

## **BPA APPRENTICE PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET**

### **LINEMAN APPRENTICE**

- Do you like to work with your hands and see quality results?
- Are you able to work 100 feet or more above Mother Earth?
- Do you enjoy working outdoors?
- Are you able to get along with a variety of people?
- Are you in excellent physical condition?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, a career as a Lineman for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) may be exactly what you've been looking for. Journeyman Linemen build, maintain, and replace high voltage power lines. The skills required by a lineman are varied and complex. Journeymen must have good mechanical skills to assemble and repair large towers and wood structures. Power lines operate at 13,000 to 500,000 volts and continuous operation of the power system is paramount. Journeymen are required to have knowledge of rigging skills in addition to physics and electrical theory.

The maintenance crews maintain the lines and equipment of the district. Some districts cover extensive areas, and the crew may travel out on Monday, working in a travel status for a week and then return home on Friday. Occasionally the crew may stay out over a weekend to finish work the next week. The maintenance crews build some new lines, install tap lines to existing lines and substations and refurbish old lines. Working conditions vary depending on tasks. Most work is performed outside in all weather conditions. Work is performed around energized equipment, where carelessness could cause a serious system disturbance or outage. You work sometimes in excess of 500 feet in the air on steel towers or platforms. Such work may entail being suspended by a body belt and safety strap. The lineman apprentice must work on surfaces that are slippery due to ice, installing conductor, pulling cable, etc. At times, work may be very physically demanding.

The lineman apprenticeship program is four years in length and consists of eight 6-month training periods. An apprentice receives simple tasks to perform at first, and as those skills develop, the apprentice is assigned to more complex tasks. Training assignments of several months away from your home base will afford you the opportunity to work in locations all over the Pacific Northwest.

You will receive on-the-job training while working as a crew member of several different maintenance crews. In addition, you will receive classroom instruction while receiving full pay and benefits. Classroom instruction will develop your knowledge in a variety of subjects, including electrical theory, rigging, electrical safety, and mechanics. Safety is a primary concern when working around very high voltages, so the apprentice will receive extensive instruction in safe work practices. You will be trained to perform any task expected of a journeyman lineman. Lineman apprentices are trained in both construction and maintenance skills.

Since BPA's crews work anywhere in the Pacific Northwest, you can expect to be in a travel status for approximately 50 percent of your apprenticeship. The Region to which you are assigned remains your home base, so you receive a per diem allowance while in a travel status.

Candidates for all BPA apprenticeship programs are selected in accordance with competitive Civil Service procedures. All linemen or apprentices for the BPA must adhere to the following working conditions.

- Work with hazardous materials such as acids, PCBs, pesticides, asbestos, mercury, solvents, to name a few. Safe working procedures are established and must be followed.
- Work close to energized high voltage equipment. Work safely and efficiently without endangering yourself or others. Each lineman and apprentice receives training to work safely and is periodically tested to insure they have a thorough understanding of safe working procedures.
- Respond to emergency call-outs, which may occur in the middle of the night or on holidays during all weather conditions. Live within one-hour commuting distance from your assigned headquarters.
- Each lineman or apprentice must possess a valid state driver's license and a good driving record. This is a condition of employment, and loss of driving privileges may be cause for dismissal.
- Failure to make suitable progress in the: apprenticeship program is a cause for dismissal from the program. Apprentices are expected to progress at a predefined rate. To do so requires more than doing eight hours of on-the-job training. Successful apprentices spend approximately eight hours of their own time each week studying apprenticeship materials.

Candidates for all BPA apprenticeship programs are selected in accordance with competitive Civil Service procedures.

For information regarding the application process, please contact the Employment Center at any of the following numbers.

**Toll Free**

**1-877-975-4272**

Portland, OR

503-230-3055