

Analysing and assessing the life of high-energy piping

Assisting plant operators to comply with AS/NZS 3788 and estimate remaining life

Challenges

Operators of plant containing high-energy piping, such as that used in power stations, can face challenges in keeping that piping in optimum condition. Operators of coal-fired power stations, heat-recovery steam generators and combined-cycle power stations all need to ensure the continued integrity of their steam piping. Operators of this type of plant are required to comply with the standard, AS/NZS 3788 Pressure equipment – In-service inspection.

Typically, piping can fail as a result of:

- creep damage due to primary and secondary stresses
- primary stresses due to mechanical loads
- primary stress due to impaired design or operation of pipe hangers
- thermal stresses related to its operation.

Solutions

HRL provides a range of expert services to help plant operators determine the condition of the high-energy piping within their plant and, as required, comply with AS/NZS 3788.

Services include:

- reviewing drawings and documentation
- undertaking hot and cold hanger surveys
- undertaking computer-modelled stress analysis
- assessing pipe life
- preparing reports and recommendations
- developing inspection programs.

Benefits

HRL expert high-energy piping analysis and assessment services help plant operators to:

- meet the requirements of AS/NZS 3788
- manage the ongoing integrity of their main steam, hot-reheat and cold-reheat piping
- improve the reliability of their plant



Operators of plant containing high-energy piping face challenges in keeping it in optimum condition

- optimise inspection periods without compromising plant performance
- minimise costs by optimising planned outages and reducing the likelihood of unplanned outages
- make informed decisions from the objective, understandable reports provided.

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Case Study

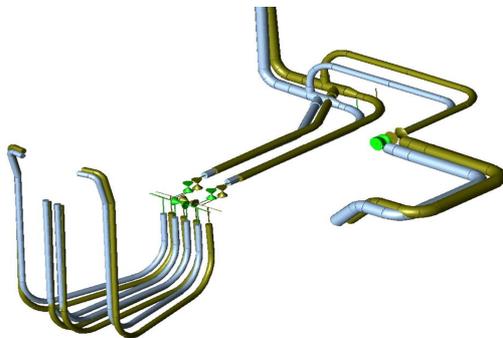
Determining the cause of cracking in high-energy piping

The main steam pipework of a large power station had developed significant cracking damage at the welded connections of the HP-bypass tee and main steam bifurcation branches.

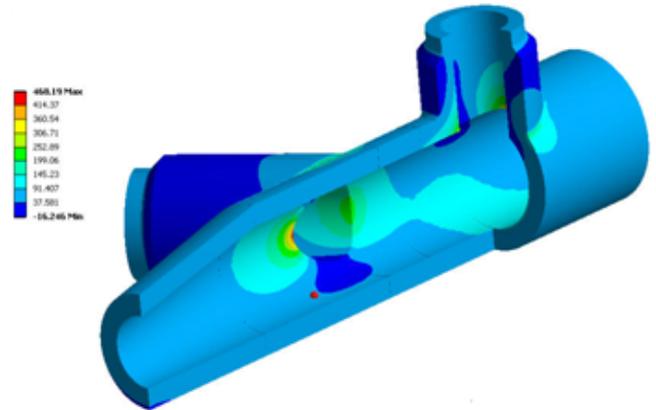
HRL undertook comprehensive analysis to determine the root cause of the cracking. HRL Technology personnel modelled the entire main steam pipe and undertook detailed stress and creep modelling of the HP-bypass and MS bifurcation components.

Although the flexibility analysis revealed no significant deficiencies in the piping design, detailed finite-element stress analysis of the piping joints indicated that the tee and bifurcation components were generally over stressed at the welded connections with the main steam pipe. Creep analysis of the piping components ascertained the level of creep deformation (strain) at the welded connections of the piping components, confirming the root-cause of the cracking damage.

Extensive creep crack growth and fracture mechanics analysis predicted the life of the HP-bypass and main steam pipework to be approximately 100,000 hours from commissioning.



Main steam piping stress results in the expansion state for as-designed conditions



Maximum principal stress results for internal pressure loading

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The company's NATA Accredited Laboratories number is 561.

HRL Technology Group's ISO 9001 Quality Management is certified by BSI under certificate FS605116

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