



PMP MOVES FULL STEAM AHEAD

As a key ingredient in products ranging from foods and fertilizers to laundry detergents and concrete, gluconate has many uses, but only one birthplace: PMP Fermentation Products in Peoria.

As the only manufacturer of Sodium Gluconate in North America, PMP uses an energy-intensive fermentation process to transform corn syrup into this versatile chemical. And these days, the company is using less energy to get the job done, with a little help from the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program.

In February 2012, PMP completed a steam trap survey and steam trap replacement project that saved thousands of dollars a year in lost energy. And thanks to \$4,800 in incentives, the project had an immediate payback.

PMP Fermentation Products relies heavily on steam for heating, sterilization, and evaporation to create dry gluconate crystals.

Steam traps help their steam heating system operate efficiently. These automatic valves release condensed steam while preventing the loss of live steam — when they're working properly. But even a single leak can cost your business thousands of dollars a year, as PMP discovered.

"When you're losing steam, you're losing a lot of energy and paying more in natural gas costs than you need to," says Andrew Vaughn, Energy Program Engineer for Ameren Illinois. He recommends that steam traps be replaced every five to 10 years.

After initially contacting consultants about performing a steam trap survey, Brian Pederson, Engineering & Maintenance Manager at PMP Fermentation Products, discovered that his company already owned the equipment needed to test the steam traps in-house.

Their work began with a little map making.

"We made a map and marked the location of all of our steam traps and assigned them numbers," says Pederson. His team then used an ultrasonic tester to check the integrity of the 64 steam traps at PMP's 30,000 square-foot facility.

"The ultrasonic tester picks up ultrasonic sound that you can hear through headphones," explains Pederson. "Using different techniques, you can hear if a steam trap is closing improperly or leaking."

"These projects save companies real money — even when gas prices are low. When you look at the quick payback, it's a no-brainer."

— Andrew Vaughn,
Energy Program Engineer



Benefits to PMP:

- More than \$60,000 in annual savings
- \$4,800 in incentives from Ameren Illinois
- More than 7,000 therms saved every year
- Reduced project payback period
- Less energy waste means less impact on environment
- Every dollar saved gives the bottom line a boost!

Steamed about Energy Waste? Call Ameren Illinois!

Seal in Savings with these Incentives

Ameren Illinois offers cash incentives for a variety of process steam projects, including:

- Steam trap surveys
- Steam trap repair or replacement
- Even one major leak can cost your business thousands of dollars a year!
- Get to know your steam traps.

Learn more at:

AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Steam



Energy Efficiency. It's Good Business.

Ameren Illinois incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, VFDs, process improvements, and compressed air.

Why wait? Start your energy efficiency project today — and save!

The survey identified eight steam traps that had failed. And the company was losing a startling amount of steam through those leaking traps — in total, more than 1,000 pounds an hour.

By sealing those steam leaks, PMP locked in savings of more than \$60,000 a year in natural gas costs! Additional incentives from Ameren Illinois completely covered the cost of replacing the faulty traps.

"It's easy to put steam traps on the back burner, but a leaking trap is just money down the drain," says Pederson.

As PMP discovered, it pays to get to know your steam traps — and assuming that your steam system is working efficiently can be a costly mistake.

"Steam traps often get overlooked in industrial processes because everything appears to be working fine, but these projects save companies real money — even when gas prices are low," says Vaughn, who points out that incentives can reduce paybacks to a matter of days. "When you look at the quick payback, it's a no-brainer."

Now that PMP's maintenance staff is savvy on steam trap surveys, they plan to perform regular inspections throughout the year to catch potential issues early on.

"It's more than worth it to have a program where you actively go out and take care of steam traps," says Pederson. "It's kind of staggering just to see the results of this one little project."

And thanks to that one little project, PMP Fermentation Products is now moving full steam ahead.

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— Brian Pederson, PMP Fermentation Products

Get Your Money Back from Ameren Illinois!

Did you know? Ameren Illinois' energy efficiency programs are funded through a small, state-mandated charge on Ameren Illinois customer bills (Rider EDR for electricity customers and Rider GER for natural gas customers). It makes sense for businesses to apply for incentives that will help them recover what they pay into these programs.

"We saw those dollars going out on our bill, and wanted to see some of it coming back to us," says Brian Pederson, Engineering & Maintenance Manager at PMP Fermentation Products. "You only do that by participating in the program."

Take a lesson from PMP and make the most of your company's investment in Ameren Illinois. Call us today to get started!

READY TO BEGIN?

AmerenIllinoisSavings.com

1.866.800.0747

