About Thermal Desorption Plant

The plant has been used to treat contaminated soil with difficult pollutants. It consists of a rotation drum and indirect introduction of heat. The gas is burned in an after-burning unit at high temperature. Exhaust gases are used for pre-heating and drying.

- Plant has been in use since 2002.
- It is transportable. (advantage and enables in situ treatment where contaminated soil masses don't need to be relocated).
- Currently located at Mustankorkea landfill area at Jyväskylä, Finland.
- Re-installation of the apparatus takes one week after transportation to the new target site.
- The plant and all its accessories require about 35-50 square-meters of open space.
- The plant is capable of treating 10-40 tons of contaminated soil per hour.
- Design and construction of this plant was ~5 million euros in 2002.

Thermal Desorption – An Environmentally Sound Process for Treating Contaminated Soils.

In thermal desorption process contaminated soil is heated to a temperature, in which the pollutant is volatilized or decomposed. The gas from the process containing the contaminant is treated by and after-combustion process or by some other effective method.

Thermal purification methods are useful in removing weakly biodegradable matter. Most suitable soil types for thermal desorption are sand and gravel. Cohesive soil types might inconvenient to treat with this method. Water content has a great effect on heating process and energy consumption increases with water content. Drying of soil prior to treatment might be necessary. Fine-grained soil types have a high sorption capacity due to its great surface are and they can behave in a plastic manner.

Soils contaminated with volatile (VOCs) or semi-volatile (SVOCs) organic compounds are suitable for low-temperature thermal desorption (~100-300 Celsius). VOCs and SVOCs are typical in soils contaminated with different type of fuels. Cyanides, Mercury (Hg), Cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb) and Arsenic (As) are also quite easily evaporating substances (vaporization in low-temperature burning). Volatile heavy metals may render the purification of the burning gases.

Chlorinated organic compounds (such as PCBs and dioxins) and polyromantic compounds (PAHs) require higher temperatures. Intermediate (400-800 °C) temperature burning process is suitable for soil contaminated with the substances above. High-temperature processes ($\sim 1000\,$ °C) are used for waste treatment, rarely for contaminated soil.

The heat may be brought directly into contact with the soil in the form of combustion gas from the energy source. In an indirect method the transportation equipment (a rotating drum, screw conveyor or chain conveyor) and the surrounding structures are heated.

The most critical stage in the process is the collection and treatment of the gases brought about by heating. Gas purification may include after-burning (at high temperature), catalytic burning, use of active carbon, neutralizing substances or corresponding. Particles must be mechanically filtered or washed out of the gas stream.



