



Water Utility Management

Client
Alexandria Sanitation Authority

Location
Alexandria, VA, USA

Facility Information Management System (FIMS)

Project Description

The Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) operates an advanced wastewater treatment plant in the midst of historic and densely populated Alexandria, Virginia. CH2M HILL designed a complete facility upgrade including a new unit process - biological nitrogen removal (BNR).

As a result of this major upgrade, a new operations manual was required to replace the older manual created in the 1970's. ASA wanted an interactive, web-based Facility Information Management System (FIMS) that would contain the plant operations manual and the following documents:

- Drawings
- Specifications
- Photographs
- Standard operating procedures
- Vendor equipment manuals
- Training presentations

CH2M HILL developed a web-based FIMS to allow users to access all of the above documents. Organization of all documents on the FIMS is maintained within a database, allowing the user to search for documents based on specific criteria. The FIMS also allows users to upload new information (photographs, drawings, etc.) and have it immediately accessible by any user on the plant network.

CH2M HILL worked closely with ASA staff in the development of the FIMS. Workshops were held with the Client to review the writing standards for the operations manual, and also to establish the look and feel of the user interface.

A web-based system allows many options and styles for the user interface (menus, icons, buttons, etc.). To ensure that the final system delivered to ASA would meet their needs and expectations, workshops were held with appropriate staff to review the interface and the intended usage of the system. These workshops allowed CH2M HILL to customize the system to the client's requirements.

The construction contracts for the plant upgrade have been spread out over a number of years, and a lot of the information that was needed for the operations manual was not available until the construction and commissioning had been completed. Initial deployment of the FIMS was completed in April 2001, with the sections of the operations manual that were completed at that time. A method for revising both the files and the database at ASA was developed so that as subsequent sections of the manual were completed, the updates and revisions were sent to ASA for uploading into the system.