

## Coal exhaust "scrubber" to be used at Drake power plant

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A new technology that could dramatically reduce the amount of pollutants emitted from coal burning power plants is closer to being put online in Colorado Springs.

A medium scale test of the Neumann Systems Group air purification device was recently completed at the Drake Power Plant and a large scale test is expected to take place later this summer.

Test results thus far show the filter can remove up to 99.9 percent of nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide, and between 40-60 percent of carbon dioxide from the coal exhaust.

The system works by passing the exhaust through a liquid solution that traps the contaminants and removes them. The cleaned exhaust is then sent out the exhaust stack.

"This is a technology that will fundamentally transform the ability to remove the contaminants from the exhaust stream before it enters the atmosphere," said Drew Rankin, the general manager of energy supply for CSU.

More than two-thirds of all of the electricity generated by CSU comes from burning coal and Rankin expects stricter emissions standards to soon require them to install exhaust cleaning systems.

"If this technology proves out to work as well as we believe it will at this point, it will save our customers over \$250 million compared to conventional technology," Rankin said.

Rankin sees the Neumann Systems device as one of the utility's most promising addition to their energy portfolio because it is smaller, cheaper and more efficient than other cleaning systems on the market.

"It's about excellence in existing operations, how do we refine our costs, reliability and environmental performance for existing assets," Rankin said. "This technology helps us do that better."