

Preparing for Bottom-of-the-Barrel Vessel Entry Venezuelan Coker Unit Emergency Shutdown

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Bottom-of-the-Barrel Vessels



Bottom of the Barrel Background

Venezuela Coker TAR Case Study

Bottom-of-the-Barrel Cleaning Options

Bottom of the Barrel TAR Best Practice



Where is the Bottom-of-the-Barrel?

Sulfur Plant Polymer Sulfur--> ization LPG Sat Gas Plant Butanes Fuel Gas-> Alky Feed -LPG--> Alkylation VDU Gas Separation & Polymerization Naphtha Stabilizer Isom erization Light Naphtha Alkylate Aviation Deasphalting Isomerate Gasoline Automotive Gasoline Reformate Solvents-> Naphtha Heavy Naphtha Hydro-Naphtha Reforming Visbreaker Naphthatreating Atmospheric Distillation Jet Fuels erosene Coker Crude Oil Desalter Kerosene --Distillate Cat Solvents--Hydro-AGO Naphtha Distillate cracking Treating & Blending Heating Oils—> Hydro-FCC treating Gas Oil Hydro-Fluidized Cat Diesel-> I VGO Catalytic Distillate treating Cracking Vacuum -Fuel Oil HVGO Hydrocracker Cycle Oils Residual -> Fuel Oils DAO Solvent Deasphal SDA ting Coker Asphalts-> Bottoms Naphtha Naphtha Distillates isbreaki Heavy 5 Coker Bottom Gas Vacuum Lubricant-> Lube Oil Oil Residuum Greases -> Solvent Dewaxing Waxes--> Waxes-Light Coker Coking Gas Oil 0 Source: 2016 John Jechura, Colorado School of Mines



What is Bottom of the Barrel?

Crude Fraction	Number of Carbons	Boiling Point (F)
Gas	1-4	<32
Light Naphtha	5-7	80-200
Heavy Naphtha	6-10	200-350
Kerosene	10-15	350-550
Light Gas Oil	13-18	400-650
Heavy Gas Oil	16-40	600-1050
Residuum	>40	>1050





Case Study

Coker Unit Turnaround - Venezuela





Venezuela Coker Decontamination



Project

- Decontamination of the main fractionator coker column at a Venezuela refinery
- Main goal; eliminate delays in vessel entry by minimizing manual and mechanical cleaning activities of the tower

Challenge

 Large amounts of coke, H₂S, and pyrophoric concerns





Venezuela Coker Decontamination

Past Procedure

- Traditional chemical cleaning every 4 years with 6 different hazardous chemicals requiring full body suits
- Chemicals circulated over an average of 36 hours
- Required 12 man crew per shift and 5 days of mechanical preparation

Past Procedure Results

- Left a tarry residue at the bottom of the tower up to 2 feet over the lower manway, completely burying bottom distributor
- Extensive mechanical cleaning was required under fresh air
- Leakage from chemical hoses required ground clean up
- Entry permits were delayed until all cleaning tasks were complete



Traditional Cleaning Methods

Options

- Available refinery materials; BTX, heavy aromatic naphtha (HAN), gas oil, kerosene
- Chlorinated solvents
- Traditional/commodity chemicals; i.e. d-limonene
- Mechanical cleaning
- Mixed approach between methods

Results & Impacts

- Unpredictable results often disappointing
- Removing value as feedstock (BTX)
- Long cleaning times
- High volume of waste
- Hazardous materials
- Multiple steps





Next Generation Best Practices

Rezyd-HP[™] Cleaning Chemistry ZymeFlow Decontamination Chemistry





Innovative Chemistry: Rezyd-HP

- Custom blend including high Kb solvent and surfactant
- Applied as an additive to common refinery cutter stocks
- Low hazard (2, 1, 0)
- Biodegradable
- Dissolves and/or fluidizes deposits
- Significantly decreases final cleaning and total cleaning time
- Low volumes required and less waste than other methods



Results: loose coke for ease of removal. (Pictured: coker strainer basket)



ZymeFlow Decontamination

Preparing process units for safe entry in 8-12 hours.



