

TransGard Substation Fencing Protects Equipment and Prevents Animal Intrusions for Potomac Edison



Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., has installed new interior fencing at an Allegany County substation to help deter climbing animals and protect against electrical equipment interference that can cause power outages. The fencing from TransGard was installed around the 433-foot perimeter of the equipment, to help keep electricity safely flowing to customers while keeping animals out of harm's way.

Next to weather-related damage, animal intrusions are the most common cause of substation outages.

Every year, squirrels, snakes and other climbing animals cause hundreds of substation power outages that leave thousands without power — and cost millions in repairs.

Unlike other types of animal traps and deterrents, the patented TransGard fencing installed by Potomac Edison prevents a wide range of climbing animals — including squirrels, raccoons, opossums, cats, frogs and others — from accessing the substation equipment and discourages them from trying again.

"Equipment interference from an animal intrusion can cost thousands of dollars in damage and require hundreds of labor hours to repair as well as causing extended outages for customers," said James A. Sears, Jr., president of FirstEnergy's Maryland operations. "This special fencing is an economical solution to prevent these types of service disruptions in the future."

Potomac Edison has installed TransGard fencing at 17 substations across its service territory since 2014 and has seen a sharp decline in substation outages due to animals as a result.

"TransGard's patented design delivers a humane — but effective — electric shock that deters climbing animals," says Bill Reichard, President of TransGard. "Power providers use TransGard fences to protect more than 3,000 North American substations. Now, other sectors like the oil and gas industry are beginning to adopt TransGard to protect extensive infrastructure that's vulnerable to animal incursion."

Squirrels and other climbing animals have a highly developed memory that enables them to remember locations for food, warmth and shelter. With one brief contact with a fence panel, animals learn that a substation is not a welcoming location to visit and typically avoid it in the future.

TransGard fences feature a unique modular, freestanding design that offers fast installation, easy access and simple reconfiguration or expansion. The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) has called the TransGard approach the most effective barrier against animal incursion.

Learn more at www.transgardfence.com

