

MONITORING ONCE THROUGH COOLING WATER

SITUATION

Power plants and paper mills use service water loops and mill water loops respectively for the cooling of lubricating, hydraulic, turbine and transformer oil. These cooling systems feature large, recirculating volumes of water which are treated with biocides, dispersants, and corrosion inhibitors. By comparison, refineries often use once through cooling water systems. The cooling water is taken from lakes, rivers, or the ocean and circulated once through the plant to cool processes. Large volumes of water are used to keep the return water temperature low enough to prevent adverse effects on the environment.

PROBLEM

Falling levels in lube oil tanks are one indication that oil is being lost in the process. Visible oil drips on the ground can also indicate an oil leak. However, because of the high water volumes used in once through cooling systems, it can be difficult to see oily discharge sheens in the returned water.

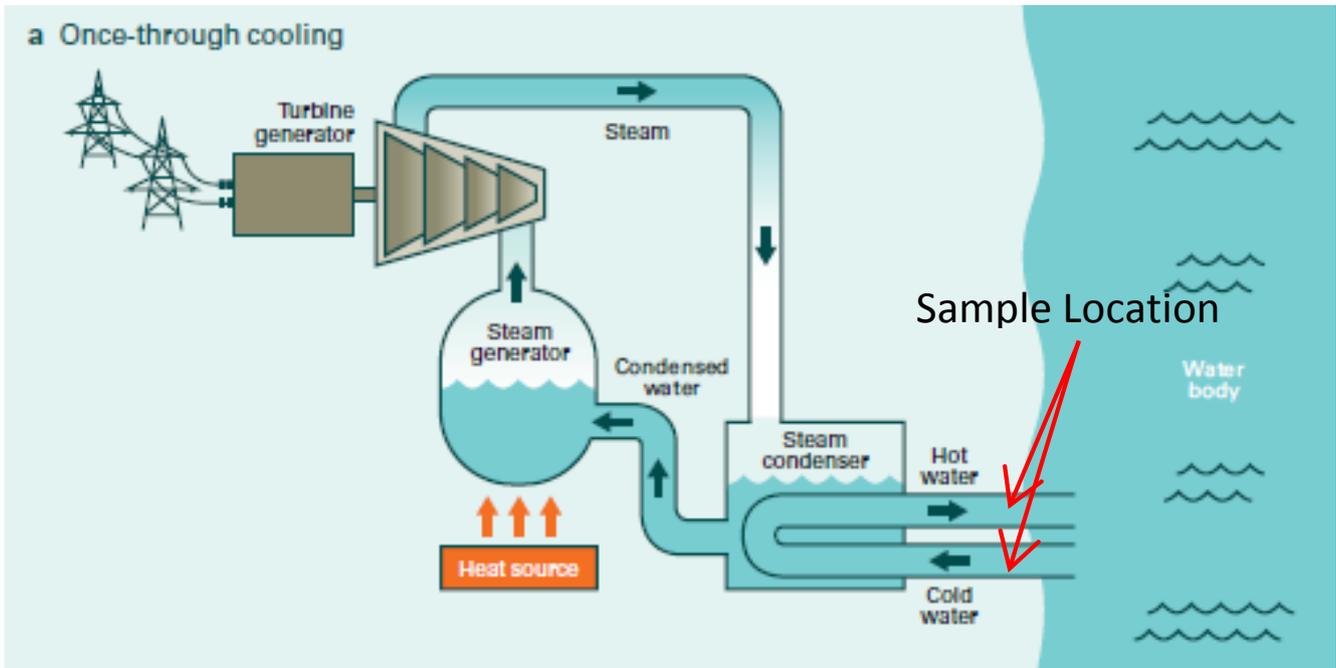
The most common method of detecting oil in cooling water is by manually collecting water samples for analysis. Laboratory gravimetric analytical methods are not able to report oil in water concentrations less than 5 ppm and can take hours to days for a response to be generated. If the cooling water flow rate is 10,000 gpm, a leak that generates a 1 ppm oil concentration would lose 1 gallon of lube oil every 100 minutes. If daily water samples are analyzed for detection of leaks, a one-day-long leak at the 5 ppm minimum detection level would amount to 72 gallons.

Some leaks can be intermittent as a process heats and cools, or as water or oil pressure changes. Occasional sample analysis of the cooling water may not catch the intermittent leaks or may not be frequent enough to prevent substantial oil loss. An online monitor can quickly reveal small intermittent leaks and indicate the potential for significant oil cooler tube failure before it occurs.



When the water intake for a once through cooling system is a raw water source, there is often the possibility that another industrial site is the source of oil detected in the cooling water discharge. A laboratory measurement method could take hours or days for a result, making it difficult to prove the original source because the oil sheen could have passed by the intake before the results are returned.





SOLUTION

Fluorescence-based oil in water monitors from Turner Designs Hydrocarbon Instruments have been used extensively in industrial water processes for more than 20 years. These low maintenance fluorescence monitors have no significant measurement disturbance from water turbidity or naturally occurring organics in the water. Oil in water monitors can help detect and prevent major oil spills that may cause significant environmental damage and regulatory compliance infractions.

Oil leaks can damage critical equipment or require an extended shut down of the process being monitored. The TD-120 Oil in Water Monitor protects against this loss of equipment and productivity. The TD-120 detects most petroleum based fuels and lubricating, hydraulic, transformer, and turbine oils at less than 1 ppm. With multiple measurements per second, the response time

of the TD-120 is fast enough for process control. The included, unique smart sensor is easily calibrated and incorporates a simple factory test to confirm your TD-120 is performing per factory specifications at any time. The TD-120 requires no sample preparation, reagents, or instrument air supply. With a long-life LED and optical sensor(s), the TD-120 is expected to operate for more than 5 years with no significant maintenance or spare parts costs. These features make the TD-120 Oil in Water Monitor ideal for quick, reliable detection of oil in raw water intakes and leaks in once through cooling water.

Oil	Limit of Quantification (PPM)	Linear Range (PPM)
Mobil DTE 25	0.12	5000
Mobil DTE 797	0.18	5500
Terresso	0.09	4500