

Florida Drinking Water Trends and Automation Trends

Kim Kunihiro^{1*}

¹Orange County Utilities, 9100 Curry Ford Road, Orlando, Florida, 32825, USA

(*correspondence: kim.kunihiro@ocfl.net)

During today's trying economy water suppliers continue to do more with less. Water purveyors are actively involved with improving their communications and automation systems to be able to operate facilities remotely or through a centralized location with fewer staff and limited funds. Likewise maintenance activities are being performed by a core team with knowledge of all plants and systems. Automation works most effectively when there is consistency in hardware, software and communication protocols. Some utilities are forward thinking and have begun to standardize PLC's and controls in all their facilities. This saves both time and money in spare parts inventory and employee training. This talk will discuss how some utilities in Florida have achieved this goal and how they are enhancing their operations through automation. In addition, utilities that are embarking on the path to automation and standardization will be discussed.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



Kim Kunihiro holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and an M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering Sciences from University of Florida and has worked in the water sector for more than 30 years. She is the Water Quality & Water Production Manager for Orange County Utilities, a large Water and Wastewater Utility that serves over 300,000 customers in Orlando, Florida.

Her current responsibilities include management and supervision of the water production section which operates and maintains 20 water supply and pumping facilities for Orange County Utilities and project management of a variety of analytical and research projects.

In addition, she coordinates the activities of the water quality staff including backflow and cross connection, field sampling and water quality research. She prepares reports and monitors regulatory compliance for the Water Division. Her experience includes 24 years of laboratory management, data management and quality control in the public and private sector. She has specialized expertise in sampling plan development, data evaluation and laboratory design.

Kim is a trustee on the board of Florida Section American Water Works association and is the past Chair of the Technical and Education Council. At the national level she is a member and past chair of the Water Quality Laboratory Committee of AWWA as well as a member of the Emerging Issues committee and Distribution Water quality committee. She serves as a member of the project advisory committee for several drinking water and water reclamation projects at both the Water Research Foundation and Water Environment Federation.