



John Clancy , Maintenance Inspector

Overview

The Argos Cement Plant in Newberry, Florida, had a directive from their corporate team to improve lubrication procedures and hardware but needed help getting started.

With a growing Methods (Reliability) Department, the team needed guidance on making improvements to lubrication hardware and tools to maintain assets in the high-contamination cement plant environment.

Challenges

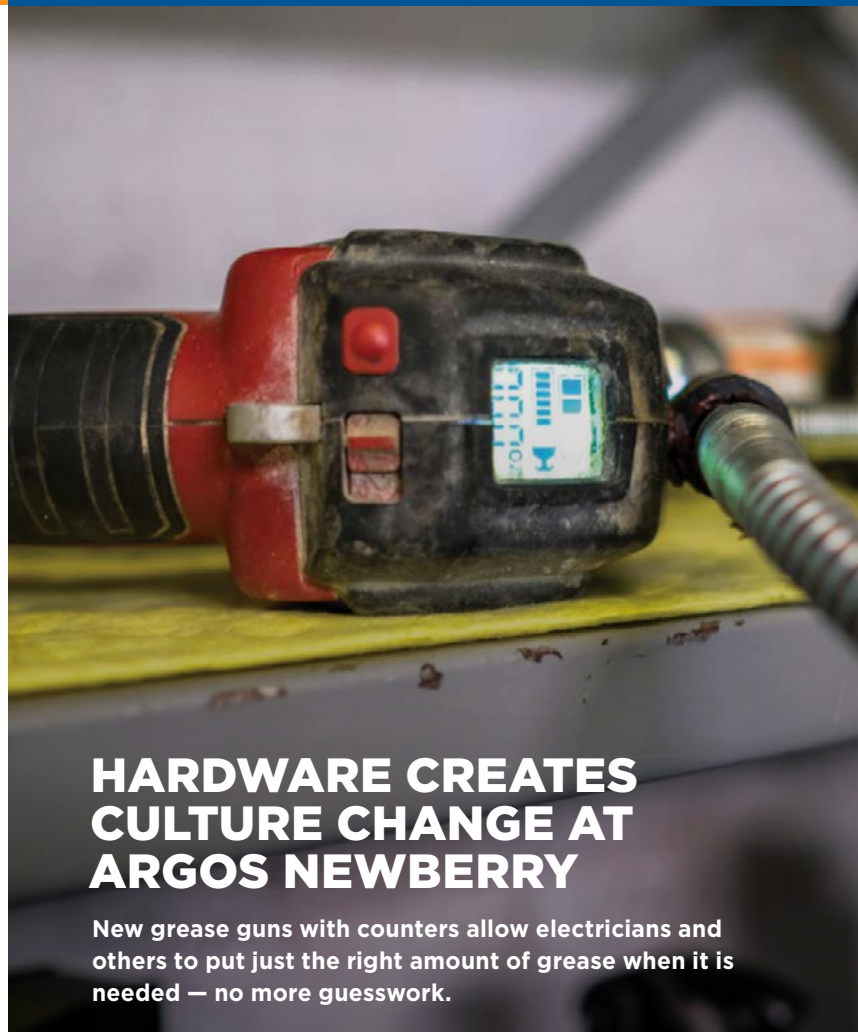
- Ascend Assessment Score of 30 (Average)
- Lean teams sharing lubrication duties across multiple departments
- Bearing inspections only possible during downtime every 6 months
- No hardware to facilitate inspection best-practices
- Improper greasing practices

Solution

- Onsite Machinery Lubrication I Training
- Lubrication hardware installed
- Lubrication tools purchased and implemented into program

Results

- Ascend Assessment Score of 60 (a 30-point improvement)
- Lubrication knowledge
- Improved greasing practices and tools for electric motors
- Updated lube room and grease room



HARDWARE CREATES CULTURE CHANGE AT ARGOS NEWBERRY

New grease guns with counters allow electricians and others to put just the right amount of grease when it is needed — no more guesswork.

Poor Grease Lubrication Practices

At the Argos Newberry plant, some of the first improvements that Noria helped put in place were related to grease and regreasing practices. In the past, the Argos team had set grease intervals on electric motors to once per year. In examining their assets, it became clear that some motors needed more frequent regreasing, at least twice per year. Another quick fix was switching from guessing the right amount of grease to knowing the right amount by adding grease guns with counters. Grease storage was also an area of opportunity.

Quick Wins

While the Newberry plant had a designated storage area for oil lubricants, grease was stored in a variety of locations — including the trunks of electricians' service trucks. The hot Florida sun was impacting the performance of the grease, so one of the first improvement recommendations was to designate a grease storage area with less harsh conditions. This would help avoid large temperature changes or exposure to environmental contaminants that impact the performance of stored greases. Noria's Ascend Assessment identifies "low-hanging fruit" like this, along with many more opportunities.

When the issue of grease storage was identified, the Newberry plant was able to address these concerns quickly by designating a grease storage area within an existing space in the plant. Improvements like this can offer excellent returns on investment because they do not always require significant added expenses.

"There are things that we can do that don't cost any money," said Devin Jarrett, Noria Customer Success Manager. "They just come down to having a different mindset or mentality and doing the work a certain way."

Visible Lubrication Culture

A major part of Noria's Engineering Design recommendations is outfitting machines with hardware to improve inspections, better protect machines and help extend lubricant life by excluding or removing contaminants. Finding the right hardware for the job that aligns with best practices is not always easy, but each piece of hardware can be vitally important for the long-term success of a lubrication program.

For John and his team, the upgrade from a dipstick to a columnar level gauge on many machines was a major improvement.

"It makes it easier for the person who doesn't know what they're looking for," John said. "If you take anybody from the front office or who doesn't deal



Argos stored some greases in this area, but without the right mindset or plan, greases were unorganized and not properly controlled.



With the grease room updated with proper storage equipment and procedures, greases are no longer cooked in the Florida sun before use.



A column level gauge provides a simple visual indicator that anyone can understand with its green and red bands. The connected desiccant breather helps protect the reservoir from contaminants as well.

with lubrication at all, and they walk past a gearbox that has a dipstick, they aren't going to think about it. But if it has this big sight glass on it with clear red and green lines — and everyone knows green is good and red is bad — he can understand it without really even knowing what he's looking at."

Long-Term Goals

In addition to these quick wins, the Argos Newberry plant is already looking ahead to long-term goals. The corporate team is a major part of this effort. They have seen the improvements at the Newberry plant and are already considering how to get more value from these changes by spreading that knowledge to other Argos plants.

"They have mentioned that once we get our plant here fully going 100% with these changes, they're probably going to send me to one of their other plants to implement it at those facilities," John said. "To me, for them to say that they're interested in implementing it in another plant shows that they're interested in the long term."

In this way, the Newberry plant can serve as a "pilot program" for improving lubrication at other sites. Any successes there can be more easily replicated by knowledge transfer from skilled and driven leaders like John.

For more on Noria's Lubrication Program Development, contact us at 800-597-5460 or visit www.noria.com.

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