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TSU, REMC and NET together again

With 7,200 volts coming in from the power lines, TSU students stood a respectful distance from the REMC transformer enclosure at the Angola Breeden YMCA while the PA-9 Plus Power Quality Monitor was being installed.

The students were electrical engineering seniors from Dr. Bob Whelchel's power systems class who had joined Dr. Larry Samuelson, TSU professor of electrical and computer engineering, to witness the installation of a PA-9 Plus Power Quality Monitor on Tuesday, Nov. 12. The installation was conducted by Jerry Wisdom, project engineer with NiSource Energy Technologies (NET), and Craig Burgi, marketing director at Steuben County REMC.

The monitor will record data on the currents and voltages going into the YMCA from the REMC transformer, which receives 7,200 volts of energy from the power lines and transforms them down to three-phase II grids of 277 volts. Data will be collected while two 60 KW micro-turbines, installed at Breeden by NET, are running and then again for several days while the micro-turbines are turned off.

Once the testing and monitoring is complete, the micro-turbines will be used to generate a significant portion of the YMCA's energy needs. Craig Burgi has been the REMC facilitator throughout the entire process and believes it is a very exciting project. "We will still be serving the energy needs of the YMCA," Burgi said. "And I look forward to continuing to work with NET and Tri-State University on this project."

Samuelson and electrical engineering senior Josh Warner will collect the data, analyze it and then share their findings with REMC, NET and the Breeden YMCA.

"Ideally, when Josh and I look at the data, we won't see any harmonics, or spikes in voltage, when the micro-turbines are running, compared to the data collected while they are turned off," Samuelson said.



Standing a safe distance from REMC's transformer behind the YMCA are (left to right) Kevin Snyder from Ottawa, OH; Doug McNeill from Trafalgar, IN; David Pruss from Farmer's Retreat, IN; Craig Burgi, marketing director with Steuben County REMC; Dr. Larry Samuelson, TSU professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Jerry Wisdom, project engineer with NiSource Energy Technologies (NET). Not pictured is electrical engineering senior Josh Warner of Oregon, OH. Warner will be working with Samuelson to collect and analyze the data from the power monitor.

Should there be any difference, Wisdom will work with Burgi, Samuelson and Warner to troubleshoot and correct the problem.

While Dr. Larry Samuelson (right) observes, Jerry Wisdom works the laptop controls of the PA-9 Power Quality Monitor, sitting on the concrete slab.

Tri-State University is a career-oriented, comprehensive institution, granting over 40 associate and baccalaureate degrees in programs in the Allen School of Engineering and Technology, the Ketner School of Business, the School of Education, and the School of Arts and Sciences. The University, located in Angola, IN, has off-campus sites in Fort Wayne, South Bend and Merrillville, IN.

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Veronica Kane
Staff Writer
(260) 665-4117
kanev@tristate.edu

Tri-State University 1 University Ave., Angola, IN 46703-1764