

SPEEDIER AMI SWITCHOVER

A full-system meter changeout 10 years ago became a painful experience for Young Harris, Ga.-based Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation. So when the co-op decided to install 50,000 new smart meters to support an advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system, it needed a different approach.

“We weren’t looking forward to tracking the process manually,” recalls Dwayne Long, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC director of information systems. “We wanted to use software for the AMI rollout as well as different jobs going forward.”

After consideration, Long and his colleagues chose Powel’s WorkStudio mobile work management software. Powel worked with

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the co-op to customize the product to maximize efficiency, accuracy, and speed in deploying new AMI meters.

“We were pretty new to the software,” Long admits, “so we depended on Powel almost completely for initial configuration and form design. We provided a general idea of how our work would flow. We specified certain functions—barcode scanning, camera capture, and GPS, for example. We also wanted to synchronize and assign jobs to both field crews and office managers and, as needed, export

completed jobs to our customer information system. Powel was able to create the platform, forms, and necessary configuration to automate the process.”

He concludes: “Savings we’ve achieved from reducing the number of errors has been significant, and we’ve wound up with consistent data, which is a huge benefit.”

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