



NEWPARK
MATS & INTEGRATED SERVICES

PROJECT CASE STUDY

Wind Farm Requires Quick Site Access Amid Muddy Conditions

Client
Contractor for Major
Renewable Energy Provider

Location
Wharton County, TX



1-877-MAT-ROAD
MatSales@Newpark.com
www.NewparkMats.com

BACKGROUND

Prairie Switch Wind Farm, a 160MW wind farm project located near El Campo in Wharton County, Texas, was designed to provide a reliable and sustainable energy source to the Texas electric grid.

This multi-faceted project, which included the construction of a substation and O&M building, laying of transmission lines, and installation of 48, 3.4MW wind turbines required safe and reliable worksite access to begin construction.

Newpark was asked by the contractor to provide 100 DURA-BASE mats to facilitate the planned delivery of 48 wind turbines.

However, as the project progressed and delivery date approached, it became clear that access to the wind turbine locations might be more of a challenge than anticipated.

CHALLENGE

Several weeks of consistent rain in the area caused the ground to become heavily saturated. Construction crews faced a considerable challenge due to the muddy conditions brought about by the persistent rain.

The trucks hauling the 200 ft long wind turbine blades required temporary roads to be cut into the cotton fields to enable wide turns and access to each turbine pad location.

SOLUTION

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the contractor quickly requested an additional 6,000 DURA-BASE mats from Newpark to support the construction of temporary access roads.

Newpark responded promptly by sourcing mats from various local yards in Texas and Louisiana. This rapid response allowed them to fulfill the order and provide the necessary infrastructure to address the challenging conditions.



NEWPARK
MATS & INTEGRATED SERVICES



RESULTS

Upon completion of this project, the client was able to gain safe and reliable access to the work site, enabling the on-time delivery and staging of more 48 wind turbines.

The DURA-BASE mats provided the necessary access to each turbine pad, allowing the contractor to efficiently make a single equipment drop next to the appropriate pad for each turbine. This eliminated the need for a common laydown yard and secondary moves once soil and road conditions allowed, streamlining the construction process.

Prairie Switch Wind Farm, once completed, will inject millions of dollars into the local tax base and allow ongoing ranching and farming operations to continue without significant disruption.



1-877-MAT-ROAD
MatSales@Newpark.com
www.NewparkMats.com