

Soft water from the „Ries“



Soft water for more than 120,000 consumers

Project fact file

- Total water hardness reduced from 21 to 13 degrees dH
- Savings per household 30-50 Euro per year
- 1,800 tonnes of calcium carbonate pellets per year
- Construction period 2008 - 2010

A fireball and its consequences

More than 15 million years ago a mighty meteorite sped towards the Earth at over 70,000 km/h. The impact left behind a crater with a 25 kilometer diameter - the „Nördlinger Ries“ was born. The meteorite created a beautiful landscape, but also a problem whose effects are still felt today: water shortage. Drinking water has to be carried into the area in a giant underground pipe system. ERHARD valves are part of the major „Rieswasser“ project.

Today the Nördlinger Ries is a nature area in southwest Germany. It is located in the triangle area formed by the three cities of Nuremberg, Stuttgart and Munich. Water from the River Ries is supplied to more than 120,000 people. In 2010, following a lengthy construction period, a new water softening plant was put into service on the Sallmannsberg, in district of Dillingen a. d. Donau. This state of the art plant is used to significantly reduce the total hardness of the drinking water.



In September 2008, construction work began on the central „Sallmannsberg“ pumping station in the district of Blindheim. Following a two-year construction period, the highly modern water softening plant was started up in September 2010.

Soft water thanks to the latest technology

During the decades, the hardness level of the water pumped from the well areas rose to 21 degrees German hardness (dH). The water is therefore classified as being „hard“. As use of „hard“ drinking water causes problems in several areas of our lives, in 2003 the idea was formed to soften the drinking water. In 2007, the Bayerische Rieswasserversorgung company decided to build a water softening plant.

Following a two-year construction period and total costs of around eight million euros, the new plant on the Sallmannsberg near Blindheim was connected to the water grid. Thanks to this project, from now on the total hardness of the drinking water can be reduced from 21 to 13 degrees with the help of so-called granular-bed lime softening. The advantages for the population are that the lower hardness level allows them to reduce their consumption of soap, shower cleaning agents, washing powders and cleaning materials. Another advantage is that the wear or cost of maintenance and repair of appliances such as coffee makers and kettles is reduced.

A wide range of ERHARD valves are used in the Rieswasser project. For example, the Heidenheimer company supplied butterfly valves and gate-type shut-off valves. In addition, a large number of ERHARD's wafer-type valves ensure optimum and reliable operation of the plant in the waterworks.

The comprehensive ERHARD product range made it possible to provide all the valves from a single source.

Major Products:

- ECLS Butterfly Valves (DN100 - 600)
- Gate Valves (DN50 - 150)
- ROCO Butterfly Valves (DN250 - 600)
- Knife Gate Valves (DN150-250)
- Non Slam Nozzle Check Valves (DN 150)
- Needle Valve (DN250)



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