

ONLINE VALVE TESTING PREVENTS A COSTLY SHUTDOWN

When a major paper mill planned its Spring 2025 outage, they expected routine maintenance. What they didn't expect was a **hidden issue threatening their restart**: four of their twelve pilot operated safety relief valves (PORVs) were silently failing. The mill had no idea, but R.E. Mason's Mechanical and Valve Services team did.

SEEING WHAT OTHERS CAN'T

Using Emerson's "in service" relief valve testing technology, our team tested all twelve pilot valves without interrupting operations. The results were eye-opening: four valves required immediate rebuilding. Without this proactive testing, **the mill would have restarted with compromised valves** risking safety, performance, and costly downtime.

Once the rebuilding began, **deeper issues surfaced**. Two valves needed new liners and several required extensive internal parts. Years of being improperly covered in insulation "cooked" the internals, degrading components beyond repair. The cost of parts exceeded the price of new valves, but replacements weren't available in time. To get the mill running, they had to purchase the parts.

NO SPARES, NO BACKUP PLAN

The mill had no spare valves or parts for the application. After the outage, they approached us about buying spares, thinking they needed one spare for each valve. But our team clarified: all twelve valves were identical except for set pressures. With just two valves, plus interchangeable spring kits, they could cover all twelve.

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT THAT WORKS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

To make emergency responses faster and easier, R.E. Mason recommended storing the spares at our local service center. With R.E. Mason managing inventory and performing spring kit changes and testing, the mill wouldn't need to track parts or worry about readiness. In an emergency, they'd be covered quickly and confidently.

FROM HIDDEN FAILURES TO SMART READINESS

This story isn't just about valves; it's about visibility, preparedness, and partnership. R.E. Mason helped the mill avoid a costly restart failure, save on unnecessary purchases, and build a smarter inventory strategy.

Is your plant ready for the unexpected? Let's talk about how online valve testing and inventory management can protect your uptime.

