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## **Tsurumi pumps solve chronic clogging issues for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**

- *Tsurumi Pump's C series of cutter pumps proved instrumental in solving clogging issues at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' headquarters in Washington, D.C.*
- *Tsurumi's proprietary design, which features high-chrome components and tungsten carbide impeller tips, enables the C series to handle the abrasive solids found in wastewater—even under conditions where water flow is less than optimal.*
- *Tsurumi pumps maintain their tolerance over time, which eliminates costly readjustments associated with competing pumps.*

The pumping industry has faced a unique predicament over the course of the last ten years. As conservation efforts have lessened overall water consumption, aging pumping systems have been forced to move an increasing amount of solids with less water. The advent of modern, disposable consumer products—such as flushable wipes—has put undue strain on many of these outdated systems, resulting in lift stations that clog and require constant maintenance.

JPG Plumbing Services (JPG), a plumbing company based in Washington, D.C., assisted the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) with clogging issues at its headquarters, also based in Washington. John Geiling, president of JPG Plumbing, said that IBEW's old pumping system was not designed to handle the challenges of modern, flushable solids.

“The IBEW's headquarters is a standard base building that was designed using value engineering techniques,” he said. “And frankly, the plumbing installation was not done properly as a result. Not only were the pumps constantly stopping up, but the pit was improperly sealed, and the wrong size of pipes had been used. Up until our crew redesigned the system, we'd been getting a lot of service calls from IBEW. It had progressed to the point where sewage had flooded into the building's parking lot.”

After pump failure became too regular of an occurrence at IBEW headquarters, the association's chief engineer requested a complete lift station overhaul in July of 2015. Geiling gave his customer several options to choose from regarding pump technology.

"I typically give my customers two or three choices when it comes to pumps," he said. "But the chief engineer at IBEW told me outright that he wanted the best pumps and asked for my opinion on that front. For the clogging issues he was experiencing, I knew that Tsurumi's C series of cutter pumps was the best option. That's how we ultimately proceeded."

Tsurumi's C series pumps, which range in motor output from 1 hp to 30 hp, are ideal for handling the abrasive solids found in wastewater. Like all of Tsurumi's pumps, they benefit from an exclusive, proprietary design that utilizes the best materials available. The wear plates and impellers are all high-chrome to ensure maximum durability, and each impeller is outfitted with tungsten carbide tips for optimal cutting ability. Tsurumi pumps also maintain their tolerance during operation, which eliminates the need for costly readjustments associated with competing pumps.

"Our crew was able to take the old pumps out and replace them with Tsurumi units in about 14 hours," Geiling said. "We pumped out the excess wastewater, pressure washed the lift station and surrounding areas, removed the old pumps and installed Tsurumi's cutter pumps. We have yet to get another service call from the IBEW since the installation, so I'd say it was a success."

JPG Plumbing chose Tsurumi's cutter pumps for the installation based on the suggestion of AMES, Inc., an equipment distributor based in Columbia, Maryland. Brandon Wood, after-market sales and service manager for the company, was responsible for forming a relationship with JPG's staff and for showing them proof of Tsurumi's excellence in tackling tough clogs.

"AMES prides itself on working with companies that are likely to face chronic clogging on a daily basis," he explained. "We felt that JPG was one such company, so we hosted a seminar for its contracting team that featured a live demonstration of Tsurumi's C series pumps at work. When it came time to address the clogging problems at the IBEW building, the folks at JPG had the confidence to choose Tsurumi pumps to get the job done."

Frank McQuilkin, president of AMES, Inc., said that he considers Tsurumi to be the premier brand for providing relief from modern pumping problems that are caused by flushing adverse solids.

“15 years ago, there were no baby wipes being flushed down the toilet, and flush valves have been steadily replaced by more efficient, low-flow fixtures,” he said. “The combination of lower flow and higher content of solids is too much for many pumping systems to handle, and Tsurumi offers the most resilient pumps for dealing with these issues.”

JPG Plumbing Services has offered residential and commercial plumbing service and construction since 2006. The Washington, D.C.-based company assists Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia with a wide variety of plumbing-related tasks, including general plumbing repair, sewer line replacement, well pump systems, digital pipe inspection and much more.

AMES, Inc. offers its services to the municipal, commercial and industrial markets of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the eastern tip of West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The Columbia, Maryland-based company is a manufacturer’s representative that specializes in water and wastewater treatment, plumbing, HVAC equipment and pumping solutions.

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**About Tsurumi**

Tsurumi America Inc., a division of Tsurumi Manufacturing, was founded in 1979. Headquartered in Glendale Heights, Illinois, Tsurumi America has bases in Quebec, Canada; El Paso, Texas; and West Jordan, Utah. Globally, Tsurumi is active in 45 countries and has been an innovator in the pump industry since 1924. Tsurumi America has been providing more than 35 years of leading pumping technology in construction, civil engineering, mining, industrial wastewater,

domestic wastewater, sewage treatment, flood control and scenery creation fields. All Tsurumi products are backed by independent, third-party verification. Beyond leading pump technology, Tsurumi America is recognized for its robust distribution network and one of the largest on-hand inventories in North America.