



If You Can't Stand The Heat...

Situation

A Western Pennsylvania steel manufacturer was experiencing frequent clogging of nozzles used to spray cooling water on molten steel bars. Clogged nozzles resulted in improper spray patterns and bars cooling at different rates causing defective parts. Manual cleaning of the nozzles was constantly required to open the orifices and put the manufacturing line back in service. Significant costs were realized with rejects, downtime, and associated labor.

Action

AWS worked with the plant manager and operators to identify the particulate causing the clogging and specified the most effective method of filtration. A disc filter was selected to provide sidestream filtration of the sump supplying water to the spray nozzles. The disc filter was chosen over other technologies because of its small footprint, adjustable filtration levels, automatic operation, minimal backwash requirements, and lack of any consumables.

Resolve

After installation of the disc filter, clogging of the spray nozzles no longer occurs. The manufacturer has eliminated product rejects due to not meeting specifications resulting in increased profits. Production downtime is eliminated as nozzles no longer require manual cleaning to maintain flow. As an added benefit, the efficiency of the cooling tower being fed from the same sump has increased as well.

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