

Osmose Helps Mississippi Power Get Back on Track

After Katrina

Mississippi Power's service territory, like much of the Gulf Coast, was demolished by Hurricane Katrina. The storm left 195,000 Mississippi Power customers without power, including almost all of their own employees. The storm also knocked out nearly every means of communication. Mississippi Power (MPCO) needed to quickly get the power up and running.

The Lights are On, but Now What?

In the 12 days that followed the storm, MPCO brought in 12,000 workers from 23 states to help restore power. They replaced 9,000 distribution poles and restored electricity to nearly all customers. With power restored, however, the next question was "now what?" The distribution system model used by the their GIS, outage management, and other systems was in a shambles, populated with data describing a network that no longer existed. It was crucial to collect data for all the new poles, conductors, transformers, and other features of the rebuilt distribution infrastructure.

Osmose Collects the Critical Data

Osmose mobilized immediately. The company's nationwide field staff was augmented with personnel from the Syracuse and Buffalo offices as well as nearly 100 additional field personnel. Osmose used the FastGate® suite of software to collect, validate, and deliver all the necessary data to Mississippi Power. With limited communications online, and almost no lodging, Osmose set up headquarters in a field-turned-RV-park and established broadband connections via satellite to transmit data from the field to the Osmose data production facility, where data processing and validations took place. In this post-storm effort, more than 300,000 points (poles and meters) were collected and delivered in a 12-week time period—a very fast ramp-up and delivery schedule. The data was verified to be more than 98 percent accurate, well above the specified requirements of the project.

Osmose Solution Tools

- FastGate software for integration of multiple data platforms and data models
- FastGate Mobile data-collection software for field crews
- Professional project training, ramp-up management, and QA/QC program
- Additional professional data verification and cleanup processes
- Delivery to Mississippi Power's ESRI-based GIS



Osmose: A Trusted Utility Solutions Provider

Osmose has provided inspection, maintenance, and restoration services to utility companies throughout the United States for more than 75 years. Osmose storm response and recovery services reflect tested and proven expertise, organization, training, management, and technology.