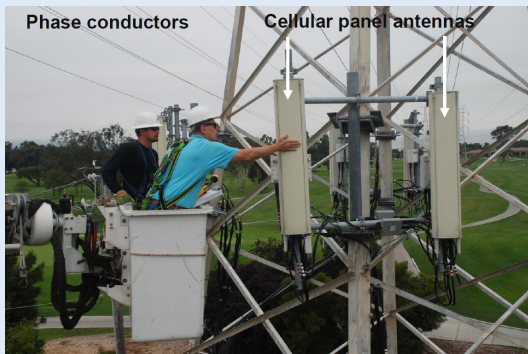


RADIO FREQUENCY SAFETY PROGRAM ASSESSMENT



Wireless communications antennas are being installed on electric utility infrastructure across the country.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Increasing installations of telecommunication equipment on or near utility infrastructure are causing worker safety concerns
- Utility's are re-evaluating their RF safety protocols to ensure safety of workers
- Independent review of a Utility's RF Safety Program will
 - Enhance protection of workers and the nearby public
 - Improve compliance with regulations and/or safety practices
 - Help manage institutional knowledge of RF safety

Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

Radio frequency (RF) and wireless communications rank among today's fastest growing technologies. The term "radio frequency" generally refers to frequencies from about 3 kilohertz (kHz) to 300 gigahertz (GHz). Given their established infrastructure, energy companies are increasingly hosting third-party installations such as cellular telecommunications equipment. In addition, the electric energy industry itself uses a growing RF and wireless infrastructure to conduct its business. RF safety is highly relevant to the electric energy industry because line workers are now encountering wireless transmitting antennas on a variety of facilities owned and operated by electric companies. These facilities include transmission line structures, distribution poles, and dedicated antenna towers. Electric companies are leasing out space for these structures, and their workers may have had little or no experience with non-power-company device functions or with the safety implications of exposure to RF fields.

Since its founding in 1972, the EPRI Electric and Magnetic Field and Radiofrequency Fields Health Assessment and Safety Program (P60) remains one of a few research programs worldwide that is dedicated to advancing the science and tools for effective management of EMF/RF issues. This project intends to assist funders in addressing RF issues using results from the EPRI research program, EPRI knowledge, and practical experience.

The objective of this project is to conduct an independent evaluation of a utility's RF Safety Program and to provide knowledge transfer with utility staff, as appropriate.

The two-way interaction with funders of this project will provide an opportunity for EPRI to better evaluate and address specific regional issues facing an electric company, including regulatory and site-specific concerns. These learnings are expected to inform future P60 research to enhance protection of workers and the public and new learnings can be shared in collaboration with other EPRI members around the world.

Benefits

- Enhance protection of workers and the nearby public.
- Improve compliance with regulations and/or safety practices
- Help manage institutional knowledge of RF safety

Project Approach and Summary

Review Utility RF Safety Program:

- Safety program documentation/procedures
- Source inventory and hazard assessment process
- Measurement/monitoring equipment

Provide written assessment of the review, identifying significant gaps and/or opportunities for improvement.

Deliverables

- Provide written assessment of the review, identifying significant gaps and/or opportunities for improvement.
- Conduct a webinar to provide a debrief of the results

Price of Project

Price to be determined based on scope of Utility's RF Safety Program and source inventory.

Project Status and Schedule

12 months

Who Should Join

EMF/RF issue managers, industrial hygienists, occupational health and safety professionals, and telecommunication engineers that are responsible for elements of a utility's RF safety program.

Contact Information

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

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