

Wabash Valley Power Association's Jeff Pogue Receives Innovation Award for New Approaches in Electric Reliability

(Columbus, OH) — Jeffrey Pogue, commercial and industrial (C&I) account engineer for Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), received the annual Energy Innovation Award at the Exacter, Inc. Certification in Field Reliability Operations Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on August 26, 2009.

The award is given to the company and individual who employ the most innovative strategies for hardening distribution systems and reducing power outages. Pogue developed a program that employed the EXACTER® Outage-Avoidance System at 24 rural electric cooperatives in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. The EXACTER system allowed member utilities to survey their overhead power lines and identify equipment in weakened states — enabling them to replace the equipment before a power outage occurred.

“Jeff has a real vision for improving reliability using proactive, predictive maintenance strategies,” notes conference organizer John Lauletta. “What he’s done at Wabash with EXACTER technology is truly on the cutting edge of outage-mitigation programs in the entire country.”

Pogue’s winning program allowed multiple cooperative utilities to share the EXACTER technology in order to uncover hidden problems on their overhead lines. These member utilities were able to identify and locate failing equipment and then take preventive measures before the problems caused disruptions for their customers.

“EXACTER technology is new, but after testing it, I saw that it was accurate,” states Pogue. “I deployed the equipment across our organization and every member utility that used it was able to identify weakened equipment and pre-empt power outages. It’s great to be honored with this award, but the truth is, I am just using a new tool that works.”

Wabash Valley Power Association is an Indianapolis-based electric cooperative that provides wholesale electricity to 28 distribution cooperatives in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri.

For More Information

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