



International Conference on Overhead Lines

Design, Construction, Inspection & Maintenance

April 15-18, 2024 Fort Collins, Colorado USA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday – April 14, 2024

- 6:00 am** **SKI TRIP TO WINTERPARK** (depart Fort Collins Marriott from lobby at 6:00 am)
Reservations Required!!
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm** **REGISTRATION** – Rotunda – Near the Hotel Elevators, Fort Collins, Marriott

Monday – April 15, 2024

Attire is Casual throughout the Conference; be prepared for inclement weather on Wednesday!

- 7:15 am – 8:15 am** **REGISTRATION** – Rotunda – Near the Hotel Elevators, Fort Collins, Marriott
- 7:15 am – 8:15 am** **CONFERENCE SPEAKER'S BREAKFAST** – Windsor I & II
****** Breakfast for Conference Speakers and Moderators Only******
- 8:45 am – 8:55 am** **CONFERENCE OPENING**
WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Salons A-D
Ryan Brockbank, EDM International, Inc., Fort Collins, Colorado USA
***** Technical Presentation Times Include 5-Minute Discussion/Q&A *****

SESSION A: T&D Electrification - Issues & Challenges Shaping Our Industry

Moderated by: Andy Stewart, EDM International, Inc.

- 9:00 am – 10:15 am** **Panel Discussion**
Andy Stewart, EDM International, Inc., USA
Nadia I. El Mallakh, Industry Consultant, USA
Eric Eriksen, San Luis Valley REC/Ciello, USA
Jesse Parker, Western Area Power Administration, USA

10:15 am – 10:45 am **BREAK**

SESSION B: Design, Construction and Code Specifications

Moderated by: Bob Coates, EDM International, Inc.

- 10:45 am – 11:10 am** **Colorado Power Pathway, 0 to 600 Miles in 7 Years Flat**
Josh Peterson & Parker Wrozek, Xcel Energy, USA
- 11:15 am – 11:40 am** **FERC 881 and the Evolution of Transmission Conductor Ratings**
Joe Coffey, Prysmian Group, USA
- 11:45 am – 12:10 pm** **"Good Enough" is "Good Enough" only when it's "Good Enough!"**
Ken Sharpless, Exo Group, LLC, USA
- 12:10 pm – 1:15 pm** **LUNCH** – Salons E-H



Monday – April 15, 2024 - continued

SESSION C: Insulators, Conductors and Structure Science

Moderated by: Tyler Lonsdale, EDM International, Inc.

- 1:15 pm – 1:40 pm** **Pollution of Overhead Line Insulators: Update on Standards and Insulator Performance under Severe Contamination for AC and DC Lines**
Jean-Marie George, Sediver Research Center, FRANCE and Craig Espinosa, Sediver, USA
- 1:45 pm – 2:10 pm** **Methodology for Repair of OPGW Conductors in Energized Transmission Lines**
Bayardo Selva, Instituto Costaricense de Electricidad, COSTA RICA
- 2:15 pm – 2:40 pm** **The Dulling Process is a Science!**
Ajay Mallik, SANPEC, Inc., USA & Prasad Yenumula, Duke Energy, USA
- 2:45 pm – 3:10 pm** **Wood Poles: Environmentally Positive Until the End**
Tripti Singh, University of the Sunshine Coast, AUSTRALIA
- 3:10 pm – 3:30 pm** **BREAK**

SESSION D: Mitigation of Wildfire

Moderated by: Jim Downie, EDM International, Inc.

- 3:30 pm – 3:55 pm** **Top Tree Defects Contributing to Utility Wildfire Ignitions**
Steve Day, Day & Associates, USA
- 4:00 pm – 4:25 pm** **Small-Scale Performance Testing Methods for Fire Protection Systems for Wood Poles**
Gerald Presley, Oregon State University, USA
- 4:30 pm – 4:55 pm** **Enabling Wildfire Mitigation Programs with Technology and AI**
Simer Singh & Alan Neal, EPIK Solutions, USA

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- 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm** **ICEBREAKER – hosted by EDM International, Inc.**
[Bring your drink coupons!](#) Salons E-H

If you need suggestions for dinner, please speak to the folks from EDM – they'll be happy to provide you with some ideas and directions...



SESSION E: Improved Resilience of Overhead Lines

Moderated by: Anaïs Gaunin, EDM International, Inc.

