CONSISTENT COKE QUALITY FROM SUN COKE COMPANY'S HEAT RECOVERY COKEMAKING TECHNOLOGY

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Summary: Sun Coke Company's heat recovery coke technology has been contínuously improved over its 40 years of development. Ali of the improvements that have been made have been directed at three criteria that are essential to good blast furnace operations, namely; (1). Coke Quality, (2). Coke Quality Consistency, and (3). Coke Supply Reliability. This paper will give basic background information about the technology, its development, and specific data about coke quality, consistency, and reliability. Data will be presented from both of Sun Coke's operating plants which together produce 2 million tons per year of blast furnace coke.

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lntroduction

The Sun Coke heat recovery coke making technology has been developed over the last **41** years. The objectives of this presentation are to provide you with a basic understanding of the technology, its operation, and lhe benefits of this method of coke making.

Technology Development History

□ **The 1960s**

The first ovens built were in 1960 (see Figure 1). Three test ovens were built at Vansant VA., to determine if local Southwestern Virgínia coais could be used to make suitable blast furnace coke. The results from this four month test oven operation were successful and an aggressive oven building program was initiated. By 1963, 250 Mitchell type nonrecovery ovens were in production, producing 250,000 tons per year (TPY) (see Figure 2). Several technical advances were made on the initial 250 oven plant including but not limited to: (1)

- \Box Automated tripper belt system for charge coal delivery
- \Box Hot coke pushing, & external oven coke quenching
- \Box Mitchell ovens at Vansant were 15% larger than conventional Mitchell ovens
- □ One piece oven door, handled hydraulically
- \Box Refractory sill plates in place of cast iron

Because of the success of the produced coke in blast furnaces, additional Mitchell ovens were built throughout the late 1960s until a total of 527 were in operation producing over 500,000 TPY.

OTHE **1970s**

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, test ovens were built incorporating sole flue systems and after burner chambers (stacks). These two advancements led to higher oven production and substantially eliminated air pollution emissions. ln 1972, 16 large Jewell-Thompson ovens were built for production tests. While the Mitchell ovens had inside coking chamber dimensions of 6 Ft wide X 34 Ft long, the newer Jewell-Thompson ovens had inside coking chamber dimensions of 11 Ft wide X 55 Ft long. With the larger coking chamber, sole flue system and higher natural draft, the newer Jewell-Thompson ovens could produce over 5000 TPY per oven compared to the Mitchell oven production of 1000 TPY per oven. During lhe 1970s maximum coke production was paramount. Ovens were operated at very high (2900-3000 \Box F) temperatures with little regard for coke quality and oven life. lt should be noted during these times of high production, the machinery that supports the coke oven operations was refined and pushed to its limits. The machinery includes the pusher/charger machine (PCM), the coke guide/utility car and the hot car/quench system. During this period the machinery design was perfected, especially since each oven was pushed and charged every 24 hours.

OTHE **1980s**

The technological advancements of the 1980s can best be characterized by (a) improved combustion control (b) enhanced coke quality and (e) improved oven construction techniques. AII of these improvements led to lower air emission (best in the industry), improved coke quality (going from $25th$ out of 26 to near No. 1), and lower oven repair costs. The advances made during the early 1980s culminated in 1988-1989 with total oven temperature control through continuous temperature modulation, and finally with the advent of the 48 hour coking cycle.

DTHE **1990s**

Although the technological advancements made during the 1990s do not appear to be as significant as the 1980s, when taken in total, the advancements of the 1990s have led to a mature, robust coke oven technology that was poised to take its place on the world market. The full impact of the fine tuning of the Sun Coke Heat Recovery Oven (HRO) technology is best demonstrated in Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6. Noteworthy is that even as the Sun Coke (HRO) technology was achieving world class recognition regarding capital cost efficiency, operating cost efficiency, and coke quality, in 1990 it was designated as Maxímum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) for coke makíng, by the US Envíronmental Protection Agency. When taken in total, these attributes lead to the decision of lnland Steel (now lspat-lnland) to contract wíth Sun Coke to buíld and operate a 1.3 million TPY coke plant to service lnlands coke needs at Indiana Harbor. Sun Coke currently operates two plants, one at Vansant VA producing 700,000 TPY (Figure 7) and one at Indiana Harbor producing 1.3 million TPY (Figure 8). Current plans are to build and operate on-síte or merchant plants at appropriate locations throughout the world.

