Video Spotlight: KCP&L

We’ve been talking about showcasing Kansas City Power & Light’s (KCP&L’s) innovative automation thinking for about a year.

Months of meetings and planning. Days of shooting video onsite. Weeks of post-production to get it all just right and here we are. It’s a wrap.

If you haven’t seen the video, click here. For more behind-the-scenes details, read on.

WHAT THEY’RE DOING

KCP&L has crafted a unique extension to the standard Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for distribution automation (including fault location analysis) using Oracle Utilities Network Management System (NMS)—and some creative thinking and strategy. This project allows the utility to:

- Increase visibility without increasing complexity for the operators.
- Expand efficiency efforts into new urban and rural settings.
- Use a common interface for multiple systems.
- Boost operational performance.
- Integrate more devices and data at scale.
- Exceed reliability standards.
- Lower cost.

WHAT THEY’RE USING

The Oracle Utilities Network Management System (NMS) maximizes your grid operations capabilities, helping you increase reliability, efficiency and customer satisfaction by shortening outage duration, optimizing distribution and manage distributed energy resources today and into the future.

- Oracle Utilities Grid Management Solution brochure.
- Oracle Utilities Platform Approach to Advanced Distribution Grid Management infographic.

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MORE ABOUT KCP&L

Founded in 1882, Kansas City Power & Light has grown into a trusted energy provider and resource. More than 130 years ago, a small group of forward-thinking Kansas Cityians believed electricity was more than a novelty. As a result, KCP&L now serves more than 800,000 customers in 47 northwest Missouri and eastern Kansas counties. With a service area of about 18,000 square miles, it takes more than 3,000 miles of transmission lines, 24,000 miles of distribution lines and over 400 substations to deliver power to their customers.

In 2018, KCP&L merged with Westar Energy to bring their customers more savings, sustainable energy and solutions to meet every need. The companies are combining operations, resulting in a stronger regional energy provider.

OUR THANKS TO

We’d love to thank all of Kansas City Power & Light for letting us tell their amazing story. Special thanks to:

• Tianling Wu, principal engineer. Operations Technology Group
• Dan Munkers, senior manager, DSO
• Roger Andera, application architect, IT OMS
• Boone Palmer, operations supervisor, Northland

VIDEO SOUNDBITES

Munkers: Twenty years ago, everything was on paper. We were taking phone calls from customers, trying to find those customers on a paper map, seeing if everything was close enough together to group up into [a bigger response]. Today, the system does that for us.

Wu: KCP&L has been a pioneer in the industry on distribution automation since the ‘90s…We’re excited to apply all the new innovative ideas to our system.

Andera: It’s all about getting people’s lights on quicker. … Unified grid monitoring and control will be essential for the future.

Palmer: It’s almost like sitting down and having a video game in front of you to operate the system. The equipment we use is a lot more intelligent now that it used to be.

Munkers: We’re talking about outages that impacts thousands of customers restored in a couple of minutes.