



Almaplex® Industrial Lubricant (1275)

A Major Poultry Company in North Louisiana

Evapco Cooling Tower Bearings

- Eliminated bearing loss
- Extended relubrication intervals

Customer Profile

A major poultry company is located in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and has been in business for more than two decades. They produce chickens for a variety of food markets throughout the country. The plant operation in Natchitoches is one of the largest employers in the region. They have been an LE customer since 1997.

Application

Larry Payne, maintenance and refrigeration manager, was looking for a lubricant that would cool the bearings of the Evapco cooling towers. These condensing tower fan bearings are 1-7/16" pillow block bearings and get very hot. They have a tremendous amount of moisture directed at them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The water in the towers is also treated with numerous chemicals. In 1990, it was recommended that they start using Almaplex® Industrial Lubricant (1275).

Challenge

After a few years, the engineering staff recommended going to another lubricant because it would "save them money." They then switched to a commercial grade lubricant. Not long after, they found that the commercial grade product would not hold up under the summertime heat. They had 46 bearings total, and four to six of these bearings were going out each month. Each bearing costs about \$60 and it takes approximately three hours to change out one bearing.

Even though they were greasing weekly with this commercial grade lubricant, the bearings were still showing a lack of lubricant. There was also the possibility of losing a fan wheel, which costs approximately \$700 to \$1,500.

LE Solution

Larry Payne remembered the tremendous success he had experienced before with Almaplex 1275, and made a decision to switch back. Almaplex 1275 is an excellent general purpose EP lubricant for industrial and fleet use. It contains Almasol®, LE's exclusive wear-reducing additive and is very effective in severe conditions caused by moisture or high temperatures. It also seals out dirt and water and helps to prevent corrosive wear.

Results

When Almaplex 1275 was being used again, the bearing loss stopped immediately and relubrication intervals have been extended to once every two weeks.

With Almaplex 1275, bearing costs were halted and downtime to replace bearings was eliminated. The use of LE lubricants eliminated these expenses, showing that they are much less expensive in the long run.

Other Products Used

- Quinplex® Food Machinery Lubricant (4025) – conveyor bearings
- Duolec® Vari-Purpose Gear Lubricant (1605) – gearboxes at the wastewater treatment plant facility

Thank you Larry Payne, maintenance and refrigeration manager, and to Aaron Turner, LE lubrication consultant (pictured), for providing the information used in this report.





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300 Bailey Avenue • Fort Worth, TX 76107 • Fax: 800-228-1142
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www.LElubricants.com
800-537-7683