Taking The Lead



Situation

A Western Pennsylvania leadframe manufacturer had been unable to produce and ship any products for months due to rejects caused by a malfunctioning water treatment system. Although the system was just over a year old, it was not producing quality water and the original supplier was unable to get the system running properly. The company was facing serious problems until a new employee at the company that had worked with AWS at his previous job suggested a meeting.

Action

AWS met with the customer and identified the various problems with the system. A plan was developed with the priority to get the system operational and then begin fixing all the other shortcomings. The goal of the plan was to repair all the existing equipment rather than replacing it. The first order was to repair the mixed bed deionizer system. Testing determined that the resin beds were fouled so resin was replaced. An inert zone was added to reduce cross contamination during the regeneration. All valves were rebuilt and cycle times were adjusted. The chemical draws were adjusted both in quantity and duration for optimal regeneration. Lastly, all operators were trained on operation of the system. Once the deionizer systems were repaired, AWS moved on to the support equipment. The carbon filters were rebed and the control valve on the carbon and water softeners were repaired. Additional training was provided and additional monitoring was added to the system to ensure proper operation.

Resolve

With the system operating properly, additional system tweaks were performed to further optimize the quality and performance of the system. Water related rejects were eliminated and the customer was able to produce quality parts within days of completion of the service. Overall production has been increased and downtime eliminated. Positive feedback and increased orders from the customers end users has increased as well.

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