



# Overview

## Timeline

- Project start date: 10/1/2016
- Project end date: 9/30/2020
- Percent complete: ~85% of project

## Budget

- Total Funding Spent
  - ~\$637K SA (though Mar 2020)
- Total DOE Project Value:
  - ~\$749k SA
- Cost Share Percentage: 0%  
(not required for analysis projects)

## Barriers

- Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) Generation by Water Electrolysis
  - F: Capital Cost
  - G: System Efficiency and Electricity Cost
  - K: Manufacturing

## Partners

- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)



## Collaborators (unpaid)

- 7 Electrolyzer companies and research groups  
(names not included in public documents)

# Relevance and Impact

- Investigates production and delivery pathways selected/suggested by DOE that are relevant, timely, and of value to FCTO.
- Supports selection of portfolio priorities through evaluations of technical progress and hydrogen cost status.
- Provides complete pathway definition, performance, and economic analysis not elsewhere available.
- Provides analysis that is transparent, detailed, and made publicly available to the technical community.
- Results of analysis:
  - Identifies cost drivers
  - Assesses technology status
  - Provides information to DOE to help guide R&D direction

# Selection of H<sub>2</sub> Production & Delivery Cases

- DOE selects cases that support the FCTO development mission
  - Advanced Water Splitting
  - Biomass-based processes
  - Waste recovery to H<sub>2</sub> processes
- Cases selected based on:
  - Highest priority cases with direct application to FCTO mission
  - Data availability
  - Ability to assist studies in providing relevant cost estimates
    - Beneficial for cases without cost estimates
    - Provide assistance for proper development of H2A cases

| Cases Completed in Previous Years  | Cases Completed This Year   | Cases Under Development  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wiretough H<sub>2</sub> Storage at Dispensing Station</li> <li>• Cost of Transmitting Energy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolysis               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to previous case study</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Solid Oxide Electrolysis (SOE)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to previous case study</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) electrolysis</li> <li>• Photoelectrochemical (PEC) H<sub>2</sub>O splitting               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to previous case study</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Solar Thermochemical (STCH)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted by NREL</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

# Electrolyzer Water Splitting Technology

## Project Objective

Conduct technoeconomic analyses of various methods of water splitting:

- 1,500 kg H<sub>2</sub>/day distributed sites
- 50,000 kg H<sub>2</sub>/day production sites
- Two technology levels analyzed
  - Current: current technology at high-manufacturing rate
  - Future: future technology (2035) at high-manufacturing rate

| Electrolyzer Technology  | Production Sizes Reported | Technology Years Reported |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Proton Exchange Membrane | Distributed & Central     | Current & Future          |
| Solid Oxide              | Central                   | Current & Future          |
| Anion Exchange Membrane  | Distributed               | Future & Far Future       |

## Approach

- Collect data via Industry Questionnaire
- Assess data for consensus and trends
- Validate with system modeling and other tools
- Update H2A model with new values to obtain updated \$/kg H<sub>2</sub> projections

# Approach to data collection

- **Surveyed companies & research groups for key technical & cost parameters**

- Data response was limited for some parameters which often left insufficient data for statistical analysis
- Compared with previous PEM H2A values and previous survey
- Various Responses received for each technology

| Electrolyzer Technology | Number of Respondents |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| PEM                     | 5                     |
| SOE                     | 4                     |
| AEM                     | 1                     |

- **Developed technical and cost parameters from multiple sources**

- Questionnaire responses
- Literature review
- Price quotes
- Techno-economic system analysis based on PEM PFD (incl. DFMA)
- Learning Curves (for comparison to reported parameter values)

# Semi-Qualitative Comparison of Electrolyzers

|  | PEM               | SOE              | AEM (Future)                                 | AEM (Far-Future)                                 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Current Technology Readiness Level (TRL)                   | 9                 | 8                | 5  | 5  |
| Catalyst Basis   | Pt/C              | YSZ              | Pt/C   | Non-Pt   |
| Ion Transport  | H <sup>+</sup>    | O <sup>2-</sup>  | OH <sup>-</sup>                              | OH <sup>-</sup>                                  |
| Transport Layer  | Nafion            | Ceramic Solid    | PolyArylPiperdinium                          | PolyArylPiperdinium                              |
| Operating Temperature                                      | Low               | High             | Low  | Low  |
| Current Density (A/cm <sup>2</sup> ) (at typ. oper. point) | High<br>(2.0-3.0) | Low<br>(1.0-1.5) | Low<br>(0.5-1.0)                             | Low<br>(1-?)                                     |
| Degradation Rate   | Low               | Moderate         | Current: Very High<br>Future: Similar to PEM | Current: Very High<br>Far-Future: Similar to PEM |

## Expanded AEM Information

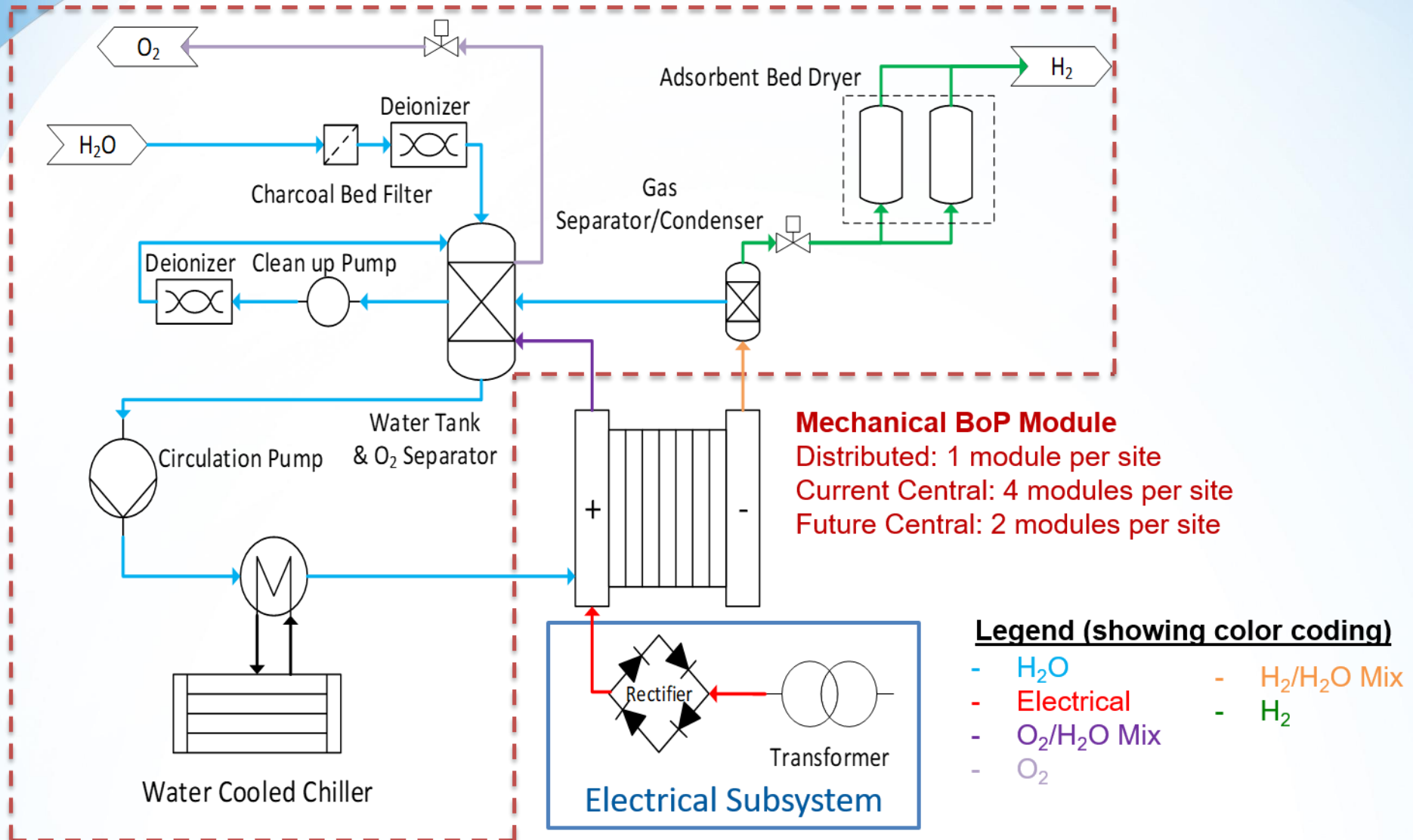
- AEM technology is largely still under development with existing systems being researched.
  - New ion transfer membrane are under development
  - Trying to achieve the same system performance with non-Pt based catalyst that is available with Pt catalysts
- TRL rating basis:
  - Research groups focused on fundamental technology parameters (i.e. membranes and catalysts) suggest low-TRL (3-4)
  - TRL level raised to 5 due to a single company selling small (1kg H<sub>2</sub>/day) units

# 6 Key Cost Parameters For Electrolysis

- **Current Density** ( $\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ )
- **Cell Voltage** ( $\text{V}/\text{cell}$ )
- **Electrical Usage** ( $\text{kWh}/\text{kg H}_2$ )
  - Electrical requirement of the stack and plant to produce  $\text{H}_2$
- **Stack Cost** ( $\$/\text{cm}^2$ )
  - Normally reported in  $\$/\text{kW}_{\text{system input}}$
  - To decouple cost from performance, stack cost is based on active area in this analysis
- **Mechanical BoP Cost** ( $\$/(\text{kg H}_2/\text{day})$ )
  - Capital cost of pumps, dryers, heat exchangers, etc.
  - Scaled with design flow rate of hydrogen
- **Electrical BoP Cost** ( $\$/\text{kW}_{\text{system input}}$ )
  - Capital cost of Rectifier, Transformers



