



Member-Agency Case Study

eReport.NET: An Easier Way to Report Production and Injection Activity

MAKING REGULATORY REPORTING SIMPLER

Overview

States: PA, AR, MS, NY, NE,
UT, MT, AK

Business Situation

eReport is the GWPC's highly successful Web application that oil and gas operators use to report oil and gas production and UIC data directly to agency databases. eReport has completely replaced manual and flat-ASCII file submission of monthly and annual reports in some states.

Solution

eReport demonstrated the efficacy of using database-neutral XML for such data transfers. The eReport schema, now in version 3.6, is a recommended standard of the API.

Benefits

- Elimination of drawn-out correction cycles
- Data grooming through regular review with industry
- Automated, multi-level data validations with precise error messages
- Immediate feedback on report status

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Situation

Data transactions that involve manual data entry and error checking are expensive for both industry and regulating agencies, and the cost can be measured in terms of the associated delays in critical decisions affecting other aspects of oil field operation and development processes.

To help, the GWPC developed eReport, a multi-tiered, Internet-based solution for regulatory reporting. Although user interfaces and required data differ among the agencies as a result of statutory differences, these solutions are based on the same unifying format, an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schema document (XSD) called eReport.

eReport eliminates rework loops for both the operator and the agency stemming from incomplete or incorrectly formatted submittals. eReport applications have built-in multi-level data validations, so formatting and other errors are flagged as operators complete the forms. The application also checks to make sure that required fields are filled in and that valid codes are used. This streamlined reporting process thus reduces the cost and time for regulatory compliance and helps states capture revenues due from oil and gas activity.

Solution

eReport.NET is a down-loadable Windows desktop application paired with a web service that provides spreadsheet-like data entry forms with built-in data formatting checks. Reports produced in eReport.NET are automatically formatted as schema-compliant files for upload to the agency's web service. Operators find out the moment they file whether their reports pass the agency's automated data validation checks through clear status messages and error reporting.

Operators also can use eReport.NET as a local data repository for both regulatory reports and internal well tracking. Prerequisites for installing eReport.NET include the .NET Framework 3.5, which is available from Microsoft free of charge, and an Internet connection.

DATA TRANSFER AT **REDUCED COST**

“eReport has removed numerous re-work loops from our production reporting system by automating data quality checks. Our operators really like it.”

*Ted Loukides,
NYSDEC Mineral
Resources Specialist*

eReport is database-neutral, so when operators download well information from the agency Web server to eReport Remote.NET, they also have the option of joining the data structure to their own in-house ADO.NET-compatible databases (SQL Server, Oracle, MySQL, MS Access, and any others with OLEDB and/or ODBC drivers). The creation of schema-compliant production and injection reports can then be completely automated.

To help automate the deployment of future updates, eReport.NET uses ClickOnce technology. ClickOnce, part of the .NET Framework, allows Windows smart client applications to be deployed to a desktop by a link. When the user clicks the link on a Web page or in an e-mail, the application files are downloaded to the user’s machine. The program then executes in a secure sandbox provided by .NET code access security. Later, when a new version of the application is deployed to the server, it can be automatically detected by connected clients, and the update can be downloaded and applied in a variety of ways that can be controlled through optional deployment settings.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has used the eReport.NET application for several years to capture annual production data. An industry representative reported to the agency that eReport.NET is a user-friendly application and that the experience of working with it was “enjoyable.”

The Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which was the first agency to use the technology,

has indicated that 70 percent of its operators are filing monthly production and injection reports with eReport. This resulted in staffing efficiencies that allowed the agency to reassign production staff to other pressing work.

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining has indicated that several of its largest industry operators report injection and production data for as many as 550 well records at one time each month with immediate feedback and a high level of satisfaction with the process.

The Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission recently became the newest user of eReport.NET, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources is planning to release an upgrade from its original eReport installation to eReport.NET in time to capture data from the 2009 annual production cycle.

Why eReport data transfers are better than ASCII flat file transfers.

Feature	eReport	ASCII
Automated, multi-level validations	Yes	No
Required field checks	Yes	No
Valid code checks	Yes	No
Edit checks	Yes	No
Precise error messages	Yes	No
Immediate feedback on report status	Yes	No