

Pipe Lines

A SCADA-focused Newsletter from Data Flow Systems
March, 2022



Get Your RAs Processed and Repairs Completed Now!

Have you met Alex? Let's hope you don't meet this particular Alex.

Alex is the name that will be given to the first storm of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season which, The National Hurricane Center predicts, will be a busier season this year.

While we're on the subject, hurricane season is the part of the year when our repair department can become overloaded. So this would be a great time to get those items needing service – TCUs, TIMs, function modules, etc. – off the "to-do" shelf and in for repair. Do it before our RA process becomes swamped and you're left without your critical items.

Don't wait. Ensure that your spare parts inventory in full working order. If a hurricane hits the mainland this year, our repairs facility will be pushed to the max and RA turnaround times will likely lengthen.

Don't let Alex and his siblings catch you unprepared. Call today (321-259-5009) for an RA.



Plan Ahead for Phase-Out of 3G

Update: Indian River County

DFS is beginning a project in Indian River County to upgrade and update the county's lift station RTUs. We are scheduled to replace the first 25 of 60 1990s-era Pump Control Units (PCU) with our newest Telemetry Control Units (TCU800).



The original DFS system was installed in Indian River County in 1991 and was updated in the mid-1990s when the PCUs were installed.

Some of the many, many new capabilities offered by the new TCU800s are: a 5-inch touch screen; faster processing power; a true RMS AC phase monitor; redundant level sensing; three-year parts and labor warranty, including lightning damage; free factory support for the life of the unit; and much more.

We congratulate the utility personnel in Indian River County for the diligent care they've shown in maintaining their SCADA system and working with us to keep the nearly 30-year-old components in good working order.

Supply Chain Woes: We're All Affected

Manufacturers. Suppliers. Wholesalers. Retailers. By now we are all aware that the world is running short of some products and many supply chains are crippled. The COVID pandemic muddled nearly every facet of the global supply chain and we at DFS have not been immune to the problem.

Since we rely on the availability of specialized parts and equipment, we make a constant effort to keep sufficient inventory on-hand so we are able to make adjustments without disrupting our customers' needs. But sometimes, the best-laid plans can be derailed.

Here's an example. In January, we ordered a new supply of face plates for our TCU800s—items that move very quickly—and were told we would receive them in "early February." When they didn't arrive, we contacted the supplier and were given a new delivery date—mid-March. This caused us to make some minor schedule adjustments. When the March date approached, we made another inquiry only to be told that the delivery might take yet an additional month. Sensing a critical situation, we contacted our backup supplier, received a

Cellular Networks

Mobile carriers are phasing out their 3G networks to make room for more advanced network services, like 5G. The FCC states, "If your mobile phone is more than a few years old, you may need to upgrade your device before your mobile provider shuts down its 3G network."

The same warning applies to Data Flow Systems' early cellular-based RTUs. Verizon, the carrier that DFS cellular RTUs use, will turn off their 3G network on December 31, 2022.

Several years ago, DFS phased out our early 3G cellular RTUs in favor of 4G units, but there are still some 3G units operating in the field. If any DFS customer believes that they still have an operational 3G cellular RTU, they should contact our service department (321-259-5009).

quote and an projected delivery date. But, before we could place the new order, the original shipment arrived, an indication that even our supplier didn't know when to expect our face plates.

We've endured similar disruptions in everything from the power amps in our radios to RTU backup batteries. But if any of our customer's orders become subject to unavoidable delays, we'll always keep you informed and work to resolve any hindrances quickly.

DFS will be exhibiting at:

Florida Water Resources Annual Conference
Ocean Center Hilton Hotel
Daytona Beach, Florida
April 24 - 27, 2022
www.fwrc.org

Texas Municipal Utilities Association
Leadership and Management Conference
Texas A&M Hotel, College Station, Texas
April 27 - 29, 2022
www.tmua.org

Georgia Rural Water Assoc. Spring Conference
Jekyll Island Convention Center
Jekyll Island, Georgia
May 10 - 12, 2022
www.grwa.org



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