• The **Future (2000 to 201 O)**

The Sun Coke HRO Technology is obviously mature as evidenced by the successes detailed above. Sun Coke Company has a very active ongoing technology development plan. The Sun Coke Company currently has five U.S. and lnternational patents in force covering the HRO technology and has filed three (US and International) patent applications over the last 1 ½ years.

Technology development projects include:

- \Box Stamp charging for use of lower quality coals (Completed)
- \Box Oven modifications for increased oven throughput (Completed)
- □ Per oven vield enhancements (On-Going)
- □ CSR enhancement (On-Going)

The Sun Coke Company is firmly committed to assisting steel production facilities world wide in the production of the highest quality steel at the lowest possible cost.

Process Description

The basic processes at both the Jewell Coai and Coke (JCC) Plant and the Indiana Harbor Coke Company (IHCC) Plant are identical. The only major difference is that ai IHCC the wâste heat is recovered in waste heat boilers, electricity is generated, and the coke oven flue gas is dry scrubbed for SO₂ removal. At JCC some waste heat is used directly in a thermal coal dryer, but most is vented to the atmosphere. It should be noted that the original oven design was developed to operate under natural draft (no heat recovery). This design feature is useful in heat recovery plants because if a boiler has to be taken out of service, the bypass stack can be opened and lhe ovens can continue to operate under natural draft. The basic process description presented below is for lhe 1 .3 million TPY IHCC plant.

PROCESS DESCRIPTION

A detailed inventory of the plant equipment is shown in Table 1, and an overall description is presented below.

Each oven chamber can accept a coal charge of 45 T. The current nominal charge is 43-44 T and the cycle time is 48 hours. The pushing/charging machine (PCM) is different than a conventional pusher or charger machine in that it includes the functions of both, in a single machine.

To push the oven , the pushing ram is spotted in front of lhe oven to be pushed , the manual door latches are released, lhe door is then lifted above the ram by hydraulic cylinders and the ram enters the oven.

At the same time a utility car operator removes the coke side door, spots up the coke guide and calls out the oven is ready to be pushed. The utility cars are electric powered hydraulic drive units, one unit for each battery.

The hot cars that receive the hot coke are powered by 45 ton diesel locomotives modified to fit the coke side track and quench stations at the facility.

The hot coke is received in the hot car and carried to the quench stations. The station utilizes conventional quench sprays designed to fit lhe hot car to maximize lhe even distribution of the quench water. The coke is dumped in specific locations to provide maximum residence time. There are two wharves in the facility, one for each row of batteries. The wharves are connected to a central conveyor system that delivers the coke to the screening station.

Oven charging is accomplished by replacing the coke side door, and spotting the PCM in front of the recently pushed oven. Simultaneously, charge coal is metered onto the coal conveyor tripper belt at a rate of 1200 TPH. A false door is extended into the oven opening below the

PROCESS DESCRIPTION (continued)

charging conveyor to eliminate coai spillage. As the charge coai is received at the PCM machine, the leveling conveyor begins to convey coal into the empty oven. The leveling conveyor is a water cooled, hydraulically driven flight conveyor that moves into the oven as the coai is received. The leveling conveyor actually transfers coai to the leading edge of itself and the conveyor rides on top of the charge coai bed that has been laid down. Once the entire coal charge bed is laid down, the leveling conveyor is retracted from the oven, the pusher side door is replaced and the coking process is started. There are two inherent advantages of this charging method when compared to by-product oven charging methods. The leveling conveyor action provides some coal compaction such that charge coai bed bulk densities are higher and the coai bed is very levei.

