#### Integrated Boiler Management Through Advanced Condition Monitoring and Component Assessment

**DE-FE0031683** 



Design ➡ Build ➡ Verification Testing ➡ Full-Scale Plant Demonstration ➡ Analyze ➡ Transfer to Industry





# Project Objectives and Status



#### Project Objectives

- Develop, demonstrate, and support technology transfer of an integrated boiler management system to track accumulation of creep and fatigue damage
  - Includes development of high-temperature fiber-optic distributed sensing
  - Near real-time damage assessment
- Improved boiler operation in concert with existing plant data and processes

Current Status

- Development of integrated boiler management system complete
- Fiber-optic distributed sensing development continues
- Host-site demonstration of integrated boiler management system planned for 4Q 2020
- Demonstration of fiber-optic distributed sensors delayed until 2021



#### Project Partners



Project Partners and Responsibilities

- Project prime (EPRI)
  - Overall project management
  - Coordination of partner activities
  - Coordination with host site for demonstration
- High-temperature, distributed fiber-optic sensors (Sentek Instrument LLC)
- Creep-Fatigue Management System (Structural Integrity Associates)
  - Fiber-optic sensor output
  - Existing plant instrumentation
- Host-site demonstration (AEP)





Creep-Fatigue Management System Structural Integrity Associates



#### Temperature Variability During Flex Ops



Fossil plants are increasingly required to operate in more flexible operating modes:

- More startups & shutdowns
- More partial load operation

Expected to cause accelerated fatigue- and creep-related damage

Increases significance of tracking equipment condition for:

- Minimizing failures
- Optimizing replacement schedules
- Optimizing inspection timing





# Role of Integrated Life Management



Most relevant and up-to-date information can help reduce analysis uncertainty:

- Material properties
- Stress state
- Operating data/environment

Integrated approach

- Determination of material 'condition'
  - Stress, strain, temperature, etc. (innovative sensor technologies)
  - Track damage accumulation in key components
- Life assessment tools needed <u>Advanced Condition Monitoring</u>



# Online Damage Monitoring



Modular configuration to leverage existing technology

- Connection to plant historian (OSIsoft:PI)
- Finite element software (Abaqus)
- Damage constitutive models (EPRI)
- Web-based interface (PlantTrack)

Scalable system adaptable to any component or damage mechanism

- Python scripting in Abaqus
  - Automation of FE analysis and postprocessing
- Connectivity between applications
  - Data exchange and display





# Secondary Superheat Outlet Headers



#### Demonstration site: AEP Amos Plant, Unit 3 (1973)

Overall view of the front secondary superheat outlet header (SSOH) and a cross-section through an assembly with a steam cooled spacer tube (SCST)

- 73 tube assemblies across the length of each header (two SSOH's).
- Each assembly has 10 tube penetrations.
- Three steam cooled spacer tubes (SCST) along the front header length and 1 SCST on the rear SSOH.





#### Borehole Ligament Crack Depths from ID



SSOH selected because of known history of ligament cracking, particularly the assemblies with SCSTs

Example cross-section shown from one of the assemblies with known ID connected cracking

Far right shows borescope image of ID ligament cracking



Maximum measured crack depths in the ligaments





## 3D Finite Element Analysis

Stress contour plots generated from initial fitness-for-service (FFS) assessment

ID tube borehole edges experience high tensile and compressive stresses during cycling which leads to thermal fatigue damage and ligament cracking

 Caused by top-to-bottom temperature differentials which in turn causes constrained thermal stresses at tube borehole edges







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Mechanism of damage and cracking shown to be thermal fatigue based on the pattern, location, and supporting FE analysis.

