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AB&I FOUNDRY INCREASES EFFICIENCIES IN MANUFACTURING CAST IRON PIPE

Oakland, CA. March 7, 2017 – AB&I Foundry, an Oakland-based company that manufactures cast iron pipe and fittings for the plumbing industry, announces the successful installation of a specialized heat exchanger called a recuperator that increases manufacturing efficiencies in the melt operation.

The recuperator is a specialized heat exchanger that utilizes heat (energy) from the exhaust gasses and reheats the ambient air used in the combustion (melt) process. The new process reduces the need for natural gas and electricity used in the iron melting process – a \$1M annual energy savings.

The recuperator was recycled from AB&I’s parent company and retrofitted for melting scrap metals into molten iron used to make cast iron pipe and fittings. “AB&I was able to reuse and repurpose a piece of equipment from a plant that had closed and incorporated it into our operation. We are continually identifying and implementing sustainable measures to save on natural resources,” said Dave Robinson, vice president of operations at AB&I Foundry.

“It’s impressive that AB&I could take a large hot-blast recuperator unit – not originally designed for AB&I’s melt system – retrofit it and make it work, while at the same time significantly improving efficiency in the foundry,” said Kurt Winter, executive vice president of McWane Plumbing Group. “The unit’s size provides system stability and allows for those times when pushing the melt rate to meet production requirements is necessary.”

AB&I moved the unit that weighs more than 74,000 pounds and is 65-feet long, from Alabama to its Oakland plant. Structural modifications were made to the cupola tower allowing the recuperator to be integrated it into the existing manufacturing operation.

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About AB&I - AB&I Foundry has been an American manufacturer of cast iron soil pipe and fittings for storm and sanitary drain, waste, and vent (DWV) plumbing systems since 1906. Today’s AB&I combines the perspectives and values of its founders with modern methods and technologies. AB&I products are “Made in America” and set the standard for quality and durability. For more information please visit ABIFoundry.com. AB&I is part of the McWane, Inc. family of businesses based in Birmingham, Alabama. For more information please visit www.mcwane.com.