Town of CRESTONE Colorado

# SCADA AT A GLANCE

*How technology helps our operators look after Crestone's water*

SCADA stands for **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition**. It is a network of sensors, small computers, and software that lets our water operators see what is happening across the water system, and respond, without standing next to every piece of equipment. Utilities of every size use it, and it now helps look after the water that reaches your tap.

## HOW SCADA WORKS

*At the wells, pumps, and storage tank* → *With the water operators*

**1 Sensors**
Measure water levels, flow, pressure, and chlorine.

**2 Controllers**
Small computers at each site that read sensors and run pumps.

**3 Communications**
Carry readings and commands between sites and operators.

**4 Operator Screen**
Shows the whole system, keeps records, and sends alarms.

*Operator adjustments travel back to the controllers*

## WHAT SCADA KEEPS AN EYE ON

**Tank levels**
How full storage is

**Well pumps**
On, off, and run time

**Flow**
Water produced and used

**Pressure**
Steady pressure in the lines

**Chlorine**
Disinfectant in the water

**Power**
Outages and equipment status

*Common examples. Every water system is set up a little differently.*

## A DAY IN THE LIFE: THE TANK FILL CYCLE

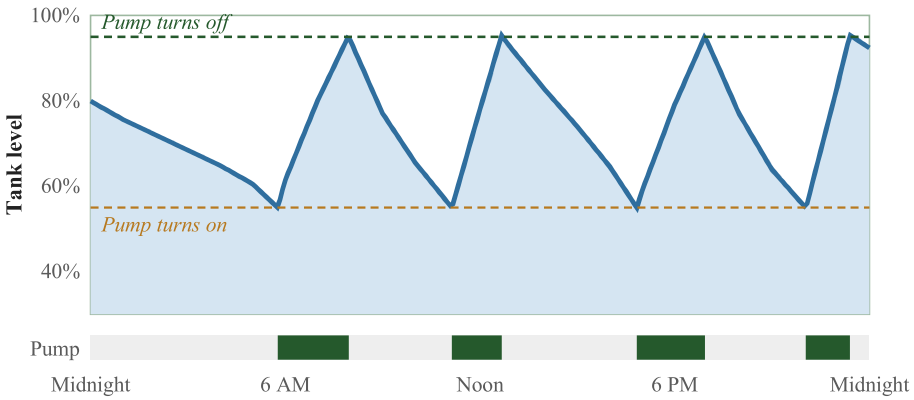
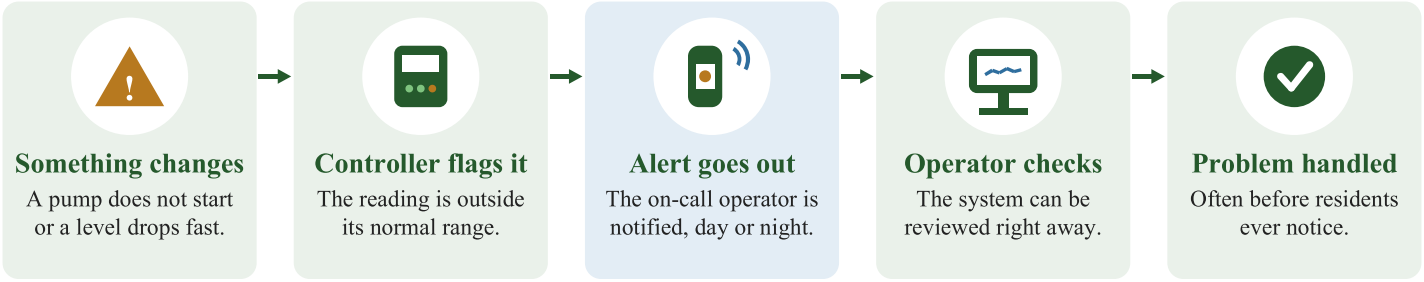



*Illustration only. Not actual Crestone data. Green bars show when the pump is running.*

1. **Water is used.** As homes and businesses use water, the tank level slowly drops, faster in the morning and evening.
2. **The pump turns on.** When the level reaches a low set point, the controller starts a well pump.
3. **The tank refills.** At the high set point, the controller turns the pump off. Every cycle is recorded, and if something looks off, SCADA sends an alarm (see page 2).

**crestonetownoffice@gmail.com** • PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131 • Voicemail (719) 256-4313

## WHEN SOMETHING NEEDS ATTENTION




## SCADA HELPS. PEOPLE RUN THE SYSTEM.

### What SCADA does

- Watches equipment around the clock
- Starts and stops pumps at set levels
- Sends alarms when something is off
- Keeps a history of readings and run times
- Lets operators check sites remotely

### What our operators still do

- Make the decisions (Colorado requires certified operators)
- Collect water quality samples by hand for lab testing
- Inspect, maintain, and repair equipment
- Respond in person when something needs fixing
- Handle required reporting to the state

## WHAT IT MEANS FOR CRESTONE

**Faster response**
Problems are known as they happen, not at the next site visit.

**Fewer routine trips**
Staff time goes where it is needed most.

**Better planning**
Long-term data shows how wells and equipment perform and helps spot leaks.

**Reliable water**
Steady tank levels and pressure for homes, businesses, and fire protection.

## QUICK FAQ

### Can I see or use the SCADA system?

No. Because SCADA operates real equipment, it is used only by our operators and the professionals who work on the system. Even the screens show details water utilities keep private. This is the same for everyone.

### Can I get SCADA details through a records (CORA) request?

Colorado law (C.R.S. 24-72-204(2)(a)(VIII)(A)) protects specialized details of critical infrastructure, so settings, network information, screen views, and operating data are not released. Records about the project itself, like Board decisions, budgets, and contracts, are public.

### Where can I follow the project?

Come to a Board of Trustees meeting, which is open to the public. Agendas and meeting packets, where much of the Town's public information lives, are posted at **townofcrestone.gov/agendas**.

### Can I tour the water facilities?

Not right now. Any future educational tours will be announced through the Town's usual channels.

### Who can answer my questions?

We can! Email **crestonetownoffice@gmail.com** and staff will be glad to explain how SCADA works and why the Town invested in it.

**Curious? Just ask.**
Email us anytime at
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