

CASE STUDY

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Long Rail Delivery System

Company Profile

BNSF Logistics is a technology and people-driven third-party logistics company with a dynamic Engineering Services Team that offers mechanical and civil design solutions for rail including railcar design, dimensional shipments, civil site plans, and inspection services.

Business Challenge

Existing continuous welded rail (CWR) delivery systems are a resource-heavy and time consuming asset. Rail sections were formerly produced in 80-foot sections that were welded together to form 1,600-foot sections of rail that typically require a special train to move to their final destinations.

Solution

BNSF Logistics engineers developed a revolutionary long rail delivery system that significantly reduces resources and time to deliver 320-foot sections of long rail from the steel mill to the end destination. This innovative design reduces the number of railcars needed to a consist of 5 that move by manifest rail. The drop-down securement rack system has a capacity for 60 rails. The ability for top loading shortens loading time from several days to a few hours.

Process/Procedure

BNSF Logistics Engineers are revolutionizing rail transport with their inventive design that addresses industry needs and conforms to AAR Open Top Loading requirements and design standards. The process includes the following major milestones:

- Design the consist and securement mechanism
- Prototype and test securement mechanism design (Q1 2020)
- Prototype one consist to test the consist operation plan (Q2 2020)
- Production run of 5 consists (Q4 2021)

Benefits Achieved

- Reduces loading and unloading time/manpower
- Increases throughput at fabrication shops
- Improves delivery flexibility direct to installation site
- Eliminates intermediary freight of stick rail to rail welding plants

