The North African Journal of Scientific Publishing (NAJSP)
مجلة شمال إفريقيا للنشر العلمي (NAJSP)
E-ISSN: 2959-4820
Volume 2, Issue 3, July – September 2024, Page No: 143-150
Website: https://najsp.com/index.php/home/index
SJIFactor 2023: 3.733 0.63 :2023 (AIF) معامل التأثير العربي ISI 2023: 0.383

The Impact of Fuel Calorific Value and Exhaust Gas Temperature on the Efficiency of the Boiler in Zliten Seawater Desalination Plant

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تأثير القيمة الحرارية للوقود ودرجة حرارة الغازات الناتجة على كفاءة غلاية محطة تحلية مياه البحر زليتن

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Received: June 23, 2024	Accepted: August 14, 2024	Published: August 21, 2024

Abstract:
The significance of this study is rooted in the need to enhance the energy efficiency of seawater desalination processes, which not only reduces costs but also benefits the environment. A key component of this efficiency lies in understanding how brine boilers perform. The thermal efficiency of these boilers is a pivotal element in the desalination of seawater, a process vital for addressing freshwater shortages globally. The performance of desalination facilities heavily relies on the efficiency of the boilers used. Critical factors include the thermal value of the energy and the temperature of the gases produced during combustion. High thermal value energy can boost heat production, thereby improving boiler efficiency. Additionally, the temperature of combustion gases influences the heat recovery process, impacting the overall efficiency of desalination stages.
The thermal value of the energy and the temperature of the gases produced significantly affect the efficiency of seawater desalination boilers. Utilizing high thermal value energy enhances the process due to superior energy quality. Furthermore, elevated gas temperatures aid in the preheating of seawater, thereby optimizing efficiency. In thermal desalination processes like Multi-Effect Distillation with Thermal Vapor Compression (MED-TVC), considering ocean water temperature and salinity conditions can further enhance energy efficiency and performance. Hence, advancements in energy quality, gas temperature, and operational standards can profoundly influence the efficiency of desalination facilities.
Calculating thermal efficiency is crucial for assessing boiler performance and its effectiveness in converting and utilizing thermal energy. Consequently, examining the impact of the thermal value of energy and gas temperature on the efficiency of the Zliten brine factory's boiler was essential.
The analysis of available data and the discussion of potential outcomes from applying the total thermal value of energy and gas temperature were vital for achieving optimal boiler efficiency. The efficiency of the brine boiler at the station was determined to be 82%, based on real data from the facility, reflecting its actual performance. The relationship between boiler efficiency, the heat generated by energy, and the combustion temperature was thoroughly examined. The findings revealed that the calculated efficiency closely matched the actual efficiency, confirming the accuracy of the methods and equations used. These results are invaluable for assessing and understanding the factors influencing seawater boiler efficiency.

Keywords: Thermal Efficiency, Desalination of Sea Water, Efficiency of Steam Boilers, Energy Efficiency, The Temperature of The Exhaust Gases.

