If you’re looking for a career in an industry that will always be in demand, the electricity sector is for you. Everybody depends on electricity, even though they often don’t stop to think about all the different people it takes to bring power to their homes. An amazing variety of job opportunities are waiting for you.

Given the highly technical nature of the industry, most people require specialized knowledge. This can come from on-the-job training or university and college degrees in fields such as electrical engineering or environmental science. Whatever your background, a good understanding of the steps and equipment involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical power is a must. If you’ve got what it takes, the options are unlimited!

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A Unique Window of Opportunity

This is a fantastic time to get into the electricity sector. By 2015, 30% of BC’s population will be aged 55 or older and will be ready to retire within the next decade. What does this mean to you? As a new employee you will have a chance to move up fast. Electricity is so important to our lives that the sector is doing everything possible to ensure customers continue to enjoy the high quality service we’ve all come to expect. This means that supervisors and managers are making a strong commitment to help new workers learn every facet of their job, with a strong emphasis on safety procedures. When the senior workers retire, you will be ready to advance!

Employees in the electricity sector make great wages and receive excellent benefits. Hard work and dedication is rewarded with opportunities for growth and fast advancement.

So all this sounds good…but what’s the catch?

Actually, there isn’t one!
WHAT DOES AN OPERATIONS MANAGER DO?

If you like being at the centre of the action and are cool under pressure, you might have what it takes to be a power Operations Manager. As the person in charge of power generation, distribution, transmission or field operations, your decisions have an impact on thousands of electricity users who depend on you. Making things work in the here and now means anticipating what will happen in the future. A keen ability to look ahead is an important part of striking the right balance between the demand for electricity and the supply you are providing.

Keeping the cost of electricity down is a big priority. You are responsible for the financial performance of your operations. You need to set the right targets and budget how money gets spent in order to reach them. This involves hiring the best new talent, so great people skills are essential. A good manager knows how to provide the right kind of work environment for employees and make sure that they are ready to deal with any situation.

As Operations Manager, you need a strategic mind to recognize opportunities to make things work better. You study the improvements that people elsewhere have made and see if they might be used in your own operations. Then you create processes and procedures for others to follow and make sure that things operate smoothly and safely. Guiding others in their job and helping them gain the right technical know-how is critical to keeping the power grid running at peak performance. It’s a big responsibility, but it feels good to know that so many people are counting on you.

Safety is always the FIRST priority and we make sure everyone sticks to the plan. Staying focused and aware is the key. Everyone is responsible for not only their own personal protection, but also for the safety of their co-workers and the public. And it feels good to know that you and your co-workers are always looking out for each other!

WHAT’S THE COMMITMENT?

Depending on how far you go into your area of specialization, your university degree could take four years to five or more. Experience counts for a lot in operations, so you need to work your way up to a position of Operations Manager. As you become more and more familiar with the intricacies of the grid and advance in career level, your area of responsibility widens. Operations managers also make a commitment to continuous learning such as keeping up to date on the latest technological advances, new procedures, and changes in laws and regulations.

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

- A university degree in a relevant field of study, typically engineering.
- Good knowledge of power generation, transmission and distribution systems.
- An ability to work your way up and gain knowledge of the industry as well as a proven track record in leading teams of people.
- Typically employers in the electricity sector will hire engineering grads and work with them to complete the requirements for full recognition.
- Resumes with a cover letter and a copy of your school transcripts can be sent directly to potential employers.
- For employer website links visit www.brightfuturesbc.ca/jobs

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