



QUARTER 1, 2024

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SPOTLIGHTS

Have something you would like to submit to our newsletter?

Send submission and spotlight ideas to:

Michael.Circle@onwardenergy.com

ON THE GRID

WELCOME TO PGVPP

We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to you as we launch our new year of the Power Generation Safety Newsletter. Whether you're a seasoned industry professional or just starting your journey in the field of power generation, this newsletter is designed with you in mind.

In the PGVPP Work Group, we recognize the paramount importance of safety in all aspects of power generation. From traditional fossil fuel-based plants to cutting-edge renewable energy projects, safety is non-negotiable. Our newsletter aims to provide you with valuable insights, updates, and resources to enhance safety practices within your organization.

Here's a sneak peek of what you can expect from our newsletter:

Member News and Updates: Stay informed about the latest from our members shaping the power generation sector.

Best Practices and Tips: Learn from experts in the field as they share insights and recommendations for optimizing safety protocols and procedures.

Community Engagement: Connect with like-minded professionals, share experiences, and collaborate on safety challenges through our vibrant online community.

As we embark on this journey together, we invite you to actively participate, share your feedback, and contribute your expertise to enrich our collective knowledge base. Together, we can create a safer and more sustainable future for the power generation industry.

PRIORITIZING SAFETY In POWER GENERATION

In the realm of power generation, safety stands as an unwavering pillar that sustains both operations and human lives. As we navigate the dynamic landscape of energy production, it is imperative to underscore the significance of safety protocols, fostering a culture where every individual actively champions safety measures.

1. EMBRACE A PROACTIVE MINDSET: Safety begins with a proactive mindset that anticipates potential hazards before they manifest into incidents. Encourage all team members to remain vigilant, identifying and promptly addressing any safety concerns, no matter how minor they may seem.

2. RIGOROUS TRAINING AND EDUCATION: Empower your workforce with comprehensive training programs that equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate complex operational environments safely. Regular refresher courses and updates ensure that everyone remains abreast of the latest safety protocols and best practices.

3. CLEAR COMMUNICATION CHANNELS: Effective communication serves as the bedrock of a safe working environment. Establish clear channels for reporting safety issues, encouraging open dialogue among team members. Foster a culture where individuals feel comfortable speaking up about potential risks without fear of retribution.

4. PRIORITIZE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE: Regular maintenance of equipment and machinery is not only essential for optimal performance but also crucial for preventing accidents. Implement a robust maintenance schedule, adhering to manufacturer recommendations and industry standards to mitigate the risk of unexpected breakdowns or malfunctions.

5. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CHECKS AND AUDITS: Conduct regular safety checks and audits to assess compliance with established safety protocols. Identify areas for improvement and take swift corrective actions to address any deficiencies. Utilize these evaluations as learning opportunities to enhance safety measures continuously.

6. EMBODY A SAFETY-FIRST CULTURE: Safety should not be viewed as an option but as an inherent aspect of every task and decision. Instill a safety-first culture that permeates every level of the organization, from top management to frontline workers. Recognize and reward individuals who exemplify exemplary safety practices, reinforcing the importance of prioritizing safety above all else.

7. STAY INFORMED AND ADAPT: The landscape of safety standards and regulations is ever-evolving. Stay informed about industry developments, emerging technologies, and best practices in safety management. Continuously evaluate and adapt your safety protocols to align with the latest advancements, ensuring that your operations remain at the forefront of safety excellence.

IN CONCLUSION, safety in power generation is not merely a regulatory requirement but a moral obligation to safeguard the well-being of our workforce and the communities we serve. By fostering a culture of vigilance, continuous improvement, and unwavering commitment to safety, we can uphold the highest standards of operational excellence while ensuring the welfare of all stakeholders.

Remember, in the pursuit of power generation, safety is non-negotiable.

Stay safe, stay vigilant.

-Justin Maynard, Safety Specialist
Onward Energy



SPECIAL MENTIONS

Joe Sviatko is an operations and maintenance technician at Black Hills Energy's Cheyenne Prairie Generating Station in Cheyenne WY. Joe has been with Black Hills Energy since April of 2011, and he is a staunch advocate for safety. Joe serves as the CPGS safety committee chairman and has been integral to the facilities OSHA VPP journey.

This safety journey was most recently capped off with a 3-year certification as a Star site in 2023. Joe is always looking for opportunities for improvement within our safety practices and keeps our safety improvement work orders at the top of everyone's mind.

In 2023 Joe became a Special Government Employee and as an SGE he will be taking on a critical role within the OSHA VPP program helping audit other companies so that they can make their work sites a safer place to work while also bringing back best practices from other sites. Joe's commitment to safety has led to numerous safety improvements at CPGS including improvements to our emergency action plan, upgrading the site to PAPR's, and improved chemical offloading procedures.

His passion for safety goes beyond CPGS and into his everyday mindset of helping others be safe. This passion is clearly represented through his selection as a recipient of the OSHA VPP Leadership award during the Region VIII conference in 2023.