الملخص
تكمن أهمية هذه الدراسة في ضرورة تحسين كفاءة استخدام الطاقة في تحلية مياه البحر مما يساهم في خفض التكلفة وتحسين البيئة. إن فهم كفاءة الغلايات البخارية يساهم في كفاءة وفعالية هذه المحطات. تعد الكفاءة الحرارية للغلاية البخارية عاملاً مهمًا في تحلية مياه البحر.
تعد محطات تحلية مياه البحر من أهم الحلول لمواجهة ندرة المياه العذبة في العديد من مناطق العالم. تعتمد كفاءة هذه المحطات بشكل كبير على الأداء الفعّال للغلايات المستخدمة في عملية تحلية المياه. تلعب القيمة الحرارية للوقود ودرجة حرارة الغازات الناتجة عن احتراقه دورًا كبيرًا في تحديد كفاءة هذه الغلايات حيث أن الوقود ذو القيمة الحرارية العالية يمكن أن يزيد من كمية الحرارة المنتجة، مما يؤدي إلى زيادة في كفاءة الغلاية. من جهة أخرى، تؤثر درجة حرارة الغازات الناتجة على عملية استعادة الحرارة واستخدامها في مراحل مختلفة من عملية التحلية، مما يؤثر بشكل مباشر على كفاءة الغلاية.
تعتمد كفاءة غلاية محطة تحلية مياه البحر على قيمة الحرارة للوقود ودرجة حرارة الغازات المتولدة. يمكن أن يزيد استخدام وقود ذو قيمة حرارية عالية من كفاءة عمليات تحلية المياه بسبب جودة الطاقة الأفضل. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تلعب درجة حرارة الغازات دوراً هاماً، حيث تعزز درجات الحرارة العالية التسخين المسبق لمياه البحر وتحسن الكفاءة العامة. وفي عمليات التحلية الحرارية مثل التحلية متعددة التأثيرات بضغط البخار الحراري (MED-TVC)، يمكن أن يساهم ارتفاع درجات حرارة مياه البحر ومستويات الملوحة في تحسين كفاءة وأداء الطاقة. لذلك، يمكن أن يؤثر تحسين جودة الوقود ودرجات حرارة الغاز والمعايير التشغيلية بشكل كبير على كفاءة محطات تحلية مياه البحر.
إن حساب الكفاءة الحرارية ضروري لتقييم أداء الغلاية وتحديد كفاءتها في تحويل الطاقة الحرارية واستخدامها بكفاءة. لذا، كان من الضروري دراسة تأثير القيمة الحرارية للوقود ودرجة حرارة الغازات الناتجة على كفاءة الغلاية في محطة زليتن البخارية. هذان العاملان يلعبان دوراً فعالاً في أداء وكفاءة الغلاية البخارية، مع التركيز على كيفية تحسين الأداء الكلي للمحطة وزيادة كفاءتها التشغيلية. تم تقديم تحليل شامل للبيانات المتاحة ومناقشة النتائج المحتملة لتطبيق تأثير القيمة الحرارية الكلية للوقود ودرجة حرارة الغازات الناتجة لتحقيق أعلى مستويات الكفاءة للغلاية.
تم حساب كفاءة الغلاية البخارية في المحطة بنسبة 82% رياضياً باستخدام بيانات المحطة الفعلية، وهذه النسبة مقاربة للكفاءة الفعلية للغلاية في المحطة. تم تحليل العلاقة بين كفاءة الغلاية وكمية الحرارة المولدة من الوقود، وأيضاً العلاقة بين كفاءة الغلاية ودرجة حرارة الاحتراق. أظهرت النتائج أن الكفاءة المحسوبة تقترب بشكل كبير من الكفاءة الفعلية للغلاية في المحطة، مما يؤكد دقة الحسابات والمعادلات المستخدمة. ستكون هذه العلاقات والمنحنيات مفيدة جداً في تحليل وفهم تأثير هذه العوامل على كفاءة غلاية محطة تحلية مياه البحر.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الكفاءة الحرارية، تحلية مياه البحر، كفاءة الغلايات البخارية، كفاءة الطاقة، درجة حرارة الغازات الناتجة.

Introduction

Seawater desalination plants are among the most crucial engineering undertakings aimed at addressing the scarcity of fresh water in many parts of the world. A key component of these plants is the steam boiler, which heats water and converts it into saturated steam necessary for the desalination process. Ensuring the plant's efficient and cost-effective operation hinges on accurately calculating the thermal efficiency of the steam boiler. This efficiency is largely dependent on the boilers' effective performance during the desalination process [1,2].

This research paper focuses on calculating the thermal efficiency of the boiler. It examines how the total calorific value of the fuel used and the temperature of the resultant gases influence this efficiency [3]. The paper also provides recommendations for enhancing boiler efficiency in the future. Understanding the boiler's efficiency in transforming thermal energy into saturated steam is crucial for determining the plant's overall effectiveness. Additionally, calculating thermal efficiency helps identify factors affecting boiler performance and pinpoint areas for improvement to optimize the plant's energy use [4].

