

Lee A. Boehm

Age: 24
Title: Assistant Unit Operator
Company: Omaha Public Power District
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What does your company do? Supply electricity to the greater Omaha area.

What attracted you to the company? OPPD actually came to Bismarck State College to interview for jobs and I was lucky enough to get a job at the North Omaha Power Plant

Some of my duties include: I am responsible for the proper operation of 5 General Electric Turbine-Generators and their associated transformers. I assist the unit operator with taking off and putting generators online to make electricity for OPPD. Our plant normally supplies 560MWs. On the average 1 Megawatt can supply power to 778 homes! On the average we can supply power to 435,000 homes.

What are the best/most interesting things about your job? The opportunity to learn something new everyday. Everyday we are approached with a different problem and have to figure out the best solution to keep supplying power. Also working with the different crafts like welders, electricians, instrumentation and control, and machinists.

What is the most rewarding thing about your job? Working with those different crafts to complete a job and having a sense of accomplishment to know that I am supplying power to the people of Omaha.

How did you decide on this career path? Great opportunities in the electrical field, job security, advancement within companies.

What kind of school, classes, and training most prepared you with the necessary skills?

Bismarck State has prepared me very well with the Power/Process Plant program. I have also taken Electrical System Transmission classes which helped broaden my understanding of the whole electrical grid.

Do you make a good living? I feel I am blessed with a wonderful job and great people to work with. I grew up on a farm and never had a dependable vehicle, and now it is nice to have a new reliable vehicle. Now I can afford to make trips to see my sisters in Arizona every year. I also was able to become a homeowner in the great city of Omaha.

What kind of salary and benefits can a new employee at your company expect? I am an hourly employee, but hourly or salary; OPPD offers great pay and benefits. Most hourly employees can start out at about \$17/hour and top out at \$40/hour.

With what kind of technology do you use and interact? I work with computers in our control rooms and PLC's (Programmable Logic Computers) out in the plant. I work with this daily and have to be very familiar with these to operate safely and efficiently.

What advice would you give to students who are undecided on a career choice? The electrical industry is a land of opportunity, with room to advance in the aging work force.

Finally, what do you think makes you a good Dream Team candidate? I think I show what a young and eager person can do in this industry. Most of the people I work with are 35-55 and I am achieving what they are at 24. Hard work and discipline pay off