

'Providing Tribological Solutions'

NEWS RELEASE

RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) FOR VSG 'THE GREEN GREASE'

Initially, VSG does cost a bit more than mineral oil based greases but this is not surprising given that it has the performance advantages as well as the ecological advantages. The reasons that VSG is more expensive are simple economics; the canola oil is more expensive than traditional mineral oils, the manufacturing process is different and it is not yet a high volume product so VSG is shipped order by order. However, the cost different per year for a unit using a couple of kegs is less that a few hundred dollars. This is very little given the following advantages;

1. VSG grease is mainly canola oil, which is biobased, sustainable and more biodegradable.
2. VSG grease has a lower aquatic toxicity (LC50) than the mineral oil based alternatives that have been tested.
3. Some users have reported that they can use much less VSG. For one BC Hydro station it was 42 times less from greasing once every four hours to once a week.
4. It is also possible that VSG is more energy efficient because it can perform better in the applications so that less energy is required to operate the gates and possibly the reliability can be better and the system require less maintenance because of the better performance and better corrosion protection. VSG also does not have a traditional soap thickener that can cause plugging of grease distribution valves.
5. While that are seldom specific regulations requiring the use of a product like VSG, by using a 'green' grease it should be possible to foster more goodwill than with a traditional mineral oil product. In the US the use of a canola oil based product can also help meet requirements for work on Federal lands and/or Executive Order 13514.

On the other hand, there can be considerable costs in dealing with complaints about oil sheens, complaints from recreational or other uses of the water resources, and any added scrutiny by regulators. Meetings would tend to involve a number of staff in the meetings themselves as well as with preparation and follow-ups including preparing and reviewing minutes and addressing action items.

Plus, the risk of using VSG is very low compared to many alternatives. VSG has been tested by users, VSG meets OH (now OPG) and HQ specifications for wicket gate greases and VSG has been in use successfully for over fifteen years across the USA and Canada as well as in Iceland and New Zealand.

VSG is available in tubes. pails, kegs and drums. Please contact us for specific references.