

The Technology and Business of Power

Andrew Valencia, P.E.

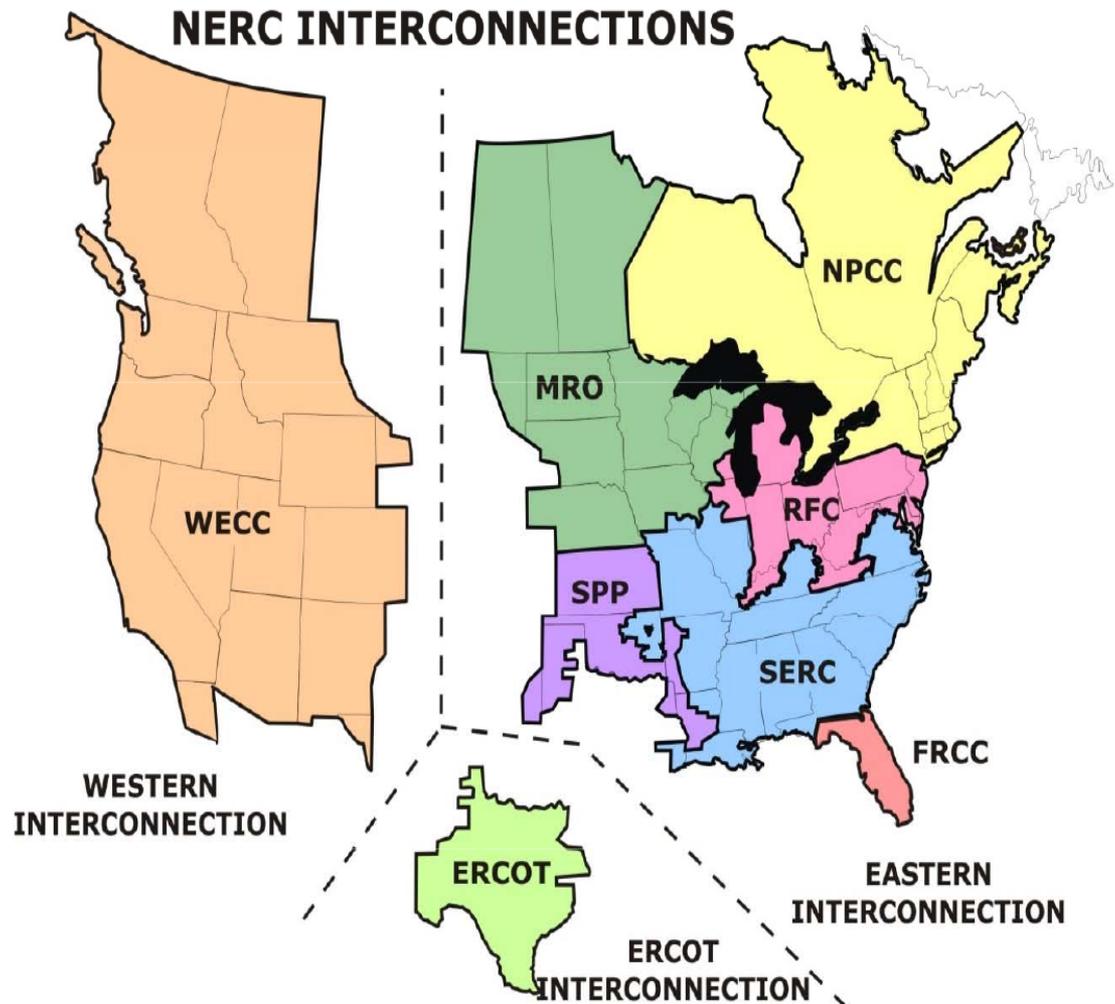
Lower Colorado River Authority



NORTH AMERICAN INTERCONNECTED GRIDS

ERCOT 'directs traffic' on the grid to maintain reliability and ensure supply of electricity:

