

Customer Spotlight: Water City of Clearwater Water Pollution Control Laboratory

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Company Profile:

The Water Pollution Control Laboratory, a component of the City of Clearwater Public Utilities Department, provides the community of 108,000 people with safe drinking water, a proactive wastewater collection system, and a very high standard wastewater treatment, which in turn provides reclaimed water to customers.

The WPC Laboratory provides analysis and support for Water Pollution Control, Water, and Wastewater Collection divisions, including providing data for trend analysis, wastewater and sludge characterization, process efficiency and permit compliance monitoring.

The lab tests drinking water, wastewater and solid materials for three wastewater plants and the reverse osmosis plant, performing approximately 41,000 tests annually: analyses for conventional pollutants, composite sample analyses for metals and other pollutants, nutrient and metals loading rates in sludge, conventional pollutant removal efficiency of each process, and anaerobic digester activities. Quality control, regulatory compliance analyses and monthly bacteriological analyses are run for the community drinking water system.

Their Challenge:

Tracking and maintaining data and supporting documentation required by regulatory compliance was cumbersome and challenging for the WPC Laboratory. Historically, the handling of samples and bench sheets, plus the manual entry of data and report preparation, was a repetitive process fraught with transcription errors. As the laboratory considered transitioning from paper-based to paperless and investing in a LIMS, the objective was to find a system with flexibility to import analytical data from a variety of instruments, seamless integration with external systems such as SCADA, ease of use for staff, reduced turnaround time, and improved efficiency. It was also important for the laboratory to have trending capabilities, so tracking results and supporting data would identify potential problems and allow the lab to be proactive. Sample Master® was chosen because it met all of the WPC Laboratory requirements and more.



Our Solution:

Sample Master® integrates with the WPC Laboratory's numerous instruments: Varian Saturn GC/MS, Perkin-Elmer Optima 2000, Analyst 600 and FIMS 100, Dionex Reagent Free Ion Chromatograph, Man-Sci PC Titrate, Man-Sci BOD Assay, Bran-Luebbe TRAACS 800 and Teledyne TOC analyzer. Instrument integration has allowed the WPC Laboratory staff to enhance productivity while increasing data quality. Since implementing Sample Master® LIMS, the WPC Laboratory has achieved its goal of transitioning to a paperless environment, simultaneously reducing transcription errors, enhancing data quality, and increasing efficiency.

Leveraging open architecture and comprehensive automation for laboratories of any size, Sample Master® is modular in design and affords laboratories unparalleled flexibility to choose hardware and software specific to their needs, as well as support expansion as operations grow.

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Sample Master® LIMS has been fulfilling everything ATL promised. The period of time from installation to 'go live' was surprisingly short. Right away our staff was able to use the major modules. The instrument integrations had no major problems and the staff learned how to parse data easily. The support has been outstanding. Anytime we contact them, the response is almost immediate.

Maria de la Cantero, Laboratory Manager
Water Pollution Control Laboratory

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