Operation

Testing

When the valve is used to isolate a section of line for test, it is important to recognize that Mueller valves are designed or factory-adjusted to hold rated pressure only. Test pressure may cause leakage past the elastomeric seat or damage to the valve.

In order to minimize time searching for leaks, it is recommended that excavation for a buried valve not be back-filled until after hydrostatic pressure tests have been completed.

Seat leakage can occur due to foreign material in the pipe. If this occurs, open valve 5-10 degrees to produce high velocity flushing action. Close and repeat several times to clear seat and restore tight shutoff.

Seat leakage can also occur from rotational shift in disc position relative to body seat. Readjust closing stop in actuator according to manufacturer's instructions.

Records

Once installed, valve location, size, make, type, date of installation, number of turns to open, direction of opening and any other pertinent information should be entered in the valve owner's permanent records.

⚠ WARNING: Fluids exposed to freezing temperatures may cause valve to fail, resulting in injury to persons or damage to valve and other property. DO NOT use valve in applications that are exposed to freezing temperatures unless sufficient flow is maintained through the valve to prevent freezing, or other protection to prevent freezing is provided.

Operation

DO NOT permit use and operation of any valve at a pressure above the rated working pressure of the valve. DO NOT exceed 300 ft.-lb. input or torque on actuator with wrench nut, 200 lbs. rim pull input torque for handwheel or chainwheel. If portable auxiliary operator is used, size the operator or use a torque limiting device to prevent application of torque exceeding 300 ft.-lbs. If an oversized operator with no means of limiting torque is used, stop the operator before valve is fully opened or closed against stops and complete the operation manually. Be sure to check operator direction switch against direction indicated on valve wrench nut, handwheel or records, before applying opening or closing torque.

If valve is stuck in some position between open and closed, first check for jamming in the actuator. If nothing is found, the interference is likely inside the valve. In this case, DO NOT attempt to force the disc open or closed since excessive torque in this situation can severely damage internal valve or actuator parts. Contact Mueller Co. Customer Service for assistance.

Maintenance

⚠ WARNING: Removal of actuator or its mounting bolts, whether or not valve is installed, or under pressure or flow conditions, may allow disc (including actuator, if unbolted and still attached to shaft) to rotate very rapidly without warning. Depending upon the situation, this may cause severe bodily harm to persons in the path of disc (or actuator) rotation, failure of piping from water hammer, or other significant damage to the valve or piping system. If valve is not installed, block or lock disc in place before removing actuator bolts. If valve is installed, line should be dewatered by first closing valves upstream of the valve to be serviced, then opening those downstream, allowing sufficient time for water to drain from the line.

Maintenance by valve owner is generally limited to the actuator adjustment or replacement of shaft seals. If the valve is a type that permits field adjustment or replacement of the elastomeric seat, these operations must be done in accordance with published service instructions. Unless the owner has properly skilled personnel with the necessary equipment, any major rework may require removal of valve from the line. (See Form 11987 for complete service Instructions for valves 20” and smaller; for valves 24” and larger see form 12057. These forms can be downloaded from the Mueller Co. web site at www.muellercompany.com.)

Seal leakage, broken parts or difficult operation should be discussed with Mueller Co. personnel before valve repairs are attempted.

Before performing any corrective maintenance with valve in line, stop line flow and isolate valve from line pressure (see preceding warning message for other steps that may be required).

After completing repair, cycle valve through one complete operating cycle before restoring line pressure. Once line pressure is restored, inspect for leakage.

If repairs require removal or closure of valve, or shutdown of line, notify all interested personnel in the water department and fire department that the valve and line are out of service. Upon completion, notify these same personnel that the valve and line are being restored to service.