
Question 58: What are you using for velocity medium in coker heaters? Are you using boiler feed water?

Jack Buckley (Foster Wheeler USA Corporation)

Foster Wheeler has used BFW as velocity media. Our order of preference for Velocity media is:

- 1.Steam
- 2.Condensate
- 3.BFW

If Condensate or BFW is used as velocity media or to clear the heater tubes during a heater trip, precautions must be taken as excess free water has the potential to overpressure the heater during a shut-in condition. The injection must also be stopped after a period of time after the heater trips because water will flow to the coke drums or back to the fractionator (coke drum by-passed) if the injection is continued too long.

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