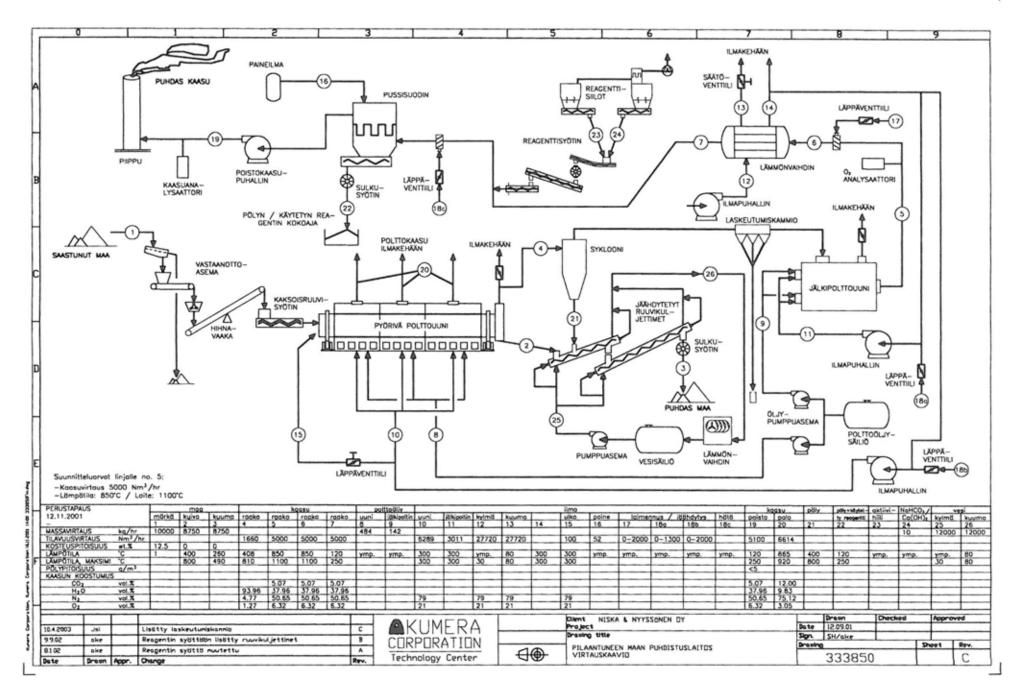




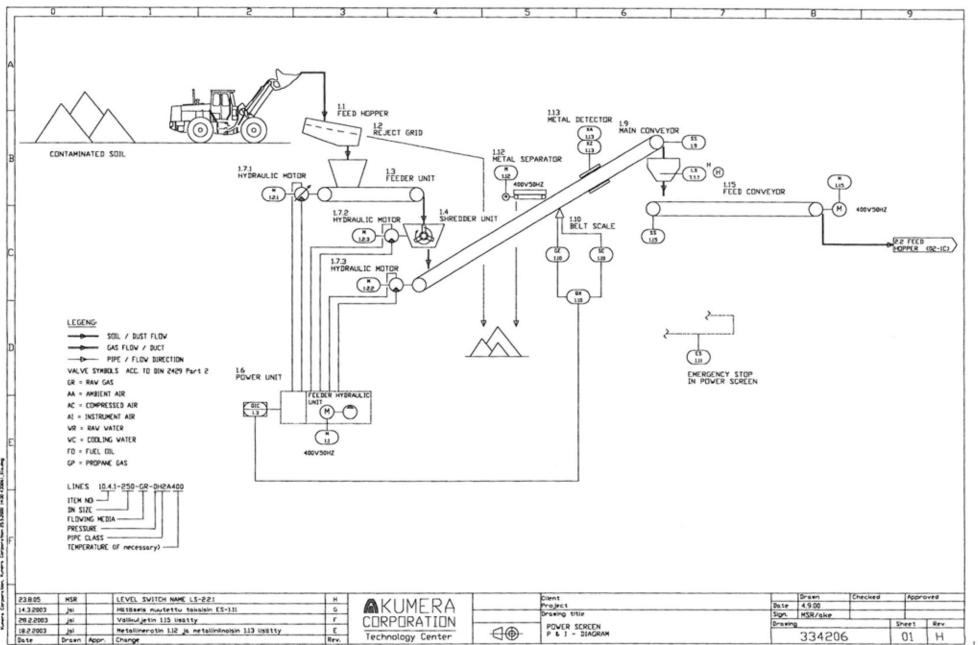


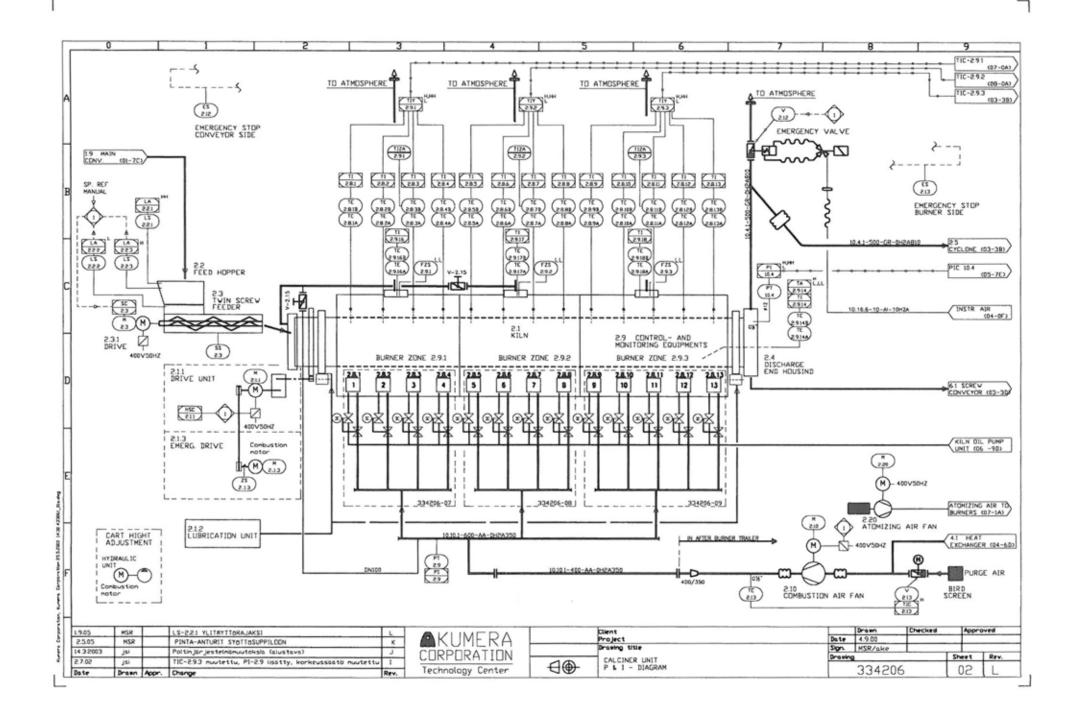


