

O'Connell Electric Co.'s Auburn Transmission Project Featured in Electric TV Clip

O'Connell Electric Co., a TEGG franchise in New York, recently helped provide power to a portion of Upstate New York by running nearly 15 miles of 115kv power lines as part of the Auburn Transmission Project.

The company, which has been a TEGG franchise since 1996, was featured in an [ElectricTV video on the Auburn Transmission Project](#).

David Emmi, Operations Manager of O'Connell Electric Co., said the project tied together two substations and was a mixture of double-circuit and triple-circuit transmissions in new and existing right-of-ways. It was a joint effort between National Grid and NYSEG, two of the two biggest utilities providers in New York.

The project proved to be challenging, since it also required dealing with rugged terrain and strict environmental regulations.

O'Connell Electric used 47 linemen from IBEW Local #1249 to do the job, and spent months planning the project. They worked with several contractors to lessen the threat damaging the environment to run the lines and build support structures. The regulations required them to take precautions to not disturb the habitat of any federally-regulated endangered species, including Northern Long-Eared Bats, bald eagles, ospreys and bog turtles.

The crews used special matting and protective systems to work in swampy areas and wetlands, and to deal with crossing two 40-foot-wide streams.

Randy Fletcher, General Foreman of O'Connell Electric, said in some areas, they had to prepare roadways to access areas where they needed to build structures to run the lines.

"There's a lot of inherent risk in construction, and the name of the game is to eliminate risk or reduce it to the smallest manageable quantity," Emmi said. "The biggest tool in my eyes is to get a project team together that works safely to build a plan and deliver that plan, and deliver a quality project with pride."

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O'Connell Electric Crews and linemen from IBEW Local #1249 work to install 115kv power lines as part of the Auburn Transmission Project, which was recently featured in a video by Electric TV.



O'CONNELL ELECTRIC COMPANY