



***AIR2 successfully completed a helicopter assisted cross arm change out on an energized line***

Kansas City – June 2, 2003: AIR2 successfully completed a helicopter assisted cross arm change out on an energized 345-kV wooden H - frame transmission line structure. The work was done on May 15, 2003 on Kansas City Power and Light's ("KCP&L") Hawthorn-Sibley line.

The ability to perform maintenance under energized conditions is increasingly valuable due to the rapidly growing demands on the nation's transmission system. AIR2 has trained their crews in traditional hot stick methods and has the additional advantage of being able to transport and position its crews, equipment and new and old components with their highly stable and maneuverable MD 500 helicopters. This capability improves powerline access, the efficiency of the work and virtually eliminates right-of-way damage and remediation costs.

"The need to perform maintenance under energized conditions demands that service providers to use creative and cost effective solutions to solve problems," said Tom McShane, President of AIR2, LLC. "The successful application of this combination of disciplines has produced a valuable solution for the transmission industry."

KCP&L recognized these issues and worked closely with Hughes Brothers, Inc., of Seward, Nebraska, to design a replacement steel arm that could be installed on their structures.

AIR2 teamed with Power Line Training Consultants, of Niagara Falls, New York, specialists in live line training and project management, to perfect the process and procedures used to conduct the work in the safest possible manner. "To our knowledge this is the first time that this type of work has ever been performed, live and at that voltage," said Randy Beckes of PLTC, "we see a great need for this innovative process in the U.S. transmission industry."

"We are pleased with the success and benefits of AIR2's accomplishment," said Richard Spring, Vice President, Transmission Services at KCP&L. "This is truly the future for powerline maintenance."

For further information, contact Tom McShane at 410-460-5620 or Lou Woodward at 409-786-3814.

Kansas City Power & Light Company is a leading regulated provider of electricity in the Midwest. KCP&L is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Great Plains Energy Incorporated, a holding company for three business units: KCP&L; Strategic Energy LLC, an energy management company providing load aggregation and power supply coordination; and KLT Gas Inc., a subsidiary specializing in coal bed methane exploration and development. Headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., KCP&L's web site is <http://www.kcpl.com>.

AIR, LLC, headquartered in Timonium, MD, is an airborne services contractor to the electric power industry. AIR2 combines helicopter airborne access with proprietary diagnostic and work systems to help operators construct and maintain reliable power grids. For more information about AIR2, visit the company's website at <http://www.air2.com>.



Hughes Brothers, Inc., located in Seward, Nebraska, is a manufacturer of wood, steel and fiberglass transmission and distribution materials. They are specialists in designing and manufacturing materials for the electric utility industry. For more information about Hughes Brothers, Inc. visit the company's web site at <http://www.hughesbros.com>.