The Long Term Solution to Corporate Wide EH&S: Effective & Practical Information Management Tools

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ABSTRACT

For over a decade now, operating companies have been allocating resources to comply with a multitude of environmental, health, and safety (EH&S) regulations. Most organizations have instituted corporate wide programs to empower employees, identify gaps, and monitor progress to achieve the company’s stated EH&S objectives. Information technology has played an instrumental role in facilitating the overall efforts and companies have invested enormous amounts in either acquiring or developing solutions to simplify their tasks and gain an edge over the competition.

These efforts have allowed most operating companies to comply with OSHA and EPA mandated regulations in the prescribed time frames. However, the majority of the hydrocarbon and chemical processing industries is lacking in its ability to leverage past efforts to ensure continued compliance and maintain the integrity of its EH&S information. Very often, this results in costly duplications of the entire process.

The long-term solution is to dedicate resources in developing efficient work processes to achieve a company’s EH&S objectives and incorporating those work processes in effective and practical information management systems. The words “effective” and “practical” are emphasized to underscore the importance of deploying solutions that can deliver the required functionality without compromising the results or complicating the process. As we might all concur, the process industry has experienced its fair share of information technology nightmares and lofty promises of turnkey solutions.

This paper will demonstrate how an operating company can exploit a combination of efficient work processes and information technology to streamline its EH&S efforts and create a sustainable solution. It will elaborate how an operating company of any scale can leverage its existing IT investments and infrastructure to slash costs and schedules associated with corporate wide or local EH&S efforts. And lastly, it will demonstrate the importance of relying on practical solutions rather than complex IT initiatives to achieve the overall EH&S objectives.