

## Case Study

### Williams Implements Alarm Management for All Control Rooms



“Within the first month of implementation, the number of nuisance alarms was reduced by 169,534, significantly enhancing both the SCADA system and, in many cases, reducing the number of alarms directed to the controller.”

- John Mark Kennedy, Supervisor of Controls, Williams

#### Background

Founded in 1908, Williams is an energy infrastructure company focused on connecting North America’s significant hydrocarbon resources in growing markets for natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs) and olefins. Williams’ operations span from the deep-water Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian oil sands.

Williams owns and operates midstream gathering and processing assets, and interstate natural gas pipelines. In addition, the company processes oil sands off-gas and produces olefins for petrochemical feedstock.

Headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Williams has other major offices in Salt Lake City, Houston, the Four Corners Area, and in Pennsylvania. It employs approximately 4,600 people.

The Parachute Plant in the Piceance Basin can process 1.2 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas and handle 6,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids.

#### Challenge

In the oil & gas industry, inadequate alarms can result in spills, releases, production upsets, shutdowns and other incidents. Controls are often a contributing factor in these events. For this reason, Williams sponsored an alarm management initiative in its midstream operations.

The objectives of the initiative included:

- Build a disciplined alarm management approach for Williams Midstream for operational effectiveness, reliability, safety and compliance
- Ensure Williams Midstream’s alarm systems help an operator or controller prevent, recognize, or respond to abnormal operating conditions and help keep such conditions from escalating

- Assess current alarm management conditions at existing Midstream facilities and make changes, as appropriate
- Meet Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requirements.

#### Solution

Williams began their search for alarm management tools by searching the web and contacting potential companies that could provide a tool for all of its facilities. They narrowed the search to four companies and made visits to each, where Williams’ Alarm Management Team was introduced to the various alarm management tools.

The selection criteria included:

- Price
- Connection capabilities to the various Williams facilities
- Architecture
- Standard analysis deliverables and configurable reports
- Intranet visualization
- Ability to handle PHMSA requirements
- Tools for documentation and rationalization
- Master alarm database

Williams selected Honeywell alarm management software, which included Alarm Manager A&E, and Alarm Manager MOC.



## Benefits

Williams identified several points relative to an effective Alarm Management system, including:

- Helps operators/controllers take the correct action at the correct time when responding to alarm systems
- Provides an alarm design guideline for new systems and modifications
- Improves process/plant/pipeline reliability and safety.
- Reduces the number and, ultimately, the cost and impact of abnormal situations
- Assists Williams Midstream in adhering to industry guidelines, best practices, and regulations

## Results

Honeywell's alarm management software was implemented on Tulsa's Pipeline Control Center SCADA system in mid-2012. Within the first month of implementation, the number of nuisance alarms was reduced by 169,534, significantly enhancing both the SCADA system and, in many cases, reducing the number of alarms directed to the controller.

Results show that alarm management implementation will continue to streamline alarms, resulting in an efficient alarm system focused on safety and core operations.

### For More Information

Learn more about Honeywell's alarm management products and services, visit our website [www.honeywellprocess.com/AlarmManagement](http://www.honeywellprocess.com/AlarmManagement) or contact your Honeywell account manager.

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