

# Partners in Excellence



## Indian River Transport

By Jon Otto



In 2014 Penn Valley Constructors, Inc. was introduced to Indian River Transport by their real estate agent Andy McGhee of Colliers International. At the time they were considering purchasing a property in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Penn Valley was already familiar with Indian River Transport since 2009 as we had been working around their tanker trucks which hauled NFC (not from concentrate) orange and apple juice into one of our customer's sites in Flemington, New Jersey.

Indian River Transport Co. is a privately owned food grade bulk tank carrier, headquartered in Winter Haven, Florida. With a fleet of over 600 tractors and 900 tankers, it is the premier food grade tank carrier in the United States. Indian River also provides export services between the US, Canada and Mexico. In addition to its headquarters in Winter Haven, Indian River also has facilities in Visalia, California, Clovis, New Mexico, Mission, Texas and now Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

The Bensalem site was selected because of its proximity to Indian River customers in the Middle Atlantic states, I-95 and the ports of

the northeast. The site is literally one traffic light away from direct access to I-95.

The Bensalem, Pennsylvania project was completed in two phases; The first phase was the renovation of an existing 2,802 square foot building which was on the site when purchased. It had been previously been used as a bunk room and dispatch center for another trucking company. The renovated building, trimmed in Indian River's signature beige and maroon colors, now houses personnel and HR offices, a dispatch center and drivers lounge.



Tanker





Wastewater pH Balance System

Phase two of the project, starting in March 2017, was a 15,175 square foot pre-engineered steel building constructed with three wash bays, two service bays, restrooms for men and women, parts room and mechanical storage rooms for a 250 HP boiler, pressure washing equipment, pH balancing equipment and storage.

Included in the project are two "Clean in Place" systems (CIP). This equipment is the heart of the tanker cleaning operation. Tankers are delivered to the wash bays and connected to the CIP equipment. The CIP equipment provides printouts which document each clean and provides Indian River Transport with a "Certified" wash

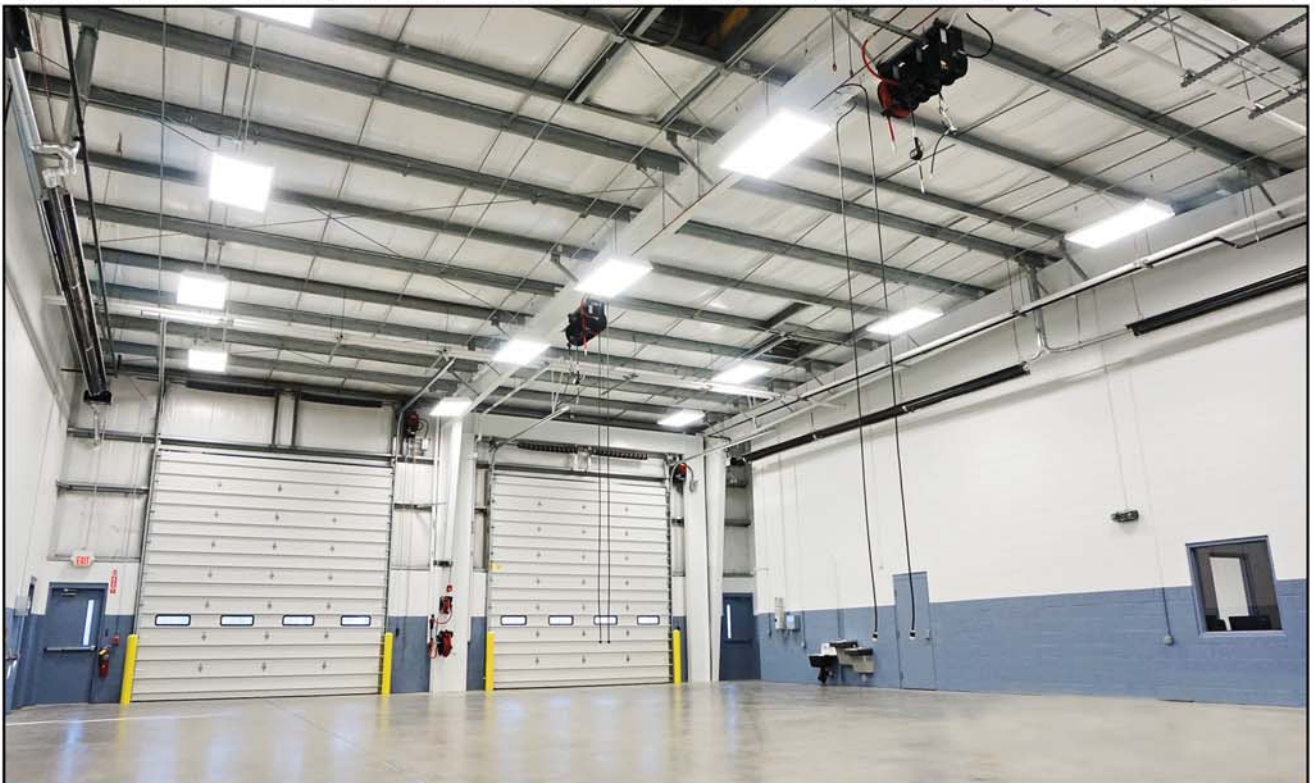


Erected Steel

which is part of the ongoing standards put in place by the Juice Producers Association, the regulatory agency monitoring the food grade hauling industry. The CIP equipment installed in the wash bays is state-of-the-art. It monitors and records all cleaning operations and allows access of wash certifications to clients as well. It allows for many types of certified cleaning operations including "Kosher washes".

The equipment and accessories in the wash bays are constructed of stainless steel including the piping and conduits. Specialized construction was used in these areas to maintain the sanitary conditions required to meet "food grade" standards.

