Purdue Wade Power Plant
Stoker Boiler 2
Conversion to Natural Gas

March 2018
BOILER #2 BACKGROUND

- Wickes (CE) coal fired stoker boiler rated at 215 KPH, 650 psig @ 825 F installed in 1967. Detroit Stoker Rotograte with hydraulic drive.
- Efficiency – Combustion air preheater, feed water heater, Ljungstrom air preheater and economizer.
- Emissions - original mechanical (cyclone) dust collectors and electrostatic precipitator.
- 1998 - Gas co-fire burners added for safer startups and reduced smoking (gas burners rated up to 25% load).
- 2005 - Baghouse, spray cooler and ID fan added for BMACT. ID fan upsized from 500 HP to 1000 HP due to increased pressure drop across BH.
- 2014 - Boiler conversion to 100% gas operating with over-sized ID fan through the baghouse. ID fan was replaced Fall 2017.
BOILER “HEALTH” CONDITION ASSESSMENT

NDE METHODS:

- Visual Inspection
- UT (ultrasonic thickness)
- WFMT (wet fluorescent mag particle)
- LPA (linear phased array)
- APA (Annular phased array)
- OTM (oxide thickness measure)
- HRD (hardness testing)
- REPS (metallurgical replication)
TUBE CLEANING WITH WATER PRESSURE WASHER

- No chemicals used in cleaning process (lower risk)
- Low cost (under $10K vs. over $100K for chemical cleaning)
- No neutralization required. Simple waste disposal.
OBJECTIVES – RILEY POWER GAS CONVERSION STUDY

- Create a thermal model to predict boiler performance firing NG.
- Determine if boiler can achieve design operating conditions firing NG.
- Provide optimum location, number and size of gas burners.
- Establish the required pressure part modifications to fire NG.

- The model accurately predicted performance for loads between 50 – 100%
- This verified that the boiler could achieve the original design operating performance.
- The optimum arrangement was determined to be, four (4) low NOx burners, 72 MMBtu/hr each, mounted on front wall. More burners allowed reduce flame length protecting the rear wall, improve turndown and provide even heat distribution across the width of the furnace.
- It established that the primary superheater (PSH) tubes would overheat. We shortened the PSH tubes to reduce surface area to keep SA-192 tubes below 850 F limit. Plus the bottom returns were upgrading to chrome-moly.
BOILER & DUCTWORK

Superheater Tubes

New NG Burners

Combustion air duct

Remove Asbestos
SUPERHEATER TUBE MODIFICATIONS

Clean all of the tubes while you can
Cut wall tubes

Remove Feeders

Drop header to here
Drop Header

Cut casing and tubes

New wall tubes around the burners 4 places

Drop Header
Extended down comer both sides

Add Buck stays

Relocated header
COMBUSTION AIR DUCT AND BURNER CONFIGURATION

- Spring supports
- 4 new Burners
- Route combustion air duct to Burners
- Refractory brick cover grate
- Seal plates under grate
- From FD Fan
Pre-piped and Wired

Burners and Wind Box
Final installation
Natural Gas Train
READY TO FIRE
Inside boiler fire box
FINAL CONFIGURATION OF DUCTWORK AND ID FAN

FD Fan

Cross Connection

Steam Drives

ID Fan

ID & FD Fans Plan View

Duct cross connection

Remove internal cyclones

ELEVATION
Duct cross connection
OOPS!
BOILER PERFORMANCE

♦ Engineering study predicted an oversized ID Fan.

♦ Initial operation required running the ID Fan at a slower speed and control with the inlet damper choked down. This required abandoning the motor and run on the steam turbine drive that could be slowed.

♦ The FD Fan was not substantially affected.

♦ Conducted a field flow test with the boiler near full load which confirmed the engineering study.

♦ Results of the field test combined with the engineering study enabled confidence in sizing the new ID Fan.
FAN MODIFICATIONS

♦ FD Fan performance basically unchanged, but
  - Added VFD control which required a new motor
  - Changed out the pneumatic damper actuator for an electric actuator

♦ ID Fan became dramatically smaller
  - Clarage designed a fan housing to exactly match the existing ductwork, steam drive shaft, and anchorage
  - The motor went from 1000 hp @ 2300v to 250 hp @ 480v

♦ Both fans are now VFD controlled with damper control for start up and back up
CONCLUSIONS

♦ Converting from coal to natural gas can be challenging.

♦ Retrofit work always takes additional effort.

♦ Getting the details defined properly is key to success.

♦ Having an experienced contractor is essential.