



***“We were just shopping for a GIS viewer...but we got so much more!”***

That's what Dallas Hopkins of South Kentucky RECC said after visiting with GeoForce at the 2001 TechAdvantage conference. "We knew we had great GIS data, but when we looked for ways to get that data out to our employees, all we saw were road-blocks and big dollar signs." South Kentucky had over 2000 AutoCad maps and, like many utilities across the country, was investigating ways to put that expensive data to work. Hopkins knew what he wanted in a viewer...seamless maps with information displayed in formats that his people would be comfortable with. And hardware and software that was affordable and that his linemen could learn to use in hours not months.



***“GeoForce saved us over \$75,000 on our conversion from AutoCad.”***

...and when the linemen saw the demonstration, they voted unanimously to dump the paper maps they had been wrestling with! **“We had kind of let the Genie out of the bottle, and that's when I got the most pleasant surprise. GeoForce showed me how we could have mobile viewing right away, and within our budget.”** GeoForce put together a package that eliminated the hurdle that was keeping South Kentucky and many other utilities from deploying a successful GIS viewer application. GeoForce's EagleCAD Converter software could convert South Kentucky's 2000+ AutoCad maps to an ESRI-based format, and have the GeoHawk viewer running in less than 45 days. And at a cost that was about what South Kentucky was planning to spend to reprint their paper maps!

Now GIS mapping information on a 125,000 pole service area is available anytime, to virtually anyone who needs it. GeoForce's EagleCAD Converter picked up all the geographic and landmark information from South Kentucky's files, and added some information such as service area boundaries. Hopkins knew something good was happening when a lineman told him, **“It's kind of neat when the utilities all around us call us to find out who “owns” a customer.”**

***“A Happy Beginning”***

Says Dallas Hopkins, "South Kentucky got way more than we were looking for when we went 'viewer shopping'. GeoForce did help us install the most affordable, easy to use viewer in the industry...but that was just the beginning. **They asked us where we wanted to go, and then helped us make sure our people and our data were ready to make the trip.** That put us on the fast track to the big payback applications such as automated staking and outage management. Our viewing capabilities made a huge difference and now, with our centralized data base, there's no limit to what we can accomplish."



SKRECC