

## **Transcript of Hannah Hacquoil, Power Engineer**

The coolest part of my job is... making electricity!

I'm a lead power engineer at the Tufts Cove generating station, and my job entails monitoring and operating all the equipment used to make electricity.

On a typical day, we're responsible for two sides of the job. The inside operator sits in a control room in front of a bank of computers and will monitor and operate all the equipment from the control room. They are partnered with somebody that is called an outside operator who is dressed in coveralls, hard hat, safety glasses, work boots, and it's their job to physically inspect and operate the equipment in the field. This equipment can be very large, can be very expensive, very complex to operate, and it's their responsibility to make sure it's running to the best of its ability.

In a power plant, the most important part of a power engineer is to ensure that electricity is produced. The province is relying on us to do our job and to do our job very well.

I knew growing up I was not the type of person to be a secretary, to work in an office, so I decided to take power engineering at community college. First time I applied, they did not accept me. So I went to university, took physics and calculus courses and reapplied knowing they would have to take me. I was the first female ever to take the course and graduate, I then became the first female ever to be hired by Nova Scotia Power and I am now the first female lead power engineer that they have.

Universities hire power engineers; at this point in time, this is an excellent career to get into. There's a high demand in the workforce for power engineers and it's a really good career for women.

The toughest part of being a power engineer can be the physical aspect, although there is always help in that department. Some of the things that I love about being a power engineer is working shift work, the pay is excellent, you're always learning, and you have the freedom to wander the plant.

My advice to girls looking for a career; it's great to find a career that you love, but it's also great to find a career that will support the lifestyle that you want. We all like toys, we all like to go on vacation, we all like nice things. Power engineering is a career that will give you all of those things.