



QUARTER 2, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

- ⚡ Alliance Signing
- ⚡ Milestones/Successes
- ⚡ SGE Opportunities:
Regions II and VIII
- ⚡ Meeting
- ⚡ VPP Elements

SPOTLIGHTS

Have something you would like to submit to our newsletter?

Send submission and spotlight ideas to:

Michael.Circle@onwardenergy.com

ON THE GRID

PGVPP SIGNS

OSHA ALLIANCE

Our Power Generation VPP workgroup has taken steps to better protect our power generation industry employees by signing an Alliance agreement with OSHA. In March, Alex Miller (Luminant), Kelli Heflin (Onward Energy) and OSHA Regional Administrator Jennifer Rous signed the agreement that will bolster relationships with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.



“We are honored and excited to partner with the industry leaders of the Power Generation VPP workgroup to advance best practices and a culture of safety to improve workers’ lives in the power generation industry,” said Rous.

OSHA VPP Manager for Region VIII, Brad Baptiste, said the work he sees done withing the workgroup is truly encouraging.

“I appreciate the work this group does to promote safety and health excellence throughout the industry, and I am eager to see the training program they develop for Qualified Electrical Worker (QEW),” Baptiste, said.

The QEW program he referred to is the workgroup’s project aimed at better ensuring safety and compliance for workers engaging in high-voltage work. Staffed by electrical workers across the country and with Heflin and Miller at the helm, the program seeks to find the safest and most efficient way to perform work vital to the nation’s Bulk Electrical System.

VPPPA



REGION 8 EVENT



The first ever Region8 Networking/Best Practice Day will be held on June 7, 2023, in Westminster, Colorado. In lieu of a conference, the Region 8 VPPPA board decided to host a networking/learning event to keep our Region 8 folks engaged in the VPP process. We still are encouraging our membership to attend the National VPPPA conference in September; however, we think it's important to allow our membership to meet and network.

There will be several best practice presentations by local VPP sites, plus 2 tabletop exercises for our attendees to discuss their challenges in VPP and to share their own best practices. Brad Baptiste, Region 8 VPP Manager, will be presenting Region 8 OSHA awards and we are expecting Dr. Jennifer Rous, Region 8 Regional Administrator to attend as well. Lunch will be served. You must pre-register for the event, no walk ups will be taken. Registration closes on May 23. You can register at the Region 8 VPPPA website and pay through Pay Pal (unfortunately our only option). If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Heflin at kelli.heflin@onwardenergy.com

SUCCESS STORIES



- Klamath Energy Reaches **One Million** Hours With No Lost Time!
-- Terance Chapman, PGVPP Member
-

Learn and Improve or Blame and Punish

Only One Leads to Success

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.”

- The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

By Alex Miller, CSP

Does this sound familiar? A near miss is reported. The incident investigation team is gathered and begins their fact-finding process. After the facts are found, the team reports on the root cause of the incident. Leadership gasps collectively and then huddles together to identify who made the decisions that led to the incident. They then direct a team to fix the root cause and everyone else goes back to their jobs. Don't forget, re-training for those guys who were involved in the incident!

Whenever a failure occurs, or almost occurs, there is a strong natural tendency to search for a simple cause as fast as possible. It does not matter if you are a new plant technician, an experienced control room operator, a safety lead, or a facility director; the search for the cause is immediate and, more often than not, incomplete. When the cause of an incident is discovered, everyone breathes a sigh of relief that it wasn't their fault, unless you are the one being blamed. It is easy and effortless to assign blame. A colleague in Operational Excellence, Wes Havard, once said “Blame fixes nothing but it feels so good.”

When we assign blame after an incident, two things happen. First, we feel an amazing sense of relief that we understand what caused the event. Second, we stop looking for additional contributing factors, or the context, that led to the event. We stop learning! If blame is the easy, more traveled road, then we need to consciously take the road less traveled and focus on learning. That will make all the difference. Only through the deliberate act of learning can we improve safety and drive continuous improvement.

Now consider this situation. A full plant start-up was successfully completed after being dispatched unexpectedly in the early morning hours on a Saturday night. There were no injuries no near misses and dispatch was met ten minutes early despite ambient temperatures being far below seasonal averages and one of the two outside operators called out sick. Do we just say “Great job. Keep it up.”? Is this a missed opportunity to learn and improve? If we can learn and improve after a failure, imagine what we could learn from a success.

