

Clean Harbors Simplifying Tax with a Single System

Business Situation

Due to several acquisitions and recent growth, Clean Harbors' Excel®-based provision process no longer worked for the tax team. In addition, their Vertex income tax software did not offer a provision solution robust enough to meet their needs. As a result, Clean Harbor had to cope with:

- Massive spreadsheet volume that proved challenging to manage
- Auditors pressing for an automated provision process
- Manual errors that increased risk, especially in state returns and the state provision
- Calculation errors manually corrected on tax returns, but not incorporated into the provision calculation
- Excessive time spent rekeying year-end data for tax returns
- Inability to lock down tax returns causing uncertainty about changes

Using provision data for their tax returns required constant rekeying of data between their Excel-based provision model and their compliance software. It also demanded a lot of time to check and recheck for errors. Further, mining data for tax intelligence was limited. "We knew there were better ways out there," said Tax Manager Michele Donohue.

Clean Harbors' Vice President of Tax, Brett Dowsett, decided that an automated provision and compliance process in one system made the most sense. According to Dowsett, "We were looking for our provision and compliance processes to speak to one another. We knew we could add more value if we spent less time duplicating work. That led us to Corptax."

Advantages of a Single Database

Several factors made CSC Corptax® the right choice for Clean Harbors:

- The ability to enter data once and use it for provision, compliance, and planning
- Comprehensive automation—including data import, calculations, reconciliations, and true-up
- Better tax intelligence gained through flexible reporting options

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—Brett Dowsett, Vice President
of Tax, Clean Harbors

Client Profile

The leading provider of environmental, energy, industrial, and waste management services, Clean Harbors serves a diverse customer base across a broad range of vertical markets.

Solution Summary

After outgrowing their manually intensive Excel-based provision model, Clean Harbors decided to automate the process. They wanted to use provision data for their compliance needs and improve planning, using just one system. They chose Corptax software to:

- Maximize automation and minimize duplicative work
- Reuse provision data entered once for compliance and forecasting
- Increase security
- Improve reporting and analysis
- Answer auditor demands for an automated provision process



Clean Harbors

The other software provider under consideration offered separate provision and compliance solutions. Clean Harbors felt it would be too cumbersome to open and close databases, re-enter data, deal with manual import/export, and maintain two systems for entities, accounts, adjustments, and security.

As the Corptax implementation progressed, Clean Harbors gave the implementation team high praise for their assistance. According to Dowsett, "As with any software migration, it takes a little effort but we're getting a lot of gain with just a little work on our end."

Moving forward, Clean Harbors plans to tap Corptax online resources, including 24/7 training, webinars, and the robust Knowledge Base. They will also attend the annual Corptax conference, a four-day training and networking event.

Data Automation Benefits

Clean Harbors is already accruing benefits from Corptax Office which automates dataflow between Corptax and Excel at the touch of a button. Eliminating the need to manually move data into and out of Excel cuts time, errors, and reviews. As Dowsett put it, "Getting data in and out of Corptax so easily is huge!" The company can also generate data-rich reports for the first time ever.

Tax Manager Michele Donohue is excited about connected provision and compliance processes. "It will be so much simpler to upload data. Copying data from provision to compliance at year end without rekeying and rechecking will save so much time."

Confidence-building Security

With their prior system, Clean Harbors couldn't lock down returns and be sure no one changed or recalculated data. The need to constantly review for accuracy caused uncertainty and stole time. Now, Corptax transparency instills confidence in the numbers. Every entry shows an audit trail. Built-in security makes it easy to protect returns and prevent changes.

"We see that a fully integrated system with both provision and compliance creates a lot of efficiencies, and even more options and functionality than we realized."

— Brett Dowsett,
Vice President of Tax,
Clean Harbors



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