

NRECA Seeks Participants for The New Cooperative Engineering Standards Interest Group (CESIG)

NRECA is launching a new working group known as the Cooperative Engineering Standards Interest Group (CESIG). Our mission is to provide visibility to the standards-making process across the cooperative community and to ensure that our voice is represented consistently in the various entities tasked with electric utility standards development. We are soliciting interest from people willing to participate in CESIG and contribute to the standards development process. A key objective of CESIG is to gather input from members through this group without the commitment of having to serve on a particular industry standards committee or working group. It is important to note that this interest group's work complements but is separate from NRECA's other work on generation standards and the North American Electric Reliability Committee (NERC) process for standards development. NRECA and cooperatives are active in the NERC process via our G&T Managers Association Grid Management Committee, and NERC ballot process participants.

The goals of CESIG are to:

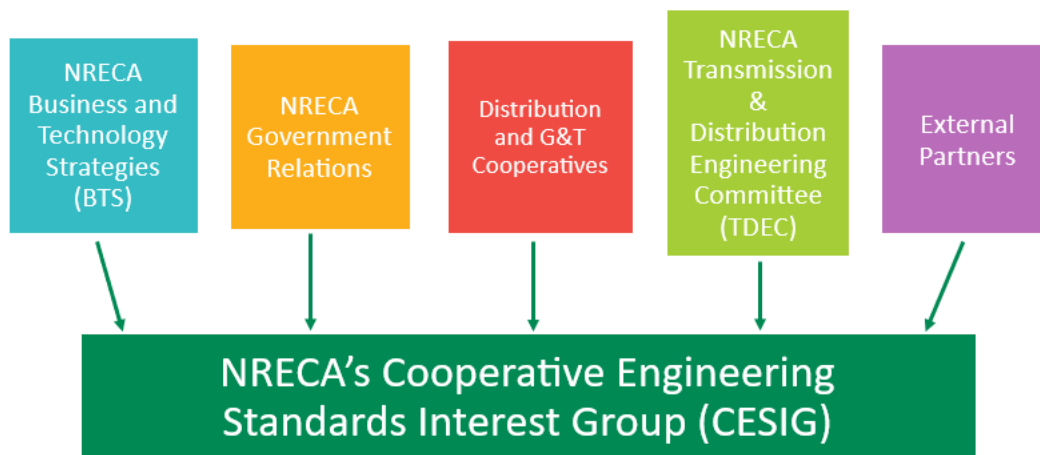
- 1) Mitigate the risk of adverse impact on cooperatives caused by standards, and
- 2) Influence standards development to enhance NRECA members' ability to fulfill their priorities.

Participation in CESIG presents an opportunity for cooperative and affiliate personnel to be involved in the standards process, understand the impact of **new or updated standards on distribution grid planning and operations**, have a voice in the direction and development of standards, expand their industry network, interact and collaborate with their peers across the industry, and be recognized as subject matter experts in these topics.

Our focus will be on standards most influential to electric cooperatives. This includes the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), and the other standards-making entities such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), and others where issues related to EVs, DERs, battery storage (BESS), line design and staking, equipment and material specifications, or work practices could substantially impact cooperatives. The model is similar to that used by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) for investor-owned utilities (IOUs), and the American Public Power Association (APPA) for municipal and public power utilities.

Working Group Structure

CESIG will function with input from a variety of groups as shown on the following page. NRECA Staff from Business & Technology Strategies (BTS) and Government Relations departments, distribution and G&T cooperatives, along with feedback from the T&D Engineering Committee (TDEC) and other external partners, will guide the working group's focus to inform the standards process.



CESIG Focus Areas

NESC

- Inform the NESC subcommittees throughout the revision cycle.
- Submit change proposals (CPs) as a community and provide unified response on CP submissions.
- Review the Preprint of Change Proposals for the next update and provide feedback as a community.

IEEE, ANSI, NEMA

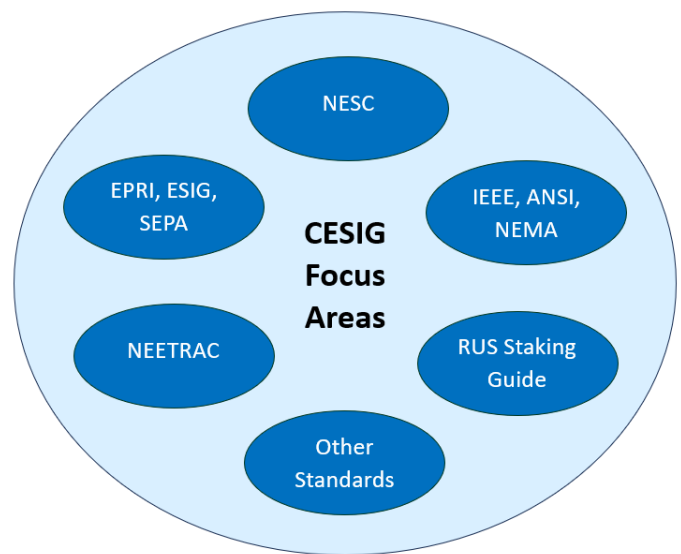
- Keep abreast of key activities impacting cooperatives and respond when necessary.
- Initially, this will include the ongoing development and evolution of the IEEE 1547 series standards related to DERs, IEEE 2030 series smart grid interoperability standards, and the ANSI C84.1 2016 update; but could include any standards or guidelines identified as critical to fulfilling the priorities of the co-op network.

RUS Staking Guide

- Support ongoing development.
- Advise and seek consensus on revisions.

National Electric Energy Testing, Research, and Applications Center (NEETRAC)

- Keep abreast of NEETRAC research activities affecting cooperatives.
- Recommend technical advisors (TAs) to participate on NEETRAC projects.
- Advise NRECA's NEETRAC board representatives.



Foster Active Relationships with Other External Industry Groups, such as:

- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG)
- Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)
- Others as appropriate

Monitor Other Standards Activities Impacting Cooperatives Related to:

- EVs, Battery Energy Storage
- DER, DERMS, Distribution Automation

Responsibilities and Commitment of the Participants

The following are the expectations and commitment of participants. Cooperative personnel, as well as external partners, consultants, and vendors supporting the cooperative space are welcome to participate.

- *Technical acumen*

An individual who “digs in” and seeks to understand the “whys” behind utility practices. Experience with system engineering, planning, optimization, protection, or reliability is ideal.

- *Cooperation among cooperatives*

Willing to share ideas and knowledge. Collaborate with others and seek consensus among individuals across the country with varied backgrounds and experiences.

- *Commitment*

Plan on quarterly meetings held virtually. Frequency of meetings may vary depending on the NESC revision cycle and other activities by standards entities of interest to cooperatives. No travel is expected except in limited circumstances. In person or hybrid meetings may be held in conjunction with other technical activities regularly attended by cooperative personnel, such as TechAdvantage, IEEE Rural Electric Power Conference, TDEC, or various member advisory groups (MAGs) based on needs and preferences of the time. Participants will be responsible for time, travel or other expenses incurred during their involvement with group activities.

Join the CESIG

We encourage co-ops and other industry stakeholders to express interest and participate actively for the benefit of the industry and all NRECA members.

[Sign-Up Form to Join CESIG](#)
([click here](#))

Contact for Questions

David Farmer – Principal, Distribution Grid, NRECA Business and Technology Strategies
Email: David.Farmer@nreca.coop Office: 703-254-7957