

Mr. WAGNER. It would be rather difficult to get a meaningful figure because this process made a product, not sulfur, but a sulfur-containing product that would have to be marketed, and its marketability and price would depend on how widely the process was applied. If it were quite widely used the larger quantities of material produced would have quite an effect on its market price and upon its cost effects.

Mr. VIVIAN. What I am looking for is any index at all of how much it would cost, in terms of the sale price of electricity, for example in New York, to have the power generating plants in New York which are now on coal, equipped with sulfur-removal equipment. I gather the results of your experience do not tell us very much.

Mr. PHILLIPS. Well, the process we were examining would have been quite expensive.

Mr. VIVIAN. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if our staff could inquire into that.

Mr. DADDARIO. Yes.

Mr. VIVIAN. You indicated you had burned about 23 million tons of coal a year in your system, with about 3 percent average sulfur content. That's approximately a million tons of sulfur a year going up the stack.

How much does a million tons of sulfur represent in terms of total usage of sulfur per year?

Mr. PHILLIPS. The current production of sulfur in the United States is about 8 million long tons per year.

Mr. VIVIAN. Does the TVA plant system represent 2 percent of the total coal-steam plant capacity in the United States?

Mr. WAGNER. Closer to 10 percent.

Mr. VIVIAN. 10 percent. That's far more than I thought.

Mr. WAGNER. It is close to that.

Mr. BELL. Mr. Wagner, from what I have heard this morning, I believe you could come to the conclusion that we do have some technology to eliminate some of the pollution problems but that many of the methods are so expensive and so difficult that the technology is not being applied as much as possible. Would you agree with that conclusion?

Mr. WAGNER. I think that is not quite correct, but perhaps Dr. Gartrell can answer more precisely.

Dr. GARTRELL. I have recently had occasion to talk with many people doing research on different SO_2 removal processes. There have been many economic studies made and we recently had occasion to review with the Public Health Service the latest developments and different processes under research. The primary purpose of the reviews was to try to see if enough information was available to provide design factors required for building large-scale pilot plants for some of the more promising processes.

Quite surprisingly, the technology for many processes upon which much research has been done is still deficient even for designing a large-scale pilot plant. However, at the present time, several large-scale pilot plants are in various stages of design and construction which will begin to produce soon the kinds of information needed to go to full-scale plant design.

Mr. BELL. Then what you are saying in effect is that we do have to develop some new technology. This is the area we are going to