

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Great Lakes Energy Deploys Clearion Vegetation Management Software System

**Boyer City, MI, January 11, 2011** – Great Lakes Energy (GLE) has completed implementation of the Clearion Vegetation Management Software System to plan and monitor line clearing and other vegetation control activities on its electric distribution network.

The Vegetation Management System is used by office and field staff within GLE to schedule and audit cyclical feeder trimming performed by its line clearing contractors. Foresters at the utility can now map and manage trees with short trim cycles to ensure that none of these special work areas falls through the cracks. GLE also uses the system to record herbicide treatment locations with information about the mixture and application type, as well as to inventory and track danger trees and customer service requests.

In partnership with the Clearion professional services team, GLE deployed the Vegetation Management Software System inside of its existing Esri ArcGIS Server environment and installed the ArcGIS Engine-based Clearion VM application on seven office and mobile computers. GLE foresters can view and modify vegetation management data in the field and synchronize their edits to the server once reconnected to the network. Integrated GPS improves the accuracy of mapping vegetation conditions that could impact reliability. Access to map-based customer data in the field helps vegetation work planners with customer communications and helps line clearing crews keep track of special requests or restrictions.

Steve Ryder, Supervisor of Vegetation Management and Inspection at GLE said, “We selected Clearion because of their experience with vegetation management and their focus on this area of utility operations. Their solution met all of our requirements and was easily configured to accommodate some of the unique ways we do work here at GLE. The Clearion system also integrated seamlessly with our Esri mapping system, allowing our vegetation management support staff to work with electronic asset maps in the field, and allowing our IT department to leverage our investment in the Esri ArcGIS Server platform.”

With the implementation of this Vegetation Management Software System, GLE joins a community of dozens of utilities and field services providers throughout North America who have successfully deployed mobile operations management solutions from Clearion Software.

### *About Great Lakes Energy*

*GLE is the third-largest Michigan-based electric utility and the largest member-owned power company in Michigan, providing energy solutions to more than 125,000 member-consumers in 26 counties in western and northern Michigan, from Kalamazoo to the Mackinac Straits. GLE is a member of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, a group of over 700 utilities in 46 states delivering energy and energy solutions to more than 40 million member-consumers every day. <http://www.gtlakes.com>*

### *About Clearion Software*

*Clearion Software is a leading provider of utility field operations and maintenance software solutions. Clearion VM is widely recognized as the leading vegetation management solution for transmission and distribution utilities, with the software in use by hundreds of IVM professionals across North America. The Clearion VM solution is in production at several of the largest utilities in the country for compliance with the NERC FAC003-1 standard. Clearion also has implemented its vegetation management solution for distribution utilities of all sizes supporting a wide variety of work processes. Complementing its utility user community is a group of vegetation service providers that run Clearion—from national line clearing contractors, to consulting arborists, to herbicide applicators—giving Clearion a breadth and depth of experience unmatched in the industry. Visit [www.clearion.com](http://www.clearion.com) or contact Chris Kelly at (404) 954-0297 for more information.*