

Subject: Low profile recloser solves cluttered pole clearance issue

Customer Category: Major western investor owned utility company

G&W Products: 38kV Viper® -S reclosers with “Z” modules and SEL 351-R controls

Issue: The utility faced an extensive replacement project for many of their old, oil-filled reclosers. Many installation sites where replacement was necessary incorporated very congested utility poles where maintaining clearances was an issue. The utility wanted to switch from oil reclosers to the latest solid dielectric designs. Ease of replacement and appearance were also key requirements.

Solution: G&W was already an approved supplier of solid dielectric reclosers with their Viper-S design utilizing conventional “L” modules (see photo below). The “L” module design however, would require some major reconstruction work to maintain electrical clearances. With G&W's flexibility in providing different solid dielectric modules to customize solutions for both switchgear and recloser applications, an ideal recloser configuration was agreed upon.

For this application, G&W utilized the “Z”-shaped interrupter module from it's low profile padmount Viper design to create a shorter profile overhead recloser. The “Z” module recloser with horizontal side bracket provides the reduced height needed to directly replace the existing oil-insulated reclosers without any pole reconstruction or change of overhead line connections. The low profile design provided the most aesthetically pleasing solution compared to any other options considered by the utility. With this solution in place, the utility can continue to use the existing poles and maintain the necessary electrical clearances.

For more information: G&W has been a quality supplier of reclosers, switchgear and cable accessories worldwide for over 100 years. A complete line of solid dielectric reclosers for overhead, substation, and dead-front padmount applications are available. Contact your G&W representative or visit www.gwelec.com.



The low profile design of G&W's 38kV recloser (above) permitted maintaining electrical clearances while providing a direct replacement of the old oil-filled gear (15kV shown in inset) without any pole reconstruction.



Above: G&W 38kV Viper-S recloser with “Z” modules.

Left: G&W 27kV Viper-S recloser with “L” modules.

