IMEA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OSHA

OSHA 1910.269 Key Requirements

The OSHA 1910.269 standard lays out specific requirements for workers involved in electric power generation, transmission, and distribution. These requirements are designed to prevent electrical hazards, protect workers from arc flash incidents, and reduce the risk of electrocution and falls:

Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Procedures

OSHA 1910.269(d) requires employers to establish and follow LOTO procedures when servicing or maintaining electrical equipment in power-generating plants or similar facilities. For transmission and distribution lines, specific requirements within 1910.269(m) apply.

Unlike the lockout tagout standard for general industry (1910.147), where a single machine is typically shut down at its power source, power systems have multiple energy sources, complex interconnections, and stored electrical energy that must be carefully controlled.

Verifying a zero energy state involves working with system operators to de-energize lines, applying LOTO procedures, and testing with a device designed to detect voltage to confirm that no electrical current remains. Since high-voltage systems can still hold dangerous residual energy, equipotential zone grounding must be used to equalize potential differences and reduce shock hazards before work begins.

OSHA mandates that the employer's LOTO program be documented, include training, and undergo periodic inspections. A written energy control procedure should clearly outline the scope, purpose, authorization, rules, and techniques used.