Business & Technology Strategies

TechUpdate

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2017 Summary of BTS Articles and Advisories

Throughout 2017, NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies department issued over 50 TechSurveillance articles and Advisories to assist cooperatives in addressing various opportunities and challenges facing our industry. Here is a summary including links to each document.

- **Summary**
- Contacts for Questions:
    - Analytics: David Pinney
    - Cyber Security: Cynthia Hsu
    - Distributed Energy Resources – including Energy Efficiency, and Renewable Generation: Brian Sloboda
    - Generation, Environment and Carbon Dioxide: Dan Walsh
    - Market Resource and Adequacy: Michael Leitman
    - Transmission and Distribution: Robert Harris

Gain New Skills with TechAdvantage® Pre-Conference Workshops

NRECA's **TechAdvantage® 2018** pre-conference sessions on February 25 will help you to gain knowledge and skills for our evolving industry. Here are just a few examples of sessions you can attend as a stand-alone or as addition to your full TechAdvantage attendance:

UAS Ground School: Prepare for the FAA Remote Pilot Certification Test

Drones are now being used for a wide range of jobs. Attend this workshop to learn about the FAA's new rules governing the operation of UAS (drones) in U.S. airspace for commercial purposes, and prepare to take the test for your FAA Remote Pilot Certification.

PV System Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Solar PV technology is quickly becoming integrated into the utility industry. In this session, learn from experts how operations and maintenance help maximize system production and availability.

MultiSpeak® Integrator Training

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Partnering with the Military** – February 25, Nashville, TN

- **TechAdvantage® Conference** – February 25-28, Nashville, TN

- **Safety Leadership Summit** – April 25-27, Atlanta, GA

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RURAL COOPERATIVE CYBER SECURITY CAPABILITIES PROGRAM

MultiSpeak® is the leading interoperability standard and integration solution used by more than 800 electric utilities in more than 21 countries. Attend this session to hear how co-ops can benefit from leveraging MultiSpeak® in system integration/interoperability projects.

- **Registration for TechAdvantage®**
- Contacts for Questions: Robbin Christianson and Mary Ackleson

The Changing Role of Co-ops

Electric cooperatives have always embraced their history and traditions, but that hasn't kept them from looking forward. The reason is simple: Serving member-owners requires constant adjusting to meet their changing needs. Today's interconnected and increasingly complex world, where consumers have more choices than ever, is driving many co-ops to the latest evolution: the energy services provider. RE Magazine's year-end technology trends issue looks at how co-ops across the country are integrating new technologies and reinventing themselves as a new kind of utility.

- **Article**
- Contacts for Questions: Keith Dennis or Jan Ahlen

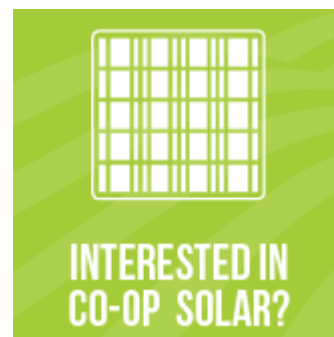## NRECA Seeks Input from Co-ops on Advancing GIS Data Quality

Setting up and maintaining a good GIS system can be a challenge. Time and resources can be limits on what data is collected and how the system is ultimately used. NRECA is seeking input from co-ops on how they have approached the challenge of improving data quality with existing resources, solved data gap problems, and utilized what data they do have in innovative ways. More details are available in the advisory linked below.

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: Katherine Loving

Re-envisioning Power System Architecture to Realize the Benefits of DER

For more than a century, the electric power delivery system has continuously evolved as generations of engineers have identified improvements enabling greater reliability, resilience, and lower cost. Today, the grid operates with impressive reliability. But, the methods that have historically been relied on for designing and operating power systems will prevent the full realization of the potential benefits associated with the DER technologies. Read a high level summary of a white paper written by NRECA and published by the National Academy of Engineering.

- **Article**
- Contacts for Questions: Tim Heidel and Robbin Christianson

How Co-ops Are Addressing the Current Skills Gap

Following the recession in 2008, the U.S. has experienced steady job growth, as well as high rates of retirement among baby boomers. However, many of these newly opened jobs go unfilled, because the applicants are lacking the proper technical skills. This advisory provides insights into this skills gap and what cooperatives are doing to address it in coordination with local community colleges. As example, see how Clay Electric Cooperative is working with local schools in their area to attract cybersecurity talent, in a recent *Electric Co-op News* article.

- **Advisory**
- **Article on Clay Electric**
- Contacts for Questions: Robbin Christianson and Michelle Rostom

Partnering with the Military: Benefits for Your Cooperative

The Department of Defense (DoD) is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the United States. Several cooperatives work closely with U.S. military installations, providing electricity and partnering on projects. With the release of the Request for Information from the Defense Logistics Agency/United States Air Force earlier this year, now is a perfect time to discuss new opportunities for collaboration with the military. Join us, Sunday, **February 25, 12 pm-5 pm in Nashville, TN** to learn how America's Electric Cooperatives can leverage existing contracts and/or compete for new contracts for work with DoD.

- **Registration**
- Contact for Questions: Lauren Khair

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