GEORGIA ENERGY WORKFORCE CONSORTIUM | get into energy

Career Pathway Spotlight

Discover a Career as a Lineworker in Georgia

Discover your career in energy!

Lineworkers are the backbone of the power grid — building, maintaining, and restoring the transmission and distribution infrastructure that keeps electricity flowing to every home, business, and community.

Transmission & High-Voltage Systems

Lineworkers build and maintain the high-voltage lines that carry electricity long distances from power plants and generation sources to substations, climbing steel lattice towers and wooden poles to string conductor, install hardware, and keep bulk power moving reliably across the grid.

Distribution & Customer Connections

On distribution systems, Lineworkers install and maintain the local poles, transformers, switches, and wiring that deliver power from substations to homes and businesses: responding to outages, upgrading aging infrastructure, and safely connecting new customers to the grid.

Underground, Substation & Cable Work

In underground residential development (URD) systems and substations, Lineworkers and Cable Splicers install conduit and cable, splice high-voltage conductors, and maintain the switching and protection equipment that controls the safe flow of power below ground and at key grid facilities.

CAREER PATH

Start with:

» A high school diploma or GED*

Get Educated:

» An apprenticeship through a union or utility:
  - IBEW Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) Apprenticeship Program
  - Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) Training Programs
  - Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Workforce Development Programs
» A Lineworker Boot Camp or pre-apprenticeship program
» National Career Readiness Certificate or Energy Industry Fundamentals Certificate
» Military service (e.g., Army 12R Interior Electrician, Navy EM Electrician's Mate)
» Construction Equipment Repairer)

Specialize With:

Knowledge in:

» Transmission
» Distribution
» Underground/URD
» Substation
» Cable Splicing

*Note: Some employers require pre-employment testing, including an EEI Pre-Employment Test or a Physical Abilities Test

OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS

» Ability to work safely at heights, climbing poles and steel towers
» Physical strength and endurance for demanding outdoor work
» Understanding of electrical systems, circuits, and power grid operations
» Ability to read and interpret electrical diagrams, blueprints, and work orders
» Attention to safety requirements
» Communication and team coordination on active job sites
» Mechanical aptitude for working with rigging, hardware, and heavy equipment

BENEFITS

These energy industry careers offer:

» Good salaries with overtime opportunity
» Opportunities for advancement from groundperson to crew leader to supervisor
» Job growth and stability: lineworkers are in high demand nationwide
» Professional development and ongoing educational opportunities
» Unionization and leading benefits packages
» Critical, hands-on work with real and immediate community impact

What Might You Do As A Lineworker?

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ENTRY LEVEL
1-4 years

What you will do:

- Provide tools, materials, and support to line crews on active job sites
- Set up and maintain safe work zones, including traffic control and flagging
- Drive equipment and utility trucks to job sites (CDL may be required)
- Begin climbing training and pole work under close journeyworker supervision
- Assist with stringing cable, pulling equipment, and installing hardware
- Learn electrical fundamentals and safe work practices through apprenticeship coursework

What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- Comfort working at heights and in all outdoor conditions, including extreme weather
- Physical ability to lift 75 lbs and perform demanding, physically intensive work
- Ability to drive heavy commercial vehicles
- Listen and follow directions from journeyworkers and crew leaders
- Willingness to learn electrical theory and apply it in real field conditions

MID- CAREER
5-8 years

What you will do:

- Install, inspect, and maintain equipment on poles, towers, and underground systems
- Work on energized lines using hot stick and rubber glove methods
- Identify and replace defective devices such as fuses, switches, transformers, and conductors
- Install underground cable and splice high-voltage conductors in URD systems
- Interpret electrical drawings, one-line diagrams, and work orders to complete construction and maintenance tasks
- Train and guide apprentices and groundpersons on jobsite safety and field procedures

What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- Proficiency climbing poles and towers and working at height with heavy tools and materials
- Understanding of how transmission and distribution system components interact, and how to diagnose faults
- Ability to solve field problems by selecting the right tools, materials, and methods for the job
- Strong knowledge of NESC, OSHA, and utility safety standards
- Ability to understand customer needs and communicate professionally on site
- Mechanical aptitude for working with complex rigging, hardware, and substation equipment

EXPERIENCED
8+ years

What you will do:

- Direct and supervise line crews on construction, maintenance, and storm restoration projects
- Determine work schedules, task assignments, and crew activity sequences
- Inspect work quality and check for unsafe conditions before, during, and after jobs
- Communicate with customers and communities on job progress and service restoration
- Coordinate with engineering, dispatch, and operations on complex multi-crew projects
- Review crew member performance and provide coaching, feedback, and development support

What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- Strong leadership and ability to coordinate multiple crews and competing priorities
- Financial management skills for tracking budgets, materials, and project costs
- Comprehensive knowledge of transmission, distribution, substation, and underground systems
- Ability to adapt work plans in response to changing or unforeseen field conditions
- Computer skills for scheduling, work orders, and incident and performance reporting
- People management and communication skills for crew development and customer interactions

GET PAID!

Entry Level:
- $51,000 / year*

As You Gain Seniority:
- $76,340 / year*

Later in Your Career:
- $96,630 / year*

*Source: United States Energy & Employment Report (2025). These figures use the 10th, 50th, and 90th percentiles of all workers in the role as a proxy for seniority progression and for consistency with BLS OEWS and the United States Energy & Employment Report. Compensation figures should be used as a guide; actual compensation may vary depending on education, geography, experience, and many other factors.

ENERGY INDUSTRY CAREERS OFFER:

- Excellent salaries
- Opportunities for advancement
- Job growth & stability
- Professional development and training
- Great benefits

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