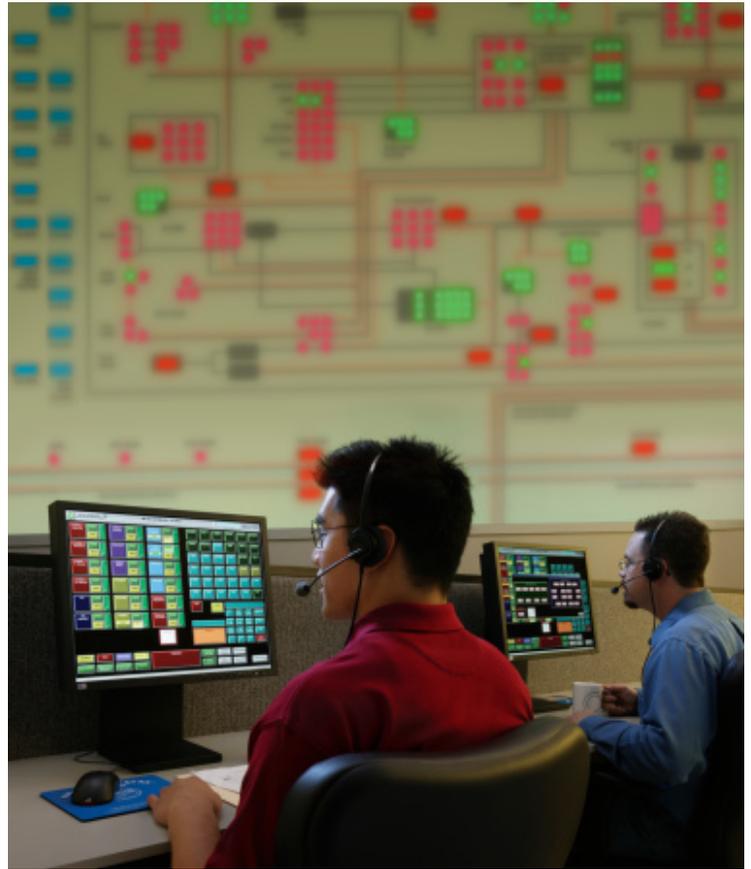


## **TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATOR, ASSOCIATE**

**Job Description:** A transmission system operator ensures the reliable delivery of electricity to consumers. From sophisticated control centers, the operator monitors conditions on the electrical grid and develops contingency plans to curtail potentially dangerous and costly system problems. They prepare and coordinate switching procedures for routine and emergency work on the electric system and communicate this information to field crews. Associate operators receive extensive training and on-the-job experience to prepare for needed certifications and to advance from the associate level to the career-level Senior Operator position. Job tasks include:

- Controlling operation of the transmission system in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner
- Ordering appropriate operational changes to meet load fluctuations or loss of generation equipment, substation equipment, or transmission lines
- Issuing transmission switching orders to switchmen and power plant personnel
- Performing special operating studies and preparing reports, load flows, and other operating and dispatching data
- Assisting with the coordination and operations of system operators from other companies
- Scheduling work on substation, transmission line, and power plant substation equipment



**Needed Skills and Education:** This career requires a minimum of 2 – 4 years of an accredited engineering or technical school degree or equivalent experience with a high school or GED diploma. Bismarck State College offers an Associate in Applied Science degree in Electrical Transmission Systems Technology, along with certification and professional development courses. An associate operator must be able to meet all company, North American Reliability Council (NERC), and other required certifications. He or she should have effective interpersonal and communication skills, and good analytical skills to process information in a timely and accurate manner. Demonstrated computer skills and the ability to organize, schedule, and coordinate various aspects of the job with minimal direct supervision is also required.

**Wages:** Information specific to North Dakota transmission system operators was not available. Salaries will vary depending on levels of experience, education and training. Nationally, the average annual wage for electric transmission system operators is \$71,963.

**Other Information:** Individuals in this line of work need to be very alert to issues that arise on the system and must be able to handle stressful situations. Because of heightened security concerns about the electrical transmission grids, applicants for these positions receive careful security screenings, and need to pass stringent certification procedures.

Find out more at [www.rureadynd.com](http://www.rureadynd.com).