# PEM Process Flow Diagram

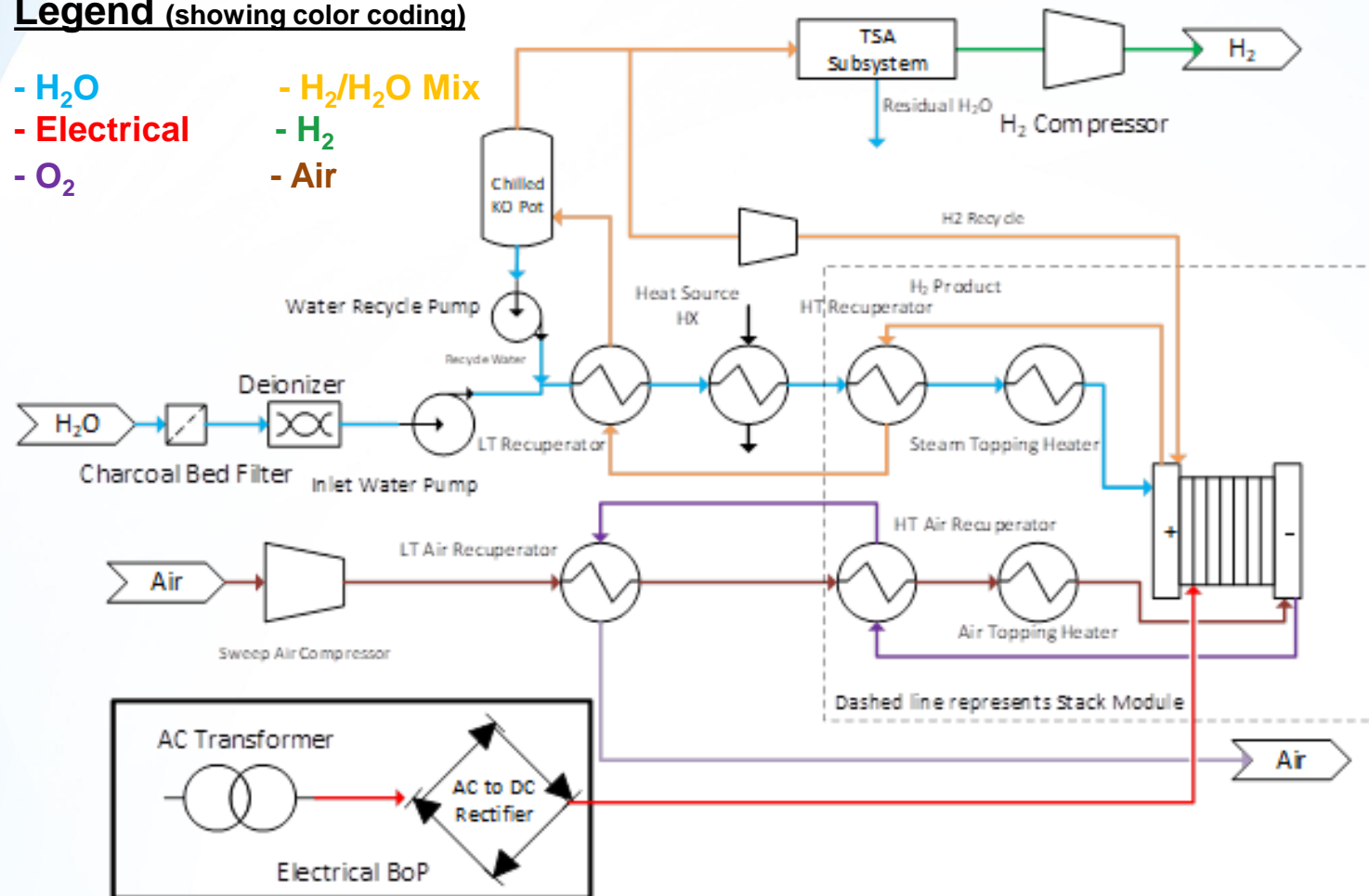


# Process Flow Diagram

## Solid Oxide Electrolysis, Current Case

### Legend (showing color coding)

- $H_2O$
- Electrical
- $O_2$
- $H_2/H_2O$  Mix
- $H_2$
- Air



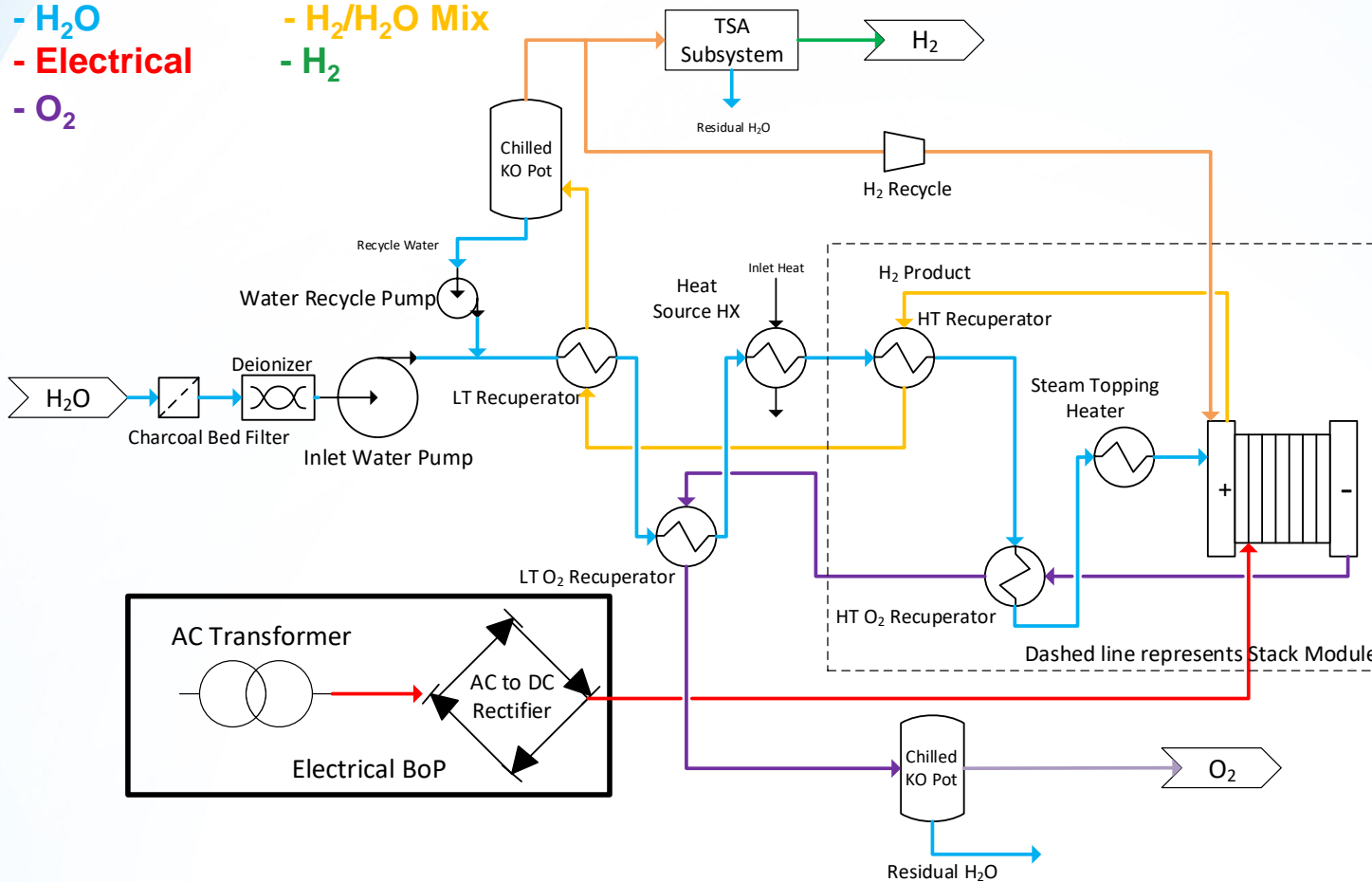
- Utilizes multiple heat recovery systems
- TSA Subsystem used to dry H<sub>2</sub>
- All high temperature components in a pressure vessel
- No O<sub>2</sub> recovery

# Process Flow Diagram

## Solid Oxide Electrolysis, Future Case

### Legend (showing color coding)

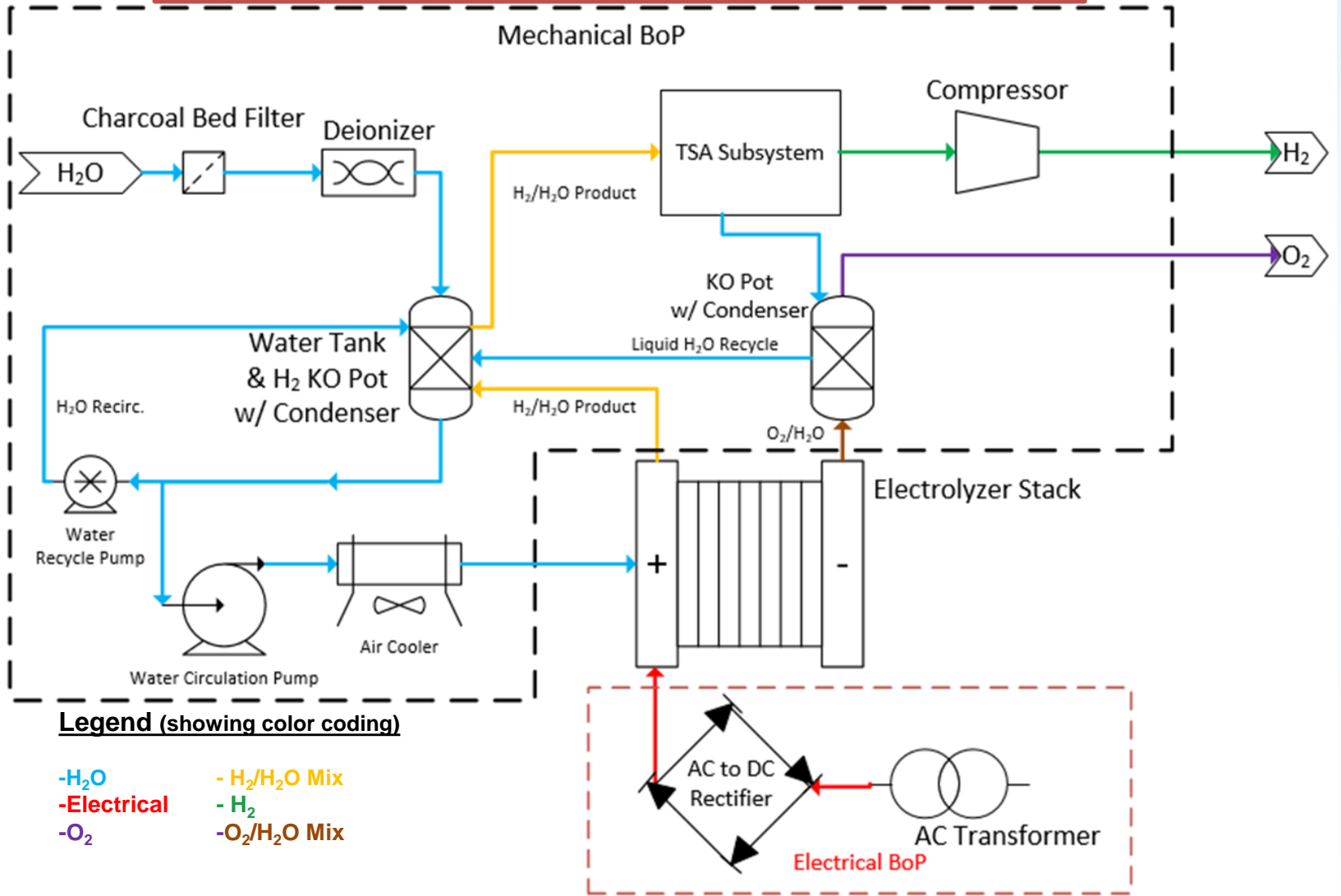
- H<sub>2</sub>O
- Electrical
- O<sub>2</sub>
- H<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O Mix
- H<sub>2</sub>



