The TransAlta Alberta Thermal Vibration team was formed in November of 2002. It was started with only 1 Vibration Technician. The Vibration team is part of the Condition Monitoring Group which also contains a Thermographer, an Electrician and a Lube Oil Analyst.

The vibration portion of this group is now made up of 4 full time members, with the 4th just recently added. The vibration team is responsible for doing the testing and analysis on approximately 1,600 pieces of equipment annually at the Sundance and Keephills coal fired power plants, as well as the rotating equipment at a 6,800 gpm Water Treatment facility and a Fly Ash sales facility which sells in excess of 350,000 tons of ash annually.

This group not only does vibration analysis but is also the owner of the laser alignment program. Over the past 3 years the members have also taken over the balancing of any rotating equipment when balance issues are found. This has not only reduced contractor costs but has also allowed for shorter durations for balance runs.

Since 2002 when the plant started to track savings, it is estimated that the Vibration team has provided TransAlta with a savings by losses prevented, with a total of $23,097,531, or nearly $2.9 million per year average.