



Smart Grid and Workforce

We are at a perfect storm of technology advances for the electric grid, funds for training and deployment, and a need for our workforce to find stable, meaningful, and long-term jobs. Smart grid jobs could help our country to become more competitive and skilled while making our grid more stable and intelligent.

Aging Utility Workforce

A survey by the Center for Energy Workforce Development which is a consortium of natural gas and nuclear energy utilities, found in 2008 that within five years, the industry may need to replace 40-50% of its employees in five areas with up to 60% replacement in some areas. The five areas were: lineworkers, power plant operators, technicians, pipefitters/pipelayers, and both generation and transmission and distribution engineers. These areas comprise both craft and non-union employees.

Smart Grid Jobs Potential

A GridWise Alliance analysis of smart grid jobs potential and found that with a large stimulus investment, over 200,000 jobs could be created in the first three years alone. These employees include direct utility smart grid jobs, contractors, direct and indirect suppliers, and energy service companies.

Workforce Funding

The Recovery Act provides significant funding for workforce development. In the Department of Energy (DOE) smart grid program, \$100 million was set aside for workforce development and we have been working with them to help find the feeders—universities, community colleges, tech schools, training centers—to fund for smart grid training. The Department of Labor (DOL) green jobs program will offer \$500 million in grants for green jobs. In addition, DOL will be issuing \$3.5 Billion in formula grants across the public workforce system to augment ongoing operations in high growth areas to help meet employers' needs. Additional information about the DOL Recovery Act Investments can be found at: <http://www.dol.gov/recovery/implement.htm>.

The Department of Education is also involved in preparing the workforce in their K-12 programs.

Resources

National system of One Stop Career Centers: <http://www.careeronestop.org/>

State-by-state link for job listings is: http://www.careeronestop.org/JobSearch/COS_jobsites.aspx

Interagency Network of Enterprise Assistance Providers (INEAP):
<https://www.ineap.nist.gov/ineap/resource.ineap?id=read¬eID=93A>

Federal job openings: <http://www.usa.jobs>

Military transition jobs can be found at: <http://www.careeronestop.org/militarytransition/>

Veterans Green Jobs Academy: <http://veteransgreenjobs.org/green-jobs-training/training-programs>

Smart Grid program jobs at the Department of Energy: <http://www.oe.energy.gov/>
Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology positions:
<http://www.nist.gov/hrmd/staffing/applyingforjobs.htm>