

Think Outside the Box to Save Money!



by Mike Dill,
Wastewater Trainer

Allowing operators to use their talents does have positive results. Look at the picture to see how this applies. The red hopper is used to store coal, which is fed to the boiler, the tall gray cylinder, and the burnt ash goes to the bucket on the left. Cost to purchase and install this equipment is approximately thirty thousand dollars. Savings to the overall fuel budget is thirty-five thousand dollars, per year. Payback is achieved in a year.



Some explanation is necessary. Several years ago, Ron Horton, Chief Operator for the Village of Owego and his staff were looking at ways to save energy and reduce the budget. Everyone has the same thoughts on energy conservation, but how to actually achieve savings is the question. Some things are necessary to make this story a success. First thing is, you must have anaerobic digesters. Owego used oil to heat their digesters and it's no secret where the cost of fuel is going. Doing their homework paid off. They found a company that manufactures this equipment and started to determine how things would fit together. If you look at the red hopper, it looks quite similar to a grain or corn wagon used by farmers. Sloped sides leading to an opening on the bottom. A visit to a local farm supply store and there is the storage unit for the coal. The manufacturer supplies the auger, which carries the coal from the storage unit to the boiler, and also supplies the auger, which carries the ash away to the bucket for disposal. I know I am not giving you detailed information as that would take many, many pages of this magazine. If your plant has anaerobic digesters, and your fuel budget is going through the roof, here is a possible alternative with proven savings. It has been two years

since Owego switched over, and as usual, there were start-up issues. As Ron will tell you, "I was not planning on learning about coal and BTU values, however, education is part of the job." The oil fired boilers are still available if needed, but the coal boiler is doing the job of maintaining the necessary ninety-five degrees to achieve digestion and pathogen reduction. Ron and the guys would be happy to show off their energy saver and offer their expertise in



burning coal. If you are not familiar with Owego, they are located West of Binghamton, on Route 17. I would like to congratulate the staff of the Owego WWTP for thinking outside the box and making a positive difference. If you notice the picture above, the ash is dumped in the bucket for the skid steer loader and then is easily loaded on the dump truck for disposal. Want to see this in person, give Ron, or myself a call. I'm sure a visit can be arranged. Contact Ron at Village of Owego WWTP 607-687-2282 or Mike Dill 888-697-8725 ext. 14 .

Nuff said, see ya . . .

****Attention****

Wastewater Plants with a ROEDIGER Belt Press

The company is no longer located in Pittsburgh, PA
They have been bought out by the Charter Machine Company
of New Jersey.

For parts and service the new company is:
Charter Machine Co.
Metuchen, NJ phone # 732 494-5350
website: <http://roedigernj.com>