



Thomas F. Farrell, II  
Safety Leadership and Innovation Award  
2023 Recipients

*Power by Association™*

**CATEGORY: EEI MEMBER COMPANY EXECUTIVE**

**Al Payton, CenterPoint Energy**

**Description of Achievement:** Leadership of the EEI Occupational Safety and Health Committee (extended) and Executive Advisory Committee.

**Executive Summary**

Multiple leadership contributions both within EEI and related organizations to further industry knowledge and develop innovative evidence-based solutions to real-world safety challenges.

Al Payton from CenterPoint Energy has been a truly inspirational and exceptional safety leader throughout his distinguished career. While his focus has been the power sector for the last decade, his dedication to the field of safety has led to his support not only for EEI, but also for the Construction Safety Research Alliance. Al began his term as EEI OSH Committee Chair in 2018 and graciously extended the normal 2-year term to 4 years to allow for seamless support during the Covid-19 pandemic. During his term as the chair, the OSH committee developed the Safety Classification and Learning Model, stood up the SIF Learning Community, and hosted regular pandemic calls. All of the innovative and ground-breaking work accomplished during his tenure as the Chairman was made possible through Al's continued support, guidance and calm presence. Even after completing a double term as the Chairman of the OSH Committee, Al also agreed to continue his leadership and serve as the Vice Chairman of the OSH Executive Advisory Committee and continues to provide leadership that directly affects the health and safety of employees in the power sector.

**CATEGORY: EEI MEMBER COMPANY EMPLOYEE LEADER**

**Joe H. Suarez, Florida Power & Light Company**

**Description of Achievement:** Joe Suarez raised the bar in safety for the electric utility industry with his novel implementation of the load management system.

**Executive Summary**

Joe H. Suarez, Senior Director of Fleet Services, continuously looks for ways to improve technology at Florida Power & Light (FPL) by adding new safety features to trucks and vehicles—lighted steps, reflective paint, cameras, GeoTab tracking devices and ResQMe window punches. However, his greatest accomplishment forever changed the electric utility industry and set a new bar in safety. Joe led the development of the first Load Management System for utility boom trucks. The visual and audible alert system performs a complex calculation that eliminates human performance error, giving operators the chance to correct overload conditions prior to injury.

## **CATEGORY: ORGANIZATION AWARD**

### **Duke Energy – Mobile Observation Vehicle and Equipment Solution (MOVES)**

**Description of Achievement:** Drone technology to enable remote inspects for high-risk activities and engineering inspections.

#### **Executive Summary**

In 2018, Duke Energy embarked on a mission to become a digital utility to better support its clean energy transformation. Lighthouse, the organization tasked with leveraging digital technology, has fueled the changing expectations of our employees, customers, and investors. It's a fast-paced, think-outside-of-the-box concept that drove Duke Energy to identify opportunities in routine or emergent work where technology could be utilized.

Fast forward to today. Duke's Regulated and Renewable Energy (RRE) division (coal, gas, solar, and hydro generation division of Duke Energy) has partnered with Lighthouse to tackle one of its biggest challenges -- engineering inspections. These inspections involve high-risk activities due to the location where the inspections occur in boilers, HRSGs, stacks, L-O blades, and coal ash basins.

The solution – Mobile Observation Vehicle and Equipment Solutions (MOVES) – is an in-house developed drone technology that enables remote inspections for high-risk activities and engineering inspections.

[Video](#)