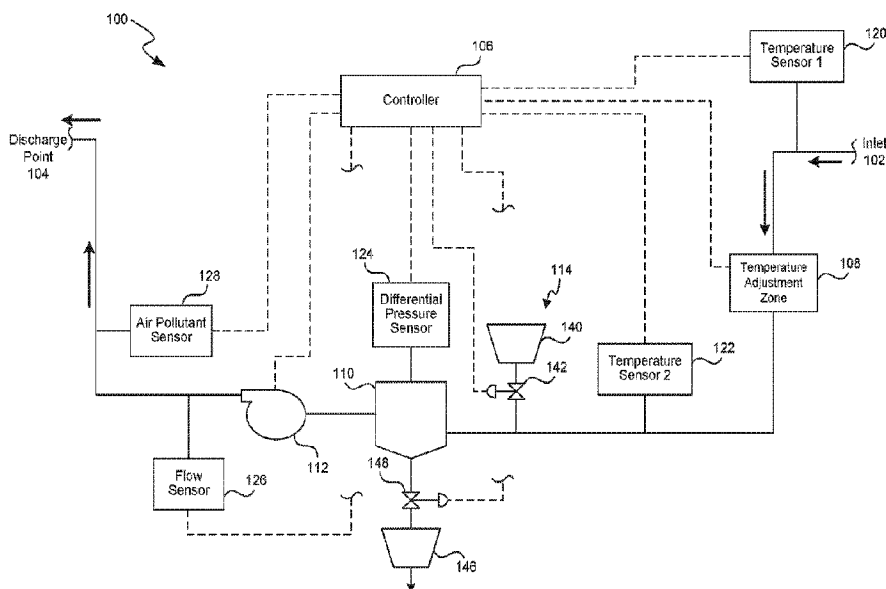




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 (72) Inventeurs/Inventors:
 LEE, HAROLD WAYNE, II, US;
 KINNER, LAURA L., US;
 MURDOCK, DOUGLAS C., US;
 BLACKHAM, FRED DOUGLAS, US;
 HEINTZELMAN, JOHN B., US
 (73) Propriétaire/Owner:
 GRAYMONT (PA) INC., US
 (74) Agent: GOWLING WLG (CANADA) LLP

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 (54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REMOVAL OF MERCURY AND/OR HYDROCHLORIC ACID FROM GAS STREAMS USING CALCIUM-CONTAINING PARTICLES



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Several embodiments of the present technology are directed to the removal of one or more air pollutants using cooling and/or calcium-containing particles. In some embodiments, a method for removing air pollutants comprises flowing a gas stream having calcium-containing particles and one or more of mercury or hydrochloric acid molecules, and cooling the gas stream, thereby causing at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles to adsorb to the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules in the gas stream. The method can further comprise, after cooling the gas stream, filtering the gas stream to remove at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles having adsorbed mercury and hydrochloric acid.

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- (71) Applicant: GRAYMONT (PA) INC. [US/US]; 965 E. College Avenue, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 (US).
- (72) Inventors: LEE, Harold Wayne, II; 220 Ogden Canyon Road, Ogden, UT 84401 (US). KINNER, Laura L.; 1034 Osprey Point, Littleton, NC 27850 (US). MUR-

- DOCK, Douglas C.; 965 E. College Avenue, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 (US). BLACKHAM, Fred Douglas; 10533 S. Brooklyn View Ln, South Jordan, UT 84095 (US). HEINTZELMAN, John B.; 234 W. Beverlee Ann Drive, Draper, UT 84020 (US).
- (74) Agent: BETCHER, Susan D. et al.; Perkins Coie LLP, P.O. Box 1247, Seattle, WA 98111-1247 (US).
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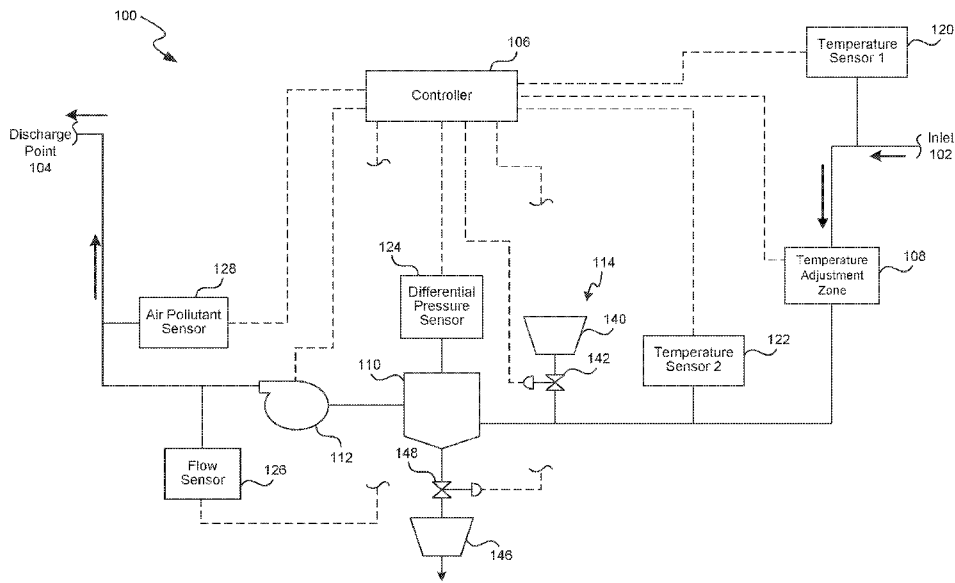


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Several embodiments of the present technology are directed to the removal of one or more air pollutants using cooling and/or calcium-containing particles. In some embodiments, a method for removing air pollutants comprises flowing a gas stream having calcium-containing particles and one or more of mercury or hydrochloric acid molecules, and cooling the gas stream, thereby causing at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles to adsorb to the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules in the gas stream. The method can further comprise, after cooling the gas stream, filtering the gas stream to remove at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles having adsorbed mercury and hydrochloric acid.



