



SUMMARY

Customer

Electric power company

Challenge

Add new 345-kV power lines and four substations with copper price stability. Multisite rollout support and assistance with product specification.

Solution

READY!SM to Install
Program management of copper prices

Results

- Copper price protection
- Customer's cost of ownership reduced with full cable management program
- Locally managed material supported simultaneous construction of four substations
- Engineering support and assistance
- Ongoing support of customer's project and day-to-day business

Customer Challenge

As one of the fastest growing power transmission companies in the U.S., a Northeastern energy company manages a system that includes 660 miles of transmission lines, 44 substations and a fiber optic communications network that monitors and controls the electric system. In order to meet the needs of its current and future clients, the company is committed to energy-efficient power generation and system infrastructure that serves as a reliable transmission resource. To accommodate its expansive growth, the company decided to construct four new substations and 51 miles of 345-kV transmission lines. These additions were built in remote, densely forested areas. The year-long project called for more than 440,000 feet of medium-voltage cable, fiber optic cable, grounding wire and control cable.

As an expert in power generation and transmission, the company is proficient at providing consistent, quality service to its customers; however, the company did need assistance in understanding and selecting the right cables to meet its technical specifications. Because the originally specified jacketing materials for the power substations were no longer available, the company needed replacement materials and new specifications. In order to control costs, the company also wanted to lock in the cost of copper for the project's duration. The additions were happening at multiple sites throughout the state, and the company needed a material management solution that met its technical and cost objectives while making sure the products could be stored off site but readily available for quick deployment.



The company's cost of deployment was reduced with Anixter's READY! To Install cable management program, which helped limit scrap and waste at the job site and enhance installation productivity.

CASE STUDY

POWER COMPANY LEVERAGES EXPERTISE TO UPGRADE SYSTEM



Anixter Solution

As an Anixter customer for more than a decade, the company relied on Anixter to supply the power, control and instrumentation cable for all four substations. Anixter's engineers worked with the company's engineers and other project personnel to evaluate the potential jacket materials, as well as discuss various shielding types and termination methods. At the start of the project, the company strictly specified a particular type of cable, which was more expensive than comparable products and made by few manufacturers. Anixter evaluated alternatives and suggested a cable with a longitudinally corrugated (LC) shield, which is easier to terminate, less expensive and more likely to stay in place. Working with its network of manufacturer partners, Anixter helped the company evaluate product samples, and when completed, create the bill of materials.

Anixter secured contractual agreements with the control cable manufacturers to deliver a fixed price for copper throughout construction. In addition, the time necessary to qualify the new specifications, coupled with the pace of construction, required a quicker than usual turnaround from control cable manufacturers.

Because the remote sites had no storage facilities and no cable cutting equipment and in order to guard against damage or theft, Anixter held the material in a secure distribution center and used its READY!™ To Install service to deliver product to the job site suitable for immediate installation. With READY! To Install, the customer receives cable cut to specified lengths that was tagged and placed on reels marked for next day, site-specific delivery. Cables also arrived ready to be installed by subcontractor crews on site. Besides frequent shipping reports, Anixter also provided the company with real-time inventory and usage data, which was used to measure actual versus projected consumption and to make adjustments on future orders. This mitigated the risk of overordering and minimized the excess cable remaining once the job was complete.

Project Results

Anixter's expert engineering assistance in the initial specifications phase of the project helped reduce the cost of the control cables. The four substations were built on schedule, and on-time deliveries of customer-specified cables cut to length and tagged at Anixter's distribution center were instrumental in adhering to the construction schedule at all four substations. The company's cost of ownership was reduced with Anixter's READY! To Install cable management program, which helped reduce scrap and waste at the job site and enhance job site productivity.

In addition, the customer's copper costs remained stable throughout the duration of the three-phase construction project. By invoicing on delivery, rather than making an upfront purchase of materials, Anixter helped to confirm accuracy of the company's cash flow projections during the year-long project. In the end, the company was able to focus on its core business—generating and delivering power—while Anixter provided support for the inventory, ordering, production and delivery of control cables.



READY!™ Deployment Services by Anixter map our distribution

and Supply Chain Solutions to the construction or deployment process of any technology project. We combine sourcing, inventory management, kitting, labeling, packaging and deployment services to simplify and address the material-management challenges at the job site(s). READY! Deployment Services by Anixter will help you improve the speed to deployment, lower your total cost of deployment and deliver your product specifications as planned.

This project called for:



READY! To Install is a customized full-service wire and cable management and delivery program.

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