Crude Unit Fire Recovery Project

In August 2007 Sulzer Enpro was approached about the possibility of supplying 21 mechanics to assist with the recovery of a crude oil unit in a large refinery located on the gulf coast which had been severely damaged by fire. This project was estimated to take approximately three months to complete.

Field Service personnel often work in harsh conditions and in highly-secure areas.

After meeting with the customer to go over the scope of work and evaluating the jobsite, Sulzer Enpro assembled 3 seven man crews and started the work at the beginning of 2007.

The initial scope of work would consist of removing approximately 65 pumps and 15 steam turbines along with numerous electric motors. Once the equipment was repaired, Sulzer Enpro was to install the equipment, align and make ready for operation.

Due to the severe damage to the unit, the majority of the piping and some equipment base plates and foundations had to be completely removed and replaced with new.

The fire damaged equipment was sent to numerous shops, including Sulzer Hickham and Sulzer Pumps for inspections and repairs. Due to the severe heat and fire damage, the majority of the equipment had to have extensive NDE and dimensional inspections to prove the integrity of the equipment. Sulzer Hickham had a key role in performing the inspections and repairs on a number of the most severely damaged pieces of equipment that did not require replacement.

After repairs were completed to the equipment, the Sulzer Enpro crews began installation and alignment. During this stage of the project our crews were to work closely with another contractor that was performing the pipe stress checks.

The installation of each piece of equipment had to be inspected and approved by a company inspector to assure it met all the installation and alignment requirements.

Sulzer Enpro has completed the majority of the project and has now been asked to remain onsite through start-up to assist with any problems that may arise. Start-up is scheduled to be completed by the latter part of February, 2008.

Due to the quality workmanship and dependability exhibited by the Sulzer Enpro crews, the customer has asked Sulzer Enpro to supply mechanics on another turnaround to perform repairs on approximately 29 fin fan coolers.

The customer has also informed us of more turnarounds that are scheduled throughout 2008, which they want Sulzer Enpro to be involved in.

Bert Flynn
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