Digitization of Nuclear Plants

Wireless Gauge Reader Applications and ROI 4/30/2025







WGR Deployments – Nuclear Generation

- Duke Energy (Fleetwide: Oconee, Robinson, Brunswick, Harris, Catawba, McGuire)
- Southern (Fleetwide: Farley, Hatch, Vogtle)
- Xcel Energy (Fleetwide: Prairie Island, Monticello)
- PSEG (Fleetwide: Salem, Hope Creek)*
- Bruce Power (Canada)
- Constellation Energy (Calvert, Braidwood, Clinton, JAF, Nine Mile Point, Limerick, Ginna, Peach Bottom)
- NextEra (Fleetwide: Turkey Point, St. Lucie, Point Beach, Seabrook)
- Vistra (Comanche Peak, Davis Besse)
- STP Nuclear (South Texas)
- Nebraska Public Power District (Cooper)
- Arizona Public Service (Palo Verde*)
- Entergy Vermont Yankee (1 unit decommissioned)
- EPRI Charlotte Nuclear Applications Center (installed)
- France EDF (pilot deployment)
 - * Pending Installation



Problem: Most Plant Data is NOT Digitized















Solution: Non-invasive sensors – 5 minute install













- "Electronic Eyeball" reads gauges and numeric indicators and transmits readings wirelessly
- Already approved and installed in over 30 nuclear power plants
- Non-invasive, clamp-on to existing gauges in minutes
- No downtime, no leak check, no wiring, no drawings
- Battery life of 3+ years at 15 minute sample rate
- IP56/NEMA 4 rated for outdoor use
- Various size and types of mounting adapters to fit most existing gauges



Typical Installation













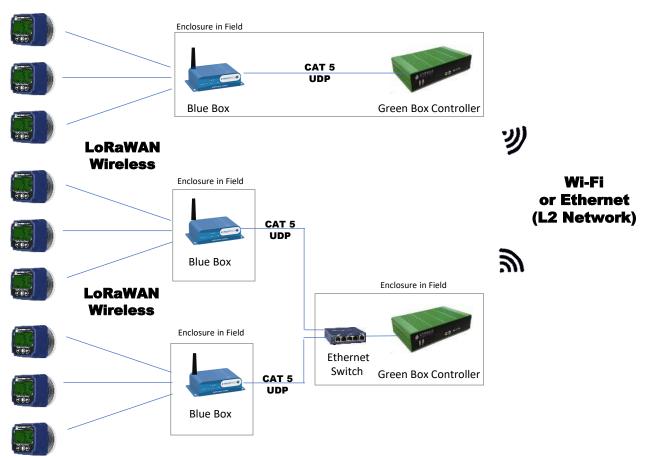
Variety of Mounting Mothods per Operational Need

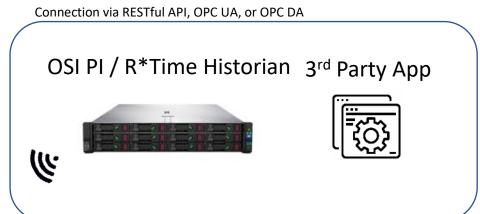


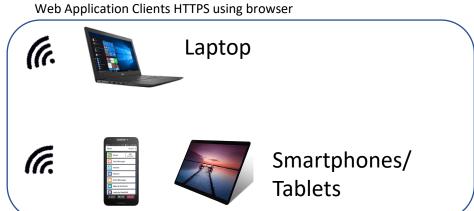
 Use of flip doc provide hands visibility of ori



Typical Deployment Architecture – Option 1



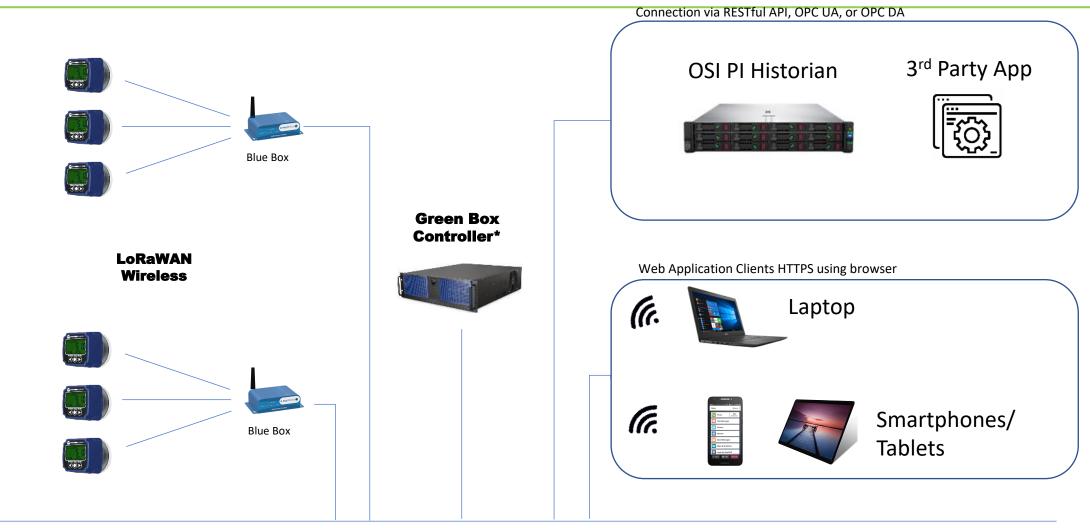




Wireless Gauge Reader



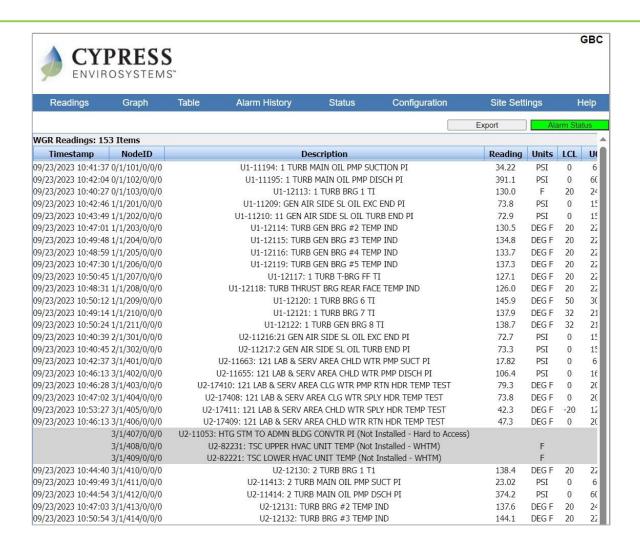
Typical Deployment Architecture – Option 2

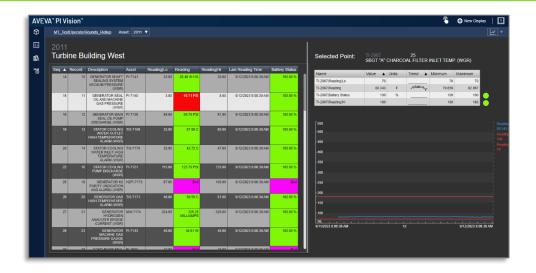


Level 2 Business Network (ethernet)



Data Visibility on Tablets or PI Historian





- Current Readings
- Historical Trending
- Download to Excel (.csv)
- Configurable Alarm Limits
- Configurable Notifications



Cypress Family of Non-Invasive Digitization Solutions



Wireless Digit Reader



- Reads numeric indicators
- Exactly same form factor as Wireless Gauge Reader
- Should not require additional engineering review/approval
- Has different firmware than WGR
- Wireless transmission duty cycle is higher battery life about 30% of WGR. Use slower sample rate to compensate









Wireless Pipe Temperature Monitor



- Clamp on Type K thermocouples to pipe wall
- Thermocouples may also be inserted between pipe insulation and pipe wall
- Small form factor, slim profile can fit in tight spaces
- Low weight less than 1 lb reduces civil and seismic concerns.
- 500 deg F maximum temperature at thermocouple
- Electronics module max temperature of 158 F. Thermocouple wires may be up to 100 ft long.
- Battery life of 3+ years at 15 minute sample rate
- Optional IP67 enclosure available



Wireless Steam Trap/Pipe Wall Temp Monitor





Leaking Traps Waste Energy



Typical Steam Trap

- Traps are a necessary part of the steam distribution system, usually hundreds of units per site
- 15-20% average failure rate; leaks steam
- Failed traps lose \$5,000 per year (1/8" orifice)
- Manual inspection typically done annually labor intensive, do not catch problems in timely manner
- Solution: Wireless steam trap monitor detects faults and alarms on error, avoiding expensive leak loss
- Non-invasive installation: no breaking seals, wireless, integrates with BMS
- Battery life of 3+ years at typical sample rates
- IP65/NEMA 4 rated for outdoor use
- One year payback on investment



Wireless Transducer Reader



- Software configurable I/O and signal conditioning
- Enables wireless remote monitoring of virtually any analog transducer or instrument with the following outputs: 4-20mA, 0-5V, or 0-10V, RS-232, RS-485, thermocouple, thermistor, dry contacts
- 2 channels per device
- Configurable sample rates from three seconds to four hours
- Compatible with most existing flow meters, current meters, particle counters, thermocouples, weigh scales, etc.
- Battery life of 3+ years at 15 minute sample rate, also accepts
 110VAC line power
- IP 67 protection
- Enables data logging to enable trend analysis, notification, or statistical process control

Wireless Humidity, Temperature, Wet Bulb Monitor



- -20 °C to +70 °C (-4 °F to 158 °F) Temperature Range
- 0 − 100% Relative Humidity Range
- Displays Temperature, Relative Humidity, and Wet Bulb Temperature (optional)
- Used for worker heat stress management, materials life tracking etc.
- Magnetic Mounting for steel walls or columns
- Adhesive Mounting for other surfaces
- Battery life of 3+ years at 15 minute sample rate
- IP56/NEMA 4 rated for outdoor use



Wireless Indicator Light Reader











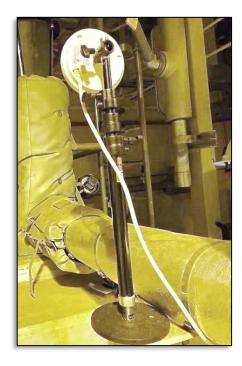


- Non-invasive stick-on light sensor
- Small form factor, does not obscure operator view of indicator
- Light weight, optical detection only minimal engineering review
- Optical detection is "air-gapped" minimal cyber security review
- Will require EMI exclusion distance consideration depending on type of equipment



