ENECON® NEWS

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Australian Steel Mill Submersible Pumps Protected With CHEMCLAD

All the recycled water from the descaling process at a steel mill in Australia ends up in a large, underground pit. The submersible pumps inside the pit push the water back up through strainers so it can be pumped to other parts of the mill (Photo 1).

Due to the highly corrosive nature of the water in the pit, the pumps do not have a very long working life before they need to be reconditioned. The large pump motor casings would often develop holes from the corrosion/chemical attack, allowing water to get inside causing them to stop working (Photo 2).

When the pumps stopped working not only was production affected, but the repair bill for the motors was extremely costly. Typically, a 3-coat paint system would be applied to "protect" the pumps, however every year the paint would fail and the pumps would have to be re-coated.

Forward thinking managers from the maintenance and electrical departments of the mill tested CHEMCLAD XC on the outer casing of one pump (Photo 3).

After twelve months the pump was removed from the pit and, although covered with residue, the CHEMCLAD XC was still in perfect condition (Photo 4). Instead of having to re-paint the motor, it was simply put back into service. After this successful trial, all of the pumps have since been protected with CHEMCLAD XC.

The maintenance team was quick to highlight the long term benefits of this application: no costly breakdowns due to chemical attack/corrosion, no ingress of water into expensive electrical windings of the pump motors, and no need to continuously re-coat the entire unit.

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