COMBUSTION OF SCRAP OIL FOR STEAM GENERATION

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and

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Discussion by

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I was pleased to see that the authors applied good engineering practice in doing for $1.00 what the vendors recommended be done for $750.00. They are to be congratulated. I didn’t think it was possible to accomplish anything for $300.00 anymore.

The authors imply that they are processing waste oil, but they should make it clear that they have only evaluated a highly pure transformer oil having far less particulate impurities than say waste motor oils. The high degree of cleanliness of this oil may be the primary reason they were able to use a small paper filter rather than the much more expensive filtering device originally recommended. I suspect these results could not be extended to other more typical waste oils and the reader should be cautioned regarding application of this hardware system to other oils. I would prefer to see the tables and text modified to say “scrap transformer oil” rather than “scrap oil.”

While I can empathize with the author’s frustration over the regulatory impediments to combustion of scrap solvent (hazardous) wastes, I don’t think they should give up so easily. It is also not clear that their economic projections have taken into account the alternative disposal fees, but only the energy savings. Wouldn’t such a process be disposal cost driven rather than energy savings driven?

AUTHORS’ REPLY

Mr. Spencer is right in noting that we began with a rather clean scrap oil and right in suggesting more persistence in firing scrap solvents for heat recovery.

We are now working with New York DEC’s Air Pollution Control and are on schedule to fire scrap methanol for space heat fuel. Both energy savings and disposal costs motivated this effort: surprisingly the greater part of disposal costs is plant personnel effort to identify and contract with a responsible and willing disposer. Our experiences in this effort may make for a “Part II” presentation at the next meeting.