

AltaLink Proactively Reduces Risk of Power Outages, Protects Wildlife, and Improves Substation Reliability with GREENJACKET® from Cantega Technologies Inc.

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AltaLink L.P., a recognized leader in the Electricity Transmission industry, was able to substantially mitigate the risk of outages while protecting indigenous wildlife through the use of Cantega Technologies' GREENJACKET® solution.



Solution Overview

Customer Profile

AltaLink, L.P., Canada's only fully independent transmission company, owns more than half of Alberta's transmission grid and serves 85 per cent of the provincial population. AltaLink is responsible for the maintenance and operation of approximately 11,800 kilometers of transmission lines and 270 substations in Alberta.

Business Situation

AltaLink needed a solution to reduce the occurrence of wildlife caused outages at various high-risk locations throughout Alberta. Certain vulnerable points of exposed energized electrical equipment were being compromised through unintentional interaction with wildlife, causing costly power outages and areas of instability.

Solution

By using GREENJACKET™ protective covers for power distribution and transmission system equipment, AltaLink is now proactively protected against outages and disturbances caused by birds and other wildlife. GREENJACKET®'s high dielectric rating allows AltaLink protection that can sustain an electric field but does not conduct electric current.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

AltaLink, L.P., an Alberta electricity transmission company, installed GREENJACKET protective covers at substations with histories of bird-caused outages. Since implementation, AltaLink has seen staggering reductions in the number of harmful wildlife-caused outages. The solution provided by Cantega Technologies has allowed AltaLink to offer customers improved system reliability, while at the same time protecting sensitive wildlife.

Company Overview

On April 30, 2002, AltaLink assumed control of Alberta's largest transmission system, initiating a critical transformation in the Canadian electricity industry. Today, AltaLink owns more than half of Alberta's transmission grid and serves 85 per cent of its population. AltaLink also owns the Alberta portion of the interconnection to British Columbia that is used to import and export electricity, connecting Alberta to the power grid in the Pacific Northwest.

Contact Salisbury by Honeywell for more information.

Situation

AltaLink needed a solution to reduce the number of wildlife-caused outages at various high risk locations throughout Alberta. Not only were instances of bird interaction with substations impacting the reliability of electricity delivery to customers, but these outages were negatively impacting the company's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Certain vulnerable points of exposed energized electrical equipment were being compromised through unintentional interaction with wildlife, causing costly power outages and areas of instability. Wildlife-caused power outages accounted for nearly 20 per cent of all outages in the substations, causing unforeseen problems for AltaLink and their valued customers.

As a dominant presence in the Alberta electricity industry, AltaLink's management was faced with a challenge: how to prevent wildlife outages from occurring in substations in a cost effective and timely manner?

Solution

AltaLink is now utilizing Cantega's GREENJACKET® product to eliminate these problematic outages. AltaLink first began using GREENJACKET® in 2003 when it fitted the covers on two of its substations that had histories of bird-caused outages.

AltaLink tracks and describes all outages in a central database, allowing the company to identify the highest risk substations. To date, over 60 substations have been retrofitted with GREENJACKET® and many more are planned in the near future. In addition to these existing substations, all new substations will have GREENJACKET® installed prior to initial startup, as a proactive measure to reduce outages and protect wildlife.

"GREENJACKET has enabled us to further strengthen AltaLink's commitment to system reliability and environmental responsibility."

Nikki Heck
Environmental Advisor, AltaLink



GREENJACKET® COVERS ARE AVAILABLE IN AN UNLIMITED VARIETY OF CUSTOM CONFIGURATIONS.

Ken Tetzlaff, an AltaLink Maintenance Application Technologist, describes the results: "Using Cantega Technologies' GREENJACKET® Wildlife Outage Mitigation System, we have retrofitted several substations where we had a history of bird caused outages. To date, we've yet to have a bird caused outage at any completely retrofitted station."

AltaLink's focus was to eliminate bird and animal caused outages. By working closely with Cantega to develop a unique, customized solution for each substation, this goal was recognized. Customized GREENJACKET® covers fit precisely and are quickly installed or removed to access connections and equipment. Based on AltaLink's impressive results with Cantega's products, AltaLink has adopted GREENJACKET® wildlife protective devices as a standard.

About Cantega

Cantega was founded in Alberta, Canada in 2001 by Marty Niles, a power lineman with over 25 years experience in the electricity industry. As a lineman, Marty saw first hand the massive costs to utility companies and their customers resulting from wildlife-caused outages. Today, Cantega's GREENJACKET® product line includes over 400 stock covers, with custom covers available in an unlimited variety of configurations.

GREENJACKET® has many features that make it an ideal cover-up: a high dielectric rating, resistance to breakdown from ultraviolet radiation, custom manufacture to fit a vast array of equipment in all shapes and sizes, and easy installation and removal in a broad range of weather conditions. GREENJACKET® products are fully customizable and built to last; they can be used alone or as part of a comprehensive program to improve power system reliability.



KEN TETZLAFF, ALTALINK MAINTENANCE APPLICATION TECHNOLOGIST



COMPLETE COVERAGE OF CRITICAL AREAS LEADS TO INCREASED POWER SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Cantega's highly experienced multi-disciplinary management team and consulting team includes power linemen, wildlife experts, polymer chemists, tool-and-die experts, and polymer fabricators. Cantega's products are all developed and engineered with the highest possible quality and performance in mind. All GREENJACKET® covers are manufactured in-house at a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Red Deer, Alberta.

Cantega is committed to providing the electrical power industry with customized turnkey solutions that mitigate animal-caused outages and improve system reliability and profitability. The company's technical experts work closely with individual utility companies to develop complete custom solutions.

Contact Salisbury by Honeywell for more information.