

## **SEPEX pumps reduce operating costs for Thames Water**

Thames Water is the UK's largest water and sewage treatment company, providing wastewater services to 15 million customers. SEPEX progressive cavity pumps (PCPs) have delivered process improvements at their Reading STW by replacing piston pumps to reduce operating costs and onward sludge transport costs.

The pumps transfer de-watered digested sludge to storage silos before final disposal. Thames engineers identified a large saving in disposal costs if they could increase the ds content of the dewatered sludge to 25%; however they needed reliable pumps to transfer the dewatered sludge over 80metres, with a static head of 30m, without increasing system costs. The existing piston pumps had frequent maintenance requirements and generated high operating pressures as well as using 31KW of power – adding up to a high cost of ownership for Thames Water.

In contrast SEPEX open hopper pumps transfer the higher ds% sludge with 50% reduced power consumption (15KW compared to 31KW) and up to 75% reduced discharge pressure due to the low pulsation flow characteristics.

SEPEX PCPs have been installed for over 18 months, requiring no maintenance interventions in this time. The system has delivered a hat-trick of cost reductions: lower sludge disposal costs, lower energy use and reduced maintenance costs.

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