

New Power Lines Built in Upstate New York

Seasoned and novice linemen worked and learned together while rebuilding lines in upstate New York.

Working in the mountains of upstate New York this past summer, five qualified line mechanics, 14 apprentice linemen and two heavy equipment operators rebuilt old and deteriorated transmission lines from Chestertown to North Creek, N.Y., that were inadequate for current load requirements.

The 6.4 mile project, the first phase of a two-phase project to replace transmission lines from Chestertown to the N.Y. Route 8 crossing beyond North Creek, N.Y., created a reliable back up system for the North Creek, Indian Lake, Schroon Lake, Pottersville and Chestertown areas.

“Our guys took great pride in working on this project and they did an excellent job,” said Dave Schreckenberger, supervisor of Transmission and Distribution for the Warrensburg District.

The project, which was completed on time and within budget, provided an opportunity for those with many years of experience to work alongside and teach some of the newer linemen.

“Since the work was being done off the road,” explained



Line crews from throughout New York's Eastern Division replaced and repaired 6.4 miles of transmission line through mountainous terrain from Chestertown to North Creek, N.Y.

Schreckenberger, “the guys didn’t have a bucket truck; all the work was done by climbing. This was a

different scenario than what some of them were used to.”

The first step in the project was to remove the existing wire and poles. The crews broke the job down into sections, first removing the old equipment and then rebuilding or repairing the section by installing new poles, cross arms, hardware and wire, etc.

“Crews were broken up so groups would be working ahead tearing down the next section while the other group rebuilt the first section,” said Butch Hurley, chief line mechanic hotstick, Warrensburg, N.Y., who served as the project’s foreman. “Personnel were interchanged so everyone got to work on all facets of the project.”

“The younger guys were given a chance to do things they don’t normally do and they got very good at it,” said Chuck Milos,

chief line mechanic hotstick, Glens Falls, N.Y., who served as the job steward. “We all looked forward to working on this job. It was an opportunity to really use our skills and training on an important project.”

The linemen who worked on the project were from throughout New York’s Eastern Division; the equipment operators were from North Albany and Syracuse.

“I don’t think I’ve ever worked with a bunch of young people who listened to what you said and only had to be told once how to do things,” commented Hurley. “They got to see all of the equipment and how it works; they took to it very well and couldn’t wait to get to the next step in the project.” ♦