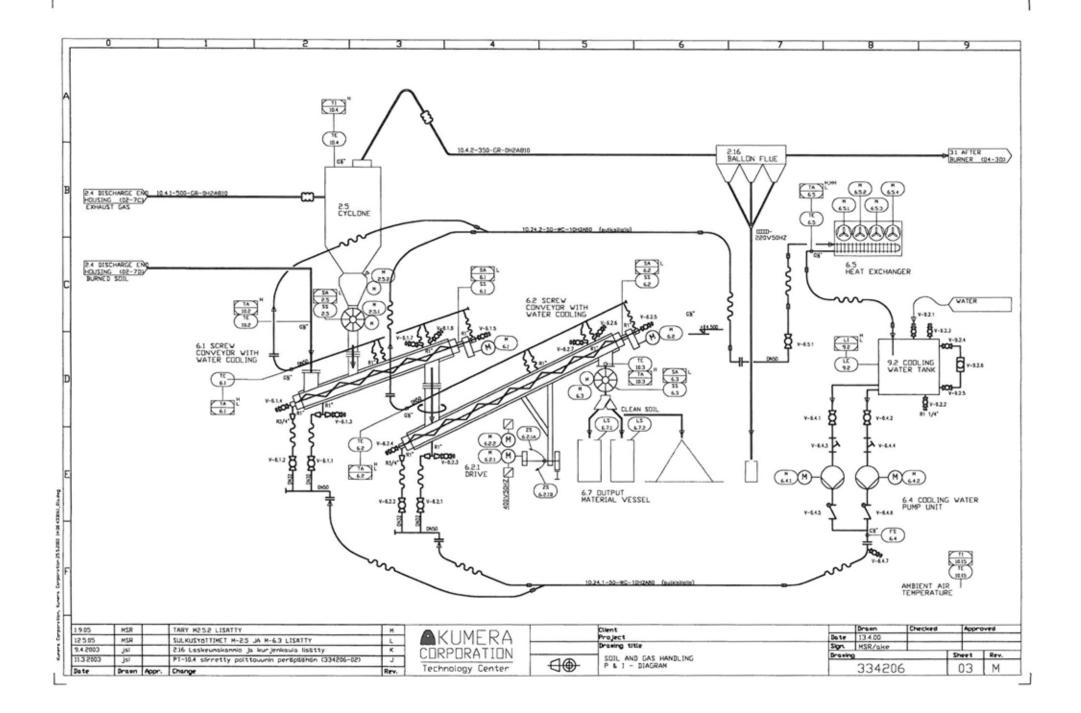


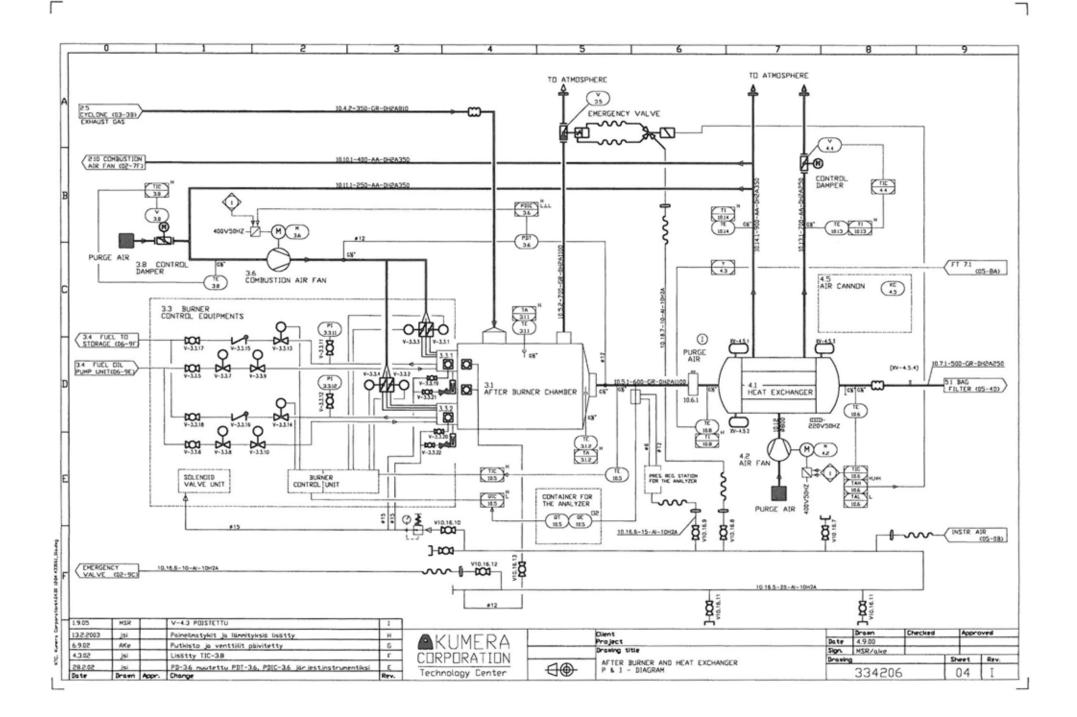


