

ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOP IS SUCCESSFULLY USING WIRELESS FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE.



Roanoke Electric Coop's main facility in Ahoskie, NC where wireless video surveillance systems are implemented.

Overview

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is a customer-owned electric utility located in Northeastern North Carolina. It was formed in the New Deal period after President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act, and started with just 56 miles of electrical line in May, 1939. Today, it has over 2,000 miles of line and serves more than 14,500 members.

Camera Deployment

Though originally organized to provide light and power to farms, REC now serves a wide variety of industrial, recreational, educational, community and other interests in addition to farms. In November of 2009, REC moved its core operation to just outside the city limits of Ahoskie, North Carolina. At that time, the cooperative decided to install a surveillance system to protect and monitor its facilities. With the assistance of the national Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) a member-owned, non-for-profit cooperative serving the advanced telecommunications needs of rural electric cooperatives and rural telephone companies, REC installed a Solectek SkyWay Professional 7000 Series multipoint network to interconnect nine cameras on the facility grounds.

The result has been a system that is as unobtrusive administratively as the wireless network is physically. "We never even know it is there," says George Price, REC's Vice President of Engineering and Operations. The remote cameras are connected to SkyWay 7100 wireless clients, and Mr. Price says he literally cannot tell any difference between the video feeds from the hard-wired cameras and the remote units.

High-capacity wireless systems are increasingly viewed as an essential ingredient in remote surveillance networks. Such systems have been effectively deployed by businesses of all sizes, as well as law enforcement agencies, military installations, and critical public infrastructure like transportation hubs and electric utilities. Roanoke Electric Cooperative found that Solectek SkyWay 7000 Systems are perfectly suited to their application.