



CASE STUDY



HULCHER INSTALLS GAGE TIES FOR RAILROAD TIE GANGS

Scope

The railroad was refurbishing two branches off a main line to support new industry customers. Beyond the project's operational necessities, it was crucial to restore the branches to full capability as a foundation for establishing a good relationship with their new clients. To complete the project on time, the railroad needed a properly equipped backhoe and an operator who understood railroad work to install gage ties ahead of their tie gangs.

Solution

Hulcher Services used a Caterpillar® 420E backhoe with regular and cribbing buckets and an extendable arm with thumb, specifically designed for railroad work. The equipment was operated by one of Hulcher's backhoe operators, a railroad professional with years of training, experience on the right-of-way and the proper safety certifications for all Class 1 railroads.

The backhoe worked ahead of the tie gangs, selecting and removing the most damaged ties and replacing them with gage ties for the railroad to work from. Because the operator was experienced with replacing rail ties and understood the tie gangs' specific needs, he was able to stay ahead of the railroad crews so they could work straight through, without delays.

Outcome

Hulcher's backhoe supported the railroad's tie gangs as they refurbished several two-mile to four-mile stretches on both branches to their main line. With Hulcher's support the branches were restored to full operating capability on schedule, ready to support the new industry customers.

KEY FACTS

PROJECT SUMMARY: Backhoe to support railroad crews on critical track refurbishment project.

THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT: Backhoe was fitted with the right railroad-specific attachments to install the gage ties quickly and effectively.

RAILROAD PROFESSIONAL: Experienced operator kept pace to stay ahead of the rail gangs.

