



## **NEWS RELEASE – December 13, 2016**

### **Veridian employees reach 1.5 million hours without a lost-time injury**

**Ajax, ON** – Veridian Connections Inc. (“Veridian”) is proud to announce that its employees have achieved more than 1.5 million hours without a lost-time injury. The milestone required four years of work among its 225-plus employees without a single work related lost-time injury, and builds on a previous record of over ten years without a lost-time injury.

Veridian President and CEO Michael Angemeer made the announcement today at the utility’s annual holiday luncheon. Angemeer praised all employees for establishing and maintaining a culture where safety is a core value, and everyone equally shares the responsibility of creating and ensuring a healthy and safe work environment. “The health, safety and well-being of our employees and the public is a key foundation of our business,” said Angemeer. “A healthy and safe work environment is a requirement for a productive, engaged and innovative workforce, which in-turn provides better value for our customers and shareholders.”

The utility’s safety performance is the result of strong support and oversight of its Board of Directors, management, joint health and safety committees, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. “It’s a strong commitment by everyone when it comes to ensuring a healthy and safe workplace at Veridian,” commented Angemeer. “Our linepersons and outside staff work in some very dangerous situations and severe weather conditions. There’s nothing more important to me than our staff returning home safe and healthy at the end of the work day.”

Michael Matthew, Veridian’s Manager of Health, Safety & Environment, echoed Angemeer’s congratulatory remarks and messages. “This is a remarkable achievement that is the direct result of the company’s commitment to safety, and the dedication and efforts made by each employee.”

Veridian continues its preparation for attaining the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association’s Certificate of Recognition (COR™) by self-auditing its safety management systems under the association’s ZeroQuest® program. To achieve COR, Ontario’s highest level of workplace safety accreditation, Veridian must undergo stringent external auditing of its safety inspections, investigations and procedures.

*Veridian Connections, serving more than 120,000 residential and business customers, is about to become the fifth largest municipally owned electric utility in Ontario after the merger of large utilities west of Toronto is completed. The City of Pickering, the Town of Ajax, the Municipality of Clarington and the City of Belleville jointly own Veridian Corporation, the parent company to Veridian Connections. The utility has a successful history of effective growth through two mergers and five acquisitions, and now serves nine communities east and north of Toronto more efficiently than any other large non-contiguous utility in Ontario. Veridian has a keen focus on reliability, customer communication and helping to lower customers' electricity bills through the delivery of innovative conservation programs and reasonable rates. Veridian not only contributes to local communities through industry leading financial returns, but also helps build stronger communities through the support of youth, health, education, the arts, the environment and many charitable organizations. Industry leading employee programs, public safety and a focus on employee engagement has created an environment that has attracted seven consecutive Canada's Greenest Employer awards and one Top GTA Employer award. Veridian has now diversified into renewable energy, and will be establishing other value added offerings for its customers.*

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