- Most significant cracking observed adjacent to SCST
- Typical start-up/shutdown cycles experienced by the header do not explain the damage.
  - Condensate entering from the SCST offered one plausible explanation as to why the damage would be localized to the SCST assemblies

Not sufficient local thermocouple data to assess the temperature response that may be leading to the damage

- Local temperature sensor thermocouples (TC's) mounted on the steam cooled spacer tubes (SCST's) to quantify frequency and magnitude of local transients
- Critical for tuning the FEA model to simulate operating (thermal) data



#### New Temperature Instrumentation



AEP installed new temperature sensors across the header concentrated around the SCST's





#### Example Thermal Shock During Startup



Snippet of temperature data from the thermocouples during unit startups

SCST much cooler temperature than the adjacent tubes

At approximately 9:30, the tubes experience a significant downshock to SCST Temp





#### Opportunity for Integrated Boiler Management System



Thermocouples provide frequency and magnitude of local transients, however additional FE analyses required quantify the stresses, strains, and damage from each

No way to quantify the relative significance that partial improvements have on damage accumulation rates

Opportunity to leverage existing FE model and configure a near real-time damage tracking solution that accounts for most recent operating data

- Tracking locations with known damage
- Tracking damage development in locations where wear-out failures are expected
- Especially relevant given the age of the fleet and the increasing demand toward flex-ops.

Increased accuracy possible through local strain gauges

Allow material properties to be fine-tuned



# Strain Gauge Instrumentation



Local strain gauges planned to be installed during the upcoming outage

Results will not drive the FE model directly but will provide basis for modifications to FE material properties, and/or thermal boundary conditions

Figure shows additional instrumentation that EPRI will install to complement this project (supported outside this project)



Blue - Suprock Strain Gauges 1,2 and 3.



#### Condition Monitoring Software Architecture



#### Analytics Framework







#### Key components of the Analytics



<u>Connectors</u>: Standard data connectors that can used to pull data from data historians. We continue adding to this as required for other data historians.



<u>Analytics Library</u>: We build the analytics in a way that they can be used from the analytics engine or web/desktop UI.



<u>Analytics Engine</u>: This engine is used to orchestrate getting the data from the source, executing the analytic and pushing the results to PlantTrack.

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Solution 'AIMS.Analytics.Engin	e' (6 projects)
♦ a Call AIMS.Analytics.WindowEng	jine
▷ aca Analytics.Job	
▶ ■ C= Analytics. Job. Calculations	
▷ aca Analytics.Job.Common	
▷ a C Analytics.Job.Test	
▷ a C= Analytics.Logs	



# Flow Diagram of Real-Time Analysis



High-level view of analysis process

Following slides show snippets from the job orchestration and component configuration files





#### Job Orchestration

}



```
"backgroundJobs": {
 "download": true,
 "process": true,
 "upload": true
},
"path": {
  "jobRootPath": "C:\\PlantTrack\\PlantTrackAnalyticsJob\\Demo\\",
 "inputFolderName": "Input",
 "workingFolderName": "Working",
 "outputFolderName": "Output",
  "inputArchiveFolderName": "Input Archive",
 "outputArchiveFolderName": "Output Archive",
 "componentConfigFolderName": "ComponentConfig"
},
"source": {
  "connectorType": "piserver",
 "serviceUrl": "http://155.109.19.244:8081/",
  "userName": "structI",
 "password": "*****"
},
"schedule": {
 "scheduleType": "Frequency",
 "scheduleTime": "",
 "scheduleFrequencyHours": "24",
  "nextRunTime": "8/12/2020 2:00:00 AM"
},
"destination": {
 "connectorType": "Planttrack",
 "password": "****",
 "userName": "planttracksupport@structint.com",
 "serviceBaseUrl": "https://planttrack.structint.com/PlantTrackAPI/",
 "serviceName": "api/Data/SaveAnalyticsData",
 "subDomain": "Demo"
```