IP Camera Monitoring Automation







- Capture images from 3rd party IP Cameras
- Use GBC machine vision engine to automatically convert to digital value and store for history, trending, alarming
- No need for human operator to always check camera feed
- Leverage existing approved data architecture





Wireless Liquid Level Monitor – mobile application









Vibration Monitoring

HONEYWELL VERSATILIS TRANSMITTER

Multi-Variant Sensing

Honeywell Versatilis™ Transmitter is a multi-variant sensing platform based on the latest LoRaWAN® protocol communication technology. Its inherently low-power compact design coupled with quick & easy installation, and commission helps manufacturers to deploy them at scale with the lowest CAPEX and negligible OPEX. These sensors are designed to monitor and predict the health of rotating equipment like motors, pumps, blowers, fans, compressors, and gearboxes. In addition, they can be deployed to remotely monitor the position of manual valves, the health of steam traps, and the surface temperature of static process equipment. They can also be deployed to monitor environmental conditions in life science facilities.

MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS:

Surface	Ambient	Ambient
Temperature	Humidity	Pressure
Vibration	Audio	Ambient
	Acoustics	Temperature

SENSORS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Honeywell Versatilis platform contains a suite of sensors encompassing versatile sensing parameters such as pressure, temperature, humidity, triaxial accelerometer, and audio acoustics MEMS to provide insightful measurements. Sensors on the platform are selected to cover a broad frequency spectrum enabling adequate sensing coverage of process and physical phenomena. Sensor fusion analysis on the acquired measurements can be performed. Any specific parameter is customizable in either software or hardware according to the requirement of a specific application. Each measured parameter contributes a unique dimension thereby augmenting the system into a multi-dimension sensing platform. Sensor data can be transferred over the LoRaWAN* network which is protected through secure key authentication. The Honeywell Versatilis Transmitter can be configured to notify the application through Event Triggers and FFT (Fast Fourier Transform) Triggers.