Thermal efficiency pertains to the boiler's ability to convert thermal energy into mechanical energy. Assessing thermal efficiency is essential for evaluating the boiler's performance and its proficiency in utilizing thermal energy effectively [5]. The application of modern technology can substantially improve the operational efficiency of these plants. For instance, a study published in the Journal of Thermal Engineering in 2019 explored ways to enhance boiler efficiency in desalination plants using various fuels. Similarly, researchers at the 2017 Environmental Engineering Conference found that meticulous control of environmental conditions could significantly boost boiler performance in desalination plants [6].

Components of a Water Tube Steam Boiler

Steam boilers are enclosed vessels where water is heated until it becomes steam at a specified pressure. This transformation increases the water's volume by approximately 1600 times, generating significant energy and rendering boilers potentially hazardous if not handled properly (Ortiz, 2011). Since 200 B.C., numerous advancements have been made in classifying steam-generating boilers

efficiently. One classification method is based on the steam generation and consumption process. Boilers commonly serve as industrial steam generators or power generation units. They can be further classified into fire tube boilers and water tube boilers (Dworkin, 2006; Hasanuzzaman et al.).
Water tube boilers feature water-filled tubes and combustion-filled tubes, allowing them to operate at higher steam generation rates (Patro, 2016). This type of boiler includes two main cylinders: the upper steam cylinder and the lower mud cylinder, connected by a series of lower and upper tubes (Saidour et al., 2010).
Steam boilers feature a main body with a "bowl" and an "oven," as illustrated in figure 1-1. Within this setup, gas and air are combusted to generate heat, which then heats the water in the drum to create steam, producing energy. To prevent damage to turbines and ensure optimal performance, it's crucial to meticulously control the water level, composition, and steam temperature within the drum. Steam temperature control systems are vital for the safe and economical operation of the power plant, as deviations in temperature can impact both safety and efficiency. The stability of the steam temperature is a key indicator of the boiler's operational quality [7].
Given the high temperatures and pressures to which boiler tubes are exposed, selecting the right materials is essential. This process involves mechanical property testing and material analysis to ensure optimal performance. Furthermore, studying the effects of boiler load oscillation rates on the effective pressure of the boiler pipes is necessary to prevent damage and maintain safe operation. In essence, the steam boiler, with its "bowl" and "oven," burns gas and air to heat water in the drum, generating steam and thus producing energy, as depicted in figure 1.
The water position, composition, and brume temperature within the barrel must be precisely controlled to avoid damage to the turbine and insure effective operation. Brume temperature control systems are critical to safe and provident operation, as high or low temperatures can affect the safety and effectiveness of the power factory [8]. Superheated brume temperature is an important index of boiler operating quality, and it's critical to keep it stable. Material selection for boiler tubes is critical because boiler tubes are exposed to high temperatures and high pressures. The selection process includes testing mechanical parcels and assaying accoutrements to gain optimal performance. In addition, the effect of boiler cargo cycle rate on the effective pressure of barrel boiler tubes is studied to help damage and insure safe operation [9].

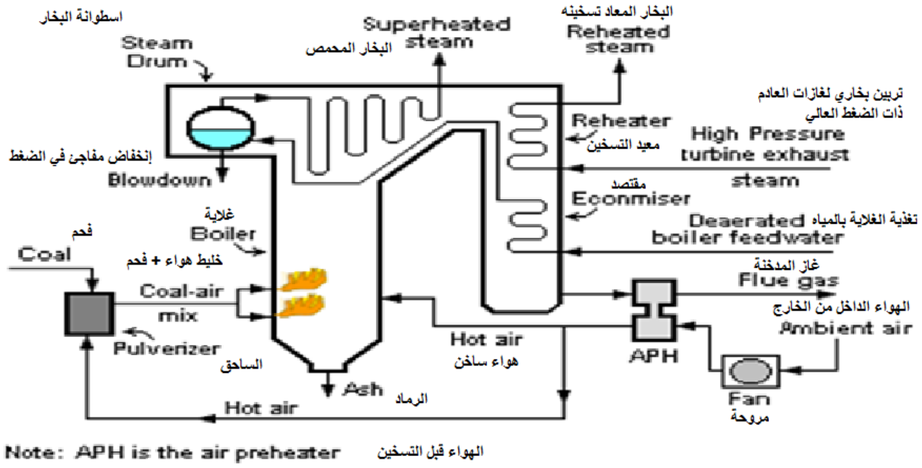

Figure 1: Steam Water Pipe Boiler Components.