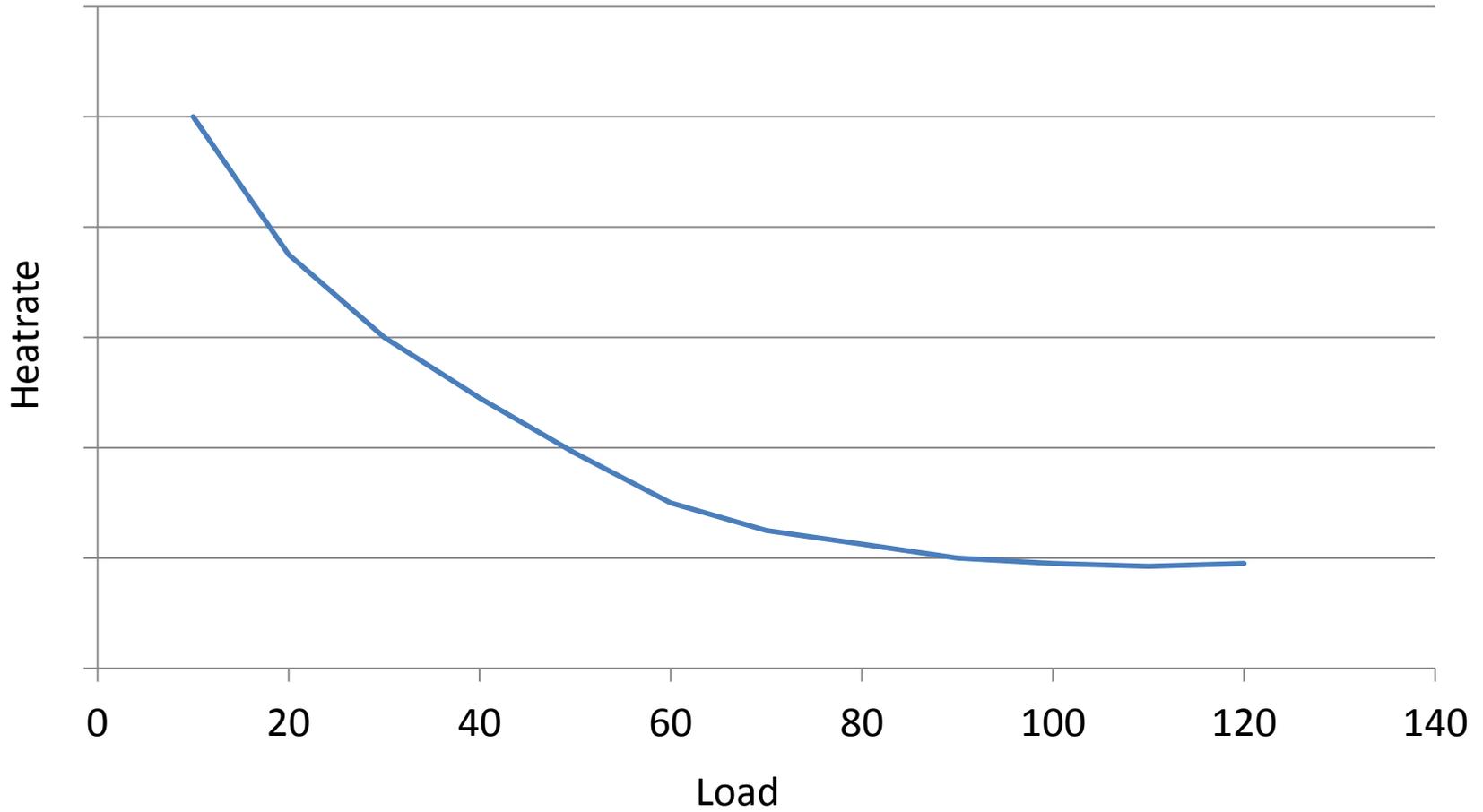
- 75% of Texas land
- 85% of Texas load
- More than 40,000 miles of transmission lines
- 550+ generation units
- Physical assets that are owned by transmission providers and generators
- 68,379 MW Summer peak demand (set August 3, 2011)
- 57,315 MW Winter peak demand (set February 10, 2011)



What is Efficiency?

- Efficiency: What you get divided by what you pay for
- Heatrate is a measure of plant efficiency
 - BTU/KWh
 - Lower is better
- British Thermal Unit: The energy necessary to raise one pound of water (0.1198 gallons) from 39°F to 40°F.

