

# Lessons Learned on H<sub>2</sub> Conversion

---

## Gas Turbine Demonstrations

ETN Global's 21<sup>st</sup> AGM & Workshop



**Bobby Noble**

*Senior Program Manager, Gas Turbine R&D*

EPRI

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# What can we learn from demonstrations?



**Operational  
Experience &  
Data**

**New Ideas &  
Opportunities**

**Siting &  
Safety**

# Codes and Standards

## Key Codes and Standards

Organization →	ASME		CGA		NFPA		
Code	B31.12	BPVC.VIII.1	G-5.5	2	55	70	497
Electrical/Grounding						X	*
H <sub>2</sub> Supply	X		X	X	X	X	
H <sub>2</sub> -NG Mixing	X						
Overpressure Protection	X	X	X	X			X
Safety Measures	X		X	X	X	X	
Spacing	X		X	X	X	X	
Vent Configuration	X	X	X	X			X

and more (Appendix A)

<https://www.epri.com/research/products/000000003002028335>

**NOTE:** These codes and standards are US-centric

- Asia- or Europe-specific equivalents should be consulted in those regions.

*Slide Courtesy of Alex Gupta, EPRI*



Early ID & communication of applicable codes and hazardous area classifications are key



Always aim to exceed minimum code requirements; verify early



Unclear codes? Choose closest fit, add requirements, ensure understanding



Temporary setups should meet or surpass permanent standards



Compliance should be verified by SMEs



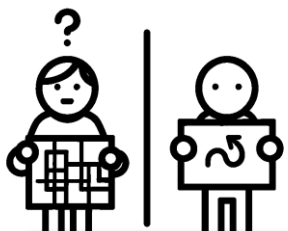
Stakeholders should establish “internal” codes – more stringent than official ones



Understand state/local regs; legacy codes may still apply if cited

# Importance of Comprehensive Procurement Contracts

## Project Risks



### Misaligned Expectations

- Quality
  - Defective or noncompliant equipment arriving on site
- Performance
  - Operational profiles/variability



### Potential Project Impacts

- Project delays during shipment or construction/commissioning
- Cost overruns due to rework or component replacements
- Performance shortfalls
- Operational reliability issues

## Lessons Learned



### Robust Procurement Contracts

- Set clear expectations quality & performance
- Agree on realistic timelines
- Performance guarantees



### Stakeholder Communication

- Frequent updates
- Transparent reporting



### Risk Management

- Collaboratively identify risks early and develop mitigation plans

# Supported Demonstrations of H<sub>2</sub> for Power Generation

## H<sub>2</sub> Demonstration Objectives

- Operate unit without major modifications
- Measure impacts on CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, and unit performance
- Develop best practices for H<sub>2</sub> blending



**44%v | GE LM6000**  
(45 MWe - Aeroderivative)

[Executive Summary Report](#)

[Full Report Version](#)



**20.9%v | Mitsubishi 501G**  
(265 MWe – Heavy Frame)

[White Paper Report](#)

[Full Report Version](#)



**25%v | Wärtsilä RICE**  
(18 MWe - RICE)

[Executive Summary Report](#)



**38%v | Siemens Energy  
SGT6-6000G**

(246 MWe – Heavy Frame)

[Press Release](#)

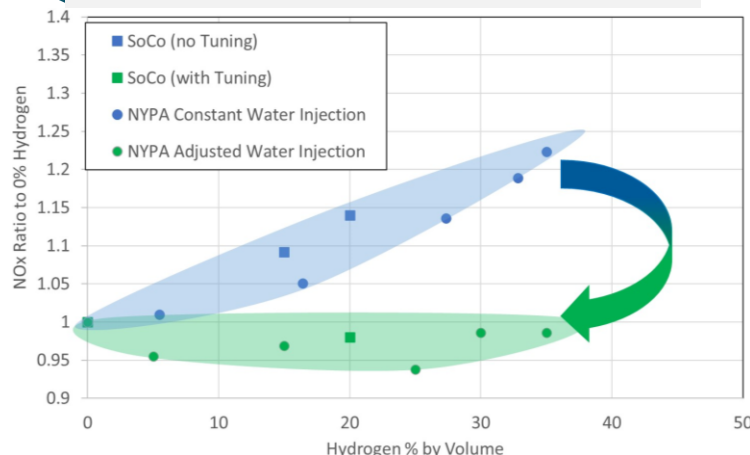


# Results: Environmental

<sup>1</sup>Mitsubishi Power 501G 20% Hydrogen Test

<sup>2</sup>Hydrogen Cofiring Demonstration at New York Power Authority's Brentwood Site: GE LM6000 Gas Turbine

