

New Coal Tests for the Emerging Deregulated Electric Market

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Abstract

As the power generating industry enters into a competitive market place, fuel cost have been key in lowering production cost. Lower fuel cost generally result from expanded fuel specifications. Many utilities are lowering fuel costs by taking higher ash products. Their decisions are based on all ash being equal. This is not necessarily the case. As the ash percentage is increased from a given mine, more mineral matter from out of seam dilution, raw coal, and rock is present. This mineral material can be made of pyrites, quartz, sandstone and other mineral that are magnitudes of orders more abrasive that the clays and shales that are present in the lower ash coals. At present ASTM offers no tests that address the additional abrasion and erosion from these higher ash coal products. This paper will review coal abrasion testing from the standards societies of ISO, Germany, Great Britain and how they can be utilized to help make informed coal purchasing decisions.

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