For immediate release
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Water Utility Awards Incentive Dollars

Eaton Plant Implements Project to Save Millions of Gallons of Water per Year

The Eaton plant located at 2300 Badger Drive in Waukesha, Wisconsin has undertaken a project designed to conserve approximately six million gallons of city water per year. The plant has manufactured 3-Phase Transformers since it was built in 1991. Since that time, city water has been used to cool very large pumps that pull a vacuum in the two large chambers prior to filling the work-in-process transformer tanks with dielectric fluid. The vacuum is required to ensure no bubbles remain in the dielectric fluid during the final electrical and functional testing of the transformers.

Following a commitment it made in 2014, the Waukesha Water Utility reimbursed Eaton for approximately $10,000 to help offset the costs to implement the final phases of the water conservation equipment the company placed in service in April of this year. In addition, the Utility provided an initial grant for $10,000 at the onset of the project in December 2014. Eaton itself invested a total $135,000 in the project.

Mary Adelmeyer, Customer Relations Representative for the utility, said, “This is exactly the type of project we want to support with our Business Incentives Program we launched in May. The program encourages our Commercial, Industrial, and Public users to implement water conserving processes that can result in significant productivity improvement.”

“Projects with this magnitude of water conservation are difficult to identify and therefore we appreciate the support of Waukesha Water Utility given the benefits to both our operations and local community,” said Clayton Tychkowsky, President of Eaton’s Cooper Power System Division.

Historically, city water was used to cool the main, booster and liquid ring pumps on each of the two vacuum chambers. After flowing through the pumps, the spent water was put to drain. A team led by Eaton’s plant manager worked with the original manufacturer of the vacuum bells to develop and implement two large water chiller/recirculation systems with multiple cooling loops. Installation of these new systems was completed in March. The recirculation systems now allow for dual sets of main, booster and ring pumps to be used on each vacuum chamber with minimal city water consumption. Running dual pumps (versus the single pump system used in the past) has resulted in a 15% to 20% productivity improvement, while still saving water.

Businesses that are interested in applying for financial incentives should contact Ms. Adelmeyer at 262-409-4423.

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