

Short- and Long-term Water Management Planning at Southwire

Introduction

Water conservation has long been a way of life at Southwire facilities, but in the summer of

to reduce mineral build-up). Southwire concurrently drilled two deep wells to provide an alternate water source.



Once they became confident that they had adequate water to supply the facility, Southwire backed up and took a more reasoned approach to pinpointing inefficient water usage. Significant additional gains were made through the more

2000, Southwire's Carrollton facility depended on it for survival. At one point, continued operation was uncertain, unless significant measures were taken to conserve water and to find an alternate water source.

structured planning approach, and the following management directive spurred these formalized efforts:

Urgency Determines Approach

Southwire's approach to solving the anticipated year 2000 water shortage was somewhat unconventional due to the critical nature of the situation. Initially, Southwire began analyzing plant operations for water conservation opportunities and implementing them, where possible. Some of the greatest water savings were achieved through reduced filter backwash and cooling system blowdown (wasting of water

"I want every Southwire facility to develop and implement a long-term action plan for water management with annual targets for improvement. My expectation is that you will build water management into your management systems so that we make measurable progress every year and show dramatic improvements over the next five years."

Roy Richards, CEO Southwire Company

To start the analytical process, teams were formed from a breadth of operational areas and included a representative from P²AD. The teams were charged with measuring baseline water use and identifying major water uses. Plant

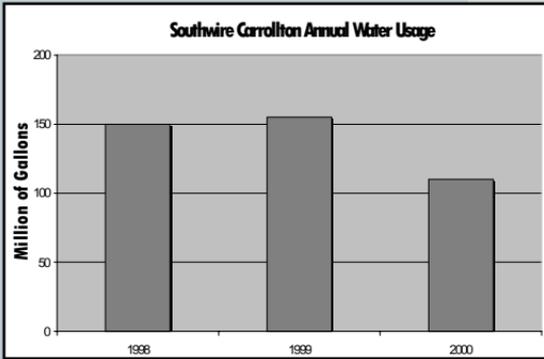
Results

The Southwire facility in Carrollton showed an annualized water usage reduction of approximately **40,000,000 gallons** for the year 2000, as compared to 1999. The facility is currently working on longer-term improvements, including alternative cooling methods and water reuse, that will require more planning and infrastructure changes.

In the process of identifying and capitalizing on water conservation opportunities, Southwire came to view water resources as another vital raw material, like process feed stocks.

Water conservation practices remain in-force throughout Southwire to ensure continual improvement.

With clear management vision, good planning, and team effort, Southwire was able to keep their facility in operation and, just as importantly, seize a number of immediate water conservation opportunities and set the stage for longer-term water conservation projects.



drawings, city water bills, run hour meter readings for pumps, and engineering intuition served as the basis for the analysis. Water meters were added, as necessary, to quantify water use. Every process utilizing water was examined for losses and water use efficiency. Once the best water saving opportunities had been identified, the next steps were to establish reduction goals and to develop and implement the opportunities. The schedule for implementation was prioritized based on potential water savings and ease of implementation.

P²AD

Pollution Prevention Assistance Division

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