Steam Water Pipe Boilers at Seawater Desalination Plant/Zliten:
The desalination plant of Zliten in the Zliten factory has three vertical water tube boilers produced by a Japanese company. This type includes vertically placed water pipes, two pressure tanks, and a regular water cycle. It also consumes two types of combustion fuel: natural gas and fuel oil. The walls of the boiler are cooled by water pipes insulated by gas mode, compression ignition, fiberglass, thermal stones, and metal plates. Each blade has a capacity of 90 tons per hour of hot steam at an outlet temperature of 227–217 °C and pressure of 10 kg per square centimeter, with an efficiency of 82%. Most types of HDW boilers use straight steel pipes and are connected to water and steam cylinders in two groups. Free water flows from the cylinder to the bottom complex, through straight pipes to the top compound, and back to the cylinder, where the steam is separated from the water and re-introduced. In this type of boiler, the bottom roll is roasted, as shown in figure 2.

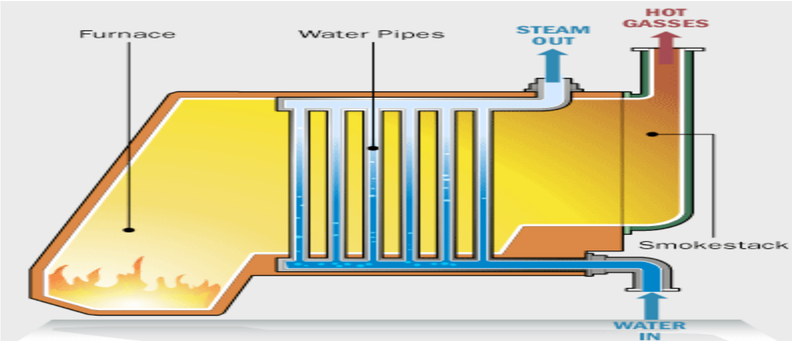

Figure 2: Vertical Water-Tube Boilers.

At the Zliten seawater desalination plant, the efficiency of the steam boiler is examined in relation to fuel thermal value and gas temperature.

Results and discussion

The percentage of thermal energy produced by the boiler in comparison to the energy in the fuel to be burned is used to calculate boiler efficiency. The majority of the heat generated during the combustion process must be utilized in order to improve boiler efficiency. This means completely reducing heat losses like those caused by fuel combustion exhaust emissions, improving heat transport through the kettle's outer structure, and reducing heat losses from gases leaving the chimney [10]. This comprises. Boiler efficiency and metering studies are essential procedures in desalination plants and have a significant long-term impact on the plant's economics and performance. Desalination plants measure boiler efficiency and other components in a variety of ways because of this.

1- Calculating the thermal efficiency of the boiler at the Zliten seawater desalination plant

For accurate calculations and to obtain high boiler efficiency, heat exchanger values are reduced using horizontal finned anchors with tubes embedded in the boiler wall in front of the insulation bricks and are part of the evaporator to aid in the evaporation process as most of the heat transferred is absorbed through the outer boiler wall and the temperature difference is reduced The temperature between the hot gas inside the boiler and the air outside the boiler ranges from the gas temperature to 1150 degrees Celsius. Using excess air of about 20% helps the fuel fully ignite and reduces the amount of unburned fuel [11]. This method depends on determining the efficiency of steam generation (the amount of steam generated and the extent of its enthalpy) using the following relationship

$$\eta = \frac{OUTPUT}{INPUT} * 100\% = \frac{\dot{m}_s(h_{sa} - h_1)}{\dot{m}_f * HCV + w} * 100 \qquad (1)$$

A fine relationship (1) can be inferred from the former formula to come the equation of calculating effectiveness directly as follows

$$\eta_b = \frac{[\dot{m}_s(h_3 - h_1) + \dot{m}_a c_a \Delta t_a]}{\dot{m}_f(GCV)} \qquad (2)$$

The data in Table 1 show readings attained from brume tables, as well as information relating to the desalination factory of seawater in Zliten. These readings and data aim to understand the effectiveness of the station's brume boiler calculated.

