Pop-A-Plug® Through The Tube Plugging

Columbia Nuclear Station Main Condenser Maintenance

Industry/Facility

Power Generation/Nuclear
Energy Northwest
Columbia Nuclear Station
Richland, Washington

Application

Main Condenser
Tube Material: 1 ¼" OD x 19 BWG 70/30 CuNi

Challenge/Problem

The Columbia Nuclear Station had a unique situation; they needed to plug their main condenser without shutting down the entire unit. This posed some obstacles. The condenser's tube length was 50 ft long and there were limitations that restricted work space for both tube ends. They needed a quick and efficient solution that could meet their specifications and keep the entire plant from shutting down.

Solution/Resolution

After being contacted directly by the Columbia Nuclear Station, EST Group Field Service determined the best approach would be employing the Through-The-Tube Plugging technique using CPI/Perma Plugs. This approach offered the best opportunity for success while taking in account the size and space limitations associated with the job.

Through-The-Tube Plugging allows plugs to be passed through the length of a straight heat exchanger tube, while being installed at the far end when direct access to both tube ends is not available.

Benefits/Outcome

EST Group was able to complete the work and keep the main condenser up and running. The work was completed using fast and effective tactics that complied with NRC standards. The field service team went as far as to set up video scopes to ensure quality of work and give the customer a live view of the job being completed. EST Group Field Service provided a cost effective solution that kept the Columbia Nuclear Station up and running while saving money.

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