



IMPACT Another PSC Success Story

Utilities — Processing Wastewater



Managing Water Runoff Helps Utility Meet EPA Deadline

Environmental regulation protects the public from the hazards that are often a by-product of modern industry. Satisfying those regulations takes significant effort – and teamwork.

A large East Coast gas and utility company that serves more than 1.2 million electrical customers and 650,000 natural gas customers faced a challenge. The utility maintains a massive frac tank the size of 25 football fields at one of its large substations where oil-contaminated water is held until it can be processed for disposal. Removing the oil from this water requires an advanced filtration system that demands periodic – and expensive – maintenance.

In the summer of 2013, the utility company took its filtration system off-line for scheduled repairs. The EPA gave the utility just two weeks to complete this operation.

As a precaution, the utility company hired PSC, which had already performed work for the parent company's other subsidiary utilities to keep an eye on the tank's water levels and prevent any overflows.

The utility company made the right call.

Almost as soon as the utility company took its filtration system off-line, a major

storm system moved through the area, dumping nearly four inches of rain in over 24 hours. The downpour added 250,000 gallons of extra water to the already swollen frac tanks. If unchecked, this would have caused a massive overflow and a potential environmental nightmare.

Fortunately, PSC saw the crisis coming and took bold preventive action. PSC workers cleared 223,000 tons of oily stones from an area adjacent to the frac tanks and used it to contain spillover liquid. They also pumped excess oil/water solution into mobile tanks that they then transported to a nearby private facility that agreed to temporarily store the contaminated water.

In all, PSC managed to remove and contain nearly a quarter of a million gallons of oily water over just two days, preventing an overflow and the costly delays it might have triggered. The utility company brought the oil-separation filters back on-line as scheduled, the EPA was satisfied, and area customers continued to receive their electricity and natural gas service uninterrupted.

"PSC moved heaven and earth to help us. Their service was exceptional."

-Substation & Transmission Supervisor Contract Construction

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