

PECO Implements Optimain® ArcGIS® Interface and Map Control for Visualization and Analysis of System-Wide Pipe Risk and Leak History

Newtown, PA – May 14, 2009 – Opvantek, Inc. is pleased to announce that PECO, a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE:EXC), recently deployed the Optimain ArcGIS Interface, allowing its Gas personnel to view pipe maintenance history, including leaks and pipe inspection reports, against the main pipe segments on their electronic maps and to thematically map Optimain DS risk evaluation projects across the entire distribution system. PECO has been using Optimain DS since 1994 to analyze risk and identify economic replacement opportunities for various pipes types and integrity threats. However, the system was limited to the relational grouping of pipe maintenance history by address ranges, since the company had no enterprise GIS and no way to relate these records directly to its gas mains.

PECO Gas has been investing in desktop geospatial technology for several years. They exported gas main segment locations from the company's Stoner Software™ Gas Planning System and aligned them with commercial landbase (using MapInfo). They also geocoded a large percentage of their customer premise records against the same landbase. In early 2008, PECO approached Opvantek to explore the possibility of using the geospatial data to improve the fidelity and effectiveness of its existing Optimain DS system. Opvantek began work on the system upgrade in September 2008. Drawing on extensive experience, configurable GIS interface, and pre-built toolkits, Opvantek delivered the following results to PECO in just three months:

- Geocoded over 67,000 historical main leak and pipe inspection records and associated them with the best matching gas main segment. Over 89% of main leak records and over 41% of inspection records were successfully associated with a matching main pipe and placed in an ESRI geodatabase.
- Integrated the geocoded customer premise locations and related service pipe attributes into the Optimain risk and economic assessment based on spatial proximity to the gas main segments.
- Optimain risk evaluation projects overlaid on PECO's commercial landbase (TeleAtlas® StreetMap), enabling nearby high risk buildings to be automatically incorporated into the risk evaluation.
- Delivered the new Optimain DS Google Interface, allowing users to export an Optimain Project and other features displayed on the map to a KML/KMZ file, which can be displayed in Google Earth®. This provides an efficient way for planning engineers to make an initial assessment of their facilities with satellite imagery and StreetView high resolution photographs, in order to understand the current risk and potential replacement challenges surrounding a candidate project without actually driving to the site.
- Developed and delivered the new Optimain GIS Placement Tool, based on ESRI's ArcEngine Runtime Library. This tool will enable data entry staff to efficiently place new leak and pipe inspection records onto the correct gas facility, through a simple, intuitive, point-and-click interface.

Diane DiMarco, PECO manager of Gas Engineering, is very impressed with the new system, saying "PECO Gas and Opvantek have essentially developed and deployed a system providing many of the benefits of an enterprise GIS at a fraction of the costs." Some of the benefits she anticipates include:

- Enhanced system improvement project planning through visualization of clusters of high risk pipes in the same area, achieving economies of scale for replacement or rehabilitation projects.
- Reduction in driving time and improved budgetary estimates during early planning and scoping by providing a geospatial view of a candidate project with the surrounding facilities and a single click to pop it all up in Google Earth.

Optimain DS is being used today by both large and small natural gas distribution network operators to analyze risk and identify economic investment opportunities for all types of metallic and plastic piping. It is currently in production use or being implemented to monitor threats and assess risk across nearly 15% of the nation's natural gas distribution networks (based on 2006 Annual DOT reports).

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Opvantek, Inc. – a leader in utility software solutions – has long maintained that the key to operating a successful utility company in the face of an ever-evolving regulatory environment is in system-wide risk assessment & optimized asset management. Opvantek delivers best-in-class software solutions that significantly enhance integrity, reliability, safety, and regulatory compliance management. The company was originally founded in 1997 as Vantage Management Solutions, Inc. Since then, Opvantek, Inc. has evolved into a talented team of utility industry and software development professionals, providing exceptional asset management software products, implementation and integration services, and focused business process consulting to the utility industry.

Based in Philadelphia, PECO is an electric and natural gas utility subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC). PECO serves 1.6 million electric and 490,000 natural gas customers in southeastern Pennsylvania and employs about 2,500 people in the region. PECO delivered 87.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas and 39.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity in 2008. Founded in 1881, PECO is one of the Greater Philadelphia Region's most active corporate citizens, providing leadership, volunteer and financial support to numerous arts and culture, education, environmental, economic development and community programs and organizations.