Written by Jane Alexander, Editor
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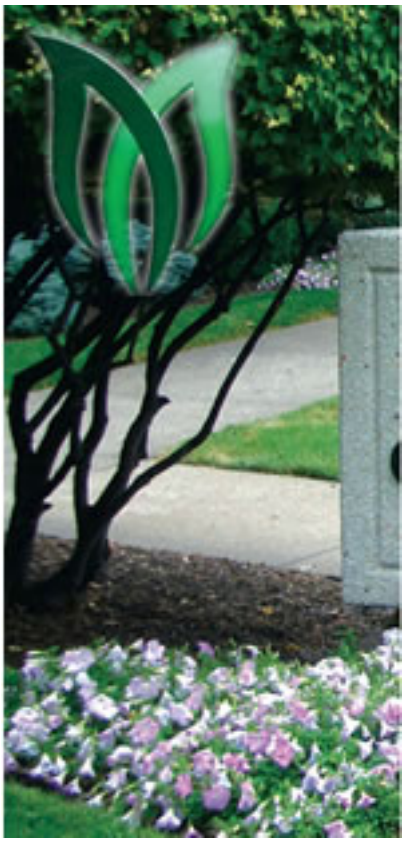

Three decades and counting, these Midwest operations continue to save maintenance $$$ through state-of-the-art bearing protection.

Grain Processing Corporation (GPC), headquartered in Muscatine, IA, was founded in 1943. Still privately owned, today it is a leading manufacturer and worldwide marketer of corn-based products. Its state-of-the-art plant sites in Muscatine and Washington, IN turn out a number of things, including: ethyl alcohol and various ingredients for food, personal care, pharmaceutical, industrial and animal feed products, as well as superabsorbent polymers and petrelated needs. These products touch the lives of millions-but it takes lots of reliable process equipment to meet the demand. Ensuring reliability hasn't always been as easy as it is today.

Fig. 1. Grain Processing Corporation counts on the reliability of its process equipment to help meet the demand for its products

Fig. 2. One of the 3,000 installed pumps that keep GPC's operations up and running.

Fig. 3. Despite 20 years of 24/7 service, these Inpro/Seal bearing isolators were found to be working flawlessly- even though the pumps they protected had worn out.

Based on its successful VBX series, Inpro/Seal's VBXX-D combines extensive R & D, laboratory trials and field-testing with direct end-user feedback. The end result is a bearing isolator with upgraded design features, advantages and benefits that provide levels of protection previously unavailable in any kind of bearing protection device.

Enhancements and improvements include: the best possible design of "wrap around" rotor-stator interface for contamination exclusion, the next generation in design for oil retention with a tried and proven vapor blocking O-ring.

First introduced as a premium upgrade, the VBXX-D has become Inpro/Seal's standard model. Before its introduction, when rotating equipment was cycled on or off, the heating and cooling of the bearing enclosure drew contamination from the outside environment into contact with the bearings. The VBXX-D, with its patented Internal Vapor Blocking Ring, provides a barrier to this contamination.

By maintaining pump bearings under optimal operating conditions, rotating equipment has proven to last five - ten times longer than previous. Operating and maintenance costs are significantly decreased, while productivity and reliability are significantly increased.

Protected bearings have proven to run 150,000 hours (17+ years) eliminating the need for unneeded and expensive, repeated maintenance and repair. Documented cases show that a plant can easily double the mean-time-between-failure (MTBF) of rotating equipment and thereby reduce maintenance costs by at least half, and then enjoy an extremely high Return On Investment (ROI).

For more information on these products and the types of industries and applications where they could offer value, visit www.inpro-seal.com