

Valley Creek WWTP Jefferson County, AL

Overview

With its monstrous size and ability to handle 300 million gallons of water per day, the \$328 million facility at the Valley Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant in Central Alabama is an impressive example of engineering at its finest. The facility's generator sets are some of the best in the industry, and its generator system is among the largest in the state of Alabama. With heavy rainfall in the spring—like the 10 inches of rain that fell in 24 hours in 2005—the Valley Creek WWTP must always be able to manage massive amounts of water with or without its primary power.

Challenge

Birmingham-based Thompson Power Systems—Alabama's Caterpillar distributor—installed fifteen Caterpillar 3516B, 2000 kW generator sets to meet the tremendous power requirements. The generators are interconnected with the utilities in order to run in parallel or function independently in an emergency. The generator sets can even export power back to the utility if needed, which means the generator system would be more active than most generator systems. A durable, effective solution was needed to meet sound requirements and withstand extensive use.

Solution

Working with its local channel partner, Bob Melton from Control Equipment and Sales, Inc., GT engineered and manufactured GT Model 201-5116 silencers to fit with the Caterpillar generator sets. The 5100 Series models provided critical grade sound attenuation and excellent durability necessary to successfully meet the project's requirements. GT also provided wye connectors and thermal wrap for the units to create the total package of effectiveness, durability and safety for the Valley Creek WWTP.



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