



ANCHORAGE ML&P EXPLOSION-PROOF EQUIPMENT

Features and Benefits

- Reliability
- Class I, Division II rating
- Spark-resistant features
- Compact design

Industry Group:

Hoist Manufacturers Institute (HMI)

Overview:

As Anchorage, Alaska's oldest utility, Anchorage Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) has been generating the electricity for Alaska's largest city for more than 85 years. Servicing a 20-square-mile area that includes some of the city's oldest neighborhoods, along with commercial, university and medical customers in the downtown and midtown business districts, ML&P has an incredible responsibility: Without its continuous and reliable generation and distribution of electricity, modern life in this sub-arctic climate would not be possible. Crane builder Washington Crane & Hoist partnered with R&M Materials Handling, Inc. to accomplish this task.

“Reliability was definitely a key factor for this job. We put this project out to bid and R&M was the clear winner. They always come back with a great price and great service.”

Cody Baggett

Washington Crane & Hoist



Class I, Division II Spacemaster EX hoist in the turbine room.

To ensure that electricity generation for the region is both consistent and efficient, ML&P undertook an expansion in 2014 of its George M. Sullivan Plant 2. The importance of the compressors at the plant, and the equipment used to service them, is difficult to overstate.

Yet twice a year, ML&P is required to “take down” half of its electricity generation at Plant 2 to service all the equipment and ensure that it continues to operate at peak efficiency. That means disassembling and lifting out the natural gas compressors. The only way to do that is with a powerful hoist and crane system that can both handle the 20,000 pounds of each compressor and operate in an environment where potential sparks must be eliminated for risk of explosion.

Working with R&M Materials Handling, Washington Crane determined the best choice for its client was the Spacemaster® EX. The Spacemaster EX combines the explosion-proof, protective features necessary for operation in a hazardous location, with the lifting and headroom capacity that would meet the physical demands of the ML&P's compressor building.

Since completion of the Plant 2 expansion, ML&P has retired four older generating units at the plant, slashed its emissions (nitrogen oxide by 97 percent, carbon monoxide by 80 percent and carbon dioxide by 30 percent), and saved \$8.4 million annually on generation costs. It has also been able to reliably service its gas compressors twice annually, without incident, ensuring that electricity generation for the region has remained uninterrupted, even in darkest, coldest days of Alaska's long winters.



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