

Long Creek WWTP Saves Time and Money with an Automated Screen and Washpress Combo



“The technology is so simple in design and efficient in operation that it takes only 1 operator to man the dashboard and periodically check the screw to check the screw for potential (but rare) clogs.”
- Brandon Plyler, Treatment Plant Supervisor

When the team at Long Creek WWTP installed their RakeMax® Screens and WAP Washpress, they knew they were getting an acceptable replacement for their aging screens but they had no idea that the technology would change everything about their primary treatment and operating process. Treatment Plant Supervisor, Brandon Plyler and his team of 7 operators were working with screens that had far-exceeded their life expectancy so they knew that they would soon need to be replaced.

Fortunately, Brandon Plyler and his team were able to research technology and plan the system replacement for their 12 MGD (million gallon per day) plant.

The team was accustomed to frequent, expensive maintenance on the existing system and a little anxious about a major change for handling their typical 6 MGD intake. After all, it would just take a good rainstorm to max them out. And maxed out is exactly what happened with the existing screens when a seasonal rain event of 21.5 million gallons struck the region.

Long Creek's Technology Set-Up

The set up that Brandon Plyler and his Long Creek team chose is well-planned for accommodating its highest historic rainfall records. They use a 40 MGD screen – with a WAP washpress attached – 360 days per year. They also have a 20 MGD screen for use when the 40 MGD screen is getting its periodic preventative maintenance.

“The 40 MGD screen is our workhorse since it operates all but 5 days in a calendar year. The screens are incredibly durable. But the simplicity is impressive, too. The best illustration of that is the process for switching from one screen to the other. You simply press a button, the valve switches and –voila– the second screen is engaged.”

- Brandon Plyler, Treatment Plant Supervisor

Baptism By Fire

Weather has quite an impact on the Long Creek plant and makes the implementation of the correct technology a priority because of:

- the possibility of excessive rain (more than 20 MGD).
- the direct correlation between increased infiltration and rainfall.

“When we have heavy rainfall, it literally hits the fan for us because the rain brings a lot of inflow and infiltration. Our HUBER screens and washpress went online and were immediately hit with a tremendous amount of rain. We breezed through it with no issues. In fact, we’ve had no issues since we went online - period. The efficiency of the HUBER Rakemax is amazing.”

- Brandon Plyler, Treatment Plant Supervisor

Washpress® were quickly put to the test. Merely 4 days after implementation was complete, the region was hit with another major rain event.

The Culture Change

“We’re thrilled with our screens and washpress. The solution has taken us from manually dumping trashcans to full automation. Our plant culture has undergone a complete and amazing transformation.”

- Brandon Plyler, Treatment Plant Supervisor

The HUBER technology has completely changed the culture in the Long Creek plant in these ways:

- The automation has reduced daily manual tasks that soaked up lots of the operators’ time.
- The efficiency of the HUBER Rakemax allows operators to spend time concentrating on other areas of the operation.
- The technology is so maintenance free that Long Creek has not called maintenance at all.