



Repairs and Equipment Maintenance at Recycled Pulp Mill

Ohio Pulp Mills is the oldest continuously running recycled pulp mill, producing the highest-grade pulp available from reclaimed fiber. The mill struggled with repeated downtime and equipment failures from its pumps.

Problem

Before contacting OTC, Ohio Pulp Mills used a local motor repair shop for pump repairs. Even with the local service, the mill struggled with repeated failures and rebuilds. The repair shop offered only a 90-day warranty on its work.

OTC provides a 12-month warranty for its rebuilt pumps

The repeated failures were causing unsustainable downtime at the mill. Employees were being sent home because of work stoppage. The repeated repairs caused an out-of-control maintenance budget.

The mill reached out to Buckeye Pumps, an OTC Industrial Technologies company, for help. As explained to the Buckeye team, the mill needed to reduce its maintenance costs, increase uptime for its pumps, and provide more reliable equipment support for its work force.

Solution

OTC's first engagement with Ohio Pulp Mills was to repair a Flygt Submersible Pump. After examining the equipment, the team found that it was rebuilt with aftermarket parts with silicone over an old O-ring.

OTC repaired the equipment using the correct parts, providing a 12-month warranty.

After the initial project, OTC and the Buckeye team have continued to provide support to Ohio Pulp Mills. When a recently rebuilt critical Goulds 3175 pulp pump struggled with inadequate flow, a team from Buckeye was on site quickly to assess the situation. After a quick review, it was found that the pump impeller wasn't set correctly after installation by the mill maintenance team. However, even after the pump impeller was set correctly, flow continued to be a problem. OTC was able to further diagnose the problem as a failure of the concrete in the couch pit wall that was restricting the flow.

With industry-leading expertise and advanced training, OTC provides comprehensive solutions

After helping the mill solve the low-flow problem, OTC saw an opportunity to provide a long-term, sustainable solution to the pump issues. The OTC Buckeye team worked with the maintenance team at the mill to provide some additional education and training so they could better handle repair and maintenance in house, with OTC providing more advanced support.

Results

After working with OTC and Buckeye Pumps, efficiency and uptime at Ohio Pulp Mills have significantly improved.

The mill has seen more reliable output from the pumps, with many of them working better than ever before. The maintenance and management team at the mill is better able to maintain and support mill operations after training from the OTC Buckeye Pumps team.