

Customer testimonial

Lubricants in action

THE CLIENT



Groupe Savoie started business in 1978 in Saint-Quentin NB with the acquisition, by Hector Savoie and his son Jean-Claude, of the Restigouche Hardwood Ltd. mill and the Cedre Restigouche mill.



“For its technical service and professionalism, I recommend Crevier Lubricants, they are committed to our success.”

— Éric Rousselle, Mill Director at Groupe Savoie

Today Groupe Savoie specializes in hardwood transformation and operations not only in Saint-Quentin but also in Kedgwick NB, Moncton NB and Westville NS. These operations include two sawmills, twelve drying kilns, a pellet mill, a pallet recycling mill and a pellet plant.

The pellet plant, in Saint-Quentin itself, uses three Andritz LM26 machines that work essentially 24/7 and produce together some 100,000 tons of pellets every year. The quality of this mill's pellets is sought after, and part of the production is even shipped overseas to Europe.

MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES

During a first meeting with the pellet mill manager, Éric Rousselle, it was mentioned that certain roller bearings on the Andritz machines were supposed to last 3,000 hours in service (about 18 weeks) but were lasting only about 500 hours (3 weeks). In the past, the mill had allowed two in-service tests of alternative greases for these bearings, but the results were very discouraging and, as a result, the manager was unwilling to consider yet another test. The company Andritz, who had recommended the current grease,

could not offer any solution but was quick to point out that they concluded the machines were being run at loads about 15% over their design limit. Limiting production was not an option.



The photo shows one of the bearings, which is about 10-inch diameter and worth more than \$500. There are 6 of these bearings per machine, and 3 machines in total.

Each Andritz machine has six of the problem bearings, at a unit cost of over \$500. The annual cost to replace these bearings, on all three machines, was around \$160,000, or about 6 times higher than it should be.

“After two unprofitable trials with other companies, Group Savoie was discouraged, but thanks to our expertise and efforts, we succeed”

— André Welland, representative of Crevier Group

SOLUTIONS CREVIER

A failed bearing was obtained from the mill and sent to California for evaluation by the experts at Chevron. As a result of this, **Chevron DELO HD EP 1** grease was chosen, out of the many Crevier Lubricants grease available. This product offered a better chance of enduring the operating conditions in Groupe Savoie’s pellet mills. This offered the possibility of extending the bearing life in service and so reducing the annual bearing replacement cost.

The only way to evaluate the performance of the chosen grease in the actual operating conditions was to do an in-service trial. In the end, it was the combined technical expertise of Crevier Group and Chevron that convinced management that they had much to gain from the proposed in-service trial and nothing to lose.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The trial began in December 2016 and ran until February 2017, with very positive results. **The bearing life was extended to 8.5 weeks, an increase of almost 300% over the current bearing life. This could allow Groupe Savoie to reduce their annual bearing replacement cost by about \$95,000.**



This is an image of the tote containing Delo EP-1 grease.

CONTACT US

For more information on what Crevier Group can do to increase the profitability of your company or to receive a visit from one of our representatives, please contact our division nearest you.

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