

Power Plant and Bulk Fuel Operator Training

Proper maintenance of energy infrastructure is an essential component of delivering safe and reliable power to a community. The Alaska Energy Authority provides training opportunities for local residents to learn how to operate and maintain their energy infrastructure and to assist utilities to keep their facilities code-compliant and managed sustainably.

AEA contracts with Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) in Seward to deliver bulk fuel and power plant operator training courses.

Current Status:

In FY 2017, the training program is coordinating two Power Plant Operator courses, one Advanced Power Plant Operator course, and three Bulk Fuel Operator.

In FY 2016, seventeen participants completed the Bulk Fuel Operator course, nineteen completed the Power Plant Operator course, ten completed the Advanced Power Plant Operator course, and four completed the Hydro Operator course. All courses for the year are complete.

Power Plant Operator Training is the entry-level eight-week course for power plant operators providing the necessary skills to operate and maintain a power plant. The program includes engine maintenance, troubleshooting and theory, electrical systems and generators, introduction to electrical distribution systems, diesel electric set operation, control panels, paralleling generator sets, load management, fuel management, waste heat recovery, plan management and how to integrate both wind and hydro systems. In FY2016, 19 were trained and certified in power plant operations.

The **Advanced Power Plant Operator** course provides students the necessary knowledge and skills to diagnose and repair power plant failures. This is a three-week course and participants must be certified in the Power Plant Operator Course prior to being accepted into the advance course. In FY2016, 10 were trained in advanced power plant operations.

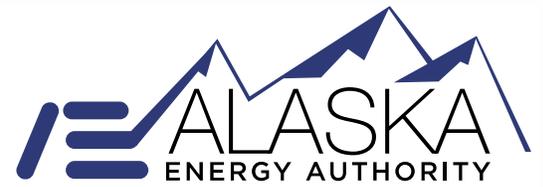
Bulk Fuel Operator Training provides students the knowledge and skills necessary to safely operate and maintain a bulk fuel storage facility while complying with state and federal laws. The program includes bulk fuel storage facility construction, facility operations, tank farm inspection criteria, facility maintenance, inventory control, tank farm safety, spill detection and response planning. This is a two-week course. In FY2016, 17 were trained in bulk fuel operations.

Hydroelectric Training trains local operators to ensure that hydro facilities can be sustained and operated a maximum efficiency over the long-term. The program includes hydro plant overview, hydrology and fuel systems, operations, safety, maintenance of the facility, reservoir and electric distribution system and record keeping. Participants need to be certified in the Power Plant Operator class before being accepted into this three-week course. In FY2016, 4 were trained in hydroelectric operations. This course is not being offered in FY2017.

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AEA also provides training for utility clerks about the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program, Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) reporting, bulk fuel loan application process and general accounting practices on an as-available basis.

Training schedules and additional information is available online at AkEnergyAuthority.org



Participants in the Power Plant Operator Training