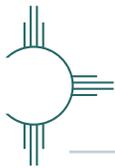


Between the lines



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GREAT SOUTHWESTERN
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

MYR Group Subsidiary Great Southwestern Successfully Completes 235-Mile CTT Project

story by Christine Young Pertel

Great Southwestern Construction Inc., a subsidiary of MYR Group, has successfully completed the Cross Texas Transmission (CTT) Project, a key component of the Lone Star State's bold initiative to expand its capacity for renewable energy.

The two-year, \$217 million job is the largest in Great Southwestern's 36-year history and also one of MYR Group's largest projects. The CTT project is part of the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ), which was designed to move wind-generated electricity from West Texas and the Texas Panhandle to densely populated areas such as Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio.

The project involved construction of approximately 235 miles of double-circuit 345kV transmission line across several counties located throughout the Texas Panhandle.

"We finished ahead of the Owner's schedule and successfully maintained work within the budget," said Great Southwestern Vice President Brandon Lark.



A bird's eye view of structure erection in progress

The project's 1,400 structures include a mix of lattice and monopole steel towers ranging from 140 to 200 feet tall. Great Southwestern was the prime constructor, responsible for the majority of material procurement and all ROW construction, as well as foundations, structure and wire installation and restoration.

The 345kV line, which runs in three segments from White Deer to Silverton, Texas, will facilitate the delivery of clean energy to millions of homes and businesses in Texas and will enhance the reliability of the state's infrastructure for many years to come.

"This is a good-looking job with a lot of exposure because of its proximity to Interstate 40 and multiple Texas state highways," said Great Southwestern Operations Manager Mike Bachli. "People will notice the new line and be able to see it for a long time as they travel through this area." CONTINUED...



A structure assembly site for the project's massive lattice towers

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Subcontractors involved in various aspects of the project included Brim Aviation, Aldridge Construction, Johnson Construction and Fiber Network Solutions.

In addition, MYR Group subsidiary Sturgeon Electric Company, Inc. mobilized its equipment, manpower and substantial expertise to perform a sizable portion of the wire pull.

“We strung in roughly 80 miles of double circuit – that’s 160 miles of line – in six months,” said Bryan Vorwaller, construction manager for Sturgeon Electric. “We did it very efficiently and quickly. We have a good core group of guys who have been with the company quite a few years; they all know their job and their task.”



A Great Southwestern crew stands in front of the last structure installed - a major project milestone.

Not surprisingly, the massive and complex endeavor also presented some challenges.

“There were several different areas, varying terrain and a wide variety of landowner requirements,” Bachli said. “There were also many more pipeline crossings than we originally anticipated, which require extreme caution.”

Mother Nature posed her share of hazards as well, including stampeding herds of wild hogs and a variety of poisonous spiders.



Newly installed structures at dusk

“Black widows and brown recluse spiders were everywhere,” said Great Southwestern Field Engineer Phil Powell. “They were in the plastic coverings on the wire reels, in hardware boxes, under pallets and on the ROW gates, but we were able to effectively mitigate these hazards and our crews did a great job of protecting themselves.”

Rattlesnakes also slithered about, and one worker was bitten on the hand.

“Luckily, it was considered a ‘dry bite,’ so he was just monitored by the hospital and did not need antivenin,” Powell said.

“There were glitches, but nothing that we didn’t get through and finish,” said Bachli. “From start to finish, we revised processes a number of times with structure work, lattice work and wire install, and everyone worked well together.”

The operation’s smooth and steady progress reflected the spirit of teamwork among Great Southwestern’s mobile workforce, consisting of crews who have remained together on project after project.

“They’re like family,” Great Southwestern President Robert Agnew said. “They move from job to job for extended periods of time, so there’s a solid level of comfort in knowing each other from the safety standpoint and the ability to perform work well. That is very advantageous for us.”

Great Southwestern had a large management staff on site and will mobilize that staff to other major projects. Their success on the CTT venture positions the company to continue to pursue and execute large scale projects throughout the U.S.

WANT TO SEE MORE? [CLICK HERE](#) TO VIEW THE CTT PROJECT VIDEO!