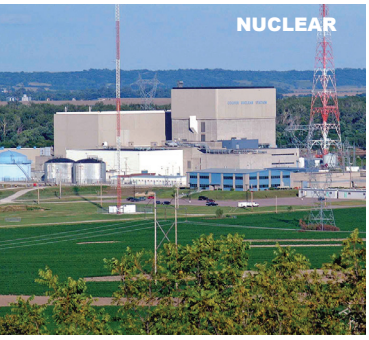







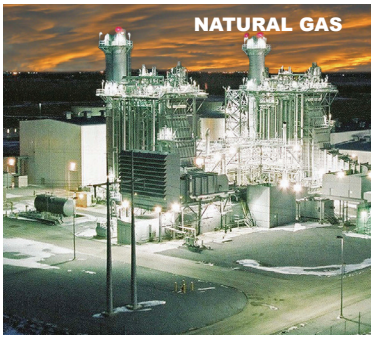

Nebraska Public Power District

Always there when you need us

JANUARY / 2023





WE ARE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE...

CAREERS *in the* Electric Utility INDUSTRY



Have you ever considered a **career** in the electric utility industry? There are great reasons why you should. With the right education and training, you can make great money and provide a service that **benefits millions of people** every day. Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) wants you to consider the following careers!

Electrical Engineer

Electrical engineers design and develop equipment used in the generation, distribution and use of electrical energy, as well as overseeing any maintenance, installation and operation. They design electrical systems and products, including arranging their circuitry, develop improvements for existing electrical equipment, organize and manage staff and materials in the production of electrical products, and ensure that these products meet specifications and adhere to safety regulations. They may also plan and develop power stations, power grids and equipment for generators.



This career would be a good fit for you if you:

- **Are curious about how things work**
- **Enjoy both math and science**
- **Like to tinker with electronics**
- **Have good problem solving skills**
- **Are curious about how systems work**

Education background:

Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Colorado Technical University in Colorado Springs, CO

What does your day consist of?

Most of my time as a "protection engineer" at NPPD consists of developing relay settings that protect our transmission and distribution systems. We develop testing procedures for new or updated equipment to verify proper operation. We analyze outages using these relays to verify our settings operated and protected NPPD's system correctly. We also help maintain NPPD compliance with FERC regulations, which is our federal oversight.

What got you interested in this career?

My dad had been an REA lineman, but once I had worked in a power plant, I found power production and distribution interesting and complex. Also, I had started college at the University of Nebraska-Kearney with an undecided major before deciding to join the US Navy where I became a nuclear electrician's mate. That job consisted of operating and performing maintenance in the nuclear power plant on an aircraft carrier. After that, I decided to complete an electrical engineering degree.

What do you love about your job?

My favorite thing to do is analyze outages. This is the best way to prove that the work you've done on developing protective settings is working correctly.

Why is your work important to NPPD?

Protection is the balance of removing faulted equipment to prevent damage to that equipment without taking out more of the electrical system than is necessary or that would create instability that can cascade throughout the electrical system.

What advice do you have for someone considering this career?

Become comfortable using math. You don't have to be a whiz, but you will have to be able to use it consistently as a tool. Also, attention to detail is key to preventing mistakes - in your homework, procedures, settings, emails, or wherever.

"I found power production and distribution interesting and complex."

$75,000 - $184,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SALARY RANGE

Line Technicians

Line Technicians install, repair and maintain the network of overhead powerlines and underground cables that carry electricity from generators to end users. In addition to working on the lines themselves, line technicians also install power poles and associated equipment including supports, cross arms, street lights and electrical equipment such as transformers and circuit breakers. During emergency situations, such as when live wires have been knocked down by severe weather, line technicians are called out to safely repair the damage and remove hazards.



Meet Tyler Meins

Apprentice Line Technician

This career would be a good fit for you if you:

- **Enjoy being outdoors in all kinds of weather**
- **Are not afraid of heights**
- **Are good at problem-solving and troubleshooting**
- **Work well with others as part of a team**
- **Are able to be on your feet for long periods of time**

Education background:

Associate's Degree in Utility Line from Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, NE

Associate's Degree in Diesel Technology from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE

What does your day consist of?

I work outdoors in all kinds of weather climbing poles or working from a bucket truck with both live and dead power lines. I put up new poles, power lines and equipment. I also maintain and repair existing poles and equipment. I help inspect power lines for problems. Making sure our work is done carefully, safely and in an efficient manner is a huge part of my job.

What got you interested in this career?

I enjoy being outdoors and working with my hands. I wanted to do something that was physically and technically challenging. This career sounded fulfilling and rewarding, especially knowing how much customers appreciate you keeping their lights on!

