

PREFERRED SANDS OF GENOA: AN ECO-FRIENDLY FACILITY

Preferred Sands of Genoa, located two hours west of Omaha, NE, is a state-of-the-art sand processing plant. While the term “Environmental, Social, and Governance” (ESG) is a new concept, the Genoa plant has been embracing and executing these sustainability initiatives since its opening in 2007. Not only does it run partially on hydroelectric power, but Preferred also directly supports two hydroelectric plants in Nebraska and uses a recycled waste product from the power making process. The Genoa facility continues to achieve exceptional safety records and is also actively involved in conservation of the endangered Piping Plover and Least Tern.

MAKING HYDROELECTRICITY POSSIBLE

Loup Power District is a hydroelectric power generator that provides ~54 megawatts of power to 21 Nebraska communities. They rely on water from the Loup Canal to power 2 hydroelectric plants, and Preferred aids in this process by using waste materials from Loup’s dredging of the canal settling basin to keep the canal flowing for Loup’s nearby hydroelectric dams.



Dan Hellbusch, Vice President of Operations at Loup Power District, said, “Sand dredged up from the canal settling basin has been piling up for more than 80 years at the Genoa Headworks. Preferred’s operation alleviates our excess sand problem and generates additional revenue for the District. It’s a win-win partnership.” Without the partnership with Preferred, Loup would lose necessary water flow. Additionally, Genoa’s primary form of power comes from the hydroelectric power from Loup. Therefore, Preferred is not only benefiting from green power, but also helping to ensure other people can, too.

GETTING HOME SAFELY

While sustainability is a focus of the Genoa facility, Preferred prides itself on remarkable safety

standards and achievements. Genoa is regulated by two separate agencies: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The mining (sand) portion of their operation is governed by MSHA for which they have not had a recordable injury since June 2018. The sand products portion of the operation is governed by OSHA. That side of the operation has not had a recordable injury since June 2018.



In fact, since the sand products facility became operational in 2011, Preferred has not lost a single workday due to injury. Both facilities are operating well under their industry averages for Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR). At the end of 2019, Genoa had worked approximately 300,000 hours without a recordable injury between both facilities.

PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Preferred is dedicated to not only protecting our employees through proper safety processes, but also to safeguarding the surrounding environments at each of our locations. At our Genoa facility, we have participated in the continued protection of 2 endangered birds: the Piping Plover and the Interior Least Tern. During the 2019 nesting season, the Genoa team protected 5 plover and 36 tern nests along the Lower Platte River system. This is an amazing accomplishment for Preferred, the Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership, and the Nongame Bird Program for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. We look forward to continuing this success in 2020.