- 8:00 am – 8:25 am** **Overhead Transmission Structure and Foundation Asset Management**
Kento Arai, San Diego Gas & Electric, USA & Jonathan Jordan, EDM International, Inc., USA
- 8:30 am – 8:55 am** **Ameren Corporation Composite Poles**
August Platt, Ameren, USA
- 9:00 am – 9:25 am** **New Zealand Utilities Increase Resilience of their Grid while Extending the Life of the Pole Fleet**
Kris Deuar, Kris Deuar & Associates, USA
- 9:30 am – 9:55 am** **Rapid Restoration: Overhead Distribution Resilience**
Joe Potvin, Electric Power Research Institute USA
- 9:55 am – 10:15 am** **BREAK**

SESSION F: Wildfire Risk Mitigation

Moderated by: Ryan Brockbank, EDM International, Inc.

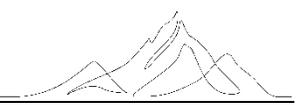
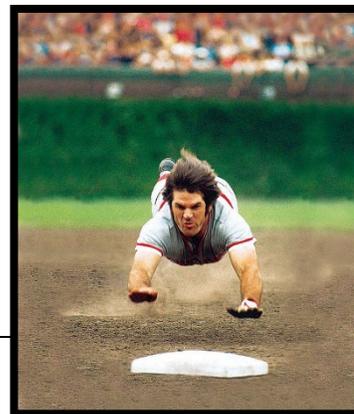
- 10:15 am – 10:40 am** **Wildfire Mitigation Practices for Small Utilities**
Jordan Ambrogi, Core Electric Cooperative, USA
- 10:45 am – 11:10 am** **Wildfire Prevention on Distribution Lines: Assessing and Mitigating Wildfire Ignition Risk**
Nathan Groh, Black Hills Energy, USA
- 11:20 am – 11:45 am** **Overview of Xcel Energy’s Wildfire Mitigation Program**
Valerie Rose & Travis Johnson, Xcel Energy, USA
- 11:50 am – 12:15 pm** **No Fires, No Fires, No Fires**
Randy Lyle, Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, USA
- 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm** **LUNCH – Salons E-H**

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm **EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS –Outdoor Pavilion**
❖ Refreshments Served at 3:00 p.m.

- Brooks Manufacturing Company
- Creative Composites Group
- [Cyberhawk](#)
- Eagle Electrocution Solutions, LLC
- EDM International, Inc.
- [eSmart](#) Systems
- [Geotek](#), Inc.
- Hawaii Drone Professionals / P&R Technologies
- Hot Shot Infrared Inspections LLC
- Hughes Brothers, Inc.
- INTEC Services, Inc.
- [Jarraff by Prinoth](#)
- [Kaddas](#) Enterprises, Inc.
- Kinectrics
- Kris Deuar & Associates
- [Matergenics](#), Inc.
- Nisus Corporation
- North American Wood Pole Council
- Pinnacle Pole
- PLP
- [Polesocks](#) LLC
- Power Grid Resources
- Power Line Sentry, LLC
- [Sediver](#) USA
- Trident Industries
- Utility Asset Management Inc.
- Utility Structural Systems
- VAF Industries
- Viance, LLC

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **CASH BAR – Salons A-D**

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm **BANQUET DINNER & GUEST SPEAKER**
Casual Attire!!
Salons A-D
Pete Rose, 7:15 p.m.



SESSION G: Technological Advancements for Overhead Systems

Moderated by: Frank Lehnerz, EDM International, Inc.

- 8:00 am – 8:25 am** **The Long-Term Value of AI-Assisted Virtual Inspections**
Jenn Clarke, eSmart Systems, USA
- 8:30 am – 8:55 am** **The Use of Remote Sensors in Electric Utility Grid Management**
Clinton Char, West Power Energy, USA
- 9:00 am – 9:25 am** **The Science of Tower Painting and Maintenance**
Michael MacDougall, Tower Power Group, USA
- 9:25 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** **BREAK**

SESSION H: Dealing with Structure Challenges

Moderated by: Paul Ringenberg, EDM International, Inc.

