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POWERING YOUR FUTURE

# NUCP Graduates Complete Monticello's NLO Fundamentals

by Andy Zieglmeier

Recently a group of three NUCP graduates completed their Nuclear Power Plant Fundamentals training for Non-Licensed Operators (NLO) at Monticello. These Saint Cloud Technical Community College (SCTCC) graduates were well prepared to complete this demanding course after completing their NUCP certificate requirements.

Although their NUCP training focused on Nuclear Plant Maintenance positions, Xcel Energy realizes that this preparation also makes them well suited for a NLO position and has hired several graduates from SCTCC and Dakota County

Technical College (DCTC) in recent years. Since the NLO is responsible for monitoring, operating and performing equipment checks on the type of equipment and systems for which they received training it is little wonder that Xcel Energy likes to hire NUCP certificate holders.

Xcel Energy Nuclear routinely hires groups of Nuclear Plant Attendants/Non-Licensed Operators (NLO) for this entry-level position. It is one of the best avenues to gain employment at a Nuclear Power Plant. This position provides ample opportunities for advancement to become a licensed Operator or a Maintenance worker.



## Nuclear Plants USA

A quick summary of the number of operating plants in the United States.

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# Nuclear Plants USA

by Larry Callaway

There are 61 commercially operating nuclear power plants in the United States with 99 nuclear reactors. The power plants are in 30 states. Of these nuclear plants, 35 have two or more reactors. The Palo Verde power plant in Arizona is the largest nuclear plant, and it has three reactors with a combined net summer electricity generating capacity at 3,937 megawatts (MW). The R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant in New York is the smallest nuclear plant, and it has one reactor with a net summer electricity generating capacity at 508 MW.



*Watts Bar located near Spring City in southeastern Tennessee.*

The newest nuclear reactor to enter service, Watts Bar Unit 2 with 1,150 MW electricity generating capacity. It began commercial operation in October 2016.



*Operating commercial power plants as of November 8<sup>th</sup> 2016. 99 nuclear reactors located in 30 states.*

Four new nuclear reactors are actively under construction: Vogtle Units 3 and 4 in Georgia and Virgil C. Summer Units 2 and 3 in South Carolina.



*Vogtle Units 3 and 4 construction – December 2016.*

# Careers in the Nuclear Industry

Source - NEI.org website



Careers in nuclear energy offer challenging work with competitive salaries and benefits. The industry needs engineers, technicians, craft workers and other professionals in positions ranging from entry-level to mid-career and those with military training and service.

## WORKING AROUND THE INDUSTRY



Men working on AOV actuator



Men working on turbine



Technician adjusting instrumentation

## Be Part of a Growing Workforce

Careers in the nuclear energy industry offer challenging work, competitive salaries and benefits, and opportunities for advancement. Nuclear professionals help to protect the environment by supporting the nation's emission-free nuclear power plants, which provide nearly 20 percent of U.S. electricity.

## Enjoy a Challenging Career in Advanced Technology

The safe and reliable operation of the nation's 99 nuclear plants relies on people of commitment and integrity acting as stewards of public health and safety, and the environment.

Success in this mission over the past 30 years has resulted in a demand for new nuclear plants to help meet the country's need for reliable, economic and emission-free electricity. With this demand comes the need for individuals

who possess a wide variety of knowledge, skills and abilities, and have a desire to learn.

Highly advanced technology and complex industrial processes present challenges that can change daily. Every work day is unique, with opportunities to resolve problems and improve processes. Opportunities may be individual or in team environments. Creativity and responsibility are rewarded with career advancement and professional development. Salaries are among the most competitive in the country.

## What Is Driving Recruitment Efforts?

Recruitment of the future work force is a major focus for the U.S. nuclear energy industry. Several factors are driving this.

## New Nuclear Power Plants

### *Careers in Nuclear Power – continued from previous page*

With four new nuclear plants under construction in the United States and another 60 around the world, these projects will need construction personnel, engineers, health physicists, power plant operators, maintenance staff and many other disciplines to build and then operate these facilities.

### **License Renewal**

Eighty-three of the nation's 99 power reactors have renewed their operating licenses and will continue to produce electricity for decades. The other reactors also are expected to renew their licenses. The companies that operate nuclear plants maintain them in excellent condition throughout their life cycles, from replacing small components to major modifications. Operating plants require the same staffing

and expertise that new plants coming on line will need.

### **Retirements Among Existing Work Force**

About half the nuclear industry's work force will be eligible to retire during the next 10 years. Along with plans for industry growth, the expected attrition of a large portion of the industry's total work force has prompted an unprecedented recruitment effort throughout the industry.

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