

01
Transmission
network support
program in Haiti

03
Company baseball
team uniform

05
Electrical
engineer's
manuals and
catalog

02
Electrical plan

04
Connector
components



SOPHIE POTVIN- CHAMPAGNE ENERGY & POWER

Name
**Sophie
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**Junior
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**Montréal,
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**Electrical
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2006

Sophie Champagne



Q1. Describe your role at AECOM and what it involves
As an electrical engineer, my job is mainly concerned with designing substations and medium/low voltage power transmission lines. I use software programs to calculate voltage drops on a line and perform power flow analyses.

Q2. Describe a typical working day
I work closely with members of my team so, at the beginning of each day, it's important to understand what everyone else is up to. At the start of every project, I'm usually involved in working out how to transmit power efficiently from A to B, how to reduce power line losses and where to install substations. The next stage is fieldwork where we survey the route of the line. After that, we prepare tender documents and help to select the contractor to carry out the building and installation work.

In a lot of cases, I have to adapt the contract specification according to the project location. For example, if the local installation crews are relatively inexperienced, I'll specify equipment that's easier to install and use. On these occasions, I get to visit our suppliers' factories to check the equipment and try it for myself, which gives me a better idea of what is easier to use.

Q3. Have you travelled much with AECOM and if so, where?
I've been to Haiti, which was a truly eye-opening experience. As a developing country, it's going through a lot of difficulties, which has really motivated me to do my best to help them through our projects. After all, by giving them a good energy generation system, we can help them take the first step towards breaking the poverty cycle. So I am pretty proud of working there.

At AECOM, there are lots of opportunities to travel due to the number of international projects that need engineers. Furthermore, as many of these projects are in developing countries, you really feel that your work is making a significant contribution to making the world a better place.

Q4. What are your hopes for your future at AECOM?
I hope to gain enough experience in my field so I can do a contract in a third-world country and help them with my knowledge. In the long term, I'd like to focus on international development.

