MEADOWBROOK TO LOUDON AND CARSON TO SUFFOLK 500KV LINES

THE RIGHT STUFF

The L.E. Myers Co. has what it takes to handle large transmission projects in highly congested and environmentally sensitive areas.

In late 2008, Dominion Virginia Power awarded The L.E. Myers Co., a subsidiary of MYR Group, the contract to construct the 65-mile Meadowbrook to Loudon (MBL) 500kV transmission line (part of the Trail Project), located in northwestVirginia, southwest of Washington D.C., and the 60-mile Carson to Suffolk (CS) 500kV transmission line, located 60 miles southeast of Richmond, Virginia.

Construction began on the MBL line in early 2009, and March 2010 on the CS line. Both lines are on schedule to meet the expected in-service date of June 2011.

Under the contract, The L.E. Myers Co. is providing right-of-way clearing, environmental controls, foundation installation, structure installation and conductor stringing for the two new 500kV lines as well as the reconstruction of several existing transmission circuits. The MBL line consists of 185.1 circuit miles of new and temporary lines. Both lines consist of 3-wire 500kV bundle 1351 ACSR conductor and 140' steel lattice structures. When complete, this work will contribute to Dominion's plans to expand transmission infrastructure through several new and upgraded transmission line projects.

Familiar Territory

The L.E. Myers Co. has completed various infrastructure projects for Dominion over the years, including a variety of transmission projects throughout Virginia and North Carolina. This long history of regional experience certainly gives The L.E. Myers Co. an advantage, but they also know that each project brings its own learning curve. The real key to The L.E. Myers Co.'s success remains in knowing how to continually adapt on each project over time in order to maintain a position of remaining one of the few premier electrical contractors in the nation.

Among this elite group, The L.E. Myers Co. touts an unrivaled safety record, an extremely well-trained labor force, and one of the largest and most advanced fleets of

HEAVY METAL: *One of several material storage yards on the Carson to Suffolk 500kV transmission line.*

specialty transmission equipment - all "must haves" on large-scale transmission projects such as this.

A Fleet That Can't Be Beat

A major factor contributing to success on construction of the two lines is the capability to not only provide the right equipment for the job, but also the ability to utilize MYR Group's (The L. E. Myer's parent company) latest fleet innovations on this project. MYR's fleet department recently developed a computerized wire pulling system that has been installed on new wire pulling equipment. The system was designed to improve safety and efficiency during a wire pull, and allows an operator to set maximum line pulls and speeds, as well as download and record tension and speed throughout a conductor pull. "Traditionally, we had to rely on manual adjustment, which included a human error factor," said Larry Schweitzer, Vice President and Project Manager overseeing construction on the two lines. "With the new system, if we get hung up on a structure, the system automatically shuts down so we don't have to worry about causing structure damage. The system is extremely easy to use, it helps us operate more safely and efficiently, and has performed beyond anyone's expectations," he added. In addition to this new computerized system, MYR also recently added two new 200T A T cranes to its fleet as well as custom-designed wire tensioners.

SCREEN SHOT *of the new computerized wire pulling system used on the project.*

JOSH HOLLAND, *MYR Fleet Shop Supervisor, shown here with a new wire puller equipped with the computerized system.*

"I am confident that MYR's commitment to continually invest in our transmission equipment and tooling and our ability to utilize problem solving abilities to develop

One of MYR's new 200T A T cranes helps to set one of the new lattice towers along the Carson to Suffolk 500kV transmission line.

READY TO ROLL: *A wire set-up on the Carson to Suffolk 500kV transmission line.*

customized solutions put us way ahead of the curve when it comes to constructing very large-scale transmission projects," said Schweitzer.

A Project Team Skilled in Combatting Unique Challenges

The L.E. Myers Co., with support from MYR Group has the ability to deploy some of the best teams in the industry to projects such as this. Through MYR Group's nationwide network of subsidiaries, locating and tailoring the right management and manpower for a job is second nature.

Larry Schweitzer and Max Wiseman, Construction Manager for both lines, have spent their entire careers overseeing projects located in the southeast. This brings a competitive edge when it comes to developing solutions to resolve inevitable, yet unforseen issues on a project.

AT THE HELM: *Larry Schweitzer, Vice President and Project Manager*

Specific challenges on the MBL line involved a complex coordination of outages for a variety of line sections without disrupting or exposing Dominion's existing 500kV and 230kV backbone systems, and working with Dominion on issues related to permitting through the Manassas National Battlefield site - a historic Civil War landmark.

"Hats off to the Dominion folks who not only have been excellent to work with considering both projects involved extremely tight schedules, but also for securing all permits and right-of-way through these historically significant and congested urban areas," commented Schweitzer.

The CS line also required special care because the transmission line also ran through a Civil War landmark - The Dismal Swamp. The Dismal Swamp is the oldest continually operating man-made canal in the United States, and it opened in 1805. "The swampland conditions required us to drive steel cans into the ground for the foundations and schedule timely and careful deliveries of concrete over delicate land conditions," said Schweitzer.

One of the major challenges related to both lines was the issue of induction, due to working through extremely congested and "hot" corridors. Also, by the time the two lines are finished we will have laid and picked up over 200,000 feet (almost 40 miles) of timber mats on the two right-of-ways to minimize the impact caused by moving heavy equipment.

The L. E. Myers Co's. excellent record of project execution, maintaining schedules, quality workmanship, employing best-in-class safety practices and fostering a collaborative client relationship are concrete examples of the Company's ability to continually provide maximum value.