



REFINED PLANT SHUTDOWN METHOD



“SAFETY AND PROCESS INTEGRITY INITIATIVE”

Due to an increased number of shutdowns occurring at SEQ Waters Molendinar water treatment plant the operations group set themselves a challenge to develop the safest and most efficient way to shut the treatment plant down and ensure all of SEQ Waters tag out and lock out procedures were followed as set out in our current shutdown procedure PRO-00553.

Several systems were tabled and trialled but the stand out performer was a good old fashioned shadow board, very similar to a model we have seen used in the mining industry. This system provided an organised area to keep the tags and locks required in place while the treatment plant was in service and easy access to them when the plant was to be shutdown. Prior to re-starting the plant the duty operator could visually check that all tags and locks had been removed and returned to their correct positions giving them peace of mind that the treatment plant was ready to be returned to service.



A further refinement added to the system was the permanent labelling and laminating of the tags which allowed the simple addition of a date with a fine tip whiteboard marker enabling us to contribute to SEQ Water’s saving initiative target and reduce waste.



With a high emphasise focused on the safety/process relationship several key principles considered essential while setting the criteria for this procedure was the ability for the duty operator to quickly access that all operational processes had been isolated on shutdown and de-isolated on start up of the treatment plant. After much discussion and some serious head scratching the group decided that keeping the process as simple as possible with the ability to do a quick visual check from the control room should be considered key points to the system.

After successfully implementing the system over multiple shutdowns we have had the opportunity to measure how the system has fared and feel it has met the criteria of being simple but effective, adhering to all of SEQ Waters strict tag out/ lock out procedures and been embraced by the operations group and management alike.