

## CASE STUDY

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# Catenary Tension-Stringing Machine Move with Engineering Oversight

## Company Profile

National rail operator that connects America with 21,000 route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces.

## Business Challenge

The client requested assistance from BNSF Logistics for a special project being manufactured by Tesmec in Alvarado, Texas. The client ordered a catenary tension stringing machine and a work car for deployment in Delaware. BNSF Logistics was initially asked to provide on-site inspection services on the client's behalf during the design and construction of these machines. The team recognized early in the project that the shipment of these vehicles would require heavy equipment moving experience and engineering oversight. As a full-service provider, the client requested BNSF Logistics' assistance planning the move of these 86 and 110 ton units in addition to the inspection services already being performed.

## Solution

BNSF Logistics reduced shipping costs by 44% through a carefully planned rail move that required a thorough understanding of AAR rules and FRA regulations. BNSF Logistics understood that the units were designed for use on rails and developed a plan to move them by rail versus heavy truck. The manufacturing plant was a long distance from the nearest rail siding; so equipment was brought in to the manufacturing plant to lift the units and secure them to large trucks for transportation to the nearest designated transload area. Heavy cranes lifted the units from the trucks and placed them directly on the rails. Idler cars were then coupled to the units to satisfy AAR and FRA handbrake requirements. The plan also included shrink-wrapping the commodity to prevent damage and unauthorized access during transportation. Once in place, the logistics team coordinated the move of the 2 units across BNSF, NS, and CSX rail lines.

## Process/Procedure

BNSF Logistics successfully managed this project by working closely with the client and Tesmec to ensure all customer requirements were met within budget and on schedule. The elements we developed included:

- Close communication with the client and Tesmec
- Engineering review and oversight
- Logistics planning to transport the completed units to Delaware from Texas
- Quality assurance throughout the design and manufacture process with an aggregate surface.

## Benefits Achieved

- Significant cost reductions by using alternative rail transportation
- Successful delivery of commodities

