



Baltimore Gas & Electric Company

Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGE) serves over 1 million electric and 600,000 gas customers within a 2,300 square-mile area encompassing Baltimore and eastern Maryland. The company maintains about 6,000 miles of gas distribution pipe, including 1,300 miles of cast iron and 100 miles of bare steel. In 1998, well ahead of industry distribution integrity initiatives, BGE decided their current risk, reliability and integrity management business processes were below their desired standards. Their processes were reactive not proactive, and as a result, the timing of their work and spending were too hard to predict and control. BGE decided it was time to act proactively and acquire new systems to support system-wide distribution pipe risk assessment.

As a result of their analysis, BGE built a business case for what would become “ATLAS,” a Smallworld-based GIS. One of the key business case drivers identified was acquiring a system that could process system-wide spatial and relational data to assess distribution network risk and reliability.

To provide the framework for its risk-based approach to distribution integrity, BGE selected Optimain DS, which had been integrated with Smallworld at several utilities. Initially, Optimain DS was coupled with ATLAS to analyze their entire cast iron and bare steel systems. In the past year, Optimain DS coverage has been increased to include the entire distribution network, including plastic and cathodically protected steel. At BGE, Optimain DS uses risk profile factors such as gas volume/migration, service length, population density, cover type, other ducts, building type, pipe depth, customer complaints, and their emergency network.

Optimain DS enables BGE to fully analyze their distribution infrastructure, identify risk, and develop cost-effective risk mitigation strategies to maintain and systematically improve system integrity. BGE is now proactive in performing periodic system-wide evaluations, which enhances development of short- and long-term plans and budgets. These business processes target spending to highest risk pipes and are applicable to both replacement and maintenance programs. BGE presented how they use Optimain DS for system reliability and risk management at the AGA Best Practices Benchmarking Kick-Off Conference in January 2005.

For more information about Baltimore Gas & Electric visit www.bge.com.

For more information about Optimain™ DS, contact Opvantek, Inc.'s sales team at [215.968.7790](tel:215.968.7790) or sales@opvantek.com.