

Major Power Plant Achieves 90% Valve Repair Success

When the Chief Inspector for a major Canadian power station first began his career as a welder in the late 1970s, he routinely performed the costly and time-consuming work of cutting and replacing globe valves. The power station had been built primarily with low-cost globe valves that could not be repaired and the welder would spend as long as three weeks during an outage cutting out worn valves and welding in replacements.

Welders spent up to three weeks of an outage cutting out and replacing valves

In the mid-1980s, Armour Valve introduced the Conval line of in-line repairable globe valves to plant personnel and maintenance staff started to introduce them into service. Surprisingly, they found that they had to repair or change the valves frequently.

A plant survey uncovered signs of incorrect valve operation: a Conval valve left in the half-open position, an incorrectly mounted actuator, among others. For this reason, the benefits of extended service life and lower maintenance costs were not being captured.

Inconsistencies remained an issue for the next few years. The repair of the valves would be hit or miss with some mechanics following correct procedure and others not.

For the welder, who knew that properly serviced Conval globe valves should reduce maintenance headaches, this was both costly and frustrating.

Eventually he would take on the role of Chief Inspector and invite Armour Valve to support the plant's repair efforts during shutdowns. He attributed the subsequent improvement in service experienced by the power plant to Armour Valve's involvement.

The valve repair success rate went from less than 50% to greater than 90% after contracting Armour Valve to perform routine valve servicing. This support involved an integrated training and awareness program that included: valve operators, service mechanics, electricians, and others.

Valve repair success soared from less than 50% to greater than 90%

Armour Valve continues to assist crews during shutdowns and provide training to plant personnel. The Chief Inspector credits Armour Valve's support with raising the level of product knowledge and service consistency to a level that enables the plant to capture maximum value from their investment.