- TSA Subsystem used to dry H<sub>2</sub>
- All high temperature components in a pressure vessel
- O<sub>2</sub> recovery for byproduct sales
- No Air Sweep

# Process Flow Diagram (AEM Electrolysis)

Similar to PEM Electrolysis system



## Key Technical and Cost Parameters

|                        | Units                                 | Current Distributed | Current Central | Future Distributed | Future Central |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Plant Size             | kg H <sub>2</sub> day <sup>-1</sup>   | 1,500               | 50,000          | 1,500              | 50,000         |
| Mechanical BoP Modules | #                                     | 1                   | 4               | 1                  | 2              |
| Current Density        | A cm <sup>-2</sup>                    | 2                   | 2               | 3                  | 3              |
| Voltage                | V                                     | 1.9                 | 1.9             | 1.8                | 1.8            |
| Total Electrical Usage | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 55.8                | 55.5            | 51.4               | 51.3           |
| Stack Electrical Usage | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 50.4                | 50.4            | 47.8               | 47.8           |
| BoP Electrical Usage   | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 5.4                 | 5.1             | 3.6                | 3.5            |
| Stack Cost             | \$ cm <sup>-2</sup>                   | \$1.30              | \$1.30          | \$0.77             | \$0.77         |
| Mechanical BoP Cost    | \$ kg <sup>-1</sup> day <sup>-1</sup> | \$289               | \$76            | \$278              | \$46           |
| Electrical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$121               | \$82            | \$97               | \$68           |
| System Cost            | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$601               | \$460           | \$379              | \$234          |
| Stack Cost             | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$342               | \$342           | \$143              | \$143          |
| Total BoP Cost         | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$259               | \$118           | \$237              | \$91           |
| Mechanical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$138               | \$36            | \$140              | \$23           |
| Electrical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$121               | \$82            | \$97               | \$68           |

- **General agreement for current density and voltage among survey respondents**
  - Given current density and voltage, stack electrical usage can be calculated
  - Data provided for BoP Electrical Usage was consistent with values used in previous H2A cases and are unchanged
- **Limited new data provided from questionnaire made analysis difficult**
  - When possible, used information from respondents for cost data
    - Most data provided was for existing case
  - Generated data for different system sizes and case parameters with several techniques:
    - Simple ground-up techno-economic analysis at the subsystem level
    - Learning curves

# SOE Key Technical and Cost Parameters

| Parameter              | Units                                 | Current | Future |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Plant Size             | kg H <sub>2</sub> day <sup>-1</sup>   | 50,000  | 50,000 |
| Current Density        | A cm <sup>-2</sup>                    | 1.00    | 1.20   |
| Voltage                | V                                     | 1.285   | 1.285  |
| Total Energy Usage     | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 46.6    | 44.2   |
| Stack Electrical Usage | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 34.0    | 34.0   |
| Thermal Energy Usage   | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 6.86    | 7.10   |
| BoP Electrical Usage   | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 5.76    | 3.06   |
| Stack Cost             | \$ cm <sup>-2</sup>                   | \$0.20  | \$0.15 |
| Mechanical BoP Cost    | \$ kg <sup>-1</sup> day <sup>-1</sup> | \$402   | \$228  |
| Electrical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$85    | \$65   |
| System Cost            | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$522   | \$326  |
| Stack Cost             | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$155   | \$100  |
| Mechanical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$282   | \$160  |
| Electrical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$85    | \$65   |

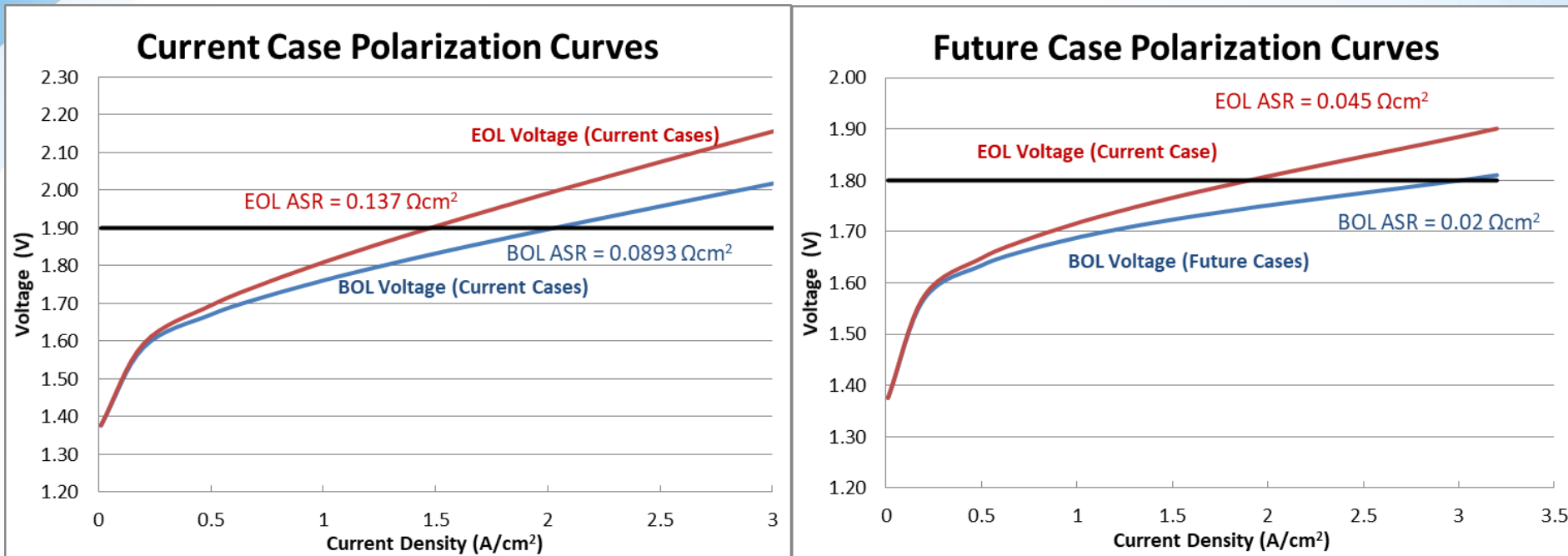
SOE Stack cost is  
~1/5<sup>th</sup> of PEM  
stack cost on  
\$/area basis

# AEM Key Technical and Cost Parameters

|                                | Units                  | Future | Far-Future |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------|
| Plant Start Year               | -                      | 2040   | 2060       |
| Plant Size                     | kg H <sub>2</sub> /day | 1,500  | 1,500      |
| Capacity Factor                | %                      | 90%    | 90%        |
| H <sub>2</sub> Outlet Pressure | Bar                    | 20.7   | 20.7       |
| Stack Op. Pressure             | Bar                    | 5      | 5          |
| Current Density                | A /cm <sup>2</sup>     | 1      | 1.5        |
| Voltage                        | V                      | 1.8    | 1.8        |
| Degradation Rate               | mV/1000hrs             | 1.5    | 1          |
| Enlarge Factor                 | %                      | 20%    | 24%        |
| Stack Lifetime                 | yrs                    | 7      | 10         |
| Total Electrical Usage         | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>  | 53.3   | 53.3       |
| Stack Electrical Usage         | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>  | 47.9   | 47.9       |
| BoP Electrical Usage           | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>  | 5.4    | 5.4        |
| Stack Cost                     | \$/cm <sup>2</sup>     | \$0.88 | \$0.87     |
| Mechanical BoP Cost            | \$/((kg/day)           | \$584  | \$570      |
| Electrical BoP Cost            | \$/kW                  | \$97   | \$97       |
| Stack Cost                     | \$/kW                  | \$492  | \$324      |
| Mechanical BoP Cost            | \$/kW                  | \$263  | \$256      |
| Electrical BoP Cost            | \$/kW                  | \$97   | \$97       |

