Rosalind Begay-Thornton

Principal Engineer, Substation Engineering | Senior Protection Engineer | Distribution Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Professional Engineer with 15 years in utility transmission and distribution, now leading substation engineering for a regional utility. Directs design of new substations and upgrades, protection schemes and interconnections for solar and battery storage. Known for safe, standardized designs and for developing engineers who become project leads.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal Engineer, Substation Engineering

Feb 2020 — Present

Sonoran Valley Power Cooperative · Phoenix, AZ

- Lead a team of eight engineers and designers delivering substation projects in a capital program of about $60 million a year.
- Standardized substation physical and protection designs into reusable packages, shortening design time for new distribution substations.
- Directed protection and interconnection design for three utility-scale solar and battery projects, coordinating studies with developers and the transmission planner.
- Developed grounding and safety review practices adopted across the engineering department after a field near miss.

Senior Protection Engineer

Jun 2015 — Jan 2020

Desert Plains Electric · Tucson, AZ

- Developed relay settings and protection schemes for transmission lines and substation transformers, and supported testing during commissioning.
- Investigated misoperations using event records and fault data, updating settings and logic to prevent repeat trips.
- Mentored three engineers through their PE preparation and first independent protection projects.

Distribution Engineer

Jun 2010 — May 2015

Mesa Rural Electric · Mesa, AZ

- Designed feeder extensions, line upgrades and capacitor placement for growing residential and commercial areas.
- Worked with field crews and customers on service design for new commercial loads, from load letters to energization.

EDUCATION

MS, Electrical Engineering (Power Systems) — Desert Southwest University *2014*

BS, Electrical Engineering — Desert Southwest University *2010*

SKILLS

Technical: Substation design, Protection and control, Relay settings, Transmission interconnection, Solar and BESS integration, Grounding design, ETAP, PSS/E basics, IEEE standards, NERC compliance awareness, Team leadership, Capital planning

Certifications: Professional Engineer (PE), Arizona