

Titanium ball valve withstands environment testing



Watson Valve Services Inc., Watson Grinding & Mfg., and Barrick Technology Centre announce R&D titanium ball valve ball and seat with a chrome oxide coating was unaffected by environment test.

The half-inch Titanium/CrO ball valve spent approximately 480 hours in service at temperature and pressure over a period of about two years. There was no catastrophic failure to the half-inch ball valve. A leak in the soft seal was the only issue. The typical autoclave temperature was 225 C (437 F) with total pressure of approximately 455-psi for multiple pilot runs. The purpose of the R&D half-inch Ti/CrO ball valve was to study the level of corrosion upon failure. The test environments that ran were autoclave pilot programs for Goldstrike ore feed and Pascua Lama concentrate feed – both acidic at discharge where this valve was exposed (with approximately 20-g/L H₂SO₄ free acid and 60-g/L H₂SO₄ free acid). This valve acted as the primary discharge isolation ball valve which sees the hot acidic slurry but not duty cycled like the discharge valve. The Watson Coatings Lab metallurgical evaluation concluded the chrome oxide coating was unaffected by the test environment with no excessive wear to critical parts.

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*All Components finished to customer's specifications

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