



invenTRAK Case Study

Type of Company:

Municipal Sewerage Laboratory

Concerns:

- Lab safety
- Organized stockroom
- Appropriate inventory levels
- Hazardous chemical levels below regulatory requirements

A large municipal sewerage district often does not have the luxury of employing a staff devoted to stocking and ordering inventory for their laboratory. “We used to order everything we’d need for the year in October and get it around Christmas, in order to control our costs,” says Earl Przybylski (prez-i-BIL-skee), Wastewater Analyst for the district. “But it was an organizational nightmare. We never knew exactly what we had on hand and where it was located. Sometimes we were ordering things we already had. MG Scientific’s invenTRAK system has completely eliminated any inventory problems we were having.” The district has been using MG’s invenTRAK system to maintain inventory levels of all laboratory items since April, 2001.

“A representative from MG comes twice a week to stock supplies for us and to take an inventory of what we have on-hand,” explains Przybylski. “We always have the things we use regularly; everything is well organized and easy to find. If we need something special, we just tell MG. They also keep track of hazardous chemical levels for the lab, so we never exceed OSHA Tier II requirements.”

The district operates two wastewater treatment plants and a laboratory facility. The laboratory continually monitors the composition of surface water, groundwater, plant effluents, solid products, and industrial wastes through chemical and microbiological tests.

Before MG’s invenTRAK program began, the district had hired a consultant to help rethink their lab procedures to make them more efficient. A major concern was the procurement system. “We needed to reduce the number of emergencies when we actually ran out of supplies and make sure that we didn’t overstock. With the consultant, we developed fifteen points that a good program should include,” notes Przybylski. “MG’s invenTRAK covers those fifteen points and more.”

To begin the invenTRAK program, a representative from MG Scientific met with the laboratory staff to determine which items were required in stock and about how much of each item was used every week. There are cyclical requirements for several items, so MG helped estimate the average weekly consumption of these products. “Jim McKeown, the President of MG, came to the laboratory and actually went through the stockroom. He gave us a lot of organizational ideas, like installing acid cabinets. His guidance was really valuable,” offers Przybylski.

“MG’s invenTRAK program is saving us a huge amount of time,” says Przybylski. “We are hardly involved with ordering, and it’s easy to find what we need in the stockroom. We’re saving money, too, by having exactly what we need on hand. We are very pleased.”