Maintenance Report: Swapping Out the Old Cable Between Station F and Station E

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Alright, so here’s the story of how we got the power flowing smoothly again between Station F and Station E. Last week, on May 14, 2025, our monitoring system started throwing up warnings about voltage fluctuations on the line. After some poking around, we found the old cable was starting to give up—cracked insulation, some corrosion, the works. It was clear we needed to swap it out before it caused a real headache, so we got to work planning a full replacement.

We went with a brand-new type 11W1 electrical cable, which is a solid choice for this kind of job. It’s tough, handles high loads, and should keep things running without a hitch for years. The distance between F and E is exactly 3500 meters, so that’s how much cable we needed. Getting that 11W1 cable wasn’t cheap—it set us back $4,500, but you get what you pay for with something built to last in this kind of setup. We had it delivered to Station F by May 18, ready for the big day.

On May 20, we rolled up our sleeves and got to it. The crew—five of us, including me—started at Station F at 06:30, shutting down the line to make sure nobody got zapped. Pulling out the old cable was a bit of a slog, but we got it done and sent it off for recycling. The whole job took us about 16 hours, and with everyone’s time factored in, the labor cost came to $1,600. Not bad for a full day’s work making sure the power stays on.

Laying in the new 11W1 cable was the fun part. We had to be careful to keep it straight and avoid any kinks. We used some heavy-duty gear, like a cable winch and a set of crimping tools, which we rented for $450 for the day. Oh, and we needed a couple of industrial-grade adapters to hook the new cable into the terminals at both stations. Those ran us $250 each, so $500 total, but they’re critical for making sure everything connects cleanly.

Once the cable was in place, we ran a bunch of tests to make sure it was all good. We checked voltage, resistance, and load capacity with a multimeter and a load tester we rented for $300. Everything came back perfect—no drops, no faults, just a nice, steady flow. We wrapped up around 22:30, tired but happy with a job well done. The new 11W1 cable should keep Station F and Station E humming along for at least 20 years, and we’ve got a checkup planned for June 15, 2025, just to be sure.

All in all, it was a long day, but we got it done right. Records of the tests and costs are filed away if anyone needs to dig into the details.

Cheers,

Mike Carter

Maintenance Technician