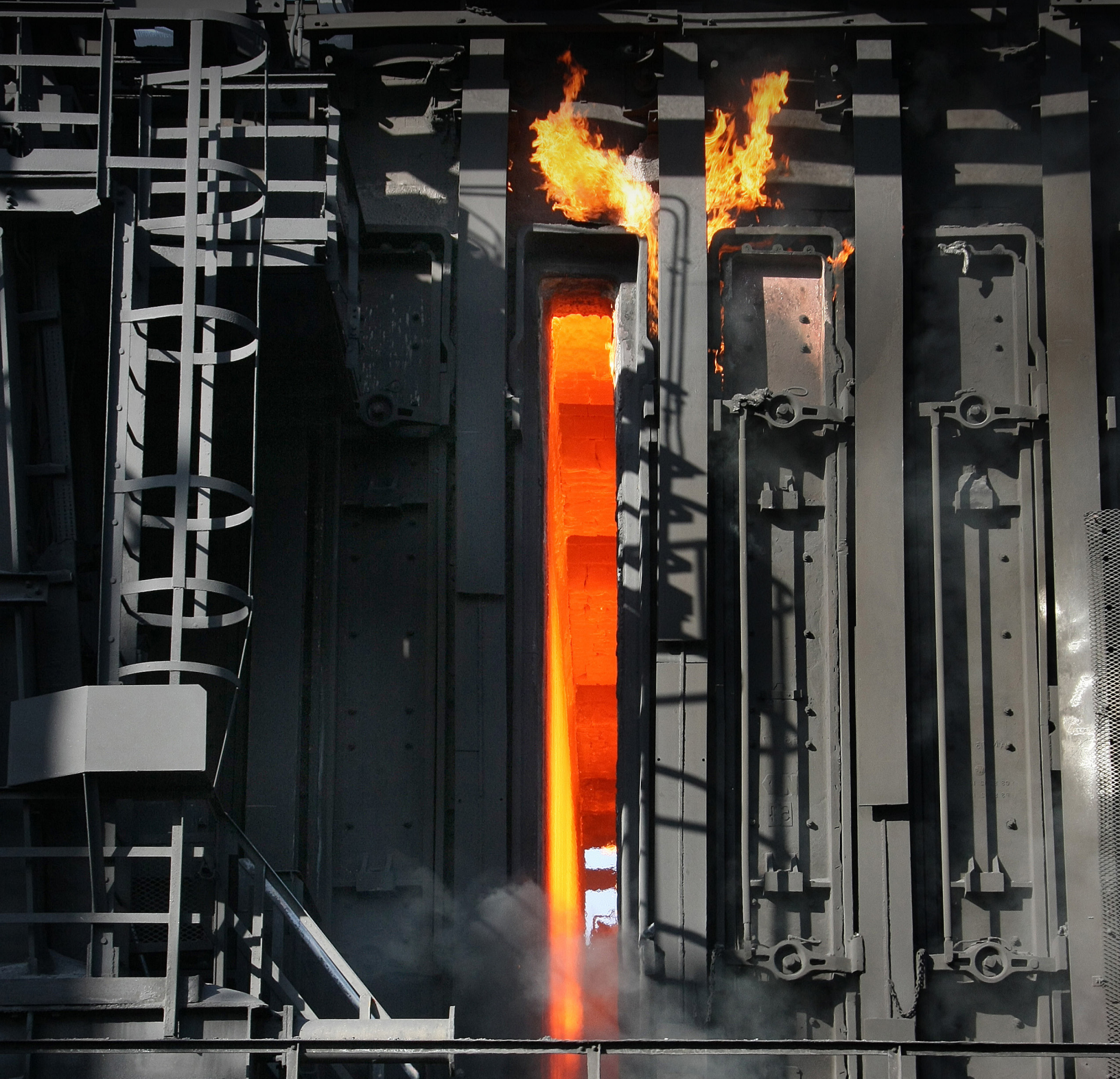




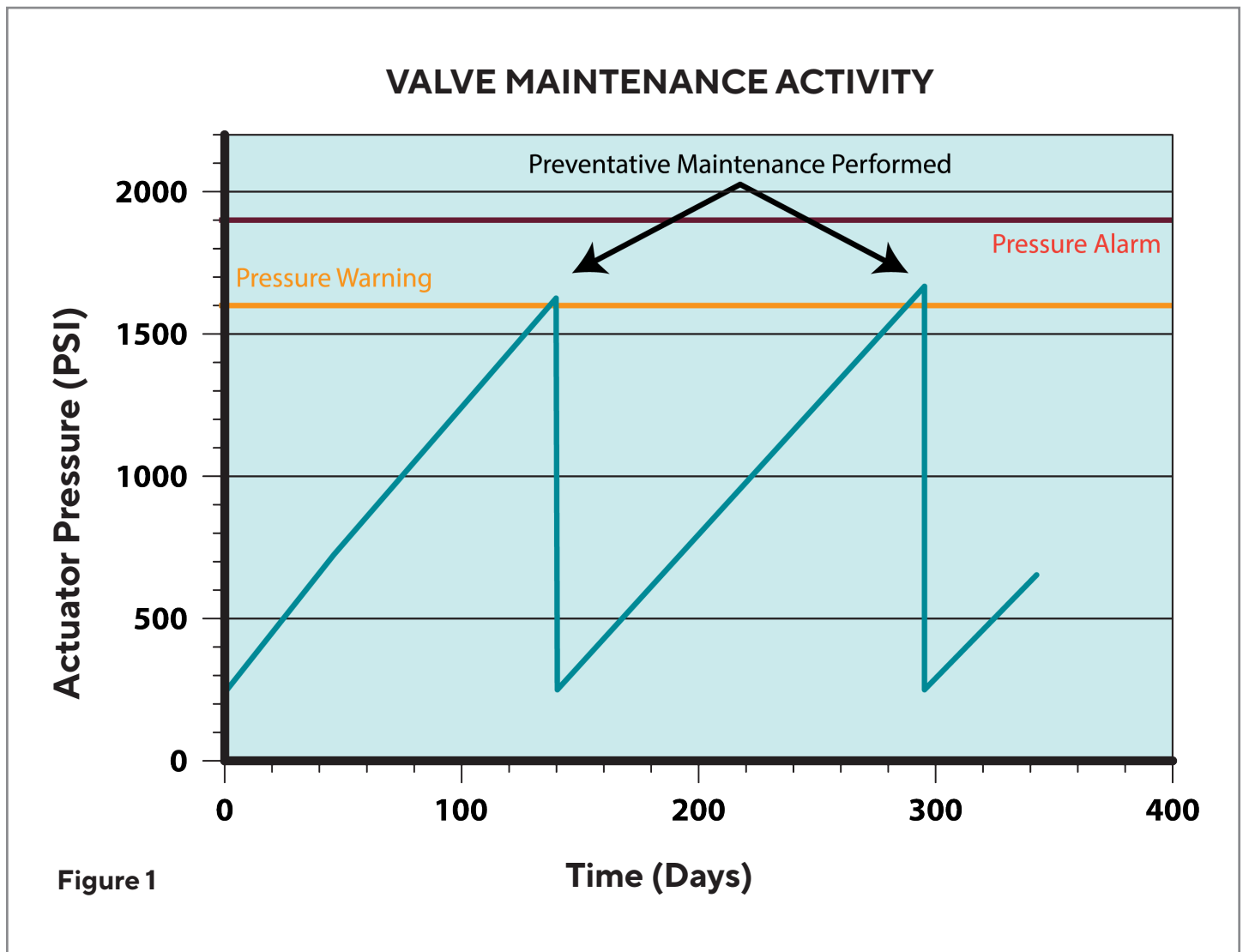
COLLECTION MAIN PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE



