

# Simulation and Capacity Evaluation of Refinery Flare System and Comparative Analysis of Carbon Capture Technologies

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**ABSTRACT:** In a refinery flare system is the last defense line for controlling the over-pressurization of process vessels. Mostly power failure is the worst contingency in the refinery, and the flare capacity is evaluated for this case. The data of Pressure Safety Vessels (PSVs), header network, knockout drums, flare stack, and flare tip is to utilize for simulating the flare system of the Oil Refinery Complex (ORC-II). In power failure contingency out of fourteen PSVs, four were found to have higher back pressures than the allowable limits, those PSVs were resized and new models have been proposed. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a significant benefactor of global warming stances a severe hazard to the environment. The danger of natural contamination might be diminished by downstream usage of post-combustion vent gases which principally originate from power plants, gas, or oil fields, and the cement industry with the essential spotlight on CO<sub>2</sub> catch. Post-combustion is a broadly utilized system as a result of its similarity with the existing force plant framework. The procedure was conveyed using 30 wt. % monoethanolamine (MEA) dissolvable and Hollow-fiber cellulose acetic membrane framework. This research consists of two sections. In the initial segment, the capacity evaluation of the flare framework was finished utilizing Aspen Flare System Analyzer V8.4 and the rating of the flare framework was conveyed in which to break down the necessary parameters like Mach number and back weight in the system and the adjustments in the flare framework were made as per API 520. In the second part chemical absorption and membrane separation innovations were looked at for post-combustion carbon catch. The research focuses on conveying a relative investigation of the above-expressed methods for the flow rate of vent gas runs between 1 to 200 MMSCFD. The goal is to accomplish 90% recuperation of CO<sub>2</sub> with carbon decrease from 10.66 mole % to 2 mole %. The absorption technique is simulated by ASPEN HYSYS V8.4 and a program for membrane framework is created by connecting values from ASPEN HYSYS to Microsoft EXCEL. For membrane separation, the operating expense is seen as lower than the absorption process, yet from the results, it was concluded that the absorption technique is superior to the membrane technique until the problems concerning the degradation of the membrane and high capital expense would be settled.

**KEYWORDS:** ASPEN HYSYS, Flare system; Absorption process, Membrane; Monoethanolamine; Carbon dioxide.

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## INTRODUCTION

When industrial equipment is over-pressurized, the pressure relief system will automatically release gases and some liquids. Released gases are released through pipes named flare headers to a flare; gases are burned as they exit the stack. The Flare system serves as the final defense line in case of any emergency in a plant. Hydrocarbons released from different equipment are burned in a flare. Every combustion reaction results in the release of flue gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxides.

To ensure environmental safety, rules and regulations restrict the amount of these flue gases to be exhausted into the atmosphere; this can be accomplished by downstream treatment of the flue gases emitting from the flare. Carbon dioxide is also a constituent of the gases emitting from the flare. Carbon dioxide is a significant greenhouse gas. Recent industrial growth has resulted in a drastic increase in the emissions of carbon dioxide [1, 2].

In this research, besides the capacity evaluation of the flare system has also considered the above scenario, the downstream treatment of flue gases (recovery of carbon dioxide). Carbon dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) is the path that allows the world to enjoy the benefits of rapid industrial growth. CCS technologies on a broader scope find their applications in coal-fired power plants as they are the largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

A Flare system is used for the safe disposal of the relieved gases from different refinery equipment, but the flare must be reliable enough to operate safely in an emergency scenario. The problem statement of excessive relief loads may fail some PSVs. The reliability of the flare can be tested by capacity evaluation of the flare system for the worst contingency (power failure scenario). The flue gases from various sources such as flare systems, fired power plants and cement industries contain multiple gases like carbon dioxide and nitrous oxides. Carbon dioxide being a significant greenhouse gas poses a danger to the environment. These gases need to be treated for sake of environmental protection [3, 4].

The objective of the research is to a simulation of a complex refinery flare system using the Aspen Flare System Analyzer. Study of flare system for the worst contingency of power failure and rating of existing Flare system through Aspen Flare. Modification of order by API standards. The study of carbon capture techniques through chemical treatment and membrane separation techniques.

The scope of this research is to the capacity evaluation of the flare system will be useful in testing the reliability of our flare system for the power failure scenario, when the relief loads of the PSVs installed on different equipment is much higher as compared to normal operating conditions. So by capacity evaluation, those PSVs can be resized to ensure the safe operation of the flare system in a power failure scenario. Treatment of the flue gases by suitable techniques such as “Carbon Capture and Storage (CSS)” techniques will help in keeping greenhouse gases emission below prescribed limits. Further a comparative analysis between the “chemical treatment process” and “membrane separation technique” will help in selecting an economical method for the treatment of flue gases [5, 6].

### *Types of Flare System*

In vertical flares, combustion reactions take place at an elevated position relative to the ground. They are oriented to fire upwards. Vertical flares can be supported in the following ways. A mechanically and structurally designed riser supports the flare burner. An elevated flare with the riser supported by cables is attached to the flare riser at one or more elevations to limit the structure deflection [7].

The flared fluids and gases are channeled to a level flare burner that releases into a pit or excavation. The smokeless flare sorts of flares are utilized to avoid smoke forming from smoke framing from a flare. This is cultivated by utilizing steam, compelling vitality, or different intends to entrain air or make disturbance inside the flared gas stream. Usually, the smoking tendency is a function of the gas calorific worth and the tendency is a function structure of the hydrocarbons. The non-smokeless flare sorts of flares may create smoke in some working conditions. It doesn't use any outside techniques (air, steam) to improve combustion.

A flare burner is an important component of the flare system; it mixes relief gases and air at turbulence to maintain proper and stable ignition. Whenever an emergency or plant disruption occurs, the vapors are discharged for process relief, flare burner ignites and combusts those vapors. The flare burner is a key component and must provide the desired combustion efficiency [7, 8]. The pilot is a device that ignites the released hydrocarbon vapors, if it fails then unburned hydrocarbons may be released into the atmosphere resulting in adverse health effects or a vapor cloud explosion. The pilot should be reliable enough

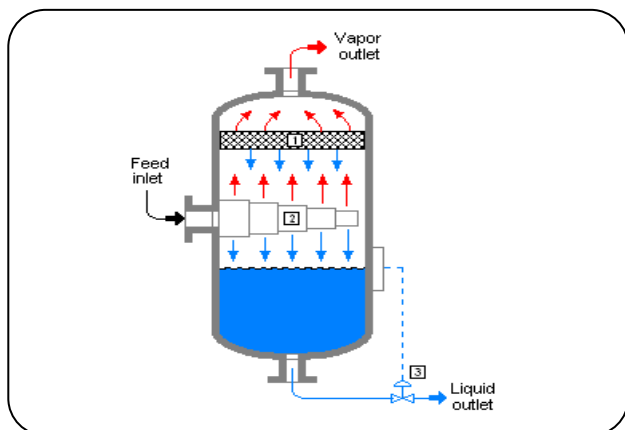


Fig. 1: Knockout drum

to be in service for years without the need for maintenance. The quantity of pilots required is an element of the flare burner diameter. As the flare burner diameter increases, the number of pilots required to dependably light the flare, paying little respect to wind heading increments.

Relief vapors from different types of equipment contain liquid droplets, the burning of the vapors with these droplets may cause problems such as incomplete combustion or chocking or plugging of the burner, to overcome this problem knock-out drum is used. A knockout drum separates liquid droplets from the vapors. Figure 1 shows the knockout drums, which are normally situated on the principal flare line upstream of the flare stack or any fluid seal. When there are specific bits of gear or procedure units inside a plant that give significant wellsprings of fluid to the flare, it is attractive to have knock-out drums inside as far as possible for those sources. Typically three types of knockout drums are used in flare systems horizontal separator, vertical separator, and vertical centrifugal separator. A wind fence is utilized to relieve the capability of wind to upset the wind stream or vent gas stream. A uniform wind stream to all sides of all burners is essential to accomplishing controlled combustion [9, 10].

An average closed and pressure relief incorporates valves and lines for the accumulation of releases from process units, knock-out drums to spate fluid from fumes, seals and cleanses gas for flashback protection and a flare and igniter framework which combusts fumes when released legitimately to the air is not allowed. Steam might be infused into a flare to decrease visible smoke.

Pressure relief devices must be given where the potential exists for overpressure in treatment facility forms

because of the accompanying causes like; loss of cooling water, which may extraordinarily diminish warmth trade-in condensers and therefore increment the pressure in distillation columns. Loss of reflux stream, which may cause pressure to ascend in refining towers because the amount of reflux influences the volume of fumes leaving the refining tower. Fast vaporization and pressure increment by injection of lower boiling point fluid including water into a procedure vessel working at higher temperatures [11, 12].