# **Component Configuration**



```
"Component Type": "Header",
"Component Name": "Superheat Outlet Header",
"Damage Mechanism": "AbaqusFatigue",
"Material": "Gr 22",
"Operating Data": {
  "Fields":
      "Field Name": "Temperature",
      "Field Tag": "3BAATE409",
      "Field Unit": "C",
      "Field Correction": 0,
      "Field Correction Unit": "C"
    },
      "Field Name": "Pressure",
      "Field Tag": "3BAAPT416",
      "Field Unit": "MPa"
    },
      "Field Name": "Flow Rate",
      "Field Tag": "HP1C-S006-MF",
      "Field Unit": "kg/s"
```

"Feature Geometry": { "Outer Diameter": 22.25, "Outer Diameter Unit": "in", "Wall Thickness": 3.5, "Wall Thickness Unit": "in", "Tube Outer Diameter": 2.0, "Tube Outer Diameter Unit": "in", "Tube Wall Thickness": 0.357, "Tube Wall Thickness Unit": "in", "Tube Axial Pitch": 20, "Tube Axial Pitch Unit": "in", "Tube Angular Distance": 28, "Tube Angular Distance Unit": "in", "Number of Tubes": 4, "Angle First Tube With Y Axis": 0.0, "Borehole Diameter": 1.875, "Borehole Diameter Unit": "in"



},

#### Scripted Model Generation





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY The flow chart to the left shows the processes orchestrated by Python scripts (which drive the FE program)

Scripts were written to generate typical header geometries

- Not all atypical geometries are accounted for by scripts
- Modular nature allows a user to manually modify a geometry generated by the scripts or utilize existing FE model

Following slides provide figures of specific stages in this process

#### FE Model Monitoring Locations



#### Finite Element Model Creation Process



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For monitoring damage and crack development on the axial and circumferential ligaments, stresses are extracted at three locations around each tube borehole (Left, Middle, Right)

23

#### FE Model Displacement Boundary Conditions



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#### FE Model Thermal Boundary Conditions





Surface film boundary conditions are applied to the ID surfaces for thermal transients

Surface film boundary conditions require:

#### • Sink temperature

• Measured steam temperature or a local tube temperature (with adjustments)

#### • Heat Transfer Film Coefficient

- Calculated based on the provided steam temperature, pressure, and steam flow rate.
- Dependent on the size of the flow path and flow





#### FE Model Pressure Loading

#### Finite Element Model Creation Process



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF

Internal pressure loading applied to the ID surfaces

End loads are also applied to the cut faces that don't have displacement boundary constraints to balance the internal pressure

> Internal Pressure

Blowoff (End Load) on Tube End Faces Blowoff (EndLoad) on Header Fnd Face that was coupled to remain planar



#### FE Model Mesh

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Multiple options in configuration for desired mesh refinement

Coarse mesh typically used for initial validation

Fine mesh is typically used for final analysis and continual results trending

Meshed with quadratic reduced integration brick elements



20 - node element

#### Screenshot of example analysis







#### Crack Modeling



# Crack Modeling – XFEM Method



Possibility of using extended finite elements (XFEM) was investigated

Allows cracks to be modeled without requiring a specific crack tip mesh

- Doesn't require remeshing with crack growth
- Allows more natural crack shapes

Only mechanism for growth in current implementation is fatigue, does not support creep crack tip parameter measurement, Ct





Meshed Model with Crack showing that the Crack doesn't have to conform to mesh boundaries (i.e. Mesh Independent)

## Crack Modeling

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As a result of limitations with XFEM, explicit crack modeling was chosen

- Still provides improved crack tip solutions relative to simplified hand formulations.
- Allows measurement of creep crack tip
   parameters
- Requires simplification of crack shape (which cannot be measured precisely in the field anyway)
- Requires explicit crack tip mesh (circular partition around crack tip swept across ligament)w

The model shows typical natural ligament crack shape as a dotted white line along with the simplified crack shape in red.





