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Press Release

Date: 11/17/08

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ArborMetrics Solutions, Inc. Expands Columbia Gas

Right-of-Way Reclamation Project

Hendersonville, NC– ArborMetrics Solutions, Inc., originally selected to provide vegetation management planning services to NiSource’s Columbia Gas, has expanded its program by adding six new Work Planner/Certified Arborists to the staff serving the multi-state utility. Columbia Gas supplies and distributes natural gas to customers in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland.

According to Brian Kortum, Leader, Survey and Land for Columbia Gas, “We’re already meeting our objectives in a program that is less than a year old.”

ArborMetrics Solutions assisted in the development of the specifications for the utility's integrated vegetation management program and are currently managing the process to improve access to the right-of-way. Using mobile computers and GPS systems, ArborMetrics Work Planner/Certified Arborists walk the pipelines identifying and mapping vegetation for trimming, removal or herbicide application. They then assign the work to the utility's contractors, and follow up with an audit to ensure the work was properly performed. To date, ArborMetrics has documented and reclaimed over 600,000 linear feet of the pipeline’s right-of-way.

Columbia Gas’ new integrated vegetation management program creates proper access to the pipeline as required by the government-mandated leak detection program.

The equipment used to detect leaks needs to be within two inches of the ground to get a measurable sample and cannot get wet. Most vegetation would interfere with this process. Once the right-of-way is reclaimed, selective herbicide applications prescribed by ArborMetrics will safely and efficiently maintain the proper access.

ArborMetrics Solutions provides utilities with the means to increase efficiency in vegetation management through the use of inventory management, mapping, resource allocation, scheduling contract personnel and implementing electronic tools for work management.

For more information about ArborMetrics Solutions, please call toll-free 866-685-1880, e-mail info@arbormetricssolutions.com, or visit their web site at www.arbormetricssolutions.com.

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