



NEWS RELEASE – October 2, 2017

Veridian crew returns home from hurricane relief effort in Homestead, Florida

Ajax, ON – A crew of nine Veridian linepersons have returned home from Homestead, Florida where they assisted the local utility restore power in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. The crew was dispatched on September 13th to assist with power restoration efforts after Hurricane Irma caused extensive flooding and damage to infrastructure. Nearly 4.5 million homes and businesses were without power following what was the most intense Atlantic hurricane to strike the U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Veridian's President and CEO Michael Angemeer praised the crew for their efforts, saying "I'm extremely proud of these individuals who came together, without hesitation, in a time of need to assist our neighbours to the south. They sacrificed time away from family and friends, worked long hours in extreme heat, and kept safety top-of-mind in some very hazardous conditions. The Veridian family has some very special people."

Peter Petriw, Veridian's Vice President of Engineering, recognized staff who here at home continued to provide the usual level of system reliability for customers. "While providing support to the City of Homestead, we did not jeopardize local service in the process and for this the staff that stayed behind need to be recognized as well."

Veridian recently joined the Canadian Mutual Assistance Group, whose members include the likes of BC Hydro, SaskPower, Toronto Hydro, Nova Scotia Power and Newfoundland Power. The group was formed to assist one another and share resources during emergencies such as ice storms, hurricanes and other disasters.

Attention reporters: Interviews and photo opportunities with the crew can be arranged by contacting Chris Mace by phone at 905-427-9870, extension 2218 or emailing cmace@veridian.on.ca.

Veridian Connections, serving more than 121,000 residential and business customers, is the fifth largest municipally owned electric utility in Ontario. 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 earned eight consecutive Canada's Greenest Employer awards, one Top GTA Employer award and the Electricity Distributors Association's Performance Excellence award. Veridian has now diversified into renewable energy, and will be establishing other value added offerings for its customers.

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