AEM has Reduced Power Density compared to PEM

# Modeled PEM Polarization Curves

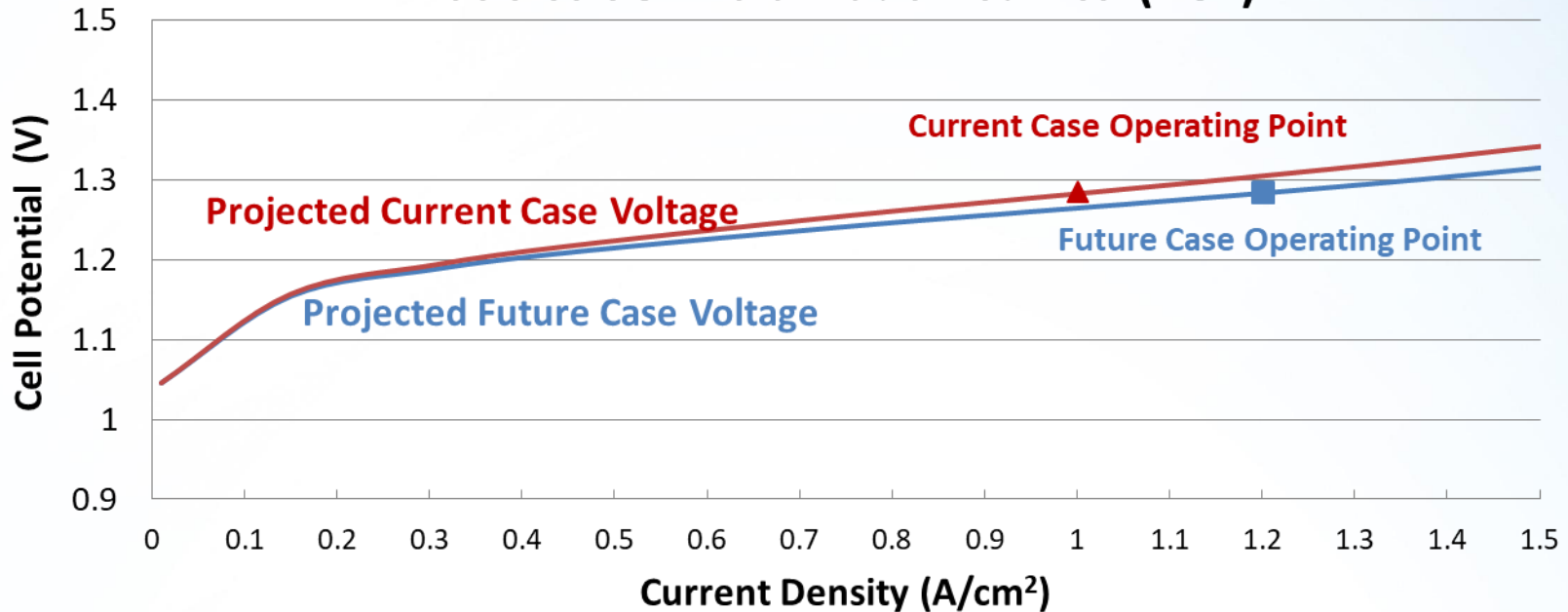


- **Created a set of polarization curves for each case from a model developed by Hao et al**
  - Compared polarization curves and Area Specific Resistances (ASRs) to literature values
  - The polarization curves were adjusted to go through the operating points
  - $E (V) = E_o + b \ln \left( \frac{i - i_{loss}}{i_{loss}} \right) + R * i + m * e^{n*i}$
  - Mass transfer losses not considered
- **Incorporated degradation rates into cost analysis**
  - End of Life (EOL) polarization curves shown below
  - Allows for constant voltage in the analysis
  - Stacks were oversized to get an averaged targeted production rate of 1.5 tpd (Distributed) or 50 tpd (Central)



# SOE Polarization Curve

## Modeled SOE Polarization Curves (BOL)

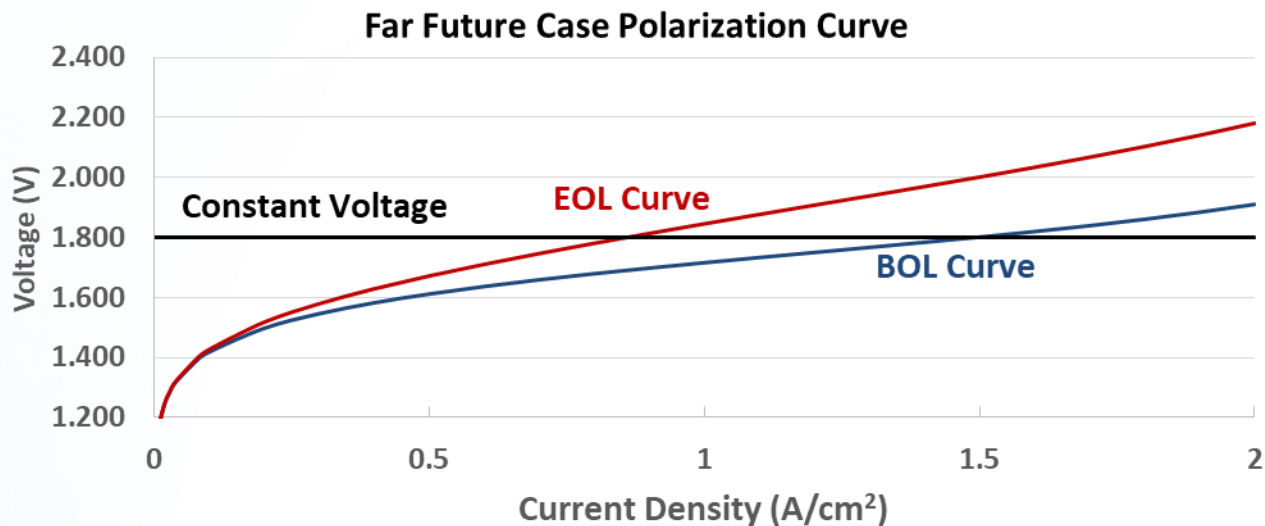
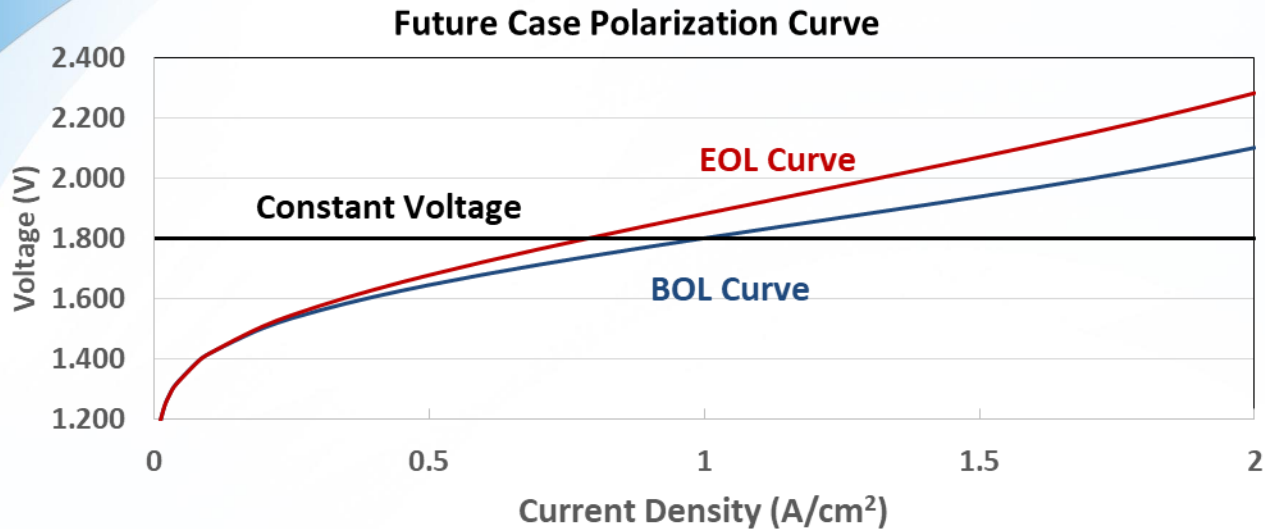


- Using the same mathematical model developed by Hao et al and starting with an Area Specific Resistance (ASR) from literature, polarization curves were created for each case
  - The polarization curves were adjusted to go through the operating points

$$E (V) = E_o + b \ln \left( \frac{i + i_{loss}}{i_{loss}} \right) + R * i + m * e^{n*i}$$

- Mass transfer losses not considered
- A loss in production due to degradation was not modeled
  - Assumed that the operating temperature is increased as degradation increases, thus maintaining H<sub>2</sub> production

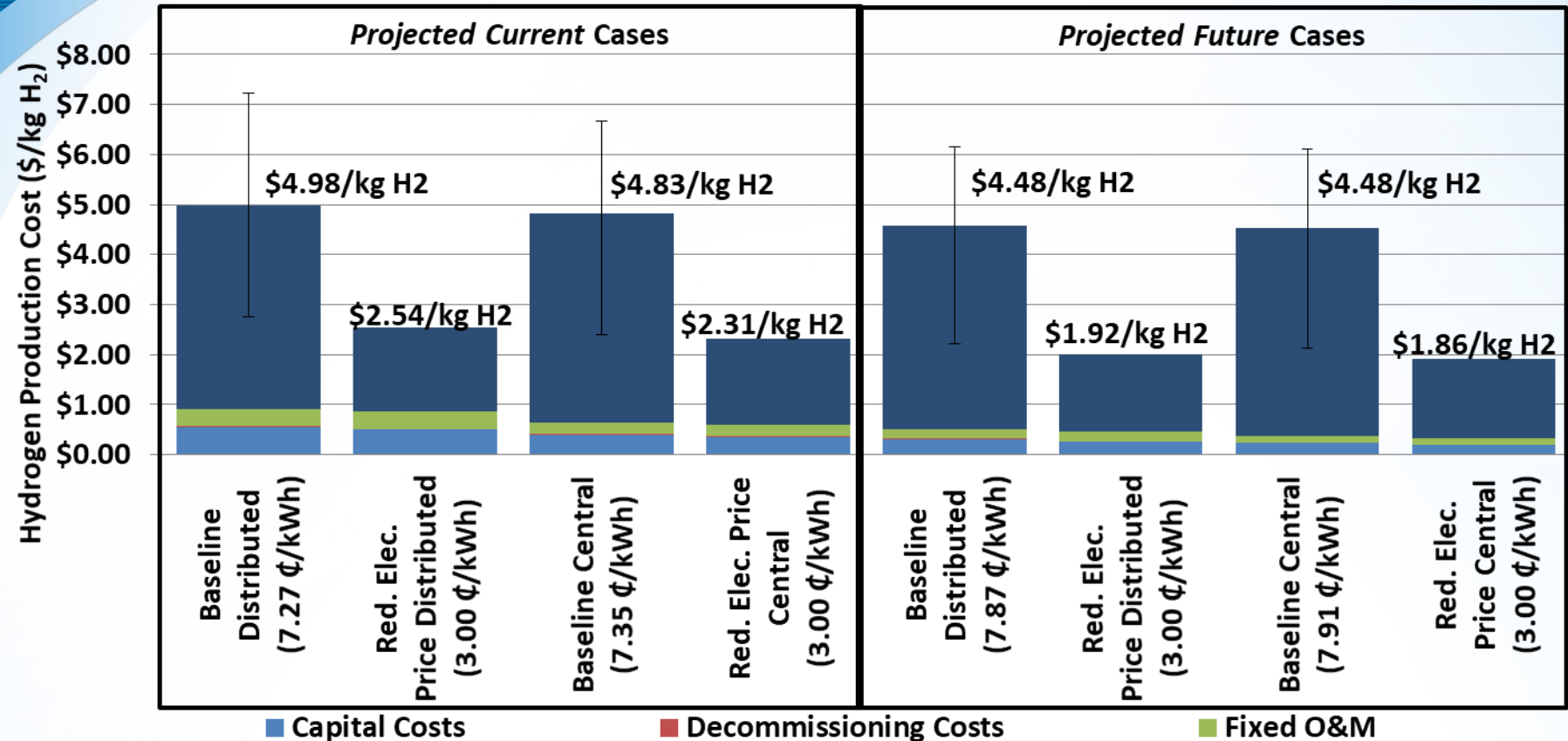
# Modeled AEM Polarization Curve



- Modeled polarization curve in the same manor as other electrolyzers
- Significantly lower current density than PEM
- 2 polarization curves shown for each case
  - Beginning of Life, End of Life
- Operation is assumed to be at constant voltage between BOL and EOL
- Polarization Curve Model from Hao et al

$$E(V) = E_o + b \ln\left(\frac{i + i_{loss}}{i_{loss}}\right) + R * i + m * e^{n*i}$$