-Jerry Likewise, Black Hills Energy



TELL
us
about
You!

Tell us your stories about individual or group efforts that enhance the safety culture at your site! We would love to share your accomplishments, strategies, experiences and personal stories right here!

COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS STILL AROUND

OSHA.GOV ARTICLE

EMPLOYERS SHOULD TRAIN WORKERS

At a minimum train workers on:

- Cold Stress:
 - o How to recognize the symptoms of cold stress, prevent cold stress injuries and illnesses
 - o The importance of self-monitoring and monitoring co-workers for symptoms
 - o First aid and how to call for additional medical assistance in an emergency
 - o How to select proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions
- Other winter weather related hazards that workers may be exposed to, for example, slippery roads and surfaces, windy conditions, and downed power lines
 - o How to recognize these hazards
 - o How workers will be protected: engineering controls, safe work practices and proper selection of equipment, including personal protective equipment.

EMPLOYERS SHOULD PROVIDE ENGINEERING CONTROLS

Engineering controls can be effective in reducing the risk of cold stress. For example, radiant heaters may be used to warm workplaces like outdoor security stations. If possible, employers should shield work areas from drafts or wind to reduce wind chill.

Employers should use engineering controls to protect workers from other winter weather related hazards, for example, aerial lifts or ladders can be used for safely applying de-icing materials to roofs, to protect workers from the hazard of falling through sky lights.

DRESSING PROPERLY FOR THE COLD

Dressing properly is extremely important to preventing cold stress. When cold environments or temperatures cannot be avoided, the following would help protect workers from cold stress:

- Wear at least three layers of loose fitting clothing. Layering provides better insulation.
 - o An inner layer of wool, silk or synthetic (polypropylene) to keep moisture away from the body. Thermal wear, wool, silk or polypropylene, inner layers of clothing that will hold more body heat than cotton.
 - o A middle layer of wool or synthetic to provide insulation even when wet.

o An outer wind and rain protection layer that allows some ventilation to prevent overheating.

- Tight clothing reduces blood circulation. Warm blood needs to be circulated to the extremities. Insulated coat/jacket (water resistant if necessary)
- Knit mask to cover face and mouth (if needed)
- Hat that will cover your ears as well. A hat will help keep your whole body warmer. Hats reduce the amount of body heat that escapes from your head.
- Insulated gloves (water resistant if necessary), to protect the hands
- Insulated and waterproof boots to protect the feet

SAFETY TIPS FOR WORKERS

- Your employer should ensure that you know the symptoms of cold stress
- Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers
- Dress appropriately for the cold
- Stay dry in the cold because moisture or dampness, e.g. from sweating, can increase the rate of heat loss from the body
- Keep extra clothing (including underwear) handy in case you get wet and need to change
- Drink warm sweetened fluids (no alcohol)
- Use proper engineering controls, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by your employer

Read the full article on [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha-slc.gov)



RENEW ALLIANCE

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Demolition Association recently agreed to renew their alliance to improve the safety and health of workers in the demolition industry.

During the five-year agreement, the alliance will address industry hazards by developing safety and health training resources and seminars that focus on deconstruction and selective dismantlement of building components for reuse, repurposing, recycling and waste management. The alliance will also work with labor organizations, contractors and staffing associations, as needed, to share information in multiple languages and formats on a variety of topics including fall and heat illness prevention, recognizing hazardous materials, construction safety and protecting temporary workers. Since the July 2021 signing of the original agreement, the alliance developed several products, including a document on managing predictable hazards when preparing for and implementing power plant demolition; guidelines for signage and door hanger use when notifying residential communities that will be impacted by demolition work; and a podcast featuring OSHA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Jim Frederick.

Demolition work involves many of the hazards associated with construction, but includes additional hazards from unknown factors, such as changes or modifications that alter the original design, materials hidden within structural components, and unknown strengths or weaknesses of construction materials, as well as hazards created by the demolition methods used. Learn more about demolition hazards.

The National Demolition Association is a non-profit trade association comprising nearly 400 member companies nationally and internationally. The association provides educational resources on structural demolition and dismantlement, industrial recovery, recycling, architectural salvage decontamination, asbestos abatement and nuclear clean-up.

Through its Alliance Program, OSHA works with organizations such as trade and professional associations, labor unions, educational institutions, community and faith-based groups, and government agencies to share information about OSHA's initiatives and compliance assistance resources with workers and employers, and educates workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities.



SGE OPPORTUNITIES

REGION 2

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: Listed below are upcoming SGE opportunities that are currently open in OSHA REGION 2. If you are available to participate on any of these VPP evaluation teams, please reply directly to Greta Olsson at Olsson.Greta@dol.gov. Please obtain permission to participate from your supervisor before volunteering for a SGE assignment.

