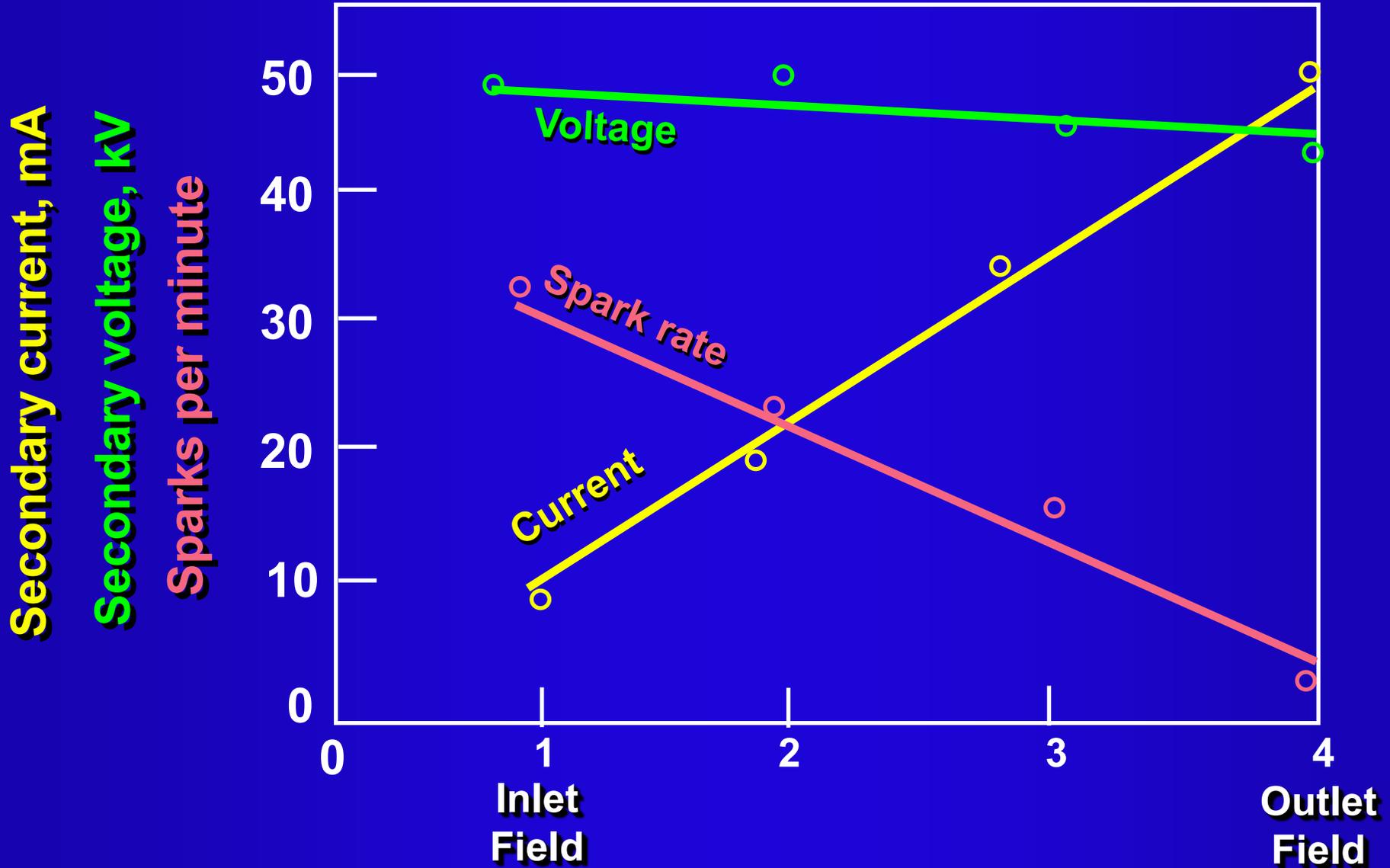
# Voltage-Current (V-I) Curve



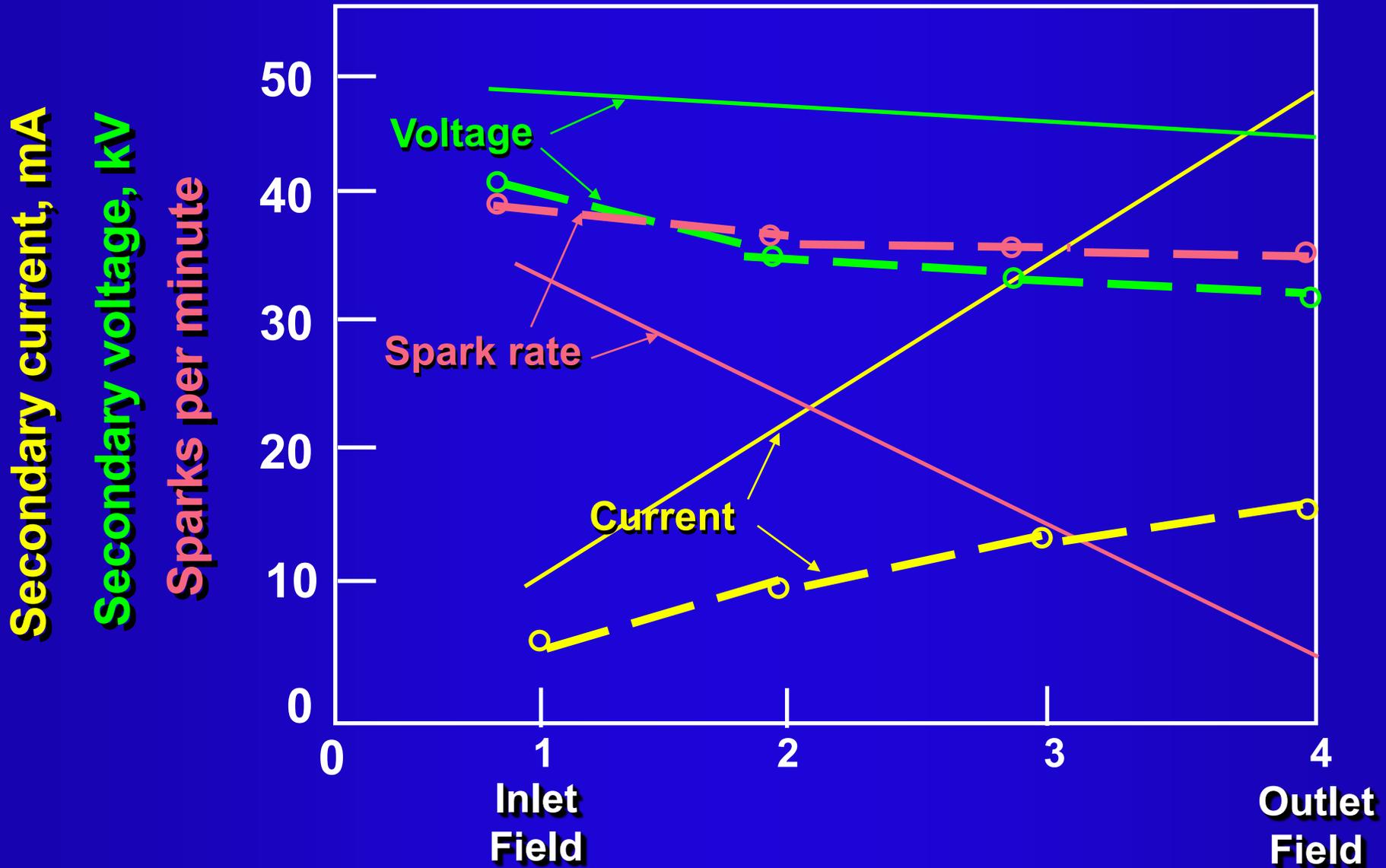
# Corona Power versus Collection Efficiency for Coal-Fired Utility Boiler



# Baseline Conditions



# High Resistivity Shifts from Baseline





# Common Problems

- ❑ **Resistivity**
- ❑ **Hopper Pluggage or Overflow**
- ❑ **Misalignment or Warpage**
- ❑ **Insulator Failure**
- ❑ **Discharge Electrode Failure**
- ❑ **Air Inleakage**
- ❑ **Corrosion**
- ❑ **Rapping System Problems**
- ❑ **Control System Failures**
- ❑ **Particle Size and Concentration**



