



Powering Down: Astoria Generating Station Demolition Project



R. Baker and Son recently completed a major demolition project at NRG Energy's Astoria Generating Station in Queens, New York. This complex undertaking involved the removal of three buildings housing twelve Pratt & Whitney twin-pack gas turbine generator sets and their auxiliary mechanical and electrical equipment, as well as two massive oil storage tanks.

The project's scope included:

- Demolition of three main buildings and associated infrastructure
- Removal of two 2-million-gallon oil storage tanks and related structures
- Foundation removal, including pile caps, leaving only deep-foundation piles in place

To tackle the challenge, R. Baker and Son deployed a 15-person demolition team and an array of heavy equipment. This included multiple high-capacity excavators fitted with specialized demolition attachments, concrete crushers, and advanced dust suppression systems.

Safety and environmental responsibility were top priorities throughout the six-month project. Our team implemented a comprehensive site-specific safety plan that integrated the client's protocols, supported by a full-time safety manager who was present on-site daily to ensure strict adherence to safety standards. Dust control measures were rigorously applied, and all recycling was performed in accordance with, and often exceeding, LEED guidelines. A notable example of sustainable practices

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R. Baker & Son holds the distinction of being the oldest and largest Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Rigging, Dismantling & Demolition Contractor in North America



entailed crushing and reusing concrete from the demolition to fill voids created during the process. Also, our asset recovery efforts generated additional project credits, underscoring the value of a full-service approach.

This successful project is the latest addition to our extensive portfolio of energy facility work. Our proven track record in rigging, demolition, and asset recovery continues to make R. Baker and Son a trusted partner for complex industrial projects.



QUALITY AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to James Macaluso, this quarter's recipient of the R. Baker & Son Quality Award. The Quality Award program was established to recognize individuals for their outstanding achievements in safety, project execution, and customer satisfaction, and for their continuing dedication to R. Baker & Son's growth and success.

Thank you, James, for a job well done!

Planning and Preparation for Rigging Near Overhead Power Lines

Projects that involve operating cranes, heavy equipment, or other machinery near overhead power lines are among the most challenging jobs a rigging company can undertake. Given the significant safety concerns associated with working in close proximity to active power lines, meticulous planning and strict compliance with OSHA safety regulations and guidelines are crucial. These precautions are essential to mitigate risks and ensure the well-being of all personnel involved in such operations.



During the initial planning phase of any rigging project, a 360-degree hazard assessment must be conducted inside the work zone. This assessment aids in establishing the required machinery size and type, charting safe routes, and determining clearances. If there is a potential for equipment to approach or exceed the minimum safe distances from the power lines, the power company must be notified. Depending on the circumstances, the utility might opt to de-energize and ground the power lines and/or provide insulated barriers, or they may choose to relocate the lines to achieve the necessary minimum clearances.

When working in proximity to live power lines, OSHA requirements are clear-cut. For power lines rated at 50 kV or less, all parts of the crane, boom, rigging equipment, and loads carried must maintain a minimum distance of 10 ft. This clearance requirement increases to 20 ft. for lines rated between 50 kV and 350 kV and further extends to 50 ft. for lines exceeding 350 kV. In cases where voltage cannot be determined, cranes and rigging equipment must remain at least 45 ft. away.

A crucial aspect of safety planning involves convening a meeting with the crane or equipment operator and the rigging team to review the rigging plan in detail to ensure all requirements are followed and there is no possibility of encroachment. All tag lines used must be non-conductive to prevent electrocution. An elevated warning line, barricade, or line of electrocution hazard warning signs equipped with high-visibility flags should be positioned 20 ft. from the power line, within the crane operator's line of sight. Additionally, one or more of the following safety measures is required: a dedicated spotter, a proximity alarm, a range control device, a range of motion limiting device, and/or an insulating link.

Finally, only equipment operators, riggers, spotters, and other team members who have received comprehensive training and qualification in safe operating procedures should be permitted to work in close proximity to power lines to ensure that safe distances are not breached. This includes being well-versed in how to react in the event that safety measures fail and contact with an energized line occurs.

For more information on R. Baker & Son's safety protocols for working near overhead power lines, please contact us at 732-222-3553. Safety is our utmost priority.