

Connections



Cellular Technology Sunsetting

If you are not already aware, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and U.S. Cellular are all phasing out 2G and 3G technology. This technology is also known as CDMA and GSM and were the first generation of the digital cellular

“The best way to make people think outside the box is not create the box in the first place.”

- Martin Cooper

As New England Drives & Controls constantly strives to become a better asset to our customers, our whitepaper series will feature new technologies or helpful insights that may be pertinent to the reader. It is our sincere hope that this information will be beneficial in both relating, and applying content to your industrial needs.

We hope you find this whitepaper series an enjoyable and informative read.

We always welcome your questions and comments.

revolution. To most consumers, this is not a problem. We’ve all traded our old “flip” cell phones for smart phones that have already included new technologies and have kept our devices current. The same cannot be said for the industrial and commercial world. Devices using older cellular technology are soon converging on their date with obsolescence. Even though as a device they may still work, the network they connect to, soon will not.

Equipment, such as older vending machines, traffic controls, system monitoring equipment, etc. that use these older cellular technologies will need to be upgraded if they are to continue to operate uninterrupted. Devices that were installed between 1996 and the present could cease to work once the cellular provider they are on turns off the old technology to make way for more bandwidth and better tech.

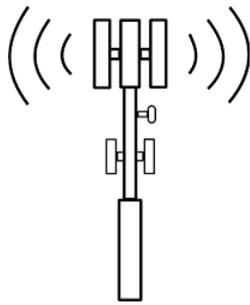
This change is not a bad thing, but it can cause bad things if it is not considered and remedied. Pump houses that are monitored remotely via a cellular connection could be at risk for this. Alarm systems and vending machines are other systems that may need to be upgraded, just to name a few.

Accommodating for this change may be as simple as swapping out the older equipment for newer ones, however it may also involve much more. Contact



your New England Drives & Controls Sales Engineer to discuss what might be needed to maintain uninterrupted service with your cellular equipment. If you are unsure if you are affected by this, give us a call and we'll be happy to verify your application and steer you in the right direction if it is necessary.

Red Lion offers some of the best cellular routers and RTUs on the market and are already equipped to keep going when the cellular service companies discontinue their service. Red Lion has also already been working on the next generation of cellular technologies to ensure the longest possible lifetime for their devices. If you've installed one lately, no doubt you are already aware of the upcoming cellular sunset and can rest assured that your solution will work continuously!



If you work for a municipality, chances are you have older equipment that this will impact. If you are an integrator, you probably have customers that this will impact. It is up to you to help spread the word about the upcoming cellular sunset and help everyone bridge the gap and prevent their systems from failing to operate on the last day of their sunset. Although the dates vary from each cellular provider, it is important to know who is providing cellular service, what technology level it is at, as well as the sunset date for the applicable cellular technology and plan according to their schedule. It is our sincere hope that we can help provide continuous service for your cellular industrial needs.

-Peter Lavoie (Engineering Manager)



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