



Substation Technician Program Pays Off in More Ways Than One

Eric Bramer admits that he doesn't like climbing poles, but that didn't prevent him from a fulfilling career in the electrical construction industry. Eric is among a group of apprentices completing Missouri Valley's new [substation technician program](#).

Eric's career path to substation technician began when his high school counselor suggested he consider becoming an electrician. "I was fortunate to begin my training as a journeyman electrician during the housing boom," explains Eric. When the boom went to bust, Eric began wiring substations. "I was hooked from the start," explains Eric, who found substation work the perfect way to put his electrical experience to work. Today, he works for Hooper Corporation, upgrading substations for Excel Energy throughout his home state of Minnesota.

Being a substation technician is perfect for Eric. For starters, there are no poles to climb, but what he likes most is the daily challenges the job presents. "Each job is a little different, so I am constantly learning something new each and every day." Last year, for example, Eric was involved in upgrading transformers that had been in operation since 1948.

As a substation technician, Eric is proud to play a vital role ensuring that businesses, institutions and homeowners have the electrical power needed to maintain their operations. He is also happy that his career as a substation technician keeps him close to his Twin Cities home. "Unlike some linemen who work 7/12 shifts and are usually away from home, there is so much substation work in the area that I am able to spend more time with my family."

Although there is no climbing and more time at home as a substation technician, Eric does point out a few similarities he has in common with apprentices in the lineman program. "The pay and benefits for those occupations are outstanding as is the ongoing safety training you receive." Eric also notes that whether you are working on transmission lines or distributor systems, the work you do will continue to impact communities for 50 years or more.

With proper training and ongoing education, substation technicians like Eric can advance to supervisory positions. With further education, technicians may move onto project management roles and support for manufacturers. "It's an exciting career, and as long as individuals and businesses need electrical power, you'll never run out of work and employment opportunities," he concludes with a smile.

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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