

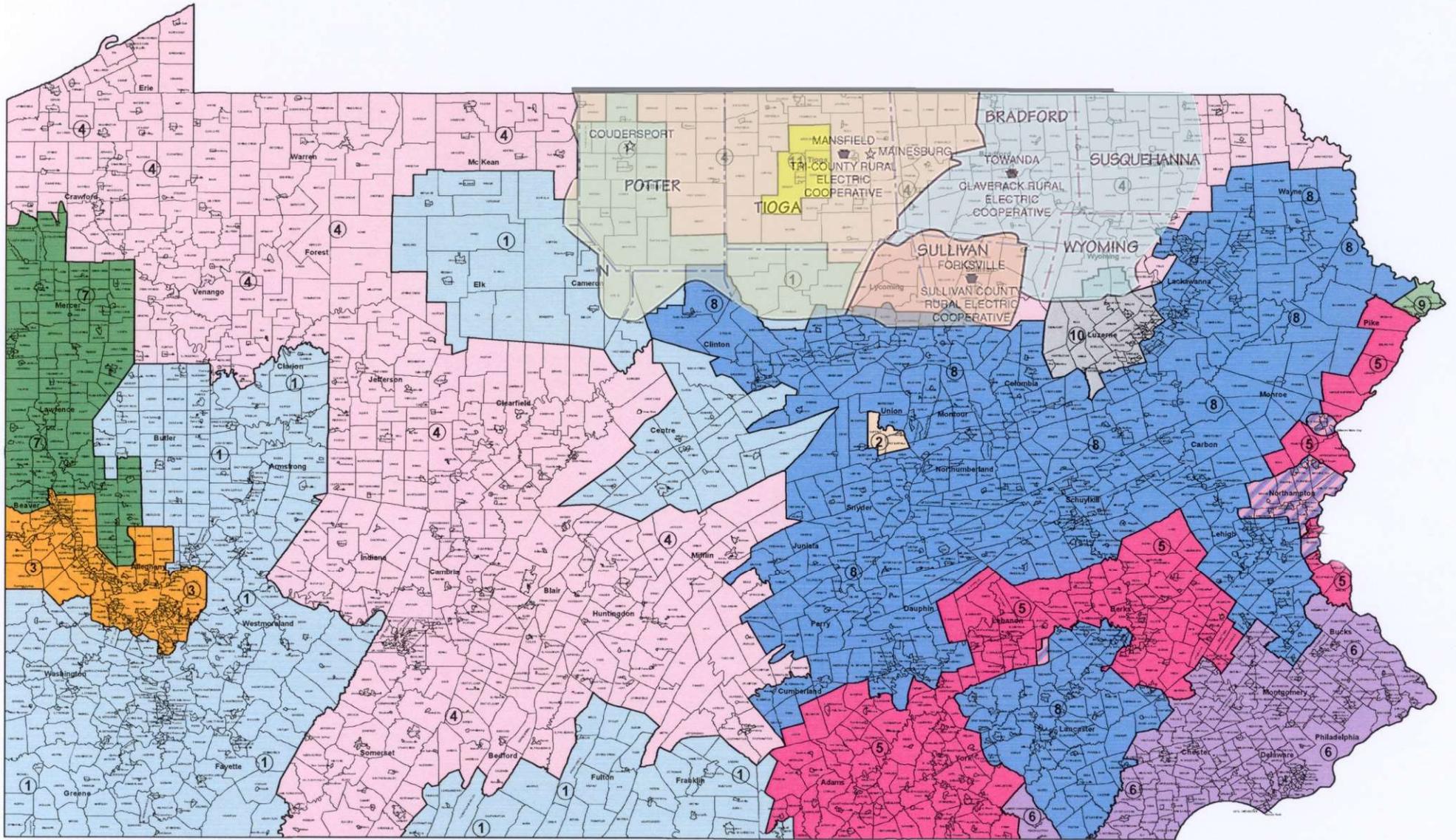
WECO's Drone use.

Byron Farnsworth Jr., President/CEO
Wellsboro Electric Co.



Wellsboro Electric Co.

- ▶ Incorporated 1894
- ▶ Regulated by Pennsylvania PUC
 - Deal with some of the same reporting as larger EDC's.
 - Distribution company only, small workforce
- ▶ Roughly 6,500 customers over a 250 square mile territory.
 - A large number of ROW's in the outskirts which are difficult to access.
 - Need to be aware of bears and rattlesnakes.
 - Slip and Trip hazards
- ▶ Trying to look at new ways to complete line inspections to gather and store information.



Base Map by BortData (717)568-8556 - © Copyright 2016

Reprinted with permission from
City of York

Distribution ROW's

- ▶ Began a pilot in late 2018 to fly some limited access ROW's with AeroLabs/Clearsight.
- ▶ Expanding the drone flights the past few years.
 - Needed the flights to seamlessly push any pictures and information into our CIS/mapping system (NISC).
 - Our system enables us to setup an inspection for each flight and then append data to the structures.
 - Later the data can be pulled out of our system to prioritize any repairs that were found during the drone flight.
 - All of the data is timestamped if we needed to know any specifics.
 - Latest project collected data on 1000 poles.
 - Testing the import routine to iron out any bugs.
 - Received 2-5 photos of each structure with a top-down view.
 - A panoramic view is developed using the photos and kept in our NISC system.







Drone uses (past, present and future)

▶ Past use:

- We had 85 locations where transformer #'s and Serial #'s could not be gathered without a physical climb.
 - Normally, we would need to send a two-man crew to each location.
 - We used a drone to take a picture of the transformer tag and our unique number and then updated the NISC system.

▶ Present use:

- Comprehensive data captured on each structure
- Incorporate into 2024–2025 I&M plans (1000–2000 poles/year)

▶ Future use:

- Keep an eye on vegetation growth
- Use infrared to look for weak points on the system.
- Pole attachment verifications

GENERAL ELECTRIC

S/N 0280523 58PKVA 5

CAT 6801BC0105AAA WT LB

VOLTAGE RATING 12470GRDY/7200-120/2

SINGLE PHASE CLASS OA TYPE HS 60 CYCLES ADDITIVE

% RATED VOLTS	TAP CHANGER POSITION
100	1
97 1/2	2
95	3
92 1/2	4
90	5

TAPS AT RATED KVA

CAUTION! BEFORE INSTALLING OR OPERATING READ INST. GEV-56

NO. 10 CA

5 PIRAKORE TRANSFORMER

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



Questions ??