

100% CONFIDENCE



Transforming Reporting in Zeeland

Playing a Vital Role

Just because Zeeland is a small town doesn't mean their water operations are smalltime. Doug Engelsman oversees a team of five at the local Clean Water Plant. Their activated sludge plant is running 365 days a year, processing two million gallons a day, treating wastewater before returning it to Noordeloos Creek. Zeeland is a

Zeeland's success lies in their laboratory—it's there that the quality of their water is monitored. So many utilities still rely on manually entered laboratory data, and Zeeland was no different. "We had no quality control," says Engelsman. It was difficult to ensure that data was correct, or even plausible. Besides the potential for bad

“With eRIS it's easier to sleep”

storybook midwestern town home to 5,000 residents. Just 15 miles from Lake Michigan, their state-of-the-art ultraviolet disinfection processes are a crucial part of maintaining a safe watershed.

Just like any wastewater utility, a key part of

Anticipated Savings
Save 15 hours a month
ROI in approximately 12-15 months

data, manual entry was also time consuming. Engelsman estimated his team was easily spending four to six hours at a time checking data and assembling it for reporting purposes.

Intelligent Data Entry

Enter eRIS. Engelsman and his team knew that moving their data entry and management system from Excel to a database-backed solution was key. But it was essential to ensure that the whole staff, many veteran plant workers, bought in. eRIS made this simple. Engelsman and the eRIS team were able to design web-based lab sheets that had the same look and feel as the hard copy lab sheets his team already knew how to use.

“Bad data doesn't linger”

While his staff would still have to enter data from the lab manually, eRIS makes the frustrating and laborious task of quality control automatic. "With eRIS, I have 100% confidence in our data," shares Engelsman. Data is quality checked as it is entered. Values that fall outside of a predetermined range or don't make sense are flagged. Bad data doesn't linger in the system, affecting reports and future predictions.

Reporting Transformed

A frequent headache for the Zeeland team is the NPDES' Discharge Monitoring Report. Important to their operations and environmental goals, manually entering and collating the data got the job done but could cause messy errors and was time-consuming.

Before eRIS, Zeeland tackled their DMRs with Excel spreadsheets and graph paper. Since there was little confidence that all laboratory numbers were accurate, the whole process of assembling, confirming, and aggregating data took up to six hours.

Now, it takes 30 minutes. Engelsman knows his data is correct and with eRIS can deftly pull reports that are legible, clear, and professional. Impressing the auditors is just one benefit; the same data used for regulatory reporting is giving Zeeland valuable insights into their operation.

“Data is transformed”

Data is transformed from a nuisance into a powerful tool. Plus, Engelsman has saved his team 15 hours a month—not insignificant when there is important work to be done.

Looking Forward

“What else can we do with eRIS,” he laughs, “The possibilities are almost endless!”

Another step toward Zeeland’s digital future was their recent implementation of eRIS Electronic Logbooks. “As an eRIS partner, we benefit hugely from other utilities in our network,” says Engelsman. Zeeland is using a Logbooks module that was imagined, tested, and invested in by other eRIS partners. They aren’t limited by their small-town status but reap the benefits of the diverse and growing eRIS community.

