

Delta-Therm Blog Post #2

MI and self-regulating cables solve the problem of pipes breaking

When a competitor's product failed at a large power plant in southern Alabama, Neil Howell knew just what to do. He chose Delta-Therm's MI and self-regulating cables to replace existing cable used to treat process piping and water treatment systems that serve the southeast portion of the state.

"I started doing this project last October and I've been working on it through winter," Howell said. He's personally installing sections of cable at Power South Central Generation's plant – about 5,000 feet of Delta-Therm MI cable and another 6,000 feet of Delta-Therm self-regulating cable used for freeze protection. Howell noted that the Delta-Therm cable is superior to other brands because it has better connections.

"I like the fact that on the MI cable, the junction points from the cold leads to the hot leads look to be better quality," he said. "I can see where it's connected."

Besides quality craftsmanship – braided cable makes handling easy – and the fact that each cable is checked before it leaves the warehouse, Howell said Delta-Therm's warranty is better than any competitor's – 10 years on MI cable and 5 years on self-regulating cable.

"I think [people in the industry] are going to get a whole lot more of their money's worth with Delta-Therm," he said. "I have no doubt that when they send it out, it's going to work."

Believing in the Delta-Therm product line, Howell is branching out to areas in the plant that have untreated pipes, and adding LED light to aid in identifying shorts.

"I've been ordering and putting the LED in the existing power box and that way we can see when we have power outages," he said. "If a piece of it shorts out, then I know that the heat trace right there does not have power on it."

The bottom line will be seen next winter – when temps dip below 50 degrees – and the system kicks on. They utilize heat trace from mid-November to mid-February.

"We can get down as low as 16 or 17 degrees here," Howell said. "But in the middle of winter, we're not going to have any problems with any of our pipes breaking."

