Case Study

ITT TruBlue Efforts Help America's Longest Oil Spill

Situation

In 2004, America's longest oil spill was caused by a hurricane along the Gulf of Mexico. The oil spill has been unchecked for nearly 15 years. The hurricane created a mudslide that knocked over a platform at Taylor Energy. Over the years, Taylor Energy and the government have been relying on observations to estimate how much oil was leaking, estimating only 10 gallons per day. After hiring scientists to examine the leaking, it was said approximately thousands to tens of thousands gallons of oil were leaking each day. Taylor Energy needed a containment system and pumps to help gather and remove the leak.

Value

Looking for a solution, the US Coast Guard hired contractors to see if they could find a resolution to the oil leak. ITT Goulds Pumps' authorized distributor Process Pumps and Equipment (PPE) was then asked to supply two pumps to be placed at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico to attach to a tank that was gathering the oil leak. The two pumps PPE supplied were modified ITT TruBlue 712 pumps to accept hydraulic motors that would power the pumps. They designed a special shaft and adapter for the motor to attach to the pump.

TruBlue 712 Pump

Results

The US Coast Guard reached out to a containment company and ITT in late February to find a way to cap the spill and remove it from the tanks. The tanks from the containment system have collected 50,000 gallons of oil so far. A custom stub shaft and custom adapter bracket with o-ring grooves were made to attach the hydraulic motor. After approximately 30 hours of designing and modifying the pumps, PPE was successful with making a custom pump to solve the problem. Underwater robots are being used to connect the suction pipe on the TruBlue pumps to the tanks. The pumps are currently being used to pump the oil from the tanks to a ship on the surface.

Before

After

(*Pictures from video on wwltv.com)*