



W.N. Couch keeps the flow going with Topcon GMS-110



W. N. Couch employee Richard Williams is the project manager and estimator for the water meter replacement and locate projects.

We're getting to be old hands at this," said Richard Williams, estimator and project coordinator for W. N. Couch, Inc. "This is the fourth contract we've been awarded for replacement of water meters here in Tulsa."

All but one of those contracts also required the contractor to provide locating information for each meter. (Locations were not required for residential meters since their location is consistent and easy to find visually.) The City of Tulsa needs this information so that they can come back later and install hardware to enable Automated Meter Reading (AMR). With AMR, an employee can simply walk or drive by the meters and receive the customers' usage data electronically. No need to stop and lift can lids. No more data entry errors. AMR is fast and

efficient and saves the City money.

While meter replacement is still the same back-breaking work it's always been – lots of hand digging is required – the locating job is easy to do. "We

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Company: W.N. Couch, Inc. Contractors

Location: Tulsa, OK

Project: Replace and provide location information for 2,172 water meters for the City of Tulsa

Location: throughout Tulsa city limits

Topcon Products:

- GMS-110 GIS mapping system
- FC-100 handheld computer/data collector
- TopSURV GIS software

Topcon Dealer:

Ozark Laser and Shoring
14015 E Admiral Place
Tulsa, OK 74116
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'We rely on our Topcon equipment ...'

- Don Shope

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Don Shope uses a Topcon GMS-110 GPS unit and FC-100 data collector to record information on a water meter location for the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Shope is an employee of Keystone Plumbing, a subcontractor to W. N. Couch.

rely on our Topcon equipment," said Don Shope of Keystone Plumbing, a subcontractor of W. N. Couch. "The GMS-110 is simple to use, and the FC-100 data collector eliminates entry errors. Right now we're doing locates as we do replacements, and it takes just a few minutes for each one. In the past we've done locates separately from the replacements and were able to do up to 40 locates each day.

"Managing the data after it's collected is just as easy," said Williams. "The contract required that we submit location information on each of the 2,172 meters in an Excel spreadsheet file and that it require no post-processing by the city," he said. "The first time we used this equipment I had no trouble exporting the data, and I'm no computer genius."

Even though Topcon equipment is easy to use, W. N. Couch president Allen Couch praises his dealer's training department. "Ozark Laser and Shoring has done a great job of showing us how to get the most out of the Topcon products we own, from the GMS-110 to the GTS-235W total station we use on big site-prep projects."

Since meter replacement is so labor intensive, W. N. Couch is looking for any possible way to improve the efficiencies of the project. "No one likes to be without water," said Williams, "and that's especially true for businesses. The less time it takes us to get the job done, the less disruptive it is for the water customer. Using Topcon equipment is one way to help us get in and out faster."



Seated from left are Don Shope of Keystone Plumbing, W.N. Couch employee Richard Williams and W. N. Couch president Allen Couch. Standing behind them is Robert Ritchie, vice president of Ozark Laser and Shoring, W. N. Couch's Topcon dealer.

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Topcon's GMS-110

World's first integrated GIS collection and land survey system – GMS-110 'perfect' for advanced GIS professionals

This "premier instrument" will operate with software solutions based on ESRI's ArcPad. The GMS-110 is also compatible with Topcon's TopSURV-GIS, featuring both GIS data collection and land surveying functions.

The GMS-110 is designed to work with Topcon's FC-100 field computer, featuring a color touch screen and Windows CE® operating system. Both TopPAD and TopSURV-GIS applications can be loaded on the FC-100, empowering the user with ultimate flexibility in the field. Other field data controllers can also be used with the system.

