

N330. Old Times for New: The Cheaper Solution to Valve Problems

Rather than replacing a faulty valve - or one that is simply not up to the job - Control Components, Inc. has been able to retrofit a variety of valve types used in nuclear plants with its own unique DRAG trims.

Nuclear power plants are placing tough demands on their control valves, requiring improved flow control and tighter shutoff with continued high reliability. Valves failing to meet these requirements can have serious consequences for the operator - seat leakage which can result in costly energy loss of power production.

Rather than replacing problem valves, the ability to fit them with new trims, leaving existing valve bodies intact, can be of tremendous value. It also helps to prevent cavitation through the valve. This was achieved by reducing the flow velocity through the valve to below 12 m/s (39 ft/s). Retrofitting was selected rather than replacing with a new valve because the valve is in a radiologically controlled area. The reduction in man-hours saved significant decontamination and exposure costs. The plant management is very pleased with the improved performance of the valve.

For more, "Old Trims for New: The Cheaper Solution to Valve Problems," by B. Katz. *Nuclear Engineering International*, pg. 38, Jan 1994.