



DQE Inc. is the parent company of Duquesne Light Company a leader in the transmission and distribution of electric energy, offering superior customer service and reliability to more than half a million customers in southwestern Pennsylvania. In addition to the regulated utility the company owns other diversified investments in certain non-regulated industries.

Customer challenge	Value proposition	Value imagined	Value realized
<p>DQE Inc. is the holding company of a large public utility with diversified investments in other industries. The company needed an accounting application that could handle multi-company processing and consolidated reporting for their 220 non-regulated investments.</p>	<p>Although their regulated utility implemented Oracle Financials the costs and investment to implement Oracle for the non-regulated businesses was prohibitive. Many of the non-regulated companies were startups and needed a more flexible and easy to use solution.</p>	<p>Microsoft Dynamics SL provided the features and functionality they company needed for their non-regulated businesses. In addition the ability to customize and integrate the accounting applications allowed for the flexibility and ease of use necessary to a growing company.</p>	<p>We implemented Microsoft Dynamics SL using the multi-company database feature for all non-regulated subsidiaries. As the company grew new custom applications were added to improve the usability and integration into the company's other key business systems.</p>
<p>The Treasury department performed an analysis of the cost and effectiveness of issuing manual checks from Dynamics SL for the non-regulated subsidiaries. Working with their banking partner (Mellon Bank) they determined a more economical and secure method would have Mellon process the payments for them on an out sourced basis.</p>	<p>Using Mellon to process most payments would reduce the company's costs by half and ensure better internal control through an implementation of positive pay. The accounting users needed an electronic way to exchange information with Mellon on the payments.</p>	<p>Microsoft Dynamics SL did not have the features necessary to directly interface the accounts payable module for an outside check processor such as Mellon. Instead the existing infrastructure for check processing within SL needed to be extended to allow for the transfer of payment information to the Mellon EDI and treasury management system.</p>	<p>We created the extensions necessary to the Dynamics SL payment processing to allow for the seamless exchange of information between the two systems. The applications leverage the already established payment selection process in Dynamics SL making the process easier for the users while at the same time efficient when transferring the data to Mellon.</p>
<p>The financial reporting requirements for the consolidation of the 220 non-regulated investments was time consuming and cumbersome.</p>	<p>The system for producing consolidated financial statements and reports required a complete automation of the process to ensure completeness and accuracy.</p>	<p>The bulk of the financial data for the company resided in Dynamics SL. Using the FRx report writer in SL all consolidations and reports could be accommodated.</p>	<p>Using the advanced features of the Dynamics SL General Ledger and FRx Report Writer the company routinely produces the required consolidated reports and financials.</p>