

## Anvil Products – Key to Texas Water Injection Facility Emergency Rebuild

*Fast-track project saves company more than \$3.75 million*

Located at the four-corners intersection of Knox, King, Stonewall, and Haskell Counties, the Journey Operating water injection facility sits on a remote expanse of land in Texas. This facility's isolated setting is ideal for oil production operations, but when this production was suddenly and completely halted due to Mother Nature, the remote location was anything but ideal.

Much of Journey's facility was damaged by fire caused by a severe lightning storm on the wide-open Texas landscape. Key structures caught fire, including the facility's eight water storage tanks. The damage left the facility unusable, and an emergency rebuild was needed to get Journey back in business as soon as possible. But the isolated location made this a challenge.

### The Need for Speed

"Reaching us was only half of the problem," said Kenny Powers, Journey's Foreman. "Getting the right products to the site on our timetable would be a whole other story. We were producing around 400 barrels daily, so the downtime was costing us about \$25,000 a day. When you stand to lose that much money, you don't want to hear excuses. You want to get the job done."



The water storage facility in its rebuilding stage.

As a water injection facility, Journey provides secondary oil field recovery. Through this process, water is injected underground, and oil deposits are forced to the surface by the pressure. Certainly, the production of oil is of the utmost importance to the worldwide economy. Consistent and productive operations are vital not only for Journey as a business, but for the impact they have on the global marketplace.





Project Team: (Left to right) Tracy Carter (Pumpers Supply), Chad Carter (Anvil International), Bill Gilliam (Anvil International), Donnie Bowles (Pumpers Supply)

Because of the challenges involved, Journey needed a rebuild team that could undertake the massive project, ensuring that the right product was on site when needed — no matter what. “Tight schedules and remote locations aren’t ideal circumstances for building projects,” Powers added, “but that was the reality. Fortunately, we knew where to go for that level of service.”

#### Assembling the Right Team

Knowing that the rebuild would require a dedicated team of professionals, Journey selected Pumpers Supply & Equipment, a local distributor with a proven reputation for responsiveness and an established relationship with Anvil International — manufacturer of the piping products that Journey knew would be critical for the project.

#### Pumpers Supply & Equipment Co., Inc.

Located in Knoxville, just 12 miles from the Journey Operating facility, Pumpers

Supply has been in business since 1976, and has distributed product for Anvil since opening their doors. Their 12,000 sq. ft. warehouse is stocked with Anvil product at all times.

With more than a quarter-century of experience, Pumpers Supply knows the importance of speed and accuracy on each project — even those that may not carry the particular pressures of the Journey job. “There’s nothing to be gained from dragging a project out,” commented Tracy Carter of Pumpers Supply. “The more responsive you can be, the more solid relationships you can build.”

Combining this level of responsive service with equally reliable products was exactly what the job, and client, required. “We trust Anvil to back us up with the right products when we needed them,” Carter added. “And together, we were definitely the right team to get Journey back in business.”



The Journey Facility after the burn, March 2005.

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— Kenny Powers  
Journey’s Foreman

## Anvil International

Anvil International is the world's largest and most complete manufacturer of piping connections and support systems. With a long-standing reputation for quality products — including the Gruvlok® line — Anvil was the ideal fit for completing the Journey service team.

Headquartered in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Anvil ships its products worldwide from five key distribution centers. 150 years of experience has made Anvil the preferred piping manufacturer and supplier for over 10,000 companies worldwide.

“Our product solutions are unmatched in the industry,” remarked Bill Gilliam, Anvil's Oil & Gas Sales Manager. “Our complete and reliable product lines, and our customer service attentiveness — even well after the sale — makes the difference between simply delivering products and delivering solutions to our customers.”

### The Human Factor and Product Rush

A mere four days after production was halted at Journey, the team of Pumpers Supply and Anvil went to work. For every goal of this ambitious emergency rebuild, the time frame was simple: “As soon as humanly possible.”



Workers inspect completion of the piping structures to and from the tanks.

“We needed a total rebuild of eight water storage tanks, a pump housing structure, and separators — plus all the other factors that go along with that,” Powers said. “In addition to the tremendous amounts of profit we were losing, we knew the project was going to cost approximately \$1.5 million, with more than a third of that being Anvil piping products. In this instance, time very literally was money.”

Anvil and Pumpers Supply worked closely to ensure that neither time nor money was wasted. Delivery of parts to the site needed to be immediate — no time could be spent waiting for parts to arrive. Though delivery downtime is a fairly common reality of projects like this, Journey could not spare the lost production.

To further ensure the timeliness of the re-build, the team of Pumpers Supply and Anvil was available around-the-clock — responding to on-site situations whenever they occurred. “We were definitely on site a lot of late hours and weekends,” said Anvil Sales Rep Chad Carter. “Needs would arise and, regardless of the time, we'd make sure to be on the road immediately to deliver the parts.”

### The Gruvlok® Advantage

A key advantage to the service team was its use of Anvil's Gruvlok product line. Though the plant's original piping was not supplied by Anvil, Journey knew that these products were the best choice for the rebuild. “Anvil and Pumpers Supply were able to offer the broad product mix and sheer volume of parts that we'd need for this project,” said Powers.



A 12-well header system at the facility.

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— Tracy Carter  
Pumpers Supply

This robust product offering included:

- Gruvlok<sup>®</sup> Grooved Couplings & Fittings
- Gruvlok<sup>®</sup> Valves
- Malleable Iron Fittings
- Forged Steel Fittings
- Catawissa<sup>™</sup> Hammer Unions
- IPC Coated Products
- JB Smith<sup>™</sup> Swages and Bull Plugs
- Anvil<sup>®</sup> Steel Pipe Nipples & Couplings

"Gruvlok products also helped create many efficiencies for Journey's future," added Bill Gilliam. "Facilities like Journey must periodically replace materials or they may need to expand their current layout. Gruvlok products are easier to remove, reposition, and replace than welded products." These advantages also cut the rebuild time by two-thirds — saving significant downtime (and therefore substantial cost) for Journey.

### The Importance of Being On Time, Every Time

Pumpers Supply and Anvil worked together quickly and efficiently to build Journey's new facility. The companies complemented each other's strengths and Pumpers and Chad Carter's round-the-clock efforts helped ensure that quality products were delivered on time, every time.

Because of the effectiveness of the team, Journey was able to ensure an on-schedule return to work for the plant in five months, and realize a savings of several million dollars. "We chose the right team," Kenny Powers said. "They were there when it was critical, and had the parts we needed — even when we'd just decided we needed them."

### Moving Forward

Most rebuilding projects are planned. Improvements, renovations, upgrades — all of these projects include carefully mapped-out design and implementation strategies. However, when disaster strikes, and there is no opportunity to

plan ahead, the primary concern becomes getting operations back up and running to prevent further loss of revenue.

Thanks to the relationships built over the years, the team of Pumpers Supply and Anvil International was on the scene and able to deliver. "When you know your business is losing money rapidly, it's easy to set unrealistic expectations," Powers noted. "This team was able to meet my expectations — even when they were unrealistic — and get Journey back up and running as quickly as possible."

The vast landscape at the four-corner intersection in Texas is buzzing with activity once again. Journey is back on track and began operating at 100% within five months after the emergency rebuild started — an impressive feat that couldn't have been performed without Anvil and Pumpers Supply.

#### For more information:

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