

CASE STUDY

VERSATILITY AT WORK

HOW KSPS HELPED FLINT HILLS RESOURCES DELIVER A SUCCESSFUL TURNAROUND

CUSTOMER

Flint Hills Resources

LOCATION

Minnesota

DURATION

41 Days

DISCIPLINES

Tower Services, Piping, Welding, Mechanical, Exchanger, Heater Work

SCOPE

Multi-unit Turnaround – Crude, Coker, Hydrogen Unit

KSPS RESPONSE:

Originally contracted to install Koch-Glitsch equipment across six towers, KSPS deployed a multi-discipline crew to Minnesota. Flint Hills Resources began requesting KSPS support across areas outside of tower and vessel work—including piping, heater work, specialty welding, exchanger maintenance, and general mechanical support. Rather than operate within narrow craft boundaries, KSPS was able to adapt and quickly respond to the turnaround's unexpected needs:

- ◆ **Proactive Resource Management:** Downtime was minimized through proactive planning and flexible deployment. When one task was delayed, crews contributed to others—whether staging equipment, supporting rigging plans, or assisting other disciplines—ensuring steady progress.
- ◆ **Resolving Critical Issues:** As with any turnaround, the project presented significant challenges. KSPS was asked to step in and assume responsibility for complex heater tube welding, an area of core KSPS expertise and strength. The team executed successfully, completing the work with minimal rework after taking on the challenge mid-turnaround.
- ◆ **Subject Matter Expertise:** Leveraging deep knowledge of Koch-Glitsch and John Zink equipment, KSPS technicians served as in-house experts, accelerating troubleshooting and problem-solving.
- ◆ **Streamlined Workflows:** KSPS leveraged Flint Hills Resources' highly skilled workforce across multiple disciplines to proactively plan the work and reactively adjust throughout the project, enabling execution of scopes awarded during the turnaround.

OVERVIEW

KSPS played a crucial role in the successful execution of a complex, multi-unit turnaround at a Flint Hills Resources facility. Beginning with the servicing of six towers, KSPS built a strong partnership with the client through ongoing collaboration and a focus on mutually beneficial outcomes. As a result, KSPS was entrusted with additional work throughout the turnaround, creating added value for Flint Hills Resources.

Operating with a peak workforce exceeding 200 professionals, KSPS was able to maintain exceptional quality and safety standards and demonstrated remarkable versatility by seamlessly adapting across various work scopes to help keep the turnaround on schedule and aligned with the customer's operational goals.

CHALLENGE

The turnaround encompassed critical work on one of the facility's crude units, a coker, and a hydrogen unit, each presenting unique technical and scheduling complexities. Unexpected obstacles in welding, piping, and specialty mechanical areas constrained the project timeline and quality requirements.

Delays in certain scopes also threatened to extend downtime and add unnecessary costs, underscoring the need for a flexible, responsive partner capable of managing multiple disciplines and adapting to evolving project demands.

RESULTS

- ◆ **Reduced Downtime:** KSPS crews used idle time proactively, keeping progress moving and avoiding delays common with other contractors that aren't able to flex and adapt within multiple work disciplines.
- ◆ **Specialty Welding Excellence:** KSPS delivered complex welds across challenging alloys with an industry-leading weld-reject rate, reflecting precision craftsmanship and rigorous quality control.
- ◆ **Exceptional Safety Performance:** Zero recordable injuries—safety performance remained exemplary across complex work scopes, multi-craft work fronts, and multi-unit work.
- ◆ **Expanded Scope of Work:** KSPS took ownership of major piping, exchanger, and heater tasks beyond the original contract.
- ◆ **Zero Critical Rework:** No critical rework was required, including work scopes transitioned to KSPS during execution.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

0
recordable injuries
or first-aid incidents

200+
professionals on-site

65,434
total man-hours

158
specialty welds with a
98.8% weld approval rate

“ In any turnaround, safety and environmental performance are paramount—they are the ticket to working within a refinery. What truly differentiates contractors, however, is what they bring beyond that baseline. KSPS has consistently been a key partner with Flint Hills Resources on tower scope, and they have proven their ability to weld in complex scenarios and environments KSPS contributed to a positive working environment that helped drive desirable outcomes. ”

– Andrew Jakubowski,
Flint Hills Resources Turnaround Director

“ The main takeaway from this project is the adaptability and versatility of our team. Our people stepped up wherever needed—not just to do the work, but to move the job forward. That’s what sets KSPS apart. ”

– Ashley Hegwood,
KSPS Project Manager

KSPS’s performance at Flint Hills Resources showcased the kind of service that defines its brand: reliable, responsive, value-driven, and rooted in partnership. In a job defined by unpredictability, KSPS didn’t just keep up; they thrived from the challenge presented.

kochservices.com

ABOUT KOCH SPECIALTY PLANT SERVICES

Koch Specialty Plant Services (KSPS) is the industry expert in installation, inspection and technical project services for tower, vessel, combustion and mass transfer equipment. We enhance plant operations by delivering a comprehensive suite of services that span the planning, execution and completion phases of construction and turnaround projects. This helps reduce downtime and maximize efficiency for peak performance, creating value for years to come.

WE OPERATE GLOBALLY

Contact us to discuss your next project.
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