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Business & Technology Update

NRECA
America's Electric Cooperatives

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Guide for Joint Use

The need for broadband, which has intensified during this time of high levels of remote work, is increasing the need to add equipment to utility poles. Communications companies frequently lack knowledge of safety rules for joint use, placing the burden entirely on electricity cooperatives' Engineering and Operations staff to ensure compliance. This *Draft Guide for Joint Use: an Engineering & Operation Perspective*, developed by NRECA's Transmission and Distribution Engineering Committee (TDEC), gives a quick reference to key rules and industry expectations. Find out more in this advisory:

- **Advisory**
- Contact: Robert Harris

FreeState Electric Cooperative Partners with Fort Leavenworth

Cooperatives are well-positioned to support the energy goals of the Department of Defense (DoD), the single largest energy consumer in the United States. See our latest case study showcasing how co-ops work closely with U.S. military installations, providing electricity and partnering on projects. FreeState Electric has a Utility Privatization (UP) contract to own, operate and maintain the distribution grid at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, achieving reliable service and cost savings.

- **Fort Leavenworth Case Study**
- **Working with the Military website**
- Contact: Lauren Khair

Webinar: Broadband Case Study – August 5

Co-ops are taking a lead in meeting the increasing need for connectivity with new projects to install broadband to benefit their member-consumers. Join us on **August 5 at 2:00 p.m. ET** to hear Tri-County REC and their technology partner Vantage Point discuss bringing broadband and enrichment to the local community through innovative solutions, business acuity, and strategic partnerships. Learn about some of the challenges and opportunities faced when deploying broadband to a rural community, including questions a CEO and other senior co-op leaders need to consider.

- **Registration**
- Related Advisory: **COVID-19 Revelation: Broadband Is An Essential Service**
- Contact: Paul Breakman

When Drones Are Commonplace For Co-ops

Co-ops are increasingly adding drone – or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) – technologies to their operations, maintenance, and marketing plans. This new *RE Magazine* article highlights insights from NREA's senior research engineer, Stanley McHann, about how soon UAS may be commonplace in co-op operations.

- **Article**

- Contact: Stanley McHann

Data That Tells A Story

Advanced metering infrastructure and other smart systems have dramatically increased the data available to cooperative managers, but without the structure that allows them to make sense of that data, to see what it reveals about their system, it has little value. Read in this new *RE Magazine* article about how Delaware Electric Cooperative is using a digital dashboard to track key performance indicators (KPIs) in easily accessible formats.

- **Article**

- