



## COST SAVINGS, ENHANCED SAFETY CULTURE DURING ETHANOL PRODUCER EXPANSION

### THE CLIENT

When Green Plains, a rapidly-growing, vertically-integrated ethanol producer, sought out **FIRST, VERIFY**, it was because they realized that the way they kept track of prequalified contractors for 5 plants no longer worked as they expanded to 17+ locations.

“When we had 4 or 5 sites, our system worked,” said Dan Dunham, Environmental Compliance Assistant at Green Plains. “As the company grew, and continues to grow, however, increased automation and sophistication became necessary.”

### THE CHALLENGES

Rapid growth, an increasing number of contractors in a variety of locations, contractor training processes that were time consuming and markedly different across plant locations presented challenges to the Green Plains team. “Plus, our way of knowing if contractors had a history of safety issues was cumbersome,” said Mike Stone, PSM Engineering and Audit Manager at Green Plains. “As we grew, our safety program needed to evolve as well.”

### THE SOLUTION

After meeting with a few vendors, Green Plains decided to go with **FIRST, VERIFY** because of their comprehensive, customizable, and affordable services. Today, Green Plains utilizes **FIRST, VERIFY**'s contractor prequalification, online training, Certificates of Insurance Management, and auditing services. “We are able to pre-screen contractors, communicate between sites about issues, and select contractors faster,” said Dunham. Stone adds that being able to have everything at their fingertips through **FIRST, VERIFY**'s program has been an organizational and operational revolution. The company's safety programs are now scalable as they continue to expand in different markets.

### THE RESULTS

**FIRST, VERIFY** has streamlined processes and training which translates into saved time and money. “Before the **FIRST, VERIFY** video training program customized for each plant location, we had to have contractors come on site for training that could take up to an hour,” said Dunham. “Videos are 30 minutes and contractors are now trained and familiar with the location before they ever step foot on the property. Plus, contractors can be selected more effectively and efficiently, and all the tracking functionality helps with compliance.” The auditing service ensures that contractors' statuses stay current and all documentation is up-to-date, which is key to mitigating risk. “**FIRST, VERIFY** has facilitated an enhanced safety culture for Green Plains and an enhanced safety culture saves time and money,” says Stone. “Populating our sites with contractors with reliable safety records decreases the risk of accidents; potentially saving a life or preventing injury is invaluable.”