



Wind Technician – Future Trends

1. Companies will increasingly replace “old” components as they wear out and as repowering opportunities emerge
 - a. The industry will likely experience slow growth in building new wind farms due to the uncertain regulatory and financial environments. Helping to counterbalance these uncertainties is the impending expansion of the TRPT transmission line that will increase the capability of electric generating utilities companies to distribute the power to the CAL ISO Smart Grid
2. Although the current job outlook is somewhat flat due to the uncertainties being experienced by the wind industry, the need for skilled technicians will likely grow due to:
 - a. The needs for increased maintenance of existing turbines experienced by operations & maintenance, utilities, manufacturers long-term warranty services and independent service providers
 - b. The demands on incumbent workers to “catch up” with both old and new technology
 - c. The fairly quick turnover of employees due to demanding physical requirements and environmental work conditions
3. The increased use of climb assist devices (man lifts, elevators, e.g..) will encourage more talented and less physical workers to join this career field.
4. Bigger turbines will continue to be deployed (10-15 megawatts)
5. Technology advances will continue:
 - a. There will be increased reliance on inverters and converters
 - b. Reliance on condition monitoring will continue to increase
 - c. Remote monitoring, trouble shooting, and repair capabilities will continue to develop
 - d. Concerns about cyber security and electronic threats to control systems will continue to increase
6. The industry will likely experience some consolidation of operations & maintenance and independent service providers

7. There will continue to be increased pressure for unionization, especially in the construction and utilities sectors
8. The trends toward increased specialization of service providers and products for the wind industry will continue and perhaps accelerate
9. The balance of “old” vs.” new” technology in each company and the industry as a whole will continue to impact the skill sets needed and staffing decisions. Similarly, the regional weather and environmental differences (cold vs. warm, e.g.) will impact these same factors