

Multi-Mag's Monitor City of Homestead's Water to Help Save America's Everglades

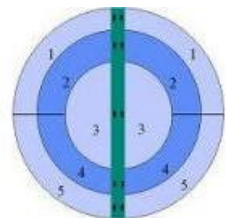
Located near the southern most tip of Florida is the City of Homestead. Just ten miles west of the city is the Everglades National Park and to the east and south are Biscayne Bay's Underwater National Park and the Atlantic Ocean. This city, virtually enveloped in water, proudly places natural resources at the top of their asset list. Fittingly, this community is currently involved in one of the world's largest natural restoration plans - to restore the endangered Everglades.

The Everglades, also known as the "River of Grass", has been designated as a World Heritage Site, an International Biosphere Reserve, and a Wetland of International Importance. This once free flowing river of grass extending from the Kissimmee, Florida area to the Florida Bay, is now in serious peril. As early as the late 1800's, the Everglades' natural water flow has been interrupted by 1,700 miles of canals and levees. Today, more than half of the wetlands and a large majority of this ecosystem have been lost as a result of the encroachment of people and development. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will capture freshwater, the Everglades' lifeblood, that is destined for sea and direct it back to the ecosystem to revitalize it. This will in turn result in improving overall water supplies for people as well. The project is projected to cost \$7.8 billion and will take more than 20 years to accomplish. Local overseeing of the project is the responsibility of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).



The SFWMD protects the supply and quality of water resources in the area by regulating the management and storage of ground and surface waters used by water utilities and commercial establishments. In accordance with SFWMD requirements, the City of Homestead was providing critical drinking water flow data from local well fields in their jurisdiction. Flow from six well pump stations was being fed through two common pipes. In the Fall of 1999, the SFWMD requested that a flowmeter be placed at each of the six pump stations in an effort to begin recording the water usage at each individual site. Richard Grant, Treatment Plant Supervisor for the City of Homestead, stated that an "old" spool-piece meter that had been monitoring the single line would be put out of operation when the newly procured meters were installed.

Marsh-McBirney's (MMI) local representative, Bob Wilson of Techni-Quip, arranged a visit for Homestead officials to observe the MMI Multi-Mag flowmeters in operation in nearby Miami-Dade, Florida.



Each Multi-Mag sensor is custom-built to the exact specifications supplied by the customer. Building sensors to exact inside pipe diameter ensures the highest possible accuracy.

According to Grant, “Homestead personnel were immediately impressed with the Multi-Mag’s unique design concept.”

The Multi-Mag’s insertable electromagnetic sensor is custom built by MMI to the exact specifications supplied by the customer (note the pipe sizes mentioned above). Building sensors to exact inside pipe diameters ensures the highest possible accuracy. The patented sensor consists of a single strut with multiple electrodes that constantly profile the flow providing unsurpassed accuracy. The sensor can be installed in minutes without the need to interrupt system flows.



Grant states, “The fact that the (Multi-Mag) did not need to be calibrated annually represented an immediate cost savings for the city.” The city had become accustomed to paying contractors to re-calibrate their flowmeters on an annual basis. Grant continues, “The self-calibrating feature and

the fact that Miami-Dade was very pleased with the meters firmed up our decision to buy.”

Flow data from the Multi-Mag meters will be used for daily station operation efficiency statistics as well as reporting requirements for the state, county and SFWMD.

For this city surrounded by water, their role in the plan to “Restore the Everglades” and protect their local water resources is evident not only in their “environmentally friendly” Public Works & Services Mission Statement but is clear in their daily actions.

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