

2004 AWARDS COMPETITION WINNERS



Most Unusual Move



Minty's Moving, Ltd. Onanole, Manitoba, Canada



Harold Minty

There were many unusual things about this job. The first was Minty's was awarded the job of moving a 157 tons transformer even though they were not the successful bidder. That went to Mammoet of Edmonton, Alberta. Prior to bidding Minty's made several requests for axle load limits for the spillway plus the power dam where the load would traverse but were advised axle load limits were not an issue. As it turned out it became an issue when Mammoet, due to their axle configuration, could not properly distribute the weight.

One week before the scheduled date for the move, Manitoba Hydro (MH) contacted Minty's to inquire if Minty's could be prepared to under take the project

using a ten-dolly configuration. This was one of the options Minty's had proposed to MH in their bid originally. A site visit was arranged. It was determined confined working space on parts of the route would not permit use of a ten-dolly configuration for the entire route, however, the ten-dolly configuration could be used to cross the spillway and the powerhouse.

How Minty's crew traveled to the project location was also unusual. Personnel and equipment mobilized to Thompson, Manitoba, a distance of 500 miles, and loaded all equipment onto five railway cars. The crew then flew into the remote job site and fished for a day and a half while relaxing and awaiting arrival



The job took place at this remote Manitoba Hydro facility in Manitoba.

of the equipment.

The transformer had already arrived, also by rail, and had to be transferred from the rail car to Minty's transporter. This was not included in the original proposal as MH had previously planned to perform the transformer themselves. This change was brought about due to a one-week delay in the arrival of the transformer. MH employees had already been scheduled for vacation and consequently were not available to work the project.

Once the transformer had been transferred to Minty's transporter the move preceded on the ten dollies across the spillway. Four dollies were then removed in order to make a sharp ninety-degree turn simultaneously with a twelve percent grade. After the turn and descent had been successfully negotiated the dollies were narrowed to an outside to outside width of 13.5" to travel 150 feet on a narrow roadway between a rushing water intake of the dam on the left and a sixty foot drop on the right with the power house building immediately in front. After making this precarious move the four dollies were re-installed and with a fifteen feet wide stance the transformer was moved across the dam and on to a switching yard. A two and a half feet containment wall was ramped



Equipment and personnel on route from Onanole to Thompson where the equipment was loaded aboard rail way cars.



The transformer arrived by railcar one week late.

in order to cross over and down to the transformer pad.

All dollies and beams were...

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Transformer being transferred from the railcar to Minty's transporter.



Due to unusual physical constraints equipment had to be modified while performing movement of the transformer.