

MAKE IT A (FINE) POINT TO GO TO THE CIRCUIT BREAKER CONFERENCE

Finepoint inaugurated the annual Circuit Breaker Test & Maintenance Conference, the electric power industry's premier event for substation/switchgear maintenance people.

Participants receive practical training from users' perspectives, learn factory authorized test and maintenance procedures, network with their peers, and view cutting-edge products at the supplier exhibits each evening in the hospitality room. More than 350 electric utility and testing company delegates attended the 2005 conference, representing 158 different companies. The conference provides attendees, speakers, and exhibitors with a high quality, low key opportunity to exchange information with their peers and learn from the experts.

Many conference topics focus on low - medium - and high-voltage circuit breakers. However, related substation and switchgear topics such as power transformer maintenance, oil testing and filtration, SF6 gas handling, safe work practices, and asset management issues are also covered. Finepoint's objective is to provide useful and unbiased information that can be immediately applied to substation and switchgear maintenance work.

What makes the conference unique is that most speakers are the electric utility and testing company delegates themselves, not suppliers.

The full day at a circuit breaker manufacturing plant has been another unique feature of the conference since 1996. Participating manufacturers are ABB (Greensburg/Mt. Pleasant PA in 1996, 2000, and 2005), AREVA (Charleroi PA in 1997, 2001, and 2006), HVB AE Power Systems (Suwanee GA in 2004), Mitsubishi (Warrendale PA in 1998 and 2002), and Siemens (Jackson MS in 1999 and 2003).

The conference begins October 9 with a reception that evening. The factory day is on Tuesday. The conference presentations and training seminars are scheduled each year on Wednesday,



The AREVA T&D high voltage test lab in Charleroi, PA will be featured during Tuesday's Factory Day at the Circuit Breaker Test & Maintenance Conference in October.

Thursday, and Friday.

The 2006 factory day host is AREVA T&D in Charleroi PA, their worldwide competency center for dead

tank high-voltage circuit breakers. Expanded in 2003 to include greater production area and state-of-the-art development and test facilities, the site has devel-

oped as a center for HV, MV, and T&D Service activities.

AREVA HV dead tank circuit breakers and live tank circuit switchers are designed, assembled and tested from 72.5 to 550 kV. In 2005, their MV circuit breaker facility was relocated to the Charleroi site to satisfy customers' supply chain preferences for full line supply. AREVA is limiting factory day participation to the first 250 people who register (you can visit their website for further information).

In association with the 2006 conference, AREVA T&D will be hosting a PKG Generator Circuit Breaker User Group meeting on Monday, October 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This user group will share maintenance and operation practices, expertise, and exchange ideas. It will also look at



See pages 40-41 for floor plan layout of the show.

future practices regarding maintenance, parts, resources, and knowledge.

In addition to more than a dozen presentations, the 2006 conference features two half-day training seminars.

Westinghouse developed the line of AA-7, AA-10, and AA-14 circuit breaker mechanisms in the early 1950s and more than 35,000 were produced. The ABB "Maintaining A A - 7 / 1 0 / 1 4 Mechanisms" seminar

on Wednesday afternoon, October 11, will provide an understanding of the design, operation, maintenance, interchangeability of parts, and trouble-shooting of the mechanisms and ancillary devices. Bring the questions you have always wanted answered and challenge the experts.

On Friday morning, October 13,

Reinhausen will take you inside load tap changers and demonstrate how they work, what to test and evaluate, and why. This "Load Tap Changer Testing and Evaluation" seminar will provide full knowledge of what it's like to be a Tap Changer, the order in which parts operate and, sadly, what happens to you if you operate outside the proper sequence of parameters. This seminar is fully interactive and will be one terrific learning experience.

The conference is pleased to welcome PEARL, the Professional Electrical Apparatus Recyclers League, an association made up predominately of companies that supply quality surplus and remanufactured electrical equipment and apparatus such as circuit breakers, transformers, switchgear, motor control centers, wire and cable, etc. PEARL hosts an annual conference and invites attendance by anyone interested in ensuring the quality and safety of recycled electrical equipment.

Electricity Today magazine is proud to be the exclusive media partner for this year's conference.

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