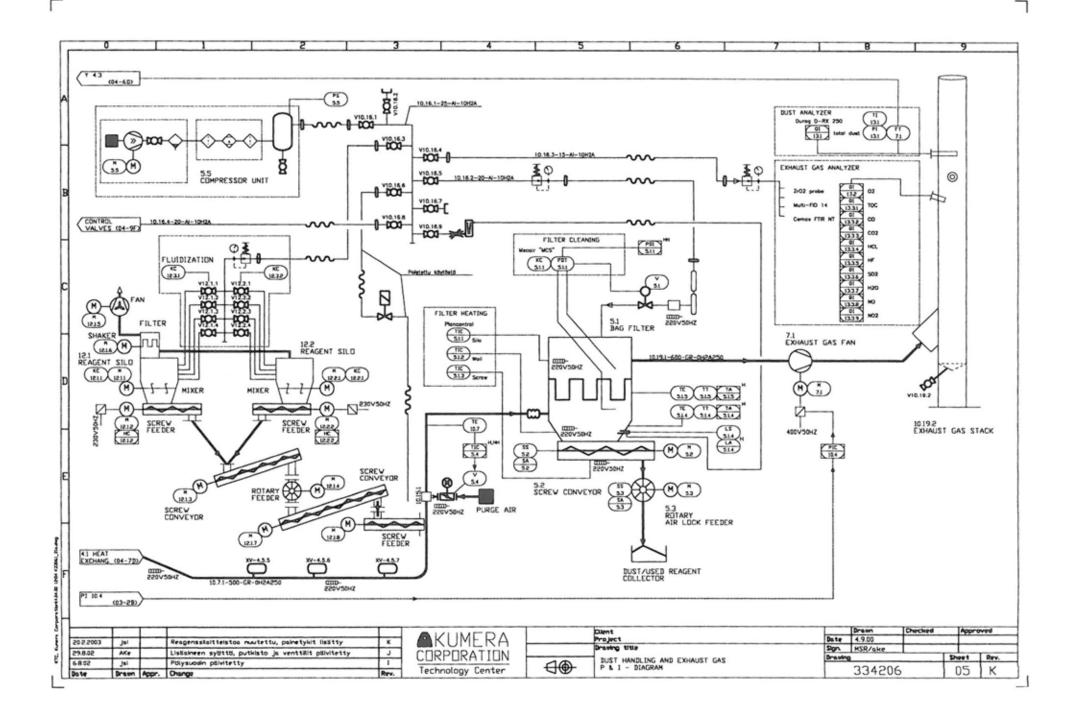
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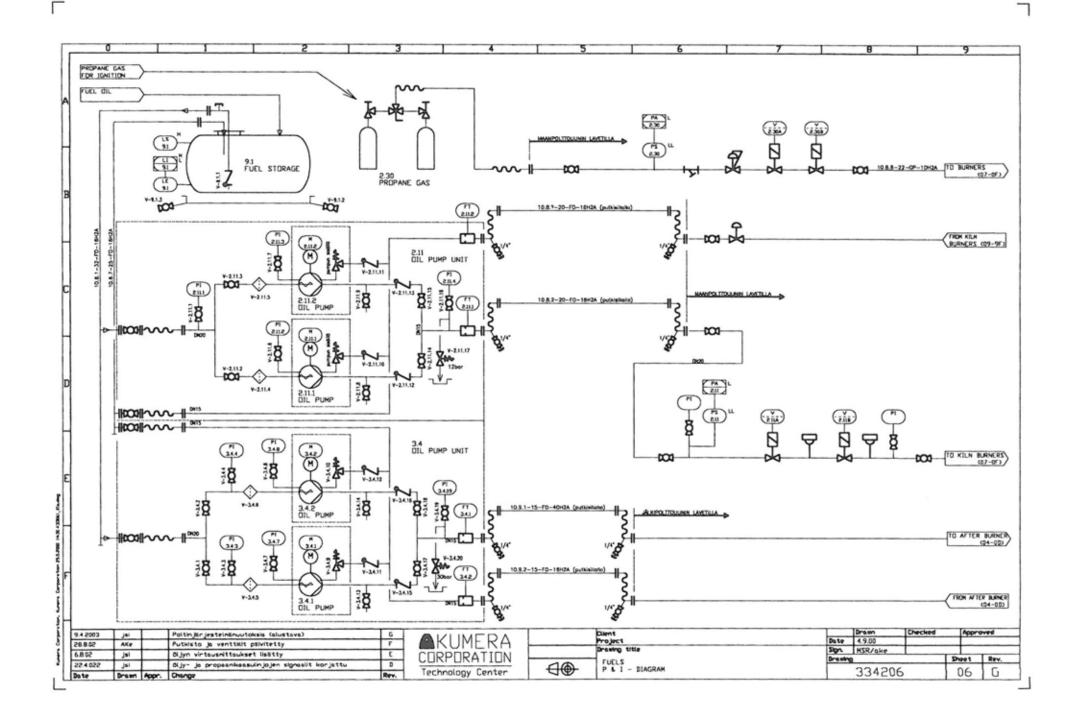