Simultaneous Treatment



Vapour-Phase[®] Decontamination Process

- Quickest possible entry into process equipment
- Operations shuts down and deinventories equipment using standard procedures
- Zyme-Flow UN657 chemistry is injected into the equipment with steam
- Same boiling point as water therefore chemistry contacts all surfaces with minimum injection points



Vapour-Phase





Best Practice Approach

- Proprietary blended chemistry added to oil wash for much faster and more complete tower bottoms fluidization
- Entire tower system decontaminated simultaneously using boil out and Vapour-Phase[®]
- Additional treatments available for pyrophoric treatment on tower trays/packing



Asphalt sample (L), after Rezyd-HP (R)





Oil Wash Enhancement Using *Rezyd-HPTM*

- Unit is de-inventoried under standard plant procedures
- A cutter stock circulation is performed on the bottom circuit including exchangers
- *Rezyd-HP* added to enhance penetrating effect of the cutter stock, breaking down deposits within the circuit









Best Practice Bottom of the Barrel

- Hardened deposits will be eliminated or loosened for ease of removal
- Greatly reduces mechanical work
- Trays and packing should be significantly easier to remove or repair
- Additional equipment can be segmented throughout production such as filter baskets, piping, and heat exchangers



VDU beds post treatment requiring no mechanical cleaning upon opening. (Pictured – VDU in EU.)







Bottoms Circulation

Specialty Rezyd-HP chemistry added to the HVGO cutter stock and circulated at the refinery's standard time and rate



Vapour-Phase® Application

Zyme-Flow UN657 injected into a strategically chosen steam line over a 10 hour period



Continuous Monitoring

Throughout the 10 hour Vapour-Phase, gas concentrations were monitored until H₂S, LEL, and benzene all consistently read zero



Water Rinse with Zyme-Ox® Plus

Flushed any remaining scale, oxidized any additional pyrophorics, and cooled unit faster for manned entry





Venezuela Coker Results

- Vessel was open and ready for inspection and hot work after 10 hours of Vapour-Phase
- Saved 7 days of mechanical preparation and cleaning
- All decontamination and maintenance work completed on schedule
- Tower free of oil with no traces of tarry hydrocarbon
- First time in vessel's history, the bottom manway was not obstructed by solids
- Easily swept out a single foot of fluff coke (hydrocarbon free)
- 84% reduction in effluent





Bottom distributor was accessible and completely unplugged





Venezuela Coker Results







Venezuela Coker Results







Venezuela Coker Benefits

- Only 2 technicians per shift, 1 pneumatic pump, and 50 feet of half inch chemical hose
- Injection points connected to existing steam and process lines completed in less than one shift
- Eliminated several steps with simultaneous treatment of H₂S, LEL, and oxidation of pyrophorics
- 84% reduction in effluent; 6,875 gallons versus the 43,000 gallons with previous method







Venezuela Coker Benefits



ZYME FLOW Effects on Effluent and Waste Generation

Background

- No treatment facility on-site
- All effluent collected per site requirements

Oil Wash with Rezyd-HP

- Chemistry does not negatively effect cutter stock
- After circulation, cutter stock/chemistry combination sent to slop
- Only small dose required

ZymeFlow Vapour-Phase

- Large reduction in effluent (over 80% reduction) including post rinse
- Chemistry becomes part of steam – no water circulation required
- Reduced total steaming time (no pre or post steaming needed)
- Reduced cost; Non-hazardous



EXAMPLE FLOW TCO Comparison – Venezuela Coker

	ZymeFlow Decon	Previous Chemical Contractor
Chemicals Utilized	3 chemistries	6 chemicals
Application and Hours	Vapour-Phase [®] 10 hrs	Circulation 36+ hrs
Mechanical Prep Time	<12 hrs	120 hrs
Personnel Required	2 techs per shift	12 man crew per shift
Equipment Setup	1 pneumatic pump, 50 feet 1/2 in. hose	Several chemical hose circuits, stage heated frac tanks, major mechanical, fork lifts
Special Requirements	None	Haz suites, secondary containment, barricades
Remaining Coke	<1' fluff coke	Tarry coke 2' above lower manway
Mechanical Cleaning	Fluff coke easily removed, no fresh air required	Extensive under fresh air
Effluent	6,875 gallons - no issues	43,000 gallons requiring disposal





Conclusion

- Large differences between vessel entry methods – need to consider entire turnaround scope
- Methods are available that are faster and more efficient than mechanical-only removal of hardened deposits such as coke
- Decontamination affects not only on vessel entry but maintenance and entire turnaround schedule







- Decontamination specialists for over 25 years
- 200+ TAR and emergency outage projects/year
- Experience in over 50 countries

- Wide range of specialty blended chemistries
- Various application options including Vapour-Phase[®]
- Zero recordable injuries in 25 year history





Conclusion & Questions

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