Flare gases can have broadly changing compositions that will be assessed during the determination of recuperation frameworks. The potential for materials that are not good with the flare gas treating frameworks or extreme goals will be resolved such as, streams containing corrosive gases normally are steered straightforwardly to the flare, thus bypassing the recuperation framework.

A pressure relief framework and device intended to open and alleviate overabundance pressure and to reclose and forestall further flow of liquid after typical conditions have been reestablished. A relief valve is a spring-loaded valve activated by the static pressure upstream of the valve. The pressure increment over the opening pressure makes the valve open. The pressure relief frameworks are crucial in the CPI (chemical process industries) for dealing with a wide assortment of circumstances. They are utilized to avert pressurization over a framework's plan pressure; for venting during an irregular or emergency circumstance; and for typical depressurization during a shutdown, as models.

An over-pressurization may result from a solitary reason or a mix of events. Ordinarily, not all causes will happen at the same time. In the event of an outer fire in vessels that prevalently handle fumes, for example, knockout drums, there might be a fast temperature ascending in the metal that went with an ascent in pressure because of expansion. If there should be an occurrence of outside fire in vessels that contain fluids, there will be an ascent in pressure as the fluid disintegrates. Weight may likewise rise unexpectedly because of warm extension when a hindered in the pipeline or other hardware containing a fluid is warmed. Alleviating pressure under these circumstances is fundamental to preventing failure. It is additionally required in frameworks where a nonstop flow of fume or fluid is all of a sudden halted by a downstream blockage [12, 13].

### **Carbon capture and storage techniques**

Carbon Capture and Storage (CSS) technologies on the recovery of carbon dioxide gas from flue gases of coal-fired power plants and different industrial processes. The captured carbon dioxide gas is transported to a storage site (geological formation) where it will not enter the atmosphere. Broadly, three different types of technologies for scrubbing exist post-combustion, pre-combustion, and oxyfuel combustion [14, 15].

Carbon Capture and Storage (CSS) innovations emphases on the recuperation of carbon dioxide gas from vent gases of coal-fired power plants and different industrial procedures. The captured carbon dioxide gas is shipped to a capacity site where it does not enter the weather. Extensively, three distinct kinds of innovations for cleaning exist pre-combustion, oxyfuel combustion, and post-combustion.

The pre-combustion technique is generally applied in dung, compound, vaporous fuel ( $H_2$ ,  $CH_4$ ), and power generation. In these cases, the petroleum derivative is somewhat oxidized, as in a gasifier. In oxy-fuel ignition, the fuel is singed in oxygen rather than air. The outcome is nearly pure  $CO_2$  flow, moved to the possessing site, and put away.

In post-ignition catch,  $CO_2$  is caught after the burning of the fuel. Then the gas is caught from pipe gases of a power plant or other huge point sources. The innovation is surely known and is right now utilized in other mechanical applications, even though not at a similar scale as may be required in a business scale power station. When contrasted with the other two systems of catching carbon dioxide, the post-catch strategy has a favorable position.

All catch procedures utilize an absorbent, adsorbent, and membranes. Adsorption alludes to the take-up of  $CO_2$  molecules on to the outside of another material. Membranes can separate  $CO_2$  from the pipe gas by specifically pervading it with the membrane material. If  $CO_2$  has a higher permeability, chemical agents that respond specifically with  $CO_2$  are increased to build membrane selectivity for  $CO_2$ . Comparable to adsorbents, membranes are asserted to possibly propose low vitality capture processes [16, 17].

## **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

### **Capacity Evaluation of Flare System**

Simulation can be used as a tool to acquire comprehensive information required for the design

of a real plant, for the experiment, control, and optimization purposes. The benefits of the simulation include; precise design information to ensure the process feasibility, material and energy balances along with the process flow diagrams, multiple design cases, or options that save valuable cost, and the best retrofit option for the chemical plant. Optimization to get the process's highest performance point and sensitivity analysis, evaluating the process key control variables and degree of operating constancy.

### **Simulation Approach**

In this study, simulation of the flare system is carried out using the Aspen flare analyzer version 8.4. Aspen flare system analyzer is specifically designed for simulation of the flare system. It can be used for capacity evaluation of the flare system. The major components in a refinery are typically hydrocarbons for which the appropriate fluid package is Peng-Robinson. The Flare system ensures the safe disposal of the hydrocarbon vapors generated from different process equipment.

One of the most significant parts of procedure simulation is the determination of an appropriate physical property strategy that will precisely calculate diverse physical properties. A plan for the choice of the fluid package has appeared in Fig. 2. It gives an extremely helpful plan that can be utilized for the brisk and simple determination of a suitable property model for any concoction framework.

The primary purpose of this simulation was to perform a capacity evaluation analysis of the flare system of the refinery. Capacity evaluation means checking the operating scenario of the flare system and network of headers and PSVs in case of different contingencies like power failure, plant failure, loss of cooling water, and loss of reflux. Since power failure is the mother of all other failures, therefore capacity evaluation was performed for power failure contingency. The required data (maximum relief load, temperatures, pressures, and molecular weights) for PSVs installed on different equipment were obtained by the refinery. The simulation flowsheet is shown in Figure 3. The required data such as PSVs relief loads for power failure, temperature, pressure, molecular weights of off-gases, header network connections, header lengths, and diameters, knock-out drum dimensions, and flare stack dimensions.

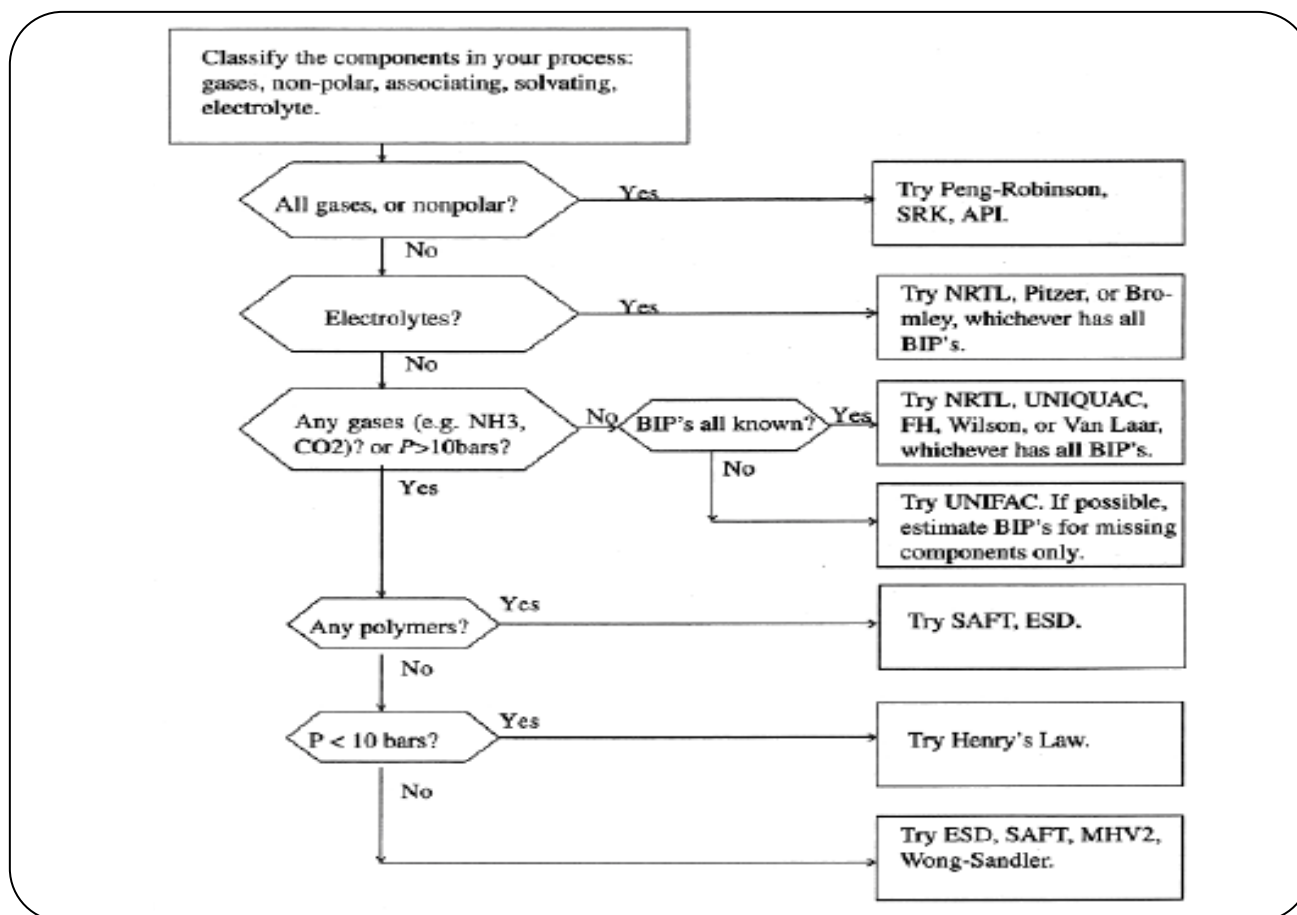


Fig. 2: Tree diagram for Fluid Package selection.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The available data was utilized to perform the simulation of flare in power failure contingency. According to API standards, the match number in headers should not exceed 0.5. Further, the back pressures for conventional, balanced bellows PSVs should not exceed 10% and 50% of the set pressure respectively. After simulating the power failure scenario, some PSVs showed back pressures exceeding the prescribed limit. For example, the PSV 16C-25 of the isomerization unit (plant 16) has back pressure exceeding the prescribed limit.

