



METHANEX NZ – WAITARA VALLEY RESTART PROJECT (WVRP)

WAITARA VALLEY METHANOL PLANT, TARANAKI, NEW ZEALAND





The Opportunity

In January 2013 Methanex NZ Ltd formed a project team with the objective of restarting their Methanol production facility in the Waitara Valley. The plant had been shutdown in 2008 due to gas supply issues.

Methanex adopted an integrated team approach, which resulted in selected Fitzroy personnel filling key project roles. Based on previous restart project works at Motunui, Fitzroy were also selected to supply the overall mechanical construction team, and scaffolding and site painting services.

The Project

The project was originally considered as an EPCM contract, but Methanex preferred to retain more control and formed the integrated team from their own staff and selected contractors. This decision was based on learnings from previous plant restarts, where Methanex needed to make long-term decisions on plant condition, and fitness-for-purpose options. Project tasks were awarded to specialist contractors and off-site fabricators. Fitzroy provided new heat exchanger shells and tube bundles.

A Fitzroy Project Manager was seconded to the Reformer Lead role, responsible for the management of the Reformer Restart, which included a number of small complex projects:

- Refractory repairs in Reformer cells and Waste Gas Boilers
- Refurbishment and replacement of 312 burner boxes
- Replacement of Waste Gas Economiser channel end flanges

In addition to the restart project, the scope of work also included all of the typical Turnaround activities, such as dismantling, inspection and testing of equipment to allow for the continued operation of the plant.

Fitzroy planners prepared mechanical work packs. The activities were based on previous Turnarounds, and incorporating scheduled and restart tasks.

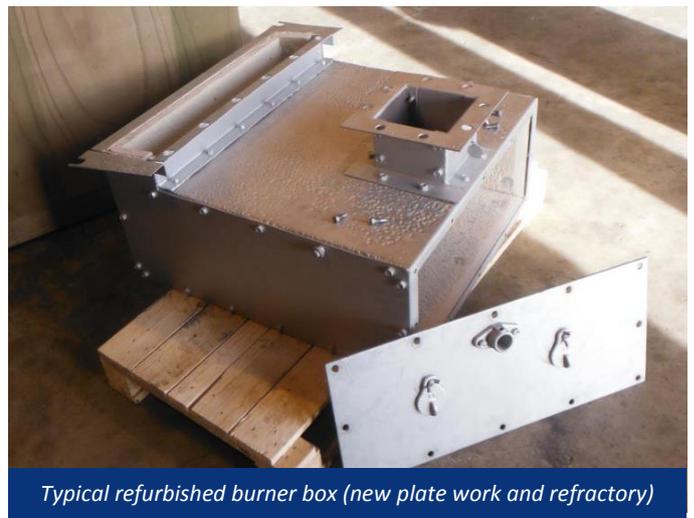
Fitzroy HSE staff were included in the Responsible Care (RC) team, representing Methanex and providing advice to the wider project team.

Key Features

- Successful plant restart completed in September 2013
- Fitzroy contributed to the planning team, preparing over 1,000 work packs
- Flexible approach, with supervision and site services supplied to suit project demands
- Fabrication support from Fitzroy's workshops
- Site Manhours approx 174,000
- Project value approx. NZ\$13.5M



Burner box plate work – badly corroded



Typical refurbished burner box (new plate work and refractory)

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