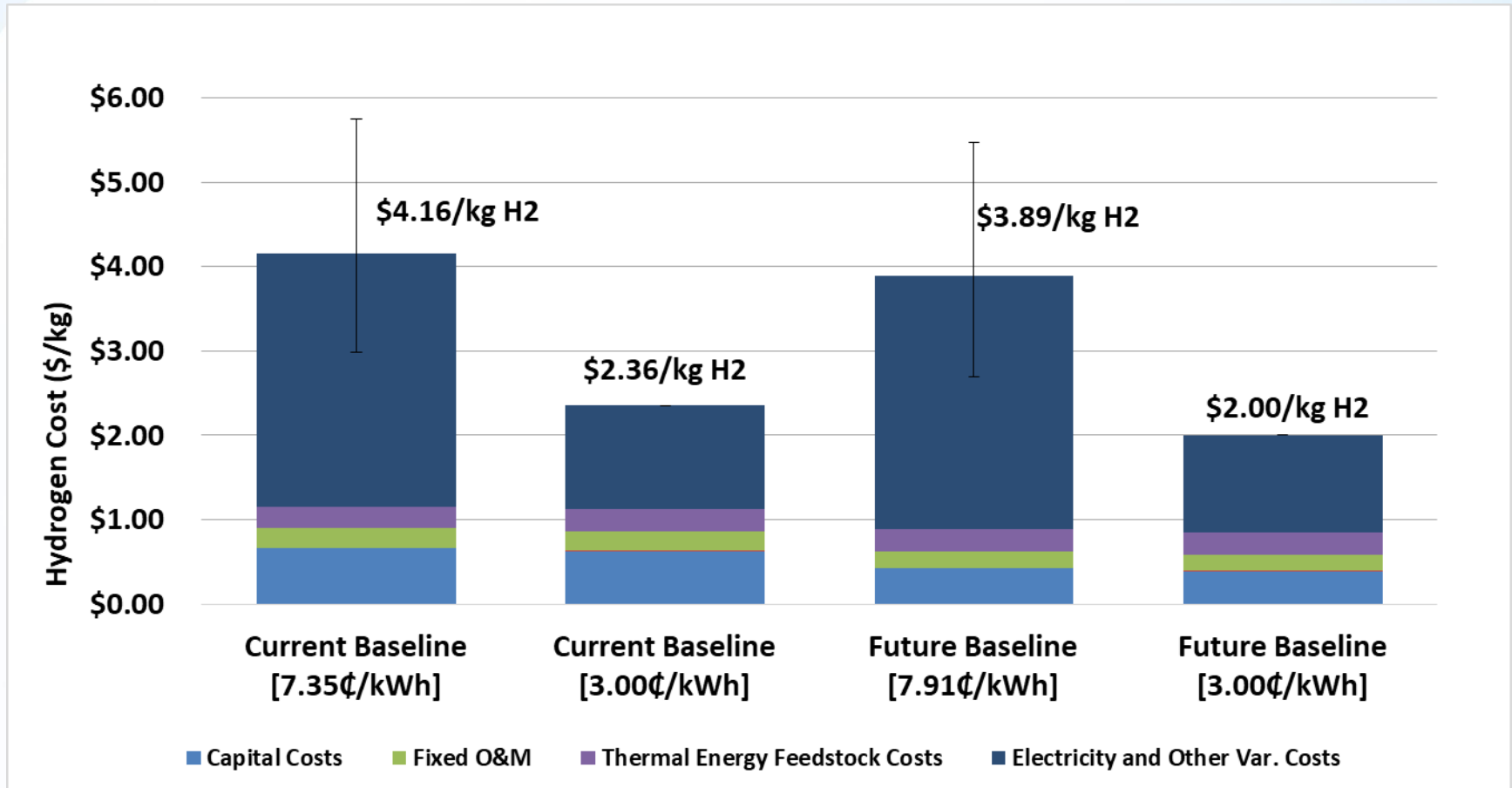
# H2A Cost Results – PEM Electrolysis



- **Electricity Price continues to be the most significant cost element of PEM electrolysis**
  - Effective electricity price over the life of the modeled production site is shown in the labels of each bar above
  - Start-up year changes raised electricity prices between the previous case study and this year's update
  - Electricity prices increased according to AEO projections
- **Capital cost reduction compared to 2014 H2A case was largely offset by several factors**
  - Incorporation of degradation losses into analysis
  - Electricity price increases between start-up years

# SOE H2A Cost Results

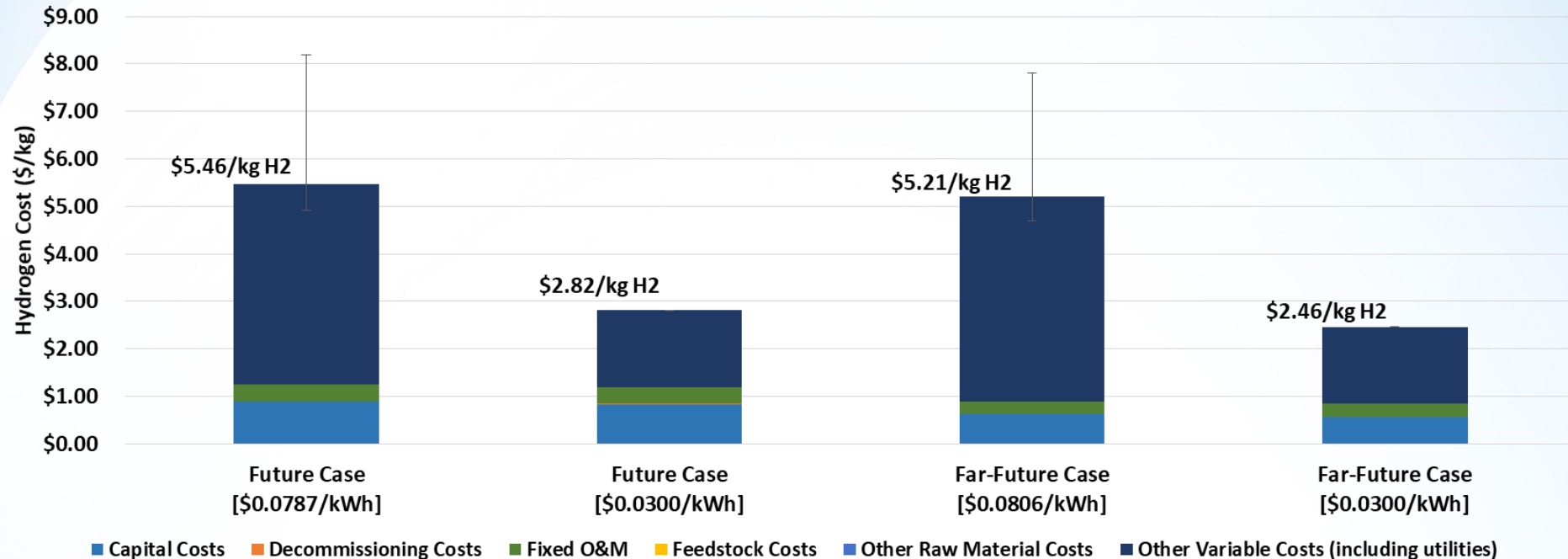
## (All Central Cases)



- Electricity remains a the primary cost driver in Solid Oxide Electrolysis
- Thermal energy costs (feedstock) are secondary to electrical costs
- Cost is assumed to be agnostic of the source of heat

# H2A Preliminary Cost Results – AEM Electrolysis

Preliminary AEM H2A Case Study Results

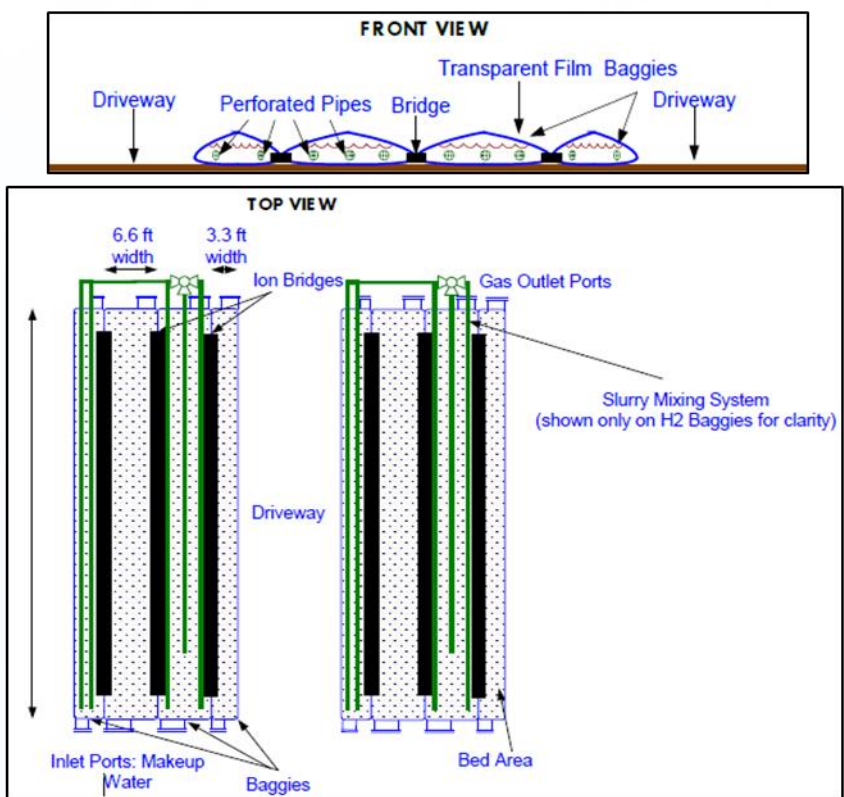


- Electricity Price is the primary cost driver of AEM electrolysis in the Future & Far-Future Cases
- Current case is driven by capital cost, due to annual stack replacement of expensive stacks
- All electricity prices increased according to AEO projections
- Sensitivity and Monte Carlo analysis not conducted yet
  - Displayed error bars represent +50% of Total Cost and -10% of Total Cost