#### PlantTrack Screenshots



## PlantTrack

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Existing web-based data management system which provides a graphical user interface for:

- location specific design data
- historical inspection results
- maintenance and repairs actions
- engineering data on either uploaded copies of design drawings or on 3D models

Used to perform subsequent engineering analyses/calculations to help:

- prioritize locations for future inspections
- aid in assessments of relevant damage mechanisms
- overall life management

The following slides provide screenshots from configuration of this project



Sample piping system with risk scores (0-100) from SI's Vindex prioritization approach

HP1W-W0-

HP1A-W24







#### Main Screen



The screenshot to the right shows the main PlantTrack screen

> On the left side of the screen as well • along the top, there is a file path or tree which shows which components have been configured or can be viewed.

N.

- File structure was built to allow • monitoring multiple locations across a plant or utility
- Clicking higher up in the tree would ٠ allow the most critical locations from the further down the tree to be summarized and compared so that multiple headers could be prioritized

Plant Track Structural Integrity Associates, Inc. Test User 《 AIMS / AEP / Amos / Unit 3 / Headers / Header1 AEP Filter: Records Projects Drawing Asset Details **Edit Details** AIMS Asset Type: Headers Name: Header1 AEP Amos Junit 3 **A** Notification Headers Asset Analytic Results Details Assembly 1 Tube 0 Creep 2 Maximum Tubes Assembly 1 0.00023940239 Instruments Tube 1 Creep Maximum Assembly 1 0.0778406262 Creep Maximum Assembly 1 0.0778406262 9 Creep Maximum Assembly 1 0.0778406262.9 1 Creep Maximum Assembly 1 0.07784057 % Tube 5 2 Creep Maximum Assembly 1 0.07784086 % Tube 6 Creep Maximum Assembly 1 0.0477671362 9 Tube 7 Creep Maximum Assembly 1 0.0477671362 %



# Drawings

Option to upload drawings of each component in order to show the locations being monitored or to use for tracking historic inspection data

The figures on this slide show the overall header geometry, tubes in an assembly, installed instrumentation

• Option to configure more locations as needed (e.g. hangers, socket welds, seam welds, etc.)









# **Geometry Creation**

Filter: Type here:

AA Plant

Hellyer Energy Center

Power Block 1
 Ileaders

Walnut Creek Energy Center

4 Header1

Header3

Header4

Header12

High Pressure Steam
 Hot Reheat Steam

Cold Reheat

Unit 3

Assembly 1 Header2

AIMS

← Edit Asset

As discussed in earlier sections, as part of this project an initial header geometry creation page was also configured

Once a user fills in the fields and clicks the "Create Geometry" option:

- Scripts launch Abaqus CAE
- Generate the model
- Attached PNG picture files here for verification







Save

Cancel
## Asset Details

Clicking asset details for a unit, plant, header, or assembly shows a list of monitored locations

The screenshot to the right shows that the Amos SSOH header was configured for:

- creep damage on each tube
- fatigue damage (which is currently summarizing the results of all the tubes though each tube's results can be seen by drilling down into this option)
- as well as strain gauge calculations and field measurements

In the future, screen will also show "predicted" crack size once explicit crack modeling has been finalized

• For each location, with and without cracks, there is also the option to upload ultrasonic inspection records showing the as-found crack sizes

