

O'Connell Electric Company

In construction, highlighting key projects which demonstrate a company's expertise and the market segments in which they specialize is critical to establishing credibility and promoting business. For O'Connell Electric Company, a U.S. Top 50 specialty contractor, I developed 53 in-depth project write-ups for their corporate website, each through a series of interviews and research. This is one of the project write-ups.

Project: Bliss Wind Farm

Project Overview:

Bliss Wind Farm, a 100.5 megawatt wind power generation site, was the first of several wind farms recently developed in the Greater Niagra Region of Upstate New York. The site features 67 GE 1.5 megawatt turbines and represents a \$200 million investment in clean, renewable energy funded by G.E. Energy Services and operated by Noble Environmental Power.

O'Connell's Role:

O'Connell's contribution spanned three diverse aspects of the Noble Bliss project—testing, power line construction, and data communications.

Prior to breaking ground, Nobel contracted with our Technical Services Division to provide acceptance testing for the project's underground cable while it was still on spools at their warehouse. After construction, we performed all acceptance testing for the site's overhead collection and tower grounding systems and on each of the 67 turbine tower transformers. We also provided site energization and start-up support.

O'Connell's Power Line Division sealed a deal with Noble for \$3.6 million to do their part. Line work involved running 115kV overhead transmission line between the site's 34.5/115kV substation and grid interconnection substation, 14 miles away, and 25 miles of overhead collection system, single, double, and triple 34.5kV circuit Hendrix Cable construction. All line work was completed within 10 months.

Our Communications Division was awarded the fiber optics portion of the project. Fiber cable carries crucial operation and performance data from instrumentation on each turbine to a single collection point at the site. From there it is transmitted to a commercial processing center where it is monitored and analyzed. O'Connell reel tested and installed 90,000 feet of fiber optic cable, performing 1600 terminations, 110 aerial and pedestal splice points, and all final post-termination fiber testing.