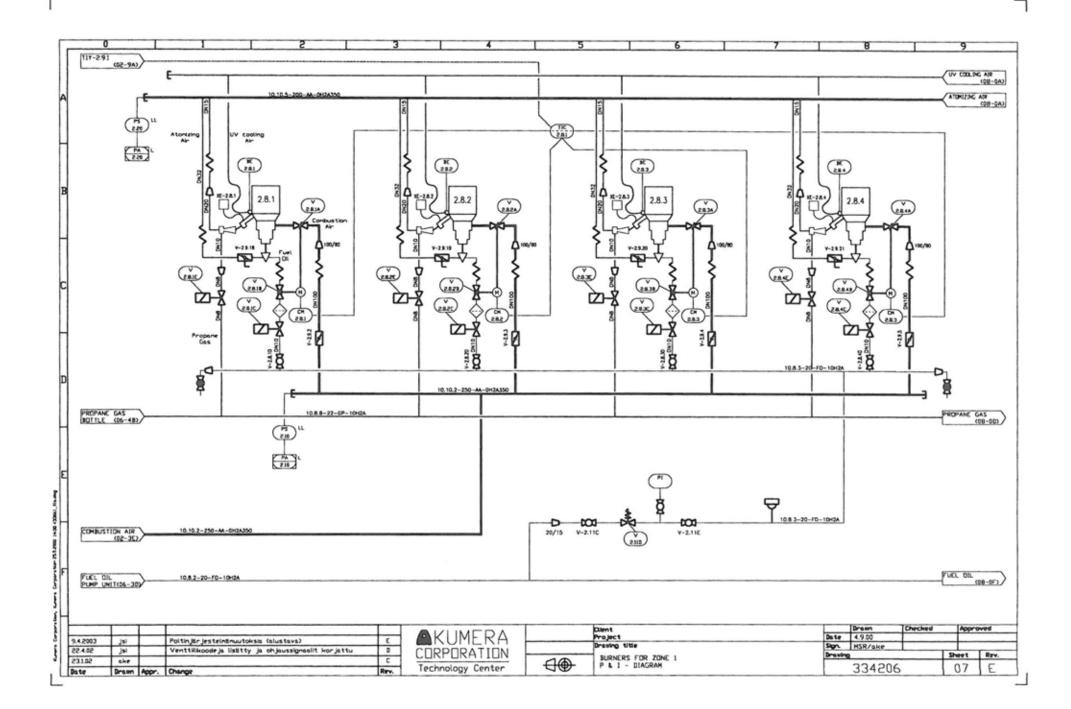


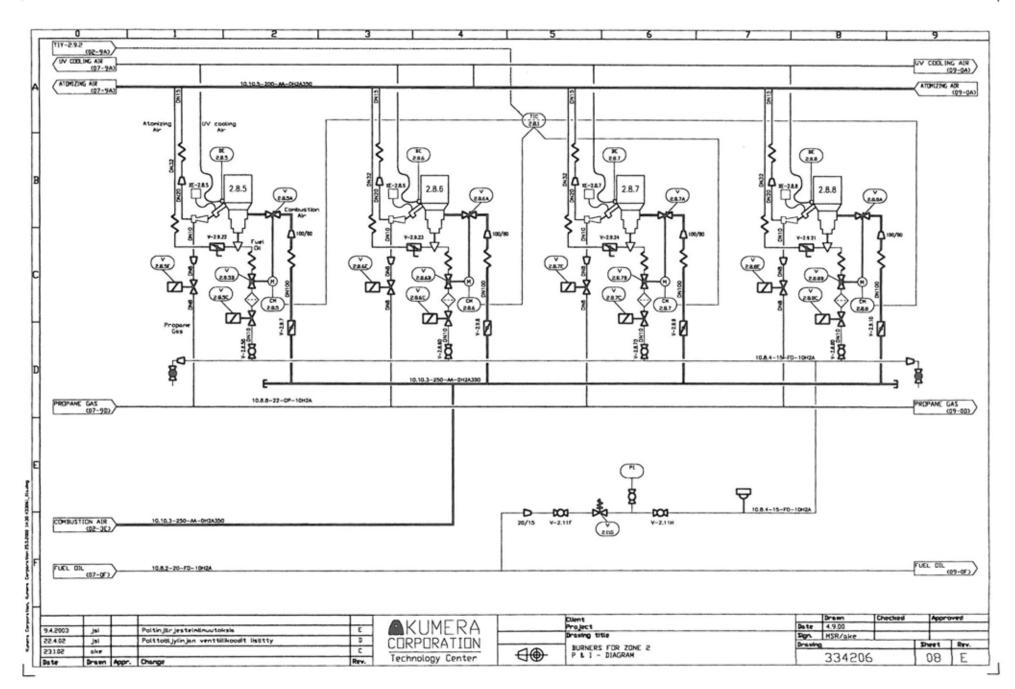


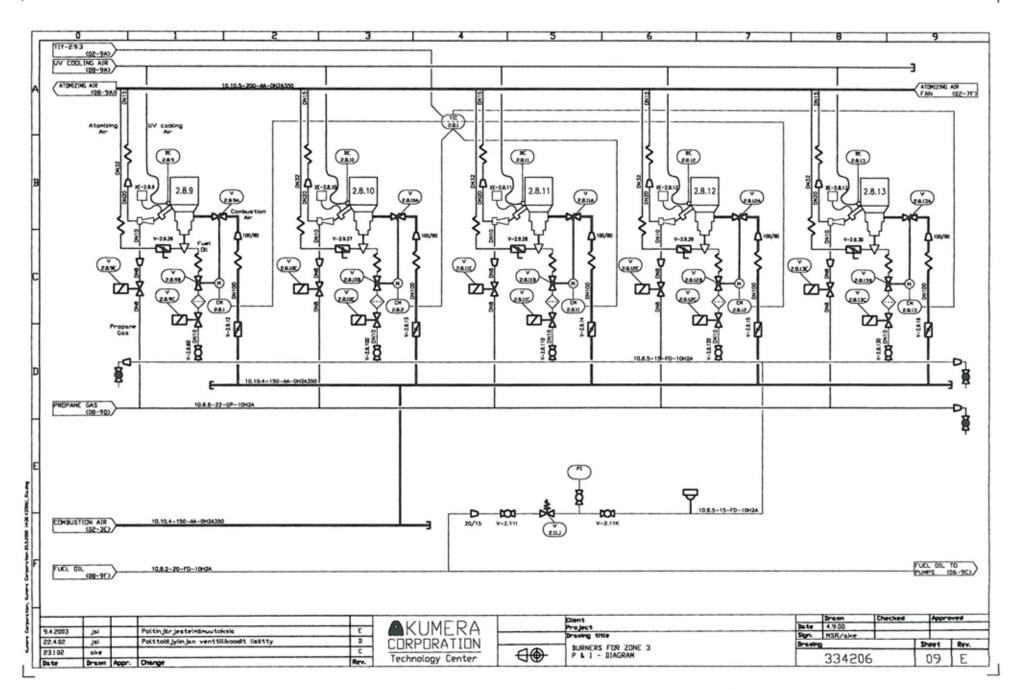






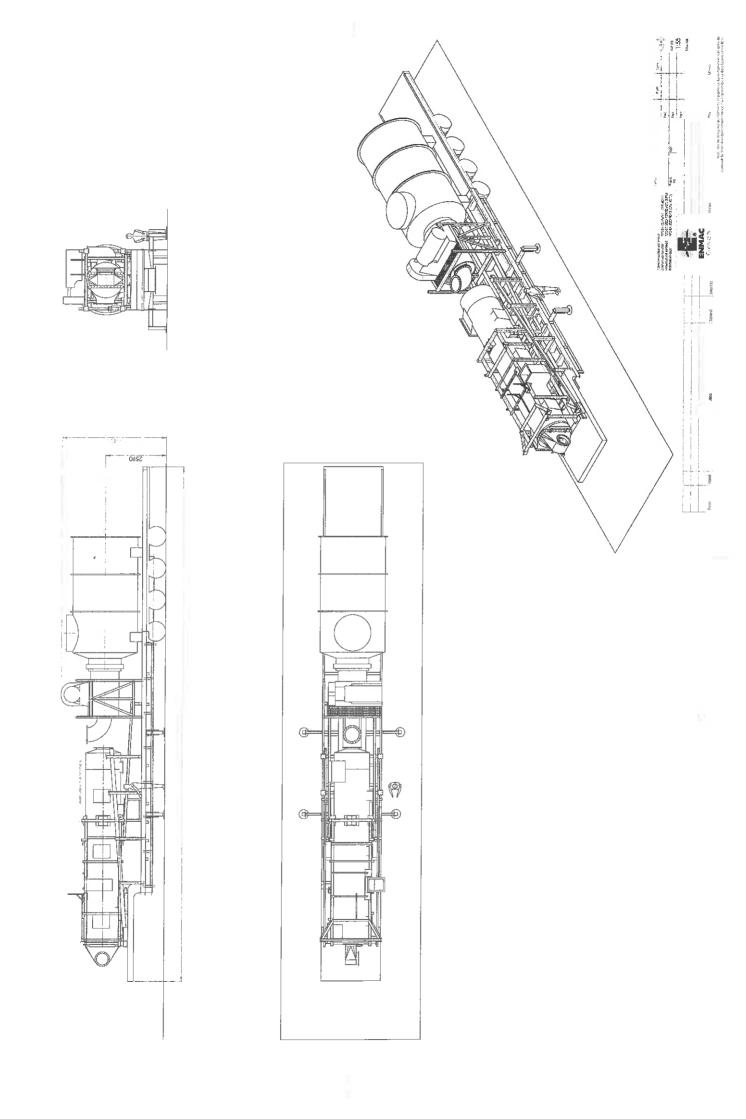


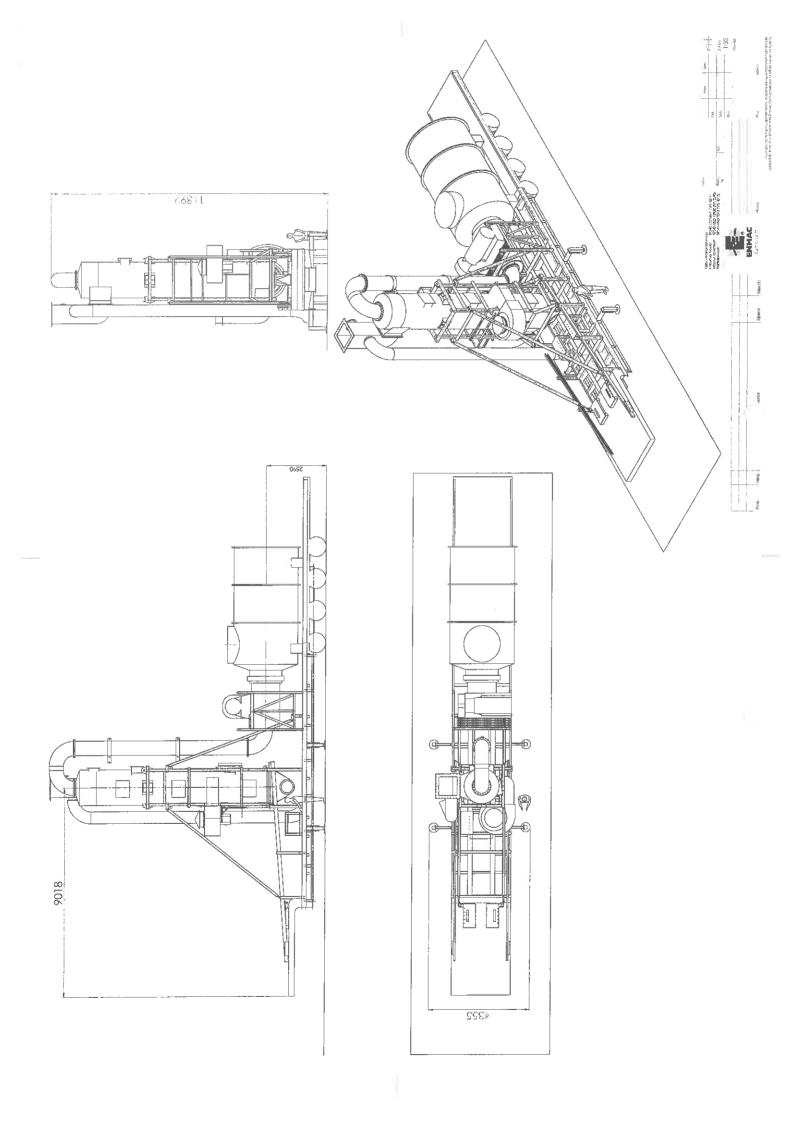


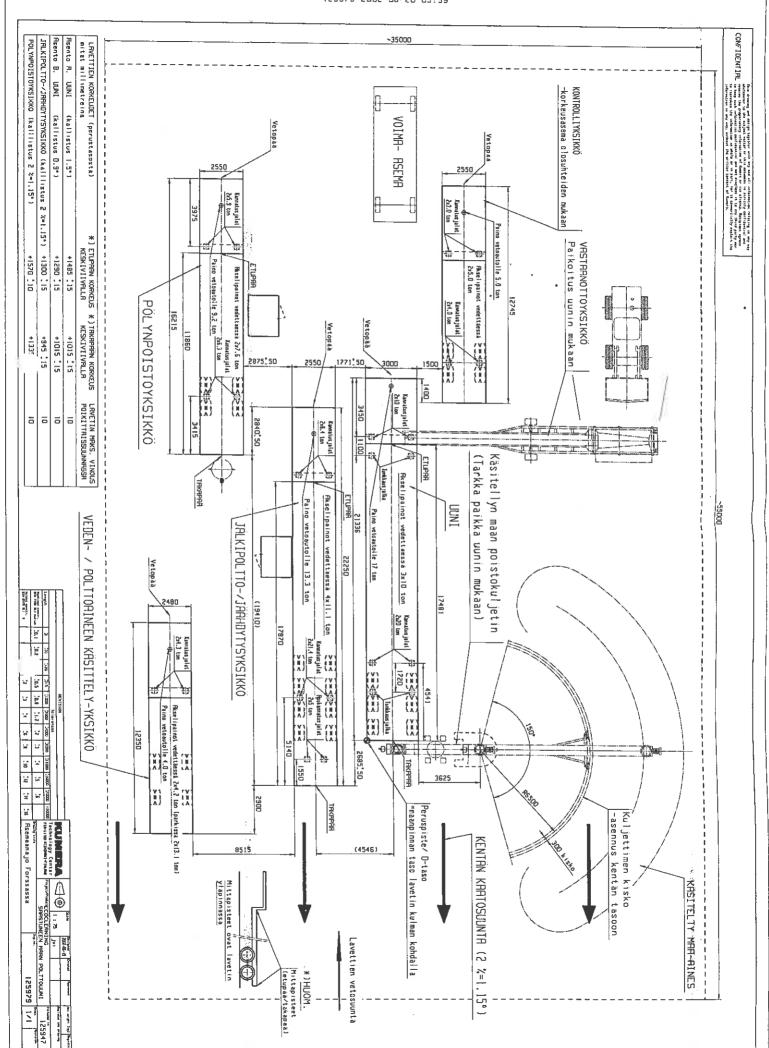


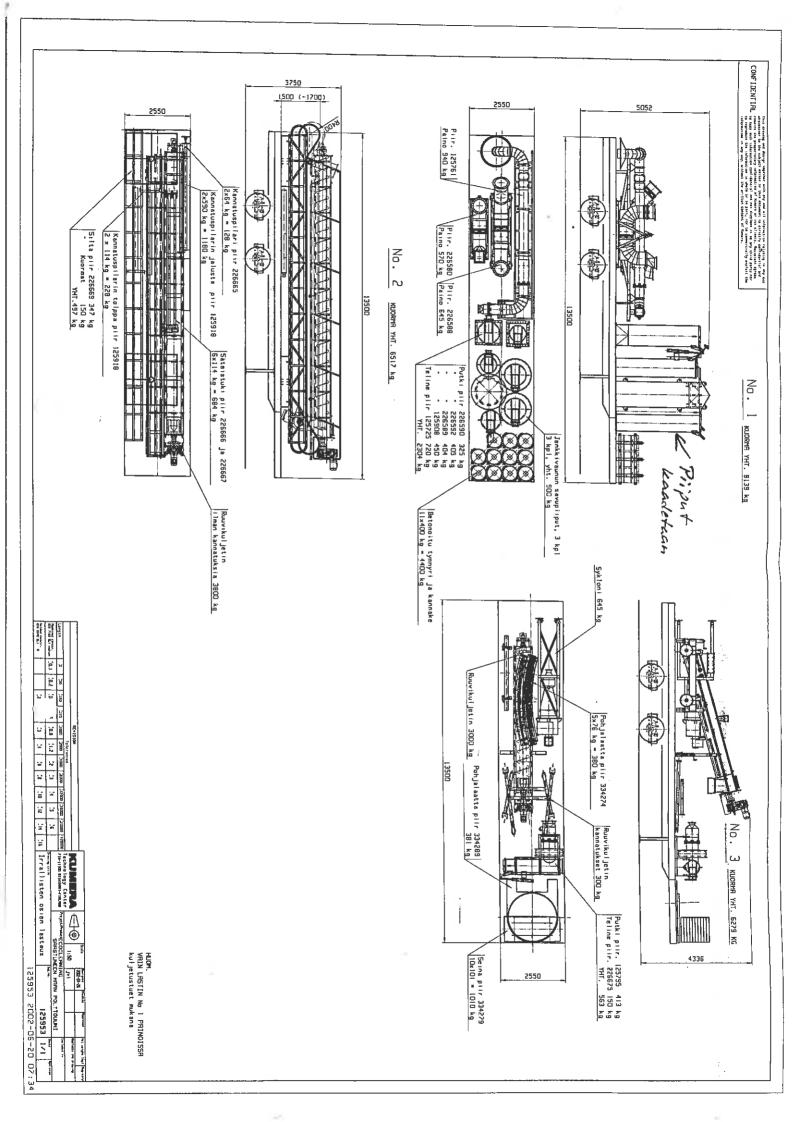