1. Westlock Controls Corp., Saddle Brook, NJ - Need one SGE – Dates: January 29, 2024 – February 2, 2024
2. COGEN Technologies Linden Venture, LP, Linden, NJ – Need two SGEs - Dates: February 12 – 16, 2024
3. Nucor Steel Auburn Inc., Auburn, NY – Need two SGEs - Dates: February 26 - March 1, 2024
4. Covanta Camden Energy Recovery Center, Camden, NJ - Need one SGE – Dates: March 4 -8, 2024
5. Pratt & Whitney - HMI Metal Powders, Clayville, NY - Need two SGEs – Dates: March 18 – 22, 2024
6. Wheelabrator Westchester, L.P. Peekskill, NY – Need one SGE – Dates: March 25 – 29, 2024
7. Parsons NJMVIS Winslow, Ancora, NJ – Need one SGE – Dates: April 3 – 5, 2024
8. US Army Corps of Engineers – Caven Point Marine Terminal, Jersey City, NJ – Dates: April 8 – 12, 2024
9. Veolia ES Technical Solutions LLC, Schenectady, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: April 15 - 19, 2024
10. L'Oreal USA Luxe Division, South Brunswick, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: April 22- 26, 2024
11. GE Healthcare Corp., Troy, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: April 29 – May 3, 2024
12. Johns Manville Roofing Systems, Plattsburgh, NY – Need one SGE – Dates: May 6- 10, 2024
13. Covanta Niagara 1, LLP, Niagara Falls, NY – Need one SGE– Dates: June 3 – 7, 2024
14. Valtris Specialty Chemicals, Bridgeport, NJ – Need two SGEs - Dates: June 10 – 14, 2024
15. Covanta Onondaga L.P., Jamesville, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: August 12 - 16, 2024
16. QuidelOrtho, Rochester, NY – Need one SGEs– Dates: September 9-13, 2024

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*Thank you for your service as
Special Government Employees.*

For information about VPP, visit us at: www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/

SGE OPPORTUNITIES

REGION 8

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: Listed below are upcoming SGE opportunities that are currently open in OSHA REGION 8. Please reach out to Brad Baptiste, Regional VPP Manager, Region VIII if you are interested!

1. OSHA Region VIII is seeking SGEs who wish to evaluate VPP annual Self-evaluation Reports. The process will begin in early March 2024 and can be conducted entirely remotely (no travel required!). Five annual report reviews is equivalent to one full point of SGE service credit!

2. Here is a basic list of upcoming VPP onsite recertification evaluations in OSHA Region VIII for 2024. The date listed is the date of the opening conference. Most evaluations will be three days (Tuesday thru Thursday). For more details on any individual item listed, please contact baptiste.brad@dol.gov or call 303-915-0996:

Hunter Douglas-- Broomfield CO	3/18/2024
Raytheon-- Aurora CO	4/16/2024
Molson Coors-- Golden CO	4/23/2024
NuStar Energy-- Jamestown ND	5/14/2024
Cargill-- Wahpeton ND	6/25/2024
NuStar Energy-- Sioux Falls SD	7/9/2024
NWE - Hauser-- Helena MT	7/16/2024
Sturgeon CIT-- Denver CO	7/16/2024
Sturgeon TD-- Denver CO	7/16/2024
Marvin Composites-- Fargo ND	7/23/2024
Bayer-- Harrisburg SD	7/29/2024
Johns Manville-- Belgrade MT	8/19/2024

If you would like to volunteer to serve as an SGE on any of these evaluations, then please contact Brad Baptiste at baptiste.brad@dol.gov

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*Thank you for your service as
Special Government Employees.*



MEETINGS 2024

2:30 to 4:00 pm (EST)

Q1 Meeting – February 15th

Note Taker – Mark Miranda

Safety Minute–?

VPP Element – Jon Condry

Q2 Meeting – May 16th

Note Taker – Jason Shaw

Safety Minute – Marc Sullivan

VPP Element – Joe Sviatko

Q3 Meeting – August 15th

Note Taker – ???

Safety Minute – Rob Coit

VPP Element – Michael Circle

Q4 Meeting –November 14th

Note Taker -- Mark Miranda

Safety Minute – Justin Maynard

VPP Element – Todd Wulf

VPP ELEMENTS

MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP AND EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT.

The applicant must describe top-level management leadership in the applicant or participant's SHMS. (Note: Management must clearly describe its commitment to meeting and maintaining the requirements of VPP. The applicant must also describe how employees are involved in safety and health.)

Worksite Analysis

You must describe methods used to recognize, identify, and analyze hazards. Effective worksite analysis provides the information managers and employees need for a thorough understanding of all hazards to which they may be exposed.

Hazard Prevention and Control

You must describe and give examples of how hazards are addressed, including preventative maintenance, occupational health care program, emergency preparedness, and hazard elimination employing the hierarchy of controls.

Safety and Health Training

You must describe its formal and informal safety and health training program for managers, supervisors, and employees. The information must include training protocols and schedules of training.

