

Justin Van Beusekom
Senior Operations Manager, Pioneer Prairie Wind Farm
EDP Renewables North America



"My path into operations was similar to the Army in a lot of aspects. Whether it was equipment, maintenance or personnel, I was expected to resolve it with the resources I had in a very fluid environment. As I continued on, I saw an exciting and genuine interest from the public and started to understand how important wind energy is to the environment, to the energy industry, and our future. It is the same principle as the military, doing something that is bigger than myself or even the organization. We are making a difference every single day in helping solve the current energy challenges we face. Sometimes it is helping and resolving issues for our landowners, other times it is finding new and innovative ways to increase our production, and rarely, it is a 2 am Saturday call-out to get the facility back online. It almost always is a team effort, and very gratifying to be a part of the team and solution. Personally, it is a fun profession."

Justin is the senior operations manager of three sites consisting of 243 turbines. Justin and his team maintain the O&M building, roads, substations, collection systems, transformers, turbines, and the overall performance of the wind farm. Justin earned a Management, Bachelor of Science in Management from St. John's University of Minnesota.

"This industry runs parallel with a lot of different aspects of the military. In the operations world, maintenance is very important, just as it is in the military. We have our own equipment and it must be maintained in order to accomplish our tasks. Veterans always get the mission accomplished in a safe and efficient manner. There is no job too big or too challenging. We have worked with and on things that people do not even know exist, but still find a way to maintain them, operate them and be effective. We have worked in the harshest, most stressful environment imaginable to most people, yet we still win!"



Military Background

Justin attended the Armor Officer Basic Course at Fort Knox, KY. His first duty station was Fort Drum, NY as an Armor Officer assigned to a cavalry squadron. Justin spent the first 6 months as an XO for an OH-58 Kiowa maintenance troop. The troop conducted scheduled and unscheduled maintenance for the helicopters and they deployed to Mosul, Iraq in support of the 2nd STRYKER Brigade. During the deployment, Justin became a Scout Platoon Leader for a light scout platoon where they conducted route security, over-watch, and reconnaissance. When Justin returned home, he moved to Fort Hood, TX as an Ordnance Officer and spent time in a forward support company, providing all maintenance support for the Brigade Combat Team. Justin spent time on staff in the personnel department, and then operations where he assisted in planning combat operations. Justin then became a maintenance company commander and was responsible for all the maintenance of the brigade support battalion and support to the brigade combat team.

