

Eaton Centre

Location:

Toronto, Ontario

Owner:

Cadillac Fairview

Contract Value:

\$ 1.7 million

Type of Contract:

PCB

Job Completed:

February, 2008



Ainsworth was awarded a \$1.7 million contract by Cadillac Fairview for replacing the PCB Transformers at Eaton Centre with dry type transformers. Cadillac Fairview is one of North America's largest investors, owners and managers of commercial real estate.

Eaton Centre is Canada's premier shopping destination located at the south-west corner of Yonge Street and Dundas Street, in Toronto Ontario. It stretches 2 blocks and is a 5 storey glass building connecting 3 office towers.

Eaton Centre was built in 1976, at which time 14 Indoor PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) fluid filled transformers were installed to supply power from Toronto Hydro at 13.8kv. By 1977, compelling scientific evidence proved that the toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative properties of PCBs were a serious hazard to human health and environment. This led to legislation being passed whereby, PCBs had to be removed and properly destroyed.

Ainsworth's biggest challenge was to perform this job without disrupting normal shopping and business hours. With the PCBs being located in multiple locations around the facility, the logistics had to be well planned. Due to size and weight of these transformers, door openings had to be widened and elevators had to be modified to bring in the new dry type transformers for installation.

Draining and dismantling of the old units had to be performed during non-business hours. Specialized care was taken to ensure ventilation was installed to vent vapours to the outside atmosphere and not enter the building's ventilation system. During the course of this project, the power supply was arranged using paralleling sequence so as to have no seen power loss throughout the facility.

The job was completed in 3 months.

