RAMTECH

Automating Tracking and Traceability at Peoples Gas

PS Professional Services

AT A GLANCE

CLIENT CHALLENGES

- Inefficiencies in field and office operations
- The lack of as-built data accuracy and slow turnaround times
- Regulatory changes increasing the demand for high-quality geospatial data

CLIENT BENEFITS

- Automated the data collection process
- Improved business processes and data quality
- Significantly decreased the average number of days it takes to get the field data into the GIS

Business Need

RAMTeCH was selected by Peoples Gas (Peoples), Pennsylvania's largest natural gas distribution company, to improve its as-built data management process. Peoples, who services around 740,000 customers, wanted to improve their end-to-end as-built process with the following primary objectives:

- Simplify the field data collection process
- Improve data accuracy and consistency
- Reduce the turnaround time for projects to be completed in the enterprise GIS
- Be prepared for upcoming changes in the PMHSA regulations for tracking and traceability

RAMTeCH Solution

Peoples and RAMTeCH found a solution that incorporated a mobile application built by RAMTeCH using the ArcGIS Runtime API. The application was deployed to the field on iPad minis. This mobile solution was built on the previous successes Peoples and RAMTeCH have had with Runtime mobile applications deployed across the company.

For this deployment, the UPDM 2018 data model was chosen and AGOL was used to host the data after being collected in the field. Using a purpose-built application allowed Peoples to enforce company workflows and ensure the collection of the required data is completed in the most effective and timely manner.

Results

A streamlined end-to-end as-built data collection process was implemented. Since deployment, Peoples has completed approximately 2,500 projects and collected over 500 miles of pipe, resulting in:

- Improved assets collection accuracy with much of the data within 6" or less accuracy
- Using barcode scanning traceability to collect the data
- Reviewing the project status daily
- The number of days to get the data from the field into the GIS has dropped from an average of 69 to less than 25