



Energy Recovery from Alternative Fuels (AF)

The Swiss Experience

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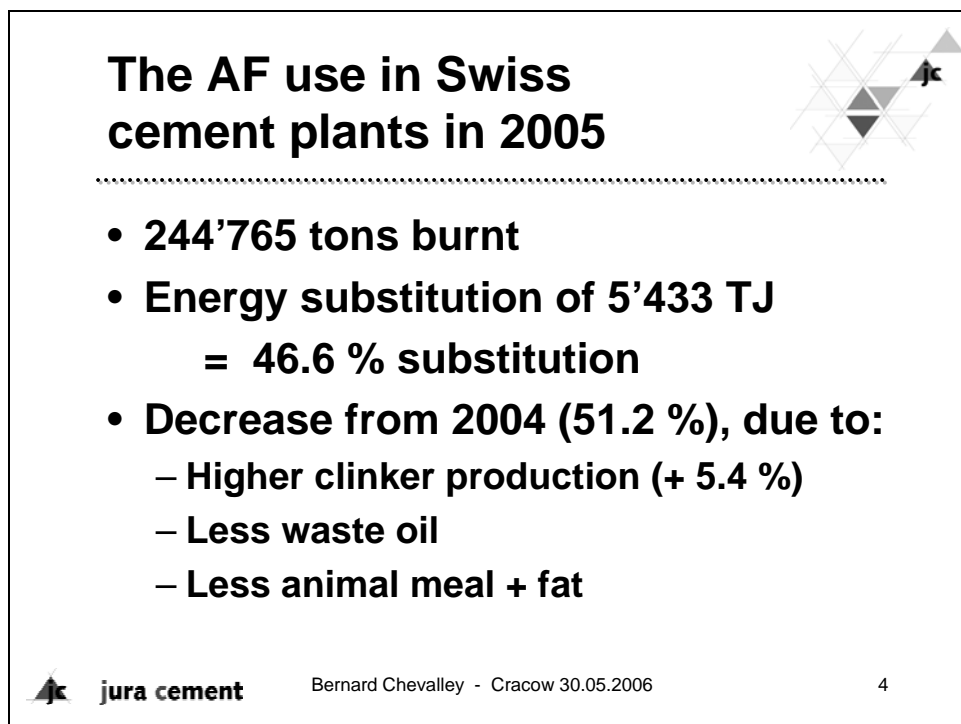
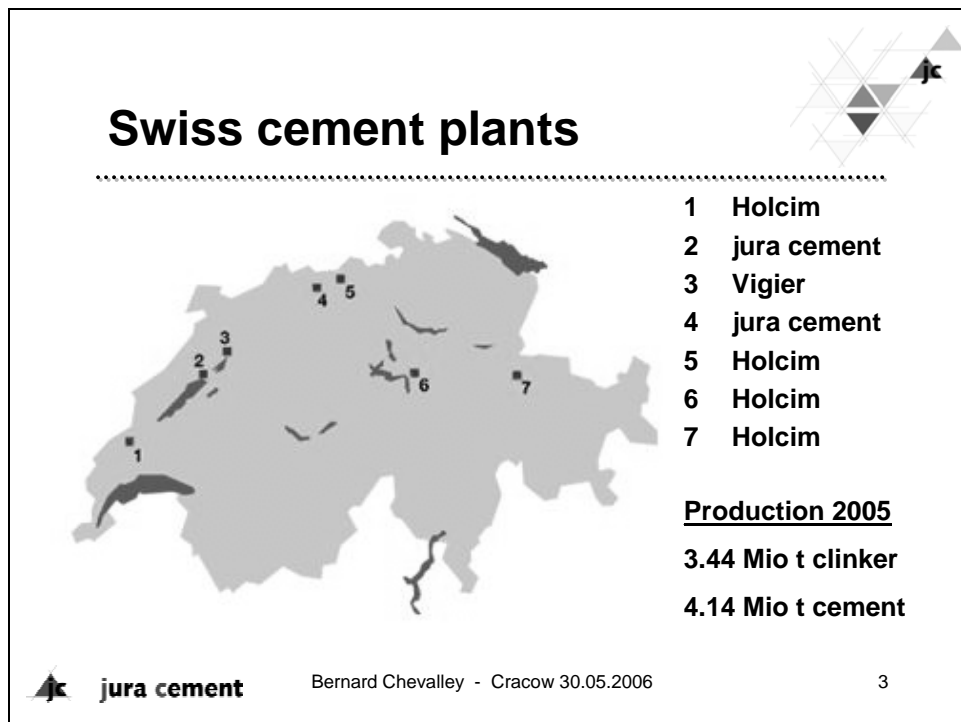
Energy Recovery from Alternative Fuels (AF)

The Swiss Experience



Content

- The situation in Switzerland
- The steps to implement AF usage
- The Swiss agreement for AF burning
- Technical aspects
- Quality aspects
- Environmental aspects
- Economical aspects
- Conclusion




Approval by the authorities



- Close cooperation with authorities → permit for relevant trials with AF
- Lobbying at highest level of administration (by company and/or cement association)
- Cement industry can solve a waste problem → win – win – win solution !
- Establish new regulations for use of AF in cement plants (example CH)
- Develop high level of confidence towards authorities (monitoring, reporting, ISO 14000 can help)




Agreement with the Swiss authorities (1)



- Guideline of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment:
Disposal of Wastes in Cement Plants (April 1988)
- <http://www.umwelt-schweiz.ch/buwal/eng/>
- Result of long negotiations → advantages of cement kiln have been recognized
- Defines which types of wastes can be used in cement plants



Agreement with the Swiss authorities (2)



The guideline contains:

- Requirements for permitted wastes
 - Quality requirements for clinker, cement and flue gases (no dilution !)
 - Further requirements (operation, monitoring, transport, etc.)
 - Positive list of AFR
- Periodical revision of positive list



The AF supply chain



- Availability of products, now and in future (quantity, quality / variability)
→ high flexibility required from the plant
- Price, competition on the market (other cement plants, incineration plants, landfills, export)
- Make it / buy it / joint venture ?
- Quality control at plant is indispensable
- How to overcome long kiln stops ? → storage capacity, coordination with other plants
- AF business has own rules ≠ from cement → don't trust too much too quickly !



Acceptance from neighbours



- **Respect existing environmental regulations !**
- **Involve local authorities from beginning of the AF project (incl. environmental delegates)**
- **Invite population to visit the cement plant (open doors day) → contact, transparency, confidence**
- **Inform population about the project, show good examples of others AF projects → no risks !**
- **Participate actively to the local life (support, sponsoring, presence at village fêtes): all employees are company ambassadors !**



Acceptance from personnel



- **More work for fuel preparation**
- **Kiln control more difficult**
- **Kiln operation disturbed (build-ups, blockages) → hard, dirty, dangerous cleaning work**
- **Safety & Health: strict, heavy protection measures to be observed**



Kiln operation (1)



- Reduction of kiln capacity (5 to 10 %) due to low grade fuels, variability, more excess air
- Variability of AF calorific value → kiln more difficult to control → kiln control system is a big advantage, even a must for high AF level
- Increased S, Cl, alkalis input → additional blockages and cleaning work in preheater / precalciner / kiln → more kiln stops
- Increased wear of refractories / corrosion of metal parts → more kiln stops



Kiln operation (2)



- Basically high grade AF in kiln, low grade in PC
- AF with lowest variability in kiln
- O₂ level in rotary kiln must be always sufficient (CO → EP trip, local reducing conditions)
- Improve design of fuel/meal distribution in precalciner (long residence time, no local overheating)
- Multi-fuel burners of last generation for better operation



Product quality



- **Customers should not remark any change in concrete properties !**
- **AF supply / quality not constant → changes of burning conditions → variability of clinker quality may increase (mineralogy)**
- **Increased input of S, Cl, alkalies → will be incorporated in clinker or cement → may influence workability, setting time, etc.**



Environmental effects



- **Basically no increase of conventional emissions (CO peaks → bag filter an advantage)**
- **Overall CO₂ balance improved**
- **Input of heavy metals increased → meet regulations, prevent accumulation in the system (e.g. Thallium)**
- **More reporting and transparency required by authorities for all emissions**





Costs / Savings (1)

Costs

- Capex
- Production loss
- Operation (AF preparation, kiln cleaning work, increased heat/power consumption)
- Maintenance (refractories, corrosion)
- Laboratory (quality, environment)
- Reporting to authorities



Costs / Savings (2)

Savings

- Conventional fuels costs
- Coal grinding costs
- Earnings from elimination tax for various AF
- CO₂ tax



The Swiss CO₂ agreement



- Signed in 2003 with Swiss government
- On level of cemsuisse (not companies)
- Reduction from 1990 to 2010:
 - 44.2 % on fuel CO₂
 - 30.3 % on geogenic CO₂
- All AF count (not only biomass !)
- CO₂ emission allowances are indexed on the clinker/cement production



Conclusion



- AF in cement kiln: win – win – win !
 - AF use becomes a must
- High flexibility is required
- Process to be well managed and controlled: no detrimental effect will be accepted by any stakeholder

