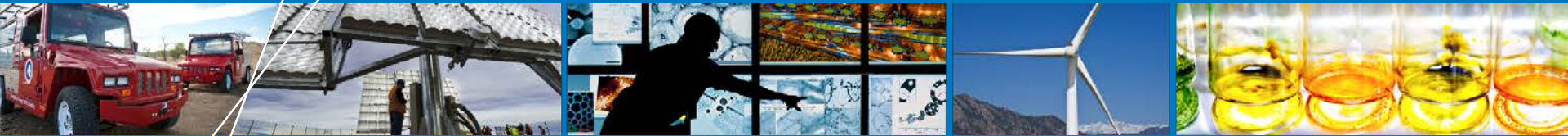


# Material Handling Equipment Data Collection and Analysis



**Chris Ainscough, P.E., Jennifer Kurtz**  
**NREL**  
**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Project ID #TV021

This presentation does not contain any proprietary, confidential, or otherwise restricted information.

# Overview

## Timeline

- **Project start date: Oct. 2012**
- **Project end date: Oct. 2015\***

## Budget

- **Total DOE funds received to date: \$865**
- **FY14 DOE funding: \$100k**
- **FY15 planned DOE funding: \$70k**

**\*Project continuation & direction determined annually by DOE.**

## Barriers

- **Barriers addressed**
  - Commercialization of fuel cells in key early markets

## Partners

- **Interactions/collaborations**
- **Project lead: NREL**
- **See collaborations slide**

# Relevance: Objectives



Assess the technology status in real-world operations, establish performance baselines, report on fuel cell and hydrogen technology, and support market growth by evaluating performance relevant to the markets' value proposition.

- **Assess technology**

- Perform independent technology assessment in real-world operation conditions
- Focus on fuel cell system performance, and operation
- Leverage data processing and analysis capabilities developed under the fuel cell vehicle Learning Demonstration project
- Evaluate material handling equipment (MHE) and backup power
- Analysis includes up to 1,000 fuel cell systems deployed with ARRA funds plus over 200 deployed privately.

- **Support market growth**

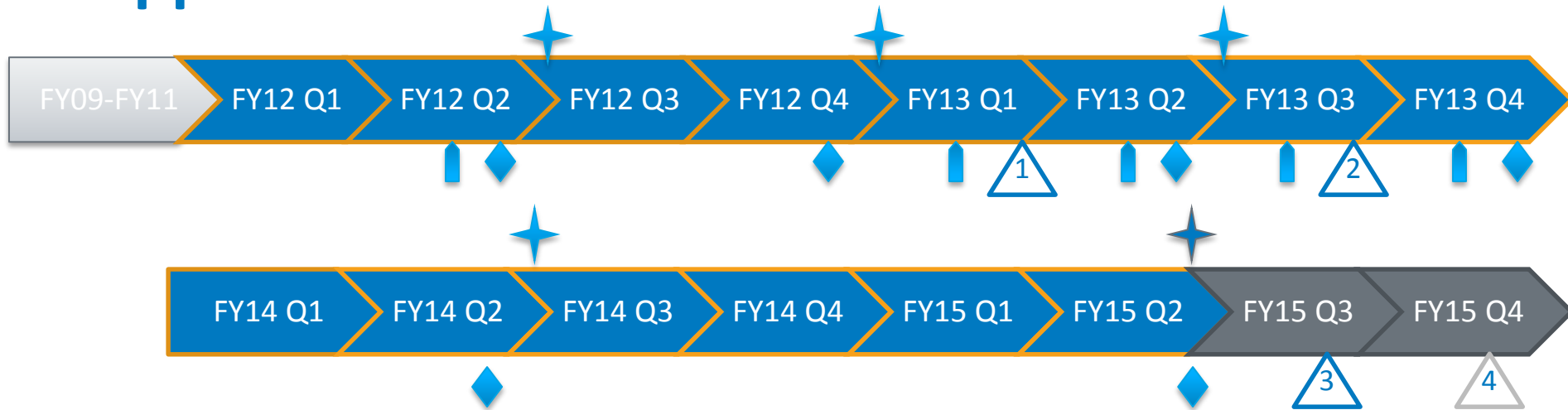
- Provide analyses and results relevant to the markets' value proposition
- Report on technology status to fuel cell and hydrogen communities and other key stakeholders like end users

# Approach

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- The design and manufacture of fuel cell MHE continues to evolve, and we need to keep updated status on developments
- ARRA project data collection has come to an end but...
- The ARRA phase collected data on hundreds of MHE units, with over 2-million total vehicle operation hours
- Leverage the massive amount of data collected under ARRA (1.7 TB, 13-million analysis & data files) to continue status monitoring of MHE on a voluntary basis with OEMs.
- We will continue producing updated data products with ARRA as a backdrop.

# Approach: Milestones



Deployment composite data products

Analysis of operation data for fuel cell systems

Technical composite data products

1 Hydrogen Safety Panel Final Report (FY13 Q1)

2 Interim draft report of status and performance of fuel cell MHE and backup power systems

3 Final report of status and performance of fuel cell backup power

4 Annual report of status and performance of fuel cell MHE\*

\*Gray markers indicate future work

# Approach: NFCTEC Analysis and Reporting of Real-World Operation Data

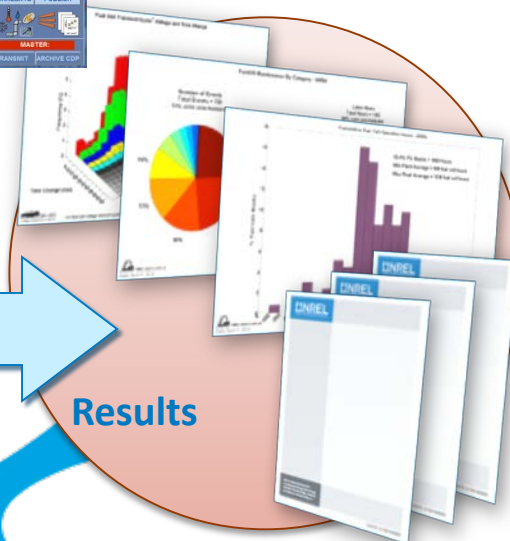
Bundled data (operation & maintenance/safety) delivered to NREL quarterly



Internal analysis completed quarterly in NFCTEC



Results



Public

CDPs

DDPs

Confidential

## Detailed Data Products (DDPs)

- Individual data analyses
- Identify individual contribution to CDPs
- Shared every six months only with the partner who supplied the data

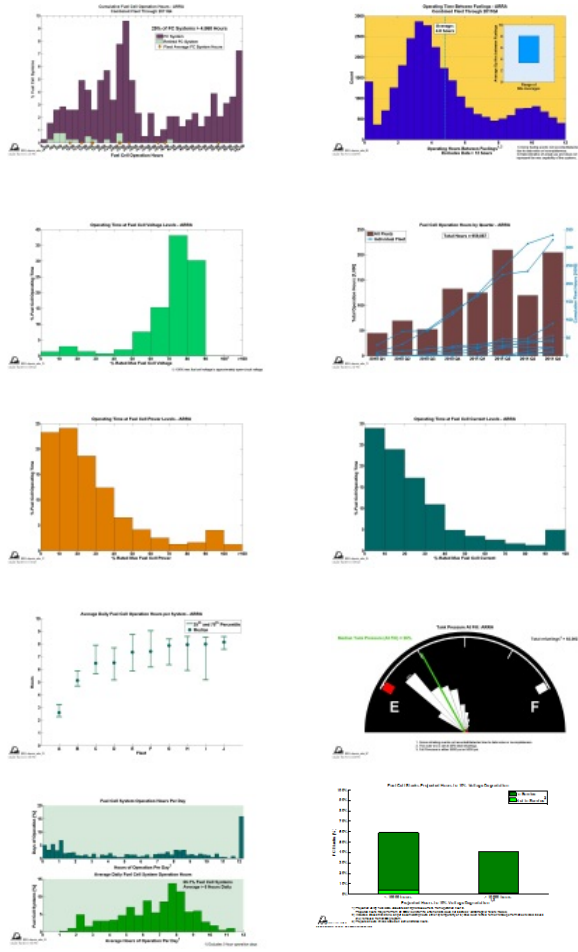
## Composite Data Products (CDPs)

- Aggregated data across multiple systems, sites, and teams
- Publish analysis results every six months without revealing proprietary data

[www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj\\_tech\\_validation.html](http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj_tech_validation.html)