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SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REMOVAL OF MERCURY AND/OR HYDROCHLORIC ACID FROM GAS STREAMS USING CALCIUM- CONTAINING PARTICLES

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present technology is generally directed to the removal of air pollutants from gas streams using calcium-containing particles. In particular embodiments, the present technology relates to the removal of mercury and/or hydrochloric acid from gas streams using cooling and calcium-containing particles.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Exposure to high levels of mercury, hydrochloric acid and other hazardous air pollutants are associated with neurological and developmental disorders in human beings. As such, the discharge of these air pollutants from industrial facilities is limited and regulated by state and federal jurisdictions. Conventional methods for abating these air pollutants today include injecting powder activated carbon (PAC) into the exhaust gas stream containing the air pollutants. The PAC can bind to the air pollutants and be filtered from the exhaust gas stream before it is discharged to atmosphere. The use and/or injection of PAC, though, can be a generally dirty process, as carbon dust associated with PAC can coat and foul downstream equipment, and be difficult to clean. Furthermore, the costs associated with removing and/or disposing used PAC is an expensive process.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] FIG. 1 is a schematic block flow diagram of an industrial processing system in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0004] FIG. 2 is a schematic flow diagram of a method for removing air pollutants from a gas stream in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0005] FIG. 3 is a schematic flow chart of a method for operating a system used to remove air pollutants from a gas stream in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

[0006] FIG. 4 is a schematic flow diagram of a method for removing air pollutants from a gas stream in accordance with embodiments of the present technology.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0007] The present technology is generally directed to the removal of air pollutants from gas streams using calcium-containing particles. In some embodiments, the present technology includes the removal of mercury (Hg) and/or hydrochloric acid (HCl) from gas streams via cooling and adsorption via calcium-containing particles. As described in more detail below, a method for removing one or more air pollutants from a gas stream can include flowing a gas stream at a first temperature toward an exhaust stack, and then cooling the gas stream to a second temperature. The gas stream can include calcium-containing particles (e.g., calcium oxide (CaO)), and air pollutants including mercury (e.g., elemental mercury (Hg⁰) and/or oxidized mercury (Hg²⁺)) and/or hydrochloric acid. At the second temperature, the calcium-containing particles have an increased adsorptive affinity for the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid present in the gas stream relative to the first temperature. The method further comprises adsorbing at least a portion of the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid to the calcium-containing particles, and filtering the gas stream to remove at least some of the calcium-containing particles having the adsorbed mercury and/or hydrochloric acid.

[0008] Numerous specific details are set forth in the following description and figures to provide a thorough and enabling description of embodiments of the invention. One skilled in the relevant art, however, will recognize that the invention can be practiced without one or more of the specific details. In other instances, well-known structures or operations are not shown or are not described in detail to avoid obscuring aspects of the invention. In general, alternatives and alternate embodiments described herein are substantially similar to the previously described embodiments, and common elements are identified by the same reference numbers.

[0009] FIG. 1 is a schematic block flow diagram of an industrial processing system 100 configured in accordance with embodiments of the present technology. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the system 100 receives a gas stream (e.g., a flue gas, exhaust stream, process stream, etc.) at an inlet 102 from an upstream industrial process and directs the gas stream toward a discharge point 104 (e.g., an exhaust stack) where the gas stream is discharged from the system 100. The system 100 can include a controller 106, a temperature adjustment zone 108 that receives at least a portion of the gas stream from the inlet 102, a baghouse 110 positioned downstream of the temperature adjustment zone 108, a fan 112 (e.g., an induced draft fan) positioned downstream of the baghouse 110, one or more injection systems 114 positioned upstream of the baghouse 100, and a plurality of sensors. The temperature adjustment zone 108, baghouse 110, fan 112, injection system(s) 114 and plurality of sensors can be operably coupled to the controller 106 such that they can be individually monitored and/or individually controlled by the controller 106. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the plurality of sensors can include a first temperature sensor 120 positioned upstream of the temperature adjustment zone 108, a second temperature sensor 122 positioned downstream of the temperature adjustment zone 108, a differential-pressure sensor 124 monitoring pressure drop of the baghouse 110, a flow sensor 126 positioned downstream of the fan 112, and one or more air pollutant sensors 128 downstream of the baghouse 110. The air pollutant sensor(s) 128 can be part of a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS), and be used to measure a concentration of mercury (e.g., total mercury, oxidized mercury, and/or non-oxidized mercury), hydrochloric acid, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), and/or other regulated hazardous air pollutants.

[0010] The industrial process or industrial apparatus providing the gas stream upstream of the inlet 102 can include that of a lime kiln or cement processing facility. In such embodiments, crushed limestone rock is added to a lime kiln and heated using a fuel source such as coal, coal coke, natural gas, amongst other combustible materials. The heating process calcines limestone rock into lime, resulting in a flue gas stream that is exhausted by the lime kiln. In other embodiments, the industrial process can include

that of a refinery, paper mill, power plant or chemical production facility. The gas stream received at the inlet 102 can include oxygen, various hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide, water, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, mercury, hydrochloric acid, and other air pollutants, as well as one or more calcium-containing materials. The calcium-containing materials can include a plurality of calcium oxide (CaO) particles, which may also be referred to as lime kiln dust (LKD).

[0011] The temperature adjustment zone 108 can be a region wherein the thermal properties of the gas stream are adjusted, and include one or more of a cooling system or apparatus, heat exchanger, spray cooler, injection of a cooled (e.g., colder) stream, or other apparatus known in the art for adjusting thermal properties of the incoming inlet gas stream. The heat exchanger can use air as a cooling fluid to remove heat from the inlet gas stream. In some embodiments, the inlet gas stream entering the temperature adjustment zone 108 is greater than about 450°, and the gas stream exiting the temperature adjustment zone 108 is less than about 350°F. For example, the gas stream exiting the temperature adjustment zone 108 can range from about 200°F to about 350°F, from about 250°F to about 325°F from about 275°F to about 325°F, or from about 290°F to about 310°F, amongst other ranges. The temperature adjustment zone 108 and mechanisms used to adjust the thermal properties of the gas stream (e.g., the heat exchanger) can be operably coupled to the controller 106, which can control the temperature of the gas stream exiting the temperature adjustment zone 108 (e.g., adjusting the amount of air being directed to the heat exchanger).

[0012] Cooling the inlet gas stream can increase the adsorptive affinity of the calcium-containing particles for mercury and/or hydrochloric acid in the gas stream. Stated differently, the ability for calcium-containing particles to adsorb to mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules present in the gas stream has been shown to increase at cooler temperatures. Without being bound by theory, mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules, as well as other air pollutants present in the gas stream, adsorb to the surface of the calcium-containing particles via physisorption (e.g., van der Waals forces) and/or chemisorption (e.g., via covalent or ionic bonding). In some embodiments, mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules of the gas stream react with the calcium

oxide to form a salt. The salt and/or other LKD-adsorbed pollutants can be removed from the gas stream via the baghouse 110 or other filtering means, as described below. Moisture content of the calcium-containing particles may also aid the absorption and removal of mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules, as well as other air pollutants (e.g., sulfur dioxide) present in the gas stream.

