

Efficiency on the Waterfront: Eslich Wrecking Tackles a Chemical Plant Demolition in Moundsville, WV, with Allied-Gator MT® Technology

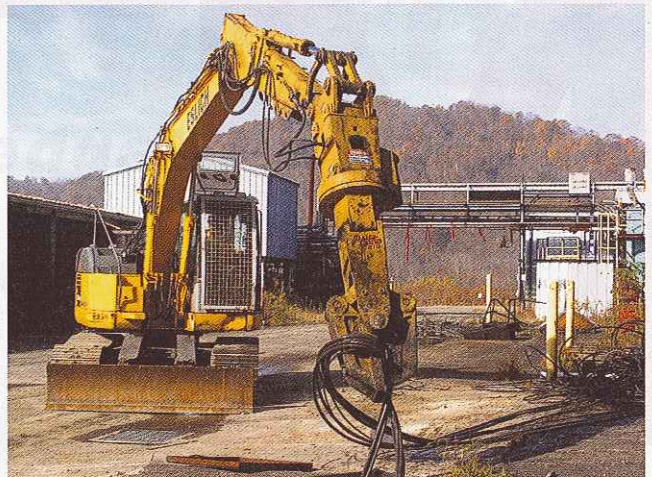
Eslich Wrecking Co. of Louisville, OH, has recently been contracted to demolish a former Columbian Chemical facility on the Ohio River waterfront in Moundsville, WV. The plant formerly produced carbon black, the additive that dyes tires black. The 450,000-square-foot plant, eight stories high, was built in the 1960s and has now been closed for over five years. Rich Eslich Sr. of Eslich Wrecking estimates that the “dusty, dirty” demolition, which began on October 17, 2011, will be complete within a four-month time frame, and will entail removal of 90% of the facility, including five smokestacks, the largest of which stands 325 feet tall, and four large storage tanks with a total capacity of over 2 million gallons. The new owners of this site plan to integrate the remaining 10% of the facility (two buildings) into future riverfront development.

As the sole contractor on the project, Eslich knew that he would rely heavily on putting the right tools on the job site. For this project, Eslich would utilize two operators, one supervisor, a Komatsu PC 200 carrying an Allied-Gator MT® Series Multi-Tool model MTR 20 Shear, a Komatsu PC 138 carrying an Allied-Gator MTR 15 Shear, and Caterpillar 245 and Komatsu 750 excavators with grapples. For the heavy demolition, Eslich plans to employ an Allied-Gator MTR 50 Shear on a Komatsu PC 750.

A job such as this also calls for a specific and well-thought-out approach. The first order of business: recovering the enormous amount of stainless steel and non-ferrous material from the building with the MTR 15 S. Eslich will then process an estimated



The enhanced visibility provided by the MT's streamlined design allows Eslich to surgically remove copper lines from each section of the plant with the MTR 15 S.



Eslich Wrecking utilizes the Allied-Gator MTR 15 S to remove 150,000+ lbs of copper from the former Columbian Chemical plant.

150,000 lbs of copper, wound into prepared bundles using the tool's 360° continual rotation, with the MTR 15. The MTR 20 will then be used to tackle the 200,000+ lbs of stainless steel. Eslich chose to utilize his MT units for this task because, “The cycle times are fast and they get you more production. That’s why we like them.” He also notes that the MT cuts stainless more effectively, and results in much less jamming and blade wear compared to other shears.

Because the former chemical plant sits right on the bank of the Ohio River, in many places only a stone’s throw away from the water, the accuracy of the MTs is instrumental in the success of the Moundsville project. The company is prohibited from allowing any demolition debris to fall into the river, so Eslich takes full advantage of the MT’s streamlined design and fixed centerline closure. According to Eslich, “With the MT, the operators have the best visibility; they know what they’re cutting. This allows them much more control compared to the awkwardness of other tools they’ve worked with.”

Being close to the Ohio River does provide advantages along with challenges, however. The cleanup following the demolition process will be aided by onsite barge access and rail transportation, options which will allow Eslich to avoid the cost of trucking material. Having both water and rail access for transportation will also give Eslich the opportunity to choose the most profitable method of transporting the processed non-ferrous and stainless material, as well as more than 4,000 tons of structural steel that will be generated from this project.

For the smokestack removal, Eslich plans to use a combination of controlled structural weakening and the calculated coordination of equipment to take down all five structures. Additionally, many structural elements of one of the large sections to be removed sit atop one of the two buildings that will remain intact. This will call again upon the precision of the MT, which will allow Eslich to surgically remove the structural elements slated for demolition, while salvaging the building below.

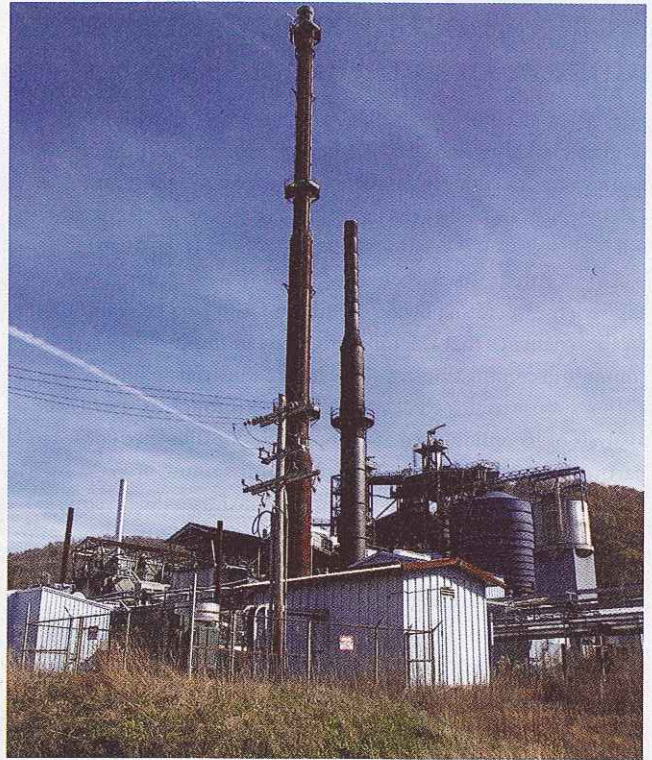
Eslich notes that the precision and durability of the MT design

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not only allow them to get planned, predictable results from every cut, but also help eliminate a lot of hand labor from the job. This advantage also keeps the job moving. “The durability and lack of breakdowns—that’s one of the key reasons we rely on the MT. There’s no downtime. They do the work of 10 people, and you can count on them running every day,” says Eslich. This has not only decreased the labor cost of the project, but has also dramatically increased the personnel safety in every element of the project.

When asked how he knew the Allied-Gator MT tools would be useful on the Moundsville demolition project, Eslich replied, “I don’t know how we would live without them, to tell you the truth. They make our lives so much simpler compared to what we used to run.” The Eslich crew has come to rely on all the advantages their arsenal of MT units has provided them for the last five years. Simply stated by Eslich, “The bottom line is, if the MTs didn’t work, I wouldn’t have them.”

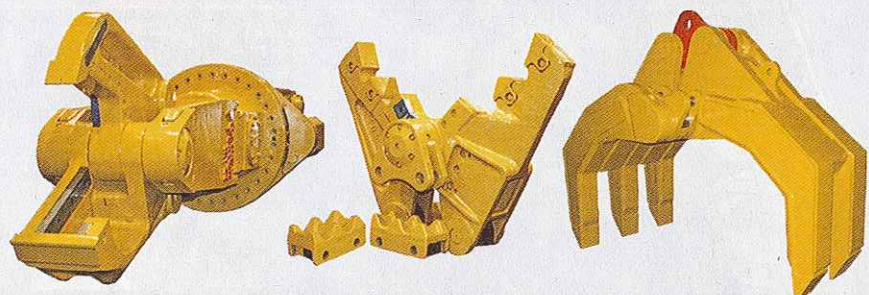
In the volatile commodities market, every minute counts. With the support of Allied-Gator products, Eslich Wrecking plans to stay ahead of future market curves with the Allied-Gator MT. The MT’s powerful design allows Eslich to use smaller tools and more compact machines while benefitting from higher production and less downtime. Eslich lists these advantages and remarks that, combined with his experience of great product support, the Allied-Gator MT technology has transformed the way Eslich Wrecking approaches the demolition process. He concludes, “That’s the Allied-Gator advantage.” ■



The former Columbian Chemical facility features five smokestacks, the largest of which stands 325 feet tall.

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MTR 40 C



MTR 90 S



MTR 10 S



MTR 10 C



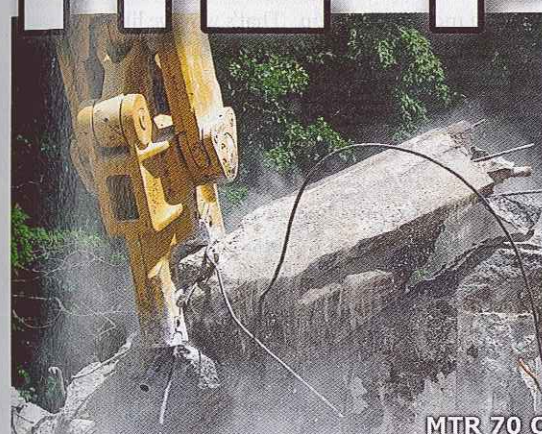
MTR 70 & 90 S



MTR 40 C



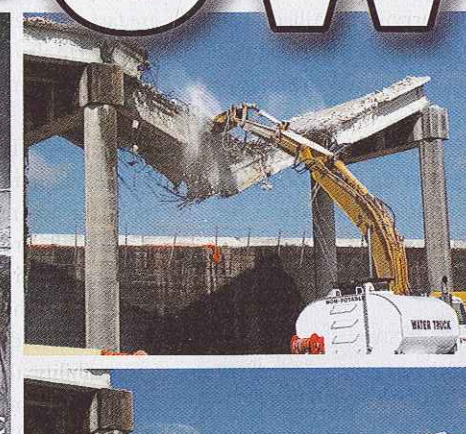
MTR 50 C



MTR 70 C



MTR 90 S



MTR 40 C



MTR 40 S



MTR 100 S



MTR 40 S

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