

Duke Energy Joins DSTAR Program 9

SCHENECTADY, NY – (May 6, 2004) – The Distribution Systems Testing, Application, and Research consortium (DSTAR) today announced that Duke Energy has joined DSTAR Program 9. DSTAR is a consortium of electric utilities, cooperatively supporting practical distribution system research and software development.

Duke Energy is returning to DSTAR membership after some time away. “We’re pleased to welcome them back,” says Devin Van Zandt, DSTAR Program Manager.

About Duke Energy

Duke Energy is a diversified energy company with a portfolio of natural gas and electric businesses, both regulated and non-regulated, and an affiliated real estate company. Duke Energy supplies, delivers and processes energy for customers in North America and selected international markets.

About DSTAR Program 9

To date, the 14 utility members of Program 9, including Duke Energy, have received benefits from their collaborative investment in the form of five completed projects. Program 9 will ultimately consist of six completed projects. Program 9 projects completed so far are as follows:

- ♦ DSTAR Distribution e-Handbook
- ♦ Cable Pulling Assistant (CPA) Software Enhancements
- ♦ Guy Tension Analyzer (GTA) Software Enhancements 1
- ♦ Guy Tension Analyzer (GTA) Software Enhancements 2
- ♦ Economic Overhead Conductor Software (EOCS)

About DSTAR

For over 15 years DSTAR has offered more than 30 utilities a cost-effective and responsive means of addressing problems that require near-term solutions.

DSTAR members create the ideas for future projects at semi annual planning sessions. Projects represent timely topics of key interest to members and are mutually decided upon by the membership through a voting process. A benefit of long-term membership in DSTAR is the ability to influence project topics.

Research results are provided to DSTAR members in the form of practical guidelines or software tools designed for immediate application. Each DSTAR program is conducted over 18-24 months.

DSTAR members are located throughout the USA and include investor-owned utilities as well as rural electric cooperatives participating through NRECA's Cooperative Research Network. Member companies range in size from small to some of the largest electric utilities in the USA.

DSTAR is managed by GE Energy's Energy Consulting group. For information on DSTAR membership, please visit the Web at <http://www.dstar.org/>, or call DSTAR Program Manager Devin Van Zandt at (518) 385-9066.

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