Coke oven main pressure control is a critical control application for the safe operation of coke making. A plant's actuator not only must position the cross-over valve to achieve a pressure of 12+/-1 mmWC, but it must avoid pressure spikes from volatile gases soon after coal charging, as shown in Figure 1. If the actuator is slow to respond, the collection main and coke oven gas pressure will increase and leak toxic gas at the oven doors. If the actuator overshoots, the coke oven pressure can decrease to a vacuum, entering oxygen in air which ignites in the over. Both pressure scenarios present major safety concerns.

During normal operation, the cross-over valve becomes coated in tar originating from the coke over gases. Tar build-up increases the required torque to turn the valve. Left unchecked, this condition can potentially damage the valve, causing unnecessary downtime to repair. Regular cleaning ensures proper valve operation. Therefore, plant operators and technicians prefer to optimize the cleaning schedule.

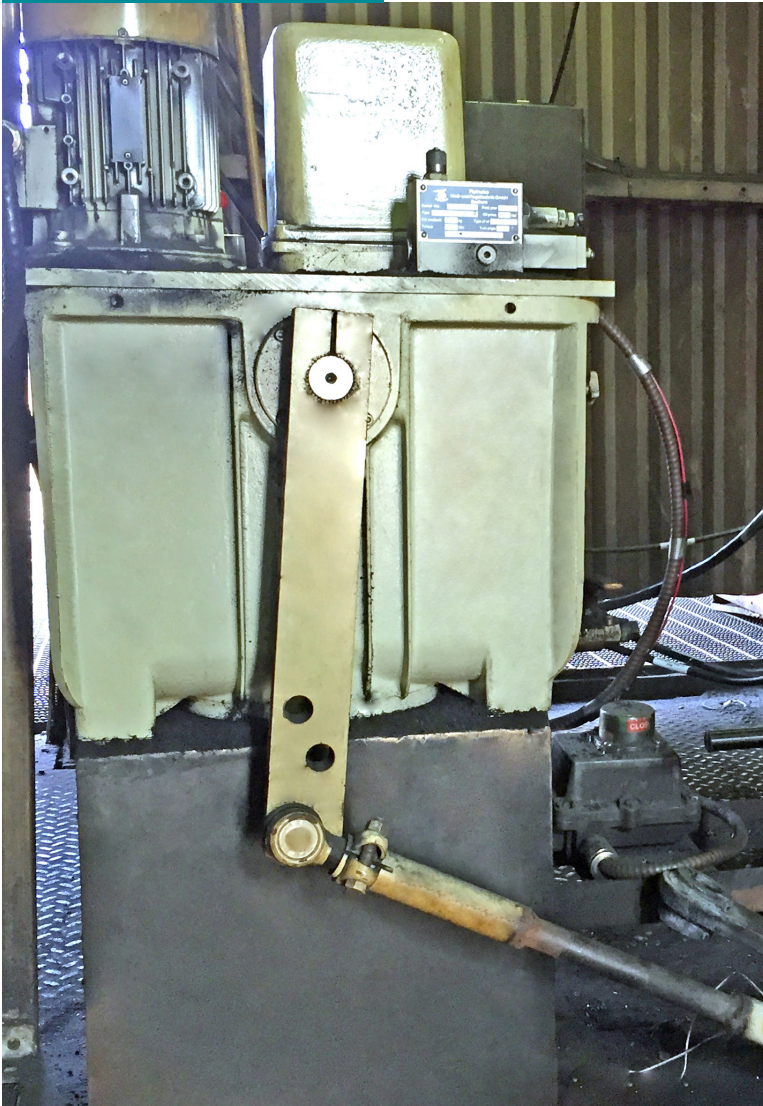
The preventative maintenance schedule for cleaning the cross-over at a major integrated mill in Canada was based on fixed time intervals without any data related to current condition. The mill recently retrofitted the existing valve with a REXA Rotary Electraulic™ actuator, including the diagnostic capability to monitor operating pressure. The previous actuator's oil reservoir was open to the environment, requiring frequent scheduled oil changes. The actuator also used a mechanical linkage to actuate the valve stem. These linkage assemblies introduce hysteresis, which can worsen over time and ultimately lead to poor control.



