

Exacter, Inc.

Enabling the Smart Grid

Sometimes the Smart Grid Needs a Little Help

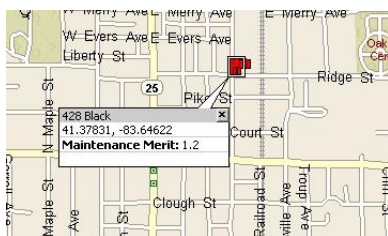
EXACTER® patented technology enables Smart Grid systems by solving tough distribution-network emission problems that prevent communications.

Creating a clear pathway for Broadband over Power Line (BPL) data communication is critical to realizing the benefits that Smart Grid communication provides.

Recently, Exacter field engineers were presented with a tough problem. A utility was testing the newly commissioned BPL data system. Most of the system was communicating and operating to specification. However, one area was not communicating despite the best efforts of the system provider. Communication tests showed that all of the communication equipment was working correctly.



Exacter was called in to survey the territory and determine if there were any electrical equipment problems that would interfere with the BPL data signals.



An EXACTER survey vehicle was deployed to sweep the area. In hours, the problem was pinpointed. It was then an easy job for the utility to go to the EXACTER-designated equipment-failure location and identify the source of the emission that was interfering with the BPL data system.

Upon examination of the equipment on the distribution pole, a broken surge arrester was found. The conductor and connector had broken free from the surge arrester body. Luckily, the problem was located before wind blew the conductor free to cause a line fault and collateral damage. Damaged surge arresters make up about 9% of EXACTER failing equipment findings, nationally.



Replacing the surge arrester provided a solution to the data communication system problem, and avoided an equipment-related outage.