



Letter from the 2010 EGUG President

Dear Electric and Gas Users:

As we bid farewell to 2009, I would like to thank our 2009 Electric and Gas User Group (EGUG) president, Ray Brunner, along with Rich Faglier, Glenn Taylor, and everyone at Southern Company, for the hard work and dedication that helped make 2009 such a successful year and the conference so well received. Not only did we meet a lot of fascinating new attendees, we had some outstanding presentations. The challenge is to make 2010 bigger and better.

Conference planning for 2010 is actively under way. I am looking forward to meeting you at this year's EGUG conference, hosted by DTE Energy in Dearborn, Michigan, October 17–20. Visit www.esri.com/egugconference for more information.

Please allow me to welcome and introduce to you our new 2010 EGUG committee members:

President: Bonnie Sroka, DTE Energy
(SrokaB@DTEEnergy.com)

Vice President: W. Wayne Boone, Alabama Power
(WWBoone@southernco.com)

Conference Cochairs for DTE Energy: Bryan Debus and Barbara Saunders

ESRI Account Manager for DTE Energy: Mike Goggin
(mgoggin@esri.com)

ESRI Representatives: Laurence Litrico, Pingkham Rattanababpha, Rob Brook, and Bill Meehan (egug@esri.com)

To be properly notified and participate in all things EGUG, you will need to be a registered EGUG member. I encourage you and your colleagues to [join](#) the user group today. Membership is free, and you will have access to numerous resources, including a brand-new webinar series. The online events, designed to provide you with geographic information system (GIS) tips and industry best practices, will be presented on or around the third Thursday every month in 2010. The webinars will be hosted by Patrick Dolan and Joe Holubar from ESRI technical marketing along with several of our peers that helped with the presentation and research.

At the 2009 EGUG Conference, our members refreshed and prioritized our Hot Topics list for 2010. Here are just a few of the topics you suggested, along with the webinar dates. If you are an EGUG member, you will receive e-mail prompts leading up to each webinar.

- **Mobile**—*This will be an overview of ESRI's mobile solutions and best practices on how to manage data in the field.*
 - Webinar date: February 18
- **Addressing DIMP with GIS**—*GIS is the perfect tool for addressing Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) requirements; come and learn how to address the government's requirements.*
 - Webinar date: March 16
- **Networks**—*This will be an overview of geometric networks and best practices on how to create, manage, and maintain networks.*
 - Webinar date: April 15
- **Education/Training**—*This will be an overview of ESRI's training options (Web, on-site, custom) and recommendations on how to educate staff and maintain technical proficiency in ArcGIS®.*
 - Webinar date: May 20
- **Using GIS for Gas Marketing**—*Learn how gas utilities can use GIS to grow their customer base.*
 - Webinar date: June 17
- **ArcGIS Release Update**—*This will be a technology update on ArcGIS that is specific to utility workflows/industry requirements. This webcast will be a week after the ESRI International User Conference (ESRI UC). Users unable to attend ESRI UC can see some of the new industry content that will have been presented.*
 - Webinar date: July 22
- **Transmission GIS**—*This will cover the use of GIS in electric transmission.*
 - Webinar date: August 19
- **Tips and Tricks**—*This will be an overview of key software advancements or tips that can simplify workflows.*
 - Webinar date: September 16
- **System Architecture**—*Best practices on deploying ESRI's core technology will be discussed.*
 - Webinar date: November 18
- **Renewable Energy and GIS**—*This will be an overview on how utilities are using GIS to promote and use renewable energy—particularly wind, photovoltaic, and passive solar systems.*
 - Webinar date: December 16

Please be sure to send your questions or ideas for the next webinar to the ESRI committee at egugwebinar@esri.com.

As each year brings more excitement and challenges, GIS is there to help utilities with process improvements. Geospatial professionals face issues from internal engineering and corporate initiatives to external state and federal government initiatives and requirements. Meanwhile, we continue to foster green energy as alternative resources and incorporate these changes into our current infrastructure. Continuing to gather and process information and align data to our GIS will prove to be both

challenging and rewarding. Our awareness as professionals challenges us to keep up with technological changes and advancements, and the EGUG Conference is the place to hear it, see it, and talk about it.


Technology is driving the direction of both ESRI and our own organizations as we move toward improved interoperability, smart grid, smart devices, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), connectivity, mobile, and increased levels of data sharing. We have witnessed how essential the role GIS integration has become to our overall business structure.

Remember that the EGUG community is here for you. Please do not hesitate to contact the EGUG committee with any questions or concerns you may have. Sign up to become an EGUG member. Mark your calendars and actively participate in the new webinars. Prepare to attend and present at this year's conference, just outside Detroit. Bring a raffle item from your company as a token gift, and remember that regifting is acceptable. Talk to your ESRI account managers about representing your company at the conference, and sign up to host in 2011, 2012, or 2013. We want to see you in action!

I'm excited to hear about your successes and the challenges you have experienced with your implementations and deployments. It is through you that we grow, develop, and evolve ESRI® technology. On behalf of the EGUG committee, I thank you all for your contributions to EGUG, and I look forward to meeting and seeing everyone in Dearborn.

Until I see you in October, have fun and be healthy.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie S. Sroka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonnie Sroka
EGUG President, 2010