

Liberty Pumps Omnivore® Grinder provides solutions for an Indiana wastewater district.

The District: Steuben Lakes is a regional wastewater district in the state of Indiana with 150+ miles of forced main, 3000 residential grinder pump stations and 21 main pump stations with standby power generators at the major lift stations.



The District was established in February 1975 to clean up hotspots of failed on-site septic systems and help prevent wastewater pollution into lakes and streams.

From 1975 through 2005, the District operated and maintained large sewer filter beds to treat the sanitary waste that was pumped from each home. This type of system is referred to as a septic tank and effluent pumping (STEP) system.

In 1998, the District saw the need to change from the filter bed type of treatment to conventional systems to service the growing needs of the communities it serves. The new system construction was complete in May 2005 and replaced the majority of the STEP systems.

Since 2006, extensions to the system have added nearly 500 new customers from Lake Pleasant, Orland, Wall and Brown Lake. The system is capable of adding additional homes and businesses to support community growth and economic development.

Liberty Omnivore Grinders were installed in the most recent undertaking...the Orland Project extension. This extension added approximately 600 new grinder stations to their existing Sewage treatment plant.

An interview with Bruce Deter

Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District, Collection System Supervisor

How did you arrive at choosing Liberty's Omnivore® grinder for the Steuben Lakes project?

We observed a live demonstration of the pumps non-clogging capabilities which was impressive. We then visited the factory to witness the quality of workmanship put into every pump. No other pump's grinding method that we had used or investigated could compare to the performance of the Liberty Omnivore®.



What difficult obstacles were you faced with on this particular job?

Due to the restrictions set by the funding agency, we had to write specifications in such a way that they were not too restrictive, but yet detailed enough to get a good quality pump. This basically opened up the job to most types of grinder pumps.

How did Liberty help solve the obstacles?

Liberty was able to provide specifications that met the funding agencies requirement. They also worked with the suppliers and installers to competitively win the bid.



Have you seen a reduction in service calls or cost of maintenance compared to the other pumps you have used?

Due to the exceptional non-clogging capabilities, we haven't had one service call due to a clogged pump. From the day the project was turned over to us, we have only returned (1) pump out of 600 installed for warranty reasons.

How does this compare to previous pumps you have used?

During the previous project, we had problems with approximately 3% of the other manufacturer's pumps. These pumps were sent back to the manufacturer before the project was completed. After the project was turned over to us, we immediately started having service calls for clogged pumps and were averaging 130 pump repairs per year.

The Grinder: The Omnivore® grinder manufactured by Liberty Pumps features patented V-Slice® cutter technology. The single stage LSG-Series boasts pumping heads to 108 feet and the 2-stage LSGX-Series performs to maximum heads of 185 feet. Its robust cutter is made from 440 stainless steel hardened to Rockwell 57c. With over 100,000 units installed throughout North America, it has proven itself to be one of the toughest and most reliable grinders on the market today.