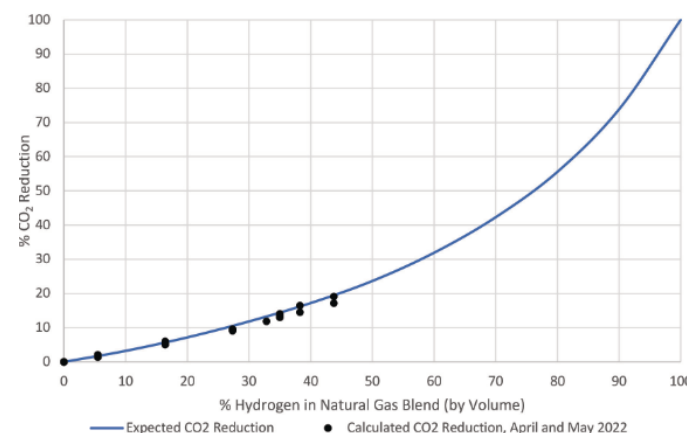
## NO<sub>x</sub> Emissions<sup>1</sup>



By controlling GT flame temperature (DLN or WLE), NO<sub>x</sub> emissions ≤ NG case

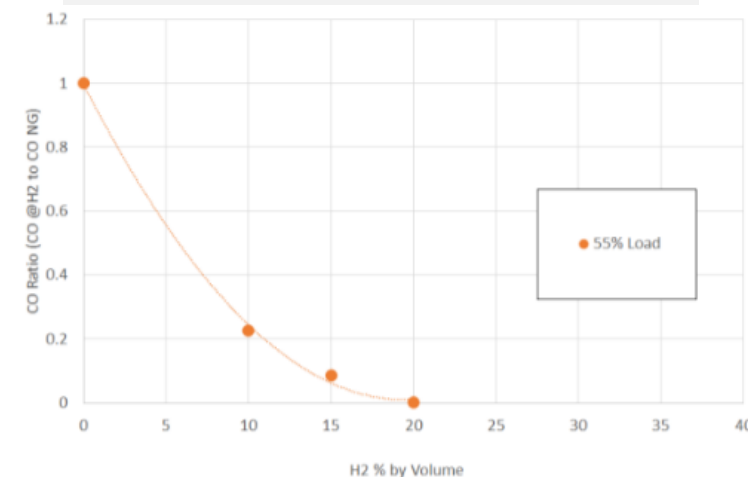
- Decrease RICE NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by reducing charged air pressure or retarding ignition timing.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions<sup>2</sup>



As %H<sub>2</sub> increases, CO<sub>2</sub> and other carbon emissions decrease

## CO Emissions<sup>1</sup>



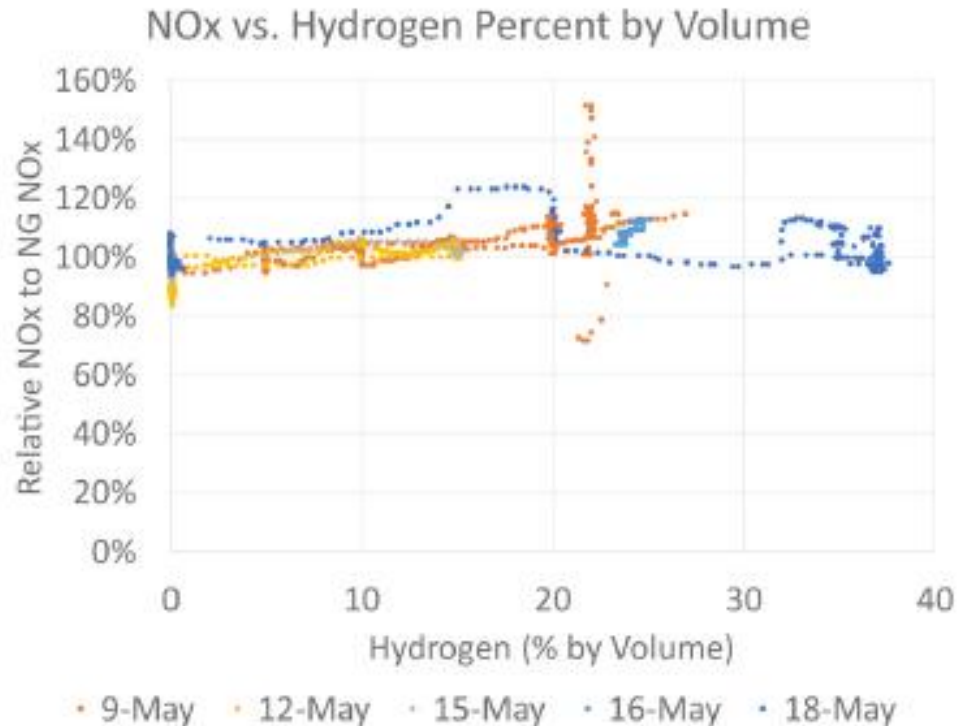
H<sub>2</sub> caused more complete combustion, reducing CO emissions

- However, low-NO<sub>x</sub> techniques may cause CO emissions to increase.

