

Uninterruptable communications networks can prevent environmental disasters

By Joe Hersch

The cost of an accident or failure resulting in an environmental disaster for any sector is enormous. Clean-up can often cost millions of dollars. Glentel's communication systems can ensure warnings of any equipment failures are received at the network operation center (NOC). Then, actions such as triggering a remote shut off can be engaged.

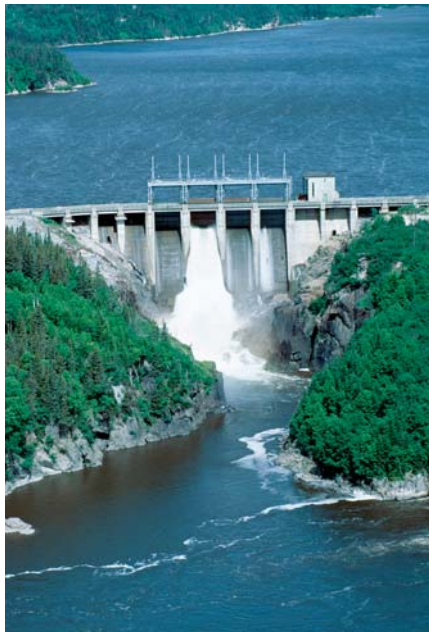
Glentel has also designed and deployed many water and wastewater wireless communications systems in Canada. Controlling the operation of various pump stations, pressure reducing valve stations and reservoirs, requires constant attention and a reliable communications platform.

The two main challenges which most organizations face when considering options for communications are public voice/data networks and carriers; and the distance and location of the site to be managed.

Public vs. private networks

The key challenge confronting many operations is how to control and manage their systems with an existing platform or network. In most cases, customers operate mission critical voice and data systems, meaning network maintenance downtime is not an option.

Glentel Satellite Hub is located in Edmonton.



Additionally, many clients require systems which will operate in the event of a major disaster or emergency situation. This requires building a turnkey private-based network immune to outages, which may affect other public-based systems.

Distance and location of sites

Creating a single communications platform can be a challenge. While some providers offer services for most areas, these services become scarce, or non-existent, the further the site is away from the carrier's grid. These challenges can be solved by a single integrated platform. By using terrestrial wireless point-to-point, or multipoint technology, for urban based sites, and satellite technology in more remote areas, capital costs can be balanced with monthly recurring costs to facilitate a single cost control system for its customers. Typically a network would be designed to maximize the terrestrial (near sky) footprint. Where sites are too far from serviceable points, satellite technology is used.

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