WATERTECH of America, Inc.

WASTEWATER

CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE

Treating wastewater for manufacturing firms is challenging because every process is different and waste stream quality frequently changes.

A major outboard motor manufacturing facility in northern Wisconsin ran two, independently operated wastewater treatment systems designed to remove heavy metals and suspended solids. One of the systems treated wastewater that contained high concentrations of oil, grease and wax which produced sludge that blinded the sludge press cloths resulting in reduced press throughput. In order to prevent this blinding, the plant precoated the sludge press with diatomaceous earth (D.E.). This process was expensive, messy and dangerous because D.E. contains silica dust which is a suspected carcinogen.

SOLUTION

The second wastewater treatment system was used to treat burnishing waste. It produced a very high solids liquid sludge that pressed extremely well without precoating of the press cloths. Testing by Watertech showed that the liquid sludge from the burnishing waste treatment could effectively be used to precoat the sludge press that was treating the oily sludge, eliminating the need for D.E.

RESULTS

Use of the sludge from the burnishing operation as the sludge press precoat totally eliminated the need to purchase diatomaceous earth and significantly reduced the volume of sludge generated, reducing disposal costs. The dusting problem caused by the D.E. was completely eliminated which in turn improved the safety of the operation. This change produced an annual cost savings in excess of $35,000 per year.

Key Benefits:

- Eliminated purchases
- Reduced sludge
- Reduced disposal costs

TOTAL SAVINGS
$35,000 annually

More than a water treatment solution.

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