



The Future Looks Bright for Electrical Construction Workers

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) Recently announced \$3.6 billion in transmission improvements planned for the next five years. In North Dakota, regulators approved a permit for a proposed \$375 million high-voltage power line to deliver more electricity to communities in western North Dakota's oil patch. "It's a lineman's paradise," boasts Mike Brookes, business manager for IBEW Local 55 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Closer to home, Brookes anticipates a steady amount of work for electrical construction workers throughout the Midwest. "Based on what I am seeing, the workload won't slow down in Iowa during the next three to five years." His counterparts in Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois are feeling just as positive about the steady rise in major transmission projects. One reason for their optimism is the Obama Administration's broader efforts to strengthen critical energy infrastructure and build a stronger, more reliable power grid.

Iowa Project Brings More Opportunities for Apprentices

Within the next several months, T&D Power will start running 191 miles of 161KV and 345KV double-circuit transmission lines from west of Spencer to Algona, south to Fort Dodge and east to Waterloo. "We don't see many projects of that scope around here," notes Shane Nelson, assistant business manager and construction rep for Local 55. At its peak, this project will employ up to 150 electrical construction professionals, including existing apprentices and new people starting the program.

"This is only the beginning," notes Nelson, who anticipates more transmission projects in the coming years. "And that number can only increase with the growth of Iowa's wind energy industry," he adds. The general training provided through the Missouri Valley program will complement on-the-job training to provide the next generation of electrical construction workers with valuable experience they can apply to future projects.

"It's not only linemen that will benefit from these projects," adds Nelson. The expansion and improvement in transmission lines will also result in additional jobs for substation technicians. "Bottom line, it's a good time to be in the electrical construction industry," concludes Nelson.

More About The Missouri Valley Constructors Apprenticeship & Training Program:

The apprenticeship program based in Indianola, Iowa, is one of seven locations operated by the organization. The others are in the states of Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Iowa program occupies a training facility, which includes an outdoor pole yard. The Iowa program trains thousands of apprentice linemen each year.

For additional information, or to schedule a visit to our training facilities, contact

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MISSOURI VALLEY LINE CONSTRUCTORS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING PROGRAM

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