

National Headquarters
55 E. Monroe St., Suite 1930
Chicago, IL 60603

Telephone 312.499.2600
Facsimile 312.499.2601

Website www.cael.org



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Contact:

PAULINE WALLER Office: (914) 739-3622

DUKE POWER JOINS INDUSTRY COALITION IN TACKLING RETIREMENT ISSUE

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO: The Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE) today announced that Duke Power, one of the largest investor-owned utilities in the U.S., has joined the organization as its newest member.

Duke Power, part of Duke Energy, operates nuclear generation, fossil/hydro and transmission and distribution plants in North and South Carolinas and provides electricity to over 2 million customers. Duke Power elected to join the Coalition because “we see a growing need in the industry to replace the workers that will be retiring in the coming years, and the EPCE programs are an efficient method of training those new recruits,” says Alan Orton, Operations Training Manager at Duke’s McGuire Nuclear Plant.

The EPCE Coalition (www.epceonline.org) was launched as a result of the projected retirement of a critically large percentage of the utility workforce in the next three to five years. To meet this challenge, the not-for-profit Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) assembled representatives from utilities, industry associations and labor unions in June 2001 to develop an effective solution customized for the industry. This group formed EPCE, with a mission to develop standardized online courses to train and educate the technicians that will be required.

Since then the EPCE members have designed and sponsored two programs with Bismarck State College that will enable Duke employees to advance their education and skills online: the Nuclear Power Technology program, aimed at preparing workers for jobs as non-licensed operators, chemistry technicians, radiation protection technicians and maintenance technicians; and the Electric Power Technology program, geared for employees in generation, line construction, metering, substation, system design and system operations.

For more information on EPCE and its online learning programs, visit: www.epceonline.org.

The Energy Providers Coalition for Education is administered by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and includes Ameren, the American Public Power Association, ComEd, Conectiv, DC Cook Nuclear, Dominion Nuclear, Duke Power, Entergy, Exelon, Florida Power & Light, Minnesota Power, National Grid USA, Nevada Power, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Northwest Public Power Association, Oklahoma Gas & Electric, PECO, Pepco, Reliant Energy, Sierra Pacific, Xcel Energy and select Locals of the IBEW

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