



NEWS RELEASE – March 20, 2018

Veridian crew returns home from U.S. following aid assistance request

Ajax, ON – A crew of seven Veridian linepersons have returned home following an aid assistance request where they assisted a local utility restore power in Connecticut and Cape Cod after three nor'easter storms devastated the mid-Atlantic and Northeast United States in less than two weeks. The damage caused by the storms were extensive and widespread, and in some cases crews had to rebuild portions of the electrical system.

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 and kept safety top-of-mind in some very hazardous conditions. We've heard from a few families the crew helped during their time in Connecticut and Cape Cod, and they're extremely grateful. The Veridian family has some very special people."

The crew arrived in Hartford, Connecticut on March 3rd for a briefing with local officials, and were then sent to assist Eversource – New England's largest energy company with approximately 3.7 million electric and natural gas customers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The power restoration effort helped restore power to more than 243,000 customers, replace 400 utility poles and string 110 miles of new overhead lines.

Veridian has a long tradition of helping other utilities – Canadian and American – during emergency events. Last September, a Veridian crew travelled to Homestead, Florida to assist with power restoration efforts after Hurricane Irma caused extensive flooding and damage to electrical infrastructure. Nearly 4.5 million homes and businesses were without power after the storm made landfall.

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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