



AMEREN CORPORATION SECURING THE LARGEST ELECTRIC UTILITY IN MISSOURI

St. Louis based Ameren Corporation is among the nation's largest investor-owned electric and gas utilities. The largest electric utility in Missouri and the second largest in Illinois, Ameren companies provide energy services to 2.4 million electric and nearly one million natural gas customers throughout its 64,000-square mile territory.

Created by the year-end 1997 mergers of Union Electric Company and CIPSCO, parent of Central Illinois Public Service Company, the company grew in 2003 with the acquisition of CILCORP, the parent of Central Illinois Light Company and again in 2004 with the acquisition of Illinois Power Company.

Ameren companies pride themselves on a long, successful tradition of financial strength, cost containment and quality customer service, as well as nine decades of uninterrupted cash dividend payments to stockholders.

Security is a Challenge

As Ameren grew over the past 10 years, maintaining a safe and secure environment across 12 power plants became increasingly difficult. To meet this challenge, Ameren upgraded to AMAG Technology's Symmetry Enterprise and Professional Security Management Systems. Each power plant operates autonomously utilizing a different Symmetry SMS. The security staff at each plant manages a separate database, yet all 12 power plants, and the corporate headquarters, are connected via Symmetry Global. Employees travel to the different offices, and tying the databases

together into one cohesive system provided flexibility. The databases communicate with one another and allow employees from one plant access to another.

Ameren operates in Illinois and Missouri, and must abide by each state's laws. Illinois is heavily regulated, where Missouri is not. Alarm centers are located in both states to adhere to the laws determined by each state. Symmetry Global provides a robust solution accepted by both states.

Symmetry Global at Work

Ameren is required by the federal government to track all people at each site whether they are an employee, visitor or contractor. Employee and visitor credentials are issued at each power plant via Symmetry Global. Employees enter via their own gate where they swipe in and out of the power plant. Visitors receive a temporary visitor badge to swipe in and out.

Contractors use a separate turnstile entrance gate. Monitoring contractors saves Ameren a substantial amount of money by tracking their work schedules. Prior to installing Symmetry Global, Ameren could not verify when contractors were on site. At the end of every week, Ameren produces a report that details each contractor's attendance record. The reports have eliminated all billing discrepancies.

Government regulations require energy trading areas to have higher security. Ameren's energy trading business markets



"Symmetry Global
is so much better
than what we had"

Energy to customers. Mantraps control energy trading area entrances, allowing one person at a time to enter using a conditional mantrap capability where only one reader works while three others are disabled. A camera monitors the entrance as well, providing a visual reference. A swipe opens the first door and a swipe and pin open the second door.

For each of the 12 power plants, energy processes are controlled from one control room that is manned 24 hours a day seven days a week. The federal government requires Ameren to keep three years of data about who enters and exits the main power areas.

Ameren also tracks time and attendance by designating certain readers to track time reporting. At some locations, a web application tracks time and attendance. Both systems are integrated into Symmetry Global and the same card is used for time and attendance and access control.

Ameren operates a number of Works Headquarters where line men maintain power lines. Works buildings are fenced in with readers attached to electric sliding gates. Employees swipe a card to drive in their car. Employees exit with their Ameren utility vehicles to work their shift. At the end of the day, employees use their badge to park utility vehicles and leave the premises.

Works buildings store large amounts of copper needed for repairs. The price of copper has increased dramatically, resulting in increased street market demands and theft for Ameren. Works buildings are unmanned after hours, but the gates are always locked. In the case of an alarm, it is routed to a central alarm center where police are dispatched. Using Symmetry Global, the central station automatically opens the gate for them to enter. Symmetry Global provides the interface that allows the police to enter without a physical person present. The gates can be opened from alarm center hundreds of miles away if necessary.

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Three Key Features

Ameren's Applications Development Supervisor, Karen Summers implemented AMAG Technology's Symmetry Global access control system and found three key features beneficial to the security of Ameren.

Managing visitors by scanning a driver's license provides an added layer of security. The driver's license provides proof of identification, which is a policy in protected areas. If someone does not have a license, they must show two forms of ID, one with a photo. The photo automatically enters Symmetry Global for all security staff to view. A reusable visitor's label is created that identifies them as visitors. When a visitor returns, they are already in the system and this helps enforce security practices.

Symmetry's Threat Level Manager option was a capability Ameren could not go without. Although they've never had to use it, having the option to lock down an entire building at the touch of a button was a necessity. You never know when a serious security breach will occur.

Mustering was an important attribute to have in a security system as well. Immediately knowing where everyone is in the event of a crisis could save critical minutes and lives. The mustering capability in an evacuation emergency provides the knowledge of knowing who is still inside the building and most importantly, where they are.



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