



August 25, 2011

Mr. Sam Hall
Grant Officer's Technical Representative (GOTR)
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Pipeline Safety, PHP-20
2180 Maidens, VA 23102 E-mail: Sam.Hall@dot.gov

Ms. Mario Munoz
Agreement Administrator (AA)
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Contracts and Procurement, PHA-30
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, E22-305
Washington, D.C. 20590 E-mail: maria.munoz@dot.gov

**RE: PHMSA "Technical Assistance Grants Program"
Grant Agreement #DTPH56-10-G-PHPT18
Final Report**

Dear Mr. Hall, Ms. Munoz:

Decatur Utilities, who operates a natural gas distribution system in the surrounding areas of Decatur, Alabama, has implemented a GIS system for its facilities with GPS data collection of valves, regulator stations and cathodic protection points. This GPS data was collected utilizing Trimble GeoXH handheld unit and post processed to the sub foot accuracy level. During the collection process, detailed information was collected on each facility. Once all facilities were captured, existing CAD maps were converted into GIS digital format and referenced to the newly acquired GPS points.

A geodatabase design was created to maximize the collection of its facilities. By also implementing a database interface, Decatur Utilities is now able to utilize information stored throughout the network and make full use of information stored in multiple locations across each of its facilities. By implementing a GIS with GPS accurate facilities, Decatur Utilities has increased its awareness of existing infrastructure and has created a solid foundation for furthering the GIS to aid in leak management, cathodic protection maintenance, and system analysis.

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The creation of this data has proven vital for day-to-day operations in maintaining current records as required by DIMP (Distribution Integrity Management Program). This project has allowed Decatur Utilities to create a fundamental building block for its future enterprise GIS to aid in all operational aspects. Decatur Utilities has already furthered this project with additional expense to move the new system into an ESRI enterprise system with web mapping capabilities and inspection record collection programs. The entire GIS project has given Decatur Utilities the needed spatial aspect in reference to its facilities. Decatur Utilities plans to further grow this system with each coming year.

This project was completed in July of 2011 at a final cost of \$50,000. Decatur Utilities furthered this project with an additional \$39,000 for a completely separate project for enterprise GIS.

Sincerely,

DECATUR UTILITIES

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary D. Borden".

Gary D. Borden
Manager - Business Development and Operations Support
Principal Investigator (PI)

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