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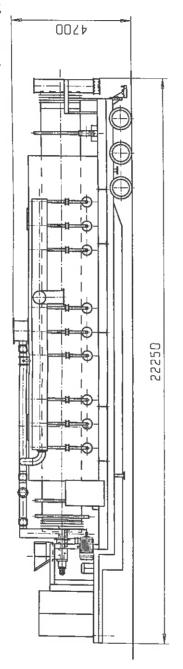
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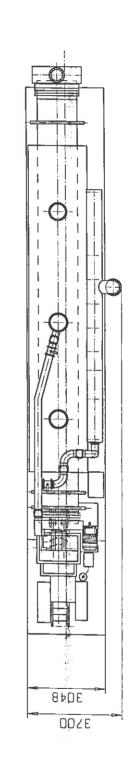
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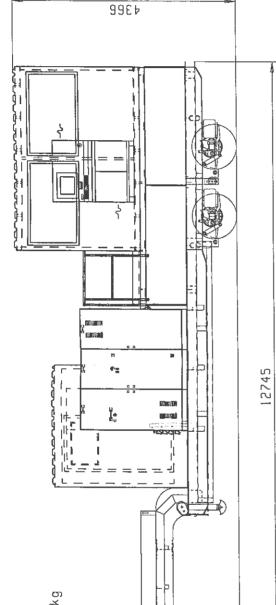
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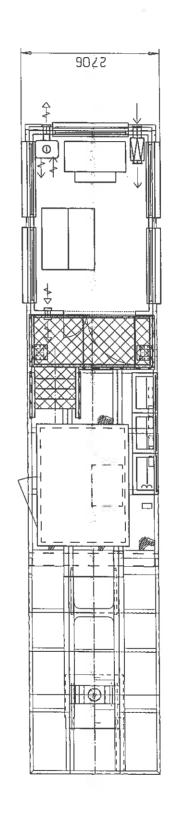
