



NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
TRACE SCRUGGS, (202) 508-5229
IBEW – MARK BRUEGGENJOHANN, (202) 728-6014**

EEI, IBEW Present Edwin D. Hill Award to Alabama Power and IBEW System Council U-19

WASHINGTON (March 7, 2022) – The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) today presented the Edwin D. Hill Award to Alabama Power and to IBEW System Council U-19. This distinguished award recognizes efforts to advance state and local initiatives on behalf of EEI’s member electric companies and IBEW members.

Through the National Utility Industry Training Fund (NUI TF) and the Electric Training Alliance, Alabama Power and the IBEW are providing employees and prospective employees with the appropriate training to install and to maintain the fiber infrastructure that provides and improves customer and community access to broadband.

There remains deep inequity around broadband access across the country. Electric companies long have incorporated telecommunications equipment and fiber technology into their operations—particularly in rural areas—to support communications and to provide real-time monitoring and controls for generation and transmission operations.

Enabling electric companies to leverage these fiber investments to provide middle-mile broadband infrastructure, in partnership with telecommunications companies and last-mile internet providers, is a win for all stakeholders, particularly those customers in underserved and unserved areas.

Since 2018, Alabama Power has installed more than 550 miles of fiber-to-distribution cable and more than 600 miles of long-haul fiber to create a smarter, more resilient energy grid. In total, 384 employees have participated in the NUI TF program, and it is projected that Alabama Power will add more than 80 lineworkers to the program each year.

“The work between IBEW System Council U-19 and Alabama Power represents the true partnership that has formed over many decades between labor and management,” said IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson. “Their tireless joint effort to create this innovative apprenticeship has greatly benefited our skilled workforce and has improved reliability and accessibility in the communities many call home. I applaud them for their work and congratulate them for receiving this award.”

“The continued leadership and vision of Alabama Power and IBEW System Council U-19 have provided access to high-speed broadband for many customers in previously unserved and underserved communities,” said EEI President Tom Kuhn. “Not only are Alabama Power and IBEW System Council U-19 helping to shape the future of our industry, they also are bridging the digital divide, which will improve the lives of the customers and the communities we so proudly serve. Each is exceptionally deserving of this outstanding recognition, and it is an honor to present them with this award.”

Under the leadership of former IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill, the IBEW and EEI came together to create the National Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee (National LAMPAC). National LAMPAC strives to foster collaboration and partnership among electric company executives and IBEW leaders to address the nation’s energy challenges and to achieve the common goals of running a well-managed, efficient business with a safe and highly skilled workforce.

Hill was a transformative trade unionist who modernized and shepherded the IBEW through one of the deepest recessions in history. During his tenure, the IBEW held fast to its history and traditions while making key changes to modernize and to preserve the IBEW’s influence as one of North America’s most powerful voices for working people.

###

EEI is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for 220 million Americans, and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities across the United States. In addition to our U.S. members, EEI has more than 65 international electric companies as International Members, and hundreds of industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate Members.

The IBEW represents approximately 775,000 active members and retirees who work in a wide variety of fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads, and government. The IBEW has members in both the United States and Canada and stands out among the American unions in the AFL-CIO because it is among the largest and has members in so many skilled occupations.