[0013] As noted above, the system 100 can include one or more injection systems 114 (only one injection system is shown in FIG. 1) positioned upstream of the baghouse 110, and configured to inject an injectate into the gas stream. The injection system 114 can include a hopper 140 holding the injectate, and one or more valves 142 operably coupled to the hopper 140 and used to regulate the amount of injectate dispersed into the gas stream. The valve(s) 142 can be electrically connected to the controller 106 such that the controller 106 controls the opening/closing of the valve 142 depending on process conditions. The injectate can include calcium-containing particles, such as calcium hydroxide particles, which may also be referred to as lime hydrate. The injectate can further include calcium oxide particles, or powder activated carbon (PAC), as described in more detail below. The lime hydrate particles can typically have a diameter ranging from about 4 microns to about 50 microns, and a moisture content less than about 2%, less than about 1%, or less than about 0.5%. In some embodiments, the lime hydrate can have a surface area greater than about 15 m²/g, greater than about 25 m²/g, or within a range from about 10 m²/g to about 50 m²/g, from about 15 m²/g to about 30 m²/g, or from about 20 m²/g to about 25 m²/g. Such lime hydrate may be referred to as enhanced lime hydrate. The injectate can be used to adsorb to mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules present in the gas stream. Similar to the description provided above, the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules of the gas stream react with the calcium hydroxide, which can be removed from the stream of exhaust gas via the baghouse 110 or other filtering means. Notably, the injectate used to adsorb mercury and/or hydrochloric acid can be in addition to or in lieu of the calcium-containing particles that may be present in the inlet gas stream.

[0014] Dispersion of the injectate can cause the calcium-containing particles to contact the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules of the gas stream. As such, in

some embodiments, the injection system 114 may use a pressurized gas (e.g., compressed air) or some other source of force to cause the injectate particles to be dispersed into the ducting containing the gas stream. To enhance dispersion of the injectate across a surface area of the ducting, and thereby potentially increase the amount of mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules adsorbed by the injectate, the injectate may include a combination of coarse and fine particles that, as a whole, have beneficial flowability characteristics, with the coarse particles having greater momentum and traveling further distances, and the finer particles having higher surface area to volume ratios and reactivity.

[0015] As noted above, the system 100 may include multiple injection systems 114. In some embodiments, the injectate of the injection system 114 can include PAC. The PAC is configured to bind to mercury, hydrochloric acid and other air pollutants, and is removed from the gas stream via the baghouse 110. In some embodiments, the PAC can be treated with bromine. In embodiments including a PAC injection system, the PAC injection system can be used in tandem with other injection system(s) 114 using calcium-containing particles as the injectate, as previously described. Operational considerations for injecting PAC are described in further detail below with reference to FIG. 3.

[0016] As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the baghouse 110 is positioned downstream of the injection system 114 and the temperature adjustment zone 104. The baghouse 110 is a filtering device used to remove solid particulate, such as calcium-containing particles, from the gas stream. The filtered gas stream exits the baghouse 110 and the particulate matter remains trapped in the baghouse 110. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, a differential pressure (DP) sensor 124 can monitor pressure drop across the baghouse 110 or a portion of the baghouse 110, and be used by the controller 106 to determine when to "clean" the baghouse 110 to remove trapped particulate matter therefrom. For example, when the differential pressure across the baghouse increases above a predetermined threshold, the controller can cause one or more compartments of the baghouse 110 to be blown down by opening a

corresponding valve 148 and driving off any particulate matter to a hopper 146. The particulate matter in the hopper 146 can then be further processed for disposal.

[0017] The fan 112 (e.g., an induced draft fan) is positioned downstream of the baghouse 110 and is configured to provide the driving force for moving the gas stream through the system 100 from the inlet 102 to the discharge point 104. The fan 112 can be operably coupled to the controller 106 and be controlled based at least in part on pressure and/or flow rate of the gas stream in the ducting of the system 100.

[0018] The air pollutant sensor(s) 128 can include one or more analyzers for monitoring mercury and/or hydrochloric acid, as well as other air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, etc. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the air pollutant sensor(s) 128 are positioned downstream of the baghouse 110 to ensure the analyzed gas stream is "clean" and generally free of particulate matter. The air pollutant analyzer(s) 128 can be in electrical communication with the controller 106. As described in more detail below, measurements from the air pollutant analyzer(s) 128 can be used by the controller 106 to control operation of the system 100.

[0019] As described above, the controller 106 receives inputs from multiple components of the system 100, and can adjust parameters based on those inputs. The controller 106 can take the form of computer-executable instructions, including routines executed by a programmable computer. The controller 106 may, for example, also include a combination of supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, distributed control systems (DCS), programmable logic controllers (PLC), control devices, and processors configured to process computer-executable instructions. Those skilled in the relevant art will appreciate that the technology can be practiced on computer systems other than those described herein. The technology can be embodied in a special-purpose computer or data processor that is specifically programmed, configured or constructed to perform one or more of the computer-executable instructions described below. Accordingly, the term "controller" as generally used herein can refer to any data processor. Information handled by the controller 106 can be presented at any suitable display medium, including a CRT display or LCD. The present technology can also be practiced in distributed environments, where tasks or

modules are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules or subroutines may be located in local and remote memory storage devices. Aspects of the technology described below may be stored or distributed on computer-readable media, including magnetic or optically readable or removable computer disks, as well as distributed electronically over networks. Data structures and transmissions of data particular to aspects of the technology are also encompassed within the scope of particular embodiments of the disclosed technology.

[0020] As described in more detail below, the controller 106 can be used to operate the system 100 based at least in part on maintaining the concentration of one or more of the air pollutants being discharged to the atmosphere at or below a predetermined threshold. For example, if mercury is determined by the air pollutant sensor(s) 128 to be above a predetermined threshold, the controller 106 can cause the temperature of the gas stream exiting the temperature adjustment zone 108 to be decreased, thereby adsorbing more mercury to the calcium-containing particles in the gas stream and decreasing the amount of mercury present in the gas stream downstream of the baghouse 110. In addition to or in lieu of the foregoing, if mercury is determined by the air pollutant sensor(s) 128 to be above a predetermined threshold, the controller 106 can increase the amount of injectate injected into the gas stream, causing more of the mercury to be adsorbed by the injectate and thereby decreasing the amount of mercury present in the gas stream downstream of the baghouse 110. As described above, the injectate can include calcium-containing particles (e.g., calcium hydroxide) from a first injection system and/or PAC from a second injection system. In some embodiments, injective injectate to decrease mercury and/or other air pollutants is only used after first attempting to decrease mercury and/or other air pollutants via cooling of the gas stream.