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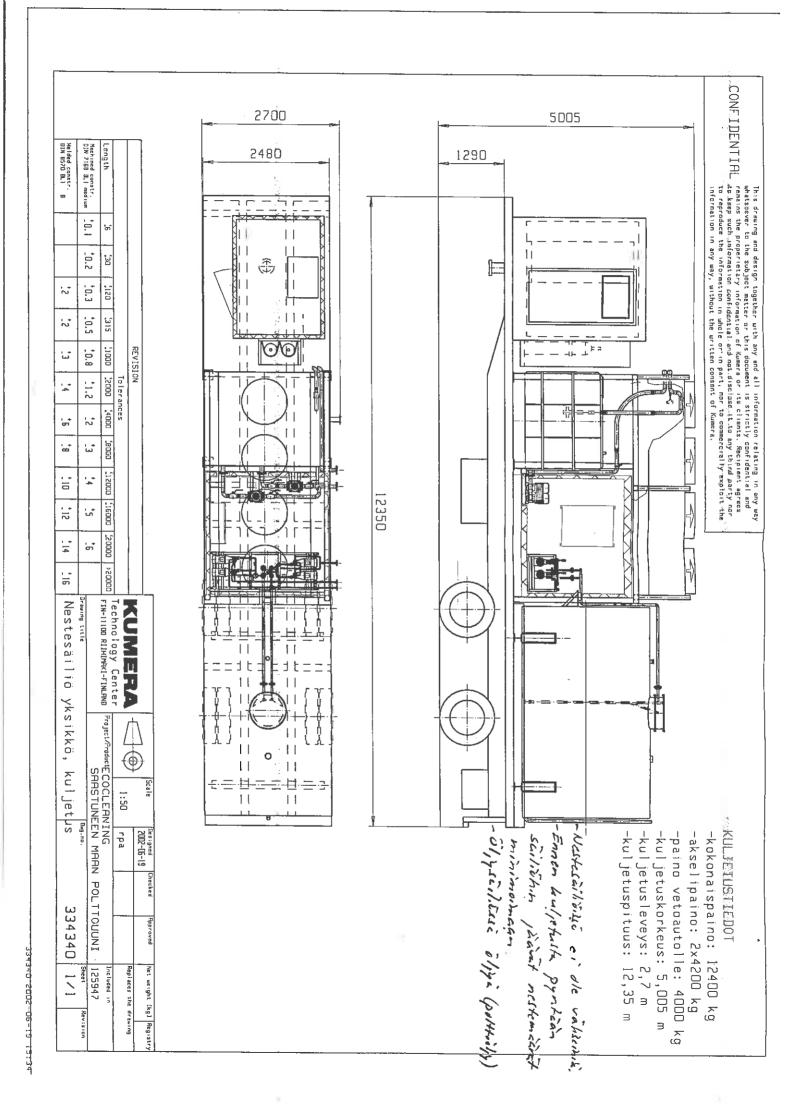
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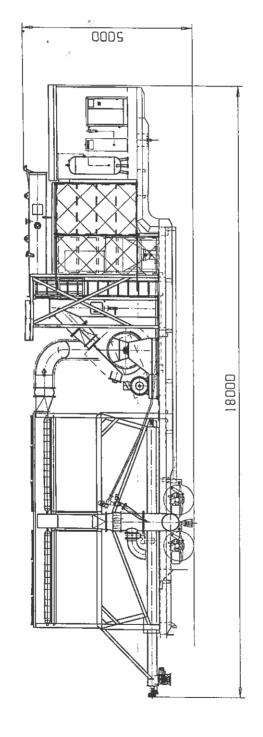
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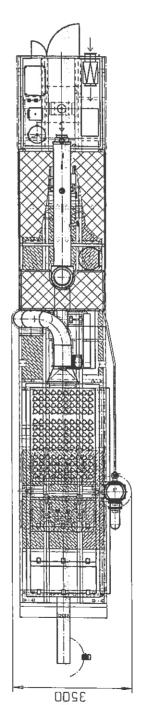
