

## NO BACKING DOWN WITH AYERS TRANSPORT

When the rig in front of him stopped cold on a 7% grade, the driver for Ayers Transport thought he'd have to back down the hill. That could have been rough, since the load, a trenching machine for the wind turbine industry, boosted the weight of the tractor and 48-tire trailer to 250,000 pounds. Luckily for the driver the company had just purchased a Titan by Mack with a 605-HP MP10 engine and 4-speed auxiliary transmission to supplement the 18-speed manual.

"The driver put the auxiliary in first and put the main transmission in low and he just crawled up the hill," said Michael Ayers, who owns the Fort Worth, Texas firm. "He didn't have to back down."

Ayers Transport has hauled 120,000-pound dump trucks across Texas and a crane so heavy it took 23 rigs to move it. The trencher on the hill weighed 160,000 pounds and was intended for one of the industries the company serves — oil field, mining and general construction. The Titan by Mack that hauled it is one of three the company owns.

The Ayers Family has run Mack ever since Michael's grandfather founded another trucking company in the 1970s. "We checked out the competitors," he said. "We went into Bruckner Truck Sales and we were welcomed with open arms. They actually had a Titan there. We went for a test drive. I was amazed at how well the tractor ran, and at the horsepower and the torque."

All three Macks are designed for heavy haul. The one that topped the 7% grade sports a 20,000-pound-capacity steer axle, 20,000-pound-capacity lift axle, 46,000-pound-capacity Mack rear axles on an air ride suspension and a rear carrier ratio of 1:3.94. The second Titan is spec'd the same but without the four-speed auxiliary transmission. The third is spec'd the same as the first but with a rear carrier ratio of 1:4.35.

"I've been very impressed with them," Ayers said, splitting the credit among the truck, the dealer and his sales rep, Tom Tenseth at Bruckner's in Fort Worth. "They've done a stellar job with this truck. The power ... you pass everybody on the freeway hauling flatbeds, empty or loaded. You pass them going uphill. The trucks take whatever punishment you put them through. The pilot car drivers are amazed the trucks can keep up with traffic."

But Titan is more than a workhorse. It's got style and class, too.

"The trucks are celebrities," Ayers said. "Wherever you go people take pictures of them. They get you more interaction, and people remember your company better. A lot of our customers are very big on their image. When you're hauling new equipment to a customer, the dealer doesn't want the equipment cleaner than the truck. And it's just common sense that if you're running new models, you don't have the headaches of running older equipment. I'm impressed with the product. Mack has done a stellar job. They've helped us get the job done."