In a power failure, 15 PSVs are operated to relieve the excessive vapor build-up. Some of the PSVs experienced back pressure exceeding the limits. PSVs 16C-B, 16C-13, 16C-12, 8C-2, 8C-5, 4C-4, 4C-7, 4C-8, and 1C-2 operated safely according to API standards that have backpressure under allowable limits. For example, the operating profile of the PSV 1C-2 is shown in Fig. 4.

PSVs 16C-24, 16C-25, 16C-28, 11C-1, 15C-5 have backpressure exceeding the allowable limit. For example, the operating profile of the PSV 16C-25 is shown in Fig. 5.

The PSVs with backpressure exceeding the limits were resized using vendor-based software "Pentair PRV2SIZE" which uses design code "ASME Section VIII" and sizing standards of "API 520". "Pentair PRV2 SIZE" sheets of PSVs 16C-25, 16C-24, 11C-1, 16C-28, are shown in Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9 respectively.

### Post-Combustion Carbon Capture

The downstream treatment of flue gases involves flue gas treatment by absorption through an amine solution and by using membrane separation techniques. Flue gas mainly contains carbon dioxide and nitrogen; other components include oxygen and water vapors. First, the flue gas enters the absorption column from the bottom where it interacts with MEA solvent 30 wt%. CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed in MEA solution whereas sweet gas with 2.5 mole% CO<sub>2</sub> leaves

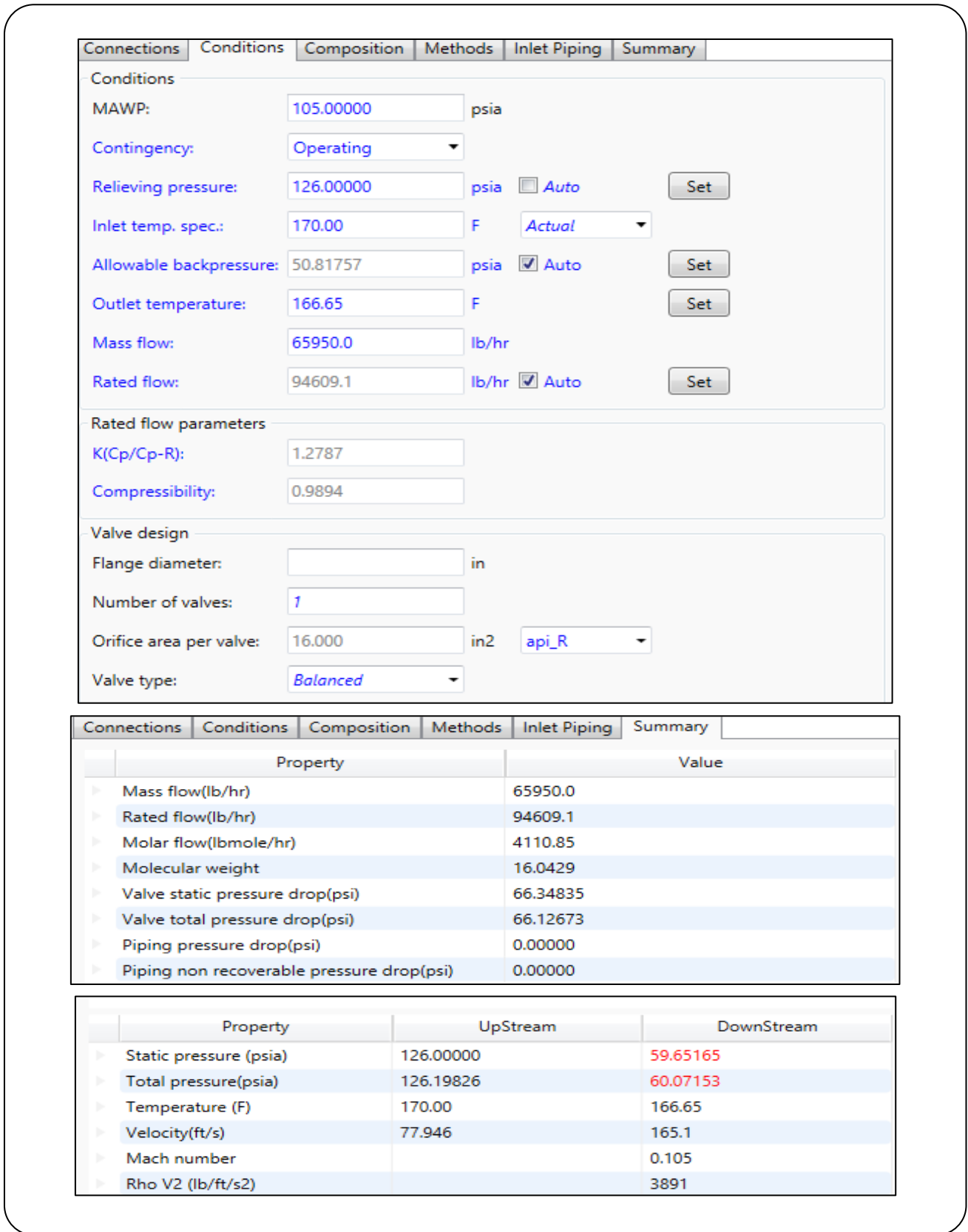


Fig. 3: Simulation sheet of PSV 16C-25

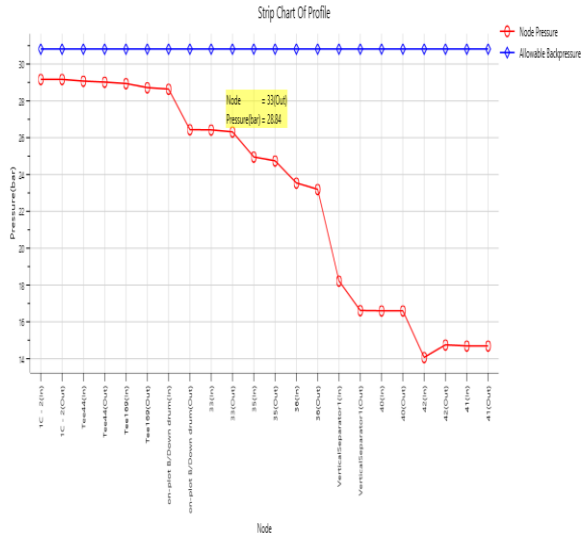


Fig. 4: Operating Profile of PSV 1C-2.

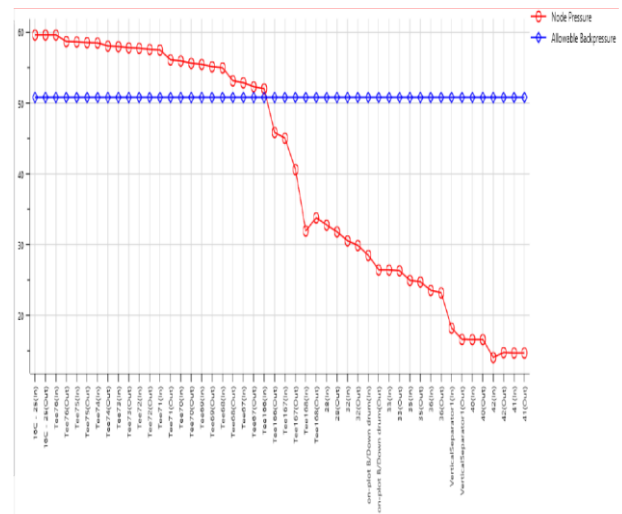


Fig. 5: Operating profile of the PSV 16C-25.

