

Vale, Oregon Water SCADA System

New Water SCADA System for Vale, Oregon

A small town in Eastern Oregon now has a high-tech control system for its water supply.

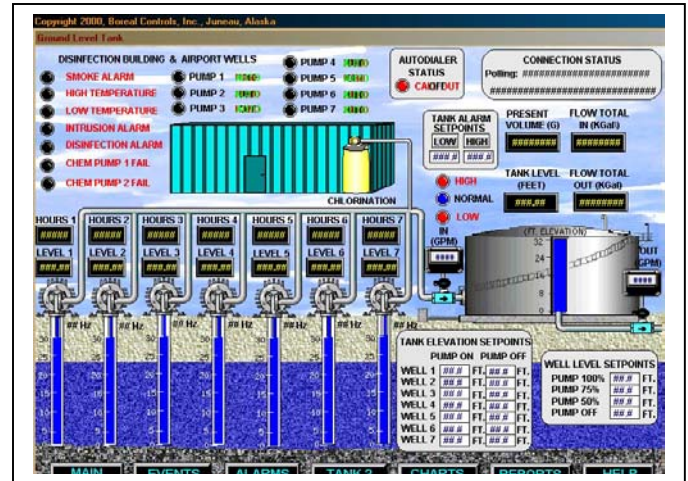
Boreal Controls Inc. recently supplied a SCADA monitoring system for five sites in Vale, Ore., including new and existing pump stations and treatment plants as part of a water system expansion.

The community, west of Boise, Idaho, now has Opto 22 controllers and Microwave Data System radios to pass information from relatively remote pump sites to the master controller at the public works building. With the addition, the remote sites can communicate wirelessly thus saving on recurring telephone charges.

At the heart of the system is a graphical operator interface running on a PC. BCI wrote the control program, tailoring it to the city's needs to track pump speeds, levels and water flow. "That gives them pictures of the whole system and logs flow data so they can get trending screens with graphs," said BCI engineer Tory Oien.

Vale public works director Dave Hatt said it's convenient for the city's water chief. If there's an alarm he can check in on the system from home to determine whether it's something he needs to head out to follow up on.

"The graphics are extremely good," Hatt said. "I think we're extremely pleased with it."



Operator interface screen for the airport wells and the disinfection building. Vale, Oregon.

A useful feature of the new system is the ability to print out reports of pump hours and total flow for days or months.

It also can be monitored and controlled through a dial up modem from a laptop, so that system operators can access the controls, literally, from anywhere in the world.