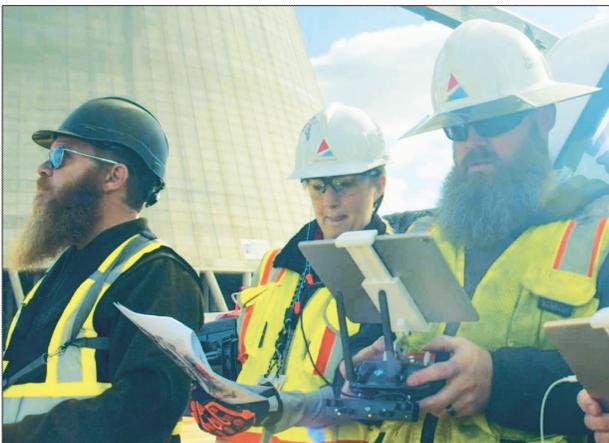


How an energy company manages drones with Skyward for a safer, more resilient grid

COMPANY SNAPSHOT : SOUTHERN COMPANY

- Second-largest gas & electric utility in the U.S.
- Drone program since 2015
- Skyward customer since 2018
- **Fleet:** 80+ drones
- **Pilots:** 70+ and counting
- 32,000 employees
- 9 million customers
- **Service area:** operations across 19 states

Southern Company first became interested in drones as a way to decrease helicopter use and lower risks to personnel.



They quickly found that drones also improved the quality of information gathered during inspections. Drones were able to capture fine details of a structure that were difficult or impossible for humans to see from a traditional aircraft.

Next, Southern Company began to employ drones for various uses across the company. Drones significantly

improved workforce safety for certain tasks because employees no longer needed to climb structures, work at height, or fly dangerously low in an aircraft. Drones also improved efficiency in processes such as line pulling: drones were able to quickly and accurately pull 72,000 feet of pilot rope for conductor wire over rugged terrain, saving weeks or even months of downtime.

Southern Company has used drones for:



- **Transmission and distribution line inspections**
- **Vertical infrastructure inspections**
- **Mapping new construction sites**
- **Volumetric analysis of coal piles**
- **Damage recovery assessments**
- **Wire transport and line pulling, especially in rugged areas**
- **Storm recovery efforts**

Southern Company uses Skyward to manage their drone program, including:

- 1 Automated flight plan authorizations – Skyward’s drone airspace intelligence map integrates LAANC, allowing access to controlled airspace in seconds.
- 2 Data collection and analysis – Skyward’s platform can be used to efficiently track and report everything from safety management system data to flight hours per asset in a single, digital system.
- 3 Staying ahead of regulations — extensive knowledge of the industry and regulatory agencies make Skyward knowledgeable about rapidly-evolving drone technology and regulations.
- 4 Real-world training – Skyward provides software and processes trainees will need on the jobsite, allowing Southern to get a highly proficient drone pilot up and running in a matter of weeks.
- 5 Scaling across the enterprise – Skyward’s consulting team and fleet management software have made it simpler for Southern to scale UAS operations.
- 6 Deconflicting during disasters – Skyward provides up-to-date airspace information, helping Southern Company to keep their assets safe and away from traditional aircraft.

Get in touch at contact@skyward.io or visit us at skyward.io