

Contingency Planning

One serious difficulty that many utilities have faced during this pandemic is what to do if the only licensed operator for a system falls ill or needs to be quarantined. Many municipalities have had to find creative ways to keep systems operating safely and efficiently when an infection is reported. By adding SCADA-Lite systems, a single licensed operator can now operate multiple municipal systems safely from one location, such as a home or office. This greatly expands the limited pool of operators and allows for contingency planning and cooperation across multiple municipalities.

Advantages

The first advantage of a SCADA system is giving real time visibility of critical infrastructure without the inherent exposure opportunities of travel. This also allows for critical logs, such as pump run times and tank levels to be collected generated remotely and even automatically. Many people see SCADA systems as exceptionally large, automated



controllers that cost 100's of thousands of dollars, take months to install and require specialized training to operate. Technology has reached the point where smaller low cost very direct sensors can be employed to monitor and even control one or more pieces of equipment. These systems are what we refer to as SCADA-Lite. This makes critical monitoring affordable for even the smallest Municipalities.

