



## Big Iowa Project Is a Sign of the Future for the Electrical Construction Trade

What's 191 miles long, involves more than 200 people and is a sign of what's to come for the electrical construction industry? The 345/161 kV project currently under construction by EC Source and T&D Power in Iowa. According to T&D Power Construction Manager Les Williams, this is one of the largest projects of this type in the United States. "But it's only the beginning," notes Williams, who sees nothing but bigger and better projects coming along as the country rebuilds its power infrastructure.

Crews began working in Iowa on this project in 2014, which has two components. One component is the installation of new transmission lines between Cedar Falls and Iowa Falls. The other component has crews stringing lines from Fort Dodge, north to Algona, and west to Spencer — 191 miles in all! In addition to the miles and miles of 345/161 kV lines, the project includes the construction of two substations. "Our goal is to complete the entire project by December 2016," comments Williams, who is adjusting to work in Iowa. Having lived in California for the past 25 years, Williams is not yet totally acclimated to Iowa's cold winter weather, but he has certainly warmed up to the Iowa's hospitality and values.

The project combines the skills and expertise of people from Arizona-based EC Source and T&D Power with more than 50 electrical construction professionals from Iowa.

"We're proud to give a number of apprentices an opportunity to work on a project of this scale," notes Williams, who can easily identify with these workers. "I started my career as an apprentice in 1969 and have been working in the trade ever since."

Williams' career is a good example of the opportunities that await journeymen linemen. "Once you top out, you can work anywhere you want, and if you desire moving from climbing poles to climbing up in management. It's a great way to make a living, and it all really starts to take shape once you have that journeyman ticket in your pocket." Williams anticipates more and more projects like this Iowa project on the horizon, and that means continued work for anyone who chooses a career in electrical construction. "I, for one, am happy I chose this career path more than 45 years ago!"

### 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

Michael Brown, Executive Director at [mbrown@movalleyjadc.org](mailto:mbrown@movalleyjadc.org) or call 515-961-5062.



### MISSOURI VALLEY LINE CONSTRUCTORS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING PROGRAM

1707 NORTH 14TH STREET | INDIANOLA, IA 50125 | P 515.961.5062 | F 515.961.7332  
TOLL FREE: 888.254.0714 | [WWW.MOVALLEYJATC.ORG](http://WWW.MOVALLEYJATC.ORG)