[0021] An advantage of at least some embodiments of the present technology is the ability to remove mercury, hydrochloric acid and/or other air pollutants using only cooling of the gas stream, or cooling of the gas stream and the calcium-containing particles of the gas stream. Stated differently, an advantage of embodiments of the present technology is the ability to remove air pollutants from the gas stream without

needing to inject additional injectate, such as PAC, into the gas stream. In conventional methods that remove air pollutants from gas streams of industrial facilities, PAC is injected into the gas stream to bind to the air pollutants, and is then filtered by a baghouse. Injecting PAC, though, is a generally dirty process, as the carbon dust of PAC can coat downstream structures and processes, and be difficult to clean. Embodiments of the present technology provide other means to remove air pollutants from the gas stream, thereby allowing operators to omit PAC from the regulator operation of a facility. Another related advantage of embodiments of the present technology is the decreased costs associated with using calcium-containing particles. PAC, for example, can be significantly more expensive than lime hydrate, often costing 20 times more than calcium oxide (e.g., LKD) or calcium hydroxide (e.g., lime hydrate) on a weight-by-weight comparison. Furthermore, incorporating PAC injection into a system can require a separate baghouse and additional electrical costs associated with operation.

[0022] FIG. 2 is a schematic flow diagram of a method 200 for removing air pollutants from a gas stream in accordance with embodiments of the present technology. Many of the features referred to in FIG. 2 are described with reference to FIG. 1. As shown in the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 2, the method 200 includes providing a gas stream including calcium-containing particles and at least one of mercury or hydrochloric acid (process portion 202). The gas stream can be provided from an upstream process such as a lime kiln. The calcium-containing particles can be included in the gas stream as part of an upstream process (e.g., originating from the lime kiln), or can be injected into the gas stream, e.g., via the injection system 114. The method 200 further comprises cooling the gas stream (process portion 204). In some embodiments, cooling the gas stream can include cooling the gas stream from the inlet temperature (e.g., at or above 400°F) to less than about 325°F, less than about 300°F, less than about 275°F, or within a range from about 240°F to about 325°F, from about 250°F to about 300°F, or from about 260°F to about 290°F. In some embodiments, temperatures below 250°F, depending on the particular industrial process, can cause undesirable consequences to occur in the system 100 (Figure 1). For example, at

temperature below 250°F, moisture can condense onto the baghouse 110 and/or undesirable reactions, such as the production of sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) can develop. Cooling the gas stream has been shown to increase the adsorptive affinity of the calcium-containing molecules to mercury and hydrochloric acid. As such, cooling the gas stream can cause more of the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules to be adsorbed to the calcium-containing molecules. Furthermore, cooling the gas stream can be controlled based on a measured amount mercury and/or hydrochloric acid sensed downstream of the baghouse 100. For example, if the measured amount of mercury and/or hydrochloric acid is above a predetermined threshold, the controller 106 may further cool the gas stream via the temperature adjustment zone 108 in an attempt to adsorb more of the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid to the calcium-containing particles present in the gas stream.

[0023] As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the method 200 can further comprise adsorbing a portion of the cooled mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules to the calcium-containing particles (process portion 206). Adsorption of the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules to the calcium-containing particles can occur by bringing the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules in contact with the calcium-containing particles, which can occur by the natural flow of the gas stream through the system. As such, adsorbing the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules to the calcium-containing particles need not be an active step that is performed separately from just operating the facility, but rather may occur as a result of the general flow of the gas stream through the system 100 (Figure 1). In some embodiments, however, adsorbing the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules to the calcium-containing particles can be an active step. For example, adsorbing the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules to the calcium-containing particles can include increasing the turbulence (e.g., the Reynolds number) of the gas stream in an attempt to increase the contact between the mercury and/or hydrochloric acid molecules and the calcium-containing particles in the gas stream.

[0024] The method 200 further comprises filtering the gas stream to remove at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles having the adsorbed mercury and/or

hydrochloric acid (process portion 208). In some embodiments, filtering the gas stream can be done via the baghouse 110 (Figure 1) and/or other filtering means, such as an electrostatic precipitator.

[0025] FIG. 3 is a schematic flow chart of a method 300 for operating a system (e.g., a trim system) used to remove air pollutants from a gas stream in accordance with embodiments of the present technology. As shown in the illustrated embodiments, process portions 302, 304, 306 and 308 include the process portions generally similar to and described with respect to Figure 2. For example, process portion 302 includes providing a gas stream including calcium-containing particles and an air pollutant, process portion 304 includes cooling the gas stream, thereby increasing the adsorptive affinity of the calcium-containing particles for molecules of the air pollutant, process portion 306 includes adsorbing a portion of the air pollutant to the calcium-containing particles, and process portion 308 includes filtering the gas stream to remove at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles having the adsorbed air pollutant.

[0026] As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the method 300 further includes measuring the amount of air pollutant molecules (e.g., in parts per million) present in the filtered gas stream (process portion 310). Measuring the amount of air pollutant is done via an analyzer (e.g., the air pollutant sensor(s) 128) or CEMS configured to detect one or more of mercury, hydrochloric acid, sulfur oxides, and/or nitrogen oxides. As described above, the analyzer can be in electrical communication with a controller (e.g., the controller 106). If the measured amount of air pollutant present in the filtered gas stream is at or below a predetermined threshold, then the controller may not make any adjustments to the system. The predetermined threshold can be based, for example, on regulated state (e.g., local) or federal discharge limits. For example, the predetermined threshold for mercury may be less than 50 lbs Hg/MM ton lime, less than 30 lbs Hg/MM ton lime, or less than 25 lbs Hg/MM ton lime, and the predetermined threshold for hydrochloric acid may be less than 10 ppm(v), less than 5 ppm(v), or less than 3 ppm(v). If the measured amount of air pollutant present in the filtered gas stream is above the predetermined threshold, then the method may make adjustments to the system in an attempt to decrease the amount of air pollutant being discharged. Stated

differently, if the measured amount of air pollutant present in the filtered gas stream is above the predetermined threshold, then the system can make adjustments to cause more of the air pollutant molecules to be adsorbed by an injectate.

[0027] As shown in the illustrated embodiment, for example, if the amount of remaining air pollutant is above a predetermined threshold, the method 300 can proceed to process portion 314 wherein calcium-containing particles are injected into the gas stream in an attempt to adsorb additional air pollutant molecules. Injecting calcium-containing particles can be done via the injection system 114 described with reference to Figure 1. As described above, the injected calcium-containing particles can include lime hydrate, enhanced lime hydrate and/or LKD. The amount (e.g., lb/hr) of calcium-containing particles injected into the gas stream can be based on the measured amount of the air pollutant. In some embodiments, injecting calcium-containing particles is done only after first attempting to adsorb additional air pollutant molecules via cooling, as previously described.

