Case Study

GAS DISTRICTION

User

Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority, a natural gas distribution utility in Easley, South Carolina

Partner

GEO-Jobe, an Esri partner since 2002, based in Nashville, Tennessee

Challenge

FHNGA wanted to replace its outdated legacy mapping system with an advanced GIS that included mobile features.

Solution

FHNGA chose Esri for its industry-leading GIS platform and GEO-Jobe for its online GIS solutions.

Results

FHNGA saw huge time and money savings, streamlined processes, and the elimination of traditionally printed maps.

Full Compliance, Faster Fieldwork at Fort Hill

Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority (FHNGA) distributes natural gas to parts of South Carolina. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity established by the state legislature. Until recently, FHNGA hadn't found the best mobile solution for its field inspections and maintenance work.

The Challenge

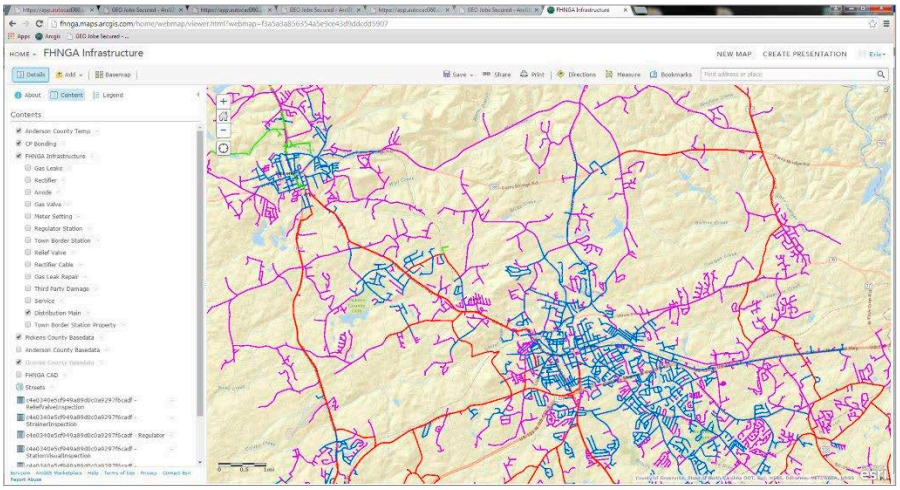
Changes in federal utilities regulations required FHNGA to show improvements throughout its operating systems with historical data. To track annual inspections and maintenance issues, FHNGA wanted an advanced geographic information system (GIS) that could pull up the complete historical data on a particular asset. This way, federal inspectors could see any operational, sustainability, and system improvements information.

The Partner

FHNGA selected Esri for its mobile technologies and partner solutions, which could provide fieldworkers and construction and underground crews with mobile GIS. The utility picked GEO-Jobe for its experience and expertise in deploying an ArcGIS℠ Online model. FHNGA had limited internal familiarity with GIS. GEO-Jobe kept the project on track and accurate while personalizing its solution to meet FHNGA's needs.

The Solution

FHNGA adopted the full Esri® platform including ArcGIS® for Desktop, ArcGIS for Server, ArcGIS℠ Online, and the Collector for ArcGIS and Explorer for ArcGIS apps. Onto this platform, FHNGA added three GEO-Jobe solutions: GEOPowered Cloud (for ArcGIS for Server via software as a



"When you look at all of the attributes you would need to map under a traditional system, it could take 10 to 15 years. With the Esri platform, we've been able to do 75 percent of that in a two- to three-year window."

Eric Foster
Network Administrator,
Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority

services [SaaS]), AutoExchange Cloud Synchronization, and ArcGIS Online Launch. GEO-Jobe migrated the utility's data into a Spatial Database Engine (SDE) personal geodatabase, implemented a high-accuracy data collection workflow on Trimble technology, and deployed ArcGIS for Server via the GEO-Jobe GEOPowered Cloud solution. The partner also configured FHNGA's organizational account via GEO-Jobe's Launch Package, trained FHNGA staff, and configured the Collector and Explorer for ArcGIS apps for use on iOS mobile devices. More than half of the utility's employees access the GIS in the field and office.

The Results

Eric Foster, FHNGA's network administrator, credits the Esri platform and GEO-Jobe solutions with helping field crews complete work faster and more accurately than on any system the utility has tried. Workers with all levels of experience have picked up the mobile workflows quickly and with minimal problems. The utility notes huge time savings that equate to big money savings. It has eliminated the need to print certain maps, and employees have greater access to the information they need without relying on colleagues. Real-time information is accessible whereas with the legacy system, this was not possible. Efficiency has improved, and Foster states that FHNGA has exceeded its goals.

FORT HILL NATURAL GAS AUTHORITY

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