

1997 Engineer of Distinction



William Terry Boston

B.S. Civil Engineering, TTU, 1972
M.S. Engineering Administration, UT-Knoxville, 1977

Senior Manager, Pricing
Customer Service and Marketing
Tennessee Valley Authority
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Citation

William "Terry" Boston has dedicated his career to improving the transmission and delivery of electric power. He has received two degrees, both magna cum laude. In 1972, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Tennessee Technological University. Five years later, Mr. Boston received a master's degree in Engineering Administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Terry began his career at Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1972; and in the 25 years since, he has worn many different hats. Each job has increased his knowledge of all aspects of the electric utility business, heightened his level of responsibility, and broadened his scope of duties. Mr. Boston was initially hired as a Power Supply Engineer. By 1989, he had risen through the ranks to become the Division Manager, Regional Operations. Terry was responsible for overseeing all aspects of power transmission and related communication equipment, under both normal and emergency conditions, and for customer services and power marketing for the seven-state TVA Region. From 1991 through 1996, he served as Division Manager, Transmission Planning and Operational Support. In this capacity, he was responsible for planning the power transmission system and control facilities, including capital additions and modernization to ensure safe, reliable and efficient operation.

In 1977, Mr. Boston was assigned to the position of Senior Manager, Pricing. In this capacity, he follows the restructuring of the electric industry and strives to keep TVA and its distributors competitive, now and in the future, as new energy markets evolve and deregulation policies are implemented. Throughout his TVA employment history, he has faced and dealt with the destruction nature creates. During outages caused by floods, tornadoes, ice and lightning, he has done his utmost to preserve, maintain and reinstate electric service. In 1994, he was the team leader for the emergency team that coordinated service restoration to over one million customers following the ice storm that covered 60,000 square miles of the TVA service area.

In addition to his professional service, Terry has been active over the years in engineering societies and organizations. For example, he has served the American Society of Civil Engineers, Chattanooga branch, in several offices, including Chair. Terry has chaired several committees of the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council. He has served on the Engineering Committee, participated in a number of task forces and added his considerable input to a general working group of the national organization, the North American Electric Reliability Council. The Department of Energy and TVA recently selected him as the U.S. transmission expert for missions to China and India.

Awards are one measure of achievement. In 1992, the Electric Power Research Institute bestowed its Environmental Innovator Award upon Terry. TVA acknowledged him as its 1984 Engineer of the Year. Also in 1984, he received the Chattanooga Young Engineer of the Year. Even very early in his career, his potential was recognized. He received the 1972 Governor's Outstanding Tennessean Award. He was one of four recipients in the United States to receive the ASCE Scholarship Award in 1972.

His contact with Tennessee Tech did not end with his graduation in 1972. In his capacity as a high-level manager at TVA, he has been instrumental in awarding research dollars to the Center of Electric Power, a Center of Excellence at Tennessee Tech. These research dollars enable the Center to support faculty and students. TVA was one of the earliest sponsors of the Center, and, over the years, has provided significant funding. In 1985, Mr. Boston and a Tennessee Tech professor co-authored an IEEE paper that presented research results of a project related to evaluating the TVA automatic generation control system. Terry recently returned to share his experiences in the electric power industry with Tennessee Tech students at a seminar, "The Electric Industry—Moving at the Speed of Light." Through his sponsorship, Tennessee Tech has been included in TVA's lightning research program and in a group which has been formed to address power quality issues associated with deregulation. Resulting input will be presented to a committee appointed by Governor Sundquist.

Mr. Boston has been very active in the Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church, as well as Signal Mountain, Tennessee government. The Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce and the National Kidney Foundation have also benefited from his interest and dedication. Terry is married to Brenda Billingsley Boston. Together, they are raising a daughter and two sons. In their spare time, the Bostons enjoy watching their sons, Andrew and Brian, play football and basketball, and their daughter, Rachel, sing, dance and act. In addition, the family enjoys boating and woodworking crafts.



1997 Engineers of Distinction Hal Jones (left) and Terry Boston