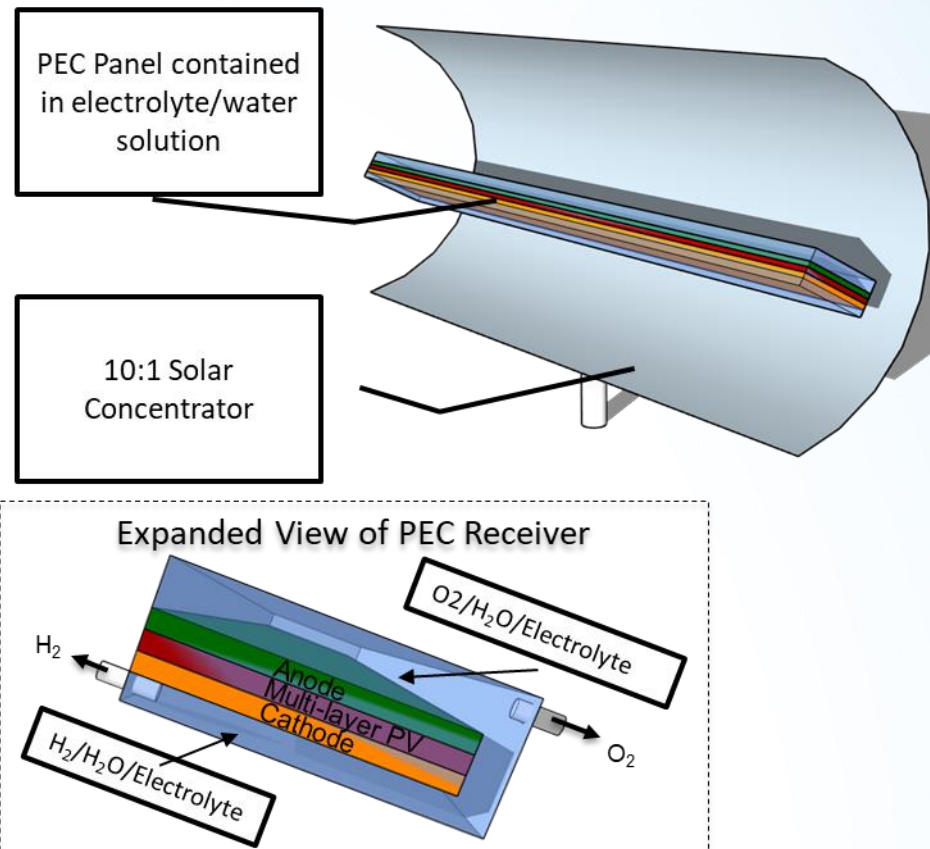
# Photoelectrochemical Water Splitting

- Four Types of PEC Considered: Two selected for investigation by DOE
  - Type II: Particulate Bag System - nanoparticle catalysts contained in a HDPE bag
    - HER and OER reactions occur in separate HDPE bags connected via ion bridges
  - Type IV: Concentrated PV Panel – A PEC receiver contained in a water/electrolyte with concentrating solar panels

## PEC Type II System Drawings

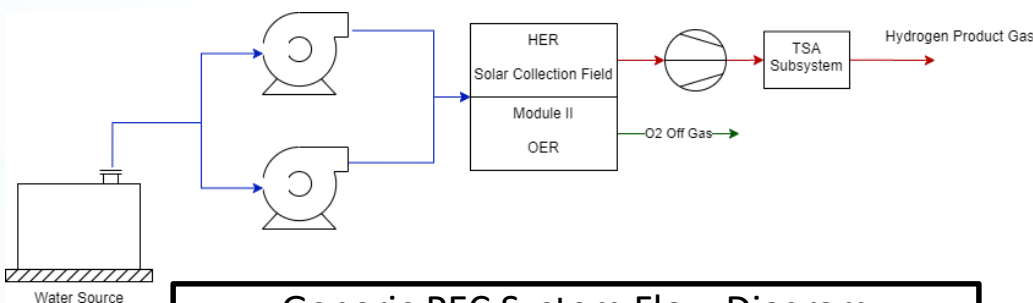


## PEC Type IV System Drawing



# Preliminary Technical Specifications

- PEC Operation is water splitting with direct solar energy
  - Solar insolation rates are used to calculate the amount of active material needed
  - Separated Hydrogen Evolution Reaction (HER) and Oxygen Evolution Reaction (OER)
    - Separate Hydrogen and Oxygen beds in PEC Type II systems
    - Hydrogen and Oxygen are naturally separated by the shape and angle of the electrode in PEC Type IV System
- PEC typically has solar-to-hydrogen energy conversions below 20%
- A modular PEC design is envisioned in this analysis
  - Each module has a capacity of 1,500 kgH<sub>2</sub>/day
  - Multiple modules strung together to reach desired H<sub>2</sub>outlet flow rate



Generic PEC System Flow Diagram

## PEC Type II System Technical Specifications

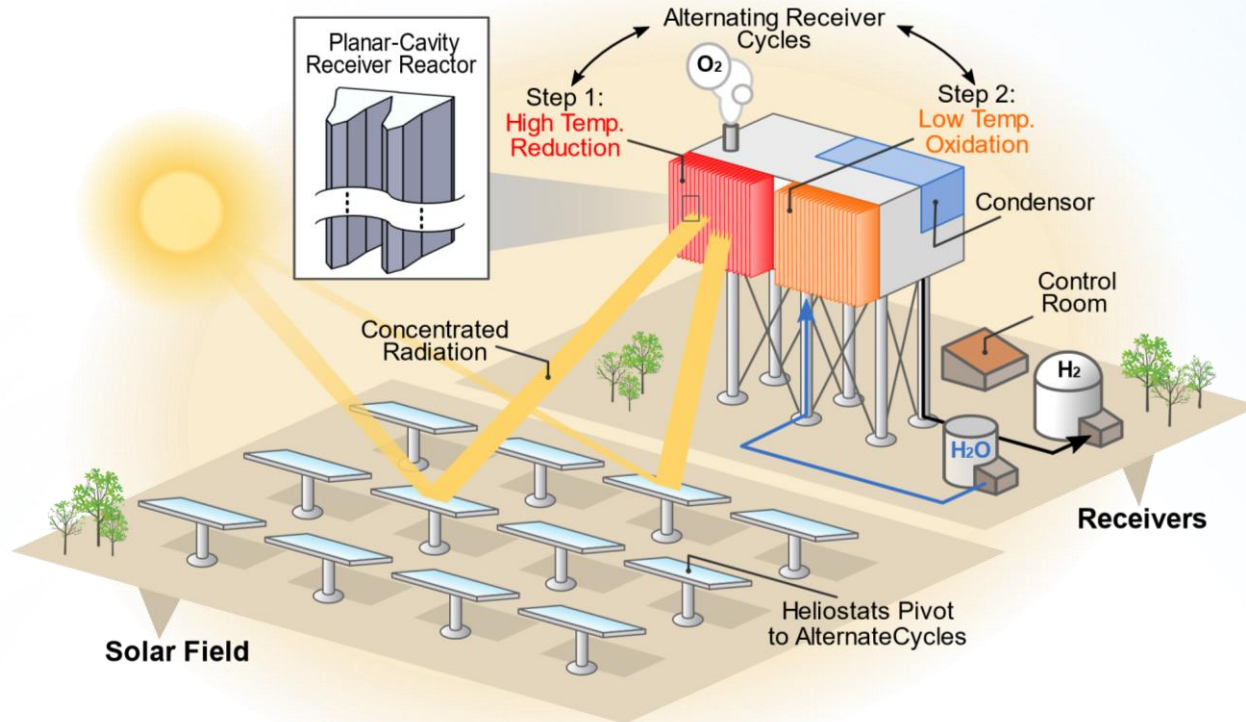
|                                  | Units  | Value    |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|
| PEC Type                         | -  | Type II  |
| Average Incident Rad.            | kWh m <sup>-2</sup> day <sup>-1</sup>              | 5.77     |
| STH Efficiency                   | %  | 5%       |
| Average H <sub>2</sub> mass flow | kg day <sup>-1</sup>                               | 1,500    |
| Area Specific Mass Flow          | Kg H <sub>2</sub> hr <sup>-1</sup> m <sup>-2</sup> | 3.67E-04 |
| Total Area Required              | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 170,195  |
| Bed Length                       | m  | 61       |
| Bed Width                        | m  | 3        |
| Bed Height                       | m  | 0.1      |
| Bed Area                         | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 183      |
| Bed Volume                       | m <sup>3</sup>                                     | 18       |
| Number of Beds                   | #  | 183      |
| Assumed particle density         | kg m <sup>-3</sup>                                 | 0.30     |
| Particle Mass                    | kg/bed   | 5.49     |

## PEC Type IV System Technical Specifications

|                                  | Units  | Value    |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|
| PEC Type                         | -  | Type IV  |
| Average Incident Rad.            | kWh m <sup>-2</sup> day <sup>-1</sup>              | 7.46     |
| STH Efficiency                   | %  | 15%      |
| Cell Efficiency                  | %  | 18%      |
| Collector Efficiency             | %  | 85%      |
| Average H <sub>2</sub> mass flow | kg day <sup>-1</sup>                               | 1,500    |
| Area Specific Mass Flow          | kg H <sub>2</sub> hr <sup>-1</sup> m <sup>-2</sup> | 1.43E-03 |
| Total Area Collector Required    | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 43,780   |
| Collector Length                 | m  | 6        |
| Collector Width                  | m  | 3        |
| Collector Area                   | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 18       |
| Number of Collectors             | #  | 2,433    |
| PV Area required                 | m <sup>2</sup>                                     | 37.78    |