What do you love about your job?

The best thing about my job is the daily change of scenery. Every day is different – whether it's constructing and repairing lines and equipment – or restoring power to our customers. This job gives me a feeling of accomplishment and pride. I enjoy lending a helping hand to our customers in their time of need.

Why is your work important to NPPD?

My job is important to NPPD because I help to provide the power we need to light our homes and businesses every day. People count on having electricity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and when that gets interrupted – it's my job to get it back on, as quickly as possible. It's a good feeling to be able to help our customers in their time of need, making our lives better!

What advice do you have for someone considering this career?

If you want a challenging and rewarding career – you won't find a better one than this!

"I wanted to do something that was physically and technically challenging."

$59,000 - $139,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SALARY RANGE

Environmental Engineer

Environmental engineers identify, implement and manage measures to protect and restore the natural environment from the effects of human activity. They evaluate the potential environmental impact that new engineering or construction projects may have, and suggest ways in which the impact can be minimized and/or rehabilitated at the end of the project. Where there has been significant environmental damage, environmental engineers assess the site, and determine the best method to remove any pollution and rehabilitate the area.

This career would be a good fit for you if you:

- **Have an interest in the environment and conservation**
- **Have good problem solving skills**
- **Have good planning and organizational skills**
- **Have good communication skills**



Education background:

Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, with emphasis in Environmental Engineering from Iowa State University in Ames, IA

Associates of Science Degree, with emphasis in mathematics from Central Community College in Columbus, NE

What does your day consist of?

I oversee environmental activities involving water throughout NPPD. This ranges from preparing reports which detail the types of water discharges that come from our power generating facilities to providing guidance to other NPPD employees when they have a project involving water. I ensure compliance with environmental regulations dealing with water: wastewater, groundwater, surface water, and drinking water. Examples of compliance includes taking samples, analyzing and determining the significance of laboratory results from multiple water samples, preparing reports, and applying for permits.

What got you interested in this career?

I developed an interest for environmental engineering after I had already started college. When I first graduated high school, I had no idea what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. While attending Central Community College, I excelled at my calculus class and developed a passion for mathematics. Also, I have always been interested in the outdoors and sustainable environments.

What do you love about your job?

The best part of my job is having the opportunity to explore the water system throughout Nebraska. The landscape of Nebraska is one of the most beautiful things I have ever experienced. Being able to explore that landscape, following the river and canal systems through Nebraska from West to East is incredible. The water is diverted through a series of canals and reservoirs placed in strategic positions that allow us to use that water for whatever we may need it for: irrigation of croplands, cooling of industrial equipment, power generation, and even recreation.

Why is your work important to NPPD?

My work at NPPD is important because it strives to preserve Nebraska in its most natural state. The idea is to minimize the impact on the environment due to human activities. Environmental Engineers make it so it's possible for all Nebraskans to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and enjoy the outdoors without having to worry about adverse health effects due to pollution.

What advice do you have for someone considering this career?

I would encourage anyone considering this career to network as much as possible. The more people you know, the more resources and knowledge you have available to help you when you are stuck on a problem.

"I have always been interested in the outdoors and sustainable environments."

$75,000 - $139,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SALARY RANGE

Mechanic

A plant mechanic offers a hands-on work opportunity that includes installation of equipment, monitoring equipment performance, troubleshooting problems, welding and repairing equipment. They work with a range of tools to diagnose and repair industrial machinery and equipment malfunctions. Overall, you would be in charge of making sure machines, mechanical equipment, and buildings are working properly and in good condition. If you are good at fixing things, this could be the job for you!



Meet Jarred Stutheit
Mechanic

This career would be a good fit for you if you:

- **Like working with your hands and fixing things**
- **Are good at problem-solving and troubleshooting**
- **Are curious about how things work**
- **Are able to stand and kneel in small places**

Education background:

Associates Degree of Applied Science in Diesel-Ag Equipment Service Technology from Southeast Community College-Milford

What does your day consist of?

My duties at NPPD are to safely and reliably maintain Cooper Nuclear Station. I do a lot of preventative maintenance on pumps, valves, diesel generators, and HVAC equipment – a little bit of everything to ensure plant operability.

What got you interested in this career?

I've always been a hands-on type person. Growing up I was always taking things apart or fixing things that were broke. From then on I always knew I wanted to do something that allowed me to work on things. When it came time for me to decide what I wanted to do, I looked into a mechanical type field. Being raised around the Ag industry, I decided upon a mechanical based field, which turned out to be just what I was looking for.

What do you love about your job?

