



IMPROVE RESPONSE HURRICANES WARNINGS LIGHTNING STRIKE ARCHIVING REDUCE OUTAGE TIME MOBILE INFORMATION REDUCE GENERATION COSTS  
FASTER POWER RESTORATION WIND POWER REAL-TIME LIGHTNING ICE IMPROVE SCHEDULING ONLINE CONSULTING COOLING DEGREE  
MAXIMIZE RESOURCES TEMPERATURES PRECIPITATION TIMING SNOW PRE-POSITION CREWS  
TRADING EDGE WATCHES MAP LAYERING PATENTED TOOLS  
PROTECT EMPLOYEES RADAR

# MXVISION WEATHERSENTRY ONLINE®

CASE STUDY

## AES WINDS

LAKE BENTON, MINNESOTA

With 143 wind turbines, AES Winds in Lake Benton, Minnesota, provides electricity to an average of 3,300 homes over a 72-square-mile region of southwestern Minnesota. AES Winds is a subsidiary of The AES Corporation, one of the world's leading wind energy companies.

### THE CHALLENGE

With so many wind turbines to maintain, AES Winds needed a way to tell when lightning might strike. "Lightning is a large safety concern of ours," said John Brown, safety coordinator technician. They needed a better system than "waiting for your hair to stand on end or looking outside the window," said Brown.

### THE DTN/METEORLOGIX SOLUTION

A DTN/Meteorlogix customer since 2001, AES Winds recently updated their system to the MxVision WeatherSentry Online® *Energy Edition*. The service monitors weather in real time to give the most advanced forecasts available.

### RESULTS

"Accurate weather information is very important to our operations," said Paul Sanders, lead man for the site. Although their biggest concern is lightning, they also face hail, flooding, and winter storms. The wind turbines are exposed to all the elements.

They use the system to adjust which tasks their 10-person staff focuses on during a given day, according to Sanders. Based on the weather activity reported by the system, they determine whether staff will go out to work on a wind turbine. "Either for repair or maintenance work, we can go out there only when we have clear weather," said Brown. "Otherwise, we'll come back here and we have other things we can do."

They use the system's Lightning Manager® to track lightning in real time and know when it's impacting their service area. "When there is lightning, we notify crews out in the field right away, and they immediately come down from the towers. With 143 wind turbines out there, it's better to be safe than have people working on the towers during storms," said Brown.

"We use the system every day," said Brown. "We'll check it periodically to see what the weather looks like. If it's clear outside, we're not too concerned. When we have bad weather in the area, we'll check the system every five, 10 or 30 minutes for the severity of the weather," said John Brown.

"At a minimum, we check it at least twice a day, once in the morning and once at night," said Paul Sanders.

Sanders likes that the system gives them an update on how long before a storm is going to get there.



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Both Sanders and Brown said they would recommend it to other organizations because the lightning information helps them increase safety for staff. "In our industry, safety is one of the biggest issues we have," said Brown.

## THE CLIENT'S VIEW

"What I like best about it is that it shows the direction the storm is tracking. It shows each storm's cell and it shows the position of each of the lightning strikes."

Paul Sanders, lead man, AES Winds

*DTN/Meteorlogix, DTN's brand of commercial weather services, delivers industry-specific weather management capabilities for its customers to manage business risks, maximize personal safety and minimize financial loss.*

*DTN/Meteorlogix is the official forecaster of the PGA TOUR and Champions Tour.*

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