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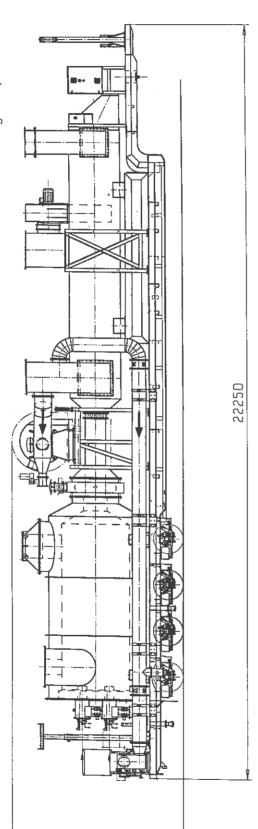
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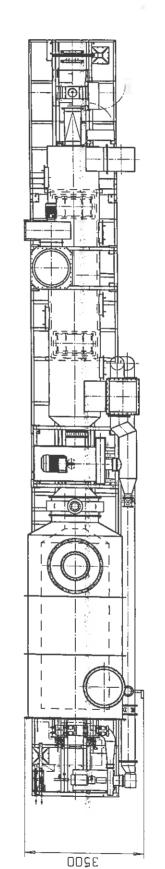
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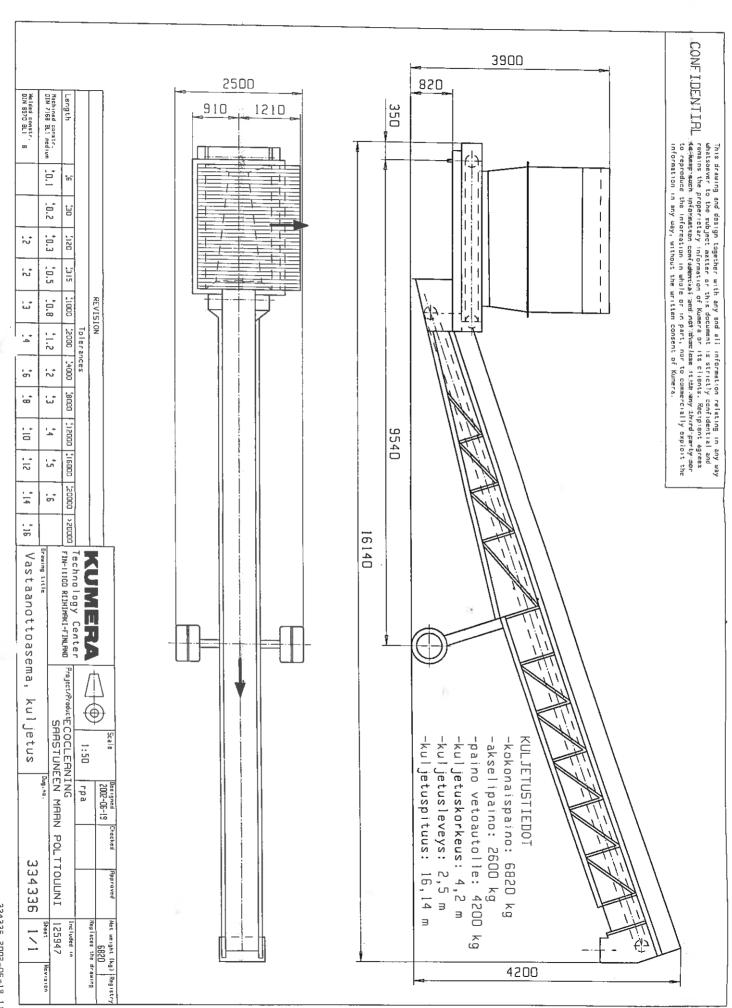
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