



Member-Agency Case Study

RBDMS.NET eForm: Filing Regulatory Permit Applications on the Web

PERMIT PROCESSING EFFICIENCY

Overview

States: CO, MS, NE, AL, KY

Business Situation

State agencies are issuing record numbers of permits for new oil and gas wells as operators try to meet demand with innovative producing techniques to compensate for steady decline curves from older wells. The GWPC and the COGCC partnered to launch a Web-based ePermit application now being rolled out nationally.

Solution

RBDMS eForm is a Silverlight Web program with a web service middle tier that can be programmed to meet any state agency's business rules.

Benefits

- Secure sign-on
- Online forms completion and attachment upload tied to a document management application
- Data-sharing with multiple agencies
- Public comment page
- Data validation checks
- Automated workflow/ approval processing

With many agencies reporting record levels of permit applications and industry operators requesting expedited decision-making for their own business purposes, the need for an electronic permitting system has long been clear.

Situation

The GWPC is pleased to announce that the RBDMS.NET eForm application, which is programmable to adapt to any state agency's business rules, is now available. The Silverlight Web application is live in Colorado, in use for processing industry permit applications, data-sharing with sister state and Federal agencies, and providing opportunity for public comment. eForm, which is now being rolled out to other states nationwide, can be used for collecting permit applications, completion reports, sundry notices, and oil and gas production and injection reports.

Solution

eForm allows industry operators to submit regulatory forms over the Internet, thereby eliminating paper forms that must be mailed to the various state offices and manually re-keyed. These electronic submissions help reduce processing time and allow for improved data to be available to the staff members who are making regulatory decisions. Within some state agencies, a significant reduction in time to issue a permit to drill may be achieved.

In the face of new rules for oil and gas well siting and permitting, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) led the design of the eForm project as a partner with the GWPC. To eliminate duplication of data entry and storage of permit forms, the eForm project was developed in a way that industry operators provide the permit information online only once and then three sister agencies (the COGCC, the Department of Public Health and Environment and the Department of Wildlife) share access to the data. eForm tracks permit application status through a workflow processing system that is governed by specific agency review time clocks.

The application architecture consists of an integrated set of server tools that are based on a Silverlight Web client, a Windows Communication Foundation middle tier, and a SQL Server 2008 intermediary database in a DMZ that is replicated to the production database behind a firewall.

