

MINA SAN RAFAEL

SANTA ROSA, GUATEMALA

PROJECT

TYPE OF FACILITY:

Mine Processing Plant

VICTAULIC SOLUTIONS:

Cost Savings

Installation Time Savings

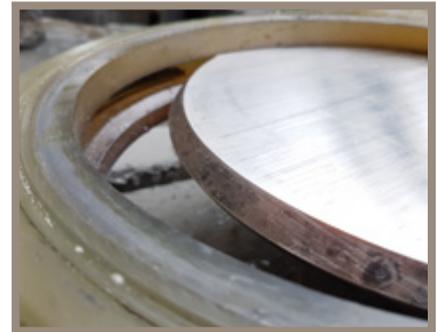
Maintenance Savings

OWNER:

Tahoe Resources

COMPLETED DATE:

October 2016



Recently, the Mina San Rafael maintenance and production departments were having trouble with the pinch and knife gate valves on the mine's tailing line. The knife gate valves were leaking often and due to the difficulty to perform maintenance on the valves they were being left in place despite the leaks. The pinch valves were also leaking constantly, requiring changes in as little as 9 days after installation. Replacing the valves would take anywhere from three to six hours to complete and required heavy equipment such as pulleys and cranes. The issues prompted Tahoe Resources, the owner, to search for a solution that would reduce the need for constant maintenance and reduce installation times.

Victaulic offered the Series 795 knife gate valve, the industry's first in-line maintenance knife gate valve that can be maintained in-line without having to disconnect the valve from the piping system for repair or rebuild. Victaulic's valves install in less than twenty-five minutes and do not require chains, pulleys or ropes during maintenance. The valves were installed and monitored for two months and continue to hold strong, without leaks, for 90 days and counting. A 30 day maintenance was performed on the valve in 18 minutes, 22 seconds (versus 5 hours) and as show in the above photo, no visible wear could be found.

Victaulic was also able to make the initial installation more efficient using a grooved end valve, Victaulic's MRO pipe length calculator and providing an easier automatization system through the cylinder sensors for the pneumatic actuator.

Tahoe Resources is currently converting 320 knife gate valves to Victaulic over the course of their progressive maintenance calendar.

SPECIFICATIONS

SERVICES:	PIPE MATERIALS:	PIPE SIZE RANGE:
Slurry Tailings Line	Carbon Steel	8 - 10"/DN200 - DN250