

New Filter Line for New Belgium Brewing

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NBB is one of the leading American craft brewing companies with annual growth rates of more than 10%. As a result of this success, the existing filtration capacity became a bottleneck. NBB decided 2009 to install a new filter system with higher capacity.

NBB initiated a program to thoroughly evaluate all aspects of a filtration system. Primary considerations included beer quality, and flexibility with a wide range of specialty beers. Because NBB has a very strict environmental policy to reduce impact on the environment as low as possible, all economic factors were reviewed with the ecological aspects in mind.

NBB reviewed and tested all current, available filtration technologies ranging from traditional DE filtration (which NBB was currently using), to centrifuges in combination with filter sheets, to membrane filtration.

The result from this evaluation clearly demonstrated that only DE filtration could meet all of NBB's requirements. Therefore, NBB decided to purchase and install a state-of-the-art candle filter [SYNOX] manufactured by FILTROX AG, Switzerland.

In order to minimize downtime, the new candle filter was installed parallel to the existing horizontal leaf filter, using the same infrastructure. The capacity of the filter is 220 bbl/hr and with the NBB's main brand, Fat Tire, the batch size is over 2500 bbl. DE dosing rate is substantially lower and turbidity is better than on the old horizontal leaf filter.



Candle Filter SYNOX 1300 PF

The Synox candle filter was successfully installed and commissioned in close cooperation between NBB and FILTROX without requiring involvement from a third-party engineering company. FILTROX provided the filter, including piping system, valves, pumps and instrumentation, as well as, the control system (HW Allen-Bradley, SW Controllogix and Intouch-Wonderware). NBB was responsible for the mechanical and electrical installation, and system integration with the plant's existing infrastructure.

Filtrox AG completed this project within the given time frame meeting or even exceeding all of NBB's expectations.