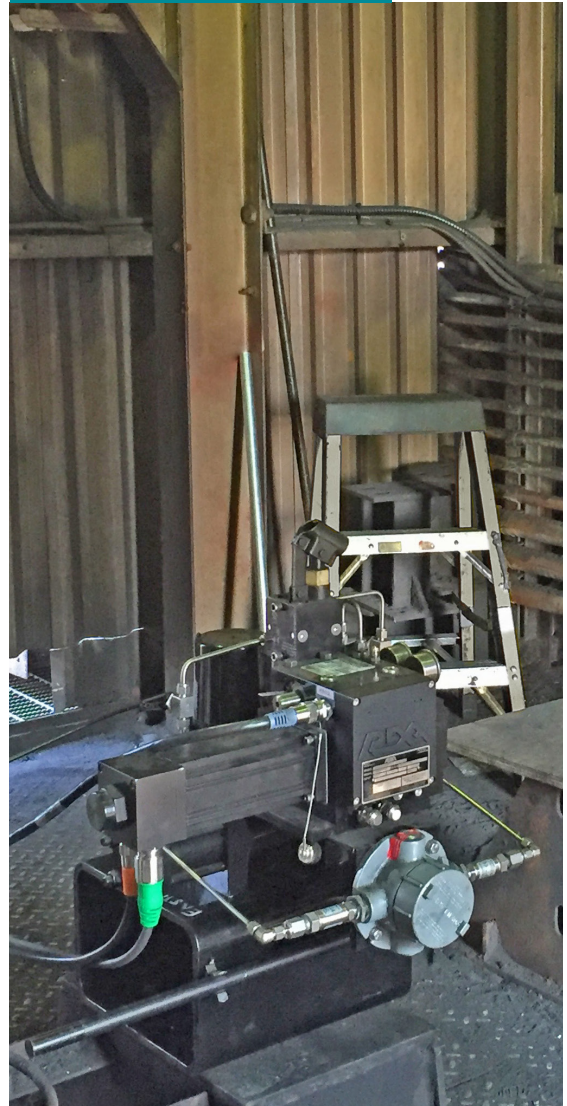
REXA consulted plant personnel and developed a solution which eliminated the need for mechanical linkage assemblies by mounting directly to the valve stem. With accuracy to 0.1% of desired position, less than 70ms deadtime, and zero overshoot, the collection main pressure control began operating better than ever before. The self-contained, positive pressure, non-vented Electraulic system never communicates with atmosphere, improving reliability and eliminating routine fluid maintenance.

Our Bluetooth graphical user interface tool displays the operating pressure and records it over time. User-configurable warning and alarm limits let our customer know when a pressure threshold is reached – signaling a need to initiate the valve preventative maintenance cleaning procedure. This ensures the maintenance group can schedule the cross-over valve cleaning at an interval based on the valve's health instead of an arbitrary time. Cleaning the valve only when necessary enabled a reduction in cleaning frequency, increasing uptime and personnel safety. Unscheduled shutdowns due to tar build-up on the cross-over valve were eliminated.

Before



After





Headquarters & Factory

REXA, Inc.
4 Manley St.
West Bridgewater, MA 02379
Tel: 508-584-1199

Sales, Service, & Training

REXA, Inc.
20338 Telge Road, Building E
Tomball, TX 77377
Tel: 281-944-4490

Sales & Service

REXA, Inc.
7110 Oak Ridge PKWY. Suite 170
Austell, GA 30168
Tel: 770-857-0003



www.rexa.com

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