

Advanced pigging services increase efficiency

Clean Harbors

Clean Harbors combines its industry-leading scale removal and decoking technologies with unmatched industrial services and hazardous waste management capabilities to offer an efficient, cost-effective, closed-loop pigging process. This enables customers to work with a single-service provider to manage the removal and disposal of deposits.

Pigging is becoming the preferred method used by refinery and chemical facilities to remove coke and inorganic scale deposits from the interior walls of process heaters and lines. More effective and faster than steam air decoke (SAD) and on-line spalling procedures, pigging safely eliminates insulating buildups that reduce operating efficiency and safety.

Unique approach

Clean Harbors' approach to pigging is unique. The company maintains an in-house manufacturing plant that builds pigs under strict quality control specifications. Customized pigs can be made for furnaces that have unique tube metallurgy. The patented, second generation soft core pigs are fitted with a number of scraper designs depending on the application and the material being removed. Clean Harbors continues to advance its pigging capabilities with new technologies and enhanced procedures.

Clean Harbors dispatches a self-contained mobile twin pump unit — a semi truck unit — that can be transported by land, sea or air. Highly trained operators work with customers' onsite safety and operations personnel. Once positioned at the site, the unit's launchers/receivers are connected to the furnace or lines. The dual-pass design enables Clean Harbors to simultaneously yet independently clean multiple lines, reducing down time.

The operator launches a soft foam pig to gauge the thickness of the scale and then inserts pigs of increasing sizes to descale and polish the tube interior. The bi-directional, closed-loop system uses high volume water at ambient temperature — no chemicals are used in the process. The water is closely monitored and controlled during the descaling process to ensure safety. Sensitive acoustic monitors enable the operator to distinguish between the sound of the scale being removed and the sound of the tube itself to ensure optimal results.

Extremely efficient process

The process is extremely efficient, and when combined with the mobile filtration units, more than 90 percent of

the water is filtered and separated from the effluent for reuse during the process. Since the pigging process is closed-loop, all removed deposits are captured, contained and removed by Clean Harbors for proper disposal with no waste residue remaining on site.

The process delivers economic advantages as well. Besides minimizing downtime, the low-temperature, low-pressure approach allows other maintenance procedures to be safely scheduled in the immediate area during the pigging process.

The end result of Clean Harbors' pig-

ging services is a safer, more efficient solution for removing internal pipe and tube deposits.

For more information on Clean Harbors' pigging services, call Chris Boase at (713) 534-8656 or visit www.cleanharbors.com.

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