



AFE Nav

Case Study

SemCAMS Improves Midstream Operations
with a More Efficient AFE Process

The Company

SemCAMS, a business unit of the US-based SemGroup Corporation, is one of the largest licensed sour gas processors in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin, owning and operating four gas processing plants in the area. SemCAMS provides midstream services for their customers, with several options for wet or dry, sweet or sour gas gathering and processing, as well as dehydration, field compression and sulphur forming and handling.

The Challenge

SemCAMS managed their Approval for Expenditures (AFE) process using Excel spreadsheets filled with custom tables and worksheets. This manual process was becoming a hindrance as the organization grew, resulting in too many moving pieces with too many people involved in the handling of AFEs. Tasks were more cumbersome to complete. Finding out where an AFE was in the workflow process required going throughout the building to find out who had the physical copy sitting on their desk.

Beyond the increased difficulties caused by using a manual process to get approvals, keeping the spreadsheets properly formatted and up to date was becoming more difficult as the volume of AFEs increased for SemCAMS. On average, SemCAMS manages 25 AFEs per month. As their needs evolved, it became more difficult to get the spreadsheets to evolve with them. Users were afraid to make updates to the spreadsheet for fear of breaking them altogether. This resulted in lower accuracy and increased chances for errors from the manual process.

The Solution

SemCAMS needed to move away from manual processes and cumbersome spreadsheets. After evaluating their needs with several providers, they chose AFE Navigator. AFE Navigator (AFE Nav®) is an all-in-one AFE workflow and capital tracking system that integrates with other key systems. Currently, more than 100 upstream and midstream oil and gas companies use AFE Nav to streamline their Authorization for Expenditure process, increase visibility into the approval process, reduce overspending, and manage capital more efficiently.

SemCAMS chose AFE Navigator as it was able to mirror their current workflow after a custom implementation. This brought them the automation they required to address their current challenges without having to deal with the pain of changing their workflows to accommodate an automated process.

The Results

Within the first year of implementation, SemCAMS' AFE process became easier to use, more efficient, more transparent, and easier to track. A process that used to take a significant part of users' time is now completed with far greater ease, freeing up their time to focus on other important parts of their jobs. AFEs take less time to compile, less time to track, and with fewer errors caused by manual input, less time to correct.

Greater visibility into the status of AFEs made tracking their status simple. No more running around the office to discover where the approvals had stalled or who to contact to get the process back under way. SemCAMS has a multi-level approval process with their expenditures, so being able to quickly learn who has an AFE and where it's at in the approval tree makes a significant difference to how they run their business.

"The response to AFE Navigator at SemCAMS has been very positive. Since implementing it last year, we've seen fewer errors caused by manual use and are very happy with its ease of use. The peace of mind I get from being able to trace where an AFE is at is immeasurable".

Jane Baker

Joint Interest Analyst

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