



Los Angeles Utility Saves Thousands of Dollars on Transformer Leak Repairs

The top flange of this large transformer at a local Southern California electrical utility substation was leaking oil. The nitrogen blanket that normally covers the transformer oil rarely requires re-charging. However, due to the steady leaks, the utility had to hook up nitrogen cylinders to the transformer in order to maintain the nitrogen blanket over the oil.

The utility evaluated three options: (1) drain the tank, remove the flange and replace the gasket; (2) remove the oil and weld the flange; or (3) repair and seal the leaking gasket with METALCLAD DurAlloy. The first two options would have cost the utility many thousands of dollars, but the DurAlloy repair would require only about \$500 worth of material and a couple of man-days of labor. The choice became simple: DurAlloy provided the long-term, cost-effective repair option.

Under the guidance of Ray Williams, ENECON's Regional Sales Director, six bolts were removed at a time and the area was thoroughly cleaned and degreased (old paint was removed). DurAlloy was then properly mixed and applied to the seal area. The bolts were then replaced. This procedure took a couple of days to complete but now the transformer, installed in the 1960's, is leak-free. The utility has already purchased additional DurAlloy to seal more transformer leaks at their other substations.