

ROI SHOWCASE

Black Hills Power

Trimble Case Study

Black Hills Power
Rapid City, S.D.

Established in 1941, Black Hills Power (BHP) provides electricity to nearly 60,000 customers in a 9,300-square-mile service area encompassing rugged and sometimes remote areas in Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Business Process Challenge

BHP needed an accurate map of its distribution system and electrical lines—everything from streets and service lines to meter-reading routes and remote access points. But BHP's base map data was limited and outdated. Few rural towns had any digital road maps and, as a result, most background data was missing entirely. When new subdivisions were built, BHP needed an efficient way to permanently record the information. BHP had the difficult task of gathering background data that never before existed, was outdated or just lived in someone's head (and then that person would invariably retire).

The Solution

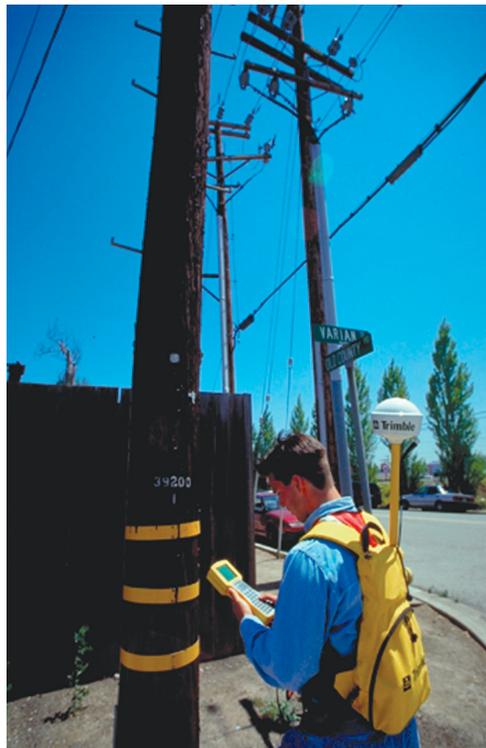
BHP chose Trimble Navigation's GPS Pathfinder® Pro XRS for mapping solutions and gathering background data. BHP now employs the GPS Pathfinder® Pro XRS for a wide variety of applications—from creating new street maps and mapping service lines to recording meter reading routes and trail access points used for maintenance and repair to creating a comprehensive pole map database while recording each pole's attributes.

The Benefits

Quality data was gathered using Trimble's mapping solutions. That data directly increased employee productivity while increasing the company's service to its customers. With accurate, detailed and continually updated information accessible to all employees who need it, BHP provided a faster response time to outages, was able to quickly update line extensions for new subdivisions and, overall, maintain their entire system much more efficiently.

In the event of severe weather, maps can be created instantaneously that show problem areas, lines that are out, trees that have been blow down, as well as all access point locations. With this valuable information, crews can be sent out immediately, armed with a detailed map, to inspect the integrity of lines.

Having an accurate database has allowed BHP to be proactive in new line construction, thus providing better service to a growing customer base. In the field, a construction representative walks a planned power-line route. Along the way, using some of the features of the Pro XRS, the rep can mark any features (specific pole locations, corner poles) and obstacles along the route. Afterwards, potential routes are downloaded to AutoCAD, where pole-spacing require-



ments and other company construction standards are incorporated into the design.

For company news and product information, visit Trimble's Web site at www.trimble.com.



Contact Information:

Trimble Navigation Limited
645 North Mary Avenue
P.O. Box 3642
Sunnyvale, CA 94085 USA
www.trimble.com/locator/sales