



# 2024 International Conference on Overhead Lines

*Design, Construction, Inspection and Maintenance*



**Conference Announcement and Registration Information**

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**April 15-18, 2024**

**Fort Collins Marriott - Fort Collins, Colorado USA**

# International Conference Announcement

You are invited to attend and participate in the **2024 International Conference on Overhead Lines – Design, Construction, Inspection and Maintenance**. This conference focuses on technologies and resources to support the leading corporate objectives of electric utility companies today: reduce operations and maintenance costs, increase power throughput, reduce risk, ensure compliance and improve system reliability. To this end, the technical presentations will also address the related areas of extending overhead line and component life; reducing design, refurbishment and construction costs; managing rights-of-way and ensuring health and safety for workers and the environment. In addition, this conference will explore new applications that promise attractive future technologies and solutions for overhead line owners.

## Conference Objectives

This conference focuses on technologies and resources in order to support the leading corporate objectives of electric utility companies today, such as reducing operations and maintenance (O&M) costs, increasing power throughput, and improving line reliability. The conference objectives are:

- To provide a forum for professionals to explore the issues that impact the use of utility line structures throughout the world
- To exchange information on the state of the art in research, technology, materials, maintenance, manufacturing, and design
- To showcase products and technologies through the commercial exhibition

Utility executives, managers, and engineers with responsibility for transmission, distribution, substation design, construction, and O&M are invited.

## Registration and Refund Policy

The registration fee includes three luncheons, a dinner banquet, coffee breaks, and an electronic copy of the conference proceedings. A registration form is included in this flyer. A refund on your prepaid registration will be made if you request one, in writing, *prior to April 1, 2024*. A processing fee of \$75.00 (U.S.) will be deducted from your refund. *Substitutions from the same company are allowed.*

**Electric Utility Personnel Speaker:** \$600/person

**Electric Utility Personnel:** \$700/person (\$600/person if 3 or more register at one time)

**Non-Utility Speaker or Attendee:** \$800/person

## Exhibits and Commercial Displays

There is a 1/2-day exhibit and a commercial display forum for vendors to promote products and services. A fee of \$1,800.00 (U.S.) will be charged for each 8 x 8-ft (~ 2.5 x 2.5-m) space. Included in your reservation is full conference registration for ONE person, electrical hookup, a skirted 6-ft (1.83-m) table, two chairs, and a wastebasket. Reserve booth space by returning the reservation form included in this flyer.

**Exhibit material that is shipped to the hotel should arrive no earlier than Thursday, April 11, and should be marked as “Exhibit Material – International Conference – April 15” and addressed to the representative from your company.**

**Additional personnel can work in the exhibit space but cannot attend any other parts of the conference unless they pay the full registration fee.**

*The number of available booth spaces is very limited and are reserved “first come, first serve!”*

## Topics

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Interest in the 2024 conference has exceeded our expectations already!  
Please join us for what we believe will be a very valuable program and are proud to present this program.

This year's conference will provide a wealth of information on a vast array of topics, including:

- Design and Construction, Code and Specifications
- Structures and Foundations
- Components – Selecting, Applying, Inspecting and Assessing
- Maintenance
- Environmental Considerations/Animal Protection
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Vegetation Management
- Cross-Departmental Collaboration Examples



## Field Session

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A bus will transport conference attendees, Wednesday at noon, to EDM for this year's Field Session. The field session will offer demonstrations and presentations in a laboratory and outdoor setting. A BBQ lunch will be served at EDM's office and transportation will be provided back to the hotel following the Field Session demonstrations. Be prepared to be outdoors (spring weather in Colorado is unpredictable!).

## Sponsorships Available to Vendors/Manufacturers

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If you are interested in sponsoring a break or providing a "prize" to be given away during a technical session, please contact EDM.

## Additional Information

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For information on registration, accommodations, speaker/author presentations, ski areas, or local attractions, contact:

Ryan Brockbank & Lisa Nelson, Conference Technical Directors

**International Conference c/o EDM, Inc.**

4001 Automation Way, Fort Collins, CO 80525-3479 USA

Phone: 970.204.4001 | Fax: 970.204.4007

E-mail: [RBrockbank@edmlink.com](mailto:RBrockbank@edmlink.com) | [LNelson@edmlink.com](mailto:LNelson@edmlink.com)

## Privacy Policy

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EDM International, Inc. is committed to protecting your privacy. We use the information we collect from your registration information for internal purposes only. We do not sell, trade, rent or publish any personal information. As an attendee at the conference, your contact information (name, title, company, address and phone number) will be included on a List of Attendees distributed to conference attendees (email addresses are not provided to attendees). The List of Attendees is not available to individuals who do not attend the conference. Prior Lists of Attendees from previous conferences are NOT available and the current List of Attendees is NOT available for distribution at any time prior to the conference.