# Solar ThermoChemical (STCH) H<sub>2</sub> Production

## Conceptual Design for Techno-Economic Analysis



Conceptual STCH platform used as a reference for techno-economic inputs

### Design Features

- Sandia National Laboratory's CPR2 configuration
- University of Colorado's fluidized bed reactor
- NREL planar-cavity receiver concept



# Baseline Inputs for STCH H2A case

| Parameter                              | Value                        | Notes   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Daily Field Production Target          | 100 TonH <sub>2</sub> /day   | DOE Target  |
| Thermal Power to a Modular Plant       | 200 MWt                      | At the receiver aperture  |
| Module Daily H <sub>2</sub> Production | 14.9 Ton H <sub>2</sub> /day | Assumed 25% STH efficiency, 90% capacity factor                                     |
| Number of Modules in Plant             | 6                            | Each 200MWt plant produce 14.9 TonH <sub>2</sub> /day                               |
| Modular Field Size                     | ~585 m radius                | Determined by SolarPILOT model  |
| Number of Heliostats per Field         | 17,128                       | Heliostat size 4.25 m x 4.25 m  |
| Tower Height                           | 130 m                        | Result from parametric SolarPILOT optimization                                      |
| Tower Cost                             | \$3,375,880                  | (2005\$) Determined from literature   |
| Field Optical Efficiency (annual)      | 63.9% (52.8%)                | Design point, determined by SolarPILOT model  |
| Solar Receiver Thermal Efficiency      | 80%                          | Referred to design at 900°C, but further optimization is needed for STCH condition. |
| Thermochemical Efficiency              | 50%                          | Engineering Judgement   |
| STH Efficiency                         | 21%                          | LHV basis, 21% baseline   |
| Annual Water Utility Usage             | 430.7 million gal            | Assumed 11.8 gals/kgH <sub>2</sub>  |
| Water recovery                         | 50%                          | Used as part of water usage estimates   |

# Conclusions

- All of the electrolyzer technologies have a significant dependence on the price of electricity
  - Capital cost is of secondary importance in almost every case examined
- PEM and SOE technologies both have the potential to meet DOE targets for H<sub>2</sub> cost if the cost of electricity can be reduced to about 3 cents/kWhr.
- The potential for AEM technologies is promising given several potential future improvements:
  - A non-Pt based catalyst can be used while achieving the similar performance
  - The stack cost is lowered to <\$1.00/cm<sup>2</sup> while maintaining an appropriate power density for production

# Proposed Future Work

- **Complete AEM Analysis**
  - Error and Sensitivity analysis
    - Error bars for case study results
  - Industry Review
- **Conduct optimization studies of electrolysis work**
  - Vary capital cost & current density operating point to assess impact on H<sub>2</sub> production cost
- **Complete PEC Electrolysis H2A analysis**
  - System Cost analysis
  - Sensitivity analysis
  - Documentation
- **Publish STCH H2A Cost Results**
- **Continuing coordination between FCTO sub-areas**
  - Production & Delivery, Analysis, and Target Setting are all areas that require coordination

Any proposed future work is subject to change based on funding levels.

# Collaborators

| Institution   | Relationship  | Activities and Contributions  |
|---|---------------|---|
| <b>National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genevieve Saur</li> </ul>   | Subcontractor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in weekly project calls</li> <li>Assisted with H2A Production Model runs &amp; sensitivity analyses</li> <li>Drafted and reviewed reporting materials</li> <li>Managed and arranged H2A Working Group activities</li> </ul> |
| <b>Argonne National Lab (ANL)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rajesh Ahluwalia</li> <li>Amgad Elgowainy</li> </ul>   | Subcontractor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in select project calls</li> <li>Vetted process work</li> <li>Expert review of transmission analysis</li> <li>Developing Electrolyzer Performance Model</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Department of Energy (DOE)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric Miller</li> <li>Katie Randolph</li> <li>Max Lyubovsky</li> <li>James Vickers</li> </ul> | Sponsor       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in some weekly project calls</li> <li>Assisted with H2A Model and sensitivity parameters</li> <li>Reviewed reporting materials</li> <li>Direct contributors to energy transmission work</li> </ul>                          |

# Summary

- **Overview**

- Conducted a cost analysis of transmitting energy over long distances
- Began renewed analysis of Water Splitting technologies in H2A

- **Relevance**

- Increase analysis and understanding of areas demonstrating information deficiencies
- Cost analysis is a useful tool because it:
  - Defines a complete production and delivery pathway
  - Identifies key cost-drivers and helps focus research on topics that will lower cost
  - Generates transparent documentation available to the community with relevant data for improved collaboration

- **Approach**

- Utilize various cost analysis methods for determining system cost: DFMA<sup>®</sup> and H2A
- Collaborate with NREL, ANL, DOE, and tech experts to model SOA and future systems

- **Accomplishments**

- H2A Model and Case Study Updates
- Analyzed three electrolyzer system (PEM, SOE, AEM)

# Backup Slides

# Basis for PEM Stack Cost Projection

## Limited data on stack cost provided in questionnaire

- Data available largely for respondents existing low-manufacturing rate systems and projected future systems, at high manufacturing rates

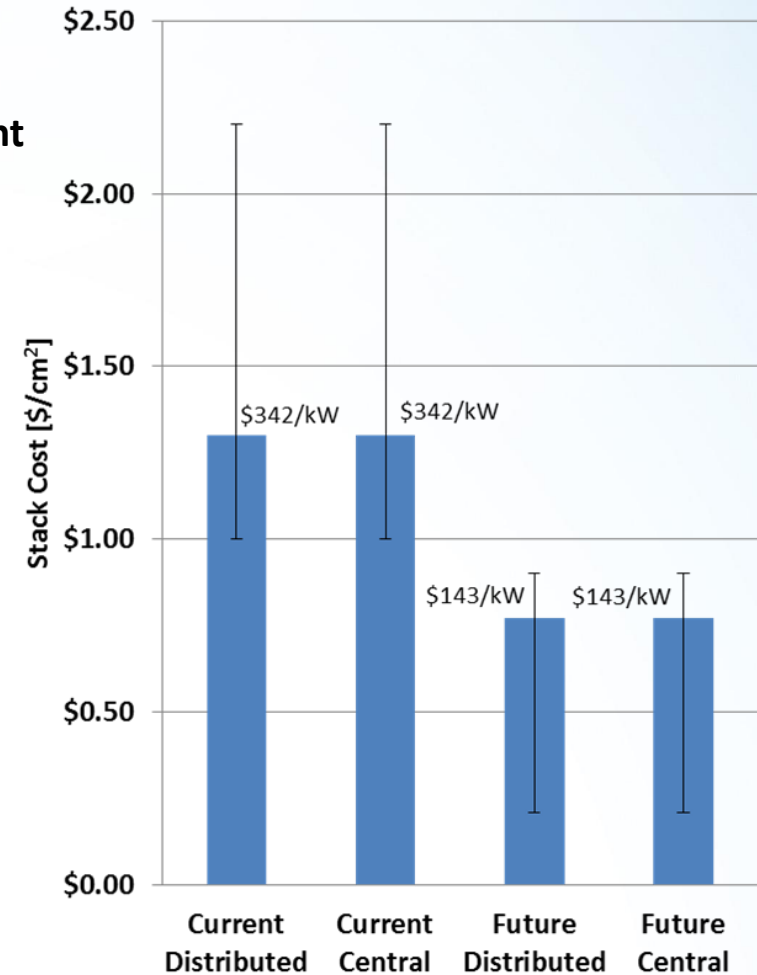
## Current case stack cost (\$1.30/cm<sup>2</sup>) is based on adjustment of the 2013 H2A stack cost

- The increase in cost is proportional to the cost increases reported by the respondents between old and new questionnaire values
- The stack cost is generally consistent with values reported by respondents in the previous questionnaire
- The stack upper cost bound is representative of the data for existing units produced at low manufacturing rates
- The lower stack cost bound is found by learning-curve scaling (0.9 factor for every doubling) between low (existing) and high (current) manufacturing rates

## Future case stack cost (\$0.77/cm<sup>2</sup>) is based on the new questionnaire data

- Fairly good agreement of future cost in questionnaire data
- Adjusting an existing DFMA model for auto PEM stack cost suggests that the cost of the stack may be substantially lower (~\$0.21/cm<sup>2</sup>). This is taken as the stack cost lower bound.
- Upper bound (\$0.90/cm<sup>2</sup>) is informed by questionnaire data.

Stack Cost with error bars



**A DFMA® analysis is underway to better understand stack cost at high manufacturing rates.**

# Basis for PEM Mechanical BoP Cost Projection

The Current Distributed mechanical BoP is modeled as a single Mech. BoP module

- Mech. BoP provides all the supplemental equipment to run the electrolyzer
- BoP components sized for 1 module (i.e. 1 module of 1.5tpd)
- Costs based on quotes for each subsystem (see table)

Future Distributed sites would also use 1 module

- Cost scaled between Current and Future to reflect stack pressure difference

Central models allow a larger BoP to handle the production rate

- Current cases to have 4 BoP modules and are scaled by H<sub>2</sub> production rate (i.e. 4 modules of 12.5tpd)
- Future cases are assumed to have 2 BoP modules and are scaled by both H<sub>2</sub> production and electrical power (i.e. 2 modules of 25tpd)

All costs scaled on the 6/10<sup>ths</sup> rule

- $C_{new} = C_{old} \left( \frac{\text{Scaling Factor New}}{\text{Scaling Factor Old}} \right)^{0.6}$
- Where Scaling Factor is manufacturing rate or motor power depending on component

Error bars are based on summation of low-end and high-end quotes for each subsystem or component

| Unit  | Cost (\$)        | Cost (\$/ (kg H <sub>2</sub> /day)) |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Flow Filter   | \$13,000         | \$9                                 |
| Deionizing Bed  | \$12,600         | \$8                                 |
| Actuated Flow Valve                                   | \$6,520          | \$4                                 |
| Main DI Pump w/motor                                  | \$3,687          | \$2                                 |
| Cleanup Pump w/motor                                  | \$3,687          | \$2                                 |
| Other valves  | \$4,325          | \$3                                 |
| Gas Filters   | \$1,611          | \$1                                 |
| PRV   | \$930            | \$1                                 |
| Heat Exchanger  | \$2,400          | \$2                                 |
| DI Water Tank   | \$12,500         | \$8                                 |
| Hydrogen/Water Separator Tank                         | \$12,500         | \$8                                 |
| Chiller   | \$21,500         | \$14                                |
| Indicator/Controllers                                 | \$10,598         | \$7                                 |
| Piping and Tubing (ft)                                | \$13,635         | \$9                                 |
| Skid Structure  | \$10,000         | \$7                                 |
| Dryer   | \$40,000         | \$27                                |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                                      | <b>\$169,493</b> | <b>\$113</b>                        |
| <b>Sub Total w/Markup (43%)</b>                       | <b>\$242,375</b> | <b>\$162</b>                        |
| <b>Total (Includes Markup &amp; 30% Contingency )</b> | <b>\$315,088</b> | <b>\$210</b>                        |

