



# SHAKE RATTLE AND ROLL

Sturgeon shows some hustle to bite off Phase II of the Dry Lake Wind Farm in the Arizona desert.

*Story by Paula Frisina, MYR Group Marketing Communications Specialist*

**O**perating since 2009, Phase I of the Dry Lake Wind Power Project provides residents in northeastern Arizona plenty of reasons to love gusty days. The project not only delivers a new source of clean, renewable energy to the region and the state, it also provides property tax payments to support schools, public health, fire, library and other services, as well as creates hundreds of jobs during construction. The success of Phase I has proven that a tremendous opportunity for wind generation exists in the region and paved the way for a second phase of expansion. Developed by Iberdrola Renewables, the world's leading provider of wind energy, Phase I generates 63 megawatts of electricity, enough to power more than 15,000 homes in the Phoenix metro

politan area. Phase II recently began operating and is generating an additional 65 megawatts of electricity. Salt River Project (SRP), the third-largest public power utility in the nation, has purchased 100 percent of the power generated by both phases of the Dry Lake Wind Farm. Sturgeon Electric Company, Inc., a subsidiary of MYR Group Inc., was selected by Iberdrola to construct a new 69kV/34.5kV substation and collector system for Phase II. Sturgeon was also supported by MYR Renewables, a division of MYR Group that fosters relationships with best-in-class alternative energy developers; and assists MYR Group subsidiaries on wind and solar projects by sharing Company resources and collective knowledge to pass on lessons learned and develop management resources and processes for specific client and project requirements.



### MANY MOVING PARTS

Beginning in late July 2010, Sturgeon subcontractors started substation foundations and trenching work in the collection field. Sturgeon crews followed shortly thereafter, beginning work on substation construction and termination of approximately 100,000 feet of 3-phase cable in the collection field. Sturgeon crews were also able to handle the portion of commercial and industrial work required on the project - wiring from GSU transformers into the towers and installation of shunt trip devices. “Generally speaking, wind farm projects are constructed under incredibly compressed schedules, therefore the myriad of issues arising on a daily basis call for a supreme ability to be flexible and think quickly on your feet to develop solutions” comments Steve Maloney, Project Manager for MYR Group, Sturgeon’s parent company. “And solutions were required daily,” he adds.

Regardless of numerous subcontractors working simultaneously under a fast-paced schedule, Maloney mentioned that overall coordination amongst all involved parties was a success. It became crucial to attend and participate in morning “pod” meetings. As daily work plans were discussed, it was the one chance to discuss and communicate real and potential new issues to the entire team.

### DIVERSE KNOW-HOW GETS THE JOB DONE

Steve is a relative newcomer to the company, and brings an arsenal of industry experience to the project, having overseen several wind farm, transmission and substation projects for various contractors. Other project management team members included Aaron Stupec, Project Engineer as well as Walt Gonzales, Project Manager, Justin Riley, C&I Project Manger and Buzz Filleman, District Manager from Sturgeon’s Phoenix dis-

trict. Gonzales, Riley and Filleman, all seasoned Sturgeon veterans, brought a wealth of expertise and know-how that contributed to successfully handling the speed and complexity of the project. Riley oversaw the portion of the commercial and industrial electrical work and also managed material.

And Aaron Stupec? His main job was to learn.

### PIONEERING MODELS FOR MANAGEMENT SUCCESS

Stupec, also a relative newcomer to MYR Group, is working to develop his career in project management. As part of the company’s commitment to teach young professionals to lead early in their careers, Stupec has been selected to assist on a handful of projects in order to gain valuable field experience. “Aaron is here to learn, but he also played a vital role on this project,” comments Maloney. “We’ve thrown everything but the kitchen sink at him, and he’s shown the ability to adapt quickly.”

“I’m gaining invaluable experience,” comments Stupec. “On one hand, I’ve learned so much already regarding



L to R: Aaron Stupec, Project Engineer and Steve Maloney, Project Manager

**PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE** - Massive wind turbines now dot the rugged northern Arizona ranch land near Snowflake, AZ



*L to R: Howard Filleman, Lalis Garcia, Justin Riley, Mike Brice and Sam Lable of Sturgeon observe and conduct conductor terminations*

transmission and substation construction, but also realize the years and years of field experience it takes to really excel at what you do.” Adds Stupec, “It’s astounding to be around these guys and realize how much they know about this business.” This knowledge contributed to on-time completion of the project with no recordable incidents. “It’s great to know you played an important role on a project that is revitalizing this community and directly contributing to an improved quality of living for Arizona residents both locally and throughout the state,” commented Buzz Filleman, Sturgeon’s Phoenix District Manager, on completion of the project.

*Paula Frisina*



*Crews overseeing trench placement of the 3-phase cable for the Dry Lake II Wind Farm collection field.*

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