

Project Profile Jane Avenue Lift Station

Manufacturer Xerxes Corporation
System Supplier Romtec Utilities, Inc.
Developer American West Development
Excavating Company Sati Construction
Location Mountain Falls Development
Pahrump, NV

A Xerxes fiberglass lift station is the clear choice for a Nevada development

In May of 2009, a Xerxes fiberglass wet well and valve vault were installed as a lift station for the Mountain Falls subdivision in Pahrump, Nevada. Ultimately, the Jane Avenue Lift Station will help transport wastewater for the development that will include 4,200 single-family homes, a day care center, a water park, a large recreational gymnasium, a casino and a church. This recent Nevada installation is an example of a successful partnership between Xerxes Corporation and Romtec Utilities, Inc. Previously, Oregon-based Romtec Utilities had used only concrete for the structural components of their pre-engineered package lift stations, said Mark Sheldon, Romtec's vice president of engineering, marketing and sales. Now Xerxes fiberglass products are part of Romtec's expanded product offering.

"Until Xerxes, fiberglass couldn't compete structurally with concrete. In our view, Xerxes' quality was a dramatic step forward for fiberglass in the water and wastewater market." So incorporating not just any fiberglass wet well, but a Xerxes fiberglass product into this project was the easy and clear choice for Romtec.

"Xerxes' background in buried structures, their expertise in the petrochemical market, their overall technical expertise and the product's structural integrity made them an easy choice for us," Sheldon explained. Beyond that, the fact that Xerxes has decades of experience with buried underground vessels is a huge plus for a company like Romtec. "I don't know of another fiberglass manufacturer who is even close to them," he added.

"The demands of the petrochemical market are high," he explained. "The demands of water are equally high." For decades, Xerxes has been well-known as a major tank supplier to the petroleum industry. As of 2008, more than 150,000 Xerxes fiberglass tanks had been installed at petroleum storage facilities. And the number continues to grow.

When it came to deciding what product the developer wanted for this new residential and commercial subdivision, a Xerxes wet well was the obvious choice, according to Frank Strand, American West's vice president of land development. "This is the first lift station we've done. I'd seen another one, a concrete one, and I knew that wasn't the way we wanted to go. I'd done my homework. We were much more confident in a ribbed fiberglass tank," Strand explained.

Xerxes tanks are designed with integral ribs for added struc-



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tural strength. Because the integral ribs and tank are made of the same materials — high-quality resin and glass — and are manufactured as a monolithic structure, Xerxes products, whether installed vertically or horizontally, are very robust vessels.

One of the many advantages of a Xerxes fiberglass wet well has to do with hydrogen sulfide, the gas released in raw sewage. "It is very, very corrosive," explained Sheldon. "Especially if you're in a high-temperature climate, fiberglass is the obvious choice," he continued. Indeed, fiberglass is inherently impervious to this corrosion.

But regardless of the climate, Xerxes' watertight, structurally strong fiberglass products have many advantages. The Jane Avenue Lift Station in Pahrump, Nevada, is a perfect case in point. When the 12-foot-diameter, single-wall wet well was delivered to Nevada, it was accompanied by a prefabricated 10-foot-diameter, fiberglass



valve vault, complete with the valves, pipes and access covers necessary for the lift station to function properly. In other words, the lift station was all factory preassembled. As part of the Xerxes–Romtec partnership, Romtec Utilities' technical personnel went to the Xerxes manufacturing facility in Anaheim and worked together with Xerxes employees to ensure that all the Romtec components were correctly incorporated into the Xerxes components. "You can't do that with concrete," said Sheldon, referring to the factory assembly of all components and quality control possible in a tightly controlled manufacturing environment.

The shipping and installation went as smoothly as the design, fabrication and assembly of this lift station, which highlights additional advantages of Xerxes products: they are easy to ship and easy to install. "As fast as they could get it off the truck and into the



hole, the wet well was set," said American West's Strand, who was on site for the lift station installation. That had much to do with how well planned the installation was by everyone involved.

Greg Kiddell, owner and manager of the excavating company, Sati Construction, said the installation "went like clockwork." Kiddell and his crew deal with much bigger projects than this — in Nevada, Hawaii and California — and he did at the Jane Avenue Lift Station what he thinks is wise with any installation, regardless of the project size: he follows the manufacturer's recommendations. And the result? "It was a dream, the way the tank went in easily and set perfectly. Just the way it was meant to. I'd like to do more with Xerxes," he concluded.

The installing contractor is not alone. American West, which has developments in several states, including Nevada, Texas, Colorado and Indiana, is impressed with both the Xerxes product and process. "We would definitely use them again," said Strand.

This is exactly what Xerxes likes to hear at the end of all its installations — satisfied partners and satisfied customers.



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