1	PlantTrack " Streeters Integrity				Test User 👻						
>>	《 AIMS / AEP / Amos / Unit 3 / Headers / Header1				(AE)						
17	Filter: Type here.	Records Projects Drawing	Asset Details								
4	* AIMS		Edit Details								
	* AEP	Name Header1	Name: Header1 Asset Type: Headers								
405	4 Unit 3										
en .	* Headers	Online Monitoring.									
	Assembly 1	Asset	Analytic	Results	Details						
88	Tupes	Tube 0	Creep	Maximum	2						
	Tube 0 Tube 1	Assembly 1		0.00023940239 %							
	Tube 2. Tube 3	Tube 1 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.0778400262 %							
	Tube 4 Tube 5	Tube 2 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.0778406282.%	2						
	Tube 6 Tube 7	Tube 3 Assembly 1	Creep	Maximum 0.0778406252 %	Le .						
	Tube 8 Tube 9 Tube 10	Tube 4 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.07784057 %	12						
	Instruments Strain Gauge 1	Tube 5 Assembly 1	Стеер	Maximum 0.07734086 %	1er						
	Strain Gauge 2. Strain Gauge 3	Tube 6 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.0477671362 %	2						
	Strain Gauge 4	Tube 7 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.0477671362 %	12						
		Tube 8 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.047767(382 ♣)	Lee						
		Tube 9 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.8477671362 %	12						
		Tube 10 Assembly 1	Сгеер	Maximum 0.04776699%	2						
		Header1	Fatigue Life Consumed	Meximum 0.000549088 %	12						
		Strain Gauge 1 Assembly 1 / Instruments	Strain	Maximum -0.007634847	lee						
		Strain Gauge 2 Assembly 1 / Instruments	Strain	Maximum -0.007246636	12						
		Strain Gauge 3 Assembly 1 / Instruments	Strain	Maximum -0.006833034							
		Strain Gauge 4 Assembly 17 Instruments	Strain	Maximum -0.006828138	12						





# Chart Output

For each monitored location, there is an option to drill further down into the details of the calculations by clicking the details option

Plot both the operating data used for monitoring as well as calculated creep or fatigue life at a particular location

In the top left, there is an option to change the plot time range to drill down to specific startups/shutdowns/and or months

Also option to switch from the chart to tabular results







# Creep Damage

The screenshot to the right shows the tabular results mentioned on the last slide for creep damage

• Export results option which provides the user with an excel file of all the analytic results to interrogate further

Chart Analysis	e Doculto M	lonitoring Data			
art Date	End Date				
09/14/2019	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ОК		Export Result:
how 10 v entries				Search:	
DateTime 💡	Temperature (F)	Pressure (Mpa)  🖨	Stress (Mpa)	Creep Damage (%)	Oxide Thickness (mil)
07/13/2020 07:00:00	160.7	0.02899935	0.05224425	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 06:00:00	162.117	0.0306403022	0.0552005321	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 05:00:00	164.093	0.0314607769	0.0566786751	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 04:00:00	165.558	0.0291096661	0.05244299	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 03:00:00	167.337	0.224189922	0.403893	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 02:00:00	170.744	0.395593584	0.7126881	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 01:00:00	173.391	0.399082333	0.7189733	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 12:00:00	175.158	0.400130332	0.7208613	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 11:00:00	177.198	0.3999304	0.7205011	0.00023940239	0
07/13/2020 10:00:00	178.555	0.395110965	0.7118186	0.00023940239	0



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# Fatigue Damage

As with the last slide which depicted the creep damage for one of the tubes, the plots below show the tabular summaries of fatigue damage calculated from the finite element output

Chart Analy	rtic f	Results		Monito	rin	g Data					
Start Date End Date 09/14/2019				20 🛗 ОК					È→ Export Results		
Show 10 v entries								Search:			
DateTime	÷	Location	÷	Position	\$	Fatigue Damage (%)	\$	Stress (Mpa)	ŧ	Tube Temperature (C)	ŧ
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube0		LEFT		0.000520595		-168.610123		502.820953	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube0		MIDDLE		0.000428149		-165.75705		501.508118	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube0		RIGHT		0.000530603		-169.499634		501.8528	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube10		LEFT		0.000541003		-165.36644		544.091	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube10		MIDDLE		0.00046088		-154.843353		544.5023	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube10		RIGHT		0.000549088		-164.191467		545.151	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube1		LEFT		0.000541003		-166.40773		547.2491	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube1		MIDDLE		0.000485223		-154.515533		545.443542	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube1		RIGHT		0.000549088		-165.020264		543.3098	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		Tube2		LEFT		0.000532919		-167.058044		548.006836	





# Strain Gauge Measurement



Lastly, the screenshots to the right show a breakdown of the instrumentation on the header