## Operation & Durability

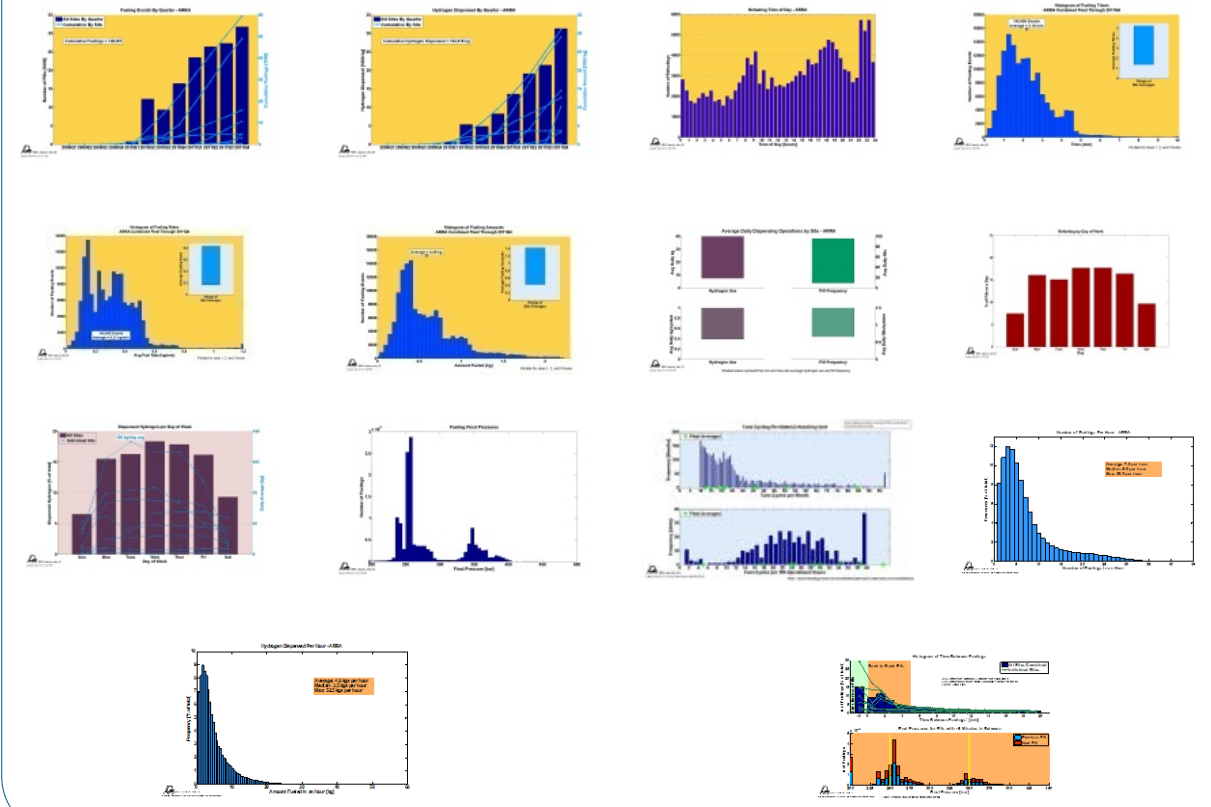
(97, 102, 107, 108, 111, 115, 116, 117, 123, 124)



## 24 Updated MHE & Infrastructure CDPs

### Infrastructure Operation

(103, 104, 105, 106, 109, 110, 122, 135, 136, 142, 162, 165, 168, 169)



# Accomplishments: MHE Operation Summary

## 2009 Q4 – 2014 Q3



Validation of MHE is based on real-world operation data from high-use facilities.

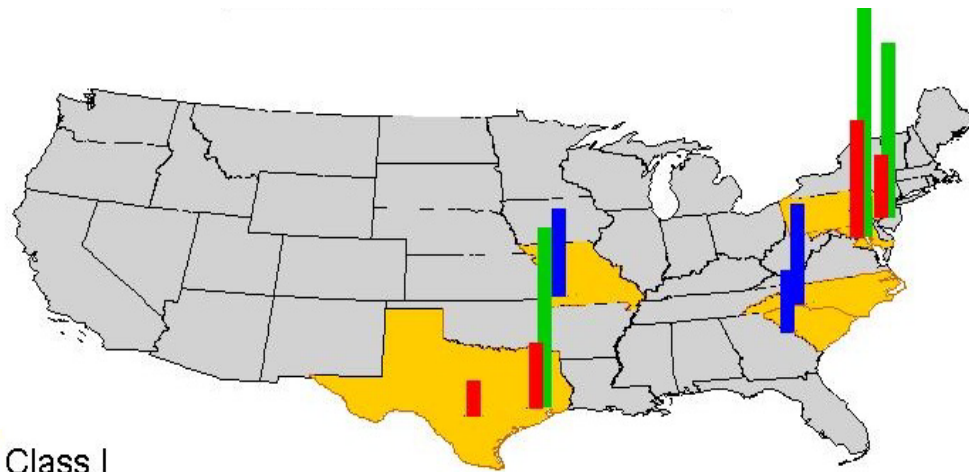
**2,683,567**  
Operation hours

**352,527**  
Hydrogen fills

**720**  
Units in operation\*

**3.7**  
Average operation hours  
between fills

**287,967**  
Hydrogen dispensed  
in kg



- Class I
- Class II
- Class III

Height proportional to units deployed.

\*One project has completed.  
Only ARRA locations shown

**0.7**  
Average fill amount  
in kg

**2.5**  
Average fill time  
in minutes

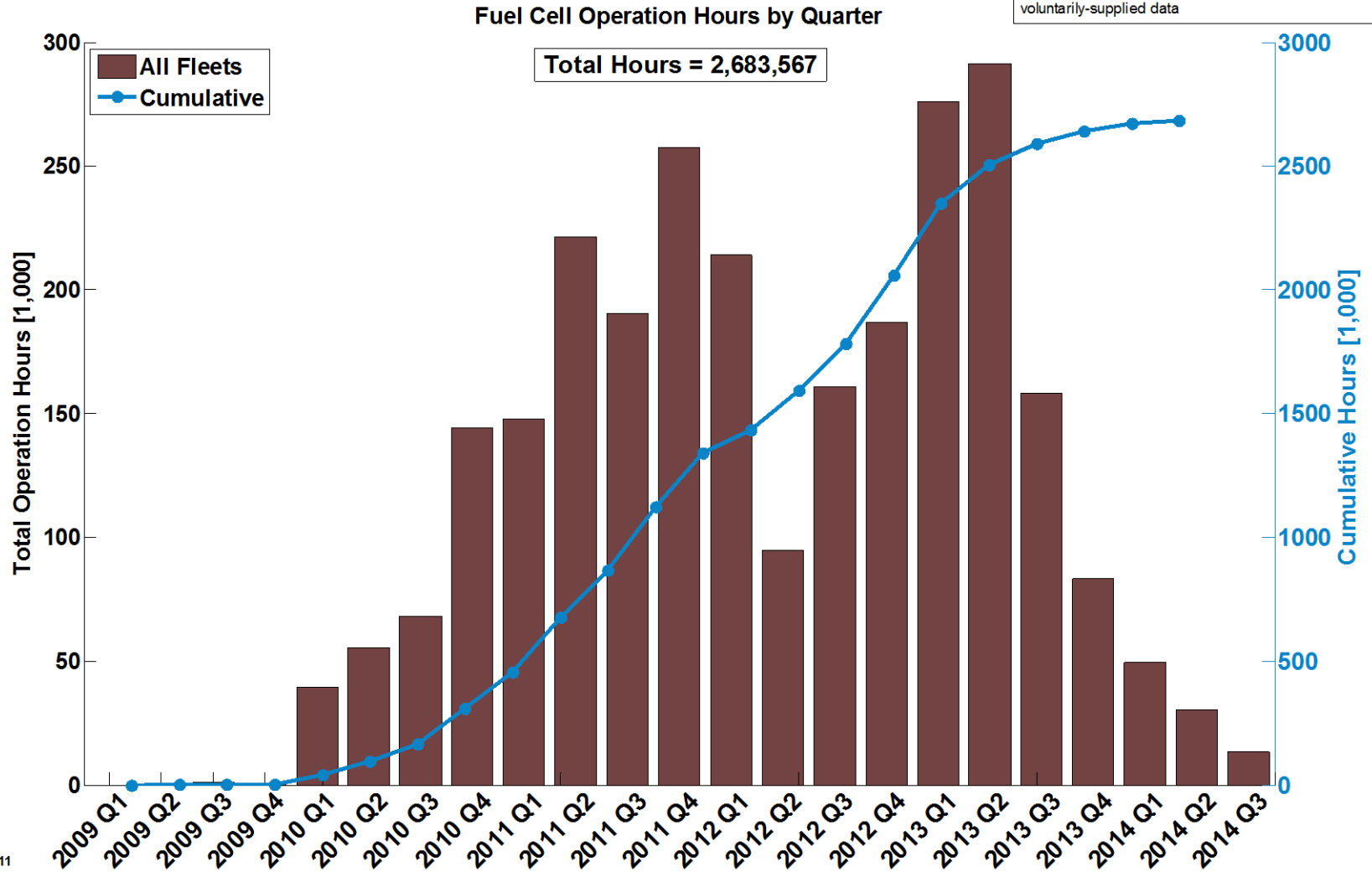


# Accomplishments: Study of FC Operation Hours



Nearly 2.7-million vehicle hours. New data represent a >30% increase in operational hours. 2014 decline does not represent less usage, just projects no longer reporting.

