



Major Oil and Gas Operator Partners with UCEC to Update Separator Control Panels

Onsite Testing Helps Reduce Field Errors

PROJECT PARTNER

A Major Bakken Operator

THE PROBLEM

A major Bakken oil and gas operator was rapidly outgrowing the separator platform they were using, which relied heavily on remote telemetry units (RTUs). When a move to a PLC platform was decided on due to the large number of controls, the operator knew they would have to find a panel shop with the experience, skill and technical knowledge to turn its designs into reality.

THE SOLUTION

The oil and gas operator designed a series of separator panels to control processing and monitoring at multiple oil and gas sites. They partnered with UCEC to build the control panels in our Arvada, CO shop.

From Old to New

When the oil and gas operator made the decision to step up their platform and move away from RTUs, they evaluated various solutions to handle the increasing number of process controls. PLC technology met their requirements, so a team was sent to evaluate firms that could create the necessary panels that would be built to handle the harsh North Dakota winters and often sweltering summers.

After touring several panel shops, UCEC was selected to begin the work. Time was of the essence; the existing control platform in North Dakota was in need of additional processing and monitoring capabilities.

UCEC also helped the customer transition into a more modular and flexible wiring application using ethernet networks coupled with remote IO. Each separator panel was designed to be housed in a building that was skid packaged and dropped on the well pad. The “old” way of doing things for this oil and gas operator involved running wire from the main control cabinet to each end device and various terminations. With UCEC, the “new” way of doing things was to run an ethernet cable to the panel (instead of using trunk lines and various marshalling cabinets, for example).

Tested Onsite

UCEC pre-wired the bulkhead fittings on the backs of the cabinets, instead of leaving this job for field personnel. “Pre-wiring the fittings allowed the customer to troubleshoot and safety



check before the panels ever left UCEC,” says Evan Coulter, Vice President of Business Operations for UCEC. “This step simplified a lot of things and mitigated issues in the field.” The oil and gas operator could rest assured the panels were ready to go instead of relying on personnel in the field who may not have the exact skills required.



A Trusted Partner

“UCEC was there on Day 1 when we started designing the cabinet,” the customer reported at the conclusion of the project. “And our working relationship continues to this day. When we have a new cabinet that we need, we often work with them on the initial design.”

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“UCEC was able to help this important oil and gas operator by providing them with a new and more efficient way of connecting their panels in the field. By meeting the customer’s deadline and budget, we were able to help them grow their business. We look forward to working with them again.”

MARK INBODEN

President and CEO of UCEC



In the end, the customer said, “UCEC helped us reduce the cost of the project due to labor savings, while at the same time, increasing the quality of delivery.”

“Everybody at UCEC is great to work with and they put out a great product. We’re lucky to be able to work with them.”

- Major Oil and Gas Operator and UCEC Customer

What is the Bakken Formation?

The Bakken Formation is one of the largest contiguous deposits of oil and natural gas in the United States. It is an interbedded sequence of black shale, siltstone and sandstone that underlies large areas of northwestern North Dakota, northeastern Montana, southern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba.

Source: *Geology.com*