

Applications

Solution

Innovative

Pipe Dream

By Cory Booz & Mike Sexton

There is a particular Midwest rice producer that processes a whole lot of rice. What most people don't realize is how incredibly abrasive un-husked, rough rice actually is. For over thirty years this particular processing plant had used a 70 foot long square spout made of mild steel plate that was lined with urethane to transfer the rough rice. New spouts were replaced about every ten years and would take four full days of down-time to complete the installation.



A new spout would begin to show signs of wear in a matter of weeks. This required regular maintenance two to three times per month to repair leaks. Repair costs for material and labor would range from \$2000 to \$3000 per month. What complicated matters was that the spout was difficult to reach making the repairs time consuming, and a huge safety issue because of the height and all of the rigging entailed.



The Maintenance Supervisor had a dream. "If only we could get longevity out of these spouts and remedy this elevated leaking problem." Was that hope even possible, or was it just a **Pipe Dream**?



Then, nine years ago a completely different, 'outside the box' idea was introduced by Cory Booz a Wear Specialist from **Wear-Concepts**. Instead of replacing the square spout with another square spout, why not

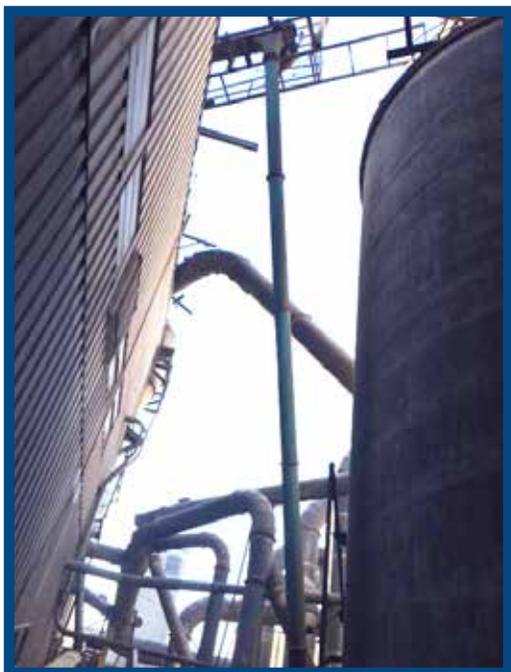


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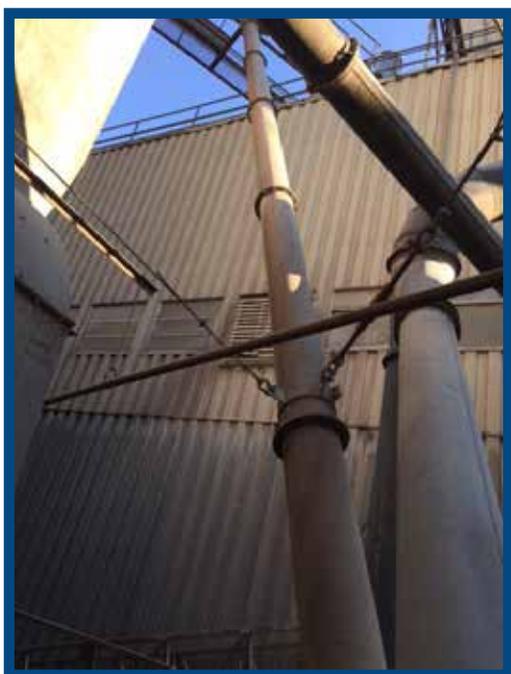
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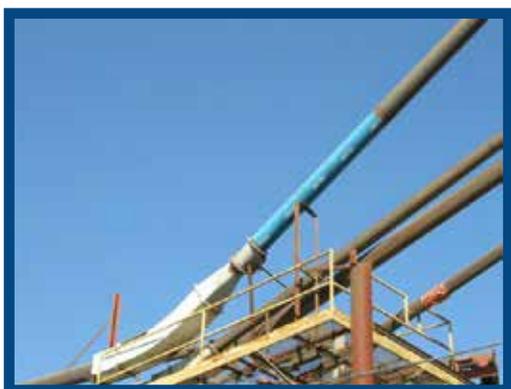


go round? And, why not go chrome carbide overlay (CCO)? The Maintenance Supervisor decided to take a chance. So, in June of 2008, the plant bucked tradition and installed 12 inch diameter **WC700P-Plus CCO Pipe** in place of the traditional square spouting.

To date, this spout has not required any repairs and shows no sign of wear. This has saved the plant countless man hours and money in maintenance of the old style square spouts. Total savings? Conservatively, so far, at least \$24,000 per year in labor and material maintenance alone!



But wait! Here is the genius in the plan. The plant can get bonus life if they roll the spout over when it begins to show signs of wearing through. This will utilize the unused side of the round **WC700P Plus Pipe** spout. It will be like getting one more new spout for free! This will truly maximize the chrome carbide overlay pipe and will allow the plant to continue to save time and money by not constantly repairing or replacing the old style spout.



The plant continues to find other applications for the **WC700P Plus CCO Pipe** and **WC700 Plus Plate** at the facility in an effort to reduce maintenance costs. Since that initial square to round swap, this particular rice producer has brought in an additional 937 lineal feet of **WC700P Plus Pipe** to date.

The longevity of Wear-Con's **WC700P Plus CCO Pipe** isn't a 'pipe dream.' It's a **Dream Pipe!**

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