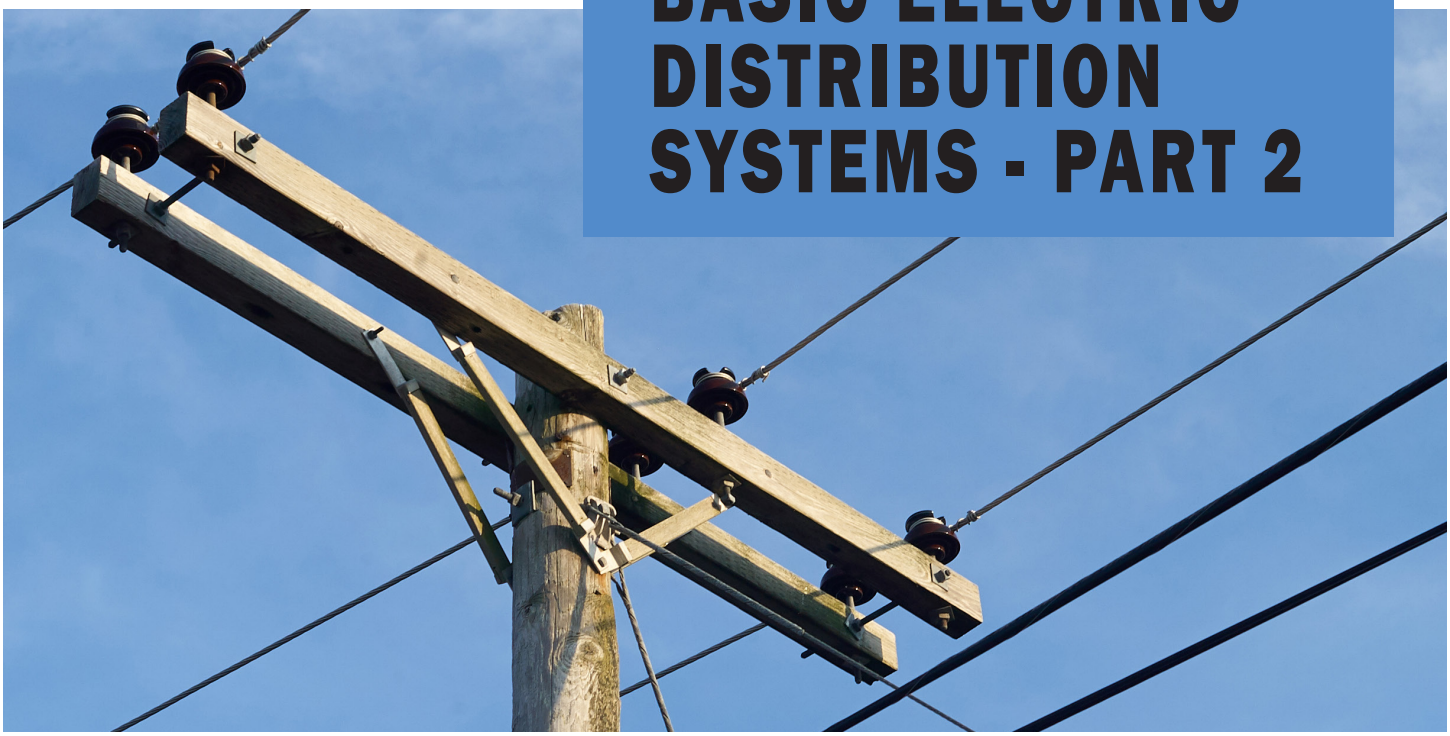
BASIC ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS - PART 2



This series offers an introduction to how electric utilities plan, budget, and set rates. Participants will gain foundational knowledge of utility finance, cost-of-service principles, and modern rate design practices that shape how electricity is priced and delivered. This series is perfect for anyone interested in learning how utilities determine electric rates and the factors that influence rate-setting decisions.

All webinars will begin at 1:00 p.m. Central Time. Each webinar will consist of one hour of instruction, followed by a thirty-minute question and answer session.

