Kennedy INDUSTRIES
PUMPS | VALVES | REPAIRS | CONTROLS

TECHNICAL PAPER
AUGUST 2012

Vespel Introduced to Gas-Fired Power Plant BFPs

UPGRADED PARTS ELIMINATE SEIZURES, SAFTEY CONCERNS AT POWER PLANT

PROBLEM: The Bingham boiler feed pumps at a gas-fired power plant are prone to losing pressure and running dry due to extenuating circumstances. When these boiler feed pumps run dry, it causes a large amount of damage to the pumps which result in costly repairs. The internals of these pumps were all stainless steel, and running on vapor caused the metal-on-metal channel bushings and impeller rings to rub against each other which caused galling and other complications which made the pumps cease to continue rotating. In addition to the issues of the pumps running dry, they are also continually exposed to the elements. The constant change in temperature was causing the rotating assembly to become unaligned, and contort.

SOLUTION: Kennedy Industries upgraded all channel bushings and center bushing from stainless steel to DuPont Vespel CR-6100 composite material. The carbon fiber material formed tighter clearances between the impeller rings and channel bushings and is more forgiving in run-dry conditions. This reduces vibration amplitudes and increases pump efficiency. Please see the attached brochure for more information.

Pro's of Vespel CR-6100

- Won't seize when pump runs dry
- Won't seize when aligning
- Not affected by changes in weather
- Prevents damage from soft - footing

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