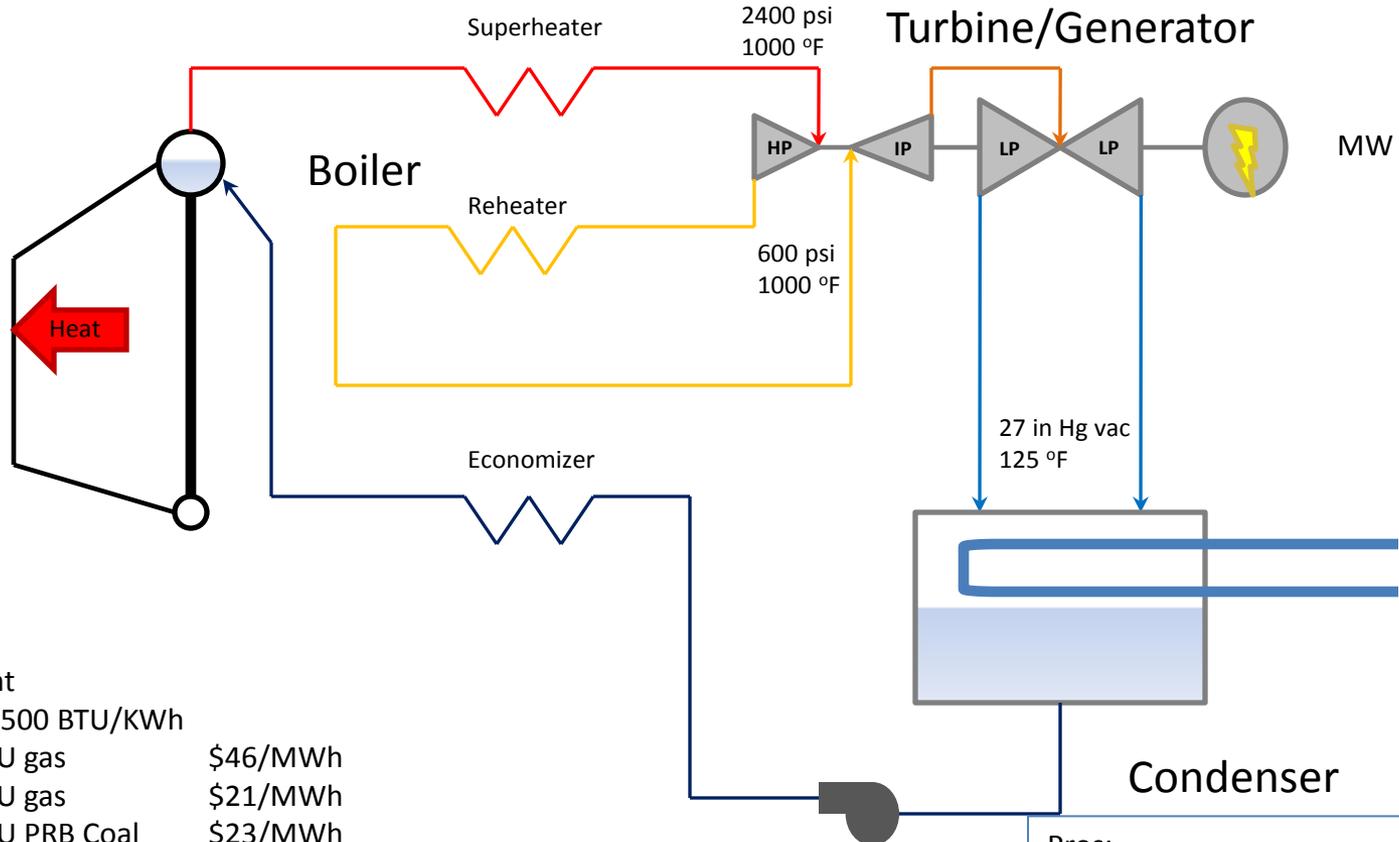
Heatrate



Power Plant Technologies

- Conventional Thermal Plants
- Simple Cycle Gas Turbines
- Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
- Reciprocating Engines
- Renewables

Conventional Subcritical Thermal Power Plant



~ 33% Efficient

Heatrate ~10,500 BTU/KWh

\$4.00/MMBTU gas

\$46/MWh

\$2.00/MMBTU gas

\$21/MWh

\$2.20/MMBTU PRB Coal

\$23/MWh

\$1.25/MMBTU Lignite

\$13/MWh

Note: PRB Coal and Lignite fuel costs are average values and used for comparison only. Heatrates are nominal based on various available technologies.