To date, existing emissions control systems sufficient to maintain emissions within permissible levels

# Hillabee Testing Results in Recent Journal Publication: GTP-24-1572

- NO<sub>x</sub> emissions could be tuned to NG levels or below
- Blends up to 38% by volume



ASME Journal of Engineering for Gas Turbines and Power  
Online journal at:  
<https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/gasturbinespower>



## Hydrogen Cofiring Demonstration at Constellation Hillabee Siemens Energy SGT6-6000G Power Plant

**Jim Harper**

EPRI,  
Charlotte, NC 29609-4703  
e-mail: [jharper@EPRI.com](mailto:jharper@EPRI.com)

**Duane Gibeaut**

Constellation,  
Fort Worth, TX 76112  
e-mail: [duane.gibeaut@constellation.com](mailto:duane.gibeaut@constellation.com)

**Mark Lozier**

Constellation,  
Perryman, MD 21130  
e-mail: [mark.lozier@constellation.com](mailto:mark.lozier@constellation.com)

**Richard Sake**

Constellation,  
Alexander City, AL 35010  
e-mail: [richard.sake@constellation.com](mailto:richard.sake@constellation.com)

**Thorsten Wolf**

Siemens Energy Inc.,  
Orlando, FL 32826-2301  
e-mail: [tnwolf@siemens-energy.com](mailto:tnwolf@siemens-energy.com)

**David R. Noble**

EPRI,  
Charlotte, NC 28262  
e-mail: [bnoble@epri.com](mailto:bnoble@epri.com)

Gas turbines will need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and prove their flexibility based on market needs and new proposed rules. Economically, utilizing existing gas turbine assets to meet these requirements will be of great benefit as compared to building new turbines. Even better, determining the lowest cost least intrusive upgrades required is of great interest to power producers. The demonstration described here was conducted on one (1) gas turbine (GT) unit at the Constellation Hillabee power plant (Siemens Energy SGT6-6000G 2 × 1 configuration), which doubled the mass flow of hydrogen of previous record-breaking dry low NO<sub>x</sub> (DLN) demonstrations. The testing was done on an unaltered, existing GT asset, which provides great value for those GTs, which are already providing power using natural gas. The demonstrated hydrogen blending percentage of 38.8% (resulting in approximately 18% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) proved the system capable of meeting the first best system of emissions reduction goals set forth in recent proposed U.S. EPA gas turbine rules. Such demonstrations are of critical importance as they show the inherent capability to meet reduced carbon power generation requirements without more significant cost outlays. This report documents the evaluation, preparation, execution, and results from this demonstration testing. The results are provided for the gas turbine community to use as insight into the capability and flexibility of existing assets to meet the future demands of reduced carbon power generation. Specific information around safety, reliability, emissions, and operability are discussed to provide context around existing asset capability. [DOI: 10.1115/1.4067181]

**Keywords:** hydrogen, gas turbine, efficiency, emissions, demonstration

### 1 Introduction

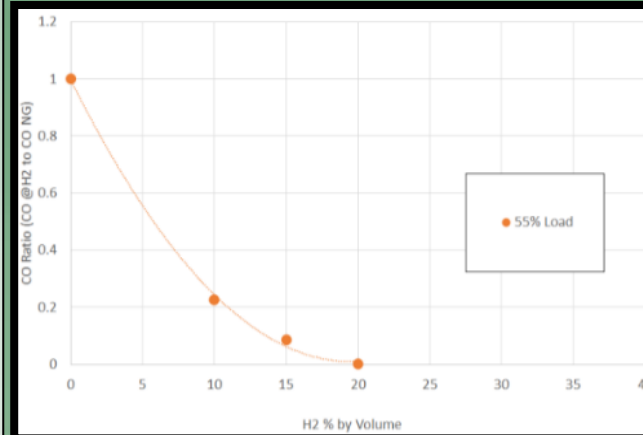
Testing of a Siemens SGT-6000G gas turbine with up to 38.8% by volume hydrogen blending is discussed herein. This configuration is deemed important to the gas turbine and power generation community by the authors as this turbine, like many gas turbines in operation today, was not built with hydrogen fueling in mind. Similar configuration testing has been conducted [1–3], though the

subject of current research [5–14]. NO<sub>x</sub> emissions with increasing hydrogen blends have been shown to be able to be maintained at relative constant levels to natural gas in dry low NO<sub>x</sub> (DLN) [3,15] combustion systems utilizing varying methods of control and with diffusion systems utilizing diluent for emissions control [16,17]. Test results here exhibit the ability to maintain emissions with this system utilizing combustion temperature reduction and fuel delivery adjustments to the premixed fuel circuits in the combustion system.

