El Paso Electric

Bridging the Communication Gap Between Line Worker and Environmental Regulations
El Paso Electric Company

Regional Electrical Utility Provider

- Rio Grande Valley of southern NM & Far West TX
- Serving over 417,000 Customers
- Over 100 Permits & ROWs on Federal & NM State Land for Transmission and Distribution Lines
- Aging Infrastructure, Expiring Permits, and Increasing Environmental Regulations
Environmental Regulations

Change in Operational Tactics to Mitigate Impacts

- **Transmission lines built from mid-1950’s to 1989**
  - Substantial increase in Env. Laws and Regulations
    - New Interpretation and Implementation of resource protection
  - Federal & State ROW permits are expiring
    - New review and analysis of impacts
  - Existing infrastructure on top of sensitive resources
    - Delayed maintenance activities; lack of Env. analysis
    - Implementation of mitigation measures
    - Avoid sensitive areas without signage, marking, or barricades
    - Multiple USFS, BLM, DoD, USBR, and SLO jurisdictions
Electrical Line Worker

Keeping The Lights On Energized Style

- Utility Line Worker
  - Experts
    - Barehanding
    - Electricity
  - Not Experts
    - Cultural Resources
    - Critical Habitat
    - Technology
How do you simplify & distribute Information?

- Permitted Road system
- National Scenic Trail
- Avoidance Areas
- Resource Protection
- Wolf Dens
- ACEC
- Admin Boundary
ESRI ArcGIS, Collector, & Survey123

Bridging the Communication Gap

- Integrate technology
- Utilize existing software
- Simplify Env. commitments
- Distribute sensitive areas
- Determine physical location
- User Friendly Platform
- Harness “The Science Of Where”
Live Demo of Mobile Collector app
Next Steps

Environmental GIS Consolidation & Distribution

• Consolidate Env. Surveys & Reports
  – Share & distribute to appropriate users

• Release Env. GIS apps & access company wide
  – Make corrections & adjust to fit users needs

• Survey 123 Smart Forms
  – Avian Incident Field Reporting (Beta Testing)
  – Hazardous waste spill reports
  – Transmission Line Inspections

• Integrate Env. platform into EPE’s GIS portal