



## QUARTER 1, 2023

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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](mailto:Michael.Circle@onwardenergy.com)

# ON THE GRID

## WELCOME TO 2023

### FROM ALEX AND KELLI

Welcome to the fourth year of the Power Generation VPP Workgroup! We have exciting plans for this year including four quarterly meetings featuring speakers and presentations on the elements of the VPP, opportunities to grow and serve in the safety community and a project to build an elaborate Qualified Electrical Workers (QEW) Training program. Additionally, we have added even more power generation professionals to our ranks, welcoming employees from all over the country!

“As a workgroup, our growth has been strong and this year should be no different in that respect,” Alex Miller, co-founder of the PGVPP workgroup said. “I look forward to engaging with our participants and finding out what they are looking to get out of the group and where we can focus our energy to provide value to the industry.”

Co-founder Kelli Heflin of Onward Energy said she is excited to see the work this group can produce for the industry this year.

“I’m looking forward to getting the QEW training program off the ground,” Heflin said, “and the continued sharing of best practices and challenges with the group because I find that we do come up with some pretty innovative solutions.”

The group also hopes to build a partnership with OSHA through the administration’s Alliance Program, beginning with Region 8 and growing from there. This will allow our workgroup to better serve the safety profession throughout other VPP Regions across the country.

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# NFPA 70E- Establishing an



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By Oma Akers,  
Sacramento  
Municipal Utility  
District

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## Electrically Safe Work Condition

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**I**N THE PAST, when it came to electrical safety, the attitude was “just be careful”. While that same attitude can still be found, that’s quite opposite from NFPA 70E standards. By defining what an electrically safe work condition looks like, safe work practices have been established to not only deenergize the system, but also to make sure there is no possibility to reenergize while work is being done. And as a VPP site, OSHA expects you to follow the standard, regardless of minimum requirements.

2021 NFPA 70E Article 120 is titled “Establishing an Electrically Safe Work Condition”, with Article 120.5 explaining the process, which are as follows:

STEP 1: Determine all possible sources of electrical supply to the specific equipment. Check applicable up-to-date drawings, diagrams, and identification tags.

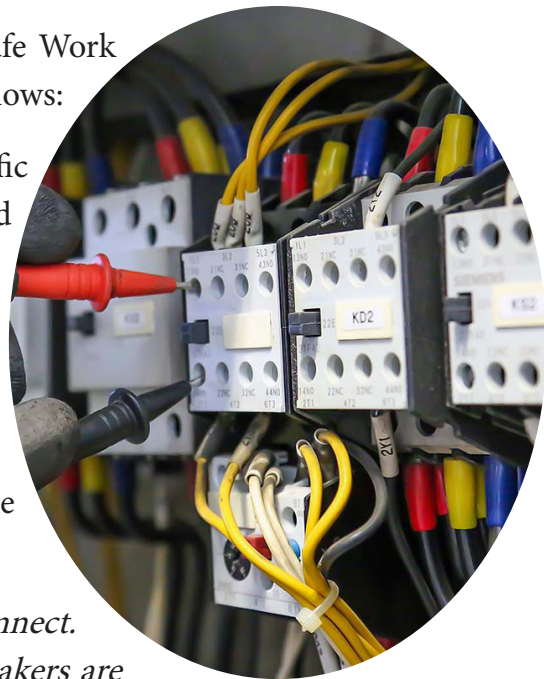
*A lot of power generation equipment will have multiple sources to consider, albeit supply power, backup power, control power, etc. It’s imperative that all sources are included in the process.*

STEP 2: After properly interrupting the load current, open the disconnecting device(s) for each source.

*It’s important to open the breaker first, then the equipment disconnect. Some disconnects aren’t rated to operate under load, and circuit breakers are designed to do so.*

STEP 3: Wherever possible, visually verify that all blades of the disconnecting devices are fully open or that drawout-type circuit breakers are withdrawn to the test or fully disconnected position.

*This step isn’t always obtainable or applicable, given your equipment design. For example, with knife-switch style disconnects, you’re really just hoping that it operated properly. That’ll have to be verified once you open the disconnect door.*



STEP 4: Release stored electrical energy.

*Again, not always applicable, but is part of the process if you're dealing with batteries or capacitors. They will be required to be discharged before they would be considered safe to work on.*

STEP 5: Block or relieve stored nonelectrical energy in devices to the extent the circuit parts cannot be unintentionally energized by such devices.

*We definitely have to deal with this in power generation. With a lot of moving parts in our systems, we face hydraulic, pneumatic, and mechanical hazards as well. Make sure that these associated systems are "de-energized".*

STEP 6: Apply lockout/tagout devices in accordance with a documented and established procedure.

*Our industry used to utilize the tagout system alone, which was good for letting everyone know what's going on, but it couldn't prevent the ability to energize, putting people at risk by things like accidental operation of circuit parts or just flat out flipping the wrong breaker. This method provides both identification and a failsafe condition.*

STEP 7: Use an adequately rated portable test instrument to test each phase conductor or circuit part to test for the absence of voltage. Test each phase conductor or circuit part both phase-to-phase and phase-to-ground. Before and after each test, determine that the test instrument is operating satisfactorily through verification on any known voltage source.

*Always test it dead, utilizing this method. Some people have the mindset that disconnecting the source with a visual open is enough. Not the case. NFPA 70E nullifies that notion with this direction, even giving the specific "live-dead-live" tester verification.*

STEP 8: Where the possibility of induced voltages or stored electrical energy exists, ground all circuit conductors and circuit parts before touching them. Where it could be reasonably anticipated that the conductors or circuit parts being de-energized could contact other exposed energized conductors or circuit parts, apply (appropriate) temporary protective grounding equipment.

