

Sean Middleton, P.E.

Director – Strategy and Operations

Sean Middleton serves as Director - Strategy and Operations and is located in the Springfield, IL office. As an accomplished Professional Engineer, he brings more than 24 years of experience to Finley. Sean will use his areas of expertise in electrical engineering, distribution system operations management, and design and maintenance of electrical systems, and consult with Finley energy clients on many of today's regulatory and compliance issues. With his further background in the development of broadband networks, he can also assist energy and telecom clients in meeting RUS requirements and standards, staying up to date on legislative funding, providing project management support and techniques, and enable wireless and FTTP solutions. Middleton also possess extensive experience with distributed generation including both large- and small-scale wind and solar and further empowers clients through smart grid and distribution automation innovation.

Sean comes to Finley from Illinois Electric Cooperative where he served as Manager of Engineering and IT. He is a member of the IEEE including the Power, Communication, and Photonic Societies and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). Middleton previously sat on the Cyber Security Member Advisory Group for the Cooperative Research Network (CRN/ NRECA) and serves on the State Board of Professional Engineers for the IL Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Sean is a sought-out resource by electrical cooperatives as well as municipalities exploring broadband opportunities. He leads the company in developing new business, with a focus on opportunities in the energy and broadband arenas.

Occupational Experience

DIRECTOR – STRATEGY OPERATIONS (November 2019): FINLEY – SPRINGFIELD, IL
Focused electrical industry experience with substantial research in the current regulatory and broadband arenas.

MANAGER OF ENGINEERING & IT (May 96 – Nov 19): ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – WINCHESTER, IL
Designed, maintained and troubleshot a 12.5 kV electric distribution system while performing voltage drop, system fault, and device coordination studies. Designed and maintained an AutoCAD based GIS system. Acquired knowledge of multiple computer operating systems and software packages, which resulted in a secondary role as information technology advisor for the cooperative. Worked extensively on compilation of the cooperative's four-year Construction Work Plan with The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) division of the United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), which resulted in financing for all operating facets of the cooperative



Specialization

Electrical Engineering, Project Management, Power System Design, Distribution Automation, Distributed Generation, System Protection, Fixed Wireless and FTTP/ FTTP Strategies and Planning, Business Operations, Regulatory Practices, Rate Analysis and Cost of Service Methodology

Education

B.S. Electrical Engineering, Bradley University
MBA, University of IL at Springfield

Professional Registration – PE
IL, IN, KY, OH, LA, TX, TN, IA, AL

Professional Associations

IEEE, NSPE, NRECA, State Board of Professional Engineers - IL Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Office Location

Springfield, IL

Illinois Electric Cooperative, Pittsfield & Winchester, IL

- Responsible for the successful project management, electrical interconnection, and grant acquisition of a 1.65 MW wind turbine at Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative. Acquired all environmental compliance, zoning requirements, and permitting required for project. Wrote successful grant applications for a Section 9006 USDA Grant, Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant, and Illinois Clean Energy and Community Foundation Green Tag purchase contract. Performed all engineering necessary to interconnect the 1.65MW load on a 12.47 KV distribution circuit while utilizing dynamic VAR compensation to allow for extended distance from the substation. Continue to maintain SCADA and remote metering installation in order to keep trending load information available. Load information and other site specific data utilized to provide necessary quarterly reporting requirement updates as dictated by State and Federal agencies under specified grant guidelines. This effort resulted in the Cooperative being named "Wind Cooperative of the Year" in 2005 by the U.S. Dept. of Energy for implementing the first Coop owned project in Illinois. Have since completed a 0.5 MW solar plant installation in almost the same fashion described above which went online in May 2014.

Illinois Electric Cooperative, Winchester, IL

-Designed and implemented a fixed wireless last mile ISP solution in a ten-county region while providing broadband to the underserved counties within the cooperative's territory.

Illinois Electric Cooperative, Bluffs & Winchester, IL

-Designed and implemented a complete fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) overbuild of two rural municipalities. Further participated and successfully bid in the FCC CAF2 auction to secure additional funding to promote enhanced speed and latency to rural broadband consumers.

Illinois Electric Cooperative, Hardin & Brussels, IL

-Designed and procured E-rate grant funding to implement an aerial FTTP and FTTN solution on rural electric cooperative ROW to serve rural school districts.