

POWER PROJECT IN 60 SECONDS: INTEGRATING INDEPENDENCE

By Chris Kulchak

PROJECT

Cityworks Upgrade and Implementation

SCHEDULE

Start: March 2016
Completion: August 2017

CLIENT

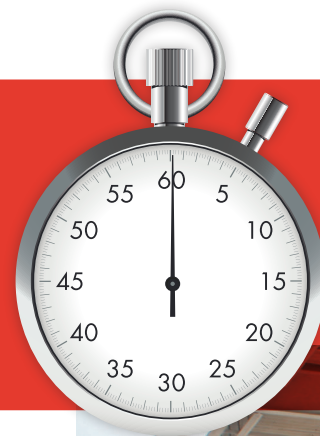
City of Independence Power & Light

POWER'S ROLE

Provided integration, configuration, training and support for the use of Cityworks work and asset management software for Independence Power & Light.

IN LAYMAN'S TERMS

When the city fathers of Independence, Missouri, fired up their first power plant in 1901, electrical power was considered leading-edge technology. More than 115 years later, Independence Power and Light repeated the tradition of embracing new technology when they chose Cityworks to replace its homegrown work management program. POWER was the city's first choice to implement and integrate Cityworks with Independence Power & Light.



INDEPENDENCE AT A GLANCE

Population served: 117,250

Cityworks user since: 2007

Departments using Cityworks:

Power & Light, Water Pollution Control, Public Works, Community Development and soon Generation, with POWER's help.

Fun fact:

Independence was the official start of the Oregon Trail, and the first migrant wagon trail left Independence for points west in 1836. That first wagon only had a cleared trail to Fort Hall, Idaho—just about 15 miles north of Pocatello, where POWER would be founded 140 years later.

CONSISTENT GROWTH.

Technology is not the only thing that has changed with the times for Independence Power & Light. Today's fleet and crew have grown along with the community, driving the need for more effective work and asset management. Close to 220 employees keep the power on for the utility today.

MAJOR CLIENT BENEFITS

INTEGRATION WITH MATERIALS MANAGEMENT.

The municipal utility worked with POWER to determine how best to integrate its AS400 materials management solution in a way that would provide Cityworks with constantly updated materials information. In return, Cityworks funneled information regarding what materials would be needed for future construction back to the AS400, so proper inventory levels could be maintained.

INTEGRATION WITH UTILITY DESIGN PROGRAM.

When POWER arrived on scene, the city had an Automated Utility Design program, or AUD, that was ready to be installed. The AUD needed to talk to Cityworks, especially regarding estimated materials and labor costs. POWER's experts partnered with the AUD's development team to integrate the AUD and materials management systems in a way that allowed them to share data effortlessly. Once integrated, the utility's designers were able to create a work order in Cityworks, create the new design in their electric design program, send Cityworks a bill of materials (including estimated labor and construction design drawings), and load that bill of materials into the work order for use by construction crews.

BETTER COST TRACKING.

POWER also integrated Cityworks with a JD Edwards financial system. Now, Cityworks work orders can be updated with actual labor costs from JD Edwards and actual materials costs from the AS400 materials management system.

INCREASED OVERALL EFFICIENCY.

The utility can now track estimated and actual costs in one place, work with materials from the materials management program to build designs in Cityworks, then make the appropriate changes to inventory as those materials are used in the construction of those designs. Cityworks brings the all the utility's programs together, and Power & Light employees have responded positively to the change. It's been so successful that the city contracted POWER to work on Cityworks integration with four other City of Independence departments as well (see the sidebar for more information).

PROJECT TEAM

Steve Kerr – Project Manager, Denver

Mark Rytlahti – Senior Consultant, Green Bay

Rick Frymyer – Account Manager, Green Bay

Derek Magee – Senior Consultant, Denver

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