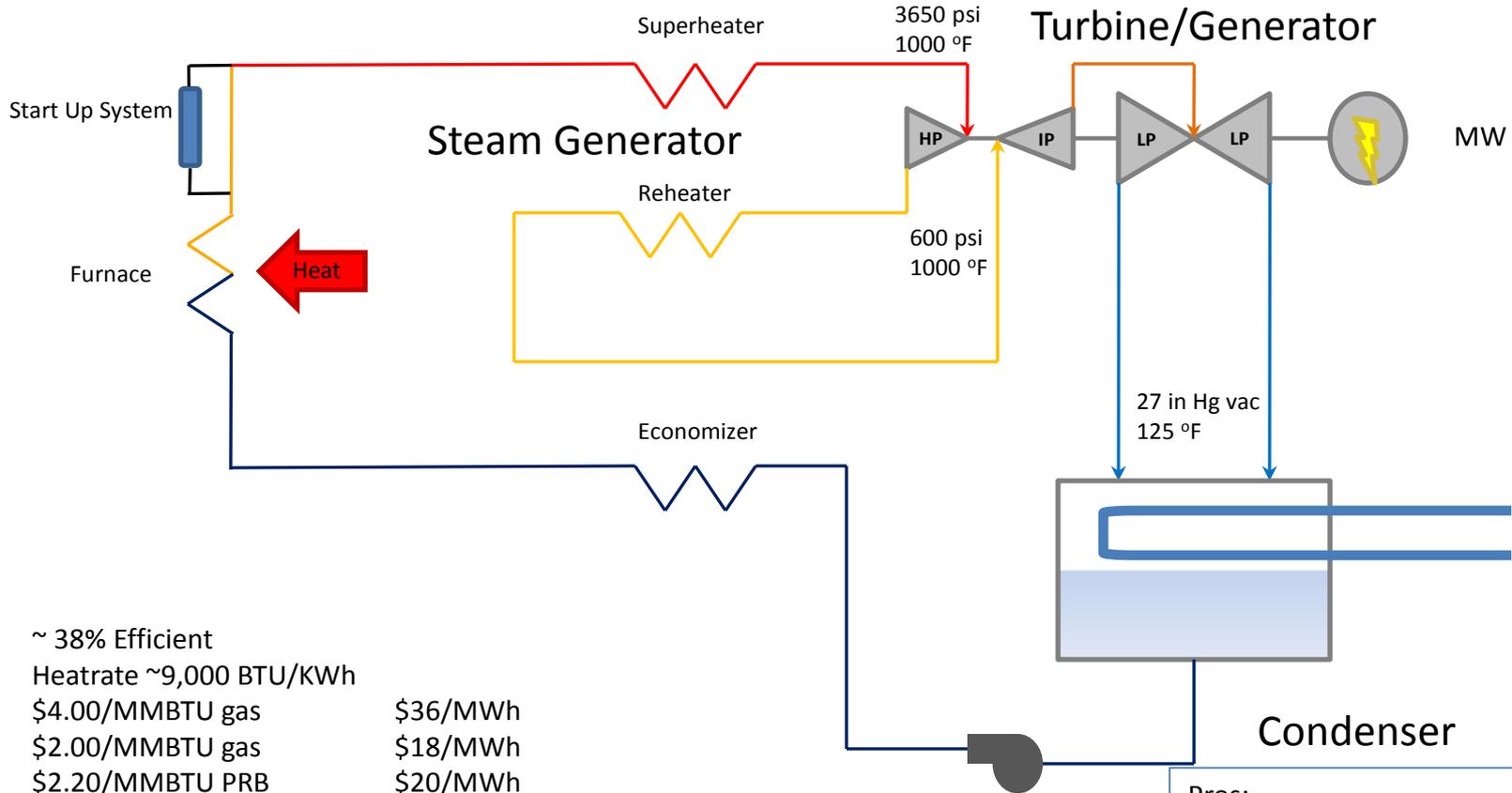
Pros:

