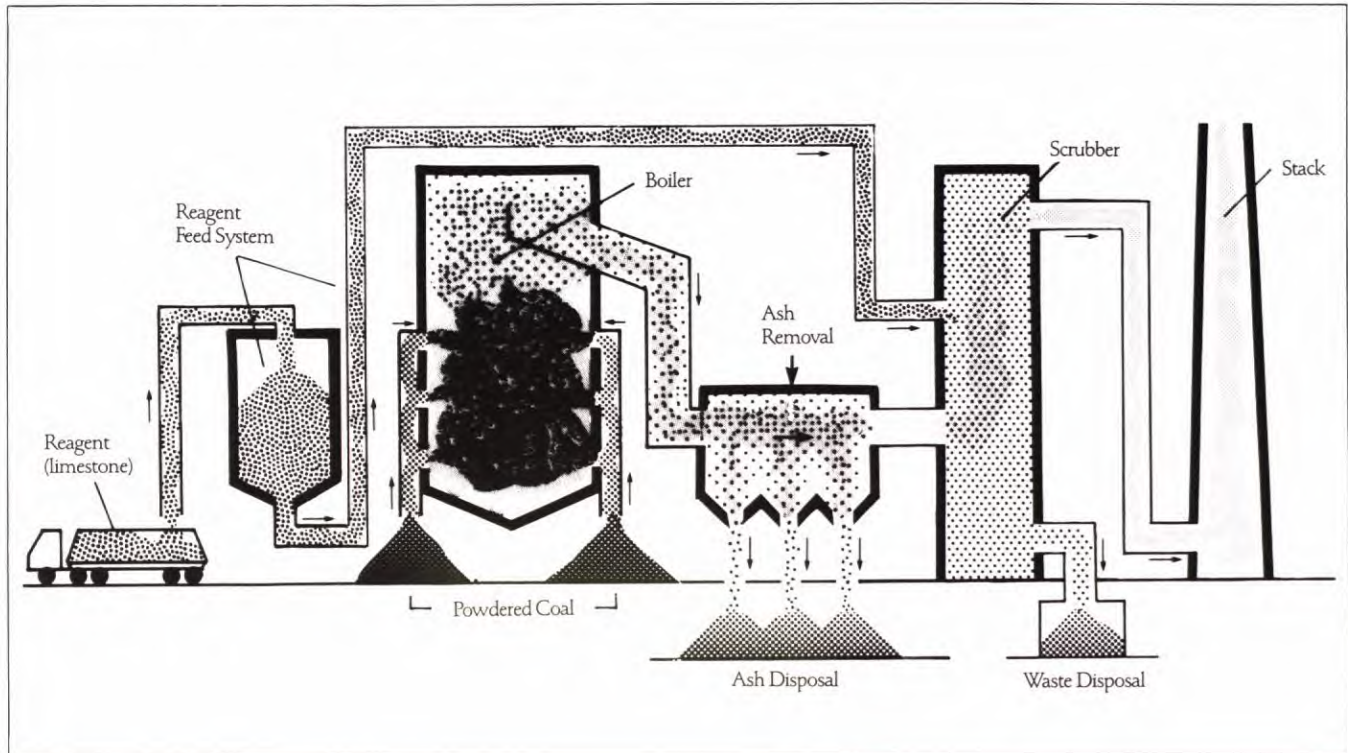


How scrubbers work



Scrubbers remove sulphur oxides from the flue gases given off by coal-fired generating stations. They do this by mixing the flue gases with an alkaline substance, such as finely crushed limestone, that reacts with the sulphur oxides to form solid compounds. These compounds are then collected and disposed of safely.

Despite their ordinary sounding name, scrubbers are massive structures that are expensive to build and run. Over the next ten years, Ontario Hydro plans to spend 1.3 billion dollars installing scrubbers on its largest coal-fired generating stations.

What Are Scrubbers?

"Scrubbers" is a general term that refers to various types of equipment that remove sulphur oxides from the gases that are produced when coal is burned. Ontario Hydro has submitted a \$1.25 million environmental assessment to the government which requests permission to install any one of four different types of scrubbers at its Lambton, Nanticoke and Lakeview generating stations.

Subject to government approval, Ontario Hydro's current plan is to install scrubbers on two generating units at its Lambton coal-fired generating station, near Sarnia, by 1994. Two more Lambton units will have operating scrubbers by 1996. At Ontario Hydro's Nanticoke generating station, near Simcoe, two units will have scrubbers in operation by 1997, and another two units will have operating scrubbers by 1998. In total, this will give

Ontario Hydro 4,000 megawatts of scrubbed coal-fired generating capacity. To put this figure in perspective, this is about the same as the 1988 peak demand of Metropolitan Toronto.

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