Table 1 Analysis of readings from steam tables and seawater desalination plant in Zliten

Unit	Value	Description	Symbol
kg/s	(13.889)	Steam generation rate	$\dot{m}_s$
kJ/kg	(2717)	Specific enthalpy of roasted steam (enthalpy)	at 127C˚$h3$
kJ/kg	(535.46)	Specific enthalpy of feed water	at 27C˚$h1$
kg/s	(18)	The rate of air flow required for the combustion process	$\dot{m}_a$
kJ/kg.C°	1.089	Specific heat with constant pressure for air	c_a
C˚	230	Increased air temperature during the air	Δt_a

		convector	
kg/s	6.667	Fuel consumption rate	$\dot{m}_f$
kJ/kg	6368.37	Fuel calorific value $\{f_{HHV}\}$	GCV

Neutralize in equation 2 using the values specified in Table 1 and from the desalination factory of seawater in Zliten, the thermal effectiveness of the boiler is equal to,η_b = 82

2- Relationship between total thermal value of GCV fuel and boiler efficiency

The thermal value of the fuel (GCV) is an important factor in determining the efficiency of the boiler. The value of GCV directly affects the amount of heat generated by combustion, which affects the efficiency of the boiler.

One of the main factors influencing efficiency is the fuel specifications. The higher hydrogen content of gaseous fuels generates more water vapor during combustion. One of the most important fuel parameters is the total heat value (GCV), which shows the amount of heat produced by combustion under constant and standard conditions [12].

Table 2 Test data between the thermal efficiency of the boiler and the total thermal value of the fuel.

Total thermal value of fuel	Thermal efficiency of boiler
0	0
10	20
15	30
30	60
36	70
50	82
55	80
60	75
65	70
70	65

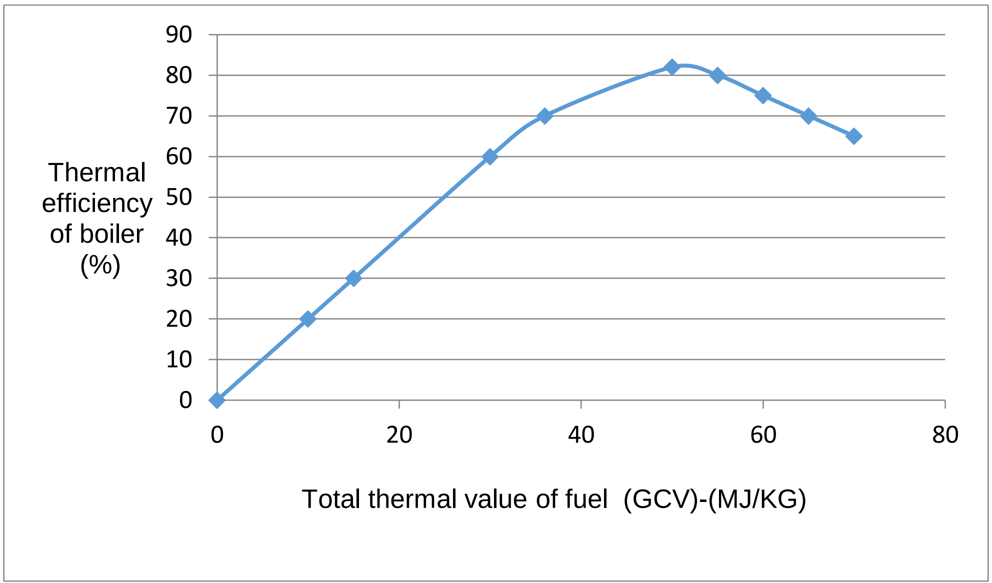

Figure 3: Relationship between GCV fuel thermal value and boiler efficiency.