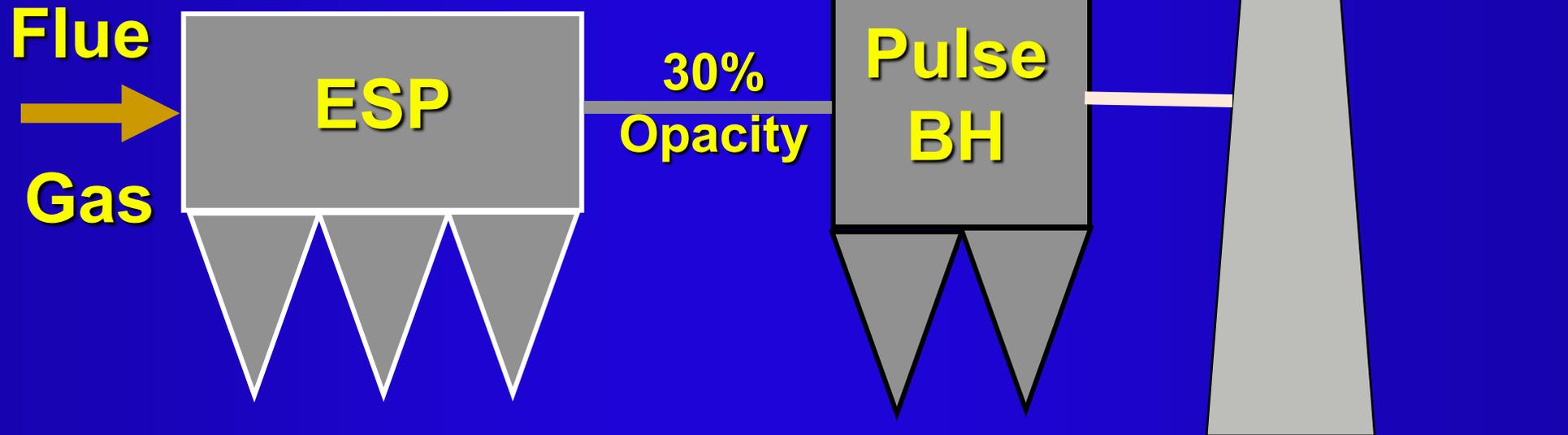
# Enhancing ESP Efficiency



- **Wide plate spacing**
- **Pulse energization**
- **Automatic voltage controls**
- **Improved flow conditions**
- **Optimal rapper timing**
- **Flue gas conditioning**
- **COHPAC**

# COHPAC

(Compact Hybrid Particulate Collector)





# INSPECTING ESPs



# Typical Permit Conditions



- **Opacity limits**
- **Grain loading limits**
- **Ranges of ESP inlet & outlet temperatures**
- **Minimum total corona power**
- **Maximum process rate**
- **Recordkeeping requirements**
- **CEM requirements**
- **Maximum allowable pressure drops**
- **Limit on the number of fields offline**