OVEN OPERATION

Process control of the Sun Coke HRO is accomplished by:

- \Box Monitoring crown temperature
- \Box Monitoring sole flue temperatures
- \Box Adjusting sole flue induced air ports
- O Adjusting door induced air ports, and
- \Box Adjusting flue gas uptake dampers

This monitoring and control is accomplished by a coke oven operator (burner) and the temperature monitoring and uptake damper position DCS system. (2} A bumer can easily control over 70 ovens. Temperature monitoring/damper movements are controlled from a centralized control room. Manual adjustments to the induced air ports are made during regularly scheduled once every four hours "walk around". (3) These adjustments are very predictable and repeatable since every oven is operated on a 48 hour cycle. The repeatable variation in coai gassing rate and hence induced air requirements are shown in Table 2. The temperature profile for an individual oven as a result of gassing rate variation and appropriate burner adjustments is also very repeatable. The DCS data collection system not only monitors instantaneous temperatures but also calculates an average temperature throughout the cycle. Several schematic views of the Sun Coke HRO System are presented in Figures 9, 10, 11 , and 12, which will help the reader understand the oven operational aspects. Shown in Figure 13 are the typical crown and sole flue temperatures throughout **a 48** hour cycle.

Relationships between coai blends and coke gualities

During the last decade, upwards of 30 different coai blends have been tested and/or used in coke production in Sun Coke's Heat Recovery Ovens. Presented in Tables 3 and 4 are coai blend properties and resultant coke quality for 24 individual blends. These blends constitute a wide variety of test coais with lhe volatile matter (VM) ranging from 19% to 31%, numbers of coais in blend ranging from one (single seam tests) to seven (7 coai blend), and reflectance values ranging from 1.09 to 1.65.

Relationships between coai blends and coke guality (continued)

Oven operating parameters were fairly consistent for all tests with the exception of the single seam low volatile coal tests. All tests were conducted following standardized production proceáures including charging technique, oven temperature control practices, and pushing and quenching procedures. A more thorough discussion regarding each test is presented in references (3), **(4), and** (5).

The coke quality parameters presented in Table **4** show high values for stability, CSR and size. Excluding single seam tests, the coke stabilities range from 61 .0 to 66.9 and CSR values range from 61 .9 to 71.8. Coke size for all the tests (excluding single seam coal tests) show somewhat more test to test variability with $+2$ " values ranging from 33% to 70%. Note that coke size parameters (+2", and mean size) are for coke that has been crushed (top size either 3" or 4") and screened (bottom size either 3/4" or 1").

Based on the data presented in Tables 3 and 4 and outside research (6) (7) severa! general trends regarding coke produced by the Heat Recovery Process are evident as listed below:

- (a) The actual coke stability is greater than predicted coke stability from industry recognized coke stability models.
- (b) The actual coke CSR values are substantially greater than predicted coke CSR values from industry recognized CSR models.
- (e) The actual coke stabilities for heat recovery coke are consistently greater than coke stabilities produced in either slot type recovery ovens or movable wall test ovens.
- (d) The actual coke CSR values for heat recovery coke are consistently greater than coke CSR values from slot type recovery ovens and movable wall test ovens,
- (e) Both the coke mean size and the coke +2" size percentage for the heat recovery coke are greater than the coke produced in either slot type by-product ovens or movable wall test ovens.

Several theories and some scientific data are available to explain the enhanced quality of heat recovery coke.

CSR: H.S. Valia states "The interactions among the various coai parameters and their combined influence on CSR are complex but it appears that coai rheology, rank, sulfur and ash chemistry are of greatest importance" (8). The German research group DMT (6) has studied the carbon forms, most notably pyrolytic carbon deposition in by-product coke and heat recovery coke and has concluded that, there is a significantly higher amount of pyrolytic carbon deposition in heat recovery coke which inherently increases the CSR value of heat recovery coke compared to by-product coke. Intuitively this theory makes sense because in lhe heat recovery process, lhe maximum coke bed depth and hence the bed gas path length is over two times as long as lhe bed gas path length in thin bed by-product ovens. Other factors such as coai bed bulk density homogeniaty in the heat recovery process as well as resultant average cell wall

CSR (continued)

thickness, porosity, pore size and fissuring may also explain the phenomenon of enhanced CSR in heat recovery coke.

