

Potroom Problem #4

Team:

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Potroom Problem #4

- Smelter increased amperage (+5 kA), without any changes, from 175 to 180 kA
- -15% reduction in workers
- Purchased “cheap” coke and alumina

Calculation:

Al Production (mt/yr) = $8.054 \text{ kgAl/kA} \times \text{CE\%/100} \times \text{kA} \times \# \text{ cells} \times 365 \text{ days/yr} \times 1\text{mt}/1000 \text{ kg}$

Calculated Profit Margin

| <u>Amperage</u> | <u>mt/yr</u> | <u>mt/yr</u> | <u>mt/yr</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 180 | 250,000 | - 5,500 (loss in CE%) | 244,500 |
| 175 | | | <u>243,000</u> |
| Difference | | | 1,500 |
| | | | |
| Sales Value per mt Al | | \$1700/mt Al | \$2.55 million |
| Prod Costs per mt Al | | \$1550/mt Al | \$2.33 million |
| Savings raw materials | | | <u>\$1.0 million</u> |
| TOTAL GAIN | | | \$1.22 million |

Additional Potroom Costs

| Carbon | Inc. 0.04 mt.mt | 10,000 mt/yr | \$600/mt C | \$6.0 million |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | |
| Energy | Inc. 0.5 kWh/kg | 250,000 mt/yr | \$0.023 /kWhr | \$2.9 million |
| | | | | |
| AlF3 | Inc. 0.005 mt/mt | 250,000 mt/yr | \$2,000/mt AlF3 | \$2.5 million |
| | | | | |
| Environmental | Emissions Fines | 6 months | \$25,000/month | <u>\$0.2 million</u> |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL COSTS | | | | \$11.6 million |

Corrections to Operations

Future 5 kA Increase:

- Increase stub diameter & increase anode size => **constant anodic current density**
- Keep the **internal heat generation constant** or insulate less
- Only one change at a time!
 - Same raw materials
 - More manpower required
- Make economical study before any change.