

Company Name: RKM Crane Services LTD

Project Name: Vestas Windfarm

Project Value: \$800,000.00

In June 2023, RKM Crane Services Ltd was hired to assist the Vestas crews in exchanging 9 turbine blades and 3 gear boxes at the Cape Scott Windfarm in Port Hardy. To complete this task, they brought along their 500-ton crane and a 90-ton support crane.

Although there weren't many physical moving parts involved in this job, they faced numerous challenges. The road to the site alone was no easy task for the 8 trucks and trailers that were needed to bring the 500-ton crane to the site. Impressive driving skills were needed to navigate the steep and treacherous forest roads. Nearby forest fires, fog banks, and high winds made the operation difficult. The fog banks forced their cranes to be grounded, while the high winds made it impossible to lift the equipment safely.

To ensure safety during the operation, they used tag lines running from the blades to the ground crew. These tag lines were an impressive 300 feet long, allowing the ground crew to control the movement of the blades. The 500-ton crane was utilizing the superlift feature to increase its lifting capability for the 50,000 lb load that needed to reach 80m in the air.

The gear boxes were located 80 meters above the ground, leaving them with no room for error. Precise positioning and coordination were crucial to successfully replace the gear boxes without any accidents.

Despite the challenges, RKM Crane Services Ltd was able to complete the job successfully and contribute to the maintenance of the Cape Scott Windfarm. This project was their second year returning and because of their team's great work they are in talks to return for a 3rd year in a row.