*On our higher voltage equipment, this is procedure. Lower voltage? Not so feasible. It depends on your system design and the scenarios it might create. I inserted "appropriate" due to the standard going on about placement, capacity and impedance, which should be determined by Engineering.*

**A**RTICLE 120 is a helpful resource for our electrical workers to follow. It serves in creating opportunities to implement better work practices and equipment. For instance, SMUD Hydro is in the process of installing permanently installed Absence of Voltage Testers (AVT'S) on all our 480V equipment. This will enable employees to test the circuit dead without even having to open the door!

There are other criteria to follow alongside this process, such as PPE and where this method isn't feasible, like troubleshooting. But being that we aim to follow the best methods out there, we need to make sure our QEW's are following the standard and we are equipping them to do so.

# 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 me (Richard Brown at [Wbrown.richard@dol.gov](mailto:Wbrown.richard@dol.gov)) via e-mail. Please obtain permission to participate from your supervisor before volunteering for a SGE assignment.

- *Parsons Lodi and Parsons Secaucus*, Lodi, NJ and Secaucus, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: February 6-10, 2023 Note: One VPP Team will evaluate both sites.
- *Wheelabrator Gloucester*, Westville, NJ – Need two SGEs – Dates: February 13-17, 2023
- *Veolia*, Schenectady, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: February 21-23, 2023
- *Lockheed Martin Rotary & Missions Systems*, Owego, NY – Need four SGEs – Dates: March 6-10, 2023
- *Johns Manville, Plattsburgh*, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: March 13-17, 2023
- *Frito Lay*, Binghamton, NY – Need three SGEs – Dates: March 20-24, 2023
- *IBM Thomas Watson Research Center*, Yorktown Heights, NY – Need three SGEs – Dates: March 27-21, 2023
- *Pfizer, Inc. Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC) Operations*, Pearl River, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: April 3-7, 2023
- *Covanta Hempstead*, Westbury, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: April 17-21, 2023
- *Honeywell*, Tonawanda, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: May 8-12, 2023
- *Ortho Clinical Diagnostics* – Rochester, Rochester, NY – Need three SGEs – Dates: June 5-9, 2023

NOTE: The pandemic conditions in Region 2 have improved and we have resumed full VPP evaluations onsite (including SGEs onsite with OSHA personnel). We currently have 19 VPP evaluations scheduled in FY2023 with open SGE positions, so there are now many opportunities to complete a SGE-qualifying activity.

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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/](http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/)

# SGE OPPORTUNITIES

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## REGION 8

I have the following opportunities I would like to share. The SGE reviews one to five annual reports and provides feedback and input. Detailed guidance will be provided and the activity can be done remotely (no travel required). Five annual evaluations during a three year period is equivalent to one point of SGE service credit.

Onsite VPP evaluations:

Site Name	Scheduled Date
Black Hills Energy – Pueblo, CO VADS # 6972	3-7-23 Team Leader – Neil Schneider Back-Up – Brad Baptiste SGE – Craig Browning SGE – Darrell Bauman
LPR – Loveland, CO VADS # 329	5-16-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste SGE – Dan Hart
Tri-State Flight Ops – Broomfield, CO VADS # 5687	6-21-23 Team Leader – Neil Schneider SGE – Andrew Mathews (IH)
Talen Energy – Colstrip, MT VADS # 4575	6-27-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste Back-Up – Jim Messer Team Member – Hector Tabares SGE – Andrew Zawislanski
RK Industries – SB - Denver, CO VADS # 6277	7-10-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste Team Member – Jason Furlow
RK Mechanical – MWF – Denver, CO VADS # 6056	7-10-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste Team Member – Jason Furlow
Ball Metal – Golden, CO VADS # 3102	7-18-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste
309 <sup>th</sup> EMXG – Hill AFB - Logan, UT VADS # 6359	8-7-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste Team Member – Eric Wollan SGE – Brad Bittenbender SGE – Mike Courouleau SGE – Carl Lechiminant
Nexus – Longmont, CO VADS # 4691	8-15-23 Team Leader – Pam Baptiste (?) SGE – Megan Moberly SGE – Jeff Pigue SGE – Heather Larson
3M – Brookings, SD VADS # 3101	8-15-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste Back-Up – Eric Wollan Team Member – Paula Ross SGE – Steven Craig SGE- Tom Crane
Cargill – Wahpeton, ND VADS # 5018	10-31-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste SGE – Doug Denison
NuStar – Colorado Springs, CO VADS # 5738	11-14-23 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste Team Member – Jason Furlow
Hunter Douglas – Broomfield, CO VADS # 422	03-18-24 Team Leader – Brad Baptiste

Regards,

*Brad G. Baptiste* ☺



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# VPP ELEMENTS

## MEETINGS

### 2023

2:30 to 4:00 pm (EST)

#### Q1 Meeting – February 16th

Note Taker – Chris Magnuson  
Safety Minute – Dustin Johnson  
VPP Element – Hud Griffith

#### Q2 Meeting – May 18th

Note Taker – Jason Shaw  
Safety Minute – Justin Maynard  
VPP Element – Michael Circle

#### Q3 Meeting – August 17th

Note Taker – Michael Circle  
Safety Minute – Mark Miranda  
VPP Element – Bradley Kelley

#### Q4 Meeting – November 16th

Note Taker – TBD – Need  
Volunteer

Safety Minute – Daryl Bauman  
VPP Element – Ray Delfing

## 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.