Pentair Valves & Controls 3950 Greenbriar Stafford TX, 77477 United States (281) 274-4400 ivesizing.pentair.com; Fax:(281) 274-4400				Pressure Relief Valve Sizing & Selection Report					
Quote Number: _____				No	Prpd.	Chk.	Appr.	Date	Revision
Client: My Company				End-User Ref. No.: _____					
Project: My Project				Project Ref. No.: _____					
1	Valve ID			41	SIZING DATA				
2	Tag No.	16c-25		42	Design Code	ASME Section VIII		Sizing Std.	API 520
3	Service			43	Sizing Basis	Valve Capacity			
4	PID No.			44	Fluid State at Inlet	Gas / Vapor			
5	Line No.			45	Relieving Case	Pressure Relief			
6	Quantity			46	Fluid Properties				
7	GENERAL			47	Fluid Name		HC		
8	Valve Type	Balanced Bellows, Direct Spring-Op		48	Molecular Weight, M	16.04			
9	Safety / Relief	Safety		49	Compressibility, Z	0.989			
10	Nozzle	Full	Bonnet Vented	50	Ratio of Sp. Heats, k (Cp / Cv)	1.28			
11	CONNECTIONS			51	Gas Constant, C	345.1			
12	Inlet	Standard		52	Sizing Coefficients				
13	Outlet			53	K, Gas	Kd, Gas	Unit	-	
14	MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION			54	Kb	Kc	Unit	0.866 0.962	
15	Body / Base			55	Required Capacity				
16	Bonnet / Cylinder			56	Total	Unit lb/hr 65950			
17	Nozzle			57	Pressures				
18	Disc	Metal		58	MAWP	Operating	Unit	psig	
19	Seat			59	Set	CDTP	Unit	105 105.00	
20	Spindle			60	Over Pressure		10.5 10%		
21	Guide			61	Back Pressure	Constant Superimposed		34.65	
22	Spring			62		Variable Superimposed		0	
23	Gaskets			63		Built-Up		25	
24	Bellows			64	Total		59.65		
25	Cap Type			65	Inlet Loss		0 0%		
26	NACE MR0175 (2002)			66	Atmospheric (Barometric)		14.696 psia		
27	Accessories			67	Relieving (Flowing)		130.196 psia		
28	SIZING / SELECTION SUMMARY			71	Temperatures				
29	Valve Model No.	RJBS-E		72	Operating	Relieving		°F	
30	Brand	Crosby®		73	Design Min	Design Max		100	
31	Area	Calculated	Selected	74	Valve Dimensions				
32	(in <sup>2</sup> )	12.675	18.065	75	A		B		
33	Data Set	Orifice	ASME	76	C		Weight		
34	Unit	Required	lb/hr	77	Diagram				
35	Rated	Actual	93992.427	78	Diagram				
36	Flow	Required	65950	79	Diagram				
37	Flow	Actual	104436.030	80	Diagram				
38	Estimated Reaction Force			79	Diagram				
39	Estimated Noise Level (db)			80	Diagram				
40	96.8 at 100-ft				Diagram				

Fig. 7: Pentair PRV<sup>2</sup> sheet of PSV 16C-24.

Pentair Valves & Controls 3950 Greenbriar Stafford TX, 77477 United States (281) 274-4400 vesizing.pentair.com; Fax: (281) 274-4400				Pressure Relief Valve Sizing & Selection Report					
Quote Number: _____				No	Prpd.	Chk.	Appr.	Date	Revision
Client: My Company				End-User Ref. No.:					
Location: _____				Project Ref. No.:					
Project: My Project									
1	Valve ID			41	SIZING DATA				
2	Tag No.	11C-1		42	Design Code	ASME Section VIII		Sizing Std.	API 520
3	Service			43	Sizing Basis	Valve Capacity			
4	PID No.			44	Fluid State at Inlet	Gas / Vapor			
5	Line No.			45	Relieving Case	Pressure Relief			
6		Quantity	1	46	Fluid Properties				
7	GENERAL			47	Fluid Name	HC			
8	Valve Type	Balanced Bellows, Direct Spring-Op		48	Molecular Weight, M	92			
9	Safety / Relief	Safety	Balanced	49	Compressibility, Z	0.867			
10	Nozzle	Full	Bonnet	50	Ratio of Sp. Heats, k (Cp / Cv)	1.28			
11	CONNECTIONS			51	Gas Constant, C	345.1			
12	Inlet	4"		52					
13	Outlet	6"		53					
14	MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION			54					
15	Body / Base			55					
16	Bonnet / Cylinder			56					
17	Nozzle			57					
18	Disc			58					
19	Seat	Metal		59	Sizing Coefficients				
20	Spindle			60	K, Gas	Kd, Gas	Unit	-	
21	Guide			61	Kb	Kc	0.866	0.962	
22	Spring			62					
23	Gaskets			63					
24	Bellows			64	Required Capacity				
25	Cap Type			65	Total	Unit	lb/hr		
26	NACE MR0175 (2002)			66	142890				
27	Accessories			67	Pressures				
28				68	MAWP	Operating	Unit	psig	
29				69	Set	CDTP	180	181.80	
30				70	Over Pressure				
31	SIZING / SELECTION SUMMARY			71					
32	Valve Model No.	4P6JBS-E		72	Back Pressure	Constant Superimposed			
33	Brand	Crosby®		73		Variable Superimposed			
34	Area (in <sup>2</sup> )	Calculated	6.075	74		Built-Up			
35	Data Set	Selected	Orifice	75	Total				
36	Unit	Required	ASME	76	Inlet Loss				
37	Flow	Actual	P	77	Atmospheric (Barometric)				
38	Rated	Actual	169500.621	78	Relieving (Flowing)				
39	Estimated Reaction Force			79	Temperatures				
40	Estimated Noise Level (db)	112.2 at 100-ft		80	Operating	Relieving	Unit	°F	
					Design Min	Design Max		310	
Tag Notes				Valve Dimensions					

Fig. 8: Pentair PRV<sup>2</sup> sheet of PSV 11C-1.

Table 1: Flue gas composition

Components	Mole fractions
Carbon dioxide	0.0922
Nitrogen	0.7872
Water vapors	0.0545
Oxygen	0.0622

the column from the top and is vented to the atmosphere. Rich MEA solution containing CO<sub>2</sub> is then entering the stripping section where CO<sub>2</sub> is separated from the solution by warming it. The recovered MEA solution is again transported to the absorption section subsequently passing over the heat exchangers where the solution is cooled to 30°C. Since some of the MEA solutions is also lost;

therefore make-up MEA solution is regularly added to the system. The simulation was run from 1 to 200 MMSCFD for flue gas, the composition was taken from the literature as given in Table 1 [18, 19].

**Thermodynamic properties**

For the simulation of the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption unit, an anime package is utilized. Figure 10 shows the simulation accomplished on the Kent-Edinburg model. Typical equipment utilized in simulation absorber, regenerator, reboiler and condenser, siphons, pre radiator, cooler, and blender.

Overall mass balance is given in Table 2.

Overall energy balance is given in Table 3

**Case Study 1**

Controlled parameter: CO<sub>2</sub> fraction recovered by the regenerator, observed parameters: Reboiler and condenser



Pentair Valves & Controls 3960 Greenbriar Stafford TX, 77477 United States (281) 274-4400 vesizing.pentair.com; Fax:(281) 274-4400				Pressure Relief Valve Sizing & Selection Report					
Quote Number:				No	Prpd.	Chk.	Appr.	Date	Revision
Client: My Company				End-User Ref. No.:					
Location:				Project Ref. No.:					
Project: My Project				Valve ID					
1	Tag No.	16C-28		41	SIZING DATA				
2	Service			42	Design Code	ASME Section VIII	Sizing Std.	API 520	
3	PID No.			43	Sizing Basis	Valve Capacity			
4	Line No.			44	Fluid State at Inlet	Gas / Vapor			
5		Quantity		45	Relieving Case	Pressure Relief			
6		1		46	Fluid Properties				
7	GENERAL			47	Fluid Name				
8	Valve Type	Pilot-Op, Pop Acting, Non-Flowing Pilot		48	Molecular Weight, M	70			
9	Safety / Relief	Safety		49	Compressibility, Z	0.859			
10	Nozzle	Semi Bonnet Closed		50	Ratio of Sp. Heats, k (Cp / Cv)	1.06			
11	CONNECTIONS			51	Gas Constant, C	322.3			
12	Inlet	4"		52	Sizing Coefficients				
13	Outlet	6"x6"		53	K, Gas	Kd, Gas	Unit	-	
14	MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION			54	Kb	Kc	0.892	1	
15	Body			55	Required Capacity				
16	Cap			56	Total				
17	Trim			57	Unit				
18	Seat			58	psig				
19	Seals			59	Pressures				
20	Body			60	MAWP	Operating			
21	Trim Spring			61	Set	CDTP			
22	Seat			62	Over Pressure	B			
23	Seals			63	Constant Superimposed	30			
24	Diaphragm	N/A		64	Variable Superimposed	0			
25	Tubing			65	Back Pressure	Built-Up			
26	Fittings			66	Total				
27	NACE MR0175 (2002)			67	Unit				
28	No			68	psig				
29	Vent to Atmosphere			69	Temperatures				
30				70	Operating				
31				71	Relieving				
32				72	Design Min				
33				73	Design Max				
34	SIZING / SELECTION SUMMARY			74	Valve Dimensions				
35	Valve Model No.	263 -466		75	A				
36	Brand	Anderson Greenwood		76	B				
37	Area (in <sup>2</sup> )	Calculated	Selected	77	C				
38		7.452	10.756	78	Weight				
39	Flow	Unit	Required	79	Diagram				
40		Rated	Actual	80	Diagram				
			9425.718		Diagram				
			105360.242		Diagram				
	Estimated Reaction Force				Diagram				
	Estimated Noise Level (db)	82.3 at 100-ft			Diagram				

Fig. 9: Pentair PRV<sup>2</sup> sheet of PSV 16C-28.

