



Chemical Plant Credited for Power Factor Penalties



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A PowerLogic® system installed to help keep an eye on costs helps uncover costly errors in the plant's utility metering. After reviewing data from PowerLogic® System Manager™ Software, a company executive discovered a major discrepancy between system manager reported data and the utility bill in regards to power factor. Further investigation revealed an uncalibrated utility meter resulting in a \$250K credit for past power factor penalty charges.

A chemical manufacturer had switched to a new utility rate structure based on power factor and demand and needed system information readily available to keep cost under control. The manufacturer's PowerLogic® monitoring system included a CM2350 on the main circuit breaker to monitor and log the status of the power feed and System Manager Software for viewing and reporting information. The data log in the circuit monitor was set to log data on a 15-minute interval and upload data into System Manager.

One day when reviewing the utility bills, the Vice President of Operations noticed an ongoing discrepancy between the power factor readings from System Manager Software and the utility bills. After carefully reviewing time-trend plots of the power factor and accompanying history log print out of the power factor readings, the Vice President sent copies of the data to the utility and pressed for a resolution.

Further investigation revealed that the utility had not recalibrated their meter upon the rate structure change. The Circuit Monitor was checked against the utility's standard for calibration. It was confirmed that the chemical manufacturer's circuit monitor readings were correct. The discrepancy in readings resulted in a credit for one year of power factor penalties, approximately \$250K.

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