- 10:00 am – 10:25 am** **After Penta: What Comes After the End?**
Jeff Morrell, Oregon State University, USA
- 10:30 am – 10:55 am** **RIP Penta: Long Live Wood Pole Protection**
Jeff Lloyd, Nisus Corporation, USA
- 11:00 am – 11:25 am** **A Finite-Element Model for Evaluating the Effects of Drilling on Cross-Sectional Modulus and Overall Strength of Wood Utility Poles**
Yishi Lee, Metro State University of Denver, USA
- 11:30 am – 11:55 am** **How Broadband Funding and New Attachment Regulation is Affecting Distribution Pole Construction and Maintenance**
Thomas Magee, Keller and Heckman, LLP & Sam Stonerock, Southern California Edison, USA

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm **FIELD SESSION & LUNCH (BBQ starts at 12:10 pm)**

EDM's Office and Lab Facility
4001 Automation Way

- ❖ **Bring a jacket and wear shoes that can get wet in case conditions aren't ideal!!**
- ❖ **Buses will pick up beginning at 12:00 pm out the front door to the hotel.**

A bus will transport conference attendees to EDM and will depart at the conclusion of the technical session (go out the FRONT DOOR of the hotel and the bus will pick up and drop off there).

Please note that parking is not readily available at EDM and the bus will provide a convenient pick up and drop off! It is only a 5-minute ride to EDM!!!

Field Demonstrations included in the Field Session:

- ✓ Rocky Mountain Raptor Program – *bring your cameras!*
- ✓ IkeGPS Camera
- ✓ All-Terrain Tree Trimmer
- ✓ Bird Diverter Installation Robot
- ✓ Effective Safety Products
- ✓ Line Maintenance Tools
- ✓ ROW Clearing Equipment
- ✓ Bird Diverter Installation Drone
- ✓ NDE Inspection Technologies
- ✓ Animal Deterrents
- ✓ Mechanical Pole Tester (MPT)
- ✓ IR Inspection Technologies
- ✓ Mapping and GIS Technologies
- ✓ Steel Corrosion Inspection Technologies
- ✓ Conductor Cleaning
- ✓ Phase Identification
- ✓ Mini Z X-ray Unit
- ✓ Pole Fire Testing Simulation
- ✓ FRC Pole Test



Thursday – April 18, 2024

SESSION I: Solutions to Avian and Wildlife Challenges

Moderated by: Duncan Eccleston, EDM

- 8:00 am – 8:25 am** **Evaluating the Effectiveness of the TransGard Laser System at Substations in Indiana and Louisiana**
Ashley Bennett, Electric Power Research Institute, USA
- 8:30 am – 8:55 am** **Toward Eagle Rule Compliance: Lessons and Challenges in Cross-Departmental Collaboration**
Cristina Frank, Pepco Holdings, Inc., USA
- 9:00 am – 9:25 am** **Utilities and Managing Biodiversity**
Claudia Rocca, Public Service Enterprise Group, USA
- 9:30 am – 9:55 am** **Results and Recommendations for Marking High-Voltage Lines in Bird-Dense Areas**
Anne Lacey, International Crane Foundation & Jason Jones, Power Line Sentry, LLC, USA
- 9:55 am – 10:15 am** **BREAK**

SESSION J: Extending Overhead Line Life

Moderated by: Brock Fiedler, EDM

- 10:15 am – 10:40 am** **Understanding and Mitigating Pole Fires**
John Lauletta, Exacter, Inc., USA
- 10:45 am – 11:10 am** **Effectiveness of Wood Pole Assessment Methods**
Austin Kelly, Sr., Osmose Utilities Services, Inc., USA
- 11:15 am – 11:40 am** **Quality Testing of Overhead Transmission Line Materials**
Andrew Rees, POWER Engineers, Inc., USA
- 11:45 am – 12:10 pm** **Effectiveness of Compressed Dazomet Sticks for Internal Remedial Treatments of Spotted Gum Utility Poles**
Richa Tungal, Osmose Utilities Services, Inc., USA

SESSION K: Conference Closing Remarks

Moderated by: Ryan Brockbank, EDM International, Inc.

- 12:10 pm – 12:30 pm** **Wrap-up, Closing Remarks, Discussion, Announcements**
This is a great time to bring up topic ideas for future conference presentations!

PLEASE!

Your input is greatly appreciated! Please take a few moments to complete the evaluation form you receive when you receive your registration materials on site. Your comments and suggestions are valuable and help us to ensure that we bring relevant topics to you in a professional and worthwhile format.

