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Chemical Reactor Catalyst Grating and Uplift Studies for Higher Pressures Fitness-for-Service (Finite Element Analysis, ASME FFS-1, Elastic-Plastic Methods, ESS LCF Method)

Project Description: A low pressure chemical reactor did not have a well established allowable working internal pressure and maximum allowable differential pressure across the catalyst grating. The plant was concerned with occasional pressure excursions and wanted a well-defined boundary for allowable pressures. The reactor was modeled in detail and evaluated for static pressure rating, low-cycle fatigue limitation, and the potential for up-lift of the bottom floor. Existing damages from previous high-pressure events were used as calibration/confirmation of the FEA results. Fillet welded joints were evaluated per ASME Section VIII Div. 2 Equivalent Structural Stress (ESS) method using FE-Safe/Verity.

FEA Results: Pertinent images or this fitness-for-service study are shown below:



