

CASE STUDY

ENERGY. FREIGHT AND SUPPLY CHAIN EFFICIENCY.

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Energy. Freight and supply chain efficiency.

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Faced with harsh weather, strict schedule coordination and parties in multiple time zones, CB&I turned to Livingston to deliver their foundational steel pilings on time and on budget.

Heading to Northern Alberta

The Kearl oil sands project, located about 70 km north of Fort McMurray, Alberta, is one of Canada's largest open-pit mining operations. The location generates up to 345,000 barrels of oil a day, helping to meet the energy demands of North Americans well in to the future. CB&I has been a key player in the first phase of construction of this project.

CB&I, based out of Woodland, Texas, has lent its design, engineering, construction, fabrication, maintenance and environmental expertise to a number of high-profile, large scale projects. And most important for the oil sands project, they have a reputation for delivering solutions that are both timely and cost-effective.

A strong foundation to build on

CB&I had been working on the Kearl oil sands project for about four years, helping build the infrastructure for the project including pipe racks, storage tanks, processing

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units and more. Much of that infrastructure starts with large steel sheet pilings, 85 feet in length, that are driven into the ground and used to support structures built on top of them. Although just a small component of CB&I's overall work on the Kearl project, the steel pilings are a foundational element – an extremely important part of the project.

The steel pilings came in to port in Vancouver on a single purchase order from a supplier in Germany. When it came time to deliver the steel sheet pilings to the project location, CB&I reached out to market seeking quotes for a freight partner.

Considering the challenges

With CB&I being in Texas, the vendor in Germany, the pilings in Vancouver and the site in Alberta, it was a real challenge to managing such a large-scaled project that involved multiple locations and time zones. Strong communication between all parties would be required for a smooth, efficient delivery.

Compounding the situation was the fact that the 85-foot steel pilings themselves were larger than any standard truck trailer bed, which generally have a capacity of 40 feet. Delivery was also needed during the winter months, which can be particularly harsh in Canada's northwest region; and with more than 80 loads of pilings, coordinating multiple trucks in and out of the job site was more than a little tricky.

How Livingston helped

In oil and gas, time is money; CB&I needed a reliable freight services provider who could get the steel pilings from Vancouver to Fort McMurray quickly and efficiently. The quote from Livingston International was chosen based largely on the company's promise to handle all aspects of coordinating the move.

To handle the oversized shipment, Livingston arranged for special equipment to transport it safely to the oil sands site. First, the pilings were moved by rail from Vancouver to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, about 400 km south of Fort McMurray. Moving the pilings on rail wasn't a problem, but getting them to the final destination would require special "trombone trailers" with flexible, extendable beds.

After sourcing enough trombone trailers to move the 85 loads of pilings, Livingston helped coordinate the on-site delivery. With 25 to 30 trucks a day going into the job site, it was a challenge ensuring the pilings arrived on time, were offloaded and the trucks moved out quickly, all alongside other deliveries.

"It was a big coordination problem, getting them up there in a timely manner," said Tony Brookshire, Sr. Logistics Manager at CB&I. "From there they had to be physically unloaded quickly so the truck could get out without having to stay all day or overnight, because time with that equipment is expensive."

Livingston leveraged its resources across multiple locations to coordinate the the physical movement of the piling by rail and then truck. The Livingston team also managed and coordinated the delivery at the job site, ensuring the trucks came and went – and the pilings were offloaded – smoothly and efficiently.



Ahead of time and under budget

With Livingston's Freight Forwarding experts at the helm in each of the key locations, CB&I was able to get their steel pilings to the oil sands project site a week ahead of schedule. What's more, the final accounting came in under CB&I's designated budget.

"Livingston handled the whole thing, and they did an excellent job," Tony said. "It was one of the smoothest transitions of an order like this that I've ever had. I had an order like this a year earlier, but the manufacturer handled the delivery, and it was a complete nightmare. So I was really proud of Livingston because it just went without a hitch."

In partnering with an industry leader like Livingston, CB&I was able to maintain its own reputation as a leader in its field.

Contact Livingston

Have questions or need help managing your freight requirements? We're here to help. Email us at: simplify@livingstonintl.com or give us a call at **1-800-837-1063**

