Natural Gas Pipeline Builder Improves Incident Management with VelocityEHS

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Compliance Administrator
J-Wood Pipeline Services

J-Wood Pipeline Services (J-Wood) builds new construction natural gas pipelines throughout the Marcellus and Utica Shale regions of West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Based in Elkview, West Virginia, J-Wood manages multiple pipeline construction projects for a variety of gas company clients. During peak seasons J-Wood has more than 400 employees, and it reaches revenues of over $100M annually. Typically working with the larger sizes of natural gas pipe, its projects involve everything from trenching, to welding, to pipe installation and testing.

In 2015, J-Wood contracted with VelocityEHS — for its chemical management solutions. However, as J-Wood’s EHS management needs expanded, it began to look for solutions that could tackle even more complex challenges. It found those in VelocityEHS.

Scott Marker, Compliance Administrator for J-Wood, explains the transition.

“We were pleased with VelocityEHS — keeping paper copies had been such a pain — but VelocityEHS only covers one slice of the pie,” says Mr. Marker. “We had been using tools from our insurance company and other providers for our additional EHS needs, but they didn’t go very far. I was talking to VelocityEHS one day, and said that I really wished I could track various types of incidents within one system. I have motor vehicle accidents, theft reports, near miss events, property damage incidents, and various types of insurance claims to track. I also have strange situations like where a fence gets broken and five cows get out. I explained how I need to be able to track all of those different types of incidents in one place. The VelocityEHS rep steered me to the chemical management solutions.”

J-Wood adopted solutions from VelocityEHS to address its incident tracking and incident management needs. According to Mr. Marker, the adoption resulted in a positive impact right away.

“As a company, we’ve invested a lot of effort into our safety program in terms of working smart, and the partnership with VelocityEHS has been a good extension of that,” he explains. “Now the guys in the field can see what I see. We’re all connected and we now know what problems are happening and can apply corrective actions more efficiently. Basically we’re all looking at the same ball. There are times when the pace of events gets going, and you could easily lose track of investigative details for an incident or important follow up actions. But not with VelocityEHS.”

Mr. Marker says the ease of use of VelocityEHS solutions has resulted in widespread adoption and use.

“What we really like is that it’s intuitive,” explains Mr. Marker. “It’s so much smoother than what we had before. The programs just sort of ‘make sense.’ The solutions have tools built in that allow for email notifications, so everyone stays connected. Document uploading is easy, and so are reports. With the expanded functionality, now I can slice the pie pretty much any way I want. We can use the dashboard only to isolate what’s useful to us. And with the different permission levels in the admin function, I can set a certain level of access all the way down to a foreman in the field giving me a first report.”
Mr. Marker credits the VelocityEHS onboarding and implementation process for creating new efficiencies other providers were unable to bring.

“Previously, I’d lose track of how many programs I have to work with,” says Mr. Marker. “In my kind of job, when you adopt a new program, the IT people will come in and wave their magic wands, and say you’re set up. But you don’t really understand what you’re getting. What’s different about how VelocityEHS approaches it is the deliberate nature of their orientation process. It’s not ‘one and done.’ There are multiple events that let users get a feel for how the system works so they can ask intelligent questions in the next meeting. You’re not left with, ‘Here you go. Now figure it out.’ Instead, they are there to help you get the most out of the product.”

Mr. Marker feels that J-Wood has found a powerful ally in VelocityEHS that will help it continue to identify hazardous trends, implement targeted solutions and achieve safety objectives across a wide spectrum of workplace activities.

“At J-Wood, we really pride ourselves on doing things right,” concludes Mr. Marker. “We’re now over 700 days without a lost time incident. For our industry, for the difficulty level of what we do, that’s a big deal. We want to keep going. We don’t want it to be based on luck. To do that, we felt like it was important to step up our game using tools that will allow us to work smarter, so that our management team can achieve both production and safety objectives. And with VelocityEHS, that’s precisely what we’ve done.”

HELPING BUSINESSES IN THE OIL AND GAS SPACE MEET THEIR EHS GOALS

VelocityEHS is committed to helping our customers in the Oil & Gas Industry achieve their environment, health, safety, and sustainability goals faster by delivering a solution that is easy to implement, simple to use, and which drives engagement across the organization. As a longtime partner of many in the oil and gas space, we understand acutely the pressures our customers face to control operational, regulatory, and health and safety risks. To that end, our comprehensive EHS platform includes solutions for incident management, audits & inspections, chemical management, compliance management, management of change and training management. Find out today why so many oil and gas businesses already trust VelocityEHS to improve their EHS and sustainability footprints and protect their bottom lines!