

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT (LOTO) ASSESSMENT



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Independent self-assessment of LOTO programmatic process.
- Identify differences between current program and industry best practices.
- Develop and provide plan to address identified gaps between current program and industry best practices.

Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

Lockout/tagout (LOTO) processes at electric generating stations exist to protect personnel from injury and to protect plant equipment from damage. A robust LOTO program that is well-documented, understood, and executed prevents near misses and injuries.

Minor errors in LOTO can have significant consequences, impacting safety, reliability, outage durations, O&M, and capital costs. LOTO-related actions that can trigger an increase in accident rates include:

- Significant LOTO program change such as program technical content or computer software used
- Combining LOTO processes from different companies after mergers or acquisitions
- Revising LOTO processes from different organizations/plants within the same utility
- Revising LOTO processes due to restructuring, company lean efforts, or changing mission profiles

Periodic assessment of a station's LOTO program, especially after one of the events identified above, can help provide an understanding of how the program is meeting its objectives by identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

The objective of this project is for EPRI to obtain and provide project data to assist the utility in identifying gaps in their LOTO programs, in terms of process and execution, compared to the EPRI guidelines.

Benefits

The public can benefit from improved safety and plant reliability through protection of personnel and plant equipment. Participants can benefit from an increased understanding of LOTO program strengths and risks identified through participation in the LOTO process assessment group meeting.

Project Approach and Summary

The project will support participants' identification of gaps in LOTO processes using the EPRI *LOTO Self-Assessment Guideline* (3002012976). The assessment will cover both programmatic and performance areas by:

1. Analyzing existing LOTO procedures to identify gaps as compared to the EPRI guideline. Gaps will be evaluated for additional needs within the base R&D program. Recommended changes to the programmatic guideline will be discussed.
2. Analyzing actual plant LOTO performance over a three-day period, with particular focus on the operations and maintenance organizations (industry peers may be utilized as members of the assessment team).
3. Working with funders to develop action plans to implement desired changes.

EPRI will use learnings from the assessments to update the *Lockout/Tagout Guideline for Power Plants* EPRI report and the *LOTO Self-Assessment Guideline* to ensure these documents remain the industry standard for fossil generation.

Deliverables

This research will provide both funder and EPRI deliverables.

Funder deliverables:

- EPRI LOTO assessment report
- Recommended action plan

The following EPRI Program 225 deliverables may be revised based upon research performed by this supplemental:

- *LOTO Self-Assessment Guideline* (3002012976)
- *Lockout/Tagout Guideline for Power Plants* (3002014008)

Price of Project

The price to participate in this project vary based upon scope of work and travels costs. Initially starting around \$39,000, which includes one procedure assessment and one plant performance assessment. Additional procedure reviews and plants can be included at additional cost. This project qualifies for Self-Directed Funding (SDF) funding.

Project Status and Schedule

This is a continuous supplemental project beginning in the second quarter of 2016.

Who Should Join

Companies that would like an independent evaluation of their LOTO process could benefit from participation in this project.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 (askepri@epri.com).

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