



A QUANTA SERVICES COMPANY



Brink Constructors Quarterly Newsletter

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Zane Brink
President
Brink Constructors, Inc.

A message from the President

Grid/Voltages in the US

I first want to thank all who assisted in the construction our Training Facility. It is an awesome feeling to see the poles standing when you are driving down Interstate 90 East of Rapid City. For those of you that haven't seen it and you happen to be driving east of Rapid City on I-90 look South around mile marker 70-71, you can't miss it.

With our new training facility I would like to talk about voltages and in the Grid in the United States. The "Grid" is divided into 4 parts.

- Western
- Eastern
- Texas
- Quebec Interconnection

These Grids function independently and some have multiple individual operating areas. Since they function independently they cannot connect to each other very easily. We cannot just plug them in with an extension cord. All electricity is generated at 60 Hz frequency plus or minus a few degrees. Since each grid is independent the varying degrees in the frequency becomes impossible to connect since they are now "out of phase". The only way to connect is to convert the Power to DC then back to AC at the phasing (Frequency) of the other Grid. We actually have one of these DC Converter Stations just South of Rapid City. Most Voltages in the power system range from 4 kV to 765 kV. The majority use these common voltages 7.2, 12.47, 24.9, 34.5, 69, 115, 138, 230, 345, 500, and 765 kV. Some region, such as California utilize a little different system. Their voltages are 4, 12, 16, 33, 55, 66, 115, 138, 220, and 500 KV.

This is just another example our different utilities and regions that we work in view things different. Let's make sure we are recognizing how the Utility that we currently constructing for operates and their specifications and we follow our mission statement of "work safely, maintain equipment, provide quality construction, complete each project in a timely manner to the satisfaction of everyone concerned and never leave a job site without knowing we would be welcomed back."

It is official! June 17th marks the first day of Apprentice classes at our new training facility in Box Elder. We had two separate Year 2, Week 2 groups come in starting the week of June 17th and the following week.

NLC instructor, Darrow Leslie, lead the training. Part of the training was conducted with the Transbanker. (photo right)

Special thanks to Chuck Noteboom and crew who have been busy getting things ready in the facility and yard. Now that the first set of classes are complete they are back at it getting ready for our next Year 3, Week 1 class that will be starting in August.

We are very excited to partner with NLC and hope everyone is finding value in this new apprenticeship program.

Please click on the link below to read the story that was featured in the Rapid City Journal on June 17th.



Students performing vault rescue

https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/construction-firm-overhauling-apprenticeship-program/article_bc338119-3651-5111-9da9-c5b3f8371205.html



Progress at the Box Elder year since the 2 year class finished in June



Safety Corner

with Zane Graham

As we go through our day, are we actively making decisions or are we going through the motions? In the powerline construction industry, it is necessary that we actively engage our task and actively make decisions. That brings me to the next question. The decisions that we feel we are making, are we actually making decisions or are we acting upon habits? From what studies show, almost half of what we do each day is not a decision but a habit. To truly understand this, we need to look at both the definition of a habit and the components:

HABIT *Noun*

1. A settled tendency or usual manner of behavior
2. An acquired mode of behavior that has become nearly or completely voluntary

Our behavior each day is shown by the habits we have created over months or even years of activity. Every habit has three components:

- First is the cue, which is a trigger for the behavior to start unfolding.
- Second, a routine or behavior, which is the habit itself.
- Finally, there is the reward, which is how our brain learns the pattern for future use.

Example:

- **Cue:** We wake up in the morning and feel the “dirty” feel of a film on our teeth.
- **Behavior:** We brush our teeth.
- **Reward:** Our teeth feel “clean” because of the tingle we feel from the toothpaste. It is not actually the “tingle” that cleans the teeth, but the brushing. We have simply equated the tingle which is felt with clean teeth, making it a reward.

To relate this to the work we do, we can relate it to seatbelt use in a vehicle. Our cue is getting in the vehicle, behavior is putting on our seatbelt, which leads to the reward which can either be compliance (not getting in trouble) or feeling safe. There are many examples of this on the worksite every day with both positive and negative rewards for each behavior or habit.

To truly be successful with a positive safety culture, we need to create positive habits because as we all know, habits are hard to break. I challenge everyone to create positive habits to promote a positive safety culture so that we can continue with the Brink mission statement:

Safety First, Equipment Second, Production Third

The main office has seen even more traffic in June and July thanks to the extra employees who have been attending the NCCCO Crane training. There was a class held the week of June 24th and another the week of July 8th. We had a total of 16 employees in attendance.

The training consists of both a classroom and a practical portion. The written portion has three tests: Core test, Telescopic Swing and Telescopic Fixed Cab. The practical portion is completed on both a fixed and swing cab crane and is composed of three timed courses:

- From starting point place chain in circle located at side of crane.
- From starting point place ball into 55 gallon drum located at opposite sides of crane.
- From starting point lift load and maneuver through a zig zag course. This will be done up and back.
- The practical test combines all three courses and are scored based on accuracy and time taken to complete.

Below are pictures of the course:



T-Line Spotlight with Chris Shagla

Job 177 - Redbud to Arcadia 345kV - OGE



Regular lake around structure 1/1
outside of Arcadia Sub

This spring we constructed 6.5 miles of 345 kV Tie Line from the Redbud Power Plant to the OG&E Arcadia Substation in Arcadia, OK. The ROW was very congested with other Transmission lines, the crew adhered to our Grounding and Bonding procedures and identified the hazards. Even the setting crew saw induction and pulled some arcs when slipping pole sections together, proper grounding and barricading handled their risk.



Installing Pilot Line over two 345 kV

Some of the crew encountered two 187' tall 3 pole dead end structures that were utilized to cross two other 345 kV power lines. They were a long way up there! Through raining what felt like every other day, the project was completed in early June and is now in service.



Utilizing all 197' of boom on the Tadano to set the 187' 3 Poles

Project 176 - Glacier Edge 345kV Project / EPC

Brink has been constructing Glacier's Edge Substation for EPC since mid-April of this year. The Glacier's Edge project is the 3rd EPC project that we done in Iowa in the past 14 months .

Clayton Heavlin and crew have faced many obstacles that have made this a challenging yet rewarding project. The site has been very wet throughout construction, starting on the day we arrived. Due to the wet site conditions and short timeframe, we've had to work around several other contractors that were also onsite to do their part of the construction.

Construction will be complete by mid-August, well ahead of the early September deadline. Congratulations and good job to all those who have been involved with the project.



Pictures above show cable trench construction in the three stages and just as the middle photo shows we have been dealing with a lot of moisture during this project.

Cont...Project 176 - Glacier Edge 345kV Project / EPC



Installation of some of the cable trench, ranging from getting it laid out after excavation, to flooding from the constant rain, to ready for cable.



Various installation of the bus system. Quite a bit of the bus (both rigid and flexible) was able to be pre-fabricated in Rapid City. It was then hauled to the site where final assembly and installation took place.