

UCEMC Employees attend TVPPA Training

UCEMC is a member of The Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, Inc. (TVPPA). TVPPA is the nonprofit, regional service organization that represents the interests of consumer-owned electric utilities operating within the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service area. TVPPA members include both municipal and electric cooperatives, and they serve more than 9 million customers in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia.

TVPPA Education and Training services offer a comprehensive selection of utility-specific professional management and technical training seminars for utility employees.

Apprenticeship Program Training

Apprentice Lineman training introduces the beginning apprentice to the basic math, electricity and alternating current fundamental principles that are the groundwork for understanding the “how’s and why’s” of this profession. Students learn the basic tools and equipment used in everyday operations, and application include stringing and sagging wire; underground distribution systems; transmission and distribution line maintenance; transformer connections; meter applications; substation operations and phasing and measuring voltage and current.

Participants learn basic knots and safe climbing techniques, as well as pole-top rescue, both climbing skills necessary for overhead line construction. Participants construct and frame lines using specifications, and learn grounding and preparation of stress cones for underground cable. Effective job briefing and basic troubleshooting steps for overhead and underground systems are demonstrated, as well as transformer banking, bucket truck pre-trip inspection, and bucket truck rescue.

The Carthage District office had the following employees with the title of 4th Year Apprentice Lineman to complete the course in August and December 2015. The employees completing the course in August were:



Stacy Wilmore



Dusty Miller

Completing the course in December:



Spencer Anderson



Jonathan Washer



Tyler Robinson

Certified Power Supervisor (CPSv)

TVPPA's Certified Power Supervisor curriculum is designed for public power distribution system supervisory personnel. This course of study focuses on how to reduce employee grievances, customer complaints, absenteeism, job-related accidents and turnover. The core classes include Fundamental Supervisory Skills, Communicating Effectively with Utility Customers, Interpersonal Supervisory Skills I, II and III.



Joe Skelton, Supervisor Tech Operations

Stage 4 includes a more comprehensive view of designing a line from beginning to end including analyzing crossings under existing transmission lines.

Stage 5 of the Power Line Design series takes students beyond the basics of power line design and staking and focuses on reliability and efficiency in design.

In the final Stage 6 of the Power Line Design series, focus remains on system reliability. Students learn calculations for commercial load sizing (multi-phase transformer sizing, reading commercial load charts and plans, primary wire sizing considerations).. Purpose of and procedure for joint use inspection is covered along with RUS standards and bulletins and how these pertain to utilities.



Randy Randolph, Staking Tech

Power Line and Staking Program

The Power Line and Staking Program is a 6-Stage Program. Attendees learn basic engineering of overhead services typically expected of beginning line design personnel. As described below each stage focuses on different aspects of our business.

Stage 1 provides foundational instruction for all career line designers.

Stage 2 includes a more comprehensive look at design criteria related to overhead design.

Stage 3 of the Power Line Design series places emphasis on joint use remedy and make ready, as well as underground design.

Advanced Lineworker Training

The Advanced Lineworker Training is a 5-Stage Program.

Phase 1 provides instruction on Protective Grounding installing protective grounds and shore-circuiting leads at the work site protects against the hazards of accidental energizing, static charges and induced voltage.

Phase 2 provides instruction on Substation Operating Equipment Substations and switchyards. Most substation and switchyards contain the following components: transformers; disconnecting devices such as air break switches, circuit switchers; and disconnects. Components may also include oil circuit breakers, vacuum circuit breakers, gas circuit breakers or air circuit breakers, and monitoring devices including relays, fuses, current and potential transformers, and indicating meters.

Phase 3 teaches three-phase connections, including troubleshooting within these connections. Phasers Voltage are key to transformer bank construction, troubleshooting and emergency transformer bank problem-solving, and lineworkers with an understanding of voltage phasers can more effectively analyze transformer bank problems.

Phase 4 provides training on reclosers as well as fuses and sectionalizers. This module teaches lineworkers how to properly isolate a voltage regulator and familiarize them with the operating principles and setting of voltage regulators.

Phase 5 Pad Mounted Transformers and Switching Cabinet module discusses the features of "live front" and "dead front" pad-mounted transformers so that line workers can connect, maintain and operate these units correctly. Participants also learn to operate switching units correctly to insure safety and maintain electric service continuity. This module provides a comprehensive review of underground systems, with an emphasis on proper installation and operating methods.

The following employees completed the TVPPA Advanced Lineworker Training Certification in November 2015. Each employee was presented the award by their District Manager.



From left: Jason Stanton, Journey Lineman; Rony Myers, Cookeville District Manager.



From left: Lee Martin, Journey Lineman; Rony Myers, Cookeville District Manager.



From left: Grant Spears, Journey Lineman; Ben Winningham, Livingston District Manager.



From left: Mark Sherfield, Journey Lineman; Ben Winningham, Livingston District Manager.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the employees that have completed the TVPPA courses.