Note: Dataset includes concluded ARRA projects and voluntarily-supplied data



NREL cdp\_mhe\_111

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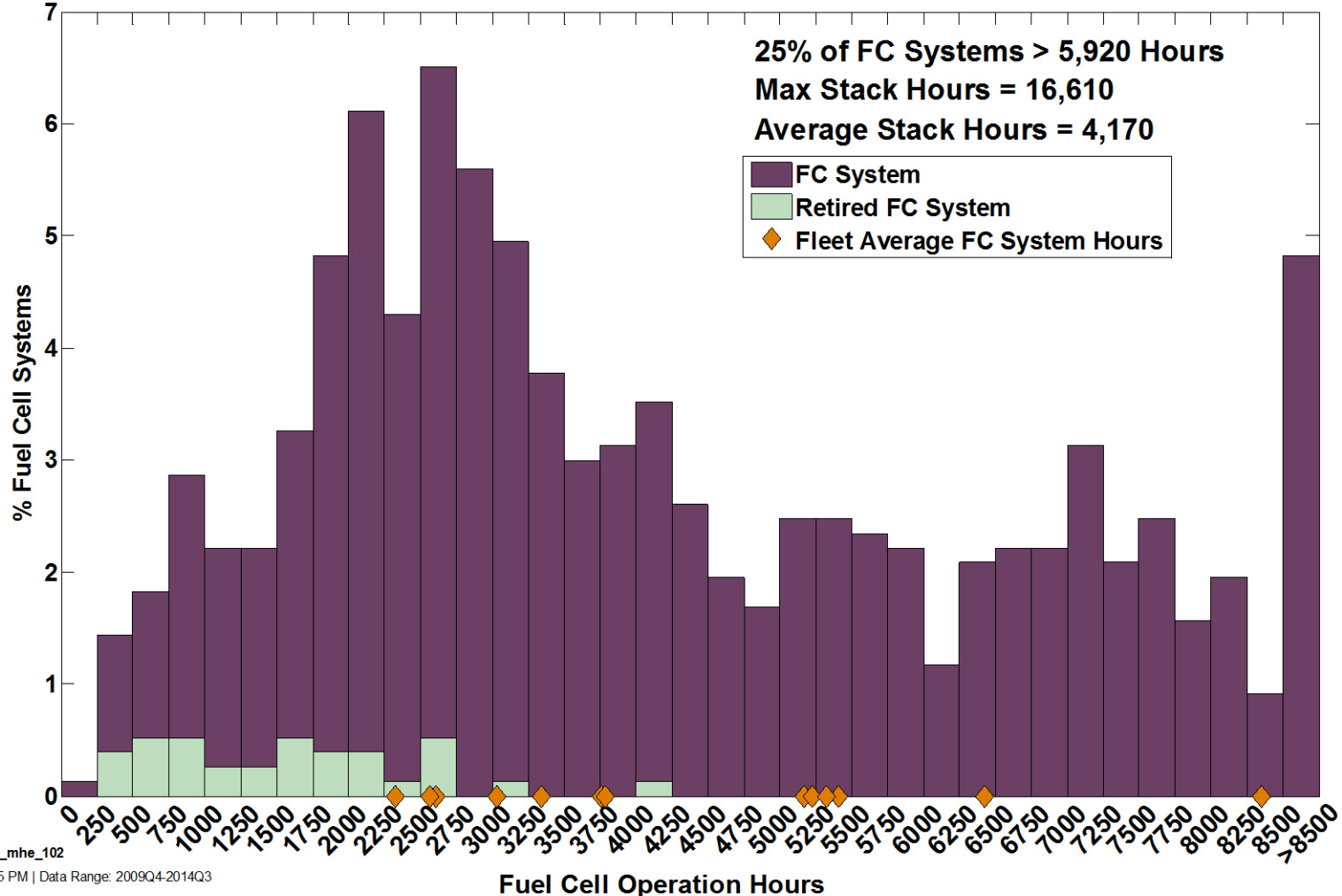
# Accomplishments: Study of FC Operation Hours



New data have reduced the bi-modal peak at ~7000 hours.  
Mean reduced from 4700 to 4100 hours

Cumulative Fuel Cell Operation Hours  
Combined Fleet Through 2014Q3

Note: Dataset includes concluded ARRA projects and voluntarily-supplied data

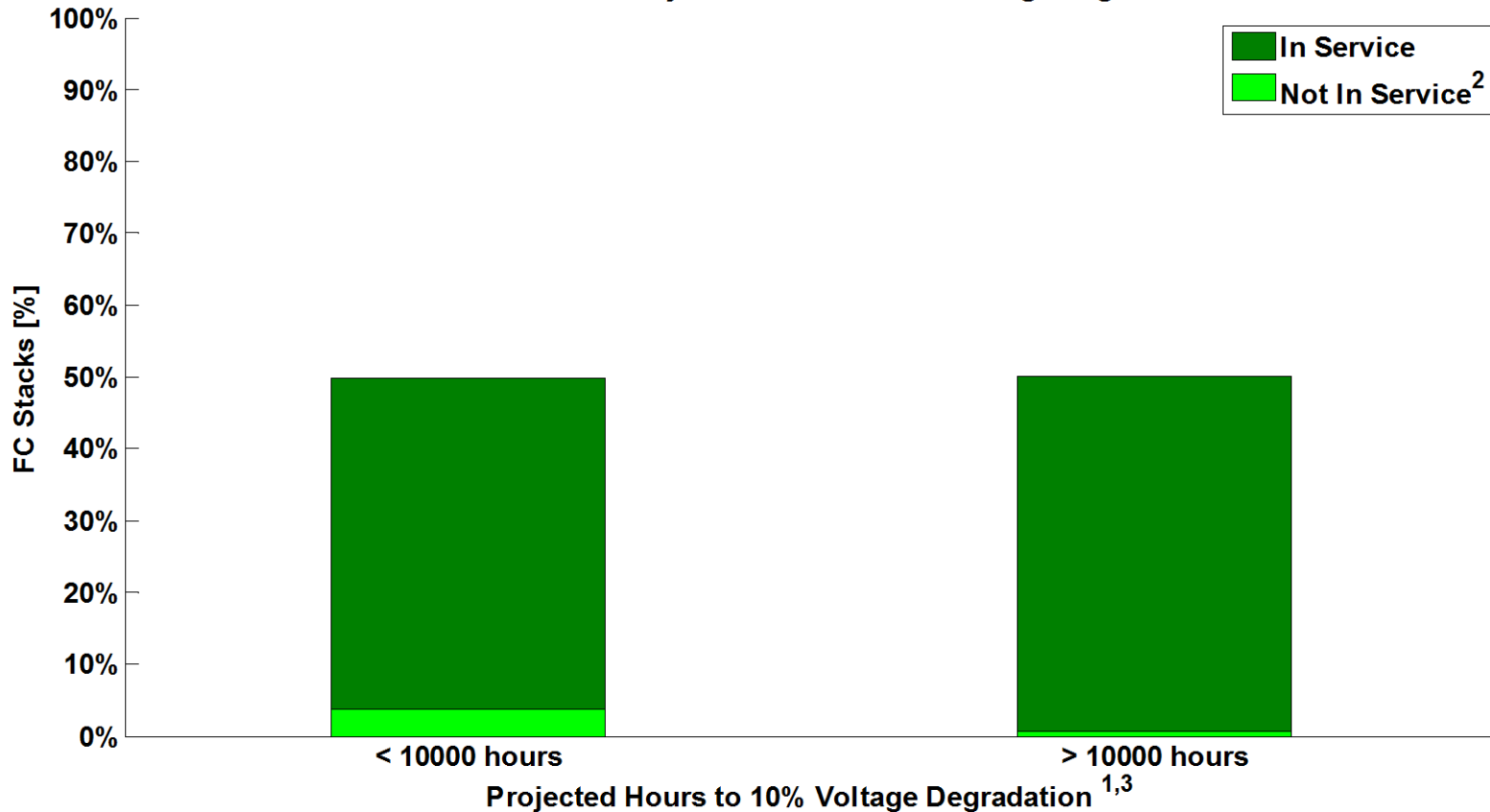


# Accomplishments: Study of FC Voltage Degradation Against 10,000 Hours



~50% of stacks have projected hours to 10% voltage degradation > 10,000 hours.

Fuel Cell Stacks Projected Hours to 10% Voltage Degradation



- 1) Projection using field data, calculated at high stack current, from operation hour 0.  
Projected hours may differ from an OEM's end-of-life criterion and does not address "catastrophic" failure modes.
- 2) Indicates stacks that are no longer accumulating hours either a) temporarily or b) have been retired for non-stack performance related issues or c) removed from DOE program.
- 3) Projected hours limited based on demonstrated hours.