Also integral to the wash bays is the waste water treatment system which filters the effluent and passes it through a pH balancing system. This equipment



Service Bays





Service Bay Exterior

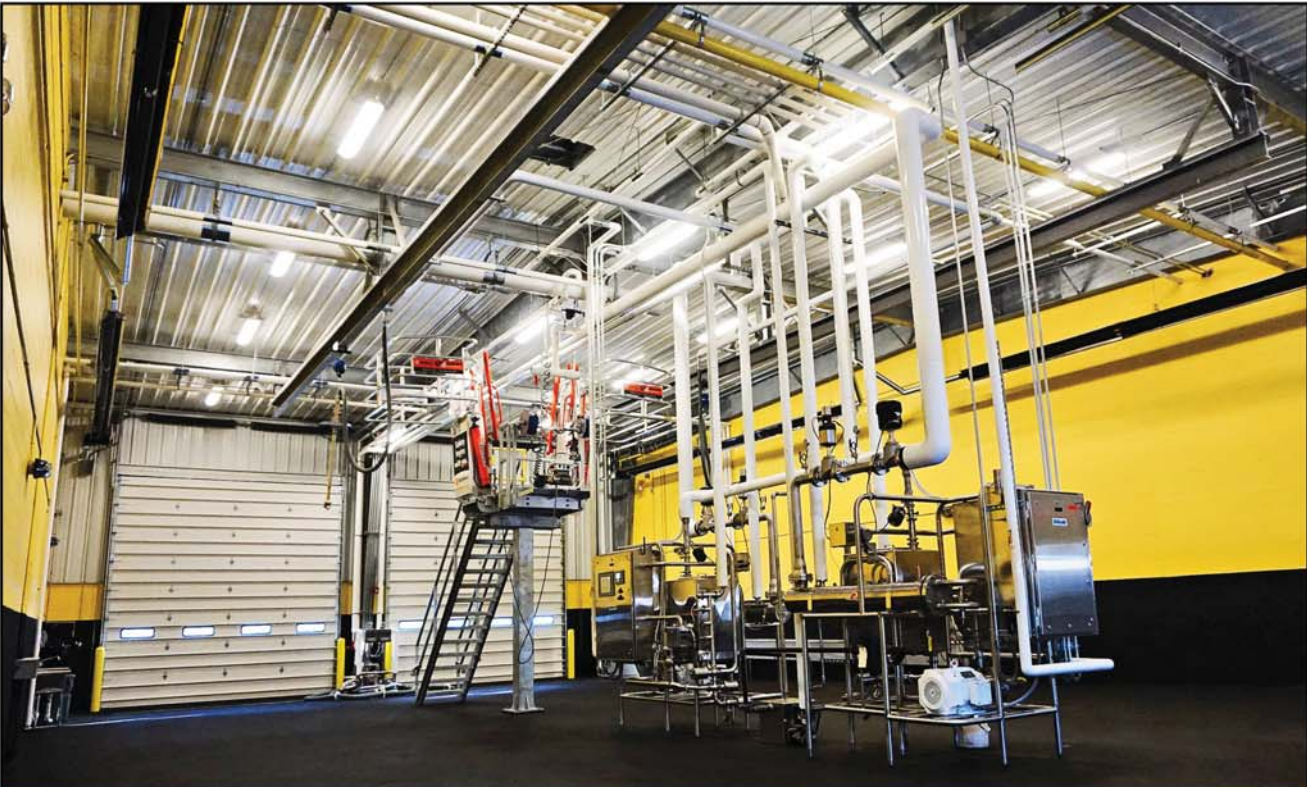
measures the pH of all waste water collected from the washing operation and balances the pH to a neutral range prior to discharge to the public sanitary system.

The service bays include air compressors, engine fluid reels, lube reels, air hose reels, truck ramps, welding outlets and fluid storage tanks for performing service and maintenance to the trucks. Also included in the service area is a small office, break room and spare parts room.

In addition to the complicated mechanical systems required for the “safe wash” and pH neutral wastewater discharge, Indian River requires extensive safety

protocols. Working with Indian River’s Construction Manager, Rich Hunter, Penn Valley installed two significant building enhancements to assist Indian River in its efforts to maintain the safest possible environment for its employees. First we provided an access platform with drawbridge like wings that drop down over the tankers once they are in place. This pre-manufactured tanker catwalk, provided by Safe Rack, allows Indian River employees to safely open the tanker access ports to begin the internal CIP process of the tankers.

Unfortunately, not all of the work can be accomplished from these platforms and personnel does have to leave



Clean in Place Wash System





these safe havens to access other ports on the top of the tanker and to clean the tanker exterior.

These tanker trucks are basically stainless steel cylinders so walking on them can be challenging particularly when the tanker tops are wet. The second safety enhancement was the installation of a monorail over each tanker location which not only supported the CIP accessories, but provided a tie off point to which Indian River personnel could connect their safety harnesses with a “tether” for fall protection

Another aspect of this project was the considerable amount of site improvement work. The drainage system had to be brought up to new clean water discharge standards and the offsite flow slowed to new regulations. To accomplish this, an underground storm water managements system was designed which provided not only filtration and additional storage capacity, but allow for percolation into the sandy soils beneath the site. 3,200

linear feet of 6’ fencing and automatic gates were added to the site as well as extensive landscaping. To accommodate the twenty-one tractors and eighty-seven tankers which were anticipated at the site, regrading and repaving approximately 20,085 square yards was performed and concrete dolly pads to support the tanker support legs were added.

Work was completed on schedule and within budget in February of 2018 and according to Rich Hunter, this projects has “set the standard for any future Indian River wash building”.



Underground Storm Water Detention



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