



## VORTEX ROLLER GATE HANDLING CHAR FOR BRIQUETTES

Customer: A Wood Char Processor

Material: Wood Char

Product: Charcoal Briquettes

Application: Control the flow of wood char from a holding silo located above a truck load out.

Challenge: Locate a slide gate that will seal the material handled and is maintenance friendly.

### Results:

In the fall of 2002, the company installed a new wood process system. During the process, wood is introduced into a kiln. Inside the kiln, the wood is partially burned by incomplete combustion. This process turns the wood into wood char. Two products emerge from the process. The first is a food flavoring. The second product, charcoal briquettes, is created when the wood char is mixed with a binder.

Based upon the demands of the application, Vortex applied a SA36-MG-RS Roller Gate for the discharge outlet of the silo. The valve was modified with a round to square inlet adapter containing a tube stub with sock bead. A flexible hose was also incorporated to isolate the valve from the silo's vibrating bin bottom (used to assist the flow of the wood char material through the bin).

The valve was in service for three years before minor maintenance was performed to replace the bonnet seals. A key feature of the Vortex Roller Gate is that seals can be replaced while the valve remains in service.