STABILITY: lt is generally recognized that coai blend petrography is the dominant factor in determining coke cold strength (stability).

As mentioned previously, heat recovery coke appears to have higher stabilities than equivalent coais coked in by-product ovens. The underlying inherent process conditions that lead to enhanced coke stability in heat recovery coke are not well understood at this time. Several researchers have postulated that the higher stabilities may be due to:

- (a) More uniform spatial temperature distribution
- (b) Slower coking rate
- (c) Longer time at high temperature
- (d) Less macro-fissuring
- (e) More complete wetting in the plastic zone and hence improved carbon forms, and thicker cell walls
- (f) Allowance for coal/coke bed expansion
- (g) Higher and more consistent charge coai bulk density throughout the entire coai bed

COKE SIZE: One of the most dramatic features of heat recovery coke is its size and shape (prior to crushing and screening). When viewed on the wharf, heat recovery coke is noticeably larger, blockier, and has a greater length to width aspect ratio compared to by-product slot oven coke. Several outside researchers and end users (7), (9) have commented on the physical attributes of heat recovery coke.

While there are mariy factors that contribute to coke size, it is safe to say that all other things being equal, a deep (40-44") coai bed with consistent charge coai size distribution and consistent charge coai bulk density will inherently make larger coke than a thin (18") coai bed with macro-variations in coai size and bulk density. Ongoing internai research is continuing to determine the actual controlling parameters.

COKE **CONSISTENCY:** Notwithstandlng-the absolute coke quality parameters as outlined above, the blast furnace operator especially values coke quality consistency for long term maximum blast furnace production. Sun Coke recognizes this need and pays attention to those details that lead to consistent coke quality, namely:

- (a) Coai Blend Selection
- (b) Coai Blending and Pulverization
- (c) Consistent Oven Operations
- (d) Consistent Quenching
- (f) Coke Crushing and Screening Operations

COKE CONSISTENCY (continued)

By way of example, pertinent long term coke quality parameters and production leveis for the IHCC plant are shown in Figures 14, 15, 16, and 17.

The monthly coke production for 31 months (July 98-January 01 inclusive) is shown in Figure 14. The monthly production data are for furnace coke normalized to 4.5% moisture. The data will show that the IHCC plant was able to achieve production rates in excess of 100,000 tons/month within six months of start-up, and has consistently achieved an annual production rate in excess of 1.3m TPY over the last 17 months.

ln addition to achieving high production leveis, high and consistent coke quality parameters have been met. Shown in Figures 15, 16, and 17 are weekly average coke quality parameters, for the past 31 months. Also shown in Figures 15, 16, and 17 are the times when coai blend changes and coai pulverization changes were made. lnspection of these data show that for the last 31 months, in spite of plant startup, coai blend changes and pulverization changes, the coke quality for all coke quality parameters has been high and consistent. Over the 31 month period, coke ash values have averaged 8.6% with a minimum of 8.12% anda maximum of 9.78% while sulfur leveis have averaged 0.56% and minimum and maximum values of 0.50% and 0.66% respectively. During the same period, coke VM has averaged 0.42% and ranging from 0.25% to 0.60%. The mean coke size has averaged 54mm (2.13 inches) with a range of 51 mm (2.0 inches) to 61 mm (2.4 inches). Coke CSR values have averaged 69.8 with a range from 67.4 to 71.6, while stability has averaged 61.9 and a minimum and maximum of 58 and 64 respectively. lt should be noted that the lower stability cokes occured during a period when there was poor charge coai pulverization (i.e. minus 1/8" of 60 to 65%), see Figure 17.

