

Getting to Know Grigaux, and SSID

BY PAUL HUGHES

Paul Grigaux has a busy agenda ahead as the newly hired director of SCE's Shop Services and Instrumentation Division (SSID).

Grigaux oversees an expansive, 28-acre complex in Westminster, where more than 200 skilled craft personnel and technicians repair, test and calibrate power generation and transmission components—transformers, steam turbines, circuit breakers, motors and generators, measuring equipment and tools—for SCE and outside enterprises. SSID also provides a variety of engineering services and supplies heavy equipment, including cranes, for SCE- and third-party customers.

SSID Challenges

Some of SSID's biggest challenges include ensuring maximum use of the facility by in-house customers and advancing use of the division's excess capacity by third-party customers.

Another is that the shop is confronted with an aging work-

force—30 percent of whom are expected to retire in the next five years.

"We're about to lose tremendous talent, and we need to be very aggressive and proactive in the knowledge transfer process," Grigaux said, an accent from his native France clearly evident.

In response, SSID is developing a training and qualifications program to educate new employees.

Aside from coping with the loss of knowledgeable people, Grigaux also will identify ways to more efficiently use the SSID facility, evaluate how the division can be used for the betterment of all of SCE and ensure the facility is able to efficiently serve third-party customers.

In addition to the "other operating revenue" that outside work provides for SCE, it also offers a way for craft personnel to stay nimble with their skills. "If you go three months without doing any work, you tend to get rusty. It affects your performance, your motivation, and also your level of expertise, and therefore your productivity later on," Grigaux said.

The History

Grigaux came to the U.S. as a teenager more than 20 years ago and received a bachelor's degree in engineering from Cooper Union School of Engineering in New York. He later earned an MBA from New York University.

Through previous work experience on the East Coast, "I had known of this facility [SSID] and its capabilities. It's a unique facility in the country," Grigaux said.

Grigaux previously worked for a variety of companies on the East Coast. Among those positions was as a field engineer for BOC Gases, where he specialized in supplying the food industry with liquid nitrogen, liquid carbon dioxide and other agents used to quickly freeze edibles, such as strawberries and seafood. After the company sent him to graduate school, he began working in the company's Project Unity program, which is the equivalent of SCE's Business Process Integration (BPI).



photo by Jean Anderson

SSID Director Paul Grigaux has a busy agenda for SSID.

Jennifer E. Smith, Technical Services manager, said Grigaux is a personable director who takes a holistic view of SSID.

"He has an understanding that employee input is important in serving clients well," she said.

"Engineers look at a project, the details, and are good at solving problems," she said. "[Paul] values every employee's opinion. He wants them to know their ideas are important and will be considered. He also wants them to be clear about the direction SSID is taking and the guiding principles that will lead to success."

Rajinder "Raj" Cheema, supervisor, Standards Lab, Shop Services and Instrumentation Division, said Grigaux has been supportive of the work his department does. "He's a strong proponent of SSID doing more business on behalf of SCE. He wants to see us grow in that area," Cheema said.

Grigaux is upbeat about SSID. "The organization is hungry to move forward and grow. That's a unanimous feeling here," he said. "The people here really, really believe in SSID and have lots of ideas on how to better serve SCE's needs." □

SSID: Source of Unique Tools

When operators of Cook Nuclear Power Plant in Michigan ordered an electronic trouble-detecting device designed and manufactured by TDBU's Shop Services and Instrumentation Division (SSID), they needed it fast.

Unable to wait for normal delivery methods, in early July the plant sent a private jet to make a late-night pick-up, said James Stoddart, a technical specialist in the SSID Metrology Division.

The Portable DC Ground Fault Detector (PGFD) is a one-of-a-kind of device that detects potentially hazardous DC ground faults by measuring the level of current in machinery, underground or aboveground wiring.

"DC ground faults can create many safety problems, from a system shutdown to an unreliable system in an isolated DC bus system," Stoddart said. "Such problems can be caused by defective equipment, exposed wiring or environmental factors."

The PGFD is a safety tool, that, when used routinely, can detect DC ground faults and provide engineers with the confidence of having a reliable isolated DC bus system.

It's also a time saver, Joe Escudero, technical specialist said. DC ground faults that often take days to pinpoint with other devices, can be found in a matter of hours with the handheld device.

Developed by SSID engineers 10 years ago and continuously upgraded by technicians since then, the device is used throughout SCE facilities and sold to power generating companies nationwide and overseas, Escudero said.

In the case of the Michigan nuclear power plant, representatives needed the device to pinpoint the source of a ground fault at the facility. "Though the problem went away, they can expect it to come back, and this tool will help them," Stoddart said.

In addition to the Cook Nuclear Power Plant, other outside customers include Chevron and Arco cogeneration plants in California, Nevada Power Generation Station and Arkansas One Nuclear Power Plant.

SSID Program Thrives

A program to annually evaluate and repair tools kept on troublemen trucks has gone so well that representatives of the Shop Services and Instrumentation Division (SSID) hope to expand it in 2006 to include equipment used by linemen.

The program began in earnest in March 2004 following a testing period the year before. In July 2005, SSID representatives renegotiated to extend the program.

SSID representatives expect to have one more meeting later this year or early in 2006 in which they hope to firm up plans to expand the program to include lineman trucks.

As established, evaluators from SSID pick up trucks used by troublemen, return to the Westminster facility, and evaluate and repair equipment. Troublemen are left with a fully equipped loaner vehicle while their truck equipment is being assessed and any necessary repairs are made to equipment.

Because troublemen are the first line of defense when something occurs, it makes sense to implement a preventative maintenance program "to make sure all of the tools are working properly and meet all specifications," said Rajinder "Raj" Cheema, supervisor in the Technical Services Shop Services and Instrumentation Department.

In the first eight months of the program, the equipment on 108 troublemen trucks was evaluated and repaired, he said. Recently, the department received funding to work on seven trucks at a time, up from five.

When technicians take delivery of a truck, they inventory all of the equipment so there is a record of each tool, Cheema said.

William Searles, project manager, cited an instance in which a troublemen was able to retrieve his stolen equipment as it was being sold at a swap meet. Some time before his tools were stolen, the truck had been into SSID for work. At that time, the serial numbers of all of the tools were written down and entered into a database. "All in all, we've gotten rave reviews," Searles said.