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 REDUCE OUTAGE TIME ICE IMPROVE SCHEDULING SNOW PRE-POSITION CREWS COLD FRONT PROTECT EMPLOYEES RADAR
 MOBILE INFORMATION SLEET ONLINE CONSULTING CUSTOM ALERTS WIND SPEED WIND DIRECTION WIND BURST WIND GUSTS
 REDUCE GENERATION COSTS CLOUD COVER ANTICIPATE OUTAGES WIND CHILL WIND SPEED WIND DIRECTION WIND BURST WIND GUSTS

MXVISION WEATHERSENTRY®

CASE STUDY

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION

GLENCOE, MINNESOTA

McLeod Cooperative Power Association provides electricity and DIRECTV services to homes and businesses in Minnesota’s McLeod, Renville, Sibley, and Carver counties. They are a member owned cooperative that supplies electricity over 2,000 miles of line to more than 6,000 residents, businesses, and industries in the central part of the state.

THE CHALLENGE

McLeod Cooperative Power Association required real-time, location-specific weather information to anticipate potential outages from storms at all hours of the day and night. They also needed to pinpoint bad weather so they could avoid sending crews to those locations during the regular work day.

THE DTN/METEORLOGIX SOLUTION

For almost four years, McLeod Cooperative Power Association depended on the up-to-the minute, location-specific weather information that MxVision Weather Sentry® *Energy Edition* provides. In January 2006, they switched to the online version, giving them much more flexible access from any Internet-connected computer.

RESULTS

According to Mike Walford, line supervisor, MxVision WeatherSentry Online® *Energy Edition* helps him anticipate how to best direct his crews

each day. “It helps me plan my day,” he said. “I can come in to the office in the morning and see where it is raining and where it’s going to rain,” said Walford. “So I have an idea where to send my crews or not send them,” he said. “There’s no use sending them out in the rain. It’s a waste of time.”

Any time they have outages, especially when they are facing bad weather like rain, thunder, lightning, or high winds, Walford depends heavily on the system. “If there’s weather coming, I use it all the time,” he said. “If I come down and I’m dispatching at night, I can see what’s going to be going by me,” he said.

Walford uses the system to track weather as it moves through his four counties and to anticipate outages. “I look at it to see how far weather has traveled through a county,” he said. “I can bring up the weather for our area and see what part of the counties the storms are hitting.” During the regular workday, if he sees that their area is getting a significant amount of rain, he will know not to send the crews out to do maintenance for existing customers or installs for new customers.



Walford knows that he can depend on the information that the system provides. "I think it gives us pretty good information; I think it's very accurate," he said. "It gives me a better idea of what the weather is doing 30 minutes away, so I make better decisions on what I'm going to do with my people," he said. Based on information from the system, Walford can decide whether to send his crews out or to tell his crews to sit tight until

the weather passes. "It makes us a lot more efficient," he said. Without the timely information, they wouldn't know how long inclement weather was going to last, and his crews would be less efficient. With more down time, more hours spent on "busy work" around the shop.

THE CLIENT'S VIEW

"With MxVision WeatherSentry Online *Energy Edition*, I can find everything about the weather that I need."

Mark Walford, line superintendent, McLeod Cooperative Power Association

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