Figure 1- Honeywell Versatilis Transmitter

Figure 2 - Assembly

Honeywell

Honeywell Versatilis™ Transmitter Technical Specification Ho

Honeywell Proprietary







Return on Investment Use Cases

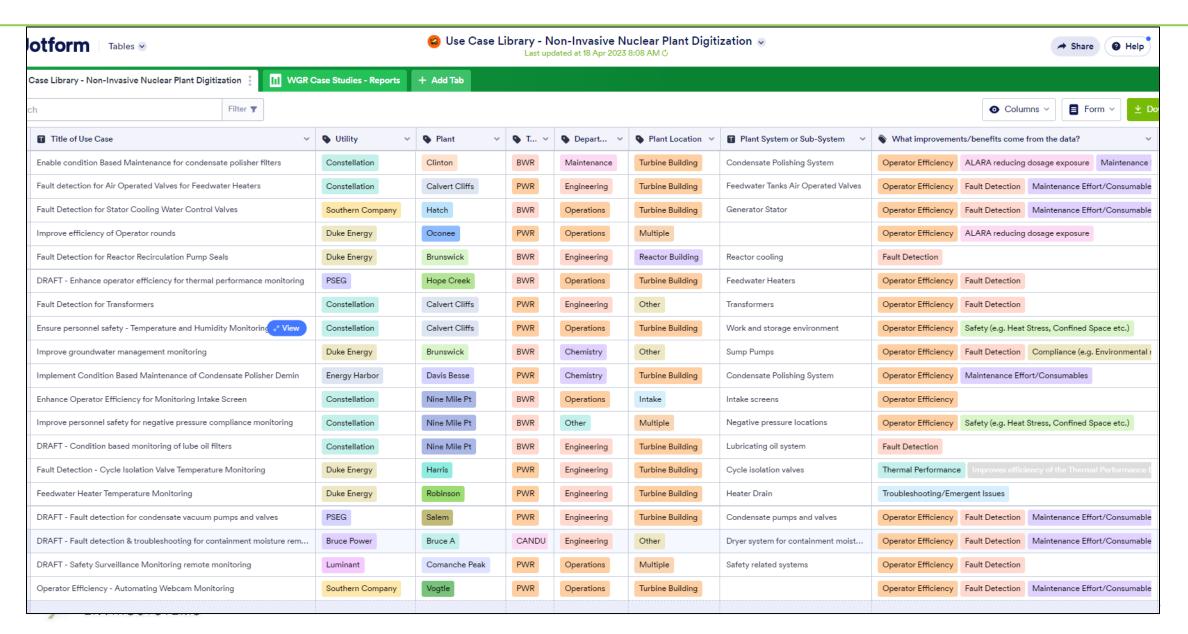


Benefit Categories

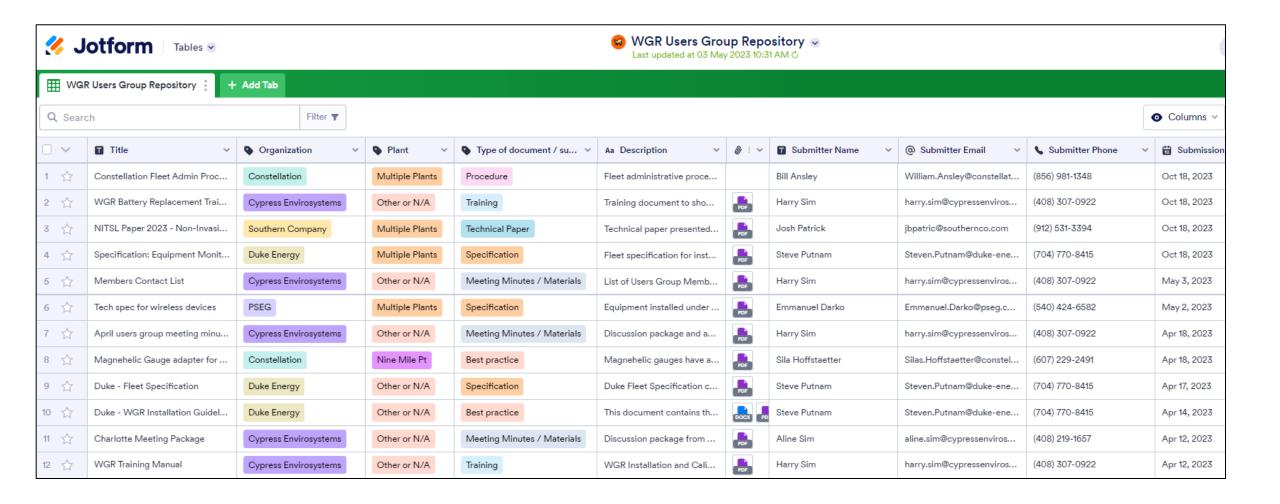
- Improve operator efficiency
- Equipment fault detection/reduce unplanned downtime, feed data to OSI PI and Advanced Pattern Recognition models (e.g. Predix, SmartSignal, Prism)
- Reduce maintenance cost transition from scheduled preventive to condition-based maintenance
- Optimizing plant thermal performance
- Improve worker safety minimize exposure to hazardous locations, ALARA
- Environmental compliance monitoring
- Troubleshooting via crash cart, emergent needs



Use Case Library – Available to WGR Users Group



Best Practices Library – Available to WGR Users Group





Selected Operational Experience - Discussion

- Duke Energy Oconee: improved efficiency of operator rounds after implementation of WGRs.
- Constellation Calvert Cliffs: Early fault detection in feedwater heater tank level controls avoided unplanned downtime
- Constellation Clinton: Implement condition-based maintenance for condensate polishing filter changeout
- Duke Brunswick (BWR): ALARA, to reduce dose rates for workers where possible for routine tasks
- Duke Harris: improve thermal performance by detecting and eliminating leaks in steam isolation valves
- NextEra Turkey Point: Monitor bearing temperatures and head pressure for condensate pumps, recirc pumps, component cooling pumps etc. to detect early failure signs
- Duke Brunswick: Monitor run-time for certain sump pumps as part of groundwater protection plan
- Limerick Comanche Peak: monitor ambient temperature, humidity and wet bulb for worker heat safety and material life impact
- Constellation Three Mile Island: crash cart for troubleshooting emergent issues (prior to decommissioning)



Plant-wide Engagement – Broad benefits

DEPARTMENT:

- Operations
- Maintenance
- Engineering
- Chemistry
- Radiation Protection
- Monitoring & Diagnostics Center



BENEFITS:

- Improve operator efficiency
- Equipment fault detection/reduce unplanned downtime
- Reduce maintenance cost enable condition-based maintenance
- Optimizing plant thermal performance
- Improve worker safety ALARA, heat stress
- Troubleshooting via crash cart, emergent needs



Long Term Trending: Turbine Valve Actuator Temperatures

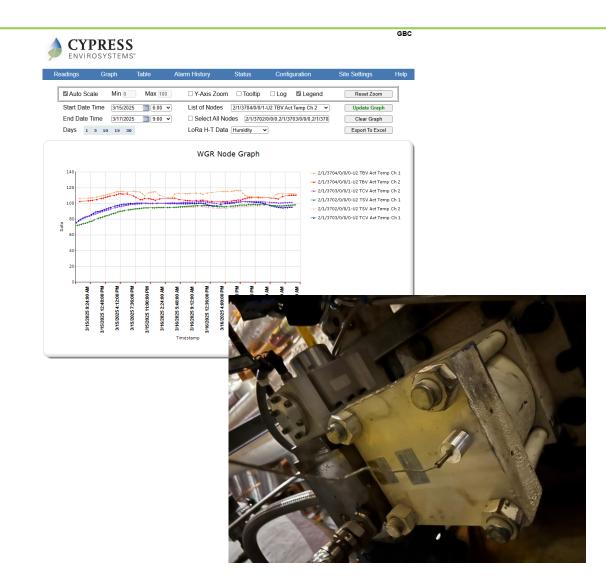
Need:

 Long term temperature trending to monitor for EHC fluid degradation due to temperature

Solution:

 Install magnetic thermocouples to each Turbine Valve Actuator

- Real time temperature monitoring without entry into Condenser Bay
- Eliminate Radiation dose and heat stress to personnel
- Avoid Turbine Valve failures due to EHC fluid degradation



