

# NPL Construction Stays Connected with VelocityEHS

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Craig Besa

Senior Manager of Safety, Quality & Regulatory Compliance  
NPL

**F**rom its origins in 1967 performing local farm taps in the Gonvick, Minnesota area, to becoming the largest gas distribution and servicing contractor in the country, NPL has seen and experienced many changes. Now headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, NPL has over 5,000 employees, with offices nationwide and in Canada. The company is strongly committed to the safety of its workers, customers and the residents in the neighborhoods it serves.

Always looking for ways to improve processes, NPL realized they needed a more efficient way of accessing safety data sheets that improved upon the typical practice of using three-ring paper binders. The Safety, Quality and Regulatory Compliance department at NPL elected to implement VelocityEHS Chemical Management. This provided NPL with a suite of powerful tools for tracking, managing, and reporting on hazardous chemicals while providing required right-to-know access to employees in the field.

They haven't looked back since.

“We were trying to manage projects across 25 areas simultaneously, while still using a paper binder system and needed to find a way to address the issue companywide,” says Craig Besa, NPL Sr. Manager of Safety, Quality & Regulatory Compliance.

Like many VelocityEHS customers, NPL began looking for a cloud-based EHS and compliance solution with an online search component. NPL's commitment to a wired workforce using mobile devices, and the educational diversity of its workforce, were key factors in this search.

“We're heavy users of iPads and iPhones,” explains Besa. “About half of our employees are issued devices and we have our own developers who create apps for our workers to use in the field. We needed a user friendly, intuitive, electronic solution that would suit everybody.”

OSHA has repeatedly clarified that electronic safety data sheet management



## NPL Construction

- Over 5,000 employees throughout the U.S. and Canada
- A leading provider of gas pipeline construction and gas distribution services
- Uses VelocityEHS Chemical Management

systems are one-hundred percent compliant as long as users 1.) Have a backup system in case of emergency, 2.) Integrate the electronic system into the written hazard communication plan, and 3.) Ensure employees can have hard-copy access if requested.

NPL looked at other online SDS providers, but felt their sites did not have the strong search capability NPL required, nor were they as robust as the workforce would expect.

“When I found VelocityEHS it was like I had won the lottery of safety data sheets! What really sold me was the willingness of the staff to partner with me to find the specific solutions that would work for NPL. For example, we needed a Fax-Back Service that our crews in the field could call and VelocityEHS made that happen. The Fax-Back Service allowed us to achieve and maintain OSHA compliance and provides our employees with a safe work environment,” says Besa.



NPL reports that reaction to features and benefits of VelocityEHS Chemical Management has been positive throughout the company.

“All of our employees in the field love it,” says Besa. “It’s particularly useful for our warehouse workers who use the system to print all the secondary container labels.”

According to NPL, VelocityEHS Chemical Management features have also proven themselves during inspections.

“An OSHA inspector visited a job site and questioned the foreman at length over safety data sheet access,” explains Besa. “The foreman used his iPad showing that he could access SDSs. When the inspector challenged him on ‘What if the iPad breaks?’ our foreman showed him the phone number on the bin door of the crew truck and explained the support of the 24-hour operator and its Fax-Back Service. The OSHA inspector said that sounded like a win-win.”

While VelocityEHS can never guarantee the outcome of an OSHA inspection, our Fax-Back Service does provide access to SDSs faxed anytime, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to facilities anywhere around the world simply by calling the fax hotline. Through the same hotline, employees can also get direct access to emergency medical technicians who are available to provide over-the-phone chemical exposure support.

“It’s running like a champ,” concludes Besa, summing up the experience with VelocityEHS. “We’re very happy overall, and we’re totally confident. We tell every company we work with, don’t worry about us; we have VelocityEHS Chemical Management!”

## CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES LAY FOUNDATION FOR EFFECTIVE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

Managing chemicals and employee access to critical information like safety data sheets is a tough job in the construction business thanks to the always changing environment and the flow of workers and third party contractors to the site. In the construction industry, it’s never the same worksite twice. Add to this evolving local, state and federal compliance requirements — including global (re)alignment with GHS — along with employees and resources spread around multiple job sites, each with a unique chemical footprint, and it can feel like an impossible undertaking. VelocityEHS can help construction businesses by simplifying the organization of, access to, and deployment of chemical information and safety materials across employees and worksites. Our suite of seamless, cloud-based solutions make it easy to meet regulatory requirements, provide required employee safety data sheet information, and keep your workplace in compliance!

## Benefits of VelocityEHS Chemical Management

### Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry’s leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company’s library is up-to-date and in compliance.

### Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

### Improve Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile SDS/Chemical Management app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

### Mobile Access

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free SDS/Chemical Management app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

### Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

### Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

VelocityEHS Chemical Management pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there’s no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

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