



John D. McDonald • President Elect

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To Whom It May Concern:

As IEEE Power Engineering Society (PES) President-Elect, I led the effort in 2004 to develop an Oversight Committee, prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP) to develop Power System Basics for Non-Engineering Professionals course material, issue and promote the RFP, evaluate the proposals received, choose a winning bidder, manage the contract, and coordinate the first giving of the new course material at the IEEE PES Power Systems Conference and Exposition (PSCE) in October 2004 in New York.

My Oversight Committee included professors from Texas A&M University, Auburn University, and Arizona State University, as well as a Ph.D. who has his own company teaching to the electric utility industry. After issuing the RFP, we received twenty-two proposals from groups all over the world. The Oversight Committee performed a detailed evaluation of the proposals and awarded a contract to Applied Professional Training, Inc. (APT), who had the most direct experience in teaching power system basics to the electric utility industry with exceptional course material. In addition, when checking APT electric utility customer references, we found that Steve Blume, APT President & CEO, is regarded as a very effective instructor of power system basics material.

The new course was given, for the first time, on October 14, 2004 by Steve Blume. The course evaluations said how easy it was to understand the course material, and praised the ease with which the students were able to learn from Steve Blume's teaching methods.

The IEEE PES is extremely pleased with APT's efforts to develop the course material and help us teach the course for the first time. The quality of the final course material is exceptional, both the student notes (copies of the PowerPoint slides with notes on each slide for the student) and the instructor notes (copies of the PowerPoint slides with notes on each slide for the instructor). The instructor notes are needed because the IEEE PES offers this course worldwide and it may be taught by any PES "certified" instructor.

In summary, APT under Steve's leadership performed beyond our expectations on this project, and we are all very pleased with the course material that was developed. An added bonus was the effective teaching capability of Steve Blume, which the IEEE PES plans to utilize in future offerings of this course material.

I would recommend APT wholeheartedly for power system basics course material development and for teaching power system basics to non-power engineers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John D. McDonald'.

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IEEE Fellow
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