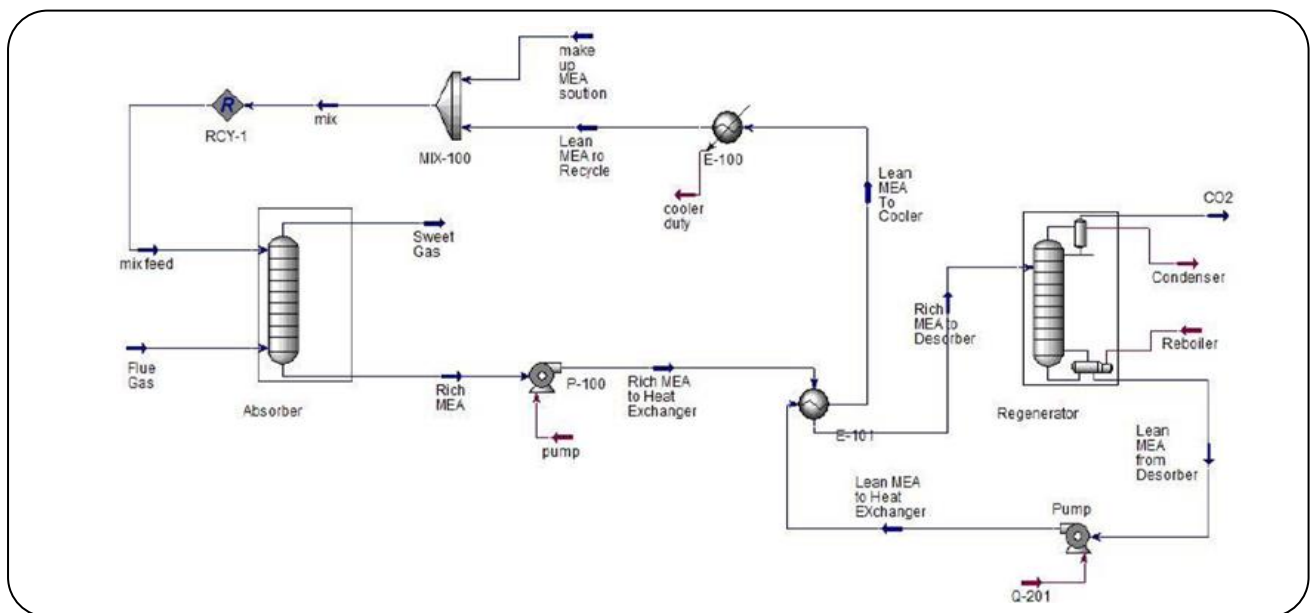


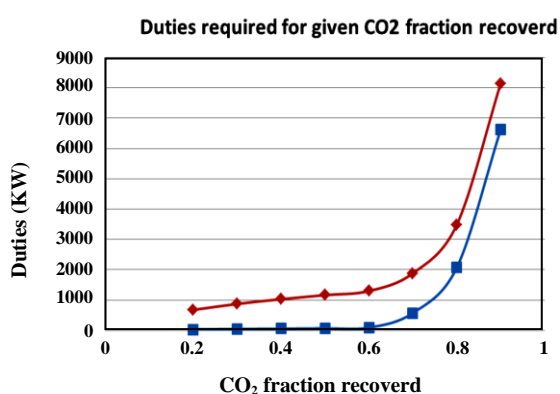
Fig. 10: Simulation flow sheet of absorption.

**Table 2: Overall mass balance**

In-Stream	Count Mass Flow (kg/h)	Out Stream	Count Mass Flow (kg/h)	In-Stream	Count Mass Flow (kg/h)
Flue gas	14550.00	Sweet gas	13720.00	Flue gas	14550.00
Makeup water	641.6	CO <sub>2</sub> out	1478	Makeup water	641.6
Total in mass flow (kg/h)	15190.00	Total out mass flow (kg/h)	15200.00	Total in mass flow (kg/h)	15190.00
Mass in balance (kg/h)	9.348	Mass in balance (%)	0.06	Mass in balance (kg/h)	9.348

**Table 3: Overall energy balance.**

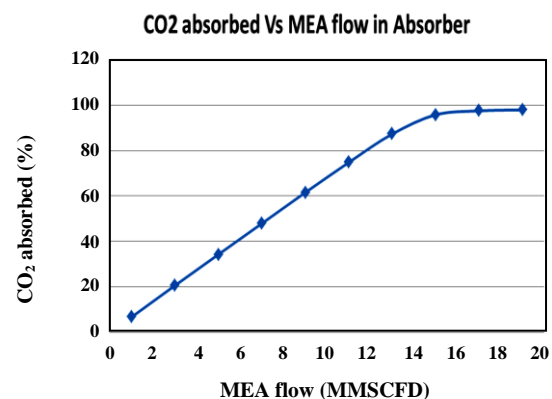
Stream	Count Energy Flow (kW)	Out Stream	Count Energy Flow (kW)
Flue gas	1146.00	Sweet gas	1352.00
Reboiler	3293.00	Condenser	1842.00
Makeup water	-325.30	CO <sub>2</sub>	89.48
Q-201	0.06	Cooler duty	829.70
Pump	0.82	-	-
In energy flow	4115.00	Total out the energy flow	4113.00
Energy in balance (%)	-2.02	Energy in balance (%)	-0.05

**Fig. 11: Reboiler and condenser duties.**

duties. A base case of flue gas of 10 MMSCFD with 13.5 MMSCFD MEA's solution is selected for comparative analysis with composition, 0.705 MMSCFD of makeup MEA solution is added to recycle stream. Simulation is done for various CO<sub>2</sub> recoveries in regeneration to measure condenser and reboiler duties as present in Fig. 11 [20, 21].

### Case Study 2

Controlled Parameter: MEA flow rate, observed parameter: Carbon dioxide absorbed a percentage. With the increasing recovery of more than 80%, condenser and reboiler duties rise significantly. Hence recovery of 80% is

**Fig. 12: Effect of MEA flow on CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed.**

designated for the base case. For a constant flow of Flue Gas (10 MMSCFD), simulation is performed on different flows of MEA Solution. The amount of MEA solution used affects the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> as shown in Fig. 12.

By rising MEA flow afar 13.5 MMSCFD, the absorption comes continuously. Therefore it is chosen for the base case. Due to the limitations of the MEA solution, a 30-weight percent solution of MEA with water is used. The simulation was performed for different flow rates while maintaining a constant Recovery of CO<sub>2</sub> at 80 % in the regenerator column. At different flow rates of flue gas consumption of MEA solution, reboiler, and condenser

Table 4: Equipment's duties at different flow rates.

Flue gas (MMSCFD)	MEA Solution (GPM)	Reboiler Duty (KW)	Pumps Duty (KW)	Condenser Duty (KW)	Cooler Duty (KW)
1	6.58	297.67	0.111	158.95	78.31
5	33.91	1700.45	0.572	986.71	418.7
10	67.31	3468.3	1.1356	2053.3	833.27
20	134.63	7050.1	2.27	4223.1	1670
50	336.57	17636.2	5.68	10553.24	4145.5
75	503.61	25958.6	8.49	15372.9	6212
100	673.14	34668	11.36	20528	8384
150	1032.16	54125.8	17.44	32528.47	13206
200	1371.2	73677	23.184	44970	17652.58

