

AEP Finds Implo Technologies' Implosive Sleeves Environmentally Friendly



Implosive sleeves provide a low-resistance connector along with a little pyrotechnics.

American Electric Power (AEP) used Implo Technologies Inc.'s implosive sleeves in its 765-kV line running from the Wyoming Substation to the Jackson Ferry Substation in Virginia,

part of which traverses the Jefferson and Washington National Forests. This is the first six-bundle high-voltage transmission line in North America.

The construction of this project took environmental-impact mitigation to new levels with the responsible way in which environmental-impact mitigation has been carried out during the planning and construction of the line. The most advanced technologies were brought to bear on this project for the mitigation of adverse impacts.

One of the technologies ABB selected was the use of implosive

splices for full-tension joints on the conductors. Implosive splices provide a fast and clean method for joining conductors, and the connection is superior both electrically and mechanically. These types of splices can be easily pulled through stringing blocks, which allows an unlimited number of spools to be pulled in a single run, and they require no equipment for installation. This gave PAR Electric, the contractor for this AEP project, a great deal of control in positioning pulling stations. It made it possible to place these stations in locations least disruptive to the environment and to complete the project sooner.

With the implosive splices installed, PAR was able to pull all six conductors simultaneously through several towers. One of the towers imposed a particularly steep pulling angle of 41 degrees, but the splices pulled through easily. Independent of weather or terrain limitations, implosive connectors raise the bar for versatility in splicing conductors in the field.

AEP's six-bundle line is expected to be in service in June. ■

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