

Depropanizer Revamp with Two Types of SUPERFRAC® Trays



In 1990, the sieve trays in the rectifying section were upgraded and the stripping section trays were replaced with **INTALOX®** Structured Packing to increase the capacity from 4,000 barrels per day to 6,000 barrels per day. In 2000, the operator wanted to increase the capacity again. At that point, the sieve trays in the rectifying section were the limitation. These trays were replaced with conventional and truncated downcomer SUPERFRAC trays.

The column now handles a maximum feed rate of 7,100 barrels per day. Upstream equipment, and not the column internals, now limits the capacity of the column. The next limitation in the column will most likely be the structured packing. A post-revamp performance test indicates that the SUPERFRAC trays in the rectifying section are operating with tray efficiencies in excess of 100%.

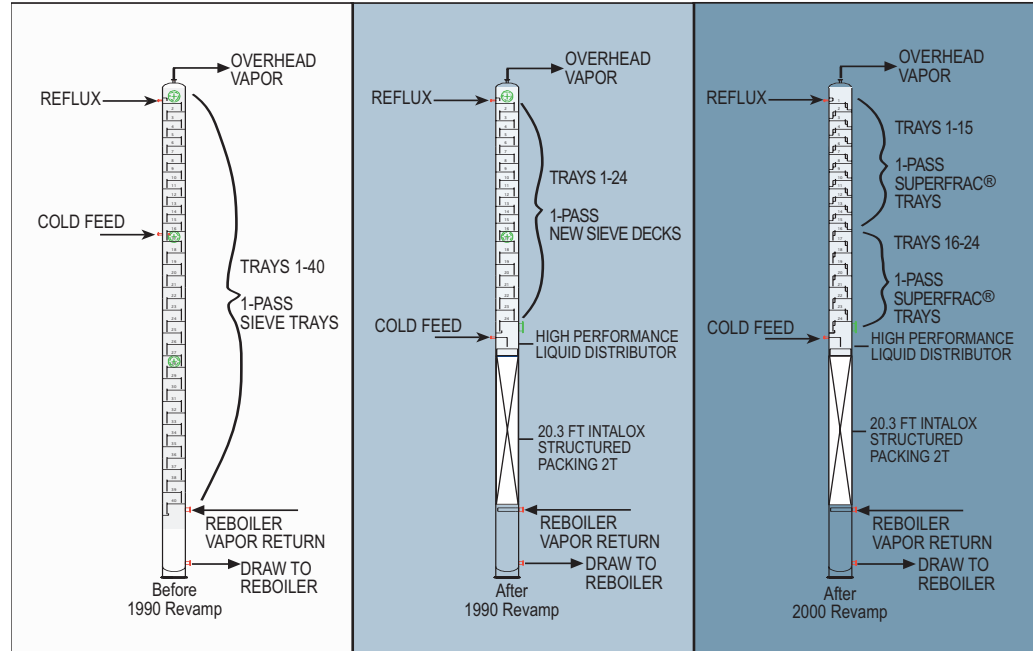


Figure 27. Column Layouts Before and After Revamps