



# Case Study

## Automaker Utilizes Paint Sludge as Alternative Fuel for Coal Fired Power Generating Station

### Situation

- An automotive assembly plant was being gutted and retooled to build sub-compact cars using a three coat wet-on-wet coating system
- The plant's objective was to be "green" and for the sludge system to be landfill-free

### Background

- The paint sludge system was redesigned to utilize 10% of the old system's capacity to dramatically reduce water usage
- New sludge consolidation and drying equipment was installed
- 40 yard roll-off boxes with additional dewatering capabilities were utilized

### Solution

- Paint samples were screened and evaluated in the Galaxy lab for kill, floatation, water clarity and dewatering ability
- GCC 870, a high-performing liquid paint detackifier, was chosen based on testing and the system mechanics
- The sludge system and the dewatering and drying equipment were optimized to create dry sludge

### Results

- Paint sludge solids are consistently over 50% and contain greater than 5,500 BTU per pound
- Sludge is being sent to a local coal fired generating station where it is burned as "alternative fuel"
- Titanium dioxide in the paint helps reduce mercury emissions from the generating station