



A Rockwell Automation Company

EnCana Corporation Metering Point Automation

The Client:

EnCana is the largest independent natural gas producer in North America and operates a number of natural gas fields in Northern Alberta that are characterized low-pressure, low-production wells. In these fields many wells are drilled, and gathering systems link

them together bringing a single lateral line into a metering and compression station.

The Requirement:

The EnCana natural gas fields were low production fields with no automation infrastructure to allow for informal data gathering. With the large number of wells that characterize this type of field, the challenge for Hinz was to provide the client with a way to effectively manage the increasing number of wells

without also requiring an increase in manpower. This would require a study of the operational challenges of the fields and a proposed automation solution which would alleviate the need to hire more operators as the fields expanded.

The Design Solution:

Hinz performed an investigation into the problem by executing a site survey. The survey included a review of the field facilities, interviews with supervisors and operations staff, and discussions with head office engineering and accounting. As a deliverable, Hinz created a survey report and prepared a design solution that included survey results, recommendations, proposed architecture, and cost estimates.

The survey revealed that operations of a low gas production field can be very labor intensive. With no information on well or field performance, operations personnel spend a lot of time traveling from well site to well site to check on the status of each well. Winter is especially difficult as sometimes wells can freeze off. Without any individual wellhead information, operations personnel have to travel from well to well looking for non-producing wells.

Due to the high number of wells and the low production of each well, it was determined that it was not feasible to automate each wellhead. There are,

however, strategic metering points where a number of wells are gathered at the lateral lines. If these are automated, a small group of wells can be managed more effectively than the entire field.

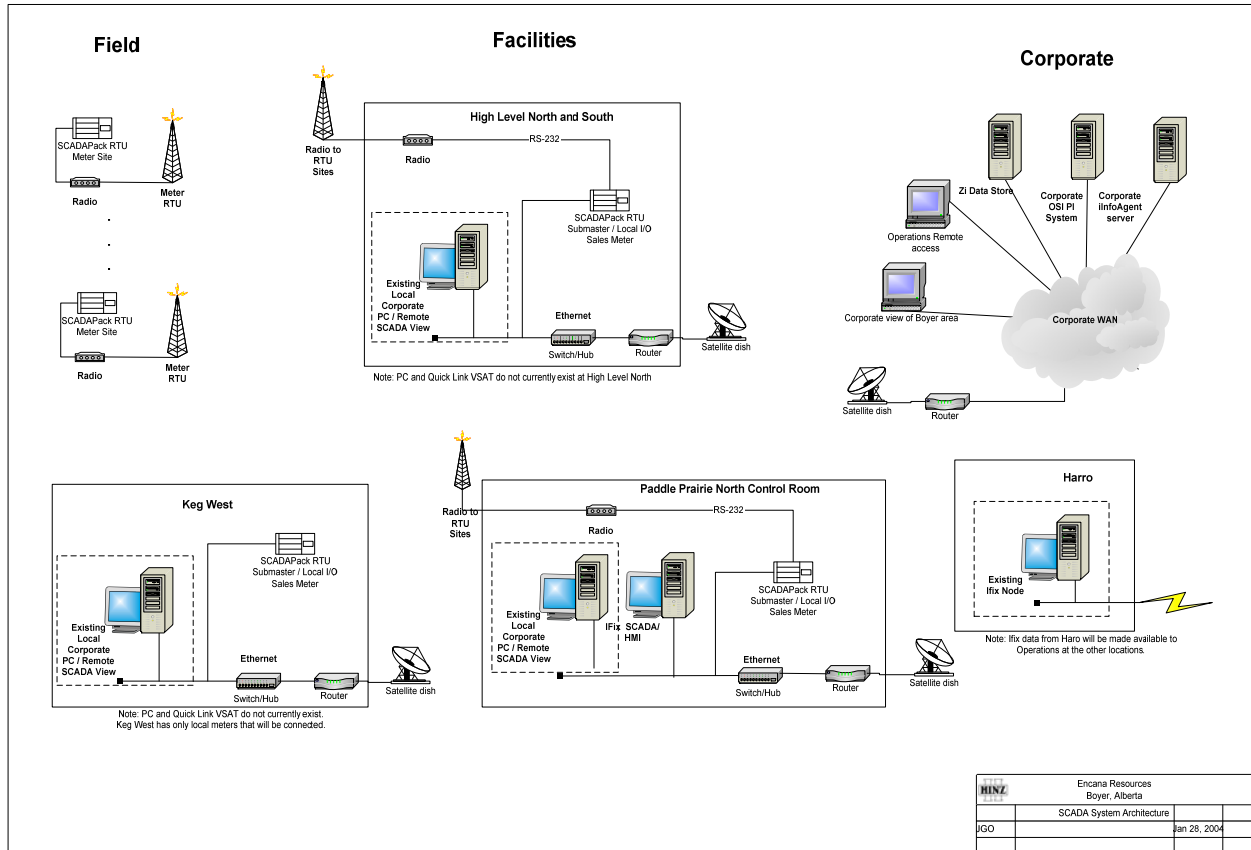
It was also determined that, if it could be made available, there is a wider interest in the information of the field. This drove the design to include moving the data from the field to the head office where it could be made available to the wider corporate audience.

The design included local communications over spread spectrum radios and wide area communications over the corporate VSAT network.



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System Specifications:

- Design for purpose SCADAPack RTUs with gas metering communicating to host system over MDS spread spectrum radio.
- Host system IFix Intellution with InfoAgent historian for WAN access.
- Head office backhaul through VSAT for corporate access.

For further information or to contact a Hinz office near you, please check our website at:

www.hinz.com