

Opelika Utilities Digital Transformation - 10-95% in 6 Months

Opelika Utilities, located in Opelika, Alabama, provides the city's growing population with clean, plentiful water through innovative use of technology. Opelika currently serves nearly 20,000 customers and recently opened a new state-of-the-art treatment facility combining the best design components of more than a dozen other facilities from across the country.

To support efficient field operations, Opelika Utilities needed to implement the latest location technologies. With only about 10% of water network data in their GIS database, they wanted a solution that would quickly populate the complete database to support their pending asset management system. With asset management and operations, their vision was to put interactive maps into the hands of field operations in order to communicate timely information back to managers - without the need to return to the office.

Opelika Utilities has an entirely cloud-based IT infrastructure. GISinc configured the ArcGIS Enterprise software on the application and database servers and set up ArcGIS Enterprise tools on the virtual desktops. We then migrated their limited GIS data into the ArcGIS for Local Government Information Model (LGIM) and configured the Water Utility Editing tools.

Opelika began digitizing their network from georeferenced asbuilts and testing connectivity with the Water Utility Reporting tools as they went. Once comfortable with the workflow, we helped them set up an ArcGIS Online and Collector workflow to collect point features in the field directly into the database, replacing a cumbersome GPS import process. As management asked questions about progress on the data collection, we implemented an Operations Dashboard configured to display live field information.



In just 6 months, Opelika Utilities had collected 95% of their water network infrastructure. In that same timeframe, more than 10 Esri Water Utility solution applications have been deployed to ArcGIS Online including the Utility Trace, Plans and Drawings, Capital Projects, Field Notes, Inspections, and Main Break apps. These apps are becoming a primary communication tool for Opelika staff as the network data collection nears completion.









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