

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER (AEP) CARDINAL POWER PLANT, BRILLIANT, OHIO

POWER PLANT AND 380,000 ELECTRIC POWER CUSTOMERS RELY ON KONECRANES SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT

The American Electric Power (AEP) Cardinal Power Plant generates 1,830 megawatts of power, using three coal-fired, steam-electric power generation units. The facility is jointly owned by AEP and Buckeye Power, Inc., which consists of 25 rural electric cooperatives that serve members in 77 of Ohio's 88 counties.

FROM MODEST BEGINNINGS

More than 380,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries depend daily on the AEP Cardinal Power Plant. And since 2004, the power plant has significantly increased reliance on Konecranes overhead crane service and equipment to help maintain the flow of electricity to customers, says Frank Cogar of the Konecranes Pittsburgh, Pa. branch.

The Cardinal plant is the largest AEP facility that Konecranes serves. But Konecranes' role at Cardinal began modestly, with an OSHA periodic inspection contract that did not include repair service.

PROVING KONECRANES' VALUE

Since then, Konecranes' role has steadily expanded to a comprehensive program of inspection, preventive maintenance, repair, crane modernization and new equipment. Cogar credits that to "good customer service and by being honest and upfront, telling them how it is." And, he said, Konecranes team members persevered in making the case for the value of Konecranes service.

Konecranes' gear case inspections proved especially convincing, Cogar said. They have revealed and prevented potentially catastrophic problems. One inspection found a fracture in the friction disk of the mechanical load brake of a turbine crane, which lifts turbines for maintenance. This could have resulted in a costly, disruptive load drop.

NOW A PART OF THE TEAM

Since the fall of 2012, Konecranes has had a contract to keep two technicians on-site to manage crane inspections and service. In addition, Konecranes has modernized a 40-ton P&HTM gantry crane and will modernize two turbine cranes—a 170-ton P&HTM crane in 2014 and a 30-ton crane in 2015.

Konecranes also has installed more than 30 hoists in the plant, including electric chain hoists, electric wire rope hoists and manual chain hoists for maintenance of pollution control equipment.



"They keep our cranes up and running. They inspect them to make sure everything is working, and they help us keep up-to-date and in compliance with safety standards. That way nobody gets hurt. When a turbine crane breaks down, they jump on it, any time, day or night."

Mike Dichazi, production service supervisor III at the Cardinal Power PlantSystems



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