

# Automated Treatment Removes Dye from Wastewater and Saves \$701,000

## Challenge

This Southern garment finishing plant needed to remove a minimum of 90% of the cobalt blue color from the effluent produced by its jeans washing operations. The municipal treatment plant could not remove the color and blue water was being discharged into a local river. This water discharge created environmental problems for residents and subjected the company to possible costly surcharges and lawsuits. It also created adverse reactions by its environmentally sensitive, high profile customers.

## Solution

The company and GE Water & Process Technologies worked together on the design and construction of a new wastewater treatment facility that would remove the indigo dye. This close relationship avoided using outside design consultants. The facility was designed around a customized chemical treatment program which included Novus\* and KlarAid\* polymer products and utilized a PaceSetter\* computerized monitoring and feed system. This eliminated unnecessary equipment, greatly reducing capital expenditures.

## Results

The cleaner effluent from the new treatment plant allowed the local municipality to undertake a water reuse program that will save over a million gallons (3,785 m<sup>3</sup>) of water per day. Savings were also realized because less manpower was needed to operate the system, and chemical usage could be reduced. The company's annual savings, after deducting treatment program costs, totaled \$701,000.



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