

## Solutions

A Case for GPM



# Customized, Transportable Pumping Solution to Meet Unique Application

### Abstract

Creative problem solving and innovative engineering solved a pond overflow problem for a power plant located in Montana, avoiding potential Environmental Protection Agency violations.

### The Customer

The Company is a zero discharge power plant that resides near a creek and a town. Various ponds used for evaporation and recycling water surround the plant. The customer has been a GPM customer for 20 years, trusting the Company's OEM GPM-Eliminator submersible pump for operation in critical and abusive applications and environments.

### The Challenge

The primary retention pond that serves the Company collects runoff from the site when extreme weather conditions cause major precipitation. With too much runoff the pond can overflow, resulting in EPA fines and other major problems. To avoid overflow, the power plant deployed a pump solution that resided in a dry pit; however, the pump was not able to keep up with the runoff with an influx of excessive water. The Company turned to GPM for a creative solution to their problem after a near EPA violation.



## Solutions

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Mike Ostenson, GPM's Regional Sales Manager, went onsite with the customer to better understand how the problem could be solved. "Since replacing the existing pumps in the dry pit would have been a difficult operation, we suggested a temporary, moveable solution for the main retention pond," said Ostenson. The need for flexibility inspired a transportable pumping solution that could be backed into the pond when needed.

"This concept presented GPM with the unique opportunity to take the GPM-Eliminator to a new level," said Tim Schmidt, GPM's Application Engineering Manager. After initial drafting and prototypes, both GPM and the customer decided on a final design that featured:

- A tandem axle trailer, similar to a boat trailer
- Easy-to-use submersible industrial pump outfitted to the trailer
- Low proximity to the ground, allowing the pump to work in shallow waters
- Flexible, moveable and easily maneuverable design

GPM collaborated with the customer to obtain the best possible solution. "After drawing up the original draft of the concept, GPM had a conference call with the customer to better understand their needs," stated Schmidt. "The call involved not only our engineering team but also the sales team and executive management." GPM also worked directly with the project engineer on-site.

In collaboration with the customer, GPM revised the original draft to the trailer design to meet the needs of the customer. "The customer was involved every step of the way with the design," said Schmidt.



For more information  
contact:

[sales@gpmco.com](mailto:sales@gpmco.com)

GPM, Inc.  
4432 Venture Ave.  
Duluth, MN 55811  
218-722-9904  
[www.gpmco.com](http://www.gpmco.com)

### Solutions Driven

This project exemplifies GPM's aim to bring creative engineering solutions to meet the needs of the Company's customers. "We combined our forces to find a cost-effective solution that solved their problem by leveraging our expertise and core product," stated Schmidt. "This creative and unique concept epitomizes the way we work with customers and has potential to be used in other applications."