

Dave Little
Atura Power — Brighton Beach Generating Station
Chief Operating Engineer



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**SAFETY
AWARDS
2022**

LEGACY SAFETY AWARD

Influencing **Safe Work **Behaviours** in this Generation and the Next**

As Chief Operating Engineer at Atura Power’s Brighton Beach Generating Station, Dave Little ensures the safe and reliable operation of a power plant, working with the operators, maintenance team, contractors and TSSA to make sure all the plant’s regulatory obligations are met. “I think everybody who works in this industry and at a power plant should be passionate about safety,” he said. “It’s not just one person saying, ‘Make sure you’re following the rules;’ it’s all of us working together as a team and looking out for each other to make sure no one gets hurt.”

Joining the organization in 2003 and steadily progressing to his current role in 2014, Dave has been credited with tireless efforts to ensure proper work practices are in place at Brighton Beach Generating Station – including a formal process for ‘Lockout Tagout’, a critical safety procedure in a power plant – and volunteered to lead an effort to consolidate the various safety processes between all the stations within his organization.

He has also made an indelible impact on the organization’s safety culture as management co-chair on the Brighton Beach Generating Station Joint Health and Safety Committee and is a member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee of Atura Power, a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation that owns Brighton Beach Generating Station. However, he believes safety issues and possible hazards should be dealt with in real time at the team level. “If a safety issue has to make its way to the Joint Health and Safety Committee and management is just hearing about it for the first time, your system is broken,” he explained. “You can’t let safety issues linger.” As such, he starts and ends each workday with a meeting where team members can discuss safety issues and concerns openly so they can be resolved immediately.

Shaping the next generation of safety leaders has been a priority throughout Dave’s career. Since 2010, he has been a volunteer member on the Advisory Committee of the St. Clair College Power Engineering program. A mentor to countless students, he has promoted safety both at the college through speaking engagements and to Brighton Beach Generating Station placement students, ensuring they gain the critical experience to allow them to assess risks in the workplace and mitigate those risks. “I really enjoy working with the students,” he said. “It’s important to tell them that they have a voice and, when they enter the workforce, not to be afraid to speak up and tell their supervisor if they see something wrong or don’t know how to do something.”

In addition, Dave helped St. Clair College to evaluate and attain a boiler and industry simulation package that allows students the opportunity to experience complex and detailed system operation. He has supported other programs by sourcing used equipment and having it donated to various training programs, including the St. Clair Firefighting program and the United Association Local 853 Fire and Sprinkler Training Centre.

While Dave said it’s an honour to be recognized with TSSA’s Legacy Award, to him, the contributions he has made to his company and industry are just a part of his job. “As operating engineers, safety is engrained in our training and our foundation,” he explained. “I’m also very fortunate to work with good people, who make my job easier – no one person, no matter what their role is, makes a company safe; it’s an entire team effort.”