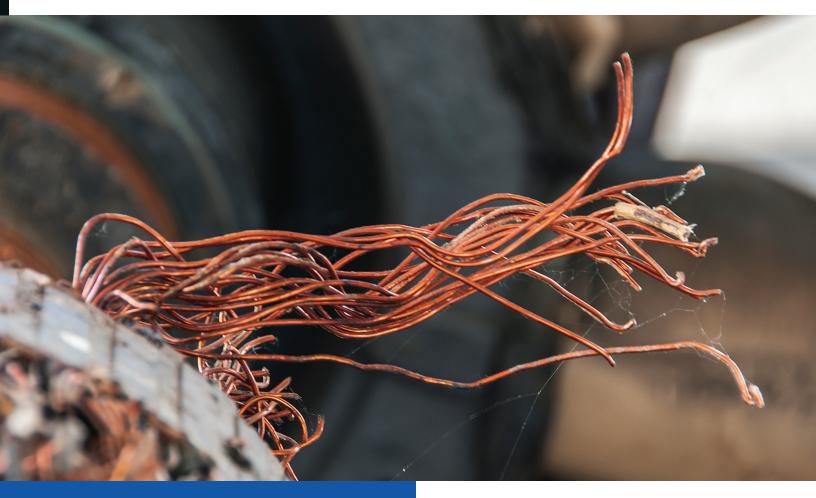


# **Conquering Copper Theft with OPTEX Battery-Powered Detectors**



## The Site

Multiple electrical substations operated by a major electric power holding company in the Midwestern United States. These remote and expansive sites contain critical infrastructure and are often unstaffed, making them vulnerable to theft and environmental challenges.

## The Challenge

Due to rising copper prices, the company faced a surge in copper theft, resulting in extensive damage, service interruptions, and hazardous grounding conditions. Each theft, while yielding only a small amount of copper, caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs and downtime. With changing site conditions, large perimeters, and a no-trenching requirement, finding a flexible and reliable security solution was critical.

### The Solution

A regional integrator partnered with OPTEX to implement a wireless perimeter security solution tailored to the unique challenges of the substations. Pairs of OPTEX SL-350QFRi photoelectric beam sensors were mounted inside beam towers to form 350-foot point-to-point protection lines along the fence line and around automatic gates. These battery-powered, wireless sensors required no trenching or external power, enabling fast and flexible deployment across the sites.

## **Added OPTEX Value**

When provided with a site plan, OPTEX will custom-build and pre-install photoelectric beam sensors into towers based on exact job site specifications — at no extra charge. Each tower is labeled and shipped directly to the job site, ready for quick installation, saving integrators time and effort.