[0028] If after injecting the calcium-containing particles into the gas stream, the measured amount of air pollutant remains above the predetermined threshold, the method can make further adjustments to the system to decrease the amount of air pollutant being discharged. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the method 300 can proceed to process portion 318, in which PAC is injected into the gas stream. Injecting PAC into the gas stream can be done via an injection system, as described above with reference to Figure 1. The amount of PAC injected into the gas stream can be based on the measured amount of the air pollutant. For example, the amount of injected PAC may be continuously increased (e.g., in a step-wise manner) until the measured amount of the air pollutant decreases to be at or below the predetermined threshold. After injecting PAC, the method can revert to process portion 312. In a preferred embodiment, the method 300 attempts to decrease the amount of air pollutant by first injecting calcium-containing particles into the gas, and only injects PAC if the injected calcium-containing particles do not decrease the concentration of air pollutant to below the predetermined threshold. This order of preferred operation is based in part

on the price of PAC relative to the calcium-containing particles, and the difficulty with removing PAC, relative to calcium-containing particles, from the system.

[0029] FIG. 4 is a schematic flow diagram of a method 400 for removing air pollutants from a gas stream in accordance with embodiments of the present technology. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, process portions 402, 404, 406, 408 of the method 400 are similar to the process portions described above. For example, process portion 402 includes providing a gas stream including a first plurality of calcium-containing particles (e.g., particles including calcium oxide) and at least one of mercury or hydrochloric acid, process portion 404 includes injecting a second plurality of calcium-containing particles (e.g., particles including calcium hydroxide) into the gas stream, process portion 406 includes adsorbing a portion of the first and second pluralities of calcium-containing particles to the mercury and hydrochloric acid, and process portion 408 includes filtering the gas stream to remove at least some of the first and second pluralities of calcium-containing particles having adsorbed mercury or hydrochloric acid. Notably, method 400 differs from method 200 described above in that method 400 does not include cooling of the gas stream. As such, cooling the gas stream can be done in addition to process portions 402, 404, 406, 408, but may not be necessary in some embodiments.

Examples

[0030] Multiple tests were conducted to evaluate and verify the present technology, as has been described above. In some of the tests, a system configured in accordance with FIG. 1 was used to obtain results for removing mercury and hydrochloric acid from an exhaust gas stream of a lime kiln. During the test, mercury and hydrochloric acid analyzers were calibrated, and speciated mercury adsorbent traps were in used in tandem to the online analyzers to verify their accuracy. During the tests, the gas streams were cooled from about 450°F to between 250-300°F. Effectiveness (%) of the removal of mercury and hydrochloric acid was tested under varying conditions, including using (a) only cooling of the gas stream, (b) cooling of the gas stream and injection of calcium-containing particles, and (c) cooling of the gas stream and injection of PAC.

	Hg (Total)	Hg ²⁺	Hg ⁰	HCl
Cooling	36%	42%	29%	80%
Cooling + Ca-Injection	84-86%	79-95%	70-79%	98%
Cooling + PAC-Injection	81%	91%	47%	99%

[0031] As shown in the table above, cooling of the gas stream alone resulted in removal of approximately 36% of total mercury, 42% of oxidized mercury, 29% of elemental mercury, and 80% of hydrochloric acid. When calcium-containing particles were injected into the gas stream along with cooling of the gas stream, removal of mercury and hydrochloric acid significantly increased to be 84-86% for total mercury, 79-95% for oxidized mercury, 70-79% for elemental mercury, and 98% for hydrochloric acid. For cooling of the gas stream along with PAC injection, removal efficiencies included 81% of total mercury, 91% of oxidized mercury, 47% of elemental mercury, and 99% of hydrochloric acid.

[0032] From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, but that various modifications may be made without deviating from the scope of the invention. Additionally, aspects of the invention described in the context of particular embodiments or examples may be combined or eliminated in other embodiments. Furthermore, although advantages associated with certain embodiments of the invention have been described in the context of those embodiments, other embodiments may also exhibit such advantages. Additionally, not all embodiments need necessarily exhibit such advantages to fall within the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except as by the appended claims.

[0033] Throughout this disclosure, the singular terms "a," "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Similarly, unless the word "or" is expressly limited to mean only a single item exclusive from the other items in reference to a list of two or more items, then the use of "or" in such a list is to be

interpreted as including (a) any single item in the list, (b) all of the items in the list, or (c) any combination of the items in the list. Additionally, the terms "comprising," "including," "having," and the like are used throughout this disclosure to mean including at least the recited feature(s) such that any greater number of the same feature(s) and/or one or more additional types of features are not precluded. As used herein, the term "about" or "approximately," when preceding a value (e.g., a temperature value), should be interpreted to mean plus or minus 10% of the value, unless otherwise indicated.

CLAIMS

I/We claim:

1. A method for removing one or more air pollutants from a gas stream, the method comprising:

flowing a gas stream at a first temperature toward an exhaust stack, wherein the gas stream includes (i) calcium-containing particles and (ii) mercury (Hg) or hydrochloric acid (HCl);

cooling the gas stream to a second temperature, wherein the calcium-containing particles at the second temperature have a higher adsorptive affinity for the Hg or HCl than the calcium-containing particles at the first temperature, and wherein the second temperature is 250°F or more;

after cooling the gas stream, injecting particles including calcium hydroxide ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$) into the gas stream;

adsorbing a portion of the Hg or HCl to the calcium-containing particles of the gas; and

filtering the gas stream to remove at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles having the adsorbed Hg or HCl.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the calcium-containing particles include calcium oxide (CaO).

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising measuring an amount of the Hg or HCl remaining in the gas stream downstream of the filtering, wherein injecting $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ particles is based at least in part on the measured amount of Hg or HCl.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein individual $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ particles have a surface area of at least $25 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
measuring an amount of the Hg or HCl remaining in the gas stream downstream of filtering the gas stream; and
adjusting the temperature of the gas stream in response to the measured amount of Hg or HCl, wherein—
if the measured amount of Hg or HCl is above a threshold value, the temperature of the gas stream is adjusted to a third temperature lower than the second temperature.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein if the measured amount of Hg or HCl is below a threshold value, the temperature of the gas stream is adjusted to a fourth temperature that is above the second temperature.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein cooling the gas stream includes cooling the gas stream via a heat exchanger using air as a cooling fluid.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising, prior to filtering the gas stream, injecting a powder activated carbon (PAC) into the gas stream.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first temperature is greater than 450°F and the second temperature is between 250°F and 325°F .

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the Hg includes a first portion of Hg that is elemental mercury having a valence shell that is full and a second portion of Hg that is oxidized mercury having a valence shell that is not full.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the gas stream is lime kiln exhaust originating from a lime kiln facility.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein removing the one or more air pollutants from the gas stream does not include injecting powder activated carbon (PAC) into the gas stream.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein filtering includes filtering the gas stream via a baghouse configured to be blown down to remove the adsorbed Hg or HCl from the baghouse, and wherein the baghouse includes:

a multi-compartmented baghouse section,

a valve arrangement configured to direct the incoming gas stream to the multi-compartmented baghouse section, and

a controller configured to control actuation of the valve arrangement.

