

Black Liquor Recovery

INTRODUCTION

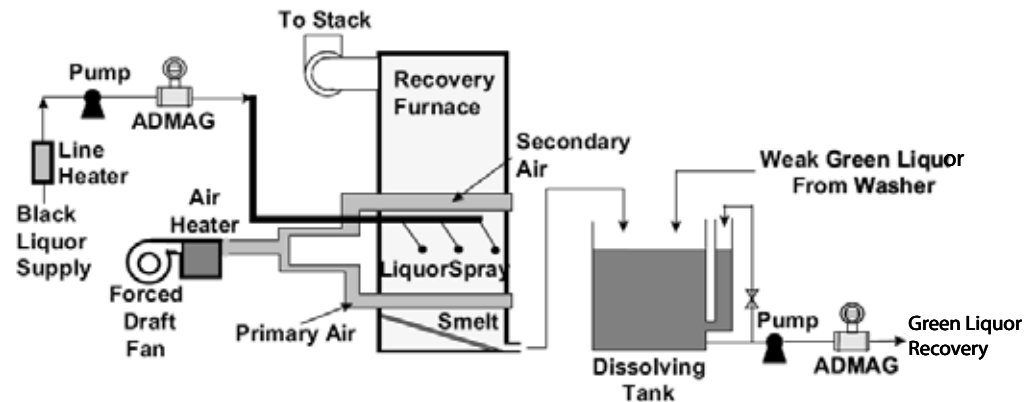
Many chemicals are used in the pulp and paper making process. Since some of these chemicals are recycled and reused, it is important the plant measures and controls them to improve profitability and efficiency.

This application note will examine the chemical recovery process and explain how the ADMAG magnetic flowmeter can provide the mill with one of the most reliable and accurate meters for these difficult applications.

APPLICATION

In the digester, wood chips and "white liquor", a mixture of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and sodium sulfide (Na₂S), are combined and cooked in a pressure cooker type device. The cooking process breaks down the lignin is known as "black liquor".

The black liquor is then concentrated in several stages through evaporation, by heating with steam, until it approximately consists of 66% solids. The concentrated black liquor is then burned in the recovery boiler. The burned black liquor produces a residue of molten chemicals or "smelt" consisting of sodium sulfide. The smell or chemicals are now referred to as green liquor due to the nature of its color. By adding water and lime the green liquor is processed through the lime kiln and turned back to fresh white liquor that can be used again in the digester. Metering is normally required on the black liquor lines into the concentrator and the recovery furnace. In addition, metering of green liquor in the recausticizing process is also required.



SOLUTION

With the high temperatures, pressures, and levels of dissolved organics that are encountered, the ADMAG flow meter design is ideal for use in all phases of the chemical recovery process. Conventional meters placed in these applications do not hold up well and meters are known to fail due to the exposed sealing surface of the electrodes. The ADMAG flow tube not only removes the sealing surface of the electrode from the process, the flush electrode design reduces the noise due to organic particles colliding with the electrode.

Conventional meters using single low frequency DC excitation (7.5 Hz) can suffer from slurry noise due to the entrained organic particles in the black liquor. High frequency AC meters that use 60 to 65 Hz excitation do a good job of reducing slurry noise, but have problems with stabilizing the zero and providing accurate readings. As a result the accuracy is typically 1% of span.

ADMAG's dual frequency excitation has the advantages of both the high and

low frequency meters. Dual frequency excitation provides fast response time (0.1 sec.), good zero stability, accuracy of 0.5% of reading and immunity to slurry noise.

Non-retained liners (extruded liner), which are commonly used in conventional meters, are susceptible to failures as a result of vacuum conditions that can be created due to a pump or valve failure. In addition, meters that have extruded liners generally have a shorter life due to the aggressiveness of the chemicals used in the recovery process. Yokogawa uses an injected molded PFA liner with a retaining grid. This retaining grid/bridge plate used to reinforce the PFA Teflon liner acts like rebar in concrete. This rugged construction holds the liner in place and prevents the liner from caving in due to vacuum conditions. The thickness and durability of the injected molded PFA liner provides a flow tube that is capable of handling the most severe applications.

Black, white, and green, liquors are known to coat the inside of flow tubes causing an insulating coating to cover the electrodes. When this occurs the meter output will go to zero or into

alarm (empty pipe). The maintenance procedure is usually to remove the meter and using some type of scraping tool, remove the coating that has developed. Again the conventional meters with the exposed electrode seal are susceptible to electrode seal damage when this type of cleaning technique is used. Once the electrode seal is damaged the meter is doomed to fail. Since the ADMAG seal is removed from the process the electrode can be nicked or scraped with no effect on the electrode seal.

Yokogawa's dedication to providing the highest quality flow meters has given pulp and paper manufacturers a meter that can hold-up to the most challenging applications. The use of dual frequency excitation, accuracy of 0.5% of reading, and field-proven electrode and lining construction offers the customer one of the most accurate, reliable and dependable meters available.

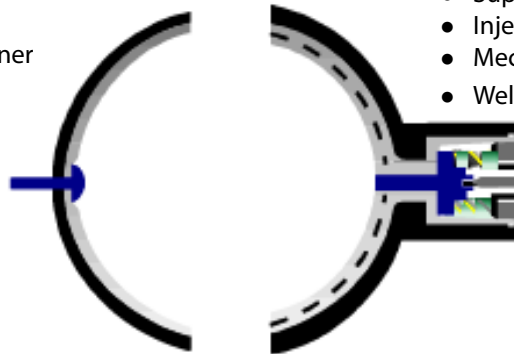
ADMAG

- Flush Electrode Design
- No Exposed Electrode Seal
- Dual-frequency Excitation
- 0.5% Accuracy



Conventional Electrode

- Exposed Electrode Seal
- Extruded Liner
- UN-Retained Liner
- Aluminum



ADMAG AXF

- Superior Electrode Sealing
- Injected Molded Liner
- Mechanically Retained Liner
- Welded Stainless Steel Body