

Employment opportunities in wind energy

by Heidi Riley

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Normie McInnis has worked for Entegritty Wind Systems Inc. for the past three years, and says the company continues to grow.

“Over the past few years, interest in wind energy has exploded,” says **Normie McInnis**, Field Service Coordinator at **Entegritty Wind Systems Inc.** in Charlottetown. “Because of the uncertainty of oil supplies, more people are considering wind energy as an alternative.”

Normie did not start his career path with the intention of getting into the wind energy field. He grew up near Miminegash, and took the two-year **Industrial Electrical Technician** program at **Holland College**. After graduation, he was hired by an electrician company in Kensington, but was laid off during the slow winter season. Next, he found a job at a manufacturing plant in Borden Carleton.

Temporary job leads to long-term employment

“I really liked my job, but I was schooled as an Electrician, and I wanted to find a job in my field,” says Normie. “I checked the Job Bank, and found a listing for a wind technician with Entegritty Wind Systems Inc. I was offered a temporary four-week job. My employer was kind enough to give me the time off and held my job for me.”

“The company gave me a one-week training course, and then I was sent to Alaska to work with engineers maintaining 12 AOC 15/50 wind turbines. When the month ended, I went back to my previous job. Within a few months, I was offered a full-time job with

Entegritty, and I have been working for them for the past three years.”

Job responsibilities

“I have been back to work in Alaska a few times. I have also worked in the United Kingdom and all over the US. Now that I have a new position as **Field Service Coordinator**, I don’t travel as much. My job has changed from installing and maintaining turbines to scheduling, coordinating and training **Field Technicians** in Canada and in the US.

“When hired, new technicians are paired with experienced people so they can learn on the job. I have learned so much since I started here. It is much more than being an electrician. I needed to learn about aerodynamics and how turbine blades work.”

The company

Malcolm Lodge is the Chief Technical Officer of Entegritty Wind Systems Inc. He has been in the wind energy engineering business for over 30 years. He founded, designed, developed, and managed the North Cape Atlantic Wind Test Site, which is now known as the **Wind Energy Institute of Canada**. He established Entegritty Wind Systems Inc. in 2002.

Entegritty Wind Systems Inc. makes 50 kW wind turbines for commercial use. The company sold about 100 wind turbines last year, and plans to sell about 100 in 2009.

The staff

Twenty people work at the head office in Charlottetown. Eight people work at the manufacturing plant in Albany, where the turbine blades are made. Because most of Entegritty’s business is in the US, the company has a sales, marketing and support office in Colorado. Fifteen staff work in that office.

Job opportunities

“Three years ago, I was the eighth person hired at Entegritty,” says Normie. “The company has grown so much since then. In the next year, we are looking to hire about ten people in all departments. Jobs will be advertised in the newspaper, and we always accept résumés.”

What does it take to work in the field of wind energy?

“To become a **technician**, you could take trades training at a community college and focus on **electromechanical technology**,” says Normie. “There is also a new **Wind Turbine Technician** program at Holland College.

“To become an **engineer**, you need a university degree in **electrical** or **mechanical engineering**.”

For more information, visit www.entegrittywind.com