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FIRST TO UNDERSTAND

# Outmaneuvering a Manpower Crunch

Brazos Midstream



## PROBLEM.

Not enough manpower to tackle increased workload caused by regulatory rule changes.

## SOLUTION.

Employ up-to-date aerial imagery to support the strategic deployment of existing ground crews.

### PROJECT AREA

248.2 square miles

### DELIVERABLES

RGB imagery

### IMAGERY RESOLUTION

10 cm

### DELIVERY FORMAT

.tiff

As one of the largest privately-owned midstream companies in the Permian Basin, Brazos Midstream moves, compresses, and processes massive amounts of natural gas on behalf of producers across the region. As part of its extensive operations, the company maintains hundreds of miles of pipe across six sprawling West Texas counties. Conducting annual class location studies of these high-pressure pipelines is core to meeting the company's regulatory responsibilities.

Pipeline locations are classified based on their proximity to structures that are intended for human occupancy such as hospitals, schools, houses, and even mobile man camps. Monitoring and reporting nearby development is critical because it impacts a pipeline's classification, which dictates the number of inspections and maintenance measures required per year.

Historically, Brazos Midstream has completed class location studies by dispatching crews to physically count structures and monitor signs of development.

## The onset of the PHMSA's "Mega Rule" necessitated a change of approach.

With the additional regulatory scope outlined in the Mega Rule, pipelines that previously **did not** fall under reporting scrutiny suddenly **did**. For Brazos Midstream and other pipeline companies, this meant the manpower needed to complete TRC and DOT-related filings increased simply because the number of DOT-regulated pipelines increased.

Hiring more ground personnel to handle the larger workload was neither economically feasible nor realistically attainable due to labor shortages.

## Brazos Midstream took to the air for answers.

Working with Prius Intelli, the company completed a strategic ~250-square-mile fixed-wing flyover with imagery taken at 10 cm resolution. With data in hand, the Brazos Midstream team can now review pipeline locations in detail from their desks to identify new structures and other potential encroachments. Areas of concern are flagged, and crews are strategically deployed to verify.

*"Our ground guys know where most of our DOT-sensitive areas are. Their input helps further pinpoint where we need future flyovers, leading to even **more cost-savings for the company.**"*

*"Aerial imagery has proven highly cost-effective in keeping an eye on our pipe. We can zoom in pretty darn tight to identify potential structure issues. This helps us flag specific areas we think will be added to class location studies. **It helps us work smarter with the crews we have.**"*

– Allyn Greene, Director of GIS & Drafting