



SMART UTILITY NETWORK HELPS PARK CITY MAXIMIZE SYSTEM BENEFITS

Park City, Utah, is one of the most popular tourist areas in the United States. Beyond being a popular ski destination, thousands of movie fans flock to the city every January to check out the best that independent cinema has to offer at the Sundance Film Festival. While this level of seasonal population increase is great for the city's economy, providing effective water service for both residents and tourists can be a major production.

"We have about 8,000 residents in Park City, but it's more like 30,000 with tourism factored in and it can be much higher when big events come to town," said Park City Water Resources Manager, Jason Christensen.

Park City resolved to proactively make changes that would combat water loss and help the city respond to issues with water pressure and flow. Christensen and his team sought an affordable solution that could extend their current AMI system and take a deeper look into its water disruption data.

Therefore, they needed a solution that could connect to their pressure reducing valve (PRV) sites, located on water distribution mains where no power or land-based communications were available. The city decided to conduct a pilot program with Sensus' battery-powered [Smart Gateway Sensor Interface](#) to help staff make critical and prompt decisions for customers by remotely monitoring water pressure and flow. The Smart Gateway is a [Sensus FlexNet® communication network](#) enabled device that is capable of powering and reading up to two analog sensors and two switch-type inputs.

As an extension of its AMI system, Park City installed the devices at two PRV sites. Soon after deployment, Christensen's customer service team noticed an issue when the distribution pressure downstream of one of the PRVs began to spike.

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“The alarm went off and you could see the failure happening in real-time,” said Christensen. “The issue was resolved without incident, but it was a lesson for us in just how impactful the system could be.”

The solution increased the city’s level of service. “At these sites, in order to detect a pressure event, we had to rely on either a customer calling in or a field technician visiting the site,” said Christensen. “Now we can detect an issue in close to real-time and reduce unnecessary wear and tear on the water system.”

Based on their successful pilot, Park City extended PRV monitoring to 26 more sites. The city looks forward to using new insights from the data gained in the expansion such as identifying non-revenue water.

“While the added connectivity enhances operational performance, it will also help us get smarter as a utility,” said Christensen. “As we monitor more sites, we’ll be able to store the data and use it as a resource for ongoing asset management and water loss reduction.”



Travis Smith, Senior Director of Product Marketing, Sensus

Travis Smith is the senior director of product marketing for Sensus, a Xylem brand. Smith has more than 25 years of experience in the water industry with leadership roles in AWWA such as trustee of the Distribution and Plant Operations Division and contributing author of meter standards and Manuals of Practice. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a major in mechanical engineering.

