

# Managing your Water Quality Data: OCWA's PROCESS DATA COLLECTION System

OCWA delivers service with extensive experience and resources. Our hands-on expertise in the operations and maintenance of water and wastewater facilities is reinforced with corporate support systems in the areas of compliance, asset management, emergency response, and information technology. Among the many value-added programs that are included in our services, OCWA's Process Data Collection is one such innovative and comprehensive tool that benefits our clients.

## Developing the Standard in Ontario

With hundreds of facilities each generating large volumes of data every day, OCWA created a computer application which captures and stores the data for tracking and analysis. Developed by operations and compliance specialists and launched in 1997, OCWA's Process Data Collection (PDC) system gathers information from online instruments, manual data entry and lab reports, and generates a wide range of facility-specific reports.

## Facility Profiles in OCWA's PDC Software

Through the PDC application, every OCWA-operated facility has a customized profile which contains all the necessary parameters for reporting everything from flows to turbidity to chemicals and in-house lab results. OCWA has predefined profile templates for:

- Water Treatment
- Wastewater Treatment
- Lagoons
- Biosolids
- Groundwater
- Surface Water

## Regulatory Reporting

PDC currently offers 18 different reports in response to the variety of systems and local needs. These reports have been developed and designed to:

- Meet regulatory requirements
- Assist facility staff in maintaining compliant operations
- Enhance and optimize treatment process efficiencies

On-demand reports are efficiently and securely transferred to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). With the



Online Instrumentation Readings



Data Entry of Readings and Samples



Lab Reports

**OCWA's Process Data Collection (PDC) accepts and analyzes data and creates reports for each facility**



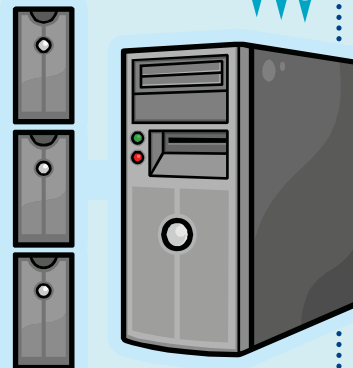
Regulator



OCWA Client



OCWA Operator and Management



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Process Data Collection system, OCWA can also provide our data to our clients on the operational status of their facilities. Reports are transferred electronically as PDF files. Data can also be manipulated into spreadsheets or reports by exporting the raw data to another application (for example, MS Excel). Once data is reviewed and locked for security, the data can then be transferred to OCWA's Client Connection for password-secure online access by our clients.

## Advantages of OCWA's Process Data Collection

Ontario Regulations mandate direct lab-to-operator notification when samples show an adverse drinking water quality result. No program can or should replace that human role. However, in addition to OCWA's immediate alarming and notification systems, PDC offers alert features as users can enter operational and compliance ranges for each parameter. As well, our PDC software contributes to operational due diligence by keeping records of the sample schedule and any operator response if a sample reads out of compliance.

Developed by operators, for operators to support water system integrity, OCWA's Process Data Collection advantages include:

- Consolidates field data, online instrumentation, and electronic receipt of lab test results into a standardized, accessible format
- Automated visual identifiers for exceedances
- On-demand reports
- Simplifies regulatory compliance

- Easily modified as industry regulations and requirements change
- Automation minimizes data entry error and ensures data integrity
- Enables process analysis and optimization

## Continuous Improvement

OCWA's Operational, Compliance, and Information Technology staff are in constant communication. Regular meetings and daily dialogue address local challenges and regulatory change, culminating in system advancements. OCWA's recent PDC innovations include our ability to generate XML files that integrate directly into the MOE Water Taking Reporting System website.

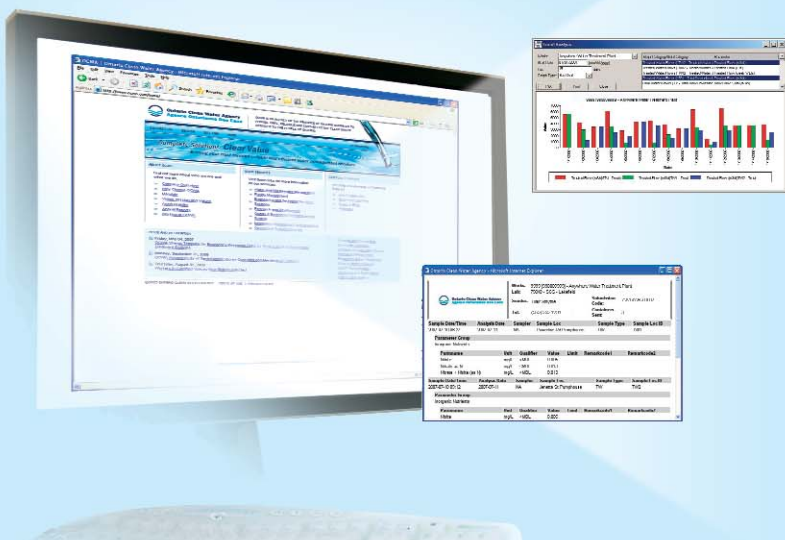
## Future Versatility

Past laboratory results are an essential component of facility performance analysis and can be strong indicators of the future. Operators can access data from past years and provide such reports to our clients. Because each OCWA-managed facility is profiled through customized reports, PDC's trending of key parameters over many months or years also helps operators assess recurring and seasonal variances.

While helping to protect the health of your community today, the information captured in OCWA's Process Data Collection system is critical to effective future planning – just another example of how OCWA's comprehensive services provide security, peace of mind, and clear value.



For more information on how OCWA's Process Data Collection supports the integrity of your water system, or to discuss customized reports for your facilities, please contact your Operations Manager or Client Services Representative.



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