Current Distributed Case Mechanical BoP  
Considered 1 module for a production site



# PEM Data for H2A Analysis

| Parameter                       | Units                 | Current Distributed | Current Central | Future Distributed | Future Central |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Technical Parameters            |                       |                     |                 |                    |                |
| Plant Capacity                  | kg/day                | 1,500               | 50,000          | 1,500              | 50,000         |
| Plant Life                      | year                  | 20                  | 40              | 20                 | 40             |
| Current Density                 | A/cm <sup>2</sup>     | 2                   | 2               | 3                  | 3              |
| Voltage                         | V/cell                | 1.9                 | 1.9             | 1.8                | 1.8            |
| T <sub>operating</sub>          | °C                    | 80                  | 80              | 80                 | 80             |
| Outlet Pressure                 | psa                   | 450                 | 450             | 700                | 700            |
| Capacity Factor (Net)           | %                     | 97%                 | 97%             | 97%                | 97%            |
| Degradation Rate                | mV/khrs               | 1.5                 | 1.5             | 1                  | 1              |
| Degradation Rate                | %/khrs                | 0.079%              | 0.079%          | 0.056%             | 0.056%         |
| Cell Active Area                | cm <sup>2</sup> /cell | 450                 | 450             | 1,500              | 1,500          |
| Cell/stack                      | #                     | 150                 | 150             | 150                | 150            |
| Total Active Area (full system) | m <sup>2</sup>        | 83                  | 2,764           | 55                 | 1,843          |
| Number of cells per system      | #                     | 1,843               | 61,426          | 369                | 12,286         |
| Number of stacks per system     | #                     | 12                  | 410             | 2                  | 82             |
| Electrical Usage Parameters     |                       |                     |                 |                    |                |
| Total System Electrical Usage   | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub> | 55.8                | 55.5            | 51.4               | 51.3           |
| Stack Electrical Usage          | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub> | 50.4                | 50.4            | 47.8               | 47.8           |
| BoP Electrical Usage            | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub> | 5.4                 | 5.1             | 3.6                | 3.5            |
| Water Usage                     |                       |                     |                 |                    |                |
| Water Type                      | -                     | Process Water       | Process Water   | Process Water      | Process Water  |
| Water Feed Ratio                | Gal/kg H <sub>2</sub> | 3.78                | 3.78            | 3.78               | 3.78           |

# PEM H2A Case Values

|                        | Units                                 | Current Distributed | Current Central | Future Distributed | Future Central |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Plant Size             | kg H <sub>2</sub> day <sup>-1</sup>   | 1,500               | 50,000          | 1,500              | 50,000         |
| Mechanical BoP Modules | #                                     | 1                   | 4               | 1                  | 2              |
| Current Density        | A cm <sup>-2</sup>                    | 2                   | 2               | 3                  | 3              |
| Voltage                | V                                     | 1.9                 | 1.9             | 1.8                | 1.8            |
| Total Electrical Usage | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 55.8                | 55.5            | 51.4               | 51.3           |
| Stack Electrical Usage | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 50.4                | 50.4            | 47.8               | 47.8           |
| BoP Electrical Usage   | kWh/kg H <sub>2</sub>                 | 5.4                 | 5.1             | 3.6                | 3.5            |
| Stack Cost             | \$ cm <sup>-2</sup>                   | \$1.30              | \$1.30          | \$0.77             | \$0.77         |
| Mechanical BoP Cost    | \$ kg <sup>-1</sup> day <sup>-1</sup> | \$289               | \$76            | \$278              | \$46           |
| Electrical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$121               | \$82            | \$97               | \$68           |
| System Cost            | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$601               | \$460           | \$379              | \$234          |
| Stack Cost             | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$342               | \$342           | \$143              | \$143          |
| Total BoP Cost         | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$259               | \$118           | \$237              | \$91           |
| Mechanical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$138               | \$36            | \$140              | \$23           |
| Electrical BoP Cost    | \$ kW <sup>-1</sup>                   | \$121               | \$82            | \$97               | \$68           |

# SOE Mechanical BoP

- SA developed a component list from the PFD
  - Costs shown are the scaled uninstalled costs
  - Costs for the component list are based on ASPEN estimates, literature values, or quotes
  - Scaled literature values for nuclear supported SOE BoP costs

| Major pieces/systems of equipment                    | Current           | Future              |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| HTSE Vessel Shell                                    | \$309,257         | \$386,571           |
| HTSE Vessel Isolation Valves                         | \$64,199          | \$64,199            |
| SOE Cells  | \$12,836,906      | \$7,958,333         |
| SOEC Module Assembly                                 | \$7,446,340       | \$4,615,833         |
| SOEC Electrical Connector Assemblies                 | \$245,749         | \$245,749           |
| Sleeved Process Connections                          | \$78,640          | \$78,640            |
| Steam/H2 PCHX Recuperator                            | \$1,016,265       | \$203,253           |
| Steam/H2 Electrical Topping Heaters                  | \$409,869         | \$409,869           |
| Sweep Gas PCHX Recuperator                           | \$2,821,370       | \$0                 |
| Sweep Gas Electrical Topping Heaters                 | \$281,836         | \$0                 |
| DC Bus Power Distribution                            | \$393,872         | \$393,872           |
| Rectifier Power Transformers                         | \$7,039,594       | \$5,172,917         |
| Steam/H2, Sweep, and Balancing Gas Piping            | \$332,264         | \$332,264           |
| Debris Filter  | \$424,555         | \$424,555           |
| Balancing Gas Compressor                             | \$570,260         | \$570,260           |
| Interstage Cooler                                    | \$99,945          | \$99,945            |
| Purified Water Storage Tank                          | \$1,866,393       | \$1,866,393         |
| Hydrogen H2O KO Pot                                  | \$4,680           | \$4,680             |
| Non-HTSE System Steam/H2 Piping                      | \$1,756           | \$1,756             |
| Feedwater Pumps                                      | \$6,267           | \$39,363            |
| Hydrogen H2O KO Pot Cooler                           | \$76,771          | \$13,834            |
| H2O KO Pot   | \$48,800          | \$92,827            |
| Hydrogen H2O Adsorbing Columns                       | \$2,149,232       | \$2,149,232         |
| Adsorber Cooling Unit                                | \$102,742         | \$57,132            |
| Hydrogen H2O Adsorber Regen Heater                   | \$57,132          | \$1,135,407         |
| Hydrogen Compression                                 | \$1,135,407       | \$39,363            |
| Low Temperature O <sub>2</sub> /Steam Recuperator HX | \$0               | \$19,050            |
| Sweep/H2 Low Temperature HX                          | \$32,866          | \$43,848            |
| Steam/H2 Low Temperature HX                          | \$48,625          | \$167,617           |
| External Heat Source HX                              | \$58,547          | \$228,852           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>39,961,751</b> | <b>\$26,776,251</b> |

# Basis for Electrical BoP Cost Projection

## (applied to PEM, SOE, AEM)

- **Electrical BoP is based on rectifier quotes**
  - Quoted rectifier is approximately \$0.11/W (IGBT rectifier for high efficiency)
  - 20% increase for ancillary equipment is added for all cases
  - The quote is reduced 10% for central plants
  - A corporate mark-up of 43% is applied to all cases
  - Future cases receive a 20% discount for technology improvements
    - Eg. system voltage increase which allows nearly same cost but higher power capacity
- **Costs were compared to reported BoP costs in questionnaire**
  - Generically speaking, the developed cost was near the mid-point or above the midpoint of the questionnaire data
- **+/-25% error range is estimated for the electrical BoP cost**
  - Limited spread among the data required a generic error range be applied

# SOE System Parameters

| Operating Conditions   |                       | Current | Future |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| Plant Capacity         | kg/day                | 50,000  | 50,000 |
| Plant Life             | year                  | 40      | 40     |
| Current Density        | A/cm <sup>2</sup>     | 1.00    | 1.20   |
| Voltage                | V/cell                | 1.285   | 1.285  |
| Operating Temperature  | °C                    | 800     | 750    |
| Outlet Pressure        | psia                  | 300     | 700    |
| Capacity Factory (Net) | %                     | 90%     | 90%    |
| Degradation Rate       | mV/khrs               | 11      | 4      |
| Cell Active Area       | cm <sup>2</sup> /cell | 100     | 100    |

# Preliminary AEM Electrolysis H2A Results

|   | <b>Future Case<br/>Start Year: 2040</b>                  | <b>Far-Future Case<br/>Start Year: 2060</b>              |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Cost Component</b>                         | <b>Hydrogen Production Cost<br/>Contribution (\$/kg)</b> | <b>Hydrogen Production Cost<br/>Contribution (\$/kg)</b> |
| Capital Costs                                 | \$0.89   | \$0.62   |
| Decommissioning Costs                         | \$0.01   | \$0.01   |
| Fixed O&M                                     | \$0.35   | \$0.27   |
| Feedstock Costs                               | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Other Raw Material Costs                      | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Byproduct Credits                             | \$0.00   | \$0.00   |
| Other Variable Costs<br>(including utilities) | \$4.21   | \$4.31   |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>\$5.46</b>  | <b>\$5.21</b>  |

- Electricity Price is the primary cost driver of AEM electrolysis in the Future and Far-Future Cases
- Current case is driven by capital cost, due to annual stack replacement of expensive stacks
- All electricity prices increased according to AEO projections

# References

## References:

1. Hao, D., Shen, J., Hou, Y., Zhou, Y. & Wang, H. An Improved Empirical Fuel Cell Polarization Curve Model Based on Review Analysis. *International Journal of Chemical Engineering* **2016**, 1–10 (2016).
2. Villagra, A. An analysis of PEM water electrolysis cells operating at elevated current densities. *International Journal of Hydrogen Energy* 10 (2018).