In 2013, Westar selected five substations where we expected Greenjacket would provide the most benefit. In the three years leading up to that, animal and bird-caused customer outage minutes at those five locations averaged about 500,000 annually. In 2014, after Greenjacket was installed those outage minutes dropped significantly to 50,000, and then to zero minutes in 2015.

Dave Claussen, Westar Executive Director System Maintenance
In addition to the precise-fit solution applied to existing substation equipment, Greenjacket Inc’s design team worked to develop barriers for their 12kV gang-operated disconnects. The barriers are mounted to the support structure between each phase of the disconnects without affecting their operation. With the barriers in place, phase-to-phase contacts by birds and animals are prevented. Westar is considering adding the new product as a standard mitigation measure going forward.

To assist Westar further with the prevention of outages, Greenjacket Inc’s services team provided installation training, both on-site and through online videos. Greenjacket Inc. has worked as Westar’s partner in both products and service support to become their go-to resource for animal outage mitigation. This partnership has resulted in the Greenjacket product being written into the Westar Engineering Standard for wildlife protection products going forward.

The Greenjacket product is highly visible by crews, installers and customers. The visible presence of the new protection assists in demonstrating to customers that actions are being taken to improve reliability. In addition, it provides opportunities for employees to educate customers about the benefits of wildlife covers when questioned about the green colored covers.

When asked about the installation process, Bryson Cyphers, Director of Substation Maintenance commented that “the Greenjacket crews were very thorough, detailed, and educated Westar installers on the value of the precise-fit covers, and the importance of layering and ensuring complete coverage. We couldn’t have asked for better solution or more timely response.”

Mr. Cyphers added, “Greenjacket has proved to be a valuable investment and an effective solution in reducing wildlife-caused outages at Westar. Their thorough approach to surveying and applying coverage at vulnerable locations coupled with detailed installation practices have yielded a precise-fit coverage option that has significantly improved customer reliability where it has been applied.”

Thus far, the Greenjacket solution has been implemented at 15 substations, with more on the horizon.

“Greenjacket has proved to be a valuable investment and an effective solution in reducing wildlife-caused outages at Westar. Their thorough approach to surveying and applying coverage at vulnerable locations coupled with detailed installation practices have yielded a precise-fit coverage option that has significantly improved customer reliability where it has been applied.”

Bryson Cyphers, Westar, Director of Substation Maintenance

For further information, please contact:

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