Water Desalination Plant Electrical Systems & Renewable Hybridization Training Course

16 - 20 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #ERE3020_265535

Course Introduction / Overview:

In an era defined by global water scarcity and the urgent push for sustainable energy, the synergy between water desalination and renewable energy has emerged as a critical field. This training course is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the intricate electrical systems that power modern desalination plants, with a specific focus on integrating renewable energy sources. Participants will delve into the complexities of electrical design, control systems, and power management, learning how to harness solar, wind, and other clean energy technologies to create efficient and environmentally friendly desalination operations. The program at BIG BEN Training Center highlights advanced topics such as hybrid energy storage systems, smart grid integration, and predictive maintenance. We will explore the work of leading academics in the field, such as Daniel Janowitz, whose research on photovoltaic-powered desalination demonstrates the tangible benefits of these integrated systems. The course content is informed by key industry texts, including the book "Renewable Energy Systems and Desalination," which outlines the crucial link between these two vital sectors. By focusing on practical application and real-world case studies, this course moves beyond theoretical knowledge to give participants the skills needed to design, implement, and manage the next generation of water infrastructure.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Electrical engineers and technicians involved in plant operations and maintenance.
- Project managers overseeing water infrastructure and energy projects.
- Power systems engineers specialize in renewable energy integration.
- Plant operators and supervisors seeking to upgrade their technical skills.
- Maintenance and reliability professionals in the water and energy sectors.
- Government and municipal employees involved in water resource management.
- Students and researchers in water treatment and sustainable engineering fields.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Water and Wastewater Utilities.
- Oil and Gas, particularly in regions with water scarcity.
- Renewable Energy, including solar and wind farm developers.
- Government agencies and public works departments.
- Industrial and manufacturing companies with high water consumption.
- Consulting and engineering firms focused on infrastructure projects.
- Agricultural and irrigation sectors.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Electrical and Power Departments.
- Operations and Maintenance.
- Engineering and Design.
- Environmental and Sustainability.
- Research and Development.
- Project Management Offices.
- Corporate Strategic Planning.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Analyze the electrical system architecture of a desalination plant.
- Design and size power systems for reverse osmosis and thermal desalination plants.
- Integrate renewable energy sources, such as solar PV and wind turbines, into plant operations.
- Manage power quality and grid stability with hybrid systems.
- Implement advanced control systems for optimal energy use and water production.
- Evaluate the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy hybridization.
- Troubleshoot and perform maintenance on key electrical components.
- Identify and mitigate potential risks and operational challenges in hybrid systems.

Course Methodology:

This course at BIG BEN Training Center employs a dynamic and interactive methodology, blending theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on learning. The training is structured around a combination of direct instruction, group discussions, and realistic case studies that simulate real-world scenarios. We will use detailed plant schematics and power flow diagrams to help participants visualize the complexities of electrical systems in desalination plants. Interactive sessions will encourage active participation and problem-solving, allowing participants to apply their new knowledge in a collaborative environment. Practical examples of successful renewable hybridization projects will be reviewed, highlighting both their successes and the challenges overcome. We will also incorporate exercises focused on designing electrical layouts and control logic for various plant configurations. The methodology aims to build a strong foundation of technical expertise while also developing the critical thinking skills necessary for innovation and efficiency in this rapidly evolving field. There will be an emphasis on feedback and continuous improvement throughout the course to ensure each participant gains a deep and lasting understanding.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Electrical Foundations of Desalination Plants

- Electrical systems overview and single-line diagrams.
- High-voltage and low-voltage switchgear.
- Motors, Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs), and motor control centers (MCCs).
- Power quality analysis and harmonic mitigation.
- Grounding, lightning protection, and surge suppression.
- Plant instrumentation, sensors, and control loops.
- SCADA and DCS systems for plant-wide control.

Unit Two: Reverse Osmosis (RO) Electrical Systems

- Electrical power requirements for RO.
- High-pressure pumps and energy recovery devices.
- Control systems for membrane protection and cleaning.
- Optimizing energy consumption in RO plants.
- Electrical troubleshooting and fault analysis.
- Safeguarding RO systems against electrical faults.
- Case study: power system for a large-scale RO facility.

Unit Three: Thermal Desalination and Hybridization

- Electrical systems for Multi-Stage Flash (MSF) and Multi-Effect Distillation (MED).
- Integration of electrical heaters and pumps.
- Combined heat and power (CHP) electrical design.
- Introduction to hybrid power systems.
- Solar thermal and geothermal energy integration.
- Waste heat recovery and its electrical implications.
- Case study: a hybrid MSF-solar thermal plant.

Unit Four: Renewable Energy Integration and Power Management

- Fundamentals of solar PV and wind energy systems.
- Electrical components of renewable energy systems (inverters, converters).
- Hybrid energy storage systems (HESS) and battery management systems.
- Grid connection and grid-interactive inverters.
- Power system stability with intermittent renewables.
- Microgrid and smart grid concepts for desalination.
- System sizing and component selection for hybridization.

Unit Five: Advanced Electrical Systems and Operations

- Predictive and preventive maintenance of electrical equipment.
- Advanced electrical safety standards and protocols.
- Automation and remote monitoring of plant electrical systems.
- Cybersecurity for industrial control systems.
- Commissioning and startup procedures for hybrid plants.
- Economic analysis of renewable energy integration.
- Future trends in desalination and electrical systems.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

Given the dynamic nature of renewable energy sources and the continuous operation required for water production, how can a desalination plant's electrical system be designed to ensure an uninterrupted and stable power supply while maximizing the use of intermittent clean energy?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This training course stands out by bridging the two vital fields of electrical engineering and water desalination, with a specialized focus on the crucial and growing area of renewable energy hybridization. While many courses cover either desalination or renewable energy in isolation, this program integrates them to provide a holistic and forward-looking perspective. It goes beyond generic concepts to address the specific, practical challenges of powering desalination plants with clean energy. We use a hands-on, problem-based approach that includes detailed case studies and design exercises, moving beyond simple theory to equip participants with tangible skills they can immediately use. BIG BEN Training Center has designed the curriculum to be highly relevant to modern industry needs, incorporating topics such as smart grid integration, hybrid energy storage, and predictive maintenance. This course is not just about understanding components; it is about mastering the entire system, from power generation and distribution to plant-wide control and optimization. It is an investment in a skillset that is not only in demand today but will be essential for the sustainable water and energy infrastructure of tomorrow.