- \Box Seven different coal blends have been used over the past 31 months
- \Box Coal blends have had as few as three coals and as many as six coals
- \Box No non-coal additives (such as pet coke, coke breeze, etc.) have been used
- □ Blends have been made up using Eastern U.S. coals, Southern U.S. coals, Midwestern U.S. coals, and Canadian coals
- \Box A wide range of coal blends has been used as is shown in Table 5.

ln summary, it is fair to say that even with a wide variation in coai blend properties, that the IHCC plant has achieved excellent production and coke quality throughout the past 31 months of operation.

At the end of the day, the real proof of the coke produced lies in the performance of the blast furnace. The reader is directed to an excellent paper (9) regarding blast furnace performance utilizing heat recovery coke. This paper details the transition of Ispatlnland's No.7 blast furnace from conventional to heat recovery coke. One salient point in the paper is that the No.7 blast furnace achieved a North American record tonnage in the 4th quarter of 1999 while operating on 100% heat recovery coke.

Material and Energy Balance

By way of example, a simplified block flow diagram for the IHCC plant is presented in Figure 18. This figure shows the overall material and energy flows from coal recieving, coke making and energy production. A more detailed schematic diagram is shown in Figure 19. This diagram shows a more detailed view of major process streams for the 1.33 million TPY furnace coke facility, including the 94 MW's of power production and the 100,000 to 500,000 lb/hr of export steam.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERA TIONS:

Waste Water: There are no waste water discharges from a Sun Coke Heat Recovery Plant. The plant is a net water consumer with machine cooling water reused to provide quench water.

Solid **Wastes:** There are no hazardous solid wastes or sludges from a Sun Coke Heat Recovery Plant. The only solid waste is non-hazardous CaSO4/CaSO3 from the spray dryer flue gas de-sulfurization (FGD) system which can be recycled to other industries .or land filled.

Air Emissions: The comment we hear the most from first time visitors to our plant is, "there is no coke plant smell or odors". Obviously this is because there are no doar leaks or fugitive emissions from a by-product recovery plant.

Sun Coke's heat recovery technology was designated as maximum achievable contrai technology (MACT) for coke making in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. This designation carne about due to extensive on site inspections and EPA emission testing of the Jewell Coke Plant with final U.S. EPA reports issued in 1992. (10,11).

Shown in Table 6 are the air emissions (plant-wide) for a Sun Coke Heat Recovery Plant, and a by-product coke plant each processing 2 million tons per year of coai. The substantially lower air emission rates for the heat recovery plant are a direct result of five factors:

- (a) The ovens continuously operate under negative pressure (-0.30 to -0.50 in wc) so there are no door leaks of hazardous coke oven gas constituents.
- (b) The Sun Coke Heat Recovery Plant has a state of the art pushing emission control system including a coke side shed and bag filter evacuation system.
- (e) The Sun Coke Heat Recovery Plant has a state of the art close capture ventilation and bag filter system to capture and control charging emission, and
- (d) Most importantly, the combustion system which is an integral part of the oven technology was designed with the dual purpose of in-situ process heat transfer and total combustion efficiency.
- (e) SO₂ control is accomplished using a established and proven power plant FGD technology.

Air Emissions (Continued)

lnspection of Table 6 shows that the most dramatic reduction of air pollution emissions for the Sun Coke Heat Recovery Process are associated with the reduction of combustion related emission such as CO, NO x, VOC·s, C6H6, CS2, C2H4, H2S, CH4, C10Ha, C7Ha, CaH10, and Heavy Hydrocarbons (C10+).

Along with the substantial reduction in combustion related gases as outlined above, the overall combustion efficiency is best demonstrated by the extremely low values for CO (actual stack gas concentrations of less than 1 ppm) and benzene with actual stack gas concentrations of 12 to 23ppb. The stack gas CO leveis are actually lower than urban and rural background concentrations of CO at 5-50ppm and 1-3ppm respectively.

The efficiency of the in-process combustion system is simply a result of good combustion design practices incorporating the three T's and excess oxygen.