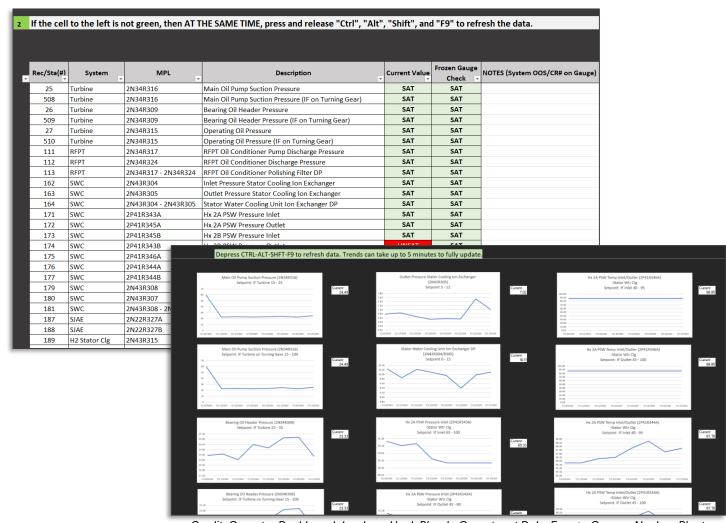


Operator Rounds Dashboard – Duke, Southern

Concept:

- Collect rounds data throughout day using WGRs
- Operators can review trends and identify abnormalities at start of shift
- Plan and prioritize work more efficiently

- Reduce operator time by 2 hours per shift
- Faster response to excursions / emergent issues

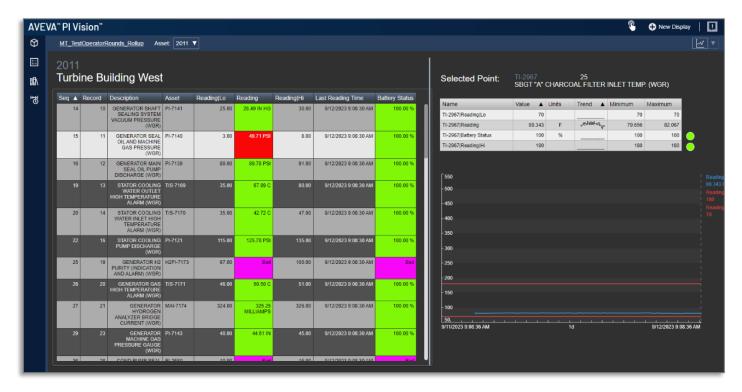


Credit: Operator Dashboard developed by J. Plumb, Operator at Duke Energy, Oconee Nuclear Plant



Operator Shift Dashboard – Xcel Energy

- Dashboard tool used by operators at start of shift
- Shows status of readings in Red, Yellow, or Green representing status of equipment monitored on rounds
- Operators can review history trend, set alarms, or compare to other points for analysis
- Helps to identify and focus on potential issues, before taking rounds



PI Vision Dashboard, implemented by Tim Tvrdik, I.T, Xcel Energy



Dry Well Temp / Humidity Monitoring

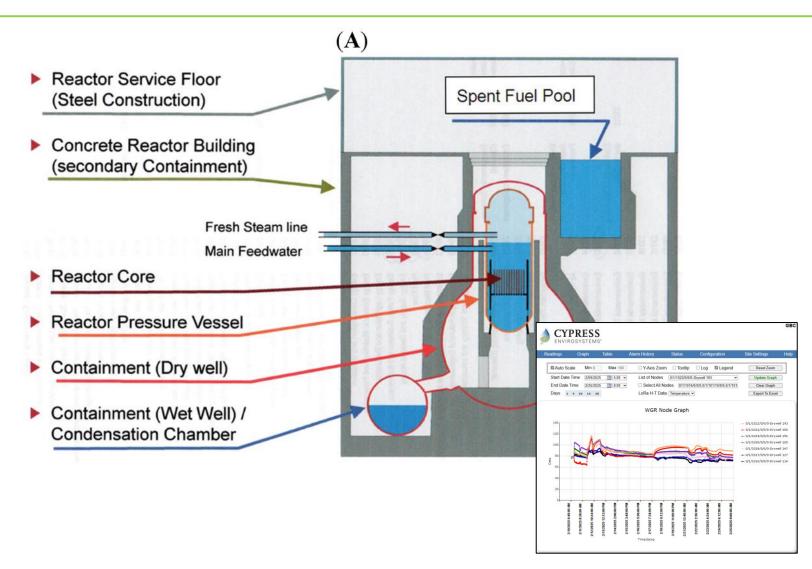
Need:

- During outage: Monitor temperature and humidity for worker safety (heat stress).
- Minimize time and dosage exposure for RP Tech to gather data each shift.

Solution:

 Use magnetic mount temporary noninvasive Wireless Temperature and Humidity Monitors.

- Save 1.5 Man-hours/day, 45 Man-hours outage total
- Reduce 8 mrem/day, 240 mrem outage total radiation exposure
- Reduced Industrial Safety exposure





Crash Cart for Emergent Issues

Need:

 Plant needs data quickly to troubleshoot, diagnose and correct emergent issues.

Concept:

- Use Crash Cart with non-invasive sensors to collect data
- Pre-approved, ready to install in 30 minutes.

