



CASE STUDY

Red Cedar Gathering Implements Cority to Access Real-Time Environmental Data

For Red Cedar Gathering, a Durango, Colorado-based, midstream energy company, 2010 brought major changes to its environmental compliance program, particularly when it came to air emissions reporting. Red Cedar Gathering collects, treats, and compresses natural gas from more than 1,200 wells across 895 miles of gathering pipeline. This territory includes both tribal land and privately owned lands, which operate under different regulations.

Red Cedar Gathering Streamlines Data Collection and Reduces Permit Violations with Cority

That year, the EPA implemented more complex GHG regulations. Around the same time, the Southern Ute Tribe, majority owner of Red Cedar Gathering and the reservation the energy company operates, received delegation to run its own Title V air permitting program and issue permits. Red Cedar Gathering also purchased multiple facilities from another company, giving Red Cedar Gathering even more air permits to track. With all these disruptions, Red Cedar Gathering knew its old manual tracking system couldn't effectively manage the new compliance requirements.

"I was using a combination of manual processes like everyone else at the time, including spreadsheets, hard copy files, and Word docs," said Ethan Hinkley, air quality compliance manager at Red Cedar Gathering. "We had multiple assets and no central system for handling all that information.

Without that central system, tracking our compliance requirements was difficult to maintain, and we lacked consistency across our facilities, which made it easy to lose track of information."

Finding a New Flexible Solution

To help manage these new GHG requirements, Hinkley and a team from the Southern Ute Growth Fund, the business side of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, began searching for a new solution. Specifically, they needed a solution that offered a robust calculation engine. As with all air permitting, the GHG regulations were set to require a high volume of calculations. While these calculations were not necessarily complex, it would take a powerful calculation engine to handle the sheer number.

"Within a permit, you have requirements for 12-month rolling totals, annual totals, and other similar metrics that are fairly easy to do until you start doing them 400 times for 15-minute data for an entire year," Hinkley

INDUSTRY
Oil and Gas

REGION
U.S. Mountains

ORGANIZATION SIZE
120

SOLUTIONS
Environmental

CHALLENGES

With changing regulations and new facilities, the old spreadsheet system couldn't keep up with complex air emissions compliance requirements and put the company at regulatory risk.

RESULTS

Red Cedar Gathering implemented a centralized EHS software system through Cority to access real-time environmental data across facilities.

IMPACT

Red Cedar Gathering reduced compliance violations and cut reporting time from days to hours, allowing the team to focus on more strategic initiatives rather than administrative work.



“THE SOFTWARE HAS DONE A LOT TO STANDARDIZE THE WAY WE REPORT. WE’RE LESS LIKELY TO MISS DATA OR FIND DIFFERENCES IN CALCULATIONS FROM FACILITY TO FACILITY, WHICH CAN LEAD TO FEWER COMPLIANCE ISSUES. WITH THIS STREAMLINED REPORTING, I’M FREED UP TO WORK ON MORE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES RATHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS.”

Ethan Hinkley
Air Quality Compliance Manager
Red Cedar Gathering

said. “It’s not hard to build these calculations into a spreadsheet, but the maintenance and upkeep would become unbearable.”

After researching their options, the Growth Fund team decided to invest in the Cority Environmental Solution, a SaaS platform that allows EHS teams to streamline their environmental compliance program and better manage risks. Not only did the Cority Environmental Solution offer a calculation engine that fit Hinkley’s requirements, but it also allowed him to customize the solution for Red Cedar Gathering and the Growth Fund’s unique needs.

The Growth Fund consists of multiple oil and gas companies with regulatory and compliance requirements that vary across jurisdictions. Given Red Cedar Gathering and the Growth Fund’s complex and unique situation, a one-size-fits-all software solution wouldn’t adequately manage the company’s environmental compliance program, particularly regarding tracking air emissions across its new tribal facilities.

location. The Cority system then uploads this data daily for Hinkley to access, which gives Hinkley and his staff a real-time view of what’s happening and has helped them reduce deviations from permit requirements.

“We get data more frequently than we have to report, and that allows us to see issues or trends and fix them before they become an issue,” Hinkley said. “We’re more proactive and can react more quickly with Cority.”

With spreadsheets, this kind of turnaround was never possible, Hinkley said. Manually uploading data was too time consuming to perform daily, especially for a small staff. Hinkley instead uploaded data on a monthly and quarterly basis, so he didn’t have the visibility to get in front of any potential problems.

Faster data uploads also allow Hinkley to more efficiently run reports. Every six months, Hinkley and his team must prepare semi-annual reports on air emissions



Cut reporting
time from days to
hours



Access real-time
data to instantly
respond to any
permit requirement



Leverage a
powerful, robust
calculation
engine

“The other calculation engines we looked at were too simple and didn’t come with much flexibility,” Hinkley said. “Cority’s kind of flexibility allows us to think outside the box and create something that works great for us.”

How Red Cedar Gets Ahead of Compliance Issues

Since implementing the Cority Environmental Solution, Hinkley has used the software daily. Every 15 minutes, Red Cedar Gathering’s equipment collects data from the field for compliance and sends it to one centralized

to comply with regulations. In the past, this took Hinkley two days to create the report, but now that the data automatically processes through Cority, it takes them less than an hour and significantly reduces the chance for errors.

“The software has done a lot to standardize the way we report,” Hinkley said. “We’re less likely to miss data or find differences in calculations from facility to facility, which can lead to fewer compliance issues. With this streamlined reporting, I’m freed up to work on more strategic initiatives rather than administrative tasks.”

In fact, despite today's increasingly complex regulatory environment, Red Cedar Gathering has seen fewer permit violations since 2012 when it experienced a spike following new tribal requirements, Hinkley said. Today's inspectors dive deeper into data and tend to cite more violations, but better data tracking and auditability has allowed Red Cedar Gathering to go against this trend and reduce violations.

Expanding Cority Across the Organization

Since the initial implementation, Red Cedar Gathering has rolled out the Cority platform to its other facilities. With the different engines running at all the facilities, this could have been a complicated process. Hinkley and his team had to account for the various emission factors at different facilities, recreate spreadsheets, and then ensure the accuracy of all these reports.

However, Hinkley worked with the Cority team to create a universal engine template. Using this template, Hinkley now only has to enter five data points for any kind of engine into the system, and the template automatically calculates the information. Each facility can use this template, and Red Cedar Gathering has applied a similar system to other equipment, such as dehydrators and heaters.

Today's regulatory environment may continue to increase in complexity, but Red Cedar Gathering is well-positioned to navigate this evolving landscape. With the ability to handle complex calculations across multiple facilities, Red Cedar Gathering's compliance efforts are streamlined and accurate.



Let's start the conversation.

Contact us today for more information.

Cority
P +1 866 368 4262
W cority.com/solutions