## ACCEPTED AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

**Ajay Mallik, SANPEC and Prasad Yenumula, Duke Energy, USA**  
“The Dulling Process is a Science!”

**Alex Lucas, POWER Engineers, Inc., USA**  
“Quality Testing of Overhead Transmission Line Materials”

**Andy Stewart, EDM International, Inc., USA**  
Panel Discussion: “Issues & Challenges Shaping Our Industry”

**Anne Lacey, International Crane Foundation and Jason Jones, Power Line Sentry, USA**  
“Preventing Avian Power Line Collisions: International Crane Foundation Results and Recommendations”

**Ashley Bennett, Electric Power Research Institute, USA**  
Evaluating the Effectiveness of the TransGard Laser System at Substations in Indiana and Louisiana

**August Platt, Ameren, USA**  
“Ameren Composite Poles”

**Bayardo Selva, Costa Rica Electricity Institute (ICE), COSTA RICA**  
“Methodology for Repair of OPGW Conductors in Energized Transmission Lines”

**Chad Newton, Osmose Utilities Services and Jeffrey Morrell, Oregon State University, USA**  
“Effectiveness of Wood Pole Assessment Methods”

**Chandresh Juggernath, ESKOM Power Delivery, SOUTH AFRICA**  
“Design Philosophy on Uprating/Upgrading of Ground wires on Transmission Lines”

**Claudia Rocca, PSE&G and Jason Jones, Power Line Sentry, USA**  
PSEG-Long Island Osprey Mitigation Strategy: A Critical Eye on the Fish Hawk

**Clinton Char and Mehrooz Zamanzadeh, West Power Energy, USA**  
“The Use of Remote Sensors in Electric Utility Grid Management”

**Cristina Frank, PEPCO Holdings, USA**  
“Toward Eagle Rule Compliance: Lessons and Challenges in Cross-Departmental Collaboration”

**Eric Erikson, San Luis Valley Electric, USA**  
Panel Discussion: “Issues & Challenges Shaping Our Industry”

**Gerald Presley and Matthew Konkler, Oregon State University, USA**  
“Small-Scale Performance Testing Methods for Fire Protection Systems for Wood Poles”

**Jean-Marie George, Sediver, FRANCE**  
“Pollution of Overhead line Insulators: Update on Standards and Insulators Performance Under Severe Contamination for AC and DC Lines”

**Jeff Lloyd, Nisus Corporation, USA**  
“RIP Penta: Long Live Wood Pole Protection”

**Jeffrey Morrell, Oregon State University, USA**  
“After Penta: What Comes after the End?”

**Jenn Clarke, eSmart Systems, William Wheeler, Phoenix Air Unmanned and Xcel Energy, USA**  
“The Long-Term Value of AI-Assisted Virtual Inspections”