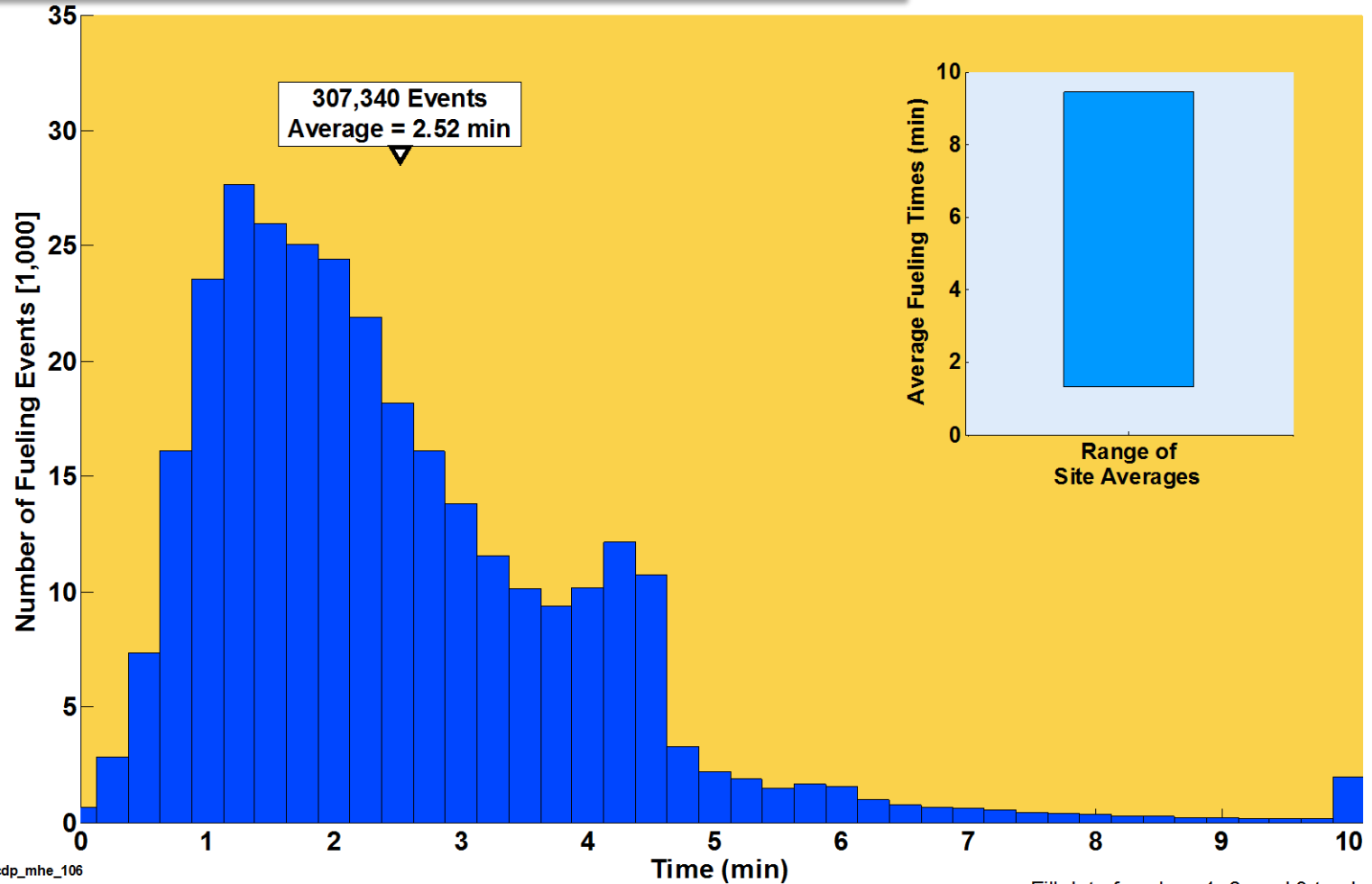


# Accomplishments: Study of Fueling Times



Fast fueling times (under three minutes) are key to the value proposition for fuel cell MHE.

Note: Dataset includes concluded ARRA projects and voluntarily-supplied data



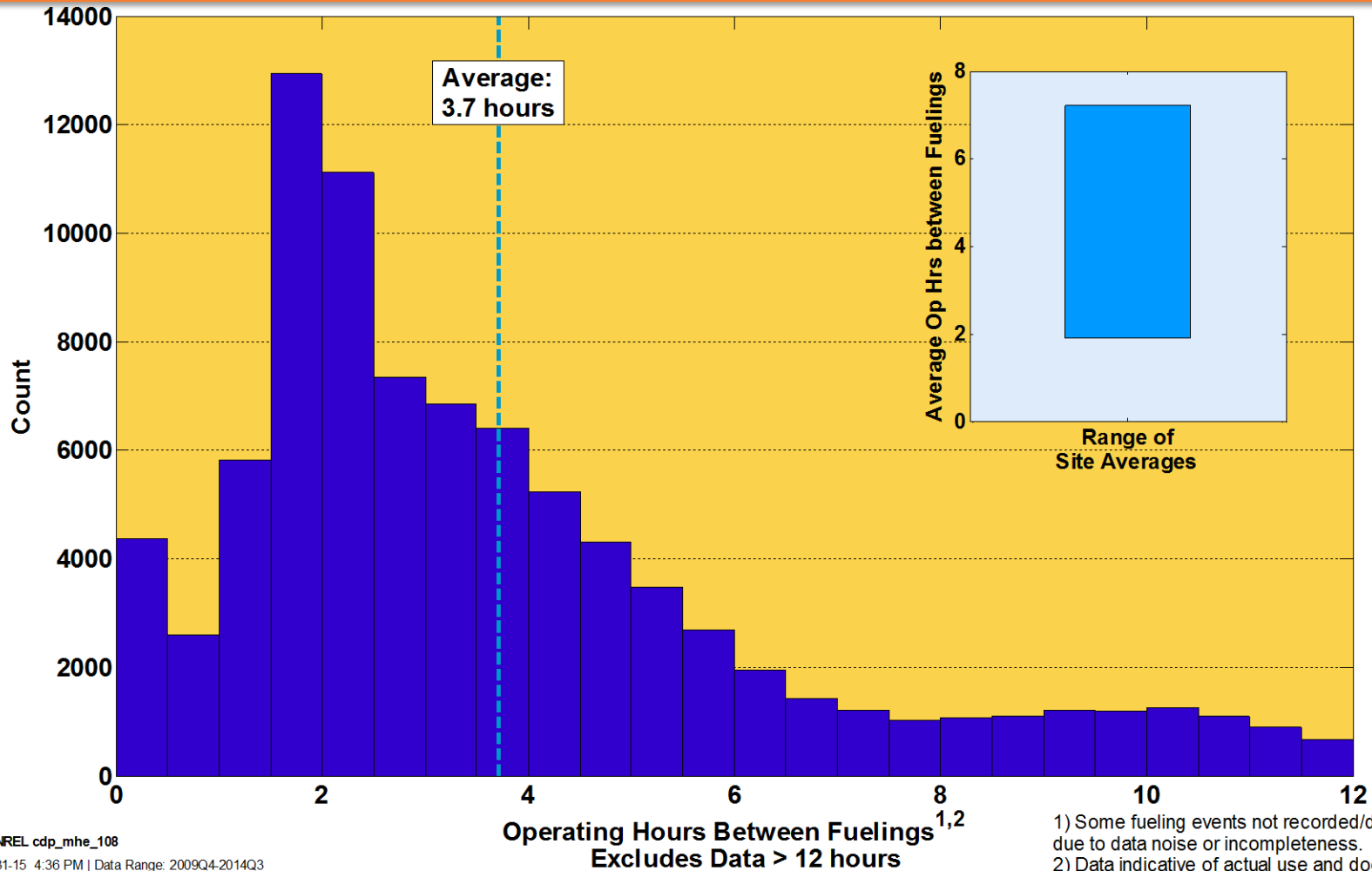
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Fill data for class 1, 2, and 3 trucks

# Accomplishments: Study of Operation Times



On average MHE is fueled more than once in an 8-hour shift.  
NOTE: Indicative of actual use and does not represent vehicle maximum capability.



