



Water Technologies & Solutions case study

chemical cleaning of air compressors provides quick, cost-effective solution allowing textile mill to keep units online

challenge

A textile mill in South Carolina was experiencing difficulties with one of its four Centac air compressors (Centac is a trademark of the Ingersoll-Rand Company).

The intercoolers were experiencing high temperatures causing the compressors to shut off. These intercoolers remove heat via open tower water. The primary root cause was scale and iron deposition within the exchangers causing the loss of heat transfer. In doing so, this also elevated the exiting air temperature.

The company sought a cost-effective solution that would reduce exiting air temperatures and minimize downtime.

The original equipment manufacturer recommended taking each of the four units offline and cleaning them at the OEM facility, at a cost of around \$4,000 per unit.

solution

SUEZ recommended a more cost-effective solution to treat all four units and keep them online for adequate compressed air production. One at a time, the units were treated with a 10 percent solution of Kleen* AC9502, which was circulated for 24 hours.

AC9502 is a specially formulated blend of chemical components specially designed to remove iron scale, assisting in the restoration of equipment performance. The product solubilizes and disperses various scales, including iron oxides.

results

Within 24 hours, the chemical treatment reduced the exiting air temperature in the air compressor by 20°F. This significant improvement allowed the compressors to stay online and operate at normal capacity. The solution resulted in the following key customer benefits:

- **Reduced Cost** – SUEZ’s chemical treatment cost less than \$1,000, saving the customer thousands of dollars over the costly OEM solution (approximately \$4,000 per unit).
- **Decreased Downtime** – The solution required significantly less compressor downtime than that offered by the OEM, maintaining the customer’s production capacity.
- **Improved Performance** – The reduced change in temperature across the compressor units resulted in increased exchanger efficiency and improved plant productivity

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