- Avoid lengthy engineering reviews and approvals to add sensors
- Minimize operator man-hours
- Reduce plant downtime





Early Fault Detection: Condenser Tube Leaks

Need:

 Remotely monitor Condenser Hotwell Sodium and Conductivity to detect tube leaks

Concept:

 Use Wireless Digit Readers to monitor installed Sodium and Conductivity instruments

- Early detection of tube leaks prior to impacting Reactor Chemistry
- Ability to trend chemistry data
- Remote monitoring versus having a technician gathering data



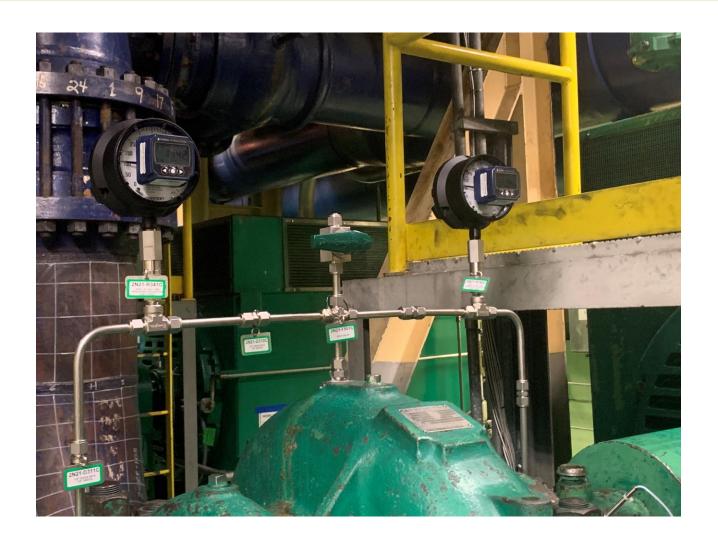


Enhance Design Modifications: Condensate Booster Pump Seal Continuous Monitoring

Application:

- Design Mod to upgrade Unit 2 condensate booster pump seals
- Added six WGRs as low-cost method to digitize/enable continuous monitoring of seal pressures.

- Minimize design time and cost to allow continuous monitoring.
- Enable automated equipment health monitoring and faultdetection.





Machine Vision Webcam Digitization

Application:

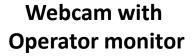
- Support design mod to reactor recirc pump seal purge filter.
- Monitor purge flow during post install testing.
- Normally requires operator watching webcam display.
- Replace with machine vision.

- Reduce operator time.
- Quickly detect excursions.
- Ability to collect, trend and analyze historical data.

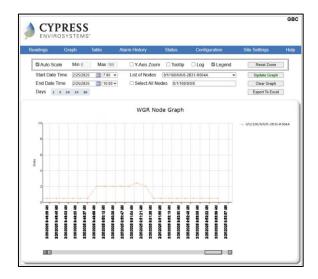












Automated Digitized Collection of Data

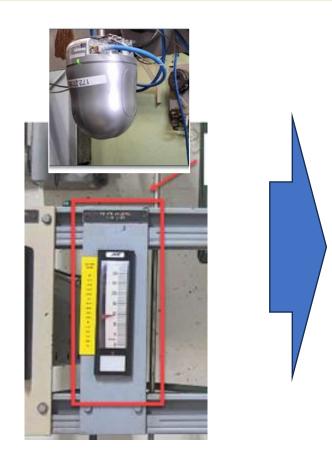


Machine Vision Webcam Digitization

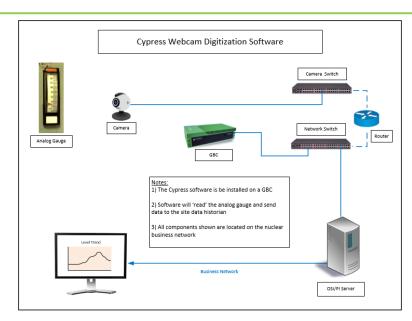
Application:

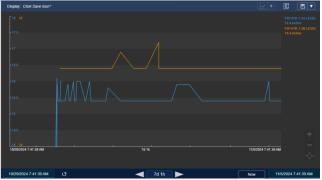
- Monitor feedwater heater level gauge - verify startup operation after repair.
- Normally requires operator watching webcam display.
- Replace with machine vision.

- Reduce operator time.
- Quickly detect excursions.
- Ability to collect, trend and analyze historical data.
- Non-invasive no EC's, minimal cybersecurity impact



Webcam Viewing Level Indicator





Digitized Data
Stored in PI Historian



Valve Cycle Isolation Monitoring

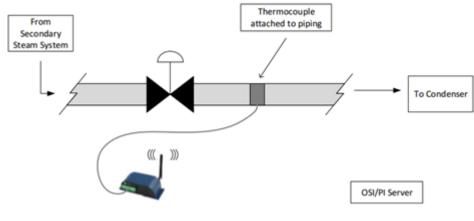
Detect Leaking Valves

Need:

- Detect valve cycle isolation faults.
- Minimize cost and process disruption.

- Stop leaks, save MW's (est. up to 2MW per malfunctioning valve).
- Save operator time to monitor valves

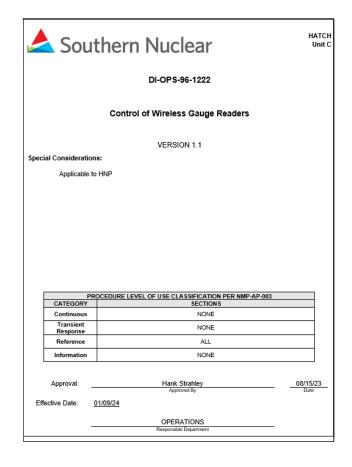






Stakeholder Engagement, Sustainable Adoption

- Clear procedures for tasks, roles, and ownership.
- Lots of training.
- Users Group to share OE and best practices
 Industry wide group plus Southern chapter.
- Create library of Use Cases with documented benefits.
- PROACTIVE DO NOT TAKE ADOPTION FOR GRANTED.



