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30 Years and Still Going Chris Lula

Back in June, I had the opportunity to travel out west to visit a large irrigation project employing Verti-Line and Aurora pumps. Riding shotgun with Jeff Wardner from Northwest Pump, we drove east out of Portland, Oregon along the Columbia River. Our ultimate destination was Sunheaven Farms, just north of Paterson, Washington.



“Finally got to see in action one of the replacement 30KL’s I sold in 1999” – Chris Lula

Sunheaven Farms was created in 1976 through a partnership between six families. That year, they built the largest pivot irrigation system in the state of Washington. Through a series of pump stations employing Verti-Line vertical turbines and Aurora split case pumps, water from the Columbia River is pumped over 10 miles and then distributed among the pivots. Today, Sunheaven Farms irrigates approximately 13,000 acres.



The river intake booster station has a line of seven 2000 HP Verti-Line 30KL – 5 stage turbines, each rated for 11,000 GPM @ 605' TDH. Six pumps run full bore throughout the summer, averaging 92 MGD.

At the second booster station lies six 1250 HP Verti-Line 28SKKM – 4 stage turbines, each rated 10,850 GPM @ 393' TDH. This station is unique in that the pumps are dry-pit design – the suction bells are flanged and bolt directly to a main feed header from the river station. Another unique feature is that the discharge heads employ a 10" bypass line to prevent damage from running at shutoff.



The third booster station has ten 350 HP Aurora 10x12x18 411-BF split case pumps, each rated 6000 GPM @ 190' TDH. This station distributes water to various pivots as well as feeding a fourth booster station which has eight 700 HP Aurora 12x14x18 split case pumps, each rated 8,135 GPM @ 292' TDH.

While I was impressed with the size and combination of our pumps being used, what really amazed me was that everything was monitored from one control room. Not only can they keep watch on every pump in the system, but they can also control the exact field location and performance of each irrigating pivot.

Sunheaven Farms is an impressive operation, employing Verti-Line and Aurora pumps from the very beginning. Over 30 years later, we're proud to still be the foundation of their irrigation operation today and in years to come.



Contact Information

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John Crane Seals

Layne / Verti-Line and John Crane have a long history of employing mechanical seals on a wide variety of vertical turbine applications. Recently, we've been working with John Crane to introduce a more competitive alternative to the Chesterton mechanical seals that we currently offer in our catalog.

As an alternative to the Chesterton 155, Layne can now provide the John Crane 5610 single cartridge seal. The 5610 seal is available for shaft sizes 1" thru 2 7/16", however it can only be employed with 125#/150# flange ratings.



For split seals, the John Crane 3710 can be provided as an alternate to Chesterton's 442. The 3710 can only be used with 125#/150# flange ratings, and is only available for shaft sizes 1 1/2" thru 2 7/16".



We are working to add pricing for John Crane Seals in our catalog. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact us for pricing and availability if you are interested in employing a John Crane mechanical seal.



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