- Relatively easy to start up and shut down
- Load following capabilities
- Good turndown

Cons:

- Plants are aged and not many left
- Relatively inefficient
- Need cooling source

Conventional Supercritical* Thermal Power Plant



~ 38% Efficient

Heatrate ~9,000 BTU/kWh

\$4.00/MMBTU gas

\$36/MWh

\$2.00/MMBTU gas

\$18/MWh

\$2.20/MMBTU PRB

\$20/MWh

\$1.25/MMBTU Lignite

\$11/MWh

Note: PRB Coal and Lignite fuel costs are average values and used for comparison only. Heatrates are nominal based on various available technologies.

*Critical Point of Water: 3,200 psi/705 °F

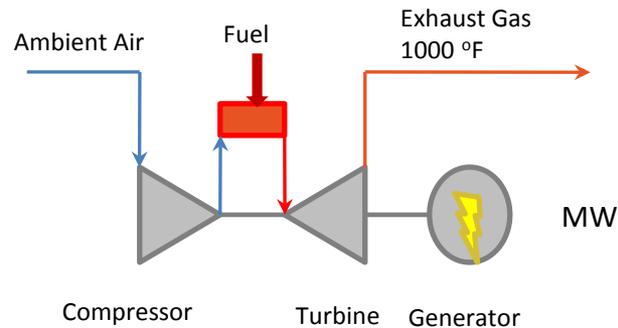
Pros:

- Higher efficiency than subcritical plant
- Excellent load following capabilities

Cons:

- Poor turndown capabilities
- Difficult to start up and shut down
- Complex control schemes
- Need cooling source

Simple Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant



Aeroderivative vs. Frame Machines

~ 26% to 34% Efficient

SSGT Heatrate ~10,000 to 13,000 BTU/KWh

\$4.00/MMBTU gas

\$40/MWh to \$52/MWh

\$2.00/MMBTU gas

\$20/MWh to \$26/MWh

Pros:

