CASE STUDY • POWER GENERATION

POWER COMPANY ACCURATELY MEASURES AIR FLOW IN LARGE DUCTS AND INCREASES GENERATION EFFICIENCY

Customer

Large power plant in the USA

Application

Airflow profile in large rectangular ducts

Challenge

The customer needed a way to accurately measure airflow in order to improve combustion efficiency and reduce emissions. In the past, the power plant was inferring secondary airflow from fan curves. These inferred measurements were only 25 percent accurate at times.

The rectangular duct measured 4-ft. by 5-ft. making traditional measurement technologies, such as nozzles, very expensive. In addition, the large duct cross section and short straight duct runs created high variability in the flow profile across the duct.

Lack of accurate airflow measurement resulted in excess combustion air being used to limit emissions. This lead to excess fuel consumption to heat the excess air. It also reduced combustion temperatures leading to a higher heat rate. In addition, higher airflow rates lead to higher utility costs to run the fans.

Results

- Reduced fuel cost
- Reduced heat rate
- Reduced utility and project costs
- Increased megawatt generation

Rosemount 485 Annubar Primary Element

EMERSON™

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Solution

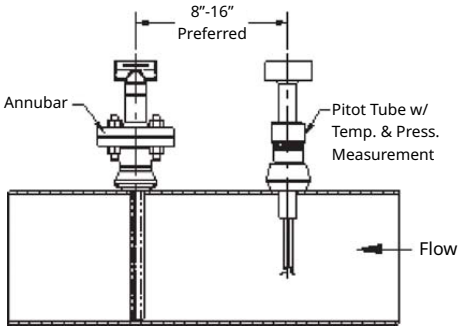
The Rosemount™ Annubar™ primary element was introduced as a cost effective way to achieve accurate flow measurement in this difficult application. Because the ducting was large and rectangular, it was recommended that two primary elements be placed parallel to each other across the shorter span of the duct. This would allow a larger section of the flow profile to be sampled.

The flow consultant also recommended that a pitot traverse be performed to determine the true nature of the flow. In certain applications where the duct is irregular or there is a disturbance upstream of the flow element, it is good practice to perform an inline calibration to understand the flow profile and calculate a correct K factor. This involves sampling the flow at multiple points and under varying flow rates using a single point pitot tube. Using this technique, the true nature of the flow profile can be determined.

Using a single point pitot, the field service personnel were able to verify a flow coefficient for the annubar and offer the customer an accuracy of ±5 percent.

The customer achieved many positive business results, the first of which was a 10 percent reduction in fuel consumption. By reducing excess combustion air, the heat rate was also reduced. Finally, by lowering the demand on the fans, utility costs were reduced and the utility was able to increase megawatt generation to the grid.

Primary elements and the traverse test points in the duct



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