

What's a Power Engineer - Job Profile

Michael - Senior Protection Engineer, Country Energy



Major Responsibilities

- Management of protection systems used on the sub-transmission network including scheme design, coordination, and setting specification.
- Provide technical support/guidance/mentoring to engineering staff in the section
- Actively involved in development of protection policy and guidelines
- Coordinate and perform fault analysis investigations.
- Development and maintenance of engineering software tools

Pathways

I completed a degree in electrical engineering (power systems) at Swinburne University of Technology in 1994. The 'sandwich' degree course involved two 6 month placements in industry which assisted greatly in determining the area I wished to pursue as a career. After graduating I spent 3 years on a graduate program at BHP Steel Port Kembla Steelworks. I worked on a business project in my first year and as an engineer on the No.3 Paint Line and Coupled Pickled Cold Mill production lines in later years.

After the graduate program I secured a position within the High Voltage group where I worked as a power systems engineer on a variety of projects for the next 7 years. After 10 years with BHP I took the opportunity to move to port Macquarie NSW and work for Country Energy to further specialize in subtransmission protection systems.

Why Did You Choose This Career?

I grew up in a smaller industrial town, and after studying in Melbourne was keen to pursue a career where I would not be tied to the city life. Choosing the 'Power Systems' stream of engineering over computers and electronics has, I believe, given me more options in terms of finding a career outside major cities. I enjoy the challenge of working in this industry, and love the fact I can be home with my family without a long commute through city traffic.