Time- The actual residence time from coai bed to exhaust point is over 6 seconds. Temperature- The entire flue gas path operates in the temperature regions of 2000- 2500 degrees F

Turbulence (mixing)- The coke oven gas experiences 15-90 degree turns in traveling from the coai bed to the exit point, and

Excess Oxygen- The common tunnel flue gas is typically at 6-8% by volume 02.

Plant Economics: There is some debate in the literature over the actual capital cost requirements for coke making technologies. We offer the following published actual costs for the IHCC plant which is producing coke at a rate of 1.35 million TPY.

Please note that this is for a new, fully operational plant complete from ground up. lt should also be noted that this plant was fully operational within 18 months of notice to proceed. lt should also be noted that for larger plants there are economies of scale.

Further to the question of investment costs we would offer the following: lt is Sun Coke's stated mission to design , **finance,** build, own and operate heat recovery plants to supply the highest quality coke to blast furnace operators, thereby relieving the steel plant owners and operators from having to invest precious capital in coke plant operations. Under this arrangement the lower investment cost when compared to by-product plants is reflecfed as a reduced coke cost.

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Table 3: Coal Blend Test Results (Coal Data)

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Table 4: Coal Blend Test Results (Coke Data)
Continued

Notes:

[A] - AII ovens assumed to meet appropriate NESHAP (MACT) standards in 40 CFR 63.

(8) - Non-recovery particulate limits at Indiana Harbor Coke Plant.

[C] - Non-recovery spray dryer - 90% removal

Figure 1: Photograph of 3 Test Mitchell Ovens 1960 - Vansant, Va.

NOVEMBER, 1962

McGRAW-HILL PUBLICATION

Figure 2: Cover of Coal Age Magazine, Nov. 1962 Showing Construction of 250 Mitchell Ovens at Jewell Coal and Coke Company, Vansant, Va.

Figure 3: Annual Average Coke Stability for Jewell Coal and Coke, 1990- 2000.

JEWELL COAL & COKE COKE YIELD

Figure 4: Annual Average Furnace Coke Yield for Jewell Coal and Coke, 1990-2000.

JEWELL COAL & COKE

Figure 5: Annual Average Coke CSR for Jewell Coai and Coke, 1997-2000.

JEWELL COAL & COKE CO.

Figure 6: Annual Safety Statistics for Jewell Coal and Coke, 1990-2000.

1. Coke Ovens

2. Waste Heat Boilers

- 3. Waste Heat Common Tunnel
- 4. Pusher Charger
- 5. Quench Tower
- 6. Coke Conveyor to Blast
- $\overline{15}$ Furnace $\overline{2}$ 7. Coal Stockpiles
	- 8. Power Facility

Figure 7: Aerial Photograph of the Indiana Harbor Coke Company Plant - East Chicago, IN.

Figure 8: Aerial Photograph of the Jewell Coal and Coke Plant - Vansant, VA.

Oven Schematic

Downcomer Intakes

Nominal Top of Charged Coal Bed

Oven Floor

Door

Door Air

Injection Ports

Oven Crown

Figure 10: Interior View of a Sun Coke Heat Recovery Oven.

Figure 11: Side Elevation View of Pusher/Charger Machine - View Shows Charging Operation.

Figure 12: Side Elevation View of Coke Side - Pushing Operations.

Figure 13: Typical Crown and Sole Flue Oven Temperature Profile for 48 hour Coking Cycle.

Consistency & Reliability

Indiana Harbor Furnace Coke Production

Figure 15: Weekly Average Coke Quality Parameters (% Sulfur and % Ash) for the Indiana Harbor Coke Plant.

Coke Quality

Indiana Harbor

Figure 16: Weekly Average Coke Quality Parameters (% VM and Mean Size) for the Indiana Harbor Coke Plant.

Figure 17: Weekly Average Coke Quality Parameters (Stability and CSR) for the Indiana Harbor Coke Plant.

Figure 18: Simplified Block Flow Diagram for the Indiana Harbor Coke Plant.

Figure 19: Detailed Block Flow Diagram for the Indiana Harbor Coke Plant.