"How do we help the state, our residential customers, the small businesses, and small industrial companies prosper? One way we do that is by combining technology with reliable electrical power to keep rates affordable."

Jesse Langston, Vice President, Retail Energy, OG&E Energy Corp.

SITUATION
"Most utility relationships are responsive, as a customer needs electrical service, we deliver that; if a customer has an outage, we respond," says Ken Grant, Managing Director, Customer Solutions, OG&E. "We are partnering with our customers so they can help us manage energy needs; and at the same time, we provide them better information to manage their energy bills. With our new smart grid wireless network solutions, we create a true partnership."

SOLUTION
Communications infrastructure solutions provide a logical, financially attractive place to start. For backhaul, PTP 600 links provide up to 300 Mbps of connectivity and are proven to operate in the high heat and bitter winters that OG&E contends with each year. For distribution, the PMP 320 licensed WiMAX solution provides a reliable and cost-effective access network for data transfer.

OG&E wanted a vendor-agnostic solution that would meet their specific functional requirements for bandwidth, latency, and reliability. Most importantly, they were looking for a partner. Cambium Networks’ track record of commitment to deliver real, near-term benefits by providing data connectivity for Smart Grid operations met those requirements.

"The communications network is one of the most important parts of the puzzle," says Grant. "The reliability of the network is critical to our ability to operate effectively. We are reading meters remotely, we are taking register reads, and we are billing our customers that have smart meters based on those reads."

RESULT
"The network has been performing well, the reliability is great, and we couldn’t ask for anything better," says Luis Cam, Lead Telecommunications Design Engineer, OG&E.