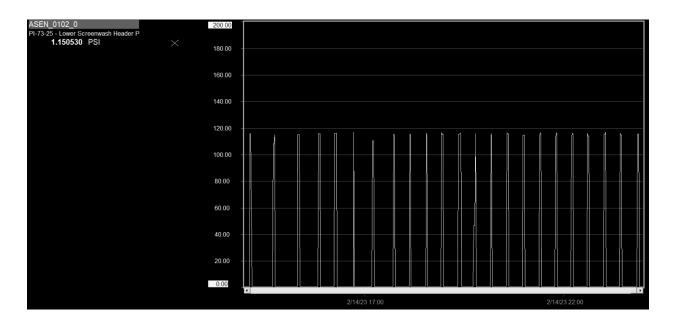


Operator Efficiency Use Case: Minimizing Operator Wait Time for Equipment Response



Minimize Operator Wait Time for Equipment Response

- Certain rounds tasks require operators to wait and watch equipment to confirm functionality.
- Example: Constellation (Nine Mile Point)
 operators must confirm intake screen
 pump action each shift. Pump typically
 actuates once every 20 minutes, and
 operators may wait idle for response.
- Non-invasive monitoring and trending of pump head pressure allows operators to be freed up from non-productive waiting.



Silas Hoffstaetter – Constellation Nine Mile Point



Operator Efficiency Use Case: Enabling Condition Based Maintenance and ALARA



Condition Based Maintenance + ALARA

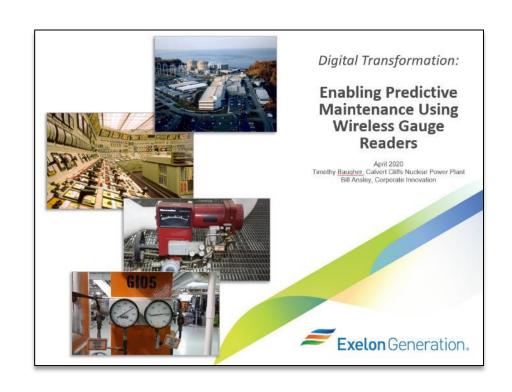
- Automated monitoring of filter delta-pressure for condensate polisher filters – minimize time and dosage exposure (BWR)
- Clinton observed problems with their condensate polisher suspect that filters are clogging up.
- Short term fix to replace filters more often, but expensive and time intensive.
- Need to monitor filter delta pressure more often to detect when a change is needed – condition based maintenance.
- Only way to do this is sending operators to read pressure gauges. This is a BWR. Dose rates in CP area about 25 mrem/hr.
- WGR used to remotely monitor and trend filter pressures.





Fault Detection – Exelon/Constellation Calvert Cliffs

- Monitor performance and detect failures of Air Operated Valves used to control and maintain feedwater heater tank levels.
- AOV's fail when there is an air leak, drift from calibration, stuck actuator, worn out cam.
- Prior failures caused high-level dump of heater tank and unit shutdown, with costly overtime work to repair.
- Since installing WGR's, Calvert Cliffs detected two emerging failures and repaired them before there was any operational disruption.





Environmental Compliance – Duke Brunswick

- As part of a Groundwater Protection Plan, Cypress installed wireless gauge readers on sump pump hour meters to track electrical manhole sump pump run-time.
- No current method to monitor sump levels automatically.
- If tritium is detected the sump pump runtime data may be useful to determine where it came from.
- Catch two types of faults:
 - Pumps not running when they should (sump level too high)
 - Pumps running too much (must be a leak)







Fault Detection – NextEra Turkey Point

- Turkey Point identified Pump Failures as a key contributor to unplanned downtime.
- Pump bearing temperatures are good predictive indicators of impending failure.
- Existing temperature monitors have only manual indicators.
- Cypress installed WGR's to capture data to send to PI Historian, Advanced Pattern Recognition algorithms, to enable early fault detection and correction.





Personnel and Equipment Safety – Southern

- Monitoring SF6 Gas for switchyard and substation circuit breakers
- SF6 gas used for arc quenching
- Gas leak can cause unintended dangerous arcing
- SF6 is highly toxic, do not want to send people to detect leaks
- WGR's can be used to retrofit existing circuit breakers for remote monitoring without risk of introducing leaks





Thermal Performance – Duke Harris

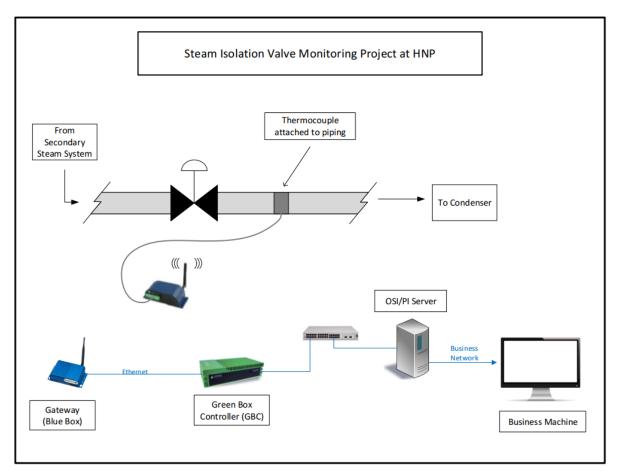
- Monitor and detect shutoff valve leakage via pipe wall temperature
- Undetected leaking shutoff valves can degrade thermal performance
- Use WSTM to monitor pipe wall temperature downstream (and if needed also upstream to get delta temperature)
- Non-invasive clamp-on thermocouples up to 500 deg F
- Electronics/wireless module connected by thermocouple wire up to 500 ft distance

