

GRUNAU GRAM

Fall 2011

PROTECTING THE POWER GRID

Grunau's Ohio fire protection branch put its special hazards expertise to work during a variety of uniquely-challenging jobs at local coal-fired power plants.

QUICK FIX TRANSFORMERS

The Ohio team installed deluge protection systems for two industrial transformers at W.H. Sammis Power and Harrison Power Station. Deluge systems use heat detectors to send signals to a control panel that operates the water valve, which then sprays water through a series of nozzles.

Transformer projects usually require an extremely fast turnaround, but Grunau faced an added challenge at Sammis, where one of the transformers went out unexpectedly. Grunau received Sammis' call at 10 a.m. and gathered a team by 1 p.m. to begin work. The fire protection system had to be dismantled in order to install the new transformer.

Grunau technicians worked around-the-clock for four days to complete the job. Once the new transformer was in place, they reinstalled the fire protection system using most of the existing pipes and fittings to minimize cost and fabrication labor.

Strict time constraints also were an issue at Harrison. Grunau worked over a weekend to complete the installation and testing within the client's six-day window and with live transformers on-site, Grunau employees adhered to OSHA power plant regulations.

TAKING FIRE PROTECTION TO NEW HEIGHTS

For a job at Cardinal Power Plant, Grunau removed the fire protection system from around the company's coal pipes, which developed holes over time due to age and wear. Once the coal pipes were replaced, Grunau installed a modified fire protection system around them.

In some cases, the coal piping hung nearly 60 feet in the air, so technicians

▲ Grunau installed a new fire protection system around one of Harrison's transformers.

used scaffolding and lifts to complete the installation. Since multiple trades needed to work in parallel on this project, Grunau collaborated closely with others to ensure a coordinated, efficient effort.

"Project Manager Jack Carney and the Grunau team are a real class act and were great to work with."

— Doug Van Nuys, Fire Protection Supervisor at Cardinal

THE HUMAN ELEMENT

Grunau customizes fire protection systems that not only protect important equipment, but also human lives. The safety of Cardinal's workforce took priority when the company asked Grunau to swap out its CO² fire suppression system with a double interlock preaction system. The previous system might stop a fire, but it potentially put lives at risk by releasing CO² into the air, which could quickly turn toxic for anyone trapped inside.

Unlike many systems, which only require one trigger to activate, the newly-installed double interlock system requires two — either smoke or heat *and* loss of air pressure. This ensures the system won't fill electrical areas with water unless it's absolutely necessary.

Grunau delivered high-quality fire protection systems that protect both people and equipment.



▲ A fire protection discharge test is run at Sammis after the emergency installation of a new transformer.