14. A method for treating a gas stream containing air pollutants, the method comprising:

directing a gas stream toward an exhaust stack, the gas stream including a first plurality of calcium-containing particles including mercury (Hg) or hydrochloric acid (HCl), wherein at least a portion of the first plurality of calcium-containing particles adsorb to the Hg or HCl;

cooling the gas stream to a temperature no less than 250°F;

after cooling the gas stream, injecting a second plurality of particles comprising calcium hydroxide ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$) into the gas stream, wherein at least a portion of the second plurality of particles adsorb to the Hg or HCl; and

filtering from the gas stream (a) at least some of the first plurality of particles having adsorbed Hg or HCl, and (b) at least some of the second plurality of particles having adsorbed Hg or HCl.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the first plurality of calcium-containing particles includes calcium oxide (CaO).

16. The method of claim 14, wherein individual $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ particles have a surface area of at least $25 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

measuring an amount of the Hg or HCl remaining in the gas stream downstream of filtering the gas stream,

wherein injecting the second plurality of particles is based at least in part on the measured amount of Hg or HCl.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising altering the thermal properties of at least one of the first plurality of calcium-containing particles or the second plurality of particles, wherein the first and second pluralities of particles having the altered thermal properties have a higher affinity for the Hg or HCl compared to the first and second pluralities of particles having unaltered thermal properties.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the cooling includes cooling to a temperature between 250°F and 325°F .

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising, prior to filtering the gas stream, injecting a powder activated carbon (PAC) into the gas stream.

21. A method for treating a gas stream containing air pollutants, the method comprising:

directing a gas stream at a first temperature toward an exhaust stack, the gas stream including mercury (Hg) or hydrochloric acid (HCl);

cooling the gas stream to a second temperature, wherein the mercury and hydrochloric acid at the second temperature have a greater adsorptive affinity to calcium-containing particles at the second temperature than at the first temperature, and wherein the second temperature is 250°F or more;

after cooling the gas stream, injecting a plurality of calcium-containing particles into the gas stream such that the gas stream with the injected plurality of calcium-containing particles are at or above 250°F, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of calcium-containing particles adsorb to at least one of the Hg or HCl; and

filtering from the gas stream at least some of the plurality of calcium-containing particles having adsorbed the Hg or HCl.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the calcium-containing particles comprise calcium oxide (CaO) or calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂).

23. A system for removing one or more air pollutants from a gas stream of an industrial facility, the system comprising:

an industrial apparatus configured to produce a gas stream having a plurality of calcium-containing particles and one or more air pollutants, the pollutants including at least one of mercury (Hg) or hydrochloric acid (HCl),

a cooling apparatus downstream of the industrial apparatus and positioned to receive at least a portion of the gas stream, wherein the cooling apparatus is configured to cool the gas stream to a temperature of from 250–350°F, and wherein the cooled calcium-containing particles are configured to adsorb a portion of at least one of the Hg or HCl; and

a filtering system downstream of the cooling apparatus and positioned to receive the cooled gas stream, wherein the filtering system is configured to remove at least a portion of the calcium-containing particles having adsorbed Hg or HCl.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the calcium-containing particles comprise a first plurality of calcium-containing particles, the system further comprising:

a sensor positioned downstream of the filtering system and configured to measure at least one of Hg or HCl; and

an injection system positioned upstream of the filtering system, the injection system being configured to inject a second plurality of calcium-containing particles, based at least in part of the measured Hg or HCl.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the first plurality of calcium-containing particles includes calcium oxide (CaO) or lime kiln dust and the second plurality of calcium-containing particles includes calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂).

26. The system of claim 24, further comprising a controller in communication with the sensor, wherein the controller includes instructions that, when executed, cause the injection system to (a) inject more of the second plurality of calcium-containing particles if the sensed Hg or HCl is above a first predetermined threshold, and (b) inject

less of the second plurality of calcium-containing particles if the sensed Hg or HCl is below a second predetermined threshold.

27. The system of claim 23, further comprising:

a sensor positioned downstream of the filtering system and configured to measure at least one of Hg or HCl; and

a controller in communication with the sensor and the cooling apparatus, wherein the controller includes instructions that, when executed, cause the cooling apparatus to cool the gas stream based on the measured Hg or HCl.

28. The system of claim 23, wherein:

the industrial apparatus is a lime kiln,

the calcium-containing particles include lime kiln dust, and

the cooling apparatus includes a heat exchanger using air or water as a cooling fluid.

29. The system of claim 24, wherein the calcium-containing particles and the air pollutants of the gas stream are cooled via the cooling apparatus to a temperature range from about 250°F to about 300°F.

30. The system of claim 23, further comprising an injection system upstream of the filtering system and configured to inject at least one of powder activated carbon or calcium-hydroxide.

31. An industrial facility, comprising:

a lime kiln configured to produce a lime kiln gas stream including lime kiln dust and one or more pollutants;

a temperature adjustment zone downstream of the lime kiln and positioned to receive the gas stream, the temperature adjustment zone being configured to cool the gas stream via air or water to a temperature no less than 250°F;

an injection system downstream of the temperature adjustment zone and configured to inject an injectate into the gas stream such that the injectate adsorbs to at least one of the lime kiln dust or the one or more pollutants, the injectate comprising at least one of calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, or powder activated carbon; and

a filtering device downstream of the temperature adjustment zone and injection system, the filtering device being positioned to receive the gas stream and filter the lime kiln dust from the gas stream.

32. The industrial facility of claim 31, further comprising:

a controller operatively coupled to the temperature adjustment zone; and

a pollutant sensor downstream of the filtering device and in communication with the controller,

wherein the controller is configured to adjust operation of the temperature adjustment zone based on an input received from the pollutant sensor.

33. The industrial facility of claim 31, further comprising:

a controller operatively coupled to the temperature adjustment zone; and

a temperature sensor downstream of the temperature adjustment zone and in communication with the controller;

wherein the controller is configured to adjust operation of the temperature adjustment zone based on a predetermined temperature setpoint of the gas stream and an input received at the controller from the temperature sensor.

34. The industrial facility of claim 31, further comprising:

a controller operatively coupled to the injection system; and

a pollutant sensor downstream of the filtering device,

wherein the controller is configured to adjust an amount of the injectate injected via the injection system based on an input received from the pollutant sensor.

