

VPP In Electrical Power Generation, Transmission, & Distribution

Leveraging Industry Peers to
Establish Best Practices

Thursday, May 12th, 2022

Region III VPPPA Safety Conference



Round Table Leads



Ray Delfing

Ray is a Safety Training Manager at WIN-Waste Innovations, a vertically integrated waste management company with a platform of strategically located collection, transfer, and disposal assets. These include waste-to-energy facilities, transfer stations, ash monofils, landfills, and fleets of rail cars and collection vehicles.

Alexander Miller, CSP

Alex is a Sr. Regional Safety Manager & VPP Coordinator with Vistra Corp, a Texas-based retail electricity and power generation company. Alex leads the sustainment and growth of the Vistra's 12 current VPP Star worksites. He is also an SGE and is the co-founder of the Power Generation VPP Workgroup.

A Need Identified



Invaluable topics are presented at conferences but frequently focus from a high level or are applicable to specific sized worksites. The power generation industry is comprised of smaller individual sites.

Power generation (and many other industries) face challenges and opportunities that are unique but common throughout the industry.

We strive to offer a forum where our industry's unique challenges, opportunities and best practices can be discussed.





The Goal

Power Generation VPP (PGVPP) is comprised of participants from electrical power generation sites and companies across the nation.

Our common thread is continuous improvement in safety through participating in VPP or pursuing VPP status.





From the Ground Up

The conversation started at a National VPPA Conference in 2018 after a presentation...

- Agreed on the concept
- Clear benefits to an industry specific workgroup
- Suspected that there was would be strong interest
- Waited a year



The Kickoff



After a year of waiting and thinking, we decided there was no better time (December of 2019) than the present to dive in headfirst!

In February of 2020 the first virtual meeting was held with approximately 25 individuals representing 7 companies.



Mission Statement:

Promote workplace safety excellence and OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) participation within the power generation industry by sharing ideas, networking, and solving site and industry wide safety and health concerns.

Objectives:

- Leverage the collective knowledge, experience and innovation in our industry
- Create a network of power generation professionals who share a passion for safety and strive for continuous improvement
- Cultivate relationships between our organizations and state/federal safety and health agencies

Mission and Objectives



Milestones

- Included OSHA in the group and they shared it across the country.
- Launched a user forum and a website
<https://powergenerationvpp.com/>
- Meetings grew to include representation from 17+ companies and numerous federal and state OSHA VPP Managers
- Quarterly newsletter developed and published



Meeting Structure

- Set meeting time and schedule at least 1 month in advance.
- Developed and distributed an agenda several days prior to meeting.
- Leveraged the power of virtual meetings to connect participants.
- Meeting length of 1.5 hours.



Meeting Format

- Safety moment – A 3 to 5- minute safety related topic.
- Special announcements, VPP updates, new or recertified VPP sites, etc.
- VPP element
 - Main topic for meeting, 30 – 40 minutes long
- Committee Updates
- Open Discussion



Starting Your Industry Group

- Network at conferences and trade events!
- Expect lots of work initially until participants realize the value and get engaged.
- Identify your core group—manufacturing, construction, oil/gas, health care, etc.
- Don't limit the group to companies only in VPP.



Industry Group development

- Determine what do you want to achieve in your meetings.
- Create a sample agenda with the initial team
- Identify who is going to do what.
- Don't try to get too fancy too fast.



Create a Game Plan

- Identify what you want to accomplish
 - Identify the purpose of the group
 - Fill a need
 - General Safety or VPP Focused
- Identify who will complete administrative tasks
 - Note taking
 - Facilitators
 - Meeting minutes
 - Mailing lists





Getting the Word Out

- Promote your group within VPPPA and OSHA.
- Leverage your networking and industry events
- Word-of-mouth works!
- Support people from other industries sitting in on your meetings.



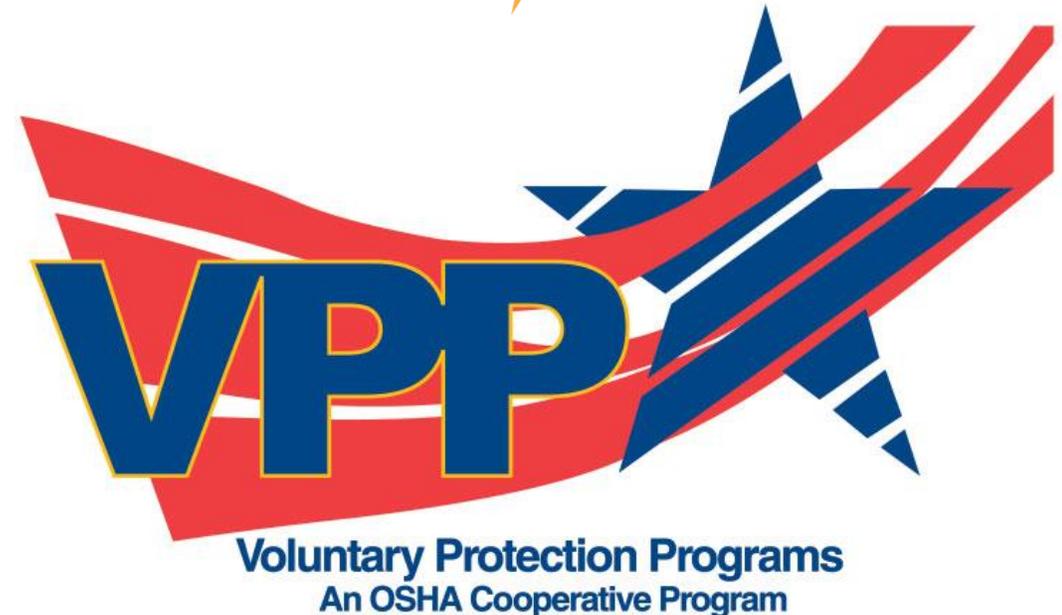
Challenges

- Getting volunteers to participate.
- Inviting sites from other companies.
- Avoiding the appearance of one or two companies running it all.
- Spreading yourself too thin.



Looking Forward

- Benchmarking – It may not be what you think it is
- VPP Mentoring Platform
- OSHA Alliance Partnership
- In-Person Conference
- Other Suggestions?



Open Discussion & Questions



Thank You!

<https://powergenerationvpp.com/>

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