

# MUD LAKE TO BIG LAKE RIVER CROSSING TOWERS

**SERVICE AREA:** Tower Construction

**LOCATION:** Lake Charles, Louisiana

**SCOPE:** Assembly of two 345 ft Pyramax transmission river crossing towers with the use of an air crane.

**CUSTOMER:** Irby Construction, Dashiell, Entergy Louisiana

**DATE:** August 2023

In 2023, Entergy Louisiana sought to build 15 miles of transmission line consisting of 150 new pole structures. Included in the project were two structures on either side of the Calcasieu river that could withstand hurricane force winds up to 175 mph.

The two river crossing structures to be built were 345ft tall, exceeding the capabilities of cranes on the ground and requiring the use of a helicopter to assemble. Gulf Services was enlisted to create a detailed plan for constructing the towers. With just 28 days on the schedule with the air crane, along with a short time frame for receiving, organizing, and repairing the tower components, Gulf Services faced numerous challenges.

Ultimately, the team changed course on their original assembly plan. Rather than pre-building sections and lifting them, the towers were built piece by piece. The team also quickly learned that it would be more efficient to combine crews and do one tower at a time, rather than divide and conquer. With the pivot in the plan, the team sped up production by 50%, finishing the assembly of both structures in just 14 days.



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