

Technology Innovation Project



Project Brief

TIP 423: CEATI – Transmission Overhead Line Assessment and Maintenance Program (TOLAM)

Context

Many of the transmission lines built prior to the mid-1900s are still in service and those built during the expansion years of the 1960s and 70s are beginning to show their age, requiring added maintenance and assessment. During the life of a transmission line, asset management decisions are made on an ongoing basis with an emphasis on extending the life of the assets, maintaining or improving reliability and performance, cost optimization and ensuring the safe operation of the transmission lines system.

Focus Areas

Key focus areas of the group include life extension of the assets to defer the need for major capital expenditures, the refinement and development of prudent and effective asset management practices, and maintenance techniques to reduce life cycle cost and maintain performance of the transmission lines system.

Topics & Issues

Current topics and issues include:

- Asset Investment Decisions
- Maintenance & Business Practices
- Optimizing Maintenance
- Health/ Condition Assessment & End-of-Life Prediction
- Corrosion Control and Mitigation
- Reliability Issues, Evaluations and Solutions
- Technical Standards and Supplements
- Assessment of Promising New Technologies

Annual Activities

- Face-to-Face Meetings & Quarterly Conference Calls
- Working Group Conference Calls
- On-Demand Information Exchanges
- Technical Tours
- Benchmarking Surveys

Why It Matters

Through membership in this program, BPA's Transmission Line Engineers can access participant's knowledge of condition assessment and maintenance of overhead transmission lines in the evolving industry environment.

The program accomplishes its goals by benchmarking, sharing knowledge through collaborative projects, information exchanges, training webinars, workshops, conferences, and access to a global network of subject matter experts.

Goals and Objectives

The objective of the Transmission Overhead Line Assessment and Maintenance (TOLAM) program is to bring together interested parties to exchange information on asset management practices and techniques and to facilitate research that will optimize the management of overhead transmission line assets.

About CEATI

The Centre for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation (CEATI) is a user-driven organization committed to providing technology solutions to its electrical utility participants, who are brought together to collaborate and act jointly to advance the industry through the sharing and developing of practical and applicable knowledge.

As of today, over one hundred and thirty (130) utilities from all six (6) of the world's continents are represented in CEATI's twenty (20) Programs. CEATI now boasts a library of over two thousand (2,000) published reports and is currently managing over one hundred and fifty (150) on-going projects in all areas related to the power grid. A significant amount of these reports have been adopted as national and international standards and numerous guides have been recognized as points of reference for practical information.

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Membership: Continuing

Links

www.ceati.com/TOLAM

Leverage

BPA's contributions are leveraged at a ratio of 44:1

This annual membership provides BPA access to reports and results of TOLAM projects.

For More Information Contact:

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TOLAM Current Projects

TOLAM 3274: TR: Information Required to Manage the Life Cycle of Transmission Line Assets/Components – *List of data and information that includes facility and component information, condition data to be collected and other information needed to manage transmission lines highlighting the importance of the data/information.*

TOLAM 3283: Grounding of Concrete Walls & Foundations – *Milestone 2 Report is expected in late August 2020.*

TOLAM 3284: Guideline for Grounding Steel Poles – *Milestone 1 Report is expected in November 2020.*

TOLAM 3285: Minimum Separation between Underground Pipelines and Electric Utility Grounding Systems – *Site Testing and Model Validation – Project Initiation Conference Call took place on July 10, 2020.*