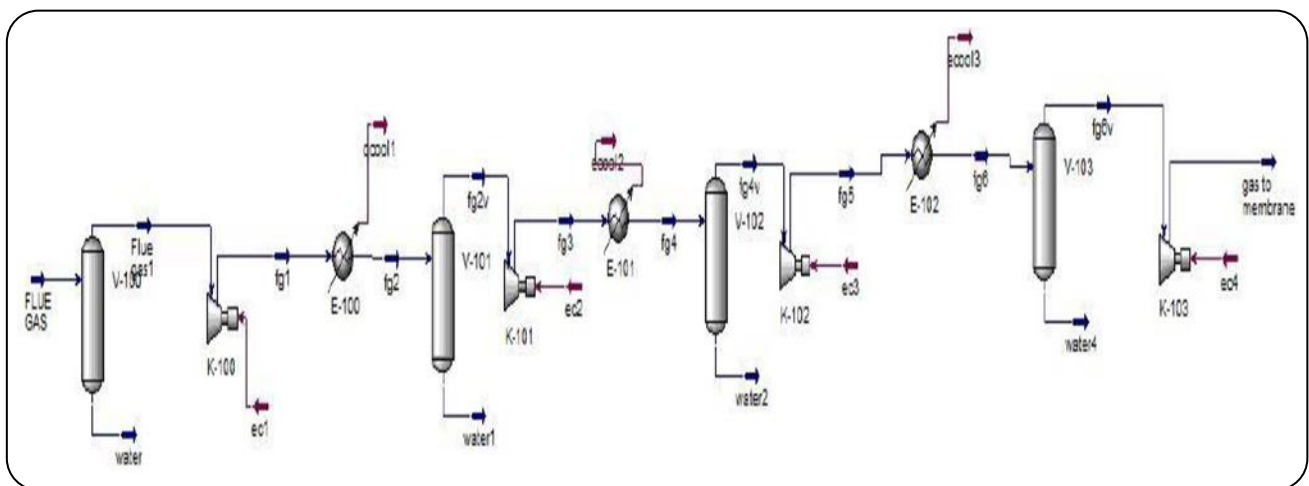


Fig. 13: Simulation sheet of water removal

duties, pump electrical consumption, and utility usage is measured and shown in Table 4. The amine treatment process was simulated and case studies show that the carbon dioxide absorbed percentage is increased as the flow rate of the amine process is increased, as want to increase the recovery of absorbed carbon dioxide from lean amine, and the reboiler duty also increases [16, 21].

### Membrane Separation

The membrane separation procedure requires the gas to treat, free from any moistness. The vent gases from the flare holds water. Fig. 13 represents the simulation of the first stage of removal of the water and compressor framework.

The flue gas was initially sent to a separator where some amount of water was evacuated; the subsequently treated gas was passed to the cooler. A subsequent separator was utilized to accomplish moisture expulsion. In the membrane separation

unit, the resultant gas was compressed utilizing two compressors to 20 bar and fed to the primary phase. The first stage permeate is then compressed to 20 bar afore entering the second stage. Likewise, in the second stage, in the third stage, permeate is also compressed to 20 bar. Fig. 14 is the compressor system simulation flow sheet of the 2nd and 3rd stage membrane skids.

### Process Model

The equation used for membrane separation calculations is as follows:

$$(\theta(1-\alpha) + R(1-\theta)(1-\alpha))Yp2 + (1-(1-\alpha)(\theta+Yf) - R(1-\theta)(1-\alpha))Yp - \alpha(Yf) = 0$$

$$A = \theta(1-\theta)FfYp / Q(P1(Yf - \theta Yp) - (P2Yp(1-\theta)))$$

where;  $\alpha = CO_2/N_2$  selectivity,  $Yp$  = Mole fraction of  $CO_2$  at permeate side,  $R =$  Pressure ratio ( $P_2/P_1$ ),  $Yf =$  Mole

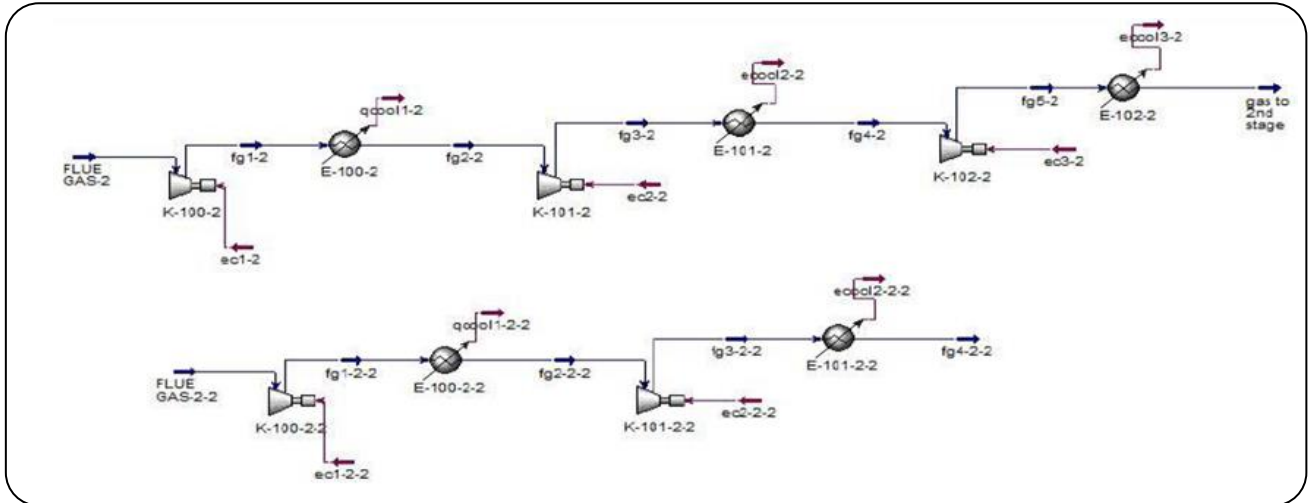


Fig. 14: Simulation sheet of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of membrane process

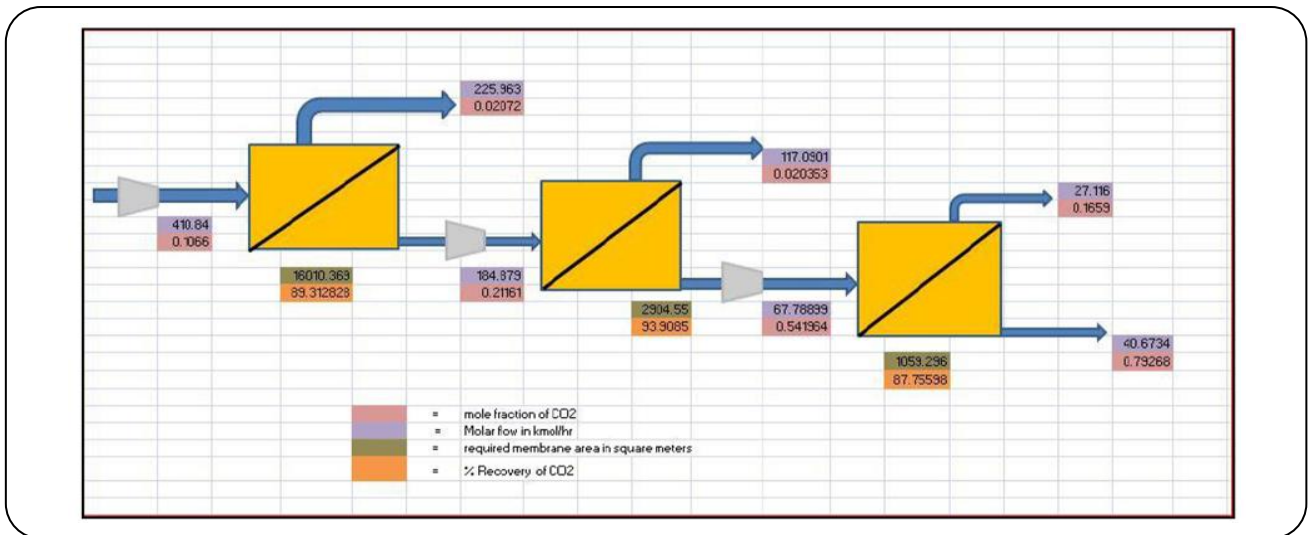


Fig. 15: Excel programming flow sheet.

fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> in the feed stream, A= Effective membrane area, V=Permeation rate, Q= CO<sub>2</sub> permeability, P<sub>1</sub>= Feed side pressure, P<sub>2</sub>= Permeates side pressure and  $\theta$ = Cut or fraction of permeate (ratio of the flow rate of permeate stream to flow rate of feed).

The process consists of three stages of membrane separation. Iterations were performed at different gas flow rates ranging from 1-200 MMSCFD. The power and membrane area required for each stage of the process was calculated [17, 20].

**Typical Equipment**

Typical equipment includes multistage compressors with inter-stage coolers, two-phase separators, and

hollow-fiber cellulose acetate membrane skids. The membrane separation unit was simulated by linking some parameters from ASPEN HYSYS like flue gas flow rate, and compositions in the EXCEL sheet then the model equations of membrane separation were utilized to make a complete program for calculating and optimizing the process. Below is the excel sheet diagram in Fig. 15.

**Case Studies**

Controlled Parameter:  $\theta$  (Fraction of permeate), observed parameters: Y<sub>p</sub> (Concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in permeate stream), Required membrane area, Recovery percentage.

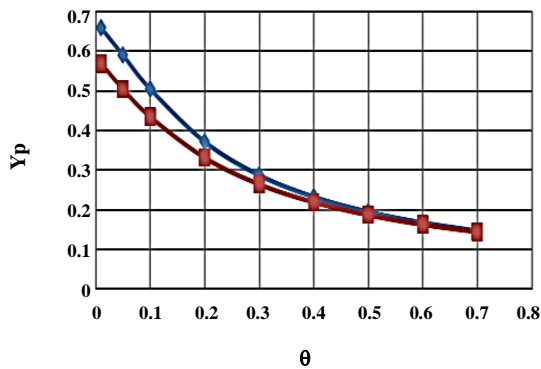


Fig. 16: First stage trend.