Deep learning from safety and operational events happens in the absence of blame and in the presence of trust. Employees hold the keys to understanding both failures and successes, but the drive to learn and improve must first overcome the tendency to blame and punish.

BEAT THE HEAT

OSHA CONTEST

Heat stress can be a common ailment in power generation all year round, a problem with which OSHA is all too familiar. So, in order to combat the negative impact of heat stress on our workers, OSHA has instituted the “Beat The Heat” promotion.

OSHA is asking stakeholders to help raise awareness of the hazards of heat stress, heat exhaustion and heat stroke by creating an awareness tool that exhibits the importance of heat stress programs. Winners will receive a “Beat the Heat” coin and will be publicized in OSHA Quick takes and other publications. All participants will receive a letter from the Assistant Secretary of Labor.

All entries must:

- Promote and protect worker safety and health
- Inform workers and employers about the hazards of heat in the workplace
- Be original creations and not copied directly from OSHA.gov or any other source, and under the submitter’s ownership and control
- Be in an easily accessible format, e.g., webpage, URL, JPEG, PDF, MP3, PNG, etc.
- Acknowledge contest rules and provide contact information
- Be available for free public access

The contest is open NOW! Entries are due by June 9, 2023. Winners will be announced by mid-July.

How do you enter?

To enter and learn more about the heat contest rules including eligibility, judging, and more, please visit the contest webpage at www.osha.gov/heat.

IDEAS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- Design and use a heat awareness logo
- Develop a training curriculum
- Create an information booklet, brochure, or poster
- Create a webpage
- Create an infographic
- Produce a radio or television public service announcement (PSA)
- Propose a social media toolkit
- Sponsor a heat illness prevention event
- Build a phone app
- Make an informational video
- Craft and use a catchphrase for the workplace
- Generate a podcast

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) via e-mail. Please obtain permission to participate from your supervisor before volunteering for a SGE assignment.

- *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
- *Konica-Minolta Supplies*, Goshen, NY - Need one SGE- Dates: May 15-19, 2023 URGENT NEED!
-
- *Oxy Vinyls*, Pedricktown, NJ – Need one SGE - Dates: June 12-16, 2023
-
- *SABIC*, Selkirk, NY – Need three SGEs – Dates: July 10-14, 2023
-
- *Frito Lay*, Binghamton, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: July 31, 2023 – August 4, 2023
-
- *Ortho Clinical Diagnostics* - Rochester, Rochester, NY – Need three SGEs – Dates: August 14, 2023
-
- *Evonik Industries*, Waterford, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: October 23-27, 2023
-
- *Delta Air Lines, Inc.* Albany Airport, Albany, NY – Need two SGEs – Dates: November 2-3, 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.

Richard F. Brown, CSP, CFPS, CIH
VPP Manager | US DOL OSHA
500 Route 17 South
Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604
201-375-6630
Mobile 201-397-2800
brown.richard@dol.gov

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

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

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!

- *TriState Generation and Transmission, Corporate Flight Operations located in Broomfield, Colorado. VPP site-based Star recertification evaluation scheduled for June 21st and 22nd . The site employs five people, is non-union, and provides scheduled air transportation (including maintenance) for their company.*
- *US Air Force 309th Missile Maintenance Group located at Hill AFB in Utah. This is a site-based new (initial) VPP evaluation. The site employs 380 people, and the employees are represented by the American Federation of Government Employees. This evaluation is scheduled to take place July 17-21, 2023.*
- *US Air Force 309th Electronics Maintenance Group located at Hill AFB in Utah. This is a site based VPP Star recertification evaluation. The site employs 625 people, and the employees are represented by the American Federation of Government Employees. This evaluation is scheduled to take place August 7-11, 2023.*
- *Cargill Corn Milling in Wahpeton, North Dakota. This is a site based VPP Star recertification evaluation. The site employs 197 people, and the site is non-union. This evaluation is scheduled to take place October 31 – November 2, 2023.*
- *NuStar Energy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This is a site based VPP Star recertification evaluation. The site employs nine people, and the site is non-union. This evaluation is scheduled to take place November 14-16, 2023.*

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

Brad G. Baptiste
Regional VPP Manager
U.S. Department of Labor – OSHA, Region VIII
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 551
Denver, CO 80204
Work - (720) 264-6555
Cell - (303) 915-0996
e-mail - baptiste.brad@dol.gov
VPP website - www.osha.gov/vpp

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



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.



Voluntary Protection Programs
An OSHA Cooperative Program