



WATER SYSTEM ISSUES – No. 1 in a Series

Sobering Thoughts for Water Utility Officials

“...the challenges and requirements of the water industry are likely to be some of the most pressing problems facing humankind during the next century.” said Steve Maxwell, managing director of a Boulder-based consulting firm, in a recent AWWA article.

Maxwell also highlights the major trends that utility officials are facing:

- Water quality and quantity problems are growing
- Public awareness and concerns about water issues are growing
- Huge capital expenditures will be required to address these issues
- Regulatory controls and enforcement are expanding
- Consumer power is growing
- Water prices are rising



In addition, some areas of the country are already seeing water shortages in their near future. Others are facing headaches in managing their system and keeping good customer support.

Enlightened leaders and managers are now looking ahead with foresight and vision for tools to help them minimize the impacts of the trends identified by Maxwell.

One of the revolutionary tools that has swept through industry and is now reaching into public entities is AMR programs. They use rugged, waterproof radios placed on meters to provide:

- improved read accuracy
- on-demand user information
- improved leverage of resources
- speedier identification of system leaks
- excess usage information
- and system problem identification, all while providing dramatically improved customer service.

WHO ARE WE?

Travis Sparks, one of the founders of our company, Sparks Systems has been in the AMR business for 15 years in research and consulting with many of the AMR manufacturers on radio design issues. His dream and vision was to develop the optimum solution to one of those negative trends identified by Maxwell. The result of this strong background and a quest for the best is a meter radio with superior characteristics that is receiving a lot of positive attention from utility officials.

Sparks Systems was founded to deliver world-class products, installations and customer service for this amazing technology. This use of wireless digital communications also sets the stage for many other companion services to provide unheard of benefits for those who manage water systems, from the guys in the field all the way to top management levels.

This is the first in a series of educational pieces focusing on key issues facing water utility executives. If you would like to receive these free commentaries, send your e-mail address to jbrown@sparkssystem.com.

Sparks Systems, LLC
755 109th Street
Arlington, Texas 76011
817-701-0981