35. The industrial facility of claim 31, wherein the injection system comprises a baghouse, a differential pressure sensor configured to monitor pressure drop across one or more compartments of the baghouse, and a blowdown valve, the industrial facility further comprising:

a controller operatively coupled to the injection system and in communication with the differential pressure sensor and the blowdown valve,

wherein, when an input value received via the differential pressure sensor is above a predetermined threshold, the controller is configured to adjust the blowdown valve to thereby cause the one or more compartments of the baghouse to be cleaned of trapped particulate matter.

36. The industrial facility of claim 31, wherein the temperature adjustment zone includes at least one of a heat exchanger using air as a cooling fluid or a spray cooler using water as a cooling fluid.

37. The industrial facility of claim 31, wherein the one or more pollutants comprise at least one of mercury (Hg), hydrochloric acid (HCl), or sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

38. A system for removing one or more air pollutants from a gas stream of an industrial facility, the system comprising:

an industrial apparatus configured to produce a gas stream comprising a plurality of calcium-containing particles and one or more pollutants;

an injection system downstream of the industrial apparatus and configured to inject an injectate into the gas stream such that the injectate adsorbs to at least one of the calcium-containing particles or the one or more pollutants, the injectate comprising at least one of calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, or powder activated carbon (PAC);

a cooling apparatus upstream of the injection system and downstream of the industrial apparatus, wherein the cooling apparatus is positioned to receive at least a portion of the gas stream, wherein the cooling apparatus is configured to cool the gas stream such that a temperature of the gas stream entering the baghouse is no less than 250°F; and

a baghouse downstream of the cooling apparatus and injection system, the baghouse being positioned to filter the calcium-containing particles from the gas stream.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein the injection system is a first injection system and wherein the injectate comprises calcium hydroxide, the system further comprising a second injection system upstream of the baghouse and configured to inject PAC into the gas stream.

40. The system of claim 38, further comprising:

a controller operatively coupled to the injection system; and

a pollutant sensor downstream of the baghouse,

wherein the controller is configured to adjust an amount of the injectate injected via the injection system based on an input received from the pollutant sensor.

41. The system of claim 38, wherein the one or more pollutants include at least one of mercury (Hg), hydrochloric acid (HCl), or sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