The coolest thing about my job is being able to work at a nuclear power plant. That's not something everyone gets to do. It challenges me every day and gives me the opportunity to better myself. We do a lot of training throughout the year, and many times the training comes up with better ways to do something, which is also very rewarding.

Why is your work important to NPPD?

My job is important to NPPD because I help to keep the lights on. Power plants generate the electricity that people depend on to meet their daily needs. I help ensure that all of the equipment is in working order, so the power plant can continuously generate electricity for our customers.

What advice do you have for someone considering this career?

Take your time and don't get discouraged if you can't decide what to do right out of high school. Find something that interests you and give that a shot. There are a lot of different career paths that can be pursued, and education is key to a successful career. Education does pay.

"Growing up I was always taking things apart or fixing things that were broke."

$59,000 - $119,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SALARY RANGE

Technical Analyst

Information Technology careers include implementing computer systems and software, providing technical assistance, creating technical documentation, and managing information systems. The IT industry is a dynamic and entrepreneurial working environment that has a revolutionary impact on the economy and society.



This career would be a good fit for you if you:

- **Are detail-oriented**
- **Like the challenge of learning new things**
- **Enjoy working with computers and other technology**
- **Are good at problem-solving and troubleshooting**

Education background:

Associate's Degree in Electronics with Cisco Networking background from Central Community College in Columbus, NE

CompTIA A+ Certification

What does your day consist of?

I develop all of the images for new laptops, desktop, and tablets. I customize what software is loaded and keep the deployment current with the latest software. In addition to that, I provide support for employees that may have issues or troubles with printers, applications, software or hardware.

What got you interested in this career?

The Information Technology industry operates at a speed much faster than any other industry. I was interested in knowing that technology is always changing and will never go away. Plus, it will always be a big part of our lives!

What do you love about your job?

The best part about my job is that each day is different. There are always challenges or new problems that come up and I enjoy figuring out how to fix or solve the issues.

Why is your work important to NPPD?

My job is important to NPPD because I am the one that employees come to when something isn't working with their computers or printers. They depend on me and I need to get them back up and running as soon as possible so they can do their job.

What advice do you have for someone considering this career?

Find something that really interests you and try to master it, but also learn about all types of technology. This will make you a very valuable asset.

"I was interested in knowing that technology is always changing and will never go away."

$75,000 - $106,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SALARY RANGE

Finance/ Accounting

Finance and Accounting requires a detail oriented person to maintain the financial records, investments, and budgets of a company. It encompasses careers that record, classify, summarize, analyze, and communicate a business's financial information and business transactions for use in management decision-making.



This career would be a good fit for you if you:

- Are detail-oriented
- Enjoy working with numbers
- Have good organizational and time management skills
- Have good problem solving skills

Education background:

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Accounting from the University of Nebraska in Omaha, NE

Lean Six Sigma certificate from Central Community College in Columbus, NE

What does your day consist of?

I have various weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual responsibilities that involve typical accounting work, such as completing journal entries, invoices, financial statements, and audit work papers. I also get to work on various reports and projects, and analyze data to problem-solve questions and requests.

What got you interested in this career?

I took a couple Accounting classes in high school and ended up understanding the basic principles of Accounting really well, and enjoyed learning the material.

What do you love about your job?

The best thing about my job is that it's a great balance of reoccurring, similar responsibilities with new, ad-hoc requests and projects. Another neat thing about working in Accounting is that I get to work with co-workers from several different departments.

Why is your work important to NPPD?

The work of the Accounting Department is important as we ensure that financial records are accurate and timely. This in turn assists management in making business decisions for the company, which can ultimately affect the rates that our customers pay for their electricity.

What advice do you have for someone considering this career?

Search and apply for Accounting/ Finance related internships. Internships are a great way to get some hands-on, real world experience while still in school. They also make your resume more impressive and are a good way to make business connections that could be helpful down the road when applying for a full-time position.

"The best thing about my job is that it's a great balance or reoccurring, similar responsibilities with new, ad-hoc requests and projects."

$75,000 - $119,000

ESTIMATED ANNUAL SALARY RANGE

Take a look at these additional career fields...

Communications ►

Responsible for the delivery of information through print, television, radio and the internet.

Communications Specialist
$59K - $119K*
Bachelors Degree; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Multimedia Producer
$66K - $94K*
Bachelors Degree & experience; or Associates Degree & experience

Web Designer/ Developer
$75K - $106K*
Bachelors Degree; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Customer Service and Delivery ►

The human connection between the electric utility and the customers we serve.

Customer Contact Specialist
$40K - $75K*
Associates Degree; or High School & experience

Economic Development Consultant
$95K - $160K*
Bachelors Degree & experience; Associates Degree & experience; or High Shool & experience

Account Manager
$109K - $160K*
Bachelors Degree & experience; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Human Resources ►

Handles hiring, wages, benefits, payroll and training.