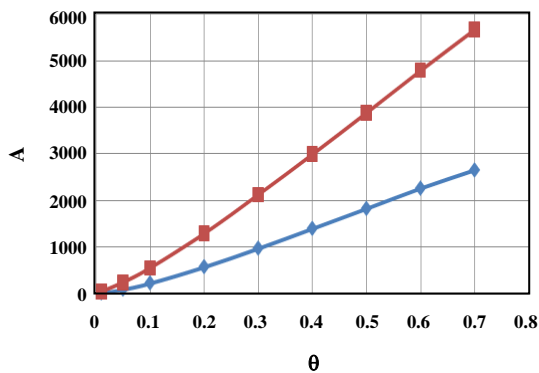


Fig. 17: First stage trend.

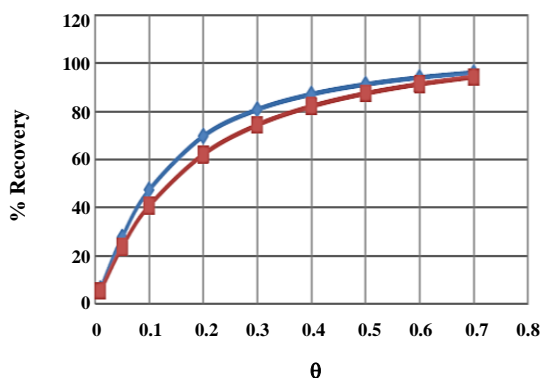


Fig. 18: First stage trend.

### First stage

On plotting the mole fraction of carbon dioxide ( $Y_p$ ) versus  $\theta$ , a declining curve was obtained as shown in Fig. 16. When the permeation rate is low, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the permeate stream is maximum.

As more moles permeate, the concentration of carbon dioxide ( $Y_p$ ) is decreased in Fig. 16.

On plotting area (A) versus  $\theta$ , an increasing curve was obtained as shown in Fig. 17. As the perimeter  $\theta$  increases, the membrane area increases. This is due to the number of moles permeated increases, and gases other than carbon dioxide may permeate, thus decreasing the concentration of carbon dioxide [10, 11].

On plotting the perimeter  $\theta$  versus percent recovery, an increasing curve is obtained in Fig. 18. The reason is that as perimeter " $\theta$ " increases, the number of carbon dioxide moles increases thus increasing the overall recovery.

### Second Stage

For the second stage of the membrane separation unit, the results and plots obtained are as in Fig. 19.

### Third Stage

For the third stage of the membrane separation unit, the results and plots obtained are as in Fig. 20.

After running case studies, the optimum parameters selected are given in Table 5.

The detailed result sheet for the membrane separation process is shown in Table 6.

### Absorption and membrane separation comparison

The financial analysis of the membrane and absorption method is conveyed utilizing ASPEN Economic Analyzer V8.4.

### Equipment cost comparison

The monetary investigation for the capital expense of hardware is conveyed for the flue gas rate of 10 MMSCFD. For the flue gas stream of 10 MMSCFD, the apparatus budget of the membrane procedure is significantly greater than the absorption process. For the membrane process, the apparatus cost is approximately 8.87 million USD whereas it is 4.69 million USD for the absorption process as appeared in Figure 21 [22, 23].

### Operating cost comparison

The working cost is analyzed based on utility utilization by each procedure. The working examination is made for a flue gas flow rate running somewhere in the range of 1 and 200 MMSCFD. The working expense absorption process is higher in contrast with the membrane process as shown in Fig. 22. For 10 MMSCFD flow of vent

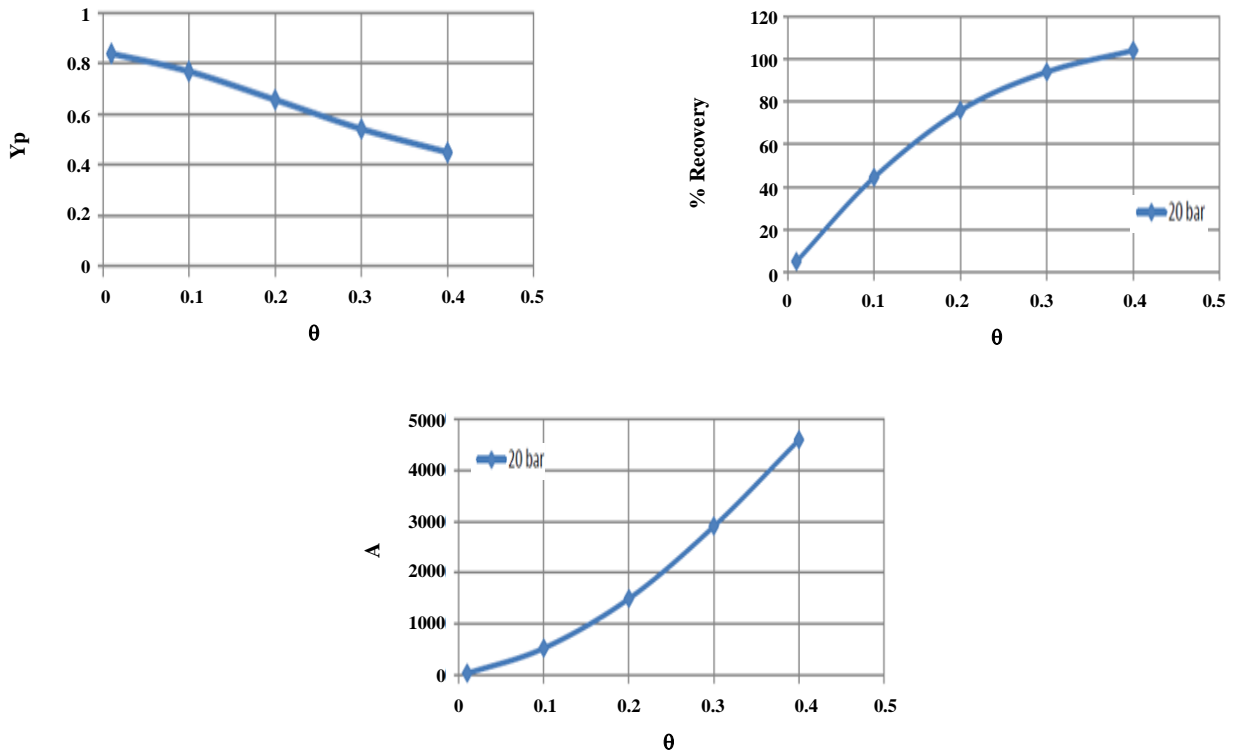


Fig. 19: Second stage trends.

