

Potash Op Buys 2 65-kW Mixers



Above, two BHS-Combimix mixers, each with 65-kW drive power, process potash crude salt at the K+S Potash Canada Bethune mine. (Photo: FLSmidth)

K+S Group subsidiary K+S Potash Canada contracted BHS-Sonthofen for two mixers for dedusting and coloring salt at the Bethune mine in Saskatchewan, Canada. The supplier deployed Combimix DKCX 7300 units, which offered the required throughput at 550 tons per hour, short mixing time, minimal maintenance costs, and the capability for rendering a homogenous product. BHS-Sonthofen had previously contracted for similar work for K+S Group in Germany.

At Bethune, potash crude salt is processed into two potassium chloride products for use in fertilizers. The products run through a dedusting and coloring process using inked oil before being loaded into railcars. BHS-Sonthofen used lab trials using salt from the site to determine the best mixing process and technology. The supplier reported that the single-shaft continuous mixer, as was initially requested by the miner, was a partially satisfactory choice, but did fulfill all the requirements. After 10 seconds of mixing time, the colored oil was not distributed well enough over the entire batch in the test machine, the supplier reported.

The Combimix DKCX 7300, a twin-shaft batch mixer, featured a bottom-flow discharge capability that allowed "precise control over output volume,"

BHS-Sonthofen reported. "With this fully adjustable regulation-system homogeneity and therefore high quality can be sustained with every throughput, in the required retention time and with minimal maintenance."

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