

# Pipe Lines

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



## Bill Mills Named Control Groups Manager

DFS is happy to announce Bill Mills' promotion to Controls Group Manager.

Bill first joined DFS in 2013 when he used his background in embedded HMI and APP design to create graphic HMI screens for our HyperTAC software. Some of his designs were used later when we introduced HT4, and were modified for use in the TCU800 series.

From there, we asked Bill to take a position in our Systems Engineering department, building custom screens for customers. This led to a position as a PLC programmer and, eventually, as a controls engineer. To date, Bill has automated water and wastewater systems in eight states throughout the South.

Bill had this to say about his DFS work experience: "Whether alongside our tight-knit team in the Controls Group or the rest of the departments we work with, it's been a pleasure getting to know our customers and

## SCADA Complete in North Myrtle Beach

This Spring, DFS and the City of North Myrtle Beach, SC, completed a goal that had been targeted 35 years ago: SCADA communications were installed on the last of the city's wastewater lift stations.



Our first meeting with long-time utilities director, Ralph Norris, took place in 1987, when we installed RTUs on some of the city's primary pump stations. The following years would see additional lift stations added to the system until all but those stations that were deemed too small and inconsequential to merit an RTU were included. But not even the most forward-thinking of us anticipated the enormous rate of growth that would occur in this scenic seaside community.

There were some bumps in the road, however. Three years ago, after a systems integrator had been unable to correct deteriorating operations, Norris was ready to throw in the towel. DFS reentered the picture and discovered a major interference problem: a powerful, third-party transmitter was operating on the SCADA system's frequency, nearly obliterating the system's signal. DFS obtained a new, problem-free, FCC-licensed frequency, tested the renovated operation and, after confirming its viability, rehabbed all 71 existing RTUs with up-to-date hardware, software, and radios.

Since then, SCADA has worked smoothly and, now that massive growth in the area has transformed those one-time, inconsequential lift stations, the decision was made to add the final nine stations to complete the system.

It's been our pleasure to work with Ralph Norris over these 35 years and we hope to continue our relationship with the City of North Myrtle Beach for many more years.

developing communication and automation solutions to improve the reliability and responsiveness of their systems.”

## DFS Calendar of Events

AL/FL Joint Technical  
Training Conference  
Edgewater Beach Resort  
Panama City Beach, FL  
May 16 – 18



Ask us about SAAS: SCADA As A Service.