



Conservation Yields 75% Water Savings at Fertilizer Plant

Environmental stewardship at Simplot's fertilizer manufacturing plant in Pocatello, Idaho, is generating impressive water conservation results. More than 500 million gallons of fresh water have been saved this year at the facility.

The core of the program relies on recycling water used for the plant's operations and maintenance. The fresh water conservation initiative – launched in 2008 – also saves energy and recovers additional fertilizer product.

The most dramatic example of water savings stems from the annual turnaround in June when the entire plant, including its evaporators, storage tanks and digesters, shuts down to undergo a massive maintenance project. To complete the rinsing and washing during this month, the plant has historically pumped an average 3,200 gallons of fresh water per minute.

By recycling the process water for cleaning and rinsing, the plant cut the amount of fresh water it used last June by almost 2,400 gallons per minute – a whopping 75-percent decrease in fresh water usage.

Historically, the plant has pumped a daily average of 4,000 gallons of fresh water per minute for plant operations. Using recycled extraction water in its place has reduced the amount of fresh water pumped to an average of 2,800 gallons per minute – an impressive 30-percent decrease in fresh water usage.

“The good news about water savings is that the improvements are the result of a concerted effort on the part of all the employees and a companywide commitment to preserve resources,” said Plant Manager John R. Bob.