

We're off to a good start this year. In addition to some good business levels in the US, we've had activity in China and Mexico. We're back in Guatemala making another try on a project that has experienced problems and delays. And, there has been some activity in Australia after an extremely slow year there in 2013.

Terry Swory, Robbie Wettlaufer and Ramon Ruiz have been on an HPI job in central China for almost two months. The client is gradually revealing more information on the remaining work which appears to be substantial. We are planning to get these guys a break even if it means rotating them out one at a time.

We have assisted a new client in starting up an unusual coke oven design in Mexico. If this business is successful, they have plans for expansion at this plant. It appears that this first heat up was a learning experience for them and Christopher Straw's expertise was valued by the client. Erasmo, Alex and Arcadio also participated on this project in an unusually cold (for Mexico) and remote desert location. Here's a couple shots from the jobsite.





Most of the US is having a brutal winter this year. Temperatures have dipped below 0F and there have been numerous snow and ice storms. This has created a number of client emergencies and Hotwork has responded in our client's times of need. Thanks to everyone who reacts quickly to these client emergencies. We often earn long term friends due to these emergency responses.

If you have interesting photos from jobsites and especially photos of our Techs in action, please get them to me. I've been trying to post some of these shots in the log in area of the website. I recently posted a photo of a semi-nude Industry Manager going out for a roll in the snow. I thought that might get some attention.

Best wishes to the Hotworkers who have been facing health issues. Dan Devera is back to work after a recent hospital visit. Kyle Hurlbut continues with his treatment and Steven Bryant has had some medical challenges. Ryan Nelson is back to full speed and Victor Kilgore is doing modified work in the Lexington Shop while his ankle heals.

Congratulations to Arcadio who recently welcomed a new addition.

In January, we had a successful meeting on the subject of glass furnace drain practices. There are some follow ups to that meeting that we should bring to resolution soon. Somehow I forgot to get a picture or two at that event.

I'm hopeful that 2014 will be a more consistent year than 2013. We had three exceptionally slow months that were a drag on company performance. It would be nice to avoid that situation this year. So far, so good.

Tom