Incident summary

In November 2001, 49-year-old Vitek Boden was sentenced to two years in prison for using a stolen wireless radio, a SCADA controller and control software to release up to one million litres of sewage into the river and coastal waters of Maroochydore in Queensland, Australia. Boden, who had been a consultant on the water project, conducted the attacks in early 2000 after he was refused a full-time job with the Maroochy Shire government.

The sewage spill was significant. It polluted over 500 metres of open drain in a residential area and flowed into a tidal canal. Cleaning up the spill and its effects took days and required the deployment of considerable resources. “Marine life died, the creek water turned black and the stench was unbearable for residents,” said Janelle Bryant, investigations manager for the Australian Environmental Protection Agency.

Cause of incident

Unauthorized access to the control system via an insecure wireless network.

Cost impact

Estimated >$1 million loss.

Why Tofino would have helped

Wireless control networks can present significant risks if they are not properly secured. Tofino Security Appliances with the Tofino Firewall LSM installed can isolate wireless links from the rest of the network, blocking and immediately reporting access attempts from unauthorized intruders.
Cyber security issues can be a major cause of plant down time

You may never be attacked by a serious hacker, but typical control networks are extremely vulnerable to simple day to day security issues. Poor network segmentation, unprotected points of entry into the network, ‘soft’ targets such as un-patched PCs and vulnerable PLCs, and human error can result in significant production losses and even safety issues.

The Tofino Industrial Security Solution is a distributed security solution that quickly and cost-effectively implements cyber security protection within your control network.

Tofino’s flexible architecture allows you to create security zones - Zone Level Security - throughout your control network to protect critical system components. Tofino helps you meet and exceed NERC CIP requirements and ISA/IEC 62443 standards. And best of all, it helps you avoid expensive down time and achieve optimal performance in your plant.

Learn more at www.tofinosecurity.com.