

# LogMateAMS™ - Success Story

NRG Energy®



## NRG Optimizes Alarm Delivery Using LogMateAMS

NRG Energy's vision is to be the leading nonutility power generation company in the world through continuous enhancement of operational and technical capabilities. NRG's Limestone generation facility in Jewett, Texas, contributes to that vision through a proactive and very successful alarm management program.



The NRG Limestone facility is a coal-fired steam turbine generation facility, producing 1,713MW. In the late 90's, the plant integrated once segmented plant monitoring, boiler control, and burner management systems into one control system in an effort to improve operating team effectiveness. Once the systems were consolidated, the team quickly realized that the integrated system produced too much alarm activity. A task force was immediately formed to address the issue.

The site implemented LogMate and began an intensive six-month effort. The majority of nuisance alarms were due to alarm activation points too close to normal operating ranges and unnecessary equipment status alarms. Prioritizing based on alarm activity and its potential impact on safety, environmental, and business risk, the team restored the usefulness of the control system.

Once the bulk of the issues were resolved, the plant adopted a standard practice of regular alarm reviews driven by activity reports and the operating team. The effort has resulted in a completely transformed alarm screen, displaying only a few pertinent and valid alarms during operations. Limestone is currently looking forward to the next phase, dynamically altering alarm settings for quieter startup and shutdown cycles.

## Successes

- Quickly found and resolved the alarm overload
- Implemented an alarm activity reporting tool
- Established an ongoing alarm improvement effort
- Contributed to safety, environmental, and business goals

**The alarm screen was transformed - displaying only a few pertinent alarms during operations**

## About Alarm Management:

Alarms inform operators of an abnormal condition and assist in its resolution. Alarms are an important part of automation; a direct communication of plant condition. Unfortunately, the lack of management of the alarm system has led to an overabundance of alarms that are vague, activate inappropriately, and in many cases are simply ignored - assumed to be irrelevant.

Alarm management improves the operating team's ability to evaluate and recover from abnormal situations, keeping a plant running inside the normal envelope. It improves plant safety, environmental compliance, and business performance. Alarm management is not complicated, and essentially involves better application of the engineering know-how already in place. It is a very cost effective, practical way to improve plant performance.

## About NRG:

NRG Energy, a leading competitive energy provider was founded in 1989. NRG owns and operates a variety of energy-related operations worldwide. NRG has one of the industry's most diverse generation portfolios, distinguished by its range in geography, fuel source, and dispatch level.

## About LogMateAMS:

LogMate AMS is a comprehensive alarm management software solution, delivering the best alarm management technologies in a robust, stable, effective package.

LogMate AMS scales from a single-computer up to an entire enterprise without shedding features or compromising stability. The impressive feature set and build quality make for a strong candidate as you search for a technology solution capable of handling your demanding alarm management goals.

## About TiPS:

TiPS Incorporated is The Alarm Management Company™. Since introducing our alarm management software package - LogMate® - in 1990, TiPS has continued to deliver process alarm management products, services, and knowledge to manufacturers worldwide. Our goal is to educate the market about the value of alarm management and to provide industry with class-leading alarm management technology. An optimized alarm system improves operations, including reduced downtime, fewer and more subdued upsets, increased safety, and higher quality output.