

Ralph Chapman

I'm one of the operators of the boilers. There's three boilers in our mill. Two rather large boilers that put out roughly 400,000 and 500,000 pounds of steam an hour. A little 6 Boiler is a balance boiler. It keeps that 875 pounds of steam balanced throughout the mill. There's constant changes throughout a paper mill throughout the day, throughout operating, and those changes create swings in that steam header. That steam header's very dangerous. Swings can cause really bad problems. For one, it can just shut things down. And just the process of shutting things down and starting things back up creates more pollution. So, if you're familiar with starting your car, apparently starting your car creates more pollution than just leaving it running when you run into the store for five minutes. Well, this little boiler that we use maintains that balance. Well, that little boiler was built in 1960. The technology used in 1960 is pretty archaic compared to what we have today. Simply, all we're doing is tearing out the old burners, and putting in modern burners. It's like pulling an old engine out of an old pick-up truck and putting in a new eco-tech. By nature, it has the capability of producing more, and it may have the capability of producing those numbers listed on that sheet. Those numbers listed on that sheet are based on the maximum capacity that that boiler will be able to do. But again, that boiler is used for balance it's not used for production. It puts out about 150,000 pounds of steam and when compare that to the large boilers it really means nothing. We have run our steam turbine generator at max capacity with that boiler as is—it's—I really don't foresee it going any higher with the new technology, the new technology should be burning cleaner, with our operating standards, or, I'm sorry, with our operating capacity as it is, so. I just wanted to add a little technical information to the whole idea. It almost seems like we'd be shooting ourselves in the foot for not upgrading it and making it run better and cleaner at current capacity, as is. And that's, I believe, the idea behind the whole thing.