

Mechanical and electrical benchmarking

Background

The aim of this project is to review, develop and implement a benchmarking exercise on the practices and the results for the management of electrical, mechanical and SCADA infrastructure leading to the identification of leading practices. The key objective of this project is that through cooperative sharing of leading practices for the management of mechanical, electrical and SCADA infrastructure, the standard and sustainability of asset management of these assets can be improved and shared between participating water utilities.

WSAA undertook detailed Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) Maintenance Benchmarking programs in 2001 and 2006. The objective of these exercises was to chart the current performance against peers, to establish and communicate key focus areas and priorities for performance improvement, to establish potential targets and directions, and to build understanding and recommendations in this area. Anecdotally while most utilities strongly supported these metric benchmarking exercises, they were very data intensive; there were issues of data and information definitions and incompatibilities between data and information systems in different water utilities. There has been some reluctance to repeat such data intensive exercises again.

Meanwhile WSAA has now run three process benchmarking exercises in overall asset management (2004, 2008 and 2012) that have been well received. These benchmarking exercises have focussed on asset management practices at a broad level and have not reviewed asset management practices or their results for different kinds of assets such as mechanical and electrical assets.

Subject to the outcomes of the consultation phase of the project, it is anticipated that the benchmarking instrument developed by the project will be a hybrid tool to both measure key metrics from the management of MES infrastructure and to assess the practices employed to manage these assets. The latter process benchmarking assessment will complement the general principles of the Aquamark survey tool for the Asset Management Performance Improvement Project. It will specifically address good practices for the management (and in particular maintenance) of MES infrastructure.

This work is being carried out by UMS Group in consultation with WSAA and the industry. The project will be delivered to Members in December 2014.

Outcomes and benefits

Outcomes:

- Development of a benchmarking survey instrument for MES asset management
- Application of this tool by participating water utilities to review their performance and practices for the management of MES infrastructure in their utility.
- Preparation of reports that identify current performance and practices within the industry and also by individual participating water utilities
- Identification of leading practices amongst participating water utilities and preparation of recommendations for improved management of this infrastructure
- Sharing of the results of the MES infrastructure benchmarking exercise

Benefits:

- An understanding of how a utility's M&E maintenance practices are relative to other Australian utilities
- Identification of opportunities for improvement and leveraging off utilities that are more advanced in such areas
- Strengthen project justification in Regulatory Business Proposals by allowing comparison with other utilities.

How to purchase

This subscription project was funded by participating WSAA Member utilities. Non-participating WSAA Members and those without WSAA membership will be required to purchase the project deliverable. The deliverable will only be made available to water utilities. Prices will be calculated according to a utility's number of connections. For more information please contact jaimie.hicks@wsaa.asn.au.

Participating members can access this project via the [WSAA Member Portal](#). If you do not have access to the portal please contact web@wsaa.asn.au.

Further information

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