



Busting Myths Which Pervade the Design of Steam Heating Systems!

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Abstract

Throughout the world, refineries, natural gas plants, and forming facilities rely upon steam heating to maintain flow and prevent corrosion in sulfur piping/handling/storage systems. Several heating approaches are available (i.e., jacketed piping, ControTrace, or tube tracing), and in use in Sulfur facilities. The delivery of steam to, throughout, and from the heating system, however, is often left to industry myths instead of engineering design. The misinformation propagated by these myths can have dire consequences on Sulfur unit and site operations. This paper will investigate several common myths that are each demonstrated by a real-life event. Each event will show how an incorrect belief led to real cost and/or performance issues. Those who specify, design, and operate steam heating systems will benefit from busting such myths which could otherwise lead to a design that will not achieve their process requirements.