HR Business Partner
$66K - $139K*
Bachelors Degree; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Compensation Specialist
$75K - $119K*
Bachelors Degree & experience

Training Specialist
$75K - $119K*
Bachelors Degree & experience; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Nuclear Positions ►

Operating our nuclear power plant requires a variety of specialized skills.

Armed Security Officer
$48K - $75K*
High School and must be at least 21 years of age and no criminal background

Chemistry Technician
$66K - $119K*
Bachelors Degree; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Radiological Protection Technician
$66K - $119K*
Bachelors Degree; Associates Degree; or High School & experience

Non-Licensed Nuclear

Power Plant Operations ►

Run our power plants, making sure customers have enough electricity to meet their daily needs.

Station Operator
$75K - $106K*
Associates Degree; or High School & experience

Unit Operator
$84K - $119K*
Associates Degree; or High School & experience

Plant Operator
$84K - $119K*
High School and Nuclear Navy experience preferred; or Associates Degree in a Technical field

Supply Chain/Materials Management ►

Purchase materials, equipment and services, control construction and repair inventory, and issue supplies.

Material Controller
$53K - $84K*
High School & experience

Inventory Control Specialist
$75K - $106K*
Bachelors Degree & experience; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & expereience

Procurement Specialist
$75K - $119K*
Bachelors Degree; Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Support Staff ►

A wide variety of skilled positions are required to support the daily business needs of NPPD.

Administrative Assistant
$40K - $84K*
Associates Degree & experience; Certificate & experience; or High School & experience

Graphic Artist
$48K - $66K*
Post High School Graphic Arts Education & experience; or High School & experience

Accounting / Finance
$75K - $119K*
Bachelors Degree & experience; Associates Degree; or High School & experience

Technicians ►

Perform a variety of maintenance and repair activities in any of the specialized areas listed.

Electrical / HVAC / Instrument & Control / Mechanical / Substation / Wind Energy
$59K - $139K*
Associates Degree; Vocational Degree; High School and experience; or equivalent Military Training

Technology ►

Ensures that NPPD's systems, networks, data and applications all connect and function properly and securely.

IT Support Technician
$66K - $94K*
Associates Degree & experience; or High School & experience

Systems / Technicial Analyst
$75K - $139K*
Bachelors Degree; Associates Degree & experience; or High Shool & experience

Cyber Security Specialist
$95K - $160K*
Bachelors Degree & experience; or Associates Degree & experience

*Actual pay is based on experience and employee performance

Salary ranges are subject to change

CONSIDER A CAREER IN THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY.

Workers at Nebraska Public Power District serve a vital need.

WE ALL RELY ON ELECTRICITY EVERY DAY.

We count on it at home, school and work -- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many customers depend on it to provide critical -- often lifesaving -- services.

THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY SUPPLIES THE ELECTRICTY WE NEED.

Many people work together to generate electricity and get it to customers when it's needed.

THE FUTURE LOOKS GOOD FOR ELECTRICITY.

The electric utility industry is changing. New ways to generate and deliver electricity are coming into use. The industry will remain an important and exciting one and it will continue to offer good careers to qualified people.

Who can I talk to about careers in the electric utility industry?

- Your school counselor
- NPPD's Careers Outreach Specialist - **Kim Liebig / kkliebi@nppd.com**
- Your local electricity provider







It is never too soon to start preparing for your future career. What you learn in school will help you build a **POWERFUL** career.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS I, II, III, IV

Electric utility jobs require being able to communicate with others verbally and through writing. You will need to be able to follow step-by-step instructions, read and write reports and communicate clearly with your co-workers and boss. This can be gained by taking four years of English/Language Arts in high school.

MATHEMATICS (ALGEBRA I AND II, GEOMETRY, CALCULUS)

Many electric utility jobs require being able to problem solve. You will need to be able to identify a problem and try to resolve it. Mathematics teaches you the skill of breaking down a problem into logical steps in order to eventually solve it. Doing well in mathematics actually helps you become a better thinker.

SCIENCE (BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS)

Many electric utility jobs require being able to understand the nature of science, including how energy is produced. You will need to be able to ask questions, gather data, and make observations. One of the things that science teaches you is how energy impacts the environment and how to protect yourself and the environment.






WE ARE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE...

Nebraska Public Power District

Always there when you need us

EEO: Minorities / Women / Disabled / Veterans

Pre-employment testing is required. Physicals, drug screens, and background checks are conducted. Keep your driving record clean and JUST SAY NO to drugs and alcohol!

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