

# Alaska Oil & Gas Reporter

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## Environmental firms, ideas prove mettle

By Rose Ragsdale

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Alaska is a challenging proving ground for a variety of environmental products and services. In an increasingly diverse marketplace, products run the gamut from a chemical solution that takes the hazard out of hazardous waste to computer software that eases the burden of regulatory paperwork.

Environmental services are also becoming increasingly sophisticated as demonstrated by consultants who specialize in negotiating the maze of rules and compliance.



Brian Hoefler and Luke Franklin, co-owners of Hoefler Consulting Group in Anchorage.

*Rose Ragsdale*

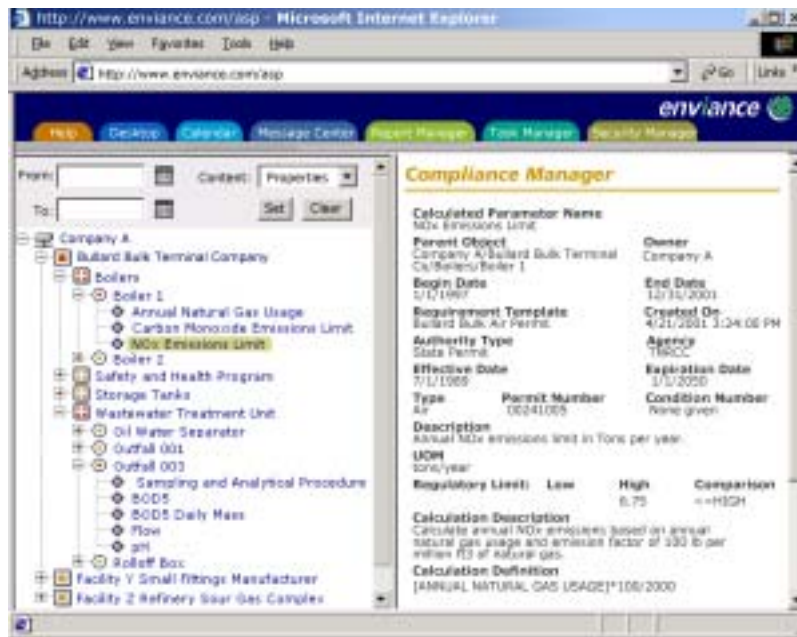
### The Enviance family of applications

As more and more companies seek ways to streamline their environmental data management systems, organizations are responding with innovations that meet their needs.

Such is the case with Enviance, a southern California company, that has developed a set of World Wide Web-based tools designed to simplify environmental management and compliance using the Internet.

Based on distributed network architecture, the Enviance System continually updates its database with the help of regulatory experts on staff. Thus, environmental reports can be extracted in the forms needed by users and are compatible with other commonly used software tools, company officials say.

"Today, environmental compliance is a jungle of Excel spreadsheets," said Larry Goldenhersh, president and chief executive of Enviance. Goldenhersh cited results of a recent survey of 250 health, safety and environmental managers conducted by BTI Consultants.



**This Web page displays menu options and other information in Internet-based Enviance environmental management system computer software. Enviance officials say the system can improve environmental reporting dramatically, while saving time and money for system managers.**

*Courtesy of Enviance*

It showed that the average HSE professional handles 350 to 4,000 documents a year to meet environmental compliance requirements, and that companies spend two-thirds of their HSE budgets on data management.

Goldenhersh said the family of computer applications his firm has created cuts costs and allows managers to be more productive.

One Enviance product, for example, is a compliance documentation and management system. The system features a central data bank for the collection, analysis and management of environmental information and automatic production of standardized and customizable air, water and waste reports.

"Whether you track environmental compliance at one or multiple facilities, uniform data entry screens and consistent calculation methods mean an instant improvement in the quality and integrity of your data," Enviance officials say.

"Once the system is set up, management of data becomes trivial," Goldenhersh said. "The system is a modem line away from the client anywhere in the world."

Doug Poole, regional vice president for sales, said the Enviance System is flexible enough to handle the needs of virtually any type of company.

"Anyone, from a dry cleaner with one store to DuPont could use it," he said.

However, company officials admit that firms with multiple users and more complicated environmental reporting requirements would benefit most from Enviance applications.

"It's a wonderfully collaborative tool," Goldenhersh said. "It allows people to connect the dots of environmental compliance. ... You could have literally thousands of people working on a platform at the same time. That's the beauty of the system."

Monthly subscription fees vary from \$1,200 for 10 users, he said.



**Larry Goldenhersh, president and chief executive of Enviance.**

*Courtesy of Enviance*

Poole, a former sales representative for safety programs at DuPont, said he believes Enviance can help companies do with environmental reporting in Alaska what they have already done with safety.

"Safety in Alaska is managed as well as anywhere in the world," he said.

Enviance recently visited the North Slope and offered a seminar in Anchorage aimed at acquainting Alaska's oil and gas industry with the advantages of its products.

"North Slope companies are a collaborative group that is not afraid to share best practices," Goldenhersh said. "Using our products, their costs will go down and the productivity will go up. ... By automating and enhancing collaboration, you free up people for other activities."

Representatives of contractors like Nabors, Arctic Supply Chain, NANA Development Corp., and Chugach Alaska Corp., along with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., showed up for the seminar. Natchiq Inc. has already signed on as an Enviance customer.

"It's not that hard to use the Enviance System," said Rick Miles, owner of F1 Environmental Consulting Services of Anchorage, which is helping Natchiq customize its environmental management system using Enviance tools.

"Anybody can use it, so you can limit access to the parts of it that a person needs to use," Miles said.

Natchiq expects the Enviance tools will improve the efficiency of its environmental management system, and make it easier for employees with other responsibilities to fulfill their compliance duties.

"The environmental manager can find documents, information and data from anywhere on the planet. That's an indirect benefit, but it's definitely going to save time and money," Miles said.

Enviance has scheduled a second seminar in Anchorage for Dec. 12.