



Case Study

Zero Downtime for Oil Sludge Pump

Mobil Oil, Torrance, California

The Challenge

Viscous, abrasive sludge
Varying solids content and size
Frequent pump failure

The Discflo Solution

Versatile pump to handle varying viscosities and solids content
No more abrasive wear
Exceptional uptime/reliability
Operational cost savings

Viscous, abrasive sludge, with a varying solids content and size, is a nightmare for most pumps. For the disc pump, however, it is no problem. This versatility is the key to the pump's success at a major refinery in Torrance, California.

The first Discflo units at the refinery were installed four years ago. They are pumping a viscous, abrasive sludge used in the quenching phase of the coking process at 400 GPM, 465 TDH. The sludge itself consists of water, hydrocarbons and about 10-20% solids by weight and varying in size, basically anything collected from the tank bottoms.

"The sludge's viscosity varies a great deal from one batch to another," comments Siegfried Hegers of Hegers Pumps, a Discflo distributor in California. "Sometimes, it is as viscous as water and at other times as much as 1000 cP. The disc pump's ability to handle variations in viscosity without breaking down was one of the key factors for choosing the Discflo design."

Previously, the refinery used multistage centrifugal pumps. These pumps would fail frequently in service due to the high solids content and abrasive wear. They would run only two to three weeks before repair was required. They had tried several different pump designs, all without success, before turning to Discflo. "They had had so many promises before from pump companies and were cynical about finding a pump that could really solve their problems," says Siegfried. "But in the end, the engineer just got fed up with the constant repairs to the existing pumps and felt he had nothing to lose by trying a "new" design of pump."

And it has paid off handsomely! Since start up, the pumps have performed exceptionally well. The problems of frequent breakdown and high wear have been solved. More importantly, the refinery has made and will continue to make considerable savings with the disc pumps.



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Call Discflo now to find out how our pumps can solve your problems .