The intentions for the strain gauge measurements are to:

- Show the locations of gauges on the overall header on a drawing
- Show the calculated strain output from the Finite Element model
- Show the measured strain output from the installed gauges (available after the gauges are installed)
- Plot the comparison





Chart Analytic R	esults	Monitoring D	ata				
sart Date 09/14/2019 🖀	End Date 09/14	4/2020	<u> </u>	ок		🕒+ Ехро	rt Result
Show 10 v entries					Search:		
DateTime		Strain22	٠	Strain33	٠	Temperature (C)	
03/08/2020 04:58:00		-0.007634847		-0.007201895		504.694336	
03/08/2020 04:37:04		-0.007669932		-0.007212416		503.468445	
03/08/2020 04:13:21		-0.007674256		-0.00719057		503.665833	
03/08/2020 03:49:39		-0.007653457		-0.007183392		504.627655	
03/08/2020 03:25:57		-0.00761766		-0.007167755		505.580139	
03/08/2020 03:02:15		-0.007672847		-0.007213094		503.050537	
03/08/2020 03:38:33		-0.007675244		-0.007198738		503.693542	
03/08/2020 03:14:51		-0.007600561		-0.007161472		506.28363	
03/08/2020 01:40:53		-0.00765969		-0.007178079		504.660248	
03/08/2020 01:08:51		-0.0076775		-0.007176879		503.603271	



### Phase III - 2021



### Phase III Tasks – Based on current status



Process real-time operating data from AEP and include strain data in PlantTrack as it becomes available

- Once the strain gauges are installed during the November outage at Amos, real data can be included in PlantTrack to compare against the calculated
- Trend damage development and compare the results against the actual strain measurements from Amos and, where necessary make adjustments/refinements to the FE model and scripts
- Continue to develop crack growth algorithms
  - Primary task is finalizing automated crack tip meshing in the ligaments to support crack size monitoring for Amos



### Planned Final Deliverables



Description of online damage/life monitoring system outlining the software components, architecture, and system integration

- This document will not provide the source or compiled code, but rather will outline in further detail that others can understand how the system functions and could conceivably implement a version of it
- Document specific challengers and limitations that were incurred and how these problems were solved or worked around

Description of configuration for Amos host plant, including:

- definition of geometry
- monitoring locations
- specific set-up / assumptions made
- IT architecture

Description of results of operation of the online monitoring software for a period of approximately one-year

- Documentation of boiler transients experienced and estimated damage, with appropriate off-line calculations to provide verification / validation
- Document the practicality of the approach and any lessons learned during the project
- Document any steps that would be required for future commercialization



### Installation Plan/Plant Status EPRI/AEP



## **Revised Installation Plan**

Strain sensors will be installed on the Secondary Superheater Outlet Header (SSOH) Front or near tube row 25 from the lefthand side wall

- Multiple existing header thermocouples will be used
- Repair/replace if necessary

Penetrations to be made through boiler casing

A termination cabinet will be installed on or near the West Side of 307' 6" elevation

- Conduits from boiler casing penetrations to cabinet
- Data conversion/communication devices to be installed during outage

Data acquisition/data processing equipment will be located inside the DCS room located on the Turbine Floor of Unit 3

• Optical fiber communication cable from cabinet to DCS room







### Amos Unit 3







### Amos Unit 3

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### Secondary Superheat Outlet Header Front





### Installation Near Tube Row #25



- Orange Sentek Sensing Link 1 Yellow - Sentek Sensing Link 2
- Blue Suprock Strain Gauges

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#### Not Shown:

- Existing plant thermocouples
- SI strain gauges to be installed as needed in vicinity of Suprock gauges

