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VENT VALVE HANDLES STARTUP FOR GEORGIA PAPER MILL

Powerhouse personnel in a pulp and paper mill in Georgia, USA, identified the need to install a steam vent valve to improve performance and to bring the unit on-line quicker. The mill generates more than 650,000 tons of paperboard each year. With this kind of production volume, the mill requires an adequate source of on-site steam and power, delivered quickly, to meet its critical operation objectives.

To improve the efficiency of its on-site powerhouse, the mill needed a steam vent valve that would facilitate startup from cold mill outages and better handle steam pressure surges. In addition, installing a vent system would allow the mill to sell its electricity when power prices were peaking or when its own steam usage was down.

Vent valve applications can be challenging because of the potential for noise and vibration, caused by increased flow and high pressure drops. Mill managers turned to the control experts within the Fisher Severe Service group for a solution that met both the capacity and noise requirements. The Severe Service group in Marshalltown, Iowa, recommended a 16-inch Design EUT vent valve with Whisper® III trim and a downstream silencer. This optimized solution minimized the size of the components within the assembly while maximizing the unit's noise attenuation capabilities.



The Whisper III trim, custom-designed for this application, provides up to 30 decibels of noise attenuation. The Whisper III trim lowers valve noise by utilizing multiple orifices of special shape, size, and spacing. These orifices break up turbulent fluid streams and thereby reduce noise-producing interactions. The trim shifts acoustic energy to higher frequencies that are not readily absorbed by downstream piping. At high frequencies, the piping radiates much less sound in the audible range, reduces strain energy, and combats piping fatigue.

The solution allowed the mill to gain immediate pay back on its initial investment. The flexibility of the Fisher® system enables faster response to operational changes.

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