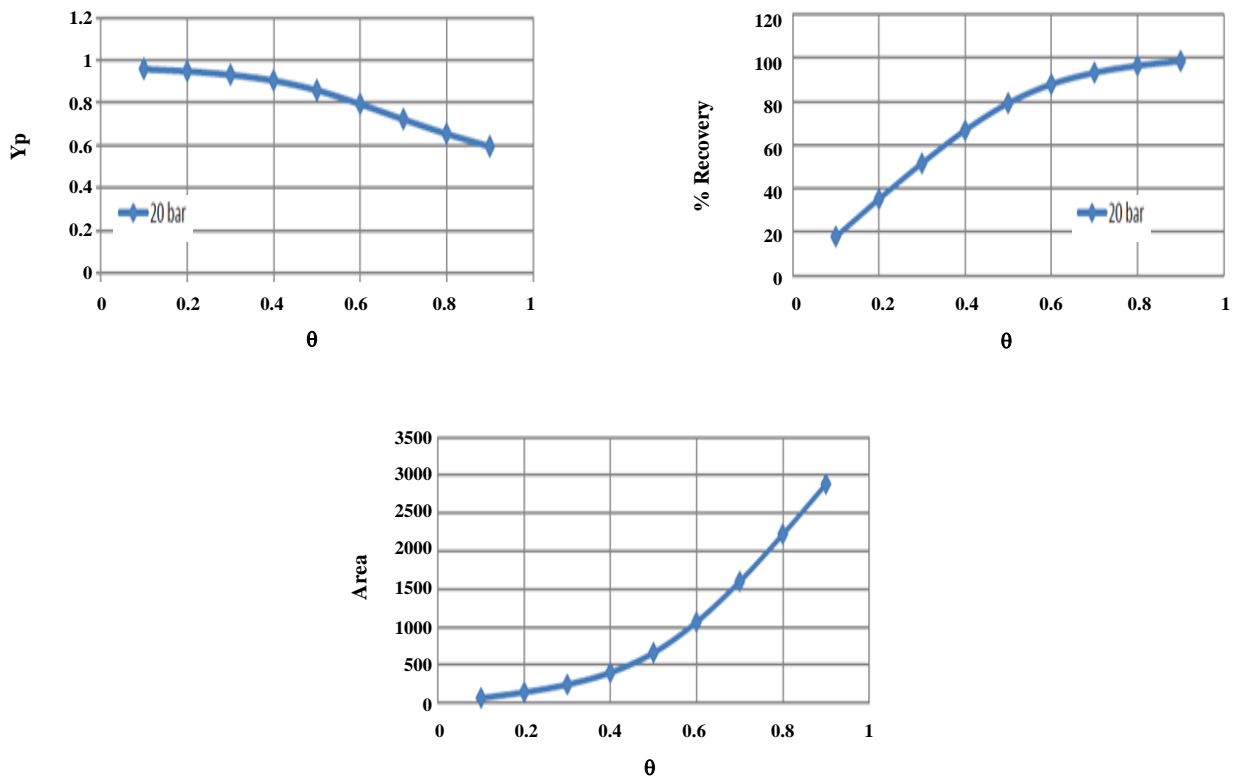


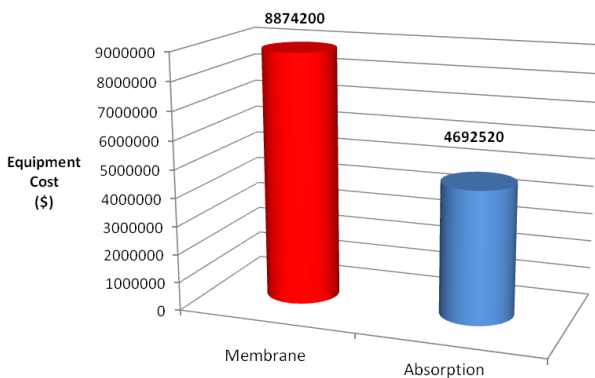
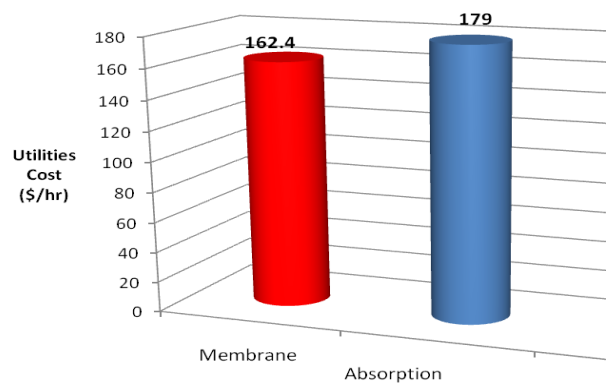
Fig. 20: Third stage trends.

**Table 5: Process parameters.**

Parameters	Value
Permeability of CO <sub>2</sub>	10 barrier
The selectivity of CO <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> mixture	25
Permeability of N <sub>2</sub>	0.4 barrier
$\theta$ (1 <sup>st</sup> stage)	0.45
$\theta$ (2 <sup>nd</sup> stage)	0.3
$\theta$ (3 <sup>rd</sup> stage)	0.6
Permeate side pressure of each stage	1 bar
Inlet pressure of each stage	20 bar

**Table 6: Result sheet for membrane separation process.**

Flue gas (MMSCFD)	1st Stage Power (KW)	Membrane area (m <sup>2</sup> )	2nd stage Power (KW)	Membrane area (m <sup>2</sup> )	3rd stage Power (KW)	Membrane area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total power (KW)
1	126.3484	1601.037	59.2722	290.45	20.79604	105.93	206.41665
5	631.7375	8005	296.3508	1452.3	103.9802	529.64	1032.0684
10	1263.547	16011.18	592.722	2904.69	207.9604	1059.35	2064.2292
20	2526.97	32020	1185.24	5809	415.9373	2118.6	4128.1478
50	6317.426	80051	2963.498	14522.7	1039.802	5296.47	10320.725
75	9476.114	120077.8	4445.16	21784	1559.786	7944.72	15481.059
100	12634.85	160103	5927.016	29045	2079.604	10593	20641.472
150	18952.43	240155	8890.32	43568	3119.405	15889	30962.158
200	25268.88	320207	11853.42	58090	4159.39	21185	41281.692

**Fig. 21: An equipment cost comparison.****Fig. 22: Utilities cost comparison.**

gas, the working or utility expense of the membrane procedure is 162.4 USD/h and 179 USD/h for the absorption process. This gap in working cost increments as the flow rate of pipe gas increments [4, 23].

#### Utility distribution comparison

As discussed above that the major utility for the absorption process is steam whereas for the membrane process the major utility is electricity. In the membrane process,

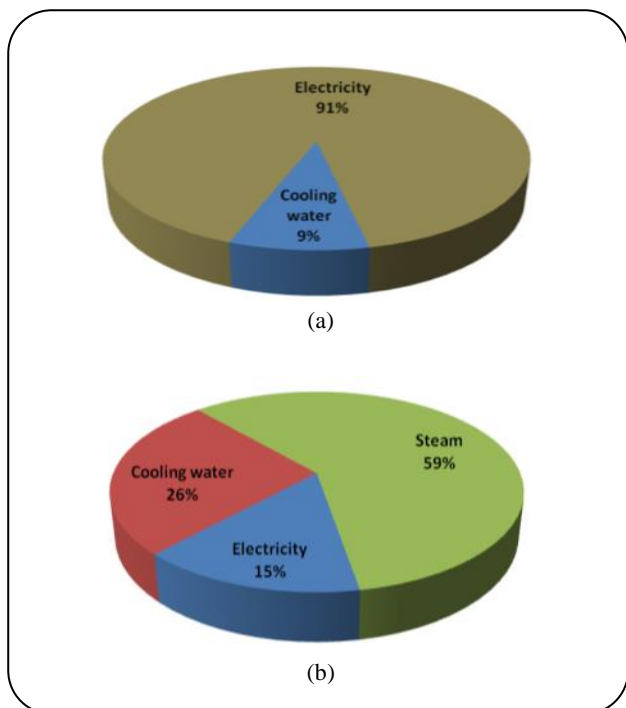


Fig. 23: Utility consumption for (a) membrane process and (b) absorption.

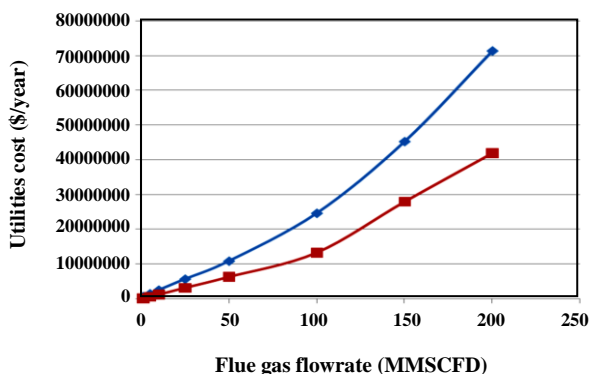


Fig. 24: Utility cost for different gas flow rates.

91% of the total operating cost came from electricity consumption and 9% from cooling water consumption. And for the absorption process steam constitute 59% of the total operating cost, cooling water 26%, and electricity 15%. The pie charts are shown in Fig. 23 [2].

#### Capacity and the Operating Cost

The case study is carried out for evaluating the operating cost of both absorption and membrane processes for the flue gas flow rate is ranges from 1 - 200 MMSCFD,

the trend in Figure 25 shows that the operating rate of the absorption process is greater than that of the membrane process. But when the flow is greater the required membrane area increases largely and the other parameters of the membrane process become difficult to control, that is why the membrane process is only suitable for small to medium-scale processes [1, 7].

#### CONCLUSIONS

Capacity evaluation for the power failure scenario was carried out. The PSVs with backpressure exceeding the limits were resized using vendor-based software "Pentair PRV<sup>2</sup>SIZE" which uses design code "ASME Section VIII" and sizing standards of "API 520". Absorption procedure is as yet a superior procedure since it is broadly concerned and creates reliable outcomes while membrane procedure is still under examination for commercialization. Factors like degradation of the membrane, permeability, selectivity, and life-cycle should be improved to supplant the absorption process with membrane separation. According to this research, the membrane process has a lower working expense than the absorption process however the outcome is for a new membrane as the membrane degradation factor is not considered. The absorption procedure can produce high purity of CO<sub>2</sub> capture up to 98 mole% as compared to the membrane process. Different parameters to consider include the maintenance cost that is higher for the absorption process, and performance decrease with time which is a significant worry in membrane separation. Finally, membrane separation is efficient for small to the medium flow of flue gases, and higher stream rate absorption is the favored procedure. In the future, if the problems concerning membrane degradation and its life cycle have improved, at precisely that point the membrane separation can supplant the absorption process.

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