# **Air Pollution Control System Points of Inspection**

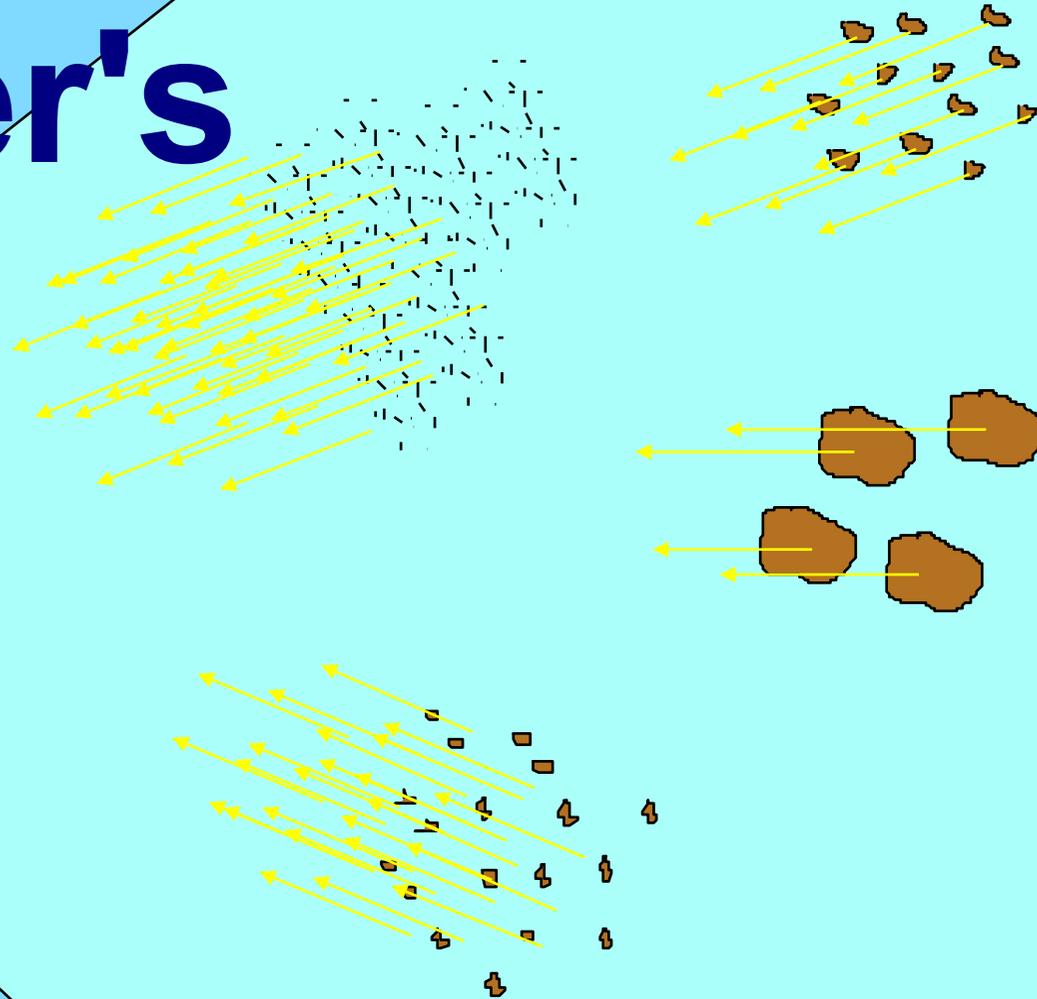
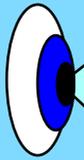
- ✦ **System Entrance/Exit**
- ✦ **Transport**
- ✦ **Air Mover**
- ✦ **Control Device**
- ✦ **Instrumentation**
- ✦ **Subsystem**
- ✦ **Records**



# Observe Stack Effluent

- **Opacity vs. Mass Emissions**
- **Plume Color**
- **Vapor Plume**
- **Puffing**

# Bouguer's Law



As particle size  
gets smaller,  
reflective surface  
area increases





# Perform External Inspection



- **T-R Sets**
- **Rappers & Vibrators**
- **Insulators**
- **Shell**
- **Access Doors**
- **Ductwork**



**Note Exposed Insulation**







# Evaluate Ash Handling Procedures

- **Evacuation rate**
- **Level alarms operating**
- **Hopper temperature**
- **Ash buildup**







