

Two Valves Solve Sandy Problem

Abrasive materials can often wreak havoc on dust and particulate equipment, as a foundry on the shore of Lake Michigan can attest. Their dust collection system often experienced downtime due to the sand and metal dusts present in the shop. These dusts were extremely abrasive and led to a need for constant maintenance on their rotary valves. The maintenance would require the shutdown of their baghouses to remove and repair the valves, leading to a loss of operational time. The need for the replacement of bearings and rotor, as well as the replacement of the valve, led to further drags on productivity and production. Frustrated, the company sought Aerodyne for a solution.

Aerodyne recommended the Vacu-Valve. Abrasives can be easily handled by the Vacu-Valve. While rotary valves often suffer damage to the rotor and bearings from abrasive materials, the Vacu-Valve's more streamlined design reduces damage to parts. The simplicity of design also reduces the amount of time and effort needed for maintenance on a Vacu-Valve. The solid construction of the Armadillo Vacu-Valve allows the valve to be placed securely into collection systems while preserving ease of maintenance. With these points in mind, the foundry purchased an Armadillo Vacu-Valve for trial.

The foundry, by adding the Vacu-Valve and a Knife Gate for quick isolation of the Vacu-Valve, was able to decrease maintenance time from hours to approximately five minutes, eliminating the need for stopping production. The savings in time, money, and effort let the foundry to purchase additional Vacu-Valves for their system.