Note: Installation of Sentek gauges postponed



# Outage Installation Schedule



Day 1	Unit removed from service
Day 2	Plant begins cooling penthouse, as soon as practical (placeholder - plant is responsible for schedule)
Day 9	Project parties arrive on site for safety training listed in Section 6.0 of Installation Plan
Day 10*	Access to penthouse granted (tentative) Insulation removed for access to SSOH in vicinity of tube row 25 Additional cooling installed at SSOH in vicinity of tube row 25 Project parties (or contractor) identify location on penthouse casing for cable penetrations
Day 11	Cable penetrations performed SI begins prep of header for sensor installation
Day 12	SI and Suprock begin sensor installation
Day 13	Cables routed through penthouse casing penetration and penetration sealed
Day 14	Punchlist items and installation of sensors completed External wiring commences
Day 15	Complete installation of data acquisition systems in DCS room on Turbine Floor Equipment final check-out
* Access	to SSOH is dependent on entry date to penthouse and sufficient cooling of SSOH





Amos Unit 3 is Currently in an outage

Contractors are scheduled for installation activities

Plant has requested project parties to be on site on or around 11/16/20 to perform installation start. (equivalent to Day 9 of Outage Installation Schedule)



Advanced Fiber-Optic Design, Packaging and Attachment Methods Sentek Instrument LLC



## Sensor Systems Overview



Distributed temperature sensor (DTS / Sentek LGI-100)

- Fiber Bragg grating (FBG)
- Optical time-domain reflectometry (OTDR)
- Distributed acoustic sensor (DAS / Sentek DASnova)
  - Fiber-optic interferometry (FOI)
  - Optical time-domain reflectometry (OTDR)
- Quasi-distributed strain sensor
  - FBG + FOI
  - Spectral-domain, continuous detection



## FBG & Sentek DTS Principles



Fiber Bragg grating (FBG)

- Periodic structure inside the fiber
- Reflects a specific wavelength
- Wavelength shifts w/ temperature

Distributed temperature sensor (DTS)

- Pulsed light separates sensor in time
- Interrogates the reflected wavelength
- High capacity, high spatial resolution and high sensitivity







# FOI and Sentek DAS Principles

Fiber-optic interferometer (FOI)

- A pair of reflections
- Reflected intensity oscillates w/ wavelength
- Period varies with vibration-induced strain

Sentek distributed acoustic sensor (DAS)

- Pulsed light for sensor separation
- Fringe monitoring for acoustic vibration
- Ultra-high strain sensitivity









## Sentek Strain Sensor Principles



### FBG + FOI

- Fiber-optic interferometer
- Fiber Bragg grating (FBG)
- Sensor Response
  - FOI: sensitive to temperature & strain
  - Thermalstrain vs. Mechanicalstrain
  - FBG: temperature only (for temperature compensation)



### Status of Sensor System Development



Sensor	Validation	Fabrication	Packaging	Software
DTS			In-progress	
DAS			In-progress	
Strain Sensor	In-progress	In-progress		



### **DTS Summary**



#### Fabrication



### Sensing Fibers



### LGI-100 (patented)







### DAS Summary



#### Fabrication

![](_page_58_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### DASnova Interrogator (patent pending)

![](_page_58_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Sensor Signal Map

![](_page_58_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Picture_8.jpeg)

# Strain vs. Temperature / Acoustic

Temperature/acoustic

- Easy penetration into sensor
- Mechanical strain affected by
  - Attachment method
  - Housing design
  - Materials
  - Learn in practice

![](_page_59_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_11.jpeg)

## Strain Sensor Development Review

![](_page_60_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_3.jpeg)

### 1st Test at EPRI – Sensor Design

![](_page_61_Picture_1.jpeg)

Inconel base and wings Stainless steel tubing Metallic adhesive for >1000°C Welded metal components

![](_page_61_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Picture_5.jpeg)

### 1st Test at EPRI – Sensor Installation

![](_page_62_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Picture_3.jpeg)

### 2nd Test at EPRI – Sensor Installation

![](_page_63_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Strain on T-bar vs. on sensor

- Not the same in practice
- Calibration needed (scaling or transfer factor)
- Ideal scaling factor = 1