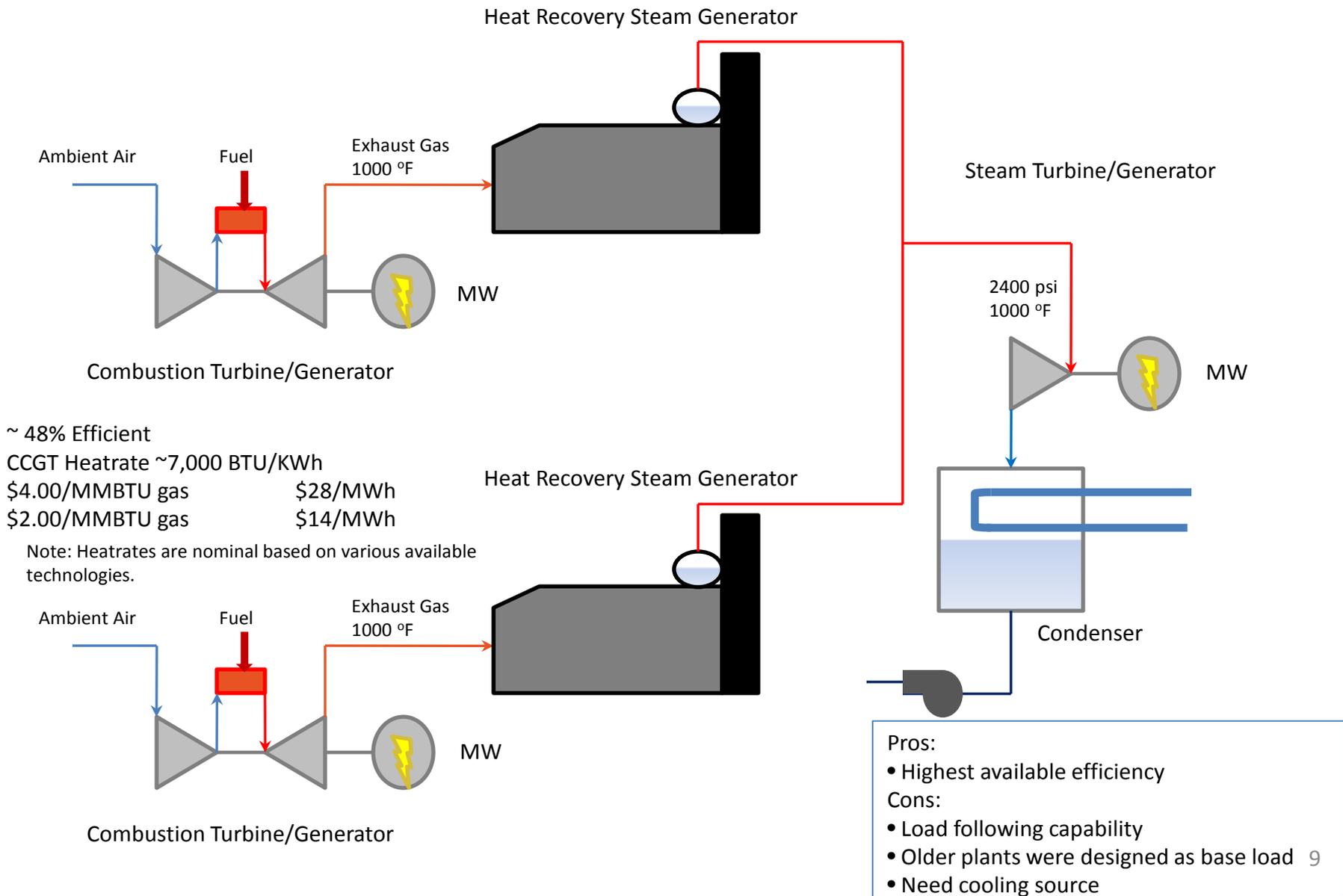
- Very Fast Start Up
- Relatively low installation cost
- No large cooling source required

Cons:

- Low efficiency
- Limited load following capability

Note: Heatrates are nominal based on various available technologies.

2 X 1 Combined Cycle Power Plant



Summary

Efficiency

Overall Flexibility

Combined Cycle Power Plant

~ 48% Efficient

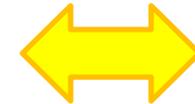
CCGT Heatrate ~7,000 BTU/KWh

\$4.00/MMBTU gas

\$28/MWh

\$2.00/MMBTU gas

\$14/MWh



Conventional Supercritical Thermal Power Plant

~ 38% Efficient

Heatrate ~9,000 BTU/KWh

\$4.00/MMBTU gas

\$36/MWh

\$2.00/MMBTU gas

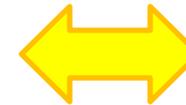
\$18/MWh

\$2.20/MMBTU PRB

\$20/MWh

\$1.25/MMBTU Lignite

\$11/MWh



Convention Subcritical Thermal Power Plant

~ 33% Efficient

Heatrate ~10,500 BTU/KWh

\$4.00/MMBTU gas

\$46/MWh

\$2.00/MMBTU gas

\$21/MWh

\$2.20/MMBTU PRB Coal

\$23/MWh

\$1.25/MMBTU Lignite

\$13/MWh



Simple Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant

~ 26% to 34% Efficient

SSGT Heatrate ~10,000 to 13,000 BTU/KWh

\$4.00/MMBTU gas

\$40/MWh to \$52/MWh

\$2.00/MMBTU gas

\$20/MWh to \$26/MWh



Plant Observations/Conclusions

- Fuel is the driver
- Efficiency affects fuel
- Efficiency and flexibility set by design
- Efficiency limited by technology and cost
- There will always be trade offs

Market Observations/Conclusions

- Natural gas is the basis for power price
- Other forces also impact price
- Coal benefits from high gas price
- Coal subject to changing environmental regulations
- Conventional plants burning gas have limited value
- CCGT are always close to the margin
- SSGT fill a niche
- Nodal market makes generation location sensitive
- Diversification is still prudent

Questions