42. The system of claim 38, wherein the calcium-containing particles comprise lime-kiln dust.

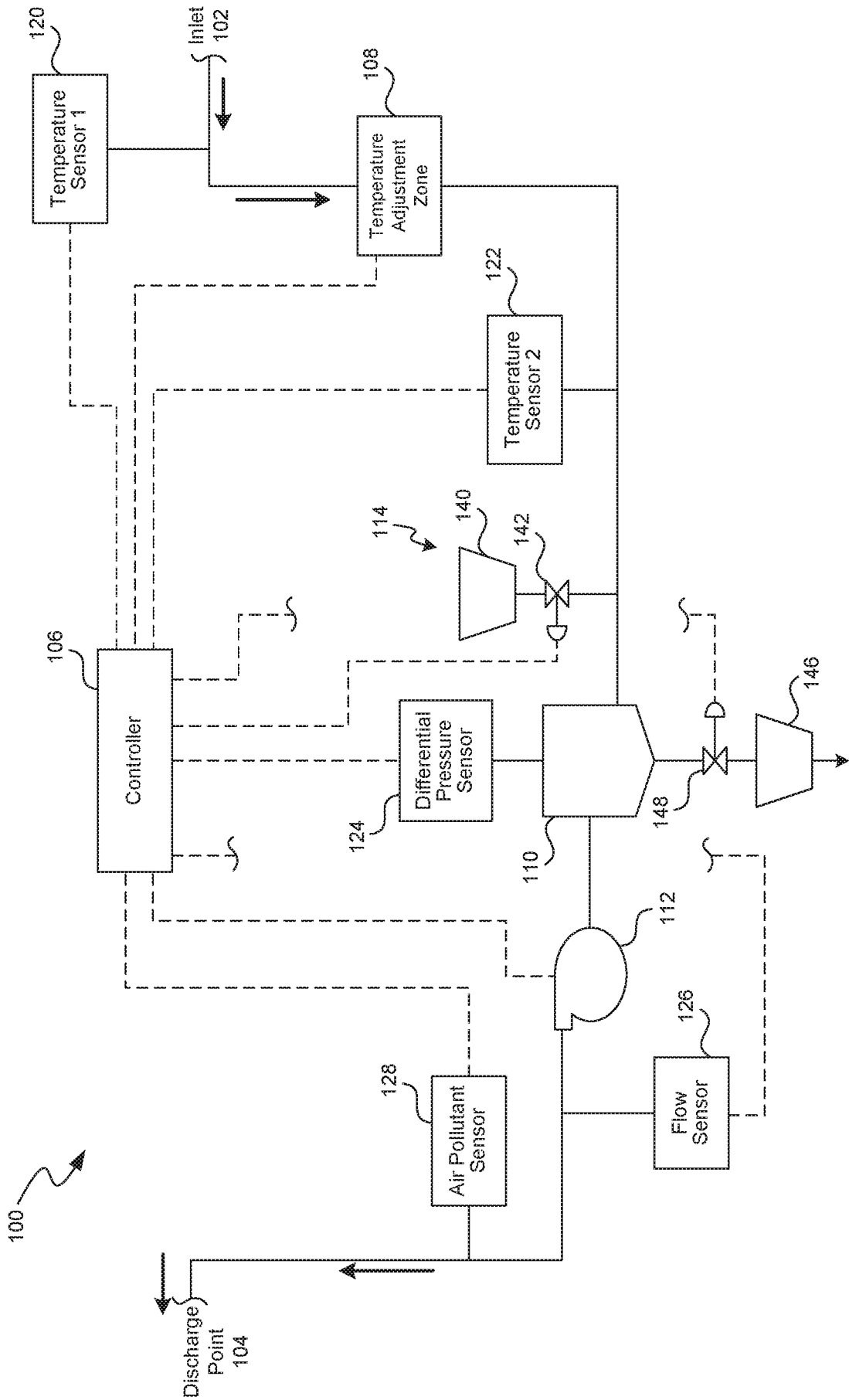
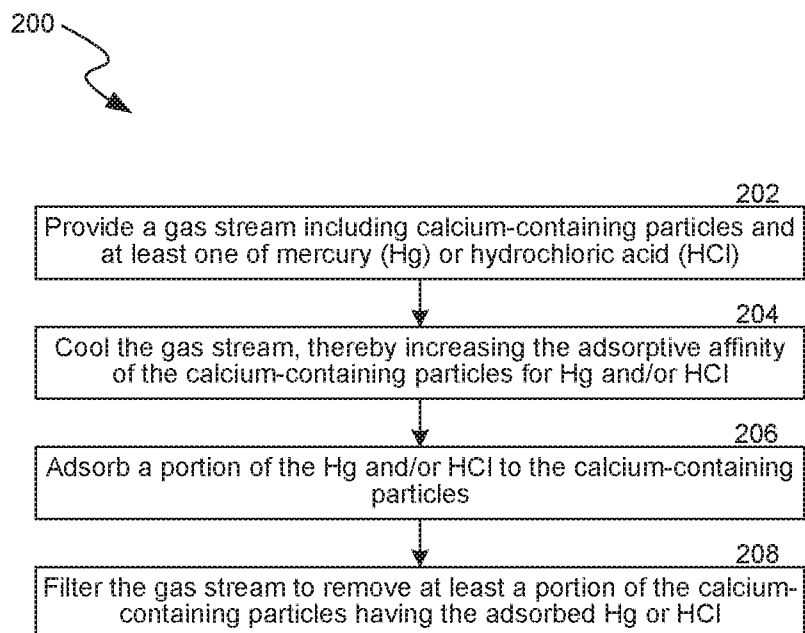
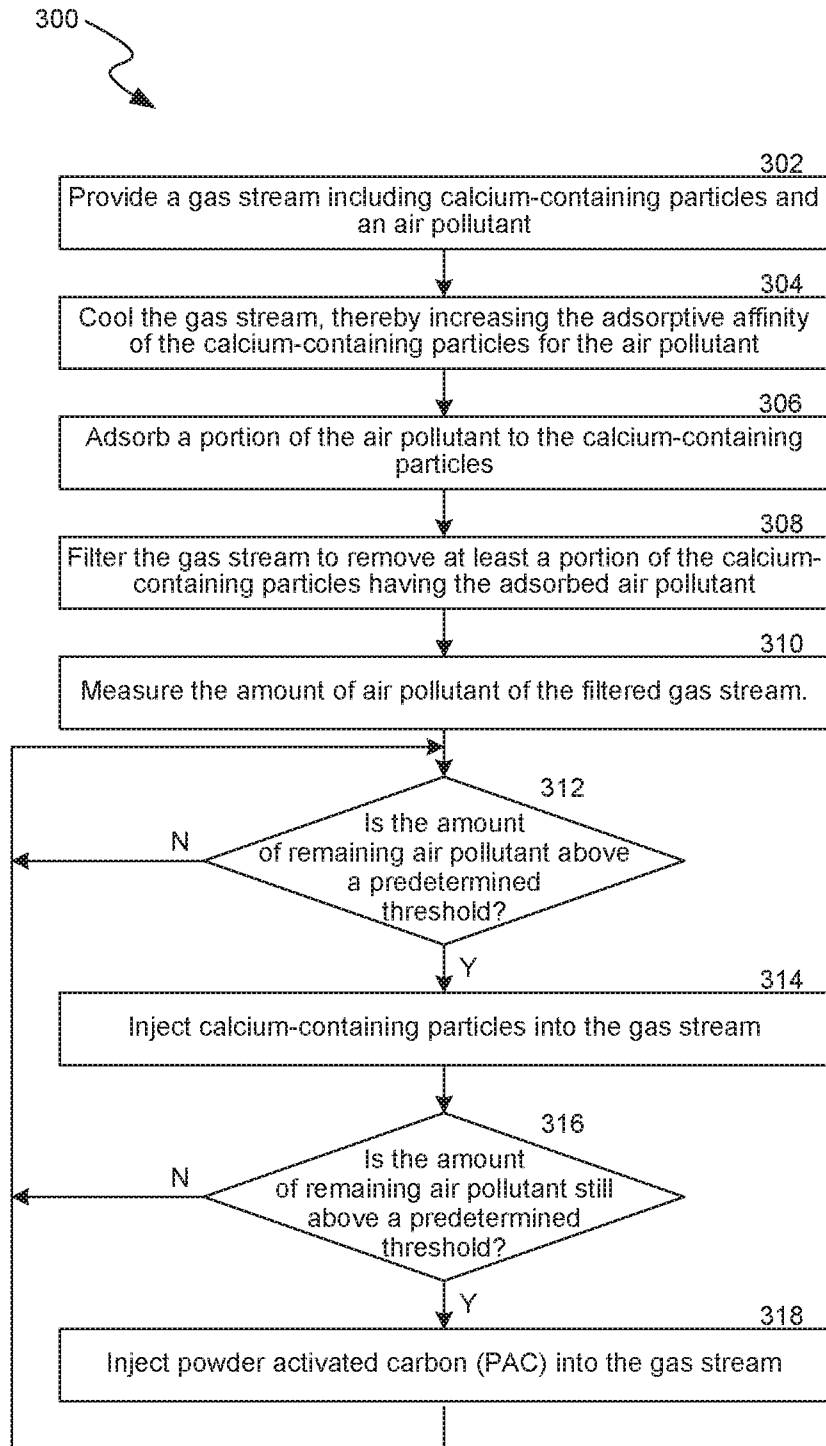
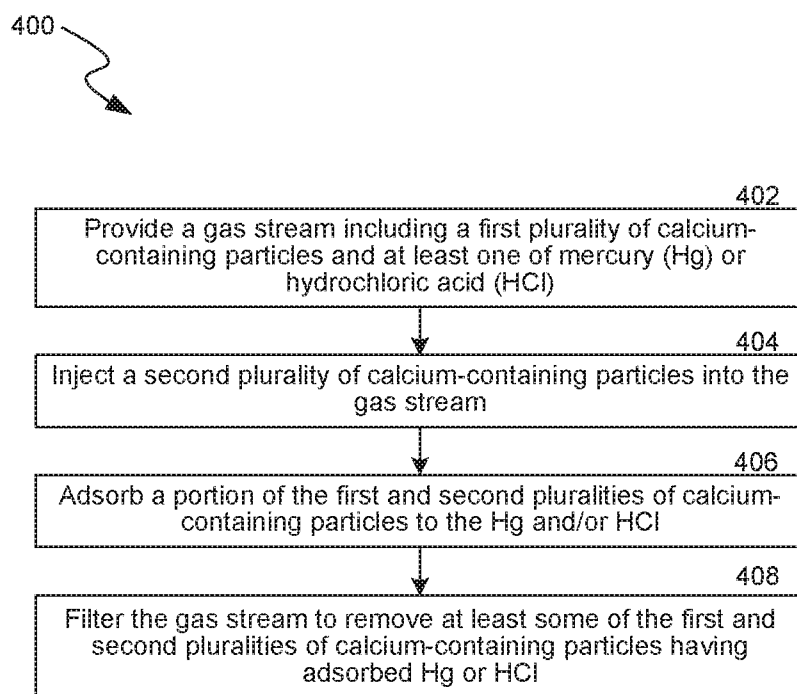


FIG. 1

**FIG. 2**

**FIG. 3**

**FIG. 4**

