



ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

Seal still giving perfect service after more than ten years

An AESSEAL® RDS™ split seal installed at a US paper mill in January 2014 is still in full operation more than eleven years later.

The Somerset Mill in central Maine is part of the Sappi Global group of companies, producing high quality pulp and paper including graphic papers, packaging and label papers, and bleached chemical pulp.

Prior to January 2014, the company was using gland packing in a mixing tank and agitator, but was having to deal with constant leakage and loss of product. The packing required constant adjustment, and every six months company personnel were required to shut down the process in order to drain the tank and repair and reinstall the agitator shaft and sleeve, a costly and time-consuming process.

In January 2014, the company decided to install the AESSEAL® RDS™ seal along with a FLOWTRUE® adjustable flow meter, which controls the amount of water flowing to the mechanical seal for cooling purposes.

In more than eleven years since, the effectiveness of the RDS™ seal has ensured that there have been no further unplanned shutdowns for shaft or sleeve replacements, saving the company an estimated US\$10,000 a year in repair and maintenance costs alone. The seal has also prevented any more leakage of product into the work area, making for a safer working environment.

The FLOWTRUE® flow meter, for its part, reduced the volume of flush water from 5 gallons a minute to 2 gallons a minute, saving a total of around 17 million gallons of water over the eleven year period. AESSEAL® engineers continue to monitor the operation of the seal and flow meter, and to offer training and technical support to plant personnel.

'MTBF increase from <6 Months to >11 Years'

Industry:	Pulp & Paper
Product:	RDS™ & FLOWTRUE™
Application:	Saveall Mix Tank - Agitator
MTBF Increase:	1210% (and counting)
Savings:	>\$110,000 (and counting)
Water Savings:	>17 Million Gallons
Reference N.O:	TD3107184



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