



JCMB Delivers ELC v1.0 to Sierra Pacific Power Company

JCMB recently delivered ELC v1.0 (**E**quipment **L**ife **C**ycle) to the group responsible for maintaining the Distribution Facility Historical Data, at Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPC).

At SPPC, hundreds of field maintenance and inspection tasks are performed daily. These tasks generate equipment information that must be captured in the Distribution Network Model for future activity management, reporting and network analysis.

A typical GIS installation forces utility users to enter this data via a GIS user interface that has not been optimized for raw data entry. GIS user interfaces are spatially oriented, complex and require significant user training yet the majority of Equipment data that needs to be maintained, *is* in fact, raw tabular entry (usually entered by clerical staff).

Faced with having to train clerical staff on full GIS systems, most utility companies choose to support this information in simple databases or spreadsheets that are not at all synchronized with GIS. The result is two separate data sources that often conflict or are not up-to-date.

ELC solves this problem by providing a tabular “window” to the GIS data.

What is ELC?

ELC is an application that connects to the Distribution Network Model, allowing non-GIS technicians to update attribute data such as, street light inspection and maintenance information.

Figure 1 provides a couple of examples of the ELC data entry windows:

Figure 1:

Device MAINT_STLIGHT - StLight Maint.

Status: Maintenance

Scale: 1

Installation Info Maintenance Info Documents

Display

INSP_DATE: Thursday, May 06, 2004

MAINT_TYPE: BALLAST CHANGE

EMPLOYEE_NAME: UNKNOWN

REMARKS: TEST FOR ELC PRODUCTION

OK Cancel Help

Equipment Life Cycle

File Help

Device

Table: MAINT_STLIGHT Load

Filter: 10000

Case Sensitive

Id	STRE...	STREET...	INSP_DATE	LIGHT TYPE	LIGHT_SIZE	MAINT_TYPE	REMAR...	STAT...	EMPLOYEE_NAME
Id: 10000 - 6 item(s)									
10000	1353	COUPLER...	5/6/2004 12:00:00 AM	High Pressure Sodium	9500L	BALLAST CHANGE	TEST...	ACTIVE	UNKNOWN
10000	1353	COUPLER...	12/2/2002 12:00:00 AM	High Pressure Sodium	9500L	SCHEDULED INSPECTION		ACTIVE	LAMBERTI, ALFRED
10000	1353	COUPLER...	9/9/1998 12:00:00 AM	High Pressure Sodium	9500L	SCHEDULED INSPECTION		ACTIVE	LAMBERTI, ALFRED
10000	1353	COUPLER...	10/23/1992 12:00:00...	High Pressure Sodium		SCHEDULED INSPECTION	ALL OK	ACTIVE	LAMBERTI, ALFRED
10000	1353	COUPLER...	2/24/1988 12:00:00 AM	High Pressure Sodium		SCHEDULED INSPECTION	ALL OK	ACTIVE	LAMBERTI, ALFRED
10000	1353	COUPLER...	12/14/1983 12:00:00...	High Pressure Sodium	9500L	FIXTURE CHANGE-OUT		ACTIVE	UNKNOWN

Add Edit Delete

What are the Benefits?

- The user interface is simple to use, and therefore no significant training is required.

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- The user interface is not spatially-oriented and therefore permits efficient tabular data entry.
- Users can easily locate equipment and facilities through a search function.
- Since ELC is connected to the Oracle database housing the Distribution Network Model, there is only *one* location for facility data and therefore there are no source data conflicts.
- The single source database also ensures that data is always up-to-date.
- Errors are greatly reduced since there is only one source of information.
- Labor costs are reduced.

How will Sierra use ELC?

ELC will be used by Sierra to manage the complete life cycle of streetlights, night guards, poles and facility inspection reports. In typical electric utility implementations, this data is independently maintained in various applications and unfortunately not often combined with the Distribution Network Model.

Currently ELC does not address a critical area of maintaining the Distribution Network Model—redundant data entry.

For example, currently the clerk responsible for streetlight and night guard maintenance issues, fields work orders on paper. The field crews pick up their daily work orders and enter information directly on paper. At the end of the day, the completed work orders are collected and re-entered into ELC.

However, within the next month, ELC will be integrated with our Mobile Computing System (JOBS) so that work orders will be generated electronically, and then closed by the clerk after a data verification check. This means that there will be NO data re-entry except for the correction of minor errors.

"JOBS, our mobile computing platform, will be used to capture field data on these types of field activities *reducing* the amount of clerical re-entry we do daily" said Joe Pellissier, Project Manager at Sierra Pacific Power Company.

This will signify a giant step in terms of efficiency as well as a reduction in data entry errors.