Case Study: Cogeneration Audit: Steam Turbine

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Background:

While conducting energy audit of the cogeneration system for a chemical industry; the isentropic efficiency was observed to be considerably lower than the design value.

Scenario:

The system comprised of

- Coal fired boiler producing steam at 65 kg/cm² pressure and 515 °C
- The steam was fed to back pressure cum extraction turbine to generate power, while the steam was utilized for process heating applications.
- The surplus power was exported to sister company through the common grid
- The isentropic efficiency of the turbine was observed to be low.
- The temperature of exhaust steam were observed to be higher for both the stages.

Observations:

- The pressure of extracted steam was observed to be 20% more than design pressure, which also lead to higher steam temperature.
- The pressure of back pressure steam was observed to be 10% more than design pressure, which also lead to higher steam temperature.

Improvement Measures:

The above concerns and issues were addressed by taking the following measures.

- Re-routing the steam pipe line to reduce overall pipe length by 30%.
- Modifying the steam piping
- Laying additional pipe line for one of three of the major consumers

Outcome:

• An additional power generation of 15% was achieved through above modifications

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