Deployed at Duke Harris Nuclear Plant



Thermal Performance Monitoring - Deployment

Detect Leaking Valves Using Temperature Sensors – Duke Energy



Duke Energy
Harris – 40 valves
Robinson – 4 valves

PSEG

Hope Creek – 147 valves

Salem - ~40 valves

Vistra Luminant

Comanche Peak – 227 valves

and steam traps

Xcel Energy
Monticello – TBD valves
Prairie Island - ~40 valves



Transfomer Fault Detection – Exelon Calvert Cliffs

- Connect legacy transformer trace gas monitoring systems to PI Historian.
- Allow old ModBUS IP protocol to communicate and conform to latest cyber security requirements.
- Enable automated fault detection.







Cypress network: Open System to Integrate with 3rd LoRaWAN sensors



Integration of 3rd Party LoRaWAN devices



MultiTech Reveal™ Wireless Proximity Sensors

MultiTech Reveal™ LoRaWAN Wireless Proximity Sensors detect contact between two wires, proximity detection with a magnet, range with an ultrasonic signal, while the Reveal UltraSonic Level Sensors provide high accuracy proximity detection and ranging in air.



MultiTech Reveal™ Wireless Push Button Sensors

The MultiTech Reveal™ LoRaWAN Wireless Push Button Sensor transmits on a button press event. They can be used as a panic button wearable device, personal emergency response system (PERS), remote control or other remote push button applications. When the button is pressed, an alert is sent to the wireless network.



MultiTech Reveal™ Wireless Movement Sensors

MultiTech Reveal™ LoRaWAN Wireless Movement Sensors use an ultra sensitive internal accelerometer to detect movement of a critical asset. When movement is detected that exceeds a certain threshold, an alert is sent over the wireless network. Reveal Tilt Sensors detect transitions between horizontal and vertical orientation, as well as reporting the angle of the tilt.



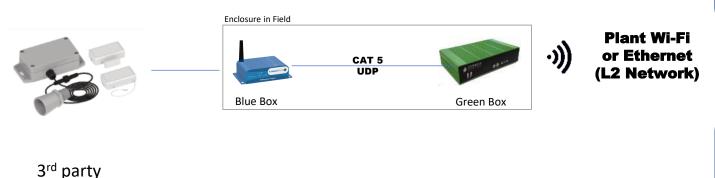
MultiTech Reveal™ Wireless Leak Detection Sensors

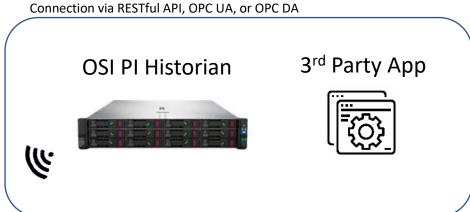
MultiTech Reveal™ LoRaWAN Wireless Leak Detection Sensors use a water probe to detect the presence of water or other liquids. When the presence of water or another liquid is detected, an alert is sent over the wireless network to prevent a potentially catastrophic event.

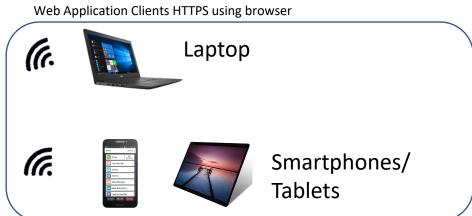
- Integrate devices with Cypress
 Gateway and GBC
- Same wireless network infrastructure
- Same cyber security approval
- Same OSI PI connectivity



Integration of 3rd Party Sensors



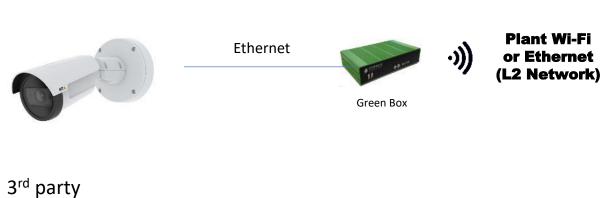


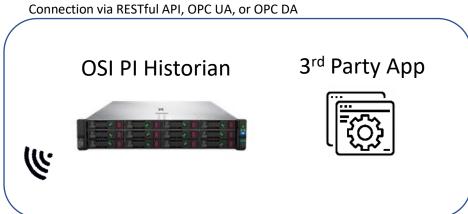


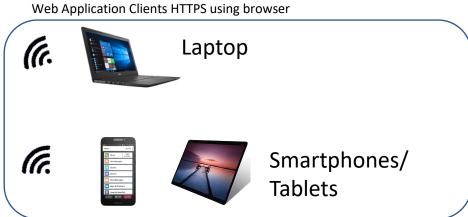


LoRaWAN sensor

Integration of 3rd Party IP Cameras









IP camera