

Central Electric Power Association & Central Service Association



Central Electric Power Association (Central EPA) is a cooperative utility serving more than 38,000 members in seven counties across Mississippi. Their goal is to provide reliable electric service to rural customers at the most affordable rate possible. They have approximately 120 employees.

Central EPA partners with **Central Service Association (CSA)**, a not-for-profit organization serving electric and multi-service utilities across the Southeastern U.S. and beyond. CSA provides member utilities with enterprise-level solutions for all aspects of their operations.

CSA has managed Central EPA's GIS since the 1990s.

Central EPA's challenges

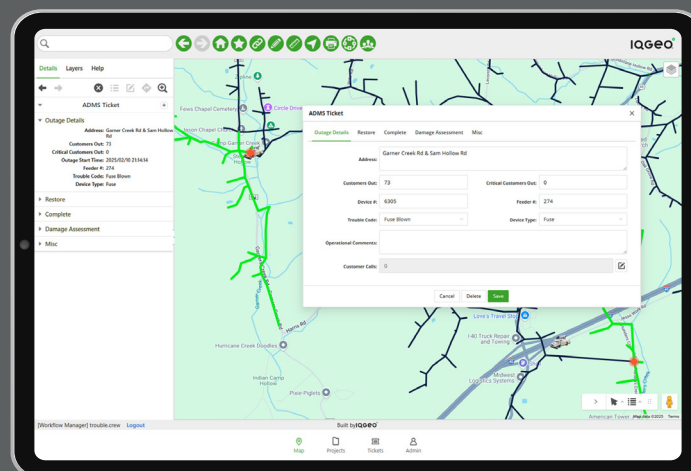
To provide reliable, affordable power, Central EPA had a primary challenge across numerous workflows: getting accurate GIS data to their field teams when and where they need it. The issues included:

- **Reliance on paper.** Central EPA made updates to network data on paper maps and spreadsheets, which were not stored centrally, required manual work, and were easily lost.
- **Documenting vegetation management.** Their teams cover a wide geographical area, with a lot of timber and rolling hills. Daily, their crews work in the field trimming trees and spraying herbicide, resulting in significant amounts of data that need to be documented and shared.
- **Delayed damage assessment.** Recording network damage on paper and sharing with the back office often took several hours to complete.
- **Lengthy onboarding for new users.** For their new solution to be effective, Central EPA's employees needed to be able to use the software in the field almost immediately.
- **Difficult to track in-house line patrol and pole inspection work.** Central EPA does line patrolling, and some pole inspections, in house, and didn't have visibility into the status or progress of their work.

Why IQGeo

CSA has implemented IQGeo's mobility software to enable multiple utilities to take their GIS data to the field via CSA's UtiliGo solution. Although they vetted several vendors, Central EPA ultimately chose to utilize the IQGeo software for these reasons:

- **Flexible mobile application.** IQGeo's software enables utilities to take their GIS data to field, where the people who need it the most have easy access.
- **Easy field documentation.** As soon as a field worker completes a step in the inspection or vegetation management process, they can update the GIS on a tablet.
- **Two-way updates between office and field.** IQGeo gives field teams up-to-date information in the field and the ability to provide live updates back to the office immediately.
- **Ease of use.** IQGeo on UtiliGo doesn't require any coding or hardware to implement, and its intuitive interface enables field teams to begin using it on day one.
- **Visibility of contractor updates.** The mobility solution enables BYOD for contractors, who can then record updates that are delivered to the utility GIS.



“It’s really taken off in just a year and a half. We have about 50 vehicles, with UtiliGo access, that are using the solution daily in several areas to document and communicate historical information.”

- Dale Scott, IT, GIS and Dispatching, Central EPA

Results

The results have been very positive for Central EPA, who report that they are rethinking more and more processes to be able to implement efficient field mobility. The benefits so far include:

- ✓ **Single application across workflows.** Every field team now has a shared view of network data, enabling efficient digital work execution and accurate grid data across Central EPA.
- ✓ **Streamlined inspections.** Now Central EPA can share high volumes of asset and vegetation data with the back office in real time during their daily inspections.
- ✓ **Restorations are several hours faster.** By accelerating the process of determining the areas of damage and materials needed, Central EPA has cut several potential hours off the process.
- ✓ **Company-wide adoption.** All of Central EPA's field workers now use the solution, and their new generation of employees "always want it in their hands."
- ✓ **Accurate, timely documentation.** With immediate updates from field teams and contractors, Central EPA has thoroughly documented asset and damage updates for third parties like FEMA.

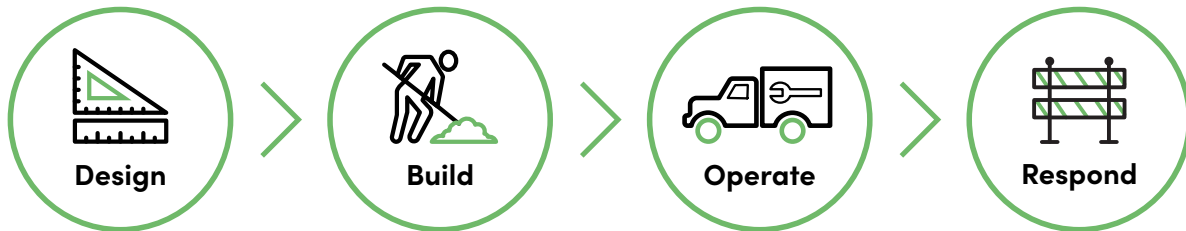


"When we did damage assessments entirely on paper it might take several hours to compile the full degree of damage. Now we can do it in a fraction of the time."

- Dale Scott, IT, GIS and Dispatching, Central EPA

IQGeo Adaptive Grid

IQGeo Adaptive Grid is a modern geospatial solution that transforms grid operations by integrating digital workflows with your network model, from the office to the field.



Only Adaptive Grid can give you:

- **Modern network modeling.** Adaptive Grid provides today's utility professionals with modern geospatial tools to create an accurate digital twin of every physical network asset.
- **Digital work execution.** Transform paper-based and legacy application workflows into geospatial-enabled workflows, from field designs and as-builts to asset inspections and outage response.
- **Ability to work anywhere, anytime.** Integrate mobility into every workflow, enabling field crews to access data anywhere work needs to happen, creating a seamless digital loop between office and field.
- **Reliable grid performance.** With access to geospatial data and easy-to-use tools, field crews can accelerate new designs, inspection teams can proactively prevent issues, and response teams can quickly mobilize during outage events.
- **Continual innovation.** Adaptive Grid's open, scalable and flexible framework enables utilities to quickly integrate new technologies, build new workflows, and roll out new applications. As work and goals evolve over time, Adaptive Grid evolves with you.

