



video transcript

Day in the Life: Console Supervisor

human energy®

The women and men that work in this room are pilots. No, they never leave the ground, but they're pilots of the largest industrial machines that we have.

My name is Will Bentley, I'm a console supervisor for the Chevron Pipe Line control center in Houston, Texas. I supervise the pipeline controllers that manage the day-to-day operations along the pipeline system.

We're not just monitoring facilities, we're controlling facilities here. It's a lot like air traffic controllers, but instead of moving people and planes we're moving hydrocarbons and pipe. We control three thousand miles of pipe and about 1.2 million barrels per day. We coordinate most everything we do from where we receive product into our pipe to where we deliver product out of the pipe.

Having a pump that draws electricity and pumps something ten thousand barrels an hour to some destination a hundred miles away, it's incredibly efficient. It means a very real reduction in the cost of the movement, which the consumer sees that whenever they go to pump their gas or whenever they buy motor oil.

Typically, each console is set up with sixteen screens that we use to be able to control things remotely out in the field. They start and stop pumps; they monitor tanks; we also have various analytical tools. And what the controllers' looking for on those screens is: how much has come into the pipe and how much has left the pipe? They look for deviations within the normal operations of the pipeline system.

We live by a motto called 'when in doubt, shut it down and find out.' We want to make sure that we move the hydrocarbons safely, and if for any reason we have loss of containment, very quickly we get the energy out of the system, we move the pipe to a safe and controlled condition and protect people. That's our job.

I love the level of dedication that this company has to protecting the men and the women that live and work around these pipelines. It's doing it right. It's doing it right all the time. That's what it means to me.