

HDB Pump Case Study

Biodiesel Production



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Company: REG (Renewable Energy Group)

The process of refining Biodiesel fuel requires pumps for transferring liquid feedstock throughout the process. Most of the steps in the refining process require the addition of heat. Additionally, the feedstock can contain solid particles and harsh chemicals. The combination of heat, particles, and harsh chemicals are challenging for pumps to handle effectively and reliably.

Many of the transfer pumps used in Biodiesel plants are internal gear pumps. While internal gear pumps can typically handle higher temperatures and some chemicals, they cannot effectively handle solids. Solids tend to damage the internal surfaces which leads to significant losses in pumping efficiency as well as pump failure. Repair and replacement costs of internal gear pumps can be very expensive and time consuming.

Requirements

- Reliably pump heated liquids containing harsh chemicals and small solids
- Reduce pump maintenance frequency
- Lower pump maintenance costs
- Improve Uptime / Shorten Downtime



Solution

- SANDPIPER Heavy Duty Ball Valve Pump - [HDB1-1/2](#)
- Can easily pass small solids as well as effectively handle the elevated temperatures and chemicals
- Maintenance frequency improved from every one to three months to typically over one year
- SANDPIPER distributor also implemented repair parts Vendor Managed Inventory that dramatically reduced downtime
- Repair parts and maintenance labor for SANDPIPER pumps are significantly less expensive than that of gear pumps

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