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Case Study: Gas survey equipment detects savings

In 2009, a large utility company purchased and began operating a Leak Detection System (LDS) from Apogee Scientific, Inc. The natural gas distribution company wanted to operate a safe and efficient system. Its pipeline leak detection goals:

- Reduce lost revenue and product
- Protect the public
- Decrease a negative environmental impact

The LDS is vehicle-mounted and can operate any time the vehicle is moving. This allows the utility operator to locate many system leaks even while simply driving from one assignment to another.

Amazing Results

A spokesman for the utility calls the results “nothing short of amazing.” After using the LDS during a large residential subdivision survey (previously done by walking), one utility operator reported

- 95 percent increase in productivity
- 89 percent cost savings

During a similar residential survey, another operator reported

- 60 percent increase in productivity
- 80 percent cost savings

One Notable Incident

Two weeks prior to a high-profile 15-day national event (42,000+ daily attendance) in a major metropolitan area, the LDS identified a natural gas leak while in route to a different survey location. The utility operator stopped to investigate and discovered that the leak was coming from customer-owned equipment within the gathering complex. The customer was able to schedule and make repairs without incident well before the start of the event avoiding what could have been a major disruption with potentially disastrous consequences.

The utility has invested in three additional Apogee LDS units in 2010 and plans to purchase two more. The units will go across the state to meet leak survey requirements, survey ahead of and after paving operations, and conduct any special surveys where deployment can reduce manpower requirements and costs and quickly confirm safe operations for employees and the public.

Want to know more? I'm eager to talk about how this highly successful advanced, mobile leak detection technology can meet your company's safety, efficiency, and regulatory needs.

John Wurster, Vice President of Sales & Marketing
Phone: 303-783-9599 x24 • Cell: 303-518-3473 • Fax: 303-783-9607
jwurster@apogee-sci.com