

Ohinewai Switching Station

Project: Ohinewai Switching Station Installation Contract

Client: Transpower NZ Ltd

Location: Ohinewai, Waikato

Contract Value: NZ \$7.5m

Duration: 6 months

DESCRIPTION

Transpower required a new 220kV switching station to be built at Ohinewai in New Zealand to further support security of supply for the upper North Island. The project was important to the network and therefore had to be fast tracked.

SCOPE

Due to the tight time frames Electrix was engaged during the early stages of the design process and construction was carried out in parallel.

At the peak of the construction phase, up to 65 staff and subcontractors were on site to build and commission the switching station, control room, communications hut and protection changes at four other remote substations as well as install 6 breakers. The control room and communications hut were prefabricated off site along with 103 precast concrete pads and trucked onto site to reduce the on-site construction period.

As the live 220kV transmission lines did not allow the necessary clearance for work below, Electrix developed a technique using a crane and a live-line team that allowed the conductors to be lifted approximately 6 metres and work to proceed below the in-service lines. This was done twice for ten and five days respectively along with the protection upgrade of the 20kV transmission lines and the installation of three new 220kV towers and modifications.

VALUE TO CLIENT

Electrix is highly experienced managing situations with multiple stakeholders. The project involved working with key civil contractors, prefabricated building supplies and other specialized subcontractors.

The project was delivered on time and within budget and to the clients' satisfaction.