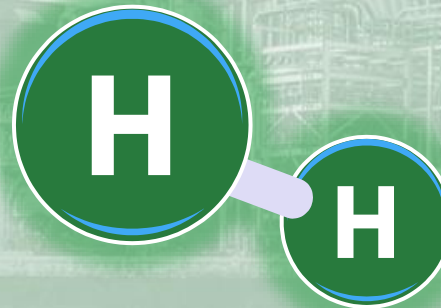
# Hydrogen = More Flexible GTs?

- Combined Cycle Gas Turbine demonstrations have shown 70+% reduction in CO at low-load
- McDonough M501G unit at 20.9% H<sub>2</sub> (vol)
  - Additional 10% turndown
  - *Possibly could have gone lower*

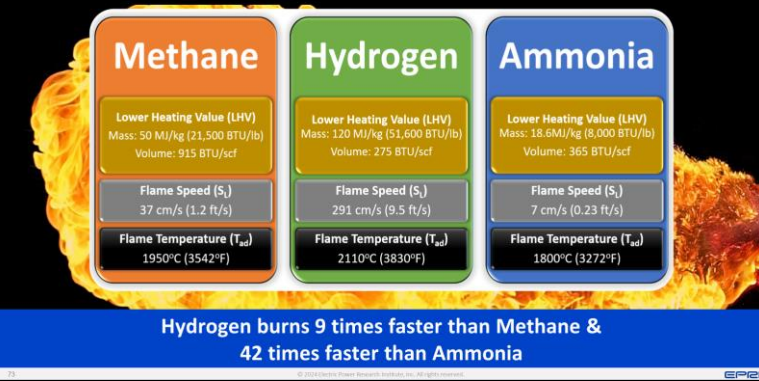
## CO Emissions



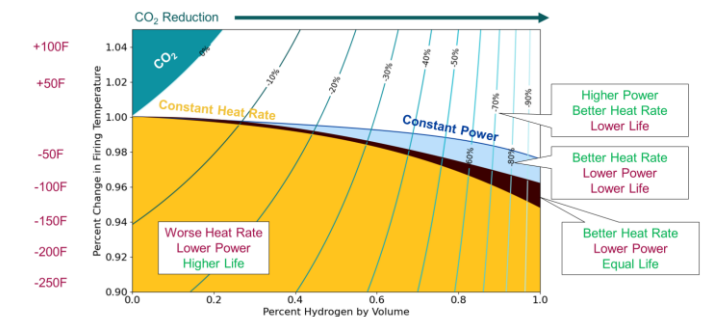
H<sub>2</sub> caused more complete combustion, reducing CO emissions



## How Various Low-Carbon Fuels Compare to Natural Gas?



## Putting It All Together



## Hydrogen Effects on CO Emissions

- **Hydrogen should improve CO emissions relative to hydrocarbon fuels (most notable at partload for DLN systems)**
  - Reduced Carbon available in high hydrogen blends (de-carbonization)
  - Higher reactivity of hydrogen improves burn-out and complete oxidation of fuel: *anticipate improved turndown*
- **Limited studies to date**
  - These are general comments for back-to-back hydrocarbon vs. hydrogen emissions from a given combustor
  - High hydrogen combustion systems of the future are not yet fielded
  - Difficult to compare the emissions of today's combustion platforms with unknown future platforms



**TOGETHER...SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ENERGY®**

# Key Codes



## **ASME B31.12 (\*ASME B31/B31.3\*)**

- Piping code applicable to hydrogen
- Includes guidance for:
  - Functional testing
  - Necessary inspections
  - Review of quality documents



## **CGA G5-4**

- Material guidance for hydrogen piping
- Recommends austenitic stainless steels, specifically 316/316L
- Recommends using helium (He) when performing leak tests
- Harmonized with AIGA 087

# Benefits of Demonstrations for the Industry



Safety procedure framework development



Pretest procedure development



Instrumentation and monitoring experience



Leak testing best practices



H<sub>2</sub> blending operational experience

New resources to support member H<sub>2</sub> demonstrations and long-term planning