BASIC PUBLIC UTILITY FINANCE July 7, 2026	Navigating the financial landscape of the utility industry requires a unique blend of technical insight and economic understanding. This introductory webinar will equip students with foundational knowledge of finance as it applies to electric utilities. Participants will explore key concepts such as rate structures, capital investment planning, regulatory frameworks, cost recovery mechanisms, and financial performance metrics and will gain a clear understanding of how financial decisions impact utility operations, infrastructure development, and customer pricing through real-world examples.
PUBLIC UTILITY FINANCE: REVENUE REQUIREMENTS & BUDGETING August 11, 2026	Not-for-profit electric utilities face unique financial challenges and responsibilities. This webinar introduces core principles of revenue requirements and budgeting within the context of publicly owned and cooperative electric utilities. Revenue requirement approaches will include discussion of cash-basis and accrual-basis accounting. Participants will learn how organizations determine the cost of providing service, develop annual budgets, and set rates that ensure financial sustainability. Key topics include the components of revenue requirements, the role of cost-of-service studies, and how budgeting aligns with strategic planning and regulatory compliance. Real-world examples and simplified models will help students understand how financial decisions support reliability, equity, and long-term infrastructure investment.

POWERING PUBLIC UTILITIES: CAPITAL PLAN FUNDING STRATEGIES September 15, 2026	Public electric utilities play a vital role in delivering reliable, affordable energy to communities, but maintaining and expanding infrastructure requires thoughtful capital funding strategies. This webinar introduces the fundamentals of capital financing, funding, and contribution models in the not-for-profit electric utility sector. The session will cover how utilities plan for long-term investments and secure funding through debt issuance, grants, rates, fees, and internal reserves. Participants will explore key concepts such as capital improvement planning, bond financing, rate-supported debt, and the role of governing boards and public accountability. The session will also highlight how financial decisions align with utility goals like grid modernization, sustainability, and resilience.
COST OF SERVICE: THE FOUNDATION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY RATE SETTING October 13, 2026	How do electric utilities determine what customers should pay for power? This webinar explores the fundamentals of cost-of-service analysis—a cornerstone of rate setting in public and not-for-profit electric utilities. Students will gain a clear understanding of how utilities calculate the revenue required to operate sustainably and equitably, and how those costs are distributed across customer classes. Key topics include defining the revenue requirement, forecasting loads and revenues, understanding the rate base, and applying the principles of functionalization, classification, and allocation of costs. The session will also introduce the regulatory and policy context that shapes cost-based rate design, with examples from utility practices from across the U.S.

ABOUT HI-LINE ENGINEERING

Hi-Line Engineering specializes in providing engineering consulting services to electric utilities. The firm is a wholly owned subsidiary of GDS Associates, Inc.

Hi-Line's mission is to provide quality energy delivery consulting services at rates conducive to the demands of the deregulated marketplace. We specialize in safe, reliable, and efficient planning, design, and contract administration.

Our staff exhibits diverse experience in the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of electric distribution systems. We have designed hundreds of miles of distribution lines in all types of terrain and loading conditions. Many of these projects include contract administration and right-of-way acquisition. Our planning services include experience in a variety of environments consisting of dense urban, resort beach, rural agricultural, and sparsely populated areas. Hi-Line has prepared planning studies for rural electric cooperatives, municipals, and military bases.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

Kevin Mara, P.E., a Vice President of GDS Associates, and the Principal Engineer of Hi-Line Engineering, a GDS Company, is considered an expert in many of the facets of power distribution systems including system planning, system operation, power system modeling and analysis, and system design. He has over 30 years of experience as a distribution engineer and extensive knowledge in power quality analysis, system reliability, loss analysis, territory, and joint-use issues, as well as management and operation of electric utilities. Kevin earned his BS in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in 17 states.

Jacob M. Thomas, P.E., Principal, specializes in financial and analytical consultation, including retail and wholesale rates, cost of service, demand-side management evaluation and impact analysis, load forecasting, load research, market research, economic impact analysis and various data mining and analysis applications. Over his nearly 30 years of experience, Mr. Thomas has worked on rate and cost of service studies for municipal and cooperative clients throughout the country and has gained expertise and experience designing different rate design concepts. Mr. Thomas holds a BS in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an MBA from Auburn University with a concentration in Finance. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Georgia and a member of the American Statistical Association.

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ALSO FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST INSTRUCTORS!

BASIC ELECTRIC SYSTEMS PART 2 WEBINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Webinar Dates and Subjects		Check desired webinars
1.	**July 7** – Basic Public Utility Finance	☐
2.	**August 11** – Public Utility Finance: Revenue Requirements & Budgeting	☐
3.	**September 15** – Powering Public Utilities: Capital Plan Funding Strategies	☐
4.	**October 13** – Cost of Service: The Foundation of Electric Utility Rate Setting	☐

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Questions? Call Rachael Harms at **334-887-3297** or email rachael.harms@gdsassociates.com

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