### Scaling factor affected by

- Size & geometry (thickness)
- Material (Inconel)
- Method of attachment (welding)

![](_page_63_Picture_11.jpeg)

## Sensor Performance

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### Temperature (Channel 1 FBG)

- Functional
- Slight discrepancy may indicate need for annealing

Strain (Channels 1&2 FOI)

- Ramp-up indicates sensors functional (thermal strain)
- Thermal + mechanical strain

![](_page_64_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Picture_9.jpeg)

## Mechanical Strain

### Fiber Sensor vs. Dial Gauge

Remove ramp-up (thermal strain)

Channel 1: reduced response

- Small scaling factor
- Large packaging thickness

Channel 2: minimal response

• Minimal scaling factor

![](_page_65_Figure_8.jpeg)

Strain \* 100%

Runtime from 600C (Hours)

![](_page_65_Picture_10.jpeg)

## 2nd Test Conclusions

![](_page_66_Picture_1.jpeg)

Sensors alive and functional

- Temperature sensing validated
- Robustness confirmed
- Need to maximize strain transfer
  - New design
  - Minimize cross-section thickness
  - Minimize housing width
  - Maximize force transfer
  - Use in-house materials for quick results

![](_page_66_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_66_Picture_12.jpeg)

# New Design – Testing

![](_page_67_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Figure_3.jpeg)

Large strain response

Repeatability issue (reduced rigidity in handling and installation)

Next-generation design

- Custom parts
- Increase rigidity and maintain large strain transfer

![](_page_67_Picture_9.jpeg)

### Next-generation Design

![](_page_68_Picture_1.jpeg)

Custom parts to maximize design flexibility Enhanced sensor rigidity and repeatability Enhanced strain transfer factor

![](_page_68_Picture_3.jpeg)

### Status of Sensor System Development

![](_page_69_Picture_1.jpeg)

Sensor	Validation	Fabrication	Packaging	Software
DTS			In-progress	
DAS			In-progress	
Strain Sensor	In-progress	In-progress		

![](_page_69_Picture_3.jpeg)

### Instrumentation Data Access Plan EPRI/AEP

![](_page_70_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_71_Picture_0.jpeg)

Robust data to be generated during monitoring phase

- Multiple instruments, frequent data recording
- Daily output for monitoring
- Plant Pl data historian
  - Existing plant instrumentation
  - Plant operating data

### Extensive cyber security discussions held with AEP

- Team access to AEP network not practical
- Structural Integrity Associates has approved limited AEP network access through other work
- Leverage access for DOE project

![](_page_71_Picture_11.jpeg)
## Proposed Instrumentation Network Configuration



#### Approach

- Single laptop to have limited network
  access
  - SI computer already has approved access to AEP network from prior activities
  - Shared folder to be created on SI laptop
  - Other participants will write instrumentation data to shared folder on SI laptop
    - Laptops connected via plant LAN
    - No external network and/or internet access
- AEP will configure laptops when on site at start of demonstration





ΝΔΤΙΟΝΔΙ

## Data Management During Demonstration



- Retrieve instrumentation data files from shared folder
- Place on external ftp site
- AEP will also place plant operating data on ftp site

All project participants will have access to ftp site







# Data Monitoring



Project plan is to monitor operation for one year

What if issues arise?

- Laptop operation
- PlantLAN
- Unanticipated outage
- AEP will have administrative access to all laptops to address IT issues, as warranted

Plant visits, if necessary

Success of integrated boiler management system can be demonstrated with nominal period of operation (varying operating profiles)

Tracking accumulation of creep/fatigue damage can continue beyond project timeline





### Closing Remarks



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Integrated boiler management system and additional instrumentation ready for deployment at AEP Amos U3 during 4Q 2020 outage

Mobilization in progress at Amos U3 to host project activities

- Proposed IT configuration approach developed and agreed by all parties. Implementation ready to commence during outage.
- Installation of Sentek gauges delayed until future outage

