BC Hydro:

Turning to tech to boost the efficiency and safety of engineering projects

Deliverables at-a-glance

» Scalable and robust solution to a complex problem

» Accelerated validation and distribution of documents by granting control to internal teams

» Increased efficiency and productivity, reducing backlogs

» Accurate audit trail for regulators

» Reduced risks through better visibility of assets and workflows

Challenge: Transitioning from a paper-first approach to a digital mentality

BC Hydro is the third largest electric utility in Canada, generating, transmitting and supplying power to over 95% of British Columbia's population.

As both the owner and operator of its assets, the company is responsible for the execution of all its engineering projects, and relies on more than 700,000 engineering drawings for the transmission and generation process, to ensure the safe, efficient and compliant operation of its systems.

Managing such large-scale, complex assets is no mean feat, with drawings and related documents needing to be created, reviewed, approved and made available to engineers working on hydroelectric dams, generation and transmission facilities across British Columbia. This situation was complicated by the fact that 75% of this information was received in paper format.

As such, BC Hydro wanted to streamline its drawing control processes, consolidating four legacy systems into one, and using digital to help standardize drawing management workflows to boost both safety and efficiency across the organization.

Solution: Streamlining document management processes with Opidis

BC Hydro implemented an advanced, web-based document management solution from Opidis (formerly McLaren Software) to help drive its 'Making Our Drawings Sustainable' (MODS) project – an initiative also supported by IBM, Accenture Business Services for Utilities (ABSU), ECMG and Resolution Reprographics.

> *"The new drawing management solution provides us with a much more efficient and easy-to-use interface that enforces consistent processes, providing a solid support base for our capital work and ongoing operations."*

Roy Grout
VP and Chief Engineer, Generation
BC Hydro

As part of the rollout, Opidis supported the migration of over 700,000 drawings, providing a secure, central repository to store all engineering documents relating to its assets.

The team worked with BC Hydro's document management platform of choice – IBM FileNet P8 – a combination that allows the company to support engineering and document control processes for asset operations and projects, while also enabling transmittals of drawings to service providers.

Speaking about the Opidis application, Roy Grout, Vice President and Chief Engineer, Generation at BC Hydro said: "The new drawing management solution provides us with a much more efficient and easy-to-use interface that enforces consistent processes, providing a solid support base for our capital work and ongoing operations."

The solution's reliable search functionality is proving pivotal in supporting the quick and easy retrieval of documents, while its ability to consolidate the storage of information ensures there is a 'single source of truth' available to all users across its network – a key objective of the MODS project.

Outcomes: Enhanced productivity and safety across the company

With the solution from Opidis, BC Hydro has been able to boost both the efficiency and productivity of the drawing management group, as well as eliminate administrative project backlogs.

By transitioning to an electronic document management system, the team now has access to an accurate audit trail for internal teams and regulators, and has been able to mitigate risk through better visibility of assets and corresponding workflows.

A key benefit of the solution has also been the ability to grant control to internal drafters and designers over their own drawings, subsequently accelerating the validation and distribution of documents.

Roy Grout added: "The success of the MODS project is a testament to the professionalism and collaborative effort of all parties to tackle a complex business problem, and provide a stable and innovative solution from Opidis, supported by the robustness and scalability of the IBM FileNet P8 platform."

Learn more about how Opidis helps energy and utilities companies achieve efficiencies and boost safety by visiting:
www.opidis.com

Opidis (formerly McLaren Software) is a leading supplier of collaborative document management solutions to Owner Operators and EPCs, globally. Focused on maintaining complex engineering assets and large capital projects, Opidis solutions provide a single source of truth for all engineering content including P&IDs, drawings, vendor documents, safety manuals, as well as mobile and commissioning solutions – throughout the asset lifecycle.