



South Texas Electric Cooperative

South Texas Electric Cooperative (STEC), headquartered in Nursery, Texas, is a generation and transmission cooperative organized for the purpose of providing dependable, wholesale electricity to rural areas of Texas. STEC and its eight distribution cooperatives serve a 26 county area on and adjacent to the Coastal Bend of Texas, supplying electricity to approximately 80,000 rural homes and businesses.

The Challenge

STEC installed a display wall in 1995 that was stressed to its limits during the next seven years of 24/7 operation. With the need to upgrade, STEC defined key requirements related to a lower total cost of ownership, easy maintenance, and strong reliable service.

But more importantly, they identified an additional requirement that would ensure future viability: the system must allow operators to quickly and easily change the information that was displayed, based on having access to a wide range of information. The Operations Control Center needed this capability to act efficiently in formulating an informed response to any critical situation.

The Solution

The Activu network-based visualization and collaboration solution enables operators to display standard data information (e.g. electrical grid, sensor monitoring) and allows them to

dynamically change this with the click of a button. The solution also displays video feeds coming from security cameras, weather monitors and news feeds. Activu provided the tool for improving situational awareness for operators giving them the capability to dynamically combine and re-combine pertinent information as needed during an event.

Activu Services installed a display wall using a 3 x 4 matrix of Mitsubishi's MegaView Wall™ 67" DLP projection cubes which require minimal maintenance. The entire system was pre-built and exhaustively tested in the Denville facility before it was installed at the customer's site, ensuring minimal disruption to the control room during implementation.

Shortly after the installation was completed, Hurricane Claudette took a course directly over the Nursery Texas operations center. They weathered the storm with minimum disruption by managing and controlling resources effectively, due in part to the new visualization system, providing the tools to respond quickly and efficiently.