



RICO ASHLEY, P.E.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

I am a professional electrical engineer licensed in Florida, Georgia, and Texas and qualified to become licensed in all remaining states. I am an expert in power engineering with twenty-three years of experience. My areas of specialization are in the areas in National Electrical Code (NEC) compliance, National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) compliance, power generation construction standards, power generation commission/startup processes, power plant gas and generation control systems commission processes, arc flash standards and compliance, fault current analysis, protective relaying standards and coordination.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Engineering Design Leadership (Duke Energy Florida, 08/2014 – Present; Clearwater, Florida)

I have served in various engineering design leadership roles as supervisor, manager, and director, and I was responsible for the following;

- Conducted and managed detailed design and quality reviews for safety and adherence to standards.
- Assessed off-site contractors and onsite employees' understanding of design standards and implemented feedback systems to address proficiency gaps.
- Performed construction print audits and developed problem-solving guides.
- Provided engineering recommendations and analyzed power system power quality issues.
- Validated employee (including external contractors) compliance with industry safety standards (NESC) and company design standards.
- Conducted spot field and print audits to ensure compliance with NESC and company design standards.

Lead Operations Engineer (Duke Energy Florida-Distribution Control Center (DCC), 05/2012 – 08/2014; Saint Petersburg, Florida)

I have served in this capacity as a lead grid operations engineer;

- Performed load studies analysis to ensure safe operations of the distribution grid.
- Developed emergency contingency load plans to ensure safe restoration of load to adjacent substations.
- Conducted grid risk assessments to identify potential unserved loads.
- Conducted grid training for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system upgrades for grid operations personnel and entry/senior-level grid engineers.
- Provided system design recommendations and system enhancements to asset management engineering.
- I authored an underfrequency load curtailment procedure and calculated system underfrequency relay setpoints to ensure safe load rotation of system feeders in the event of an underfrequency grid collapse.

Senior Electrical Engineer (Duke Energy Florida, 06/2006 – 05/2012; St. Petersburg, Florida)

I served in the capacity of a senior regional electrical engineer;

- Developed several electrical, control systems, and relay protection designs to support the safe operation of plant electrical systems.
- I authored dozens of plant maintenance procedures to ensure SERC/FRCC regulatory compliance.
- Conducted proof testing and assessments of plant regulatory-impacted equipment, such as generator black start plant testing.

- Authored black start generation fleet compliance procedure and administered compliance testing for the entire generation black start fleet.
- I conducted arc flash safety studies for the entire fleet of plant electrical systems.
- Calculated arc flash settings to ensure plant operation personnel were safely equipped with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Created engineering packages to support plant construction standards.
- Conducted generator grid readiness assessments (meggar insulation testing, IR testing, etc.) to validate safe startup.
- I developed plant electrical systems design upgrades to ensure safe plant operation.
- Calculated and executed setpoint modifications for plant analog and digital relay protection systems.

Startup/Commission-Field Engineer (GE - Power Systems, 05/2001-06/2006; Domestically and Internationally)

I served in the capacity of an electrical engineer, generator controls engineer, and gas turbine controls engineer.

- Commissioned and conducted grid readiness system proof testing for the installation of the following: all plant electrical systems (breakers, switchgear, etc.), generator starting systems (load commutating inverter (LCI)), generator control systems (EX2000, EX2100 control systems), generator protection and gas turbine control systems (Mark VI).
- I authored, implemented, and administrated plant commissioning procedures through testing/assessments, such as motor and generator run-in data, battery load test data, and calculated gas and liquid fuel operation settings.
- Performed engineering construction safety verifications, equipment electrical safety verifications, and created engineering construction packages.
- I conducted drawing reviews of all plant support systems to ensure safe plant startup and operation.

EDUCATION

Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama
Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering, 2001

CERTIFICATIONS

- Professional Engineering License, Florida, License #96618
- Professional Engineering License, Nebraska, License #20107
- Professional Engineering License, Texas, License #150198

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- January 2020 - Present: Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce, Board Member
- January 2019 - Present: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Member
- January 2023 - Present: Florida Engineering Society, Member
- January 2025 - Present: National Association of Fire Investigators