

Business & Technology Update



Thursday, August 9, 2018 | coop.com | [BTS Website](#) | [Contact](#) | [Web Version](#) |

Cooperatives' Commitment to Zero Contacts

A recent study by NRECA and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, with the support of statewide safety professionals, reveals that while electric cooperative safety programs overall have greatly reduced days lost to workplace injuries, the record of serious injuries while on the job has not improved. A toolkit is now available through the "Commitment to Zero Contacts" campaign, that offers cooperatives tools to use to improve their safety record. Find out more in the Advisory below.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Bud Branham](#)

How Coles-Moultrie Benefits with Open Source GIS

Co-ops are looking to advance how they can use data for operational and productivity gains. Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative in Mattoon, IL, developed its own Geographic Information System (GIS) from open source software, leveraging student resources available at a local college to achieve positive community engagement, education, and economic system development.

- [Article](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [David Pinney](#) and [Robbin Christianson](#)

Considering How to Compensate DER / Energy Storage

Distributed Energy Resources (DER), including energy storage, are proliferating on cooperative systems thanks to cost declines, performance improvements, consumer-member expectations, and the digitization of metering. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) have seen steep cost declines in recent years, and total capacity is expected to grow significantly in the near future. This new advisory reviews the importance for co-ops to consider the various value streams of a BESS application when determining DER / Energy Storage compensation.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Jan Ahlen](#)

Co-op Opportunity to Join Our Analytics Member Advisory Group

Upcoming Events

- [Electrification 2018](#) – August 20-23, Long Beach, CA
- [G&T Resource Planning Association Conference](#) – October 1-3, Savannah, GA
- [RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Half-day Cybersecurity Training](#) – November 13-14, Sandia National Laboratory, Albuquerque, NM (**Save the Date; Registration to open soon**)

BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIES PORTFOLIO



PROVIDING SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONABLE ADVICE



RURAL COOPERATIVE CYBER SECURITY CAPABILITIES PROGRAM

The six work groups within NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies department each have a Member Advisory Group (MAG) to provide input and guidance for our research and offerings for cooperatives. The Analytics, Resiliency and Resources work group is currently recruiting new members. More information on the MAGs and the opportunity to participate is available in the following advisory.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [David Pinney](#) and [Adaora Ifebigh](#)
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The Value of Broadband Backbone

When implemented into an electric system, a broadband backbone communications system unlocks the benefits of smart grid use cases. NRECA, NRTC, and Ericsson have partnered on a recent study, *The Value of a Broadband Backbone for America's Electric Cooperatives: A Benefit Assessment Study*, which examines and quantifies the economic benefits of a broadband backbone for electric cooperative operations. This new advisory provides further detail on this topic and recent research.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [Joe Goodenbery](#)
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NineStar's Broadband Initiative

There is a demand in unserved and underserved locations for broadband services, which are essential to community development, economic growth and prosperity, and educational attainment. Co-ops are taking a lead in meeting this need with projects to install broadband to benefit their member-consumers. The newest in our [NRECA case study series](#) highlights the initiatives of NineStar Connect.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contact for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#)
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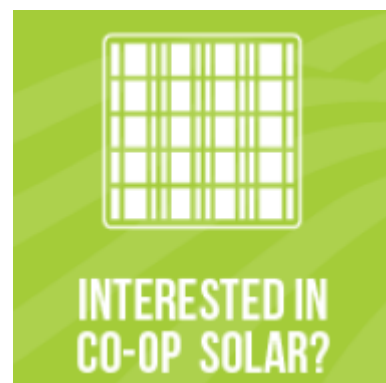
Outlook Update on Electric Industry Generation, Capacity and Markets

Ongoing industry trends of low natural gas prices and increasing renewables are putting increased pressure on coal and nuclear resources that have traditionally provided baseload power, as well as on existing infrastructure to provide additional flexibility in dealing with this altered landscape. NRECA's updated report presents high-level analyses and projections of electricity generation, capacity, transmission, and markets to provide a summary of the current state of the industry and where it may be headed, from both a national view and from the perspective of electric cooperatives.

- [Advisory](#)
 - [Full Report](#)
 - Contacts for Questions: [Michael Leitman](#)
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EPA Approves New Halogen Test Method

The EPA has just approved a new test method for measuring emissions of HCL in coal-fired power plant flue gas to ensure compliance with the EPA MATS regulations. This new advisory reviews how using the newly approved OTM-40



approach will result in a reduction in costs and the time needed to measure emissions of HCL.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contacts for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#) or [Dale Bradshaw](#)
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The Impact of Cryptocurrency Mining

The types of cryptocurrency have expanded since Bitcoin's debut in 2009 to now more than 4,000 types. With this market development has evolved a new business of cryptocurrency mining – the use of complex algorithms to solve equations that verify and encrypt transactions. This new advisory explains this new market and how its energy-intensive nature is affecting cooperatives. A recent RE Magazine article provides further explanation of the related concept of blockchain.

- [Advisory](#)
 - [RE Magazine Article on Blockchain](#)
 - Contacts for Questions: [Allison Hamilton](#)
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Golden Spread Uses Strategic Sourcing to Meet IT Needs

The ongoing evolution of co-op business model to consumer-centric poses a key challenge in achieving the most efficient outcome for consumer members while concurrently rewarding and motivating a highly skilled and committed workforce. This involves identifying practical utility-side and end-use solutions, including shared services and other resource strategies. A new case study in our series about Strategic Sourcing highlights the efforts of Golden Spread in launching its "IT Community" for a collaborative, member-driven approach to technology and service needs.

- [Advisory](#)
 - Contacts for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#) or [Lauren Khair](#)
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Wind and Solar Integration Group Transitions to Address Energy Systems Integration

Since the start of the Utility Variable-Generation Integration Group (UVIG) in 1989, it has adapted as the industry has evolved from an initial focus on the analysis of wind for utility applications to impacts of increased solar and other distributed generation to now other energy sources, such as battery systems. This new advisory reviews the evolution of this organization, and how UVIG is now changing its name to the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) to keep up with industry changes.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Thomas Gwinn](#)

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