Darrel:

Just got back from my trip; saw Bruce briefly in New Orleans, but didn't get the chance to spend much time.

Steve Healy was out till last week; got his approval with no changes today. Unless I hear from you with any further changes it'll go out as is Wednesday.

Have reviewed the 911 info you sent me; would like to have a client to base release on. Let's connect tomorrow and discuss. Also were to receive info on Westinghouse Hanford/Richland WA info; and Bangkok....???

Talk with you soon.

Take care,

Stephanie
MAJOR EPRI and NRECA SPONSORED UTILITY PROJECT USES GEOLINK MAPPING SYSTEM

Billings, MT, February 24, 1993 -- A major study involving state-of-the-art technology and equipment in the utilities industry has chosen the GeoLink System for locating utility vehicles involved in the study. The project, co-sponsored by EPRI (Electric Power Research Institute) and NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Assoc.), is aimed at testing the functionality of new automation technology currently being developed in the utilities industry. The GeoLink Mapping System is used to show the location of service vehicles on an automated map of the electric distribution network. GeoLink also enables operators to gather new map information such as road conditions and new construction directly from the field in geographically accurate map form.

The pilot project is taking place at Pierce-Pepin Electric Co-op, a 5,200 member electric cooperative in Ellsworth, Wis. The GeoLink System software was installed on the same computer as the supervisory control and data acquisition systems (SCADA) master station for the study. Using a cellular telephone communication link, the location information gained from utility vehicles equipped with a GeoLink System is fed back into the base station to provide "real-time" position information. With the precise GPS-based data provided by the GeoLink System, the dispatcher will be able to dispatch vehicles to the troubled area, providing faster response time and more effective use of manpower and fuel.

"The GeoLink System has been easy to install and use," said Steve Healy, general manager for Pierce-Pepin. "By linking it to the master station, we have a more effective control center that is always aware of where all our dispatch vehicles are and where they need to be. We can respond to situations much more rapidly than in the past."

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The original goal of Pierce-Pepin was to automate their maps in order to utilize the mapping system as an operational tool for the distribution center; with EPRI and NRECA participation, the project was expanded to include the first field implementation of Utility Communications Architecture (UCA) technology, an EPRI-supported common communications "architecture" currently under evaluation in the utilities industry.

"The GeoLink Mapping System has a wide variety of applications in many different industries," said Doug Richardson, president of GeoResearch. "It is significant that this pilot project chose GeoLink to locate the dispatch vehicles. We are pleased that the high standards of EPRI and NRECA have validated the quality and performance level of our system."

The GeoLink Mapping System combines the positioning capabilities of the Global Positioning System (GPS), data collecting, and mapping functions in a rapid, user-friendly system usable by one person. The system graphically displays a "live map" on the screen as the user collects data; GeoLink users can watch their mapping progress as they enter data. The system provides fully annotated data ready to print out as a map or download into a GIS system for complete cartographic capabilities. Other uses by utilities include digital system map creation and maintenance, recording of line and right of way inspections directly from field to computer and many others.

GeoResearch, Inc. is the developer of the GeoLink Mapping System. GeoResearch also provides mapping, environmental and analytical services to national agencies, corporations and Universities throughout the world. GeoResearch, Inc. is headquartered at 115 North Broadway, Billings, MT, 59101, with other offices throughout the world. For further information about GeoResearch and GeoResearch's products and services, please call 1-406-248-6771.

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