**Joe Coffey, Prysmian Group, USA**  
“FERC 881 and the Evolution of Transmission Conductor Ratings”

**Joe Potvin, EPRI, USA**  
“Rapid Restoration: Overhead Distribution Resilience “

**John Lauletta, Exacter, USA**

**“Understanding and Mitigating Pole Fires”**

**John Makkar, Southern California Edison, USA**

**“Optimizing Asset Inspection and Mitigation for Effective Risk Management”**

**Jordan Ambrogi, CORE Electric Cooperative, USA**

**“Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices for Small Utilities”**

**Josh Peterson and Parker Wrozek, Xcel Energy, USA**

**“Colorado Power Pathway: 0 to 600 miles in 7 years Flat”**

**Kabelo Molaodi, ESKOM, SOUTH AFRICA**

**“The Impact of Waterbodies on Overhead Powerlines Foundations - South Africa”**

**Ken Sharpless and Wes Oliphant, Exo Group, LLC, USA**

**“Good Enough is Good Enough only when it’s Good Enough!”**

**Kento Arai, San Diego Gas and Electric and Jonathan Jordan, EDM International, Inc., USA**

**“Transmission Structure and Foundation Asset Management – Inspection & Structural Retrofits”**

**Kris Deuar, Kris Deuar & Associates, Inc., USA**

**“New Zealand Utilities Increase Resilience of their Grid and at the Same Time Extend the Life of their Pole Fleet”**

**Michael MacDougall, Tower Power Group, USA**

**“The Science of Tower Painting and Maintenance”**

**Nadia I. El Mallakh, Industry Consultant, USA**

**Panel Discussion: “Issues & Challenges Shaping Our Industry”**

**Nathan Groh, Black Hills Energy, USA**

**“Wildfire Prevention on Distribution Lines: Assessing and Mitigating Wildlife Ignition Risk”**

**Randy Lyle, Wildfire Mitigation Strategies, USA**

**“No Fires! No Fires! No Fires!”**

**Simer Singh and Arun Ramani, Epik Solutions, USA**

**“Enabling Wildfire Mitigation Programs with Technology and AI”**

**Steve Day, Day & Associates, USA**

**“Top Tree Defects Contributing to Utility Wildfire Ignitions”**

**Thad Petzold, Public Service Company of New Mexico, USA**

**“Leveraging Remotely Sensed Data for Wildfire”**

**Thomas Magee, Keller & Heckman and Sam Stonerock, Southern California Edison, USA**

**“How Broadband Funding and New Attachment Regulation is Affecting Distribution Pole Construction and Maintenance”**

**Tripti Singh, Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, University of the Sunshine Coast, AUSTRALIA**

**“Wood Poles: Environmentally Positive Until the End”**

**Valerie Rose, Xcel Energy, USA**

**“Overview of Xcel Energy’s Wildfire Mitigation Program”**

**Yishi Lee, Metro State, USA**

**“A Finite Element Model for Evaluating the Effects of Drilling on Cross-Sectional Modulus and Overall Strength of Wood Utility Poles”**

## Accommodations

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**Fort Collins Marriott**  
350 E. Horsetooth Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80525 USA  
Phone: 800.548.2635 or 970.226.5200

### [Click Here to Book Your Room Online if Viewing this Electronically](#)

The hotel is holding a block of rooms for conference participants at special discounted rates (\$135.00/single or double, excluding tax; call the hotel for government rates). The reservation deadline is March 31 or when the room block is full (whichever comes first). After this date, the discounted rate cannot be guaranteed. Contact the hotel at the numbers above to make your reservation, and specify that you are attending the EDM International Conference on Overhead Lines to ensure that you receive the negotiated rate. The hotel suggests that you secure your reservation with a credit card.

## Travel Information

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Fort Collins is located 65 miles north of Denver. If flying into Denver, you will arrive at Denver International Airport. There are several car rental agencies located at the airport in Denver, or you can take a ground shuttle (SuperShuttle 970.482.0505) to the full-service Fort Collins Marriott. Reservations on the shuttle are highly recommended.

## Ski Trip - *Weather Permitting*

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If you would like to join us for a ski trip currently being planned for **Sunday, April 14**, contact Lisa Nelson (space is limited). The ski trip will depart from the Fort Collins Marriott on Sunday morning and head to Winterpark, Colorado, for a full day of skiing. The mountains can have great ski conditions in April but it's too early to tell. (We will provide the transportation—you buy your lift ticket from us (we will secure a group rate that is based on the number of participants but will not be the full-day mountain standard price) -- and meals). Call EDM right away to reserve your spot. Additionally, you can contact Colorado Ski Country USA (303.837.0793) for information on all the resorts and up-to-date ski conditions. *EDM reserves the right to cancel the trip if weather conditions are not conducive for the day trip or if there are not enough participants.*

## Proceedings

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Technical presentations at the conference will be published in the conference proceedings. Every registrant for the conference will receive an electronic copy (Adobe PDF format) of the proceedings. The proceedings will be available for download no later than May 1.

*The official language of the conference and proceedings is English.*

## Conference Schedule

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Monday, April 15	Technical Session: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Icebreaker at 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16	Technical Session: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon; Exhibits: 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.; Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17	Technical Session: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Field Session: 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 18	Technical Session: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

*Meals Included:* AM and PM breaks, three lunches, one icebreaker and one dinner.

# 2024 International Conference on Overhead Lines

## Design, Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance

**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE (OR CLICK HERE IF VIEWING THIS ELECTRONICALLY)**

Name, First and Last (as you wish it to appear on your name badge)

Title/Department

Organization/Company

Address (mailing address)

City

State

Zip

Country

Telephone

Fax

E-mail Address (registration confirmation and conference communications will be sent via email)

### Exhibition - Booth Space Reservation – \$1,800.00 (U.S.) - INCLUDES ONE FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please reserve one 8 x 8-ft (~ 2.5 x 2.5-m) space for the above listed company (the registrant listed above is considered the contact for the exhibit and will receive additional information regarding display setup, dismantling, shipping, etc.).

Booth Reservation includes conference registration for ONE PERSON to attend all conference functions.

The booth includes a 6-ft (1.8-m) table, skirting, and electrical hookup (if desired).

Do you need an electrical hookup?  Yes  No

Any special requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional booth personnel attending any part of the technical session, the field session or meal functions must register separately.**

### Registration and Payment Information

Utility  
Personnel

\$600 ELECTRIC UTILITY SPEAKER - *Discounted rate*

\$700 ELECTRIC UTILITY PERSONNEL - *Non-speaker utility personnel*

\$600 DISCOUNTED UTILITY REGISTRATION - *Three (3) or more utility personnel who register at one time*

\$800 NON-UTILITY PERSONNEL - *Speakers or attendees not employed by an electric utility company*

\$1,800 EXHIBIT RESERVATION - *Includes full conference registration for ONE person*

### Payment

Enclosed is a check/money order payable to EDM, Inc. for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
check no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Please invoice me P.O. number: (if required) \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail, fax or email your registration information to:

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reliability & innovation