The inverse relationship between boiler efficiency and total heating value of "natural gas" fuel is shown in Figure 3. This suggests that as the overall fuel temperature increases, the boiler efficiency decreases. This result is due to the high temperature of the effluent gases, which increases the heat losses throughout the boiler heat exchange process, making it almost four times more efficient [13]. It has also been demonstrated that fuels with higher heating value increase the temperature of the effluent gases, thereby increasing the amount of heat generated during fuel combustion, improving heat transfer to the seawater, and ultimately increasing the process efficiency.
The figure shows the direct impact of the heat value on the kettle's efficiency, as it is clear that increasing the heat value is associated with increasing the kettle's efficiency. In the given example, the efficiency of the kettle was approximately 81% when using a fuel quantity of 6000 kJ.
Recent studies have highlighted an interesting connection between the heat value of fuel and the efficiency of boilers. It appears that as the heat value of the fuel increases, so does the temperature of the gases produced during combustion. This rise in temperature has a negative impact on the efficiency of the boiler, as the increased heat in the gases leads to energy losses.
Conversely, lower heat value in fuel results in lower temperatures of the emitted gases, thus improving the efficiency of the boiler. This allows for a more effective use of combustion heat to create the desired energy output with minimal losses.
These findings underscore the significance of closely monitoring and controlling the total heat value of fuel to enhance the efficiency of boilers at thermal stations. This, in turn, contributes to their long-term economic viability and overall effectiveness [14].
According to research, there is a negative correlation between the boiler's efficiency and the fuel's total heat value. The temperature of the gases released by the combustion process rises when the fuel's total heat value is high. The warming of gases has the potential to significantly reduce the kettle's efficiency because the primary source of power generation in the kettle is combustion heat.

On the other hand, when the total fuel heat value is low, the temperature of the gases that are released goes down, which makes the boiler work better. This advances more prominent utilization of intensity from ignition to create wanted energy without critical misfortunes.
As part of ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of boilers at thermal stations, these findings demonstrate the significance of monitoring and regulating the fuel's total temperature value to their long-term economic and overall efficiency.
The boiler's thermal efficiency and plant productivity both rise in tandem with the fuel's higher calorific value.

3- The relationship between the temperature of the resulting gases and the efficiency of the boiler

The effect of gas temperature resulting from the combustion process is also an important factor in the kettle efficiency. High gas temperature can lead to higher heat loss, reducing the kettle efficiency.

Table 3 Test data between the thermal efficiency of the boiler and the temperature of the resulting gases.

Temperature of the resulting gases	Thermal efficiency of boiler
0	0
50	20
75	30
120	50
180	75
200	82
250	80
300	75
350	70
400	65

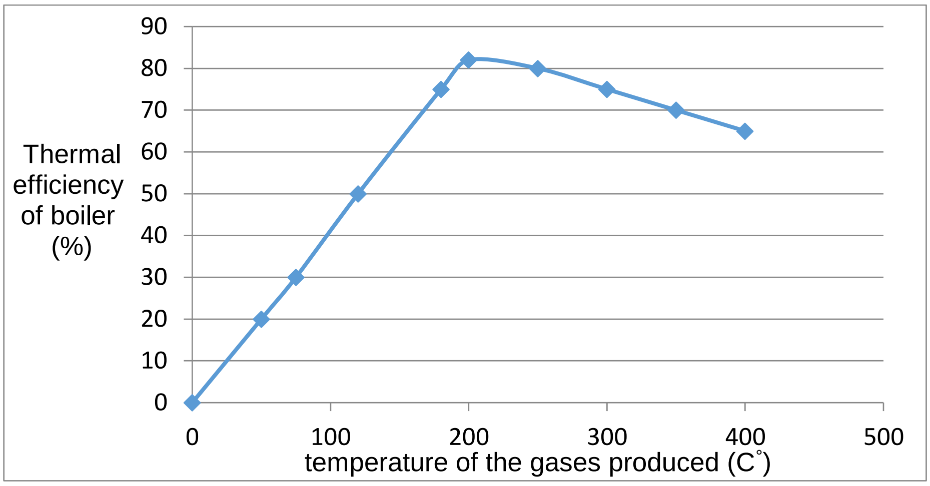

Figure 4: The relationship between the temperature of the gases produced and the efficiency of the boiler.

Figure 4 appears that the higher the temperature of the coming about gasses, the more prominent the proficiency of the evaporator semi-linearly, and that the higher the temperature of the gasses progresses the exchange of warm to seawater, which increments the effectiveness of desalination. But there is a greatest temperature required. The lower the temperature of the gasses created by the combustion handle, the higher the productivity of the evaporator and the superior the plant's efficiency. That's since lower temperatures cruel warmer is exchanged to the water to be desalinated. The temperature of the gasses transmitted by the evaporator influences the proficiency of the desalination prepare. Overheating gasses leads to expanded warm exchange productivity to seawater, which moves forward the proficiency of the prepare [15].

Conclusion

From the analytical study of the two relationships between the total fuel heat value and the efficiency of the boiler, and between the temperature of the gases produced and the efficiency of the boiler, it is clear that there is a direct and adverse effect between these factors and the efficiency of the boiler respectively. These analyses will contribute to understanding how these factors affect the efficiency of the steam boiler at the Zliten seawater desalination plant and identify the processes needed to improve the plant's performance [16].

1- Figure 3 shows the inverse relationship between the "natural gas" fuel heat value and the efficiency of the boiler. This indicates that increased fuel heat value results in reduced boiler efficiency. This effect is attributable to the high temperature of the emitted gases, which causes an increase in heat loss during heat exchange in the boiler, thereby reducing its efficiency almost linear. The fuel heat value is also shown to increase the temperature of the emitted gases, increasing the amount of heat produced during fuel combustion, improving heat transmission to seawater and thus increasing the process efficiency[17].

The figure shows the direct impact of fuel heat value on boiler efficiency, as it is clear that increased fuel heat value is associated with increased boiler efficiency. In the given example, the efficiency of the boiler was approximately 81% when using a fuel quantity of 6000 kJ. Hence, there is an inverse correlation between the fuel temperature value and the boiler efficiency, as the fuel temperature rise increases the temperature of the emitted gases and thus reduces the boiler efficiency, and vice versa when the heat value decreases. The higher the thermal value of the fuel used in the kettle, the greater the thermal efficiency of the boiler and the better the plant's productivity.

2- The relationship between the temperature of the resulting gases and the efficiency of the boiler, figure (4) shows that the warming of the gases leads to an increase in the efficiency of heat transfer to seawater, which improves the overall efficiency of the thermal process. This effect shows a near-linear improvement in kettle efficiency with increased gas temperature.

Based on the results presented, it can be argued that understanding fuel specifications and their impact on combustion processes is vital to improving the efficiency of boilers, thereby improving the productivity of the thermal plant. The direct and reverse effect of fuel heat value and resulting gas temperature indicates the importance of temperature control and improvement of thermal processes for maximum efficiency and productivity. When looking at the combined effect of the heat value of the fuel and the temperature of the gases, there is a positive enhancement of the efficiency of the boiler and the rise of both the heat value and the resulting heat leads to a significant increase in the desalination plant efficiency

Summary

Based on its analytical study, in addition to previous calculations showing that boiler efficiency is equal to 82%, the following results can be achieved: understanding fuel specifications and their impact on combustion processes is vital to improving boiler efficiency and thereby improving thermal plant productivity. The direct and reverse impact of fuel temperature value and resulting gas temperature underscores the importance of temperature control and improving thermal processes for maximum efficiency and productivity.

Direct and reverse effects of fuel heating value and gas temperature production show that temperature control and thermal process improvement are important for maximum efficiency and productivity. Given the combined effect of fuel heating value and gas temperature, we see a positive improvement in boiler efficiency, indicating that an increase in both the heating value and the resulting heat can lead to a significant increase in boiler efficiency at desalination plants.

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