**Ash  
Storage  
Silo**

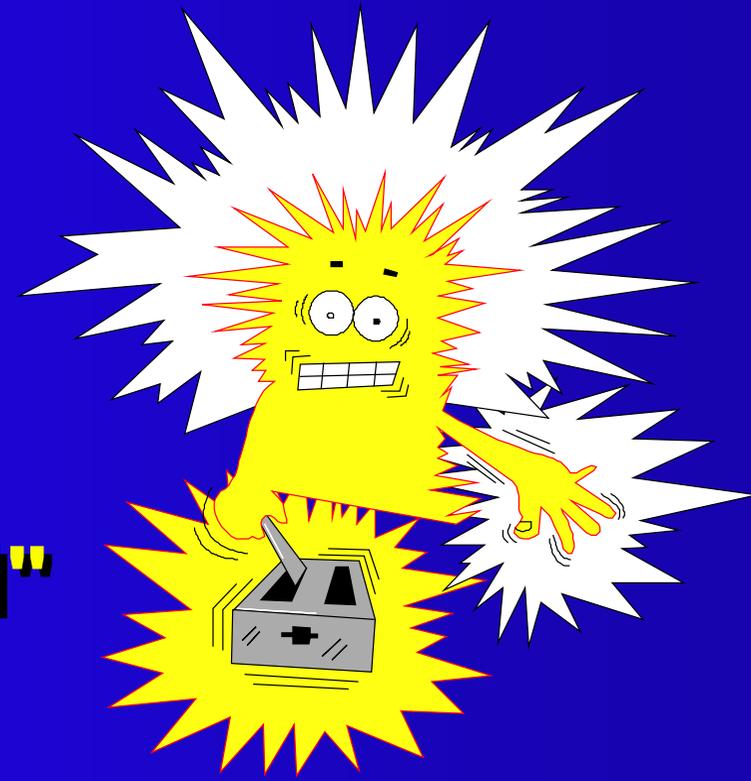


# Instrumentation

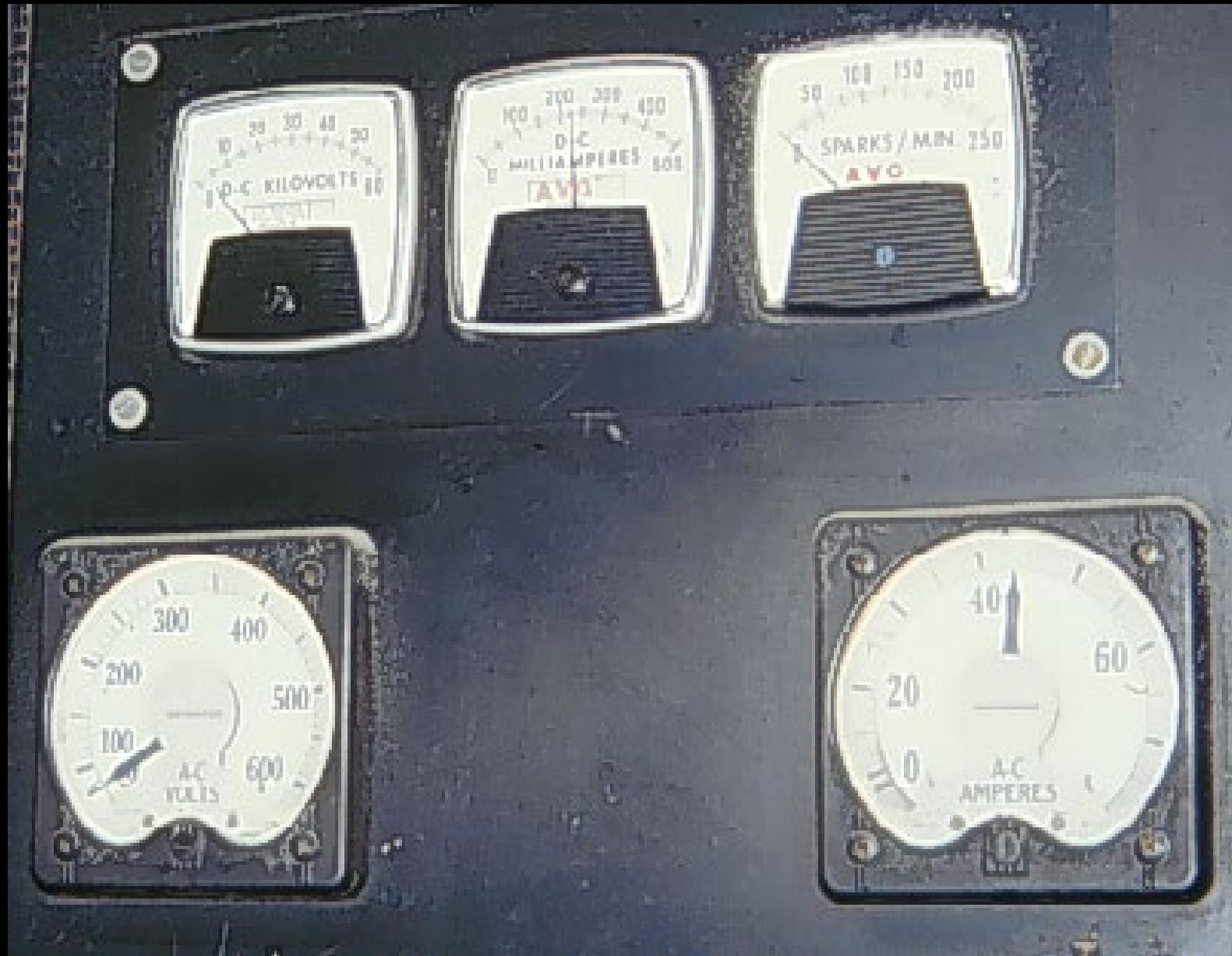
- **Power Input:**
  - 1°/2° Voltage; 1°/2° Current; Spark Rate**
- **Gas Flow & Temperature**
- **Rapper Frequency/Intensity**
- **Hopper Dust Level Indicator/Alarm**
- **Opacity Monitor**
- **Oxygen Monitor**

# Check High Voltage System Operation

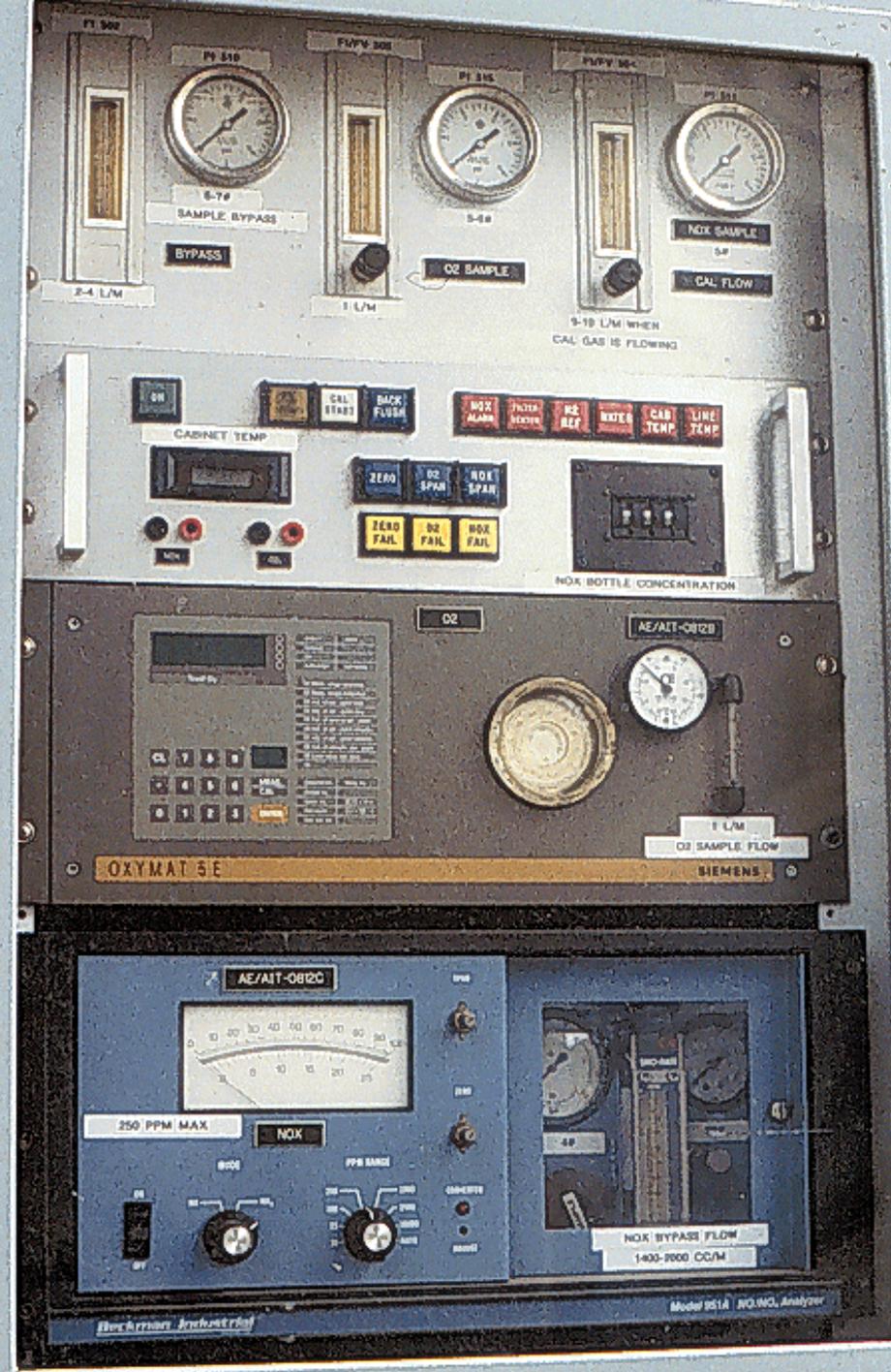
- **Observe control panels**
- **Check log for drift in electrical data**
- **Note inoperative meters**
- **Note T-R sets on "manual" and "auto"**



# Analog Gauges



# CEM System Readouts & Controls





# Review Recordkeeping



- **Design Specifications**
- **Operating Data & Records**
- **Inspection & Maintenance Records**
- **Component Failure Records**

# Safety





3.8 100

**CAUTION**

BEFORE YOU START  
LOCKOUT  
FOR  
SAFETY



**THE**

**END**

