

Horizon Milling Reduces Idling



Horizon Milling, a joint venture between Cargill and CHS, has a facility in Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania that used to idle its GP-10 locomotive (pictured above). Idling kept the locomotive ready for action, but it also kept the engine running in an unloaded condition. This caused the engine to "spit" oil out the exhaust creating a slippery mess and a potential safety hazard. Once a week, the locomotive had to be taken out of service for pressure washing and to replenish the oil. Idling also consumed about five gallons of diesel fuel per hour.

In November 2004, Horizon equipped their locomotive with a HOTSTART engine heating system and stopped idling. "Oil spitting" and oil consumption were greatly reduced. Servicing of the locomotive was reduced to once a month. In addition, Horizon's operation is cleaner, safer and, as of January 2006, the company has saved over \$70,000 in fuel expenses alone.

In 1942, HOTSTART began developing and manufacturing diesel engine block heaters for trucks and buses. In 1965, HOTSTART applied its engine heating experience to the railroad industry and developed layover heaters to eliminate costly locomotive idling. Today, the company manufactures a full-line of electric and diesel-driven engine heating and battery charging systems for locomotives. To learn more, please visit www.hotstart.com or call (509) 536-8663.

