A REGULATORY REVOLUTION:
Validated Tags & Custom Reports in Halton

Westin
Technology Solutions

Safe Water Sense

Every municipality wants to provide better water to their constituents—that's just common sense. The Region of Halton is no different. Located in Ontario, the Region is a vibrant community in

> **" Taking safe water to the next level "**

the Greater Toronto Metro area. Noted for its safety and great schools, its population has grown in the last decade and is now home to over half a million residents.

Halton wanted to take safe water to the next level. In partnership with the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Halton committed alongside 300 other water utilities to provide a

new level of public health to residents. In joining AWWA's Partnership for Safe Water, over the last (xxx) year, Halton took steps to improve their performance beyond current regulatory requirements. The result? Superior quality water and welcomed reassurance to customers that they are protected.

Halton is currently working on the partnership phase focused on self-assessment. Part of this process is not just knowing accurate water quality data after-the-fact; it's knowing what their system is doing in real-time and using that data to guarantee safe water now and in the future. The region is aiming high. They hope to receive the prestigious President's Award which would recognize and commend them for consistent numerical success in meeting enhanced regulatory requirements.

A Reporting Mess

In years of aftermath of water crises in Flint, Michigan and elsewhere, regulatory standards have only grown more stringent. Halton knew that meeting the challenging thresholds required by AWWA would be challenging. Even more challenging, however, would be capturing all the data required without causing a messy paperwork headache for their team.

Every utility faces this problem. Reporting is a common headache for water and wastewater teams across North America. Because required data is housed in many different silos it can be time-staking to assemble. Often, utilities aren't validating values regularly, leading to the problem of bad data.

For many years, Halton used Microsoft Excel for reporting. Using Excel was familiar, but inefficient,

difficult to track, and painstaking. Even after Halton implemented eRIS, they continued using Excel. This required pulling data from eRIS and then analyzing, cleaning, and formatting it in Excel. It took weeks to perform annual reporting.

As a member of the Partnership for Safe Water, Halton is required to submit reports more than once a year. They knew to successfully meet their goals, they needed to improve their reporting process.

eRIS

Dream Reports Become Reality

Halton needed to change the way they regularly handled data in order to streamline the regulatory reporting process.

First, they wanted to implement data validation. This would not only give them confidence in their data, but also improve their plant processes and decisions. eRIS makes data validation simple, helping Halton build an automatic validation workflow.

"Automated workflow makes validating data practically automatic"

For all data values (called "tags" in eRIS) required for safe water reporting, Halton created an acceptable range using rules. Each day, the workflow runs and compares actual tag data to the range. Tags that are out of scope are flagged. To account for seasonal and regulatory changes, the rules use easily edited constants and calculations, making adjustments a breeze. The process is fully automated on a schedule, making it one less thing operators have to think about.

This automated workflow makes validating data practically automatic. Once the workflow runs, it is sent to an operator for review. Only flagged tags—those out of the acceptable range—, require an operator's manual intervention. The workflow review even includes a visualization, making anomalies identifiable at a glance.

eRIS goes even further in easing reporting burdens. Halton was able to create a saved report that queries all of the required AWWA tags. Using the report builder tool, the team was able to format the report output to fit regulatory requirements. The report is dynamic—it can be run for any time frame and customized as needed. This means that Halton's Safe Water reports are effectively automatic. Once exported from eRIS, they can literally copy and paste them into AWWA's online reporting tool. eRIS turned weeks of reporting labor into something that can be done with a few clicks.

Data You Can Count On

Being a member of the Partnership for Safe Water challenged Halton to take operations to new heights. It pushed them to implement smart data processes that have helped them meet their goals of higher quality water.

However, the effects have reached beyond regulations. With automatic data validation, Halton knows they can trust their data. They've continued to build dynamic reports for data they use every day. With eRIS, it's easy—data access and its use are simple. Any benchmark report can be automated using data validation, flags, and custom reports.

For Halton, the time savings are huge. Reporting that used to take weeks now takes an hour.

They're also more confident in their data, organization, and decisions. But most importantly, they are giving their customers better service. For municipalities, that's the true bottom line.

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