



A Regulatory Revolution: Validated Tags & Custom Reports in Halton

Case Study: Halton Region, Ontario

Safe Water Sense

Every municipality wants to provide safe 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 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.

In joining AWWA's Partnership for Safe Water, Halton took steps to improve their performance beyond current regulatory requirements. The results? Superior quality water and reassurance to customers that they are protected. Part of this process is not just knowing accurate water quality data; it's knowing what their system is doing in real-time and using that data to guarantee safe water now and in the future.

A Reporting Mess

In the aftermath of the water crisis in Flint, Michigan and elsewhere, regulatory standards have only grown more stringent. Halton knew that meeting the goals set by their partnership with AWWA would be challenging. Even more challenging, however, would be capturing all the data required without causing a paperwork nightmare for their team.

Every utility faces this problem. Reporting is a common headache for water and wastewater owners and operators. As data is often housed in many different silos it can be time consuming to assemble.

For many years Halton used Microsoft Excel for reporting. Using Excel was familiar, but inefficient and difficult to track. They knew to successfully meet their goals, they needed to improve their reporting process.

Dream Reports Become Reality

Halton needed to change the way that they regularly handled data in order to streamline their reporting process. First, they implemented data validation. This would not only give them confidence in the data, but also improve their plant processes. eRIS makes data validation simple, helping Halton build an automatic validation workflow.

For all data values (called tags in eRIS) required for safe water reporting, Halton created an acceptable range using simple 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 are easily edited constants and calculations. The process is fully automated on a schedule, freeing up time for operators to work on more critical tasks. Only flagged

tags require an operator's manual intervention. Dashboards and simple visualizations make anomalies identifiable at a glance.

eRIS goes even further in easing reporting burdens. Using the report builder tool, the team formatted 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, which used to take weeks of reporting labor, can now be done with a few clicks.

Data You Can Count On

Being a member of the Partnership with Safe Water challenged Halton to implement smart data processes that have helped them meet their goals of higher water quality. However, the effects have reached beyond regulations. With automatic 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 uses are simple.

Halton is more confident in their data, organizations, and decisions, but most importantly they are giving their customers better service. That's the true bottom line.

“ eRIS turned weeks of reporting labor into something that can be done with just a few clicks. ”



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