NREL cdp\_mhe\_108

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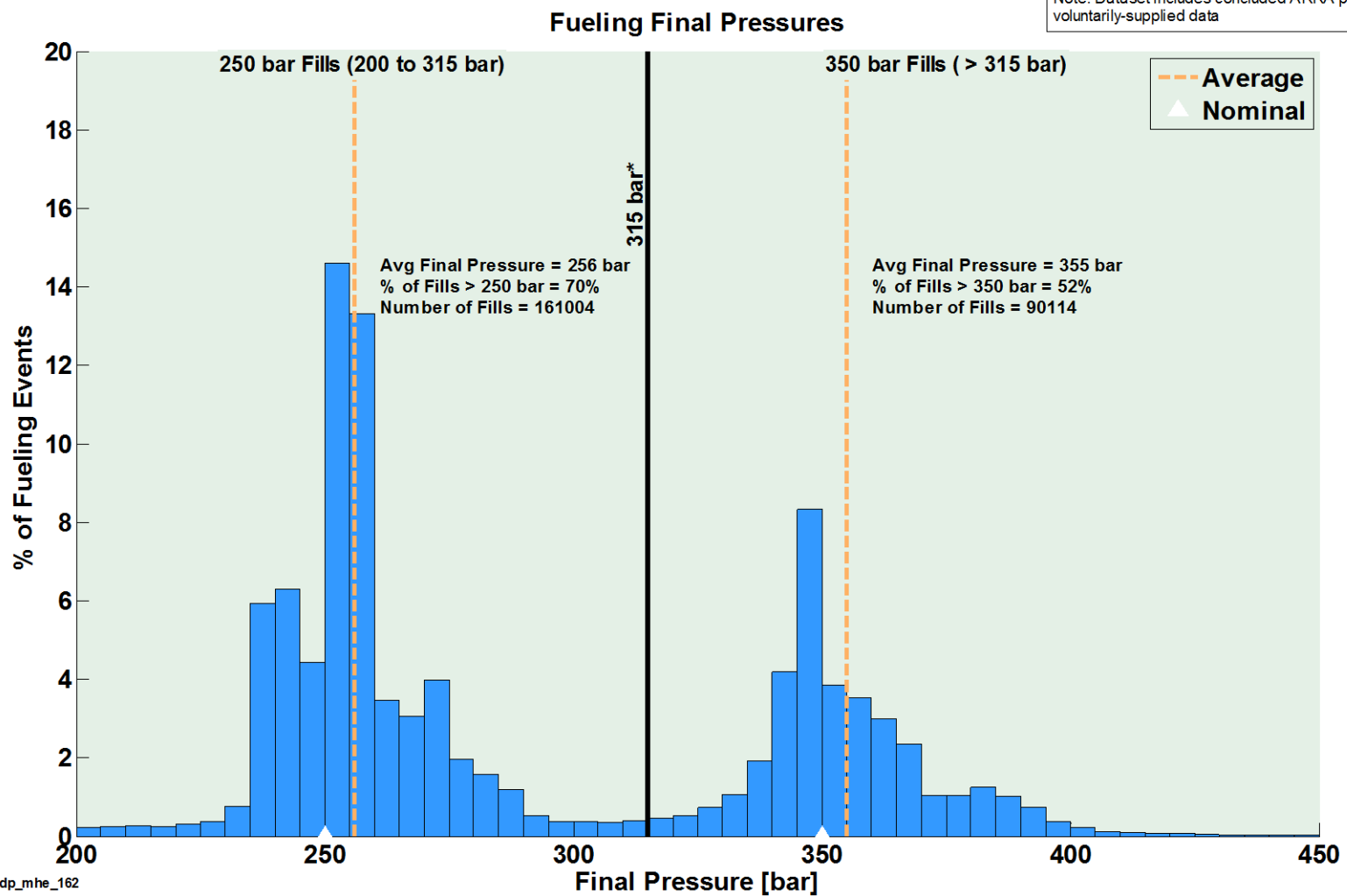
- 1) Some fueling events not recorded/detected due to data noise or incompleteness.
- 2) Data indicative of actual use and does not represent the max capability of the systems.

# Accomplishments: Study of Fueling Pressure



Market continues move to 350-bar fueling.

Note: Dataset includes concluded ARRA projects and voluntarily-supplied data



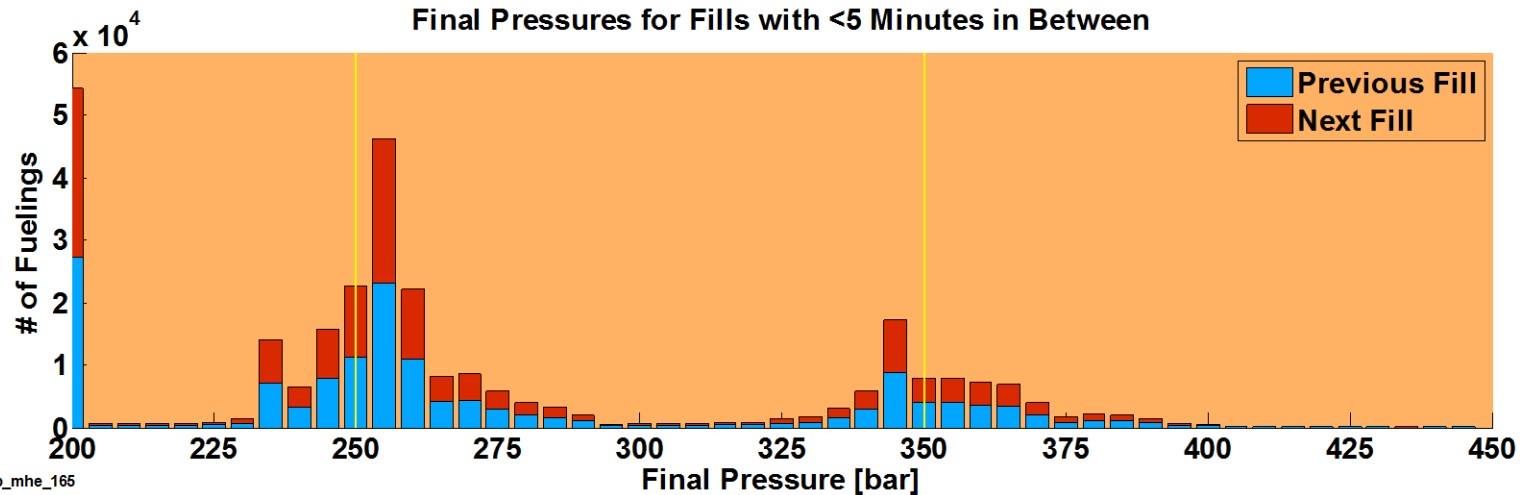
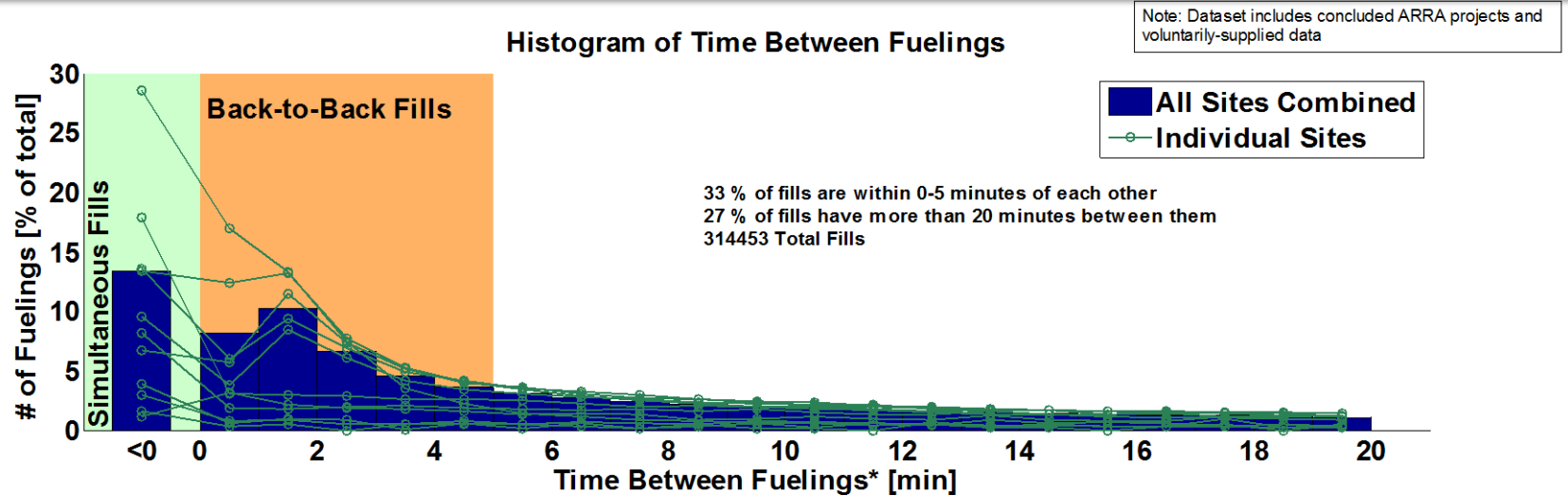
NREL cdp\_mhe\_162  
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\*The line at 315 bar separates 250 bar fills from 350 bar fills. It is slightly over the allowable 125% of nominal pressure (312.5 bar) from SAE J2601.

# Accomplishments: Study of Fueling Behavior



About 1/3 of fills are back-to-back (within 5 min.) 60% within 20 minutes of each other.



NREL cdp\_mhe\_165

Created: Mar-31-15 5:53 PM | Data Range: 2009Q4-2014Q3

\*Time is from end of fill to start of next fill.

# Accomplishments: Response to Previous Year Reviewer's Comments

**“...[W]hile measuring ... data is of great importance, projects that fundamentally advance actual deployment of fuel cells ... may have an advantage...”**

- This project is the data collection and analysis part of actual deployment projects. Through the ARRA projects, a new market was created that industry has continued to develop over tenfold from the DOE investment. This is evidenced by the fact that non-ARRA sites continue to provide data.

**“...little discussion detailed the collaborators' roles”**

- Partners play a key role in developing CDPs that are valuable to industry. They provide data, review results in a multi-step process, and suggest new analyses.

**“It is recommended that DOE and NREL investigate whether industry would continue to provide data voluntarily on operations of MHE...”**

- We were able to leverage the large dataset and strong relationships with industry to continue the project for MHE through voluntary submissions.



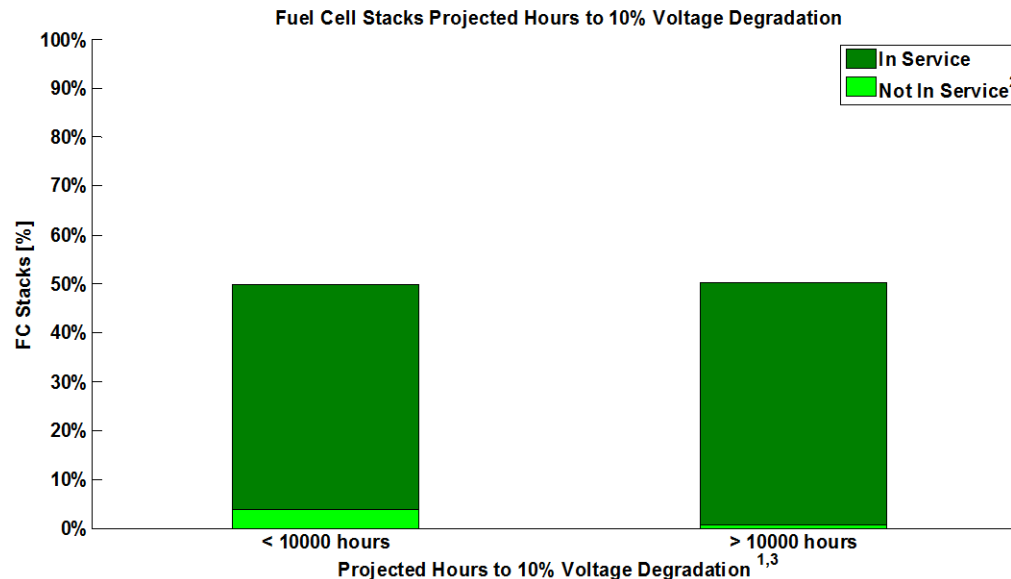
# Collaborations

## *Data Sharing and Analysis Partners*

Air Products	Plug Power
FedEx	ReliOn
GENCO	Sprint
Nuvera Fuel Cells	Sysco Houston
Company Name Redacted	

# Remaining Challenges and Barriers

- Improvements need to be made in stack durability so that substantially more than 50% of stacks have more than 10,000 hours projected to 10% decay.



1) Projection using field data, calculated at high stack current, from operation hour 0.

Projected hours may differ from an OEM's end-of-life criterion and does not address "catastrophic" failure modes.

2) Indicates stacks that are no longer accumulating hours either a) temporarily or b) have been retired for non-stack performance related issues or c) removed from DOE program.

3) Projected hours limited based on demonstrated hours.



NREL odp\_mhe\_97

Created: Apr-01-15 11:44 AM | Data Range: 2009Q1-2014Q3

# Future Work

## *Remaining FY15 tasks:*

- Complete annual report on MHE status and progress (August)
- Work with partners to access a MUCH larger data set including many, non-ARRA sites.
- Provide value-added analysis back to industrial partners
- Evaluate whether sufficient data can be shared to continue the project.

# Project Summary

**Relevance:** Assess the technology status in real world operations, establish performance baselines, report on fuel cell and hydrogen technology, and support market growth by evaluating performance relevant to the markets' value proposition for early fuel cell markets.

**Approach:** Leverage capabilities established under other technology validation activities (NRELFAT) and industry collaborations. Aggregate data for concise reporting on large data sets from multiple project partners.

**Accomplishments:** Published the ninth set of technical CDPs on performance, operation, and safety for MHE, with 24 updated results. All results and publications are available on NREL's technology validation website that also includes monthly highlights.

**Collaborations and Future Work:** Continue MHE validation with voluntarily supplied data with the close collaboration of the fuel cell and hydrogen developers and end users.

# NFCTEC Contacts

## Website

[http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj\\_tech\\_validation.html](http://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/proj_tech_validation.html)

**NREL**  
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

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### Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Research

Hydrogen & Fuel Cells Research Home

**Capabilities**

**Projects**

- Hydrogen Production & Delivery
- Hydrogen Storage
- Fuel Cells

**Technology Validation**

- Fuel Cell Vehicle Learning Demonstration
- Fuel Cell Bus Evaluations
- Early Fuel Cell Market Demonstrations
- Fuel Cell Technology Status Analysis
- Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure Analysis
- Stationary Fuel Cell Systems Analysis

**Safety, Codes, & Standards**

- Systems Analysis
- Manufacturing

**Research Staff**

**Facilities**

**Working with Us**

- Energy Analysis & Tools

**Publications**

**Awards & Honors**

**News**

#### Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Technology Validation

Technology validation is defined as confirmation that component and system technical targets have been met under realistic operating conditions. The NREL technology validation team works on validating hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles; hydrogen fueling infrastructure; and fuel cell use in early market applications such as material handling, backup power, and prime power applications. The team also analyzes the current status of state-of-the-art laboratory fuel cell technologies, with a focus on performance and durability. This work supports the Department of Energy's hydrogen and fuel cell technology validation activity.

Technology validation projects involve gathering extensive data from the systems and components under real-world conditions, analyzing this detailed data, and then comparing results to technical targets. While the raw data is protected by NREL, analysis results are aggregated into public results called composite data products. These public results show the status and progress of the technology, but don't identify individual companies.

Visit the following pages to see project highlights, analysis results, and detailed reports and presentations from the hydrogen and fuel cell technology validation efforts underway at NREL:

- Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle Learning Demonstration
- Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Evaluations
- Early Fuel Cell Market Demonstrations
- Fuel Cell Technology Status Analysis
- Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure Analysis
- Stationary Fuel Cell Systems Analysis

Subscribe to the biannual Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Technology Validation newsletter, which highlights recent technology validation activities at NREL.



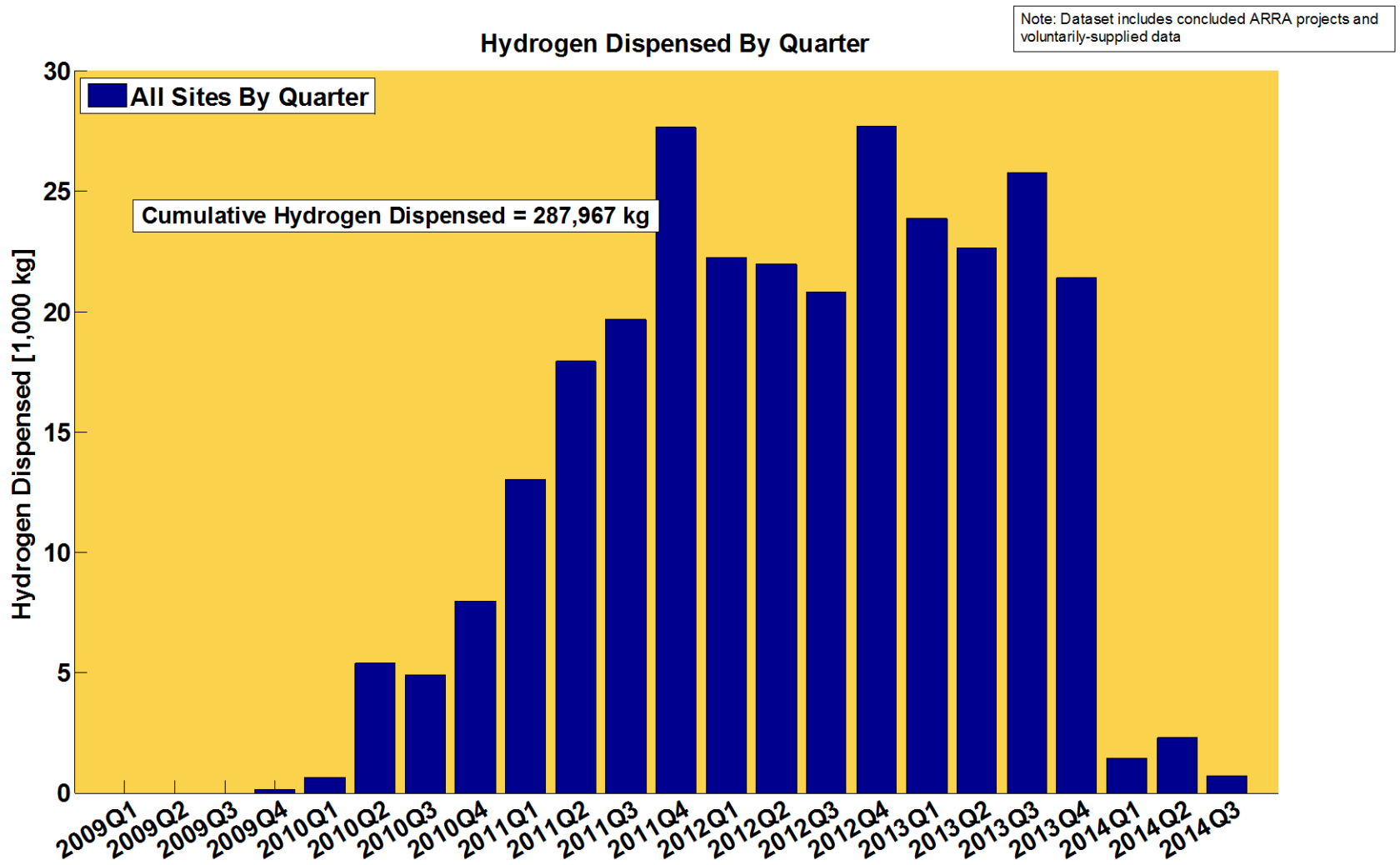
## Email

[techval@nrel.gov](mailto:techval@nrel.gov)

[Chris.Ainscough@nrel.gov](mailto:Chris.Ainscough@nrel.gov)

# Technical Back-Up Slides

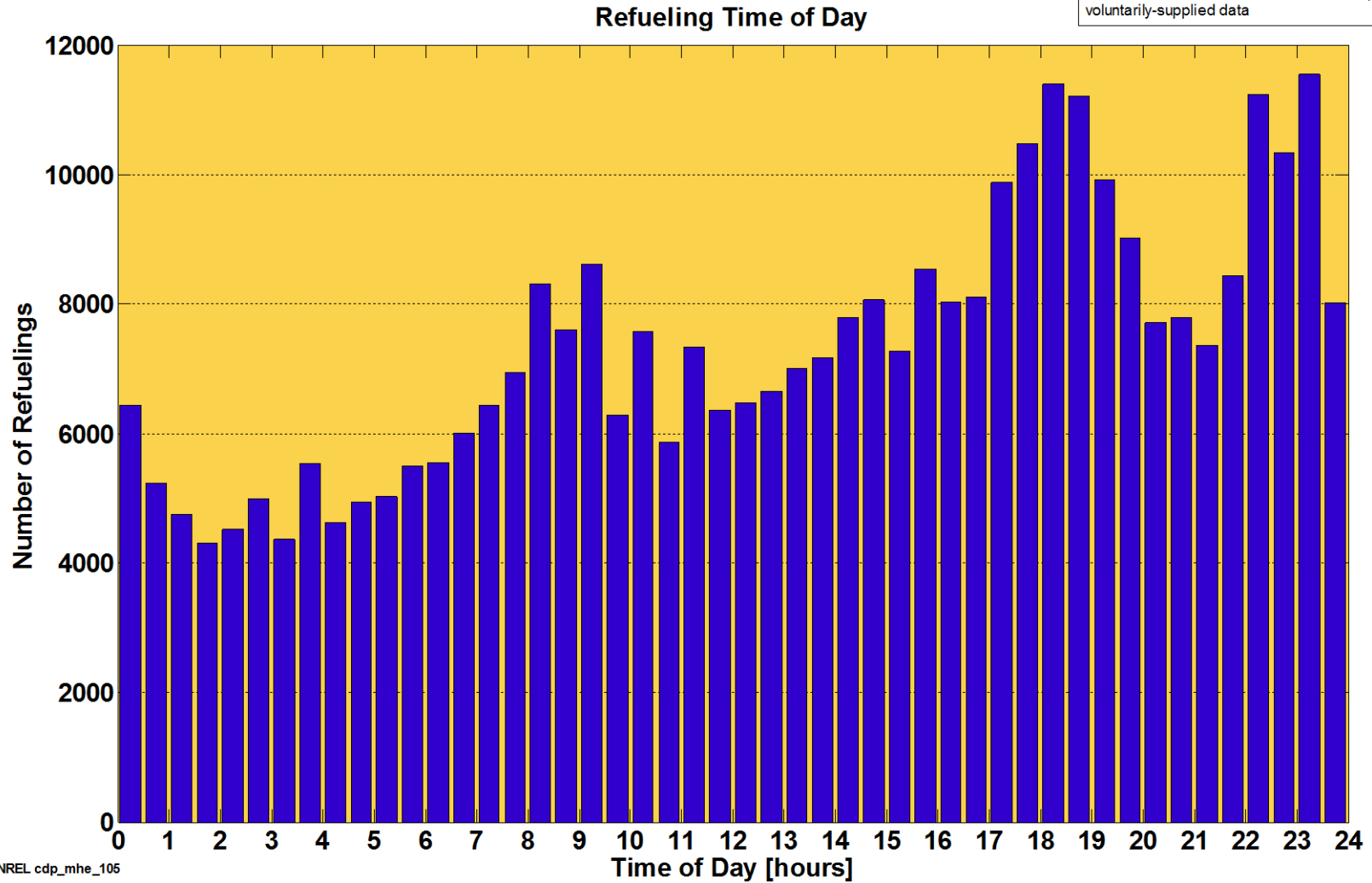
## Hydrogen Dispensed by Quarter



NREL cdp\_mhe\_104

Created: Mar-31-15 4:15 PM | Data Range: 2009Q4-2014Q3

Note: Dataset includes concluded ARRA projects and voluntarily-supplied data

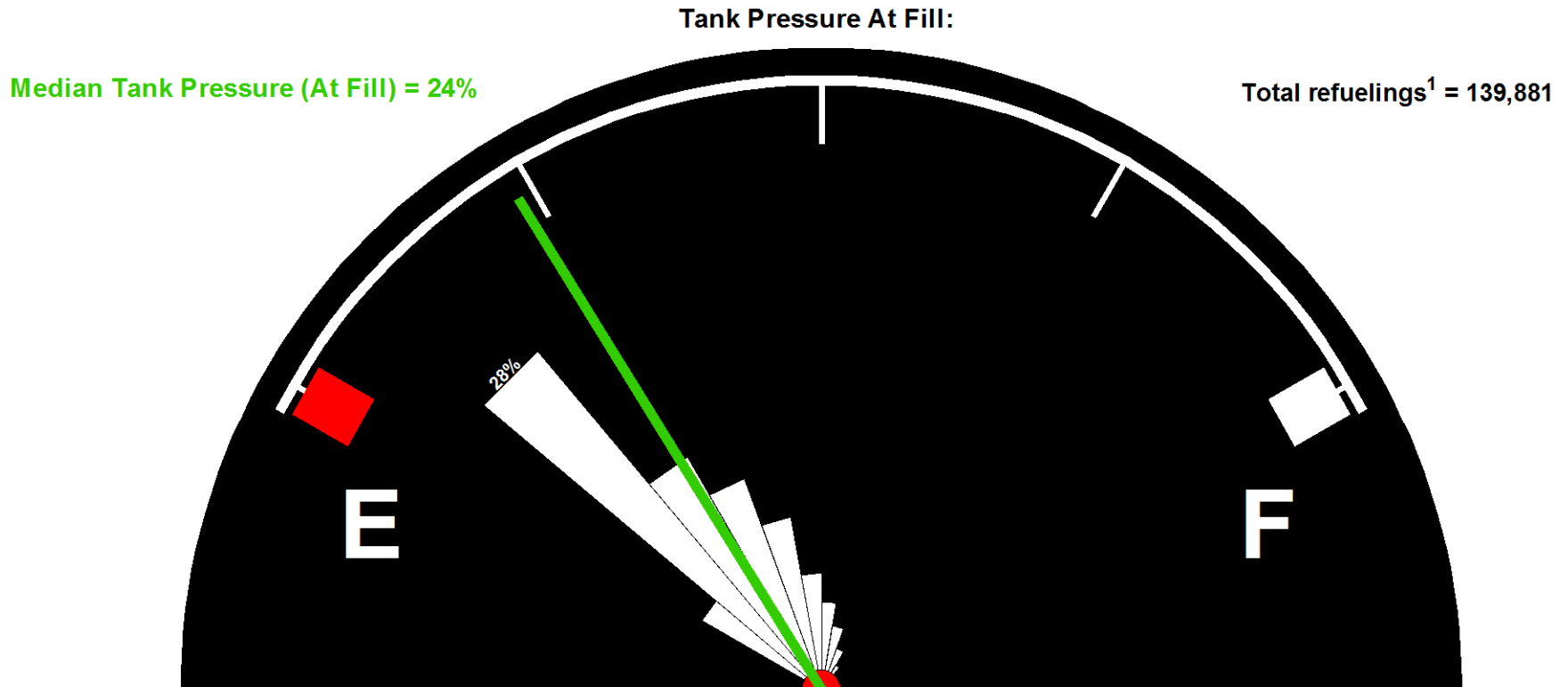


NREL cdp\_mhe\_105

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Note: Dataset includes concluded ARRA projects and voluntarily-supplied data



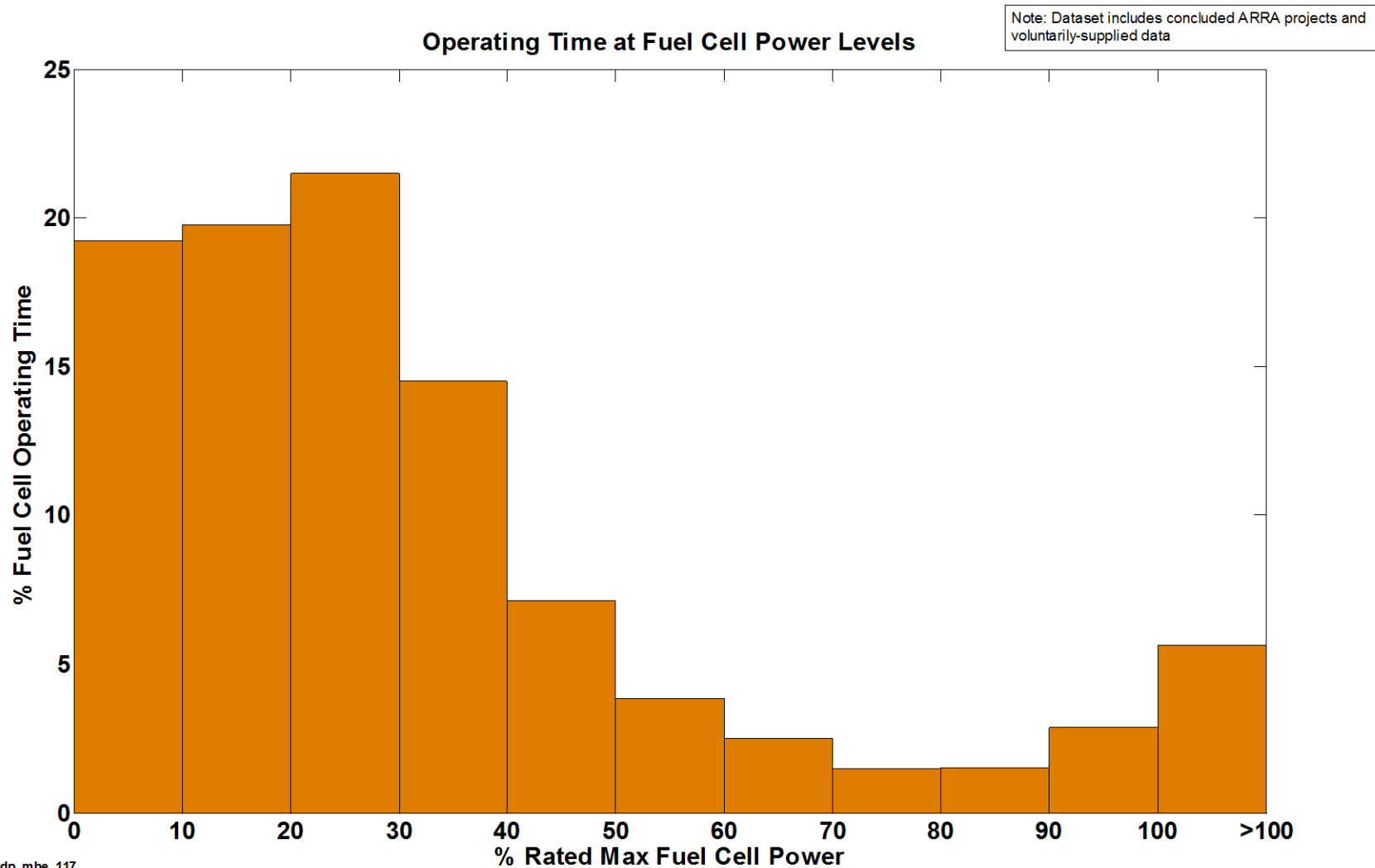
1. Some refueling events not recorded/detected due to data noise or incompleteness.
2. The outer arc is set at 40% total refuelings.
3. Full Pressure is either 3600 psi or 5000 psi.



NREL cdp\_mhe\_107

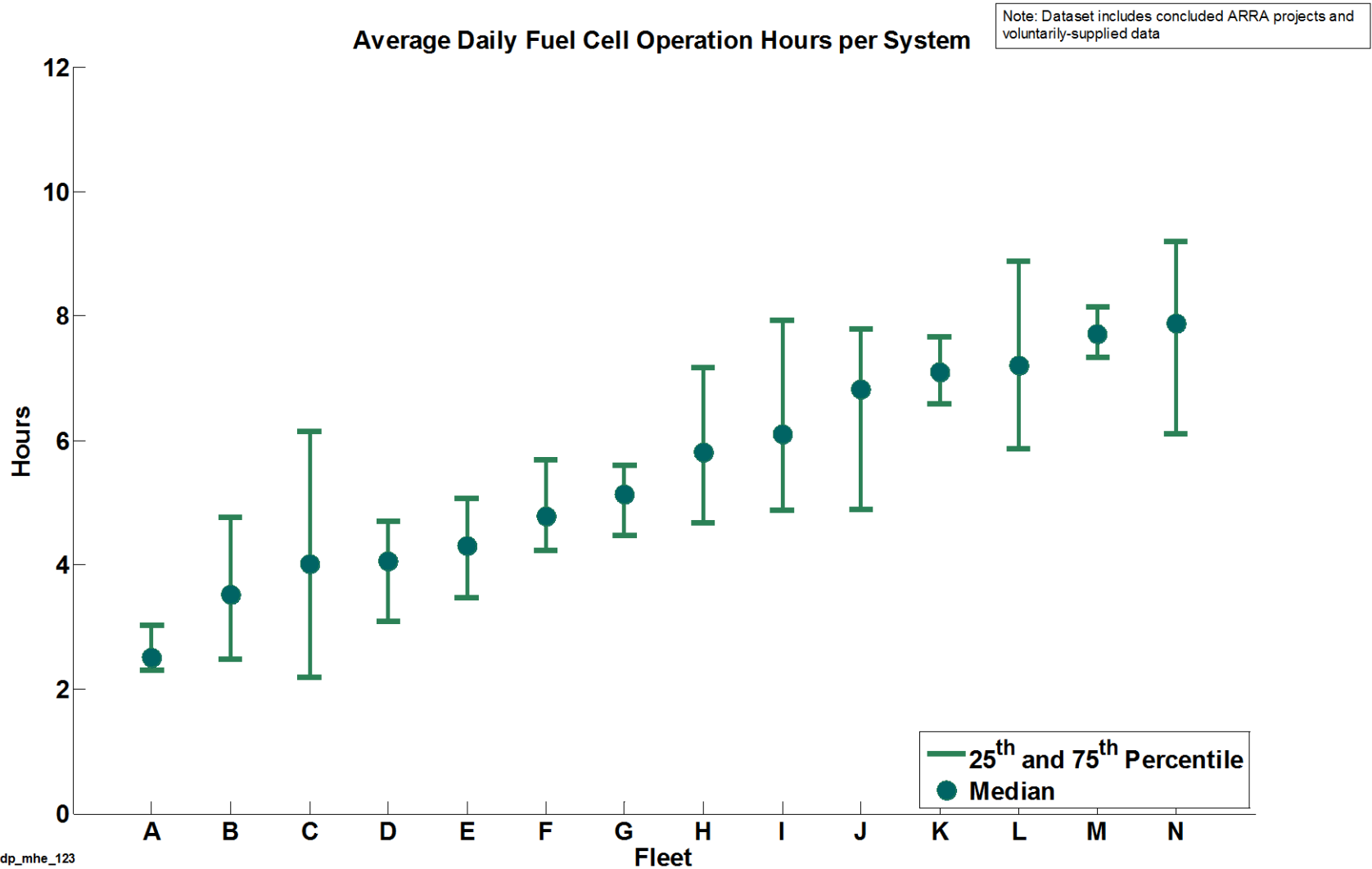
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## Operating Time at Fuel Cell Power Levels



# CDP-MHE-123

## Average Daily Fuel Cell Operation Hours per Fleet



NREL cdp\_mhe\_123

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