

A STUDY CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF ARGON RECOVERY FROM A CRYOGENIC AIR SEPARATION UNIT

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ABSTRACT

Although argon accounts for less than 1 percent of the atmosphere, it is the most abundant inert gas and is increasingly important to industry. While nitrogen is sufficiently inert for most metallurgical applications, argon is the optimum choice for more extreme conditions. Argon is used primarily in the steel industry. It is blown into furnaces to stir the molten metal and flush other gases. Argon is also used as a shielding atmosphere in the welding, electronic, metal fabrication aluminum processing and glass coating industries.

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