



IMPACT Another PSC Success Story

Large Utility Company — Carbon Services



Giving a Northern California Utility More Power for its Dollar

One of California's largest utilities, providing electricity and natural gas to two-thirds of The Golden State, was faced with a management and cost challenge. The utility, employing 20,000 people and serving approximately 15 million ratepayers over a 70,000 square mile area, was looking for a comprehensive solution to a common issue.

Every year, federal regulatory agencies require this northern California natural gas distributor to hydrotest hundreds of miles of natural gas pipeline. Hydrotesting of pipes is performed to expose defective materials that have missed prior detection, ensure that any remaining defects are insignificant enough to allow operation at design pressures, expose possible leaks, and serve as final validation of the integrity of the constructed system. When the testing is complete, wastewater must be treated to remove any hydrocarbons or other impurities that exceed local discharge requirements. The treated water can then be discharged into storm drains, publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), or land-discharged.

In 2011, the utility hired numerous subcontractors to assist with the required water treatment scope of work. While the treatment itself was effective, the client recognized that there was

considerable room for improvement in the technical, operational, and commercial approach to the work. For 2012, the utility asked PSC, which had long been its environmental services partner, to take on this scope of work, and drive a more efficient process.

PSC reviewed the previous carbon service providers' performance and realized it could save the client considerable money by re-activating the carbon instead of simply disposing of it outright. In addition, instead of using virgin (unused) carbon, PSC selected reactivated carbon saving considerable cost. PSC invested

\$1.5 million to develop and build its own carbon filtration equipment, and fielding a fleet of carbon filtration trailers, support equipment, and water treatment operators to service 100% of the client's annual needs.

For their 2012 hydrotesting campaign, the client entrusted

PSC to perform all of the required carbon services.



The result? The utility spent 48 percent less on carbon services from PSC than it had with its previous group of subcontractors. PSC was able to reuse/reactivate 100% of its waste carbon, and using it multiple times, saved money and resources with minimal impact on the environment.



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