



[CHALLENGES FACED]

- > Required ability to integrate summarized GL financial data with detailed operational sub-ledgers for customer, employee, and vendor-related data.
- > Needed to standardize vendor and customer hierarchies across the enterprise.
- > Realized the need to consolidate large operational data sources to meet an intra-day refresh process required for financial data during the close cycle, yet needed minimum interruption to user querying and reporting.



RANZAL
An Edgewater Technology Company

[BENEFITS REALIZED]

- > Ability to investigate variances by drilling down, across and through to operational and source system details through linkages of summarized GL financial data with detailed operational sub-ledgers for customer, employee, and vendor-related data.
- > Standardized vendor and customer hierarchies across the enterprise.
- > By leveraging Hyperion's new Essbase 7.x, large operational data stores were rapidly consolidated to meet an intra-day refresh process required during the close cycle with minimum interruption to user querying and reporting.

[CLIENT'S NEEDS]

Allegheny Energy, Inc. (Allegheny), a company that generates, transmits and delivers electric power in four states, sought to dramatically improve its financial condition. Management chose to implement a strategy that would focus on core asset-backed businesses, and reduce debt by freeing-up cash from non-core businesses. Essential to the strategy was the creation of a set of tools and processes providing strong financial controls, and integrated management reporting across Allegheny's numerous, disparate systems in an effort to achieve "one version of the truth" across the enterprise. Allegheny started by focusing on the financial data, and then created a technology solution that provided links to certain key operational details that drive financial performance. By implementing this approach, the "One View" project was born.

Management required relevant operational data existing beneath the general ledger and sub-ledger details to better understand what key performance indicators (KPIs) were driving the business, and to be confident in the certification of published financial data. This operational detail was voluminous and required standardized definitions of vendor and customer hierarchies across the enterprise. Consolidating this data to include an intra-day refresh process with minimum interruption to user querying and reporting along with secure access during the close cycle was a complex undertaking.

[RANZAL'S SOLUTION]

Allegheny partnered with Ranzal & Associates, a Hyperion Preferred Partner with extensive experience in the energy industry, Hyperion toolset, and Peoplesoft Financials, to implement the "One View" solution. With an initial focus on the financial data that resided in Allegheny's Peoplesoft General Ledger, Ranzal developed detailed data and hierarchy extracts that were fed into a staging RDBMS, aggregated, and ultimately loaded into a financial Essbase model. An Executive Information System was developed using Arcplan Dynasight that provided end users with Web access to both summarized financial data, and seamless drill through to journal details in the RDBMS. Staging cubes were utilized so that actual end-user downtime during refresh processes was limited to five minutes or less, providing a mechanism for intra-day refreshes during the close cycle. A dynamic security model was implemented via custom attributes that controlled both data and application access which provided non-IT functional administrators with easy maintenance capabilities.

Within later phases of the project, Ranzal rolled out additional "sub-ledger" and operational data marts that provided more detail, and tied to the financials. These large operational cubes were enabled with the powerful new Aggregate Storage Option (ASO) available in Essbase 7.x and included specifically the ability to: (1) view project expenditures by cost type (Labor, Raw Materials, etc) across both Income Statement (O&M Expenses) and Balance Sheet (Capital WIP) lines; (2) group customers by industry to obtain supply chain efficiencies; gain visibility into labor expenditures by employee, job code, project and department; and (3) track billed and unbilled customer revenue by customer type across industrial, commercial and residential lines.

*Allegheny's management now has access to critical financial data that is consistent, reliable, timely, and secure. As **Tom Gardner, Vice President, Controller, Chief Accounting Officer and Chief Information Officer at Allegheny** states "By partnering with Ranzal, we were able to implement a technology solution that addressed our need to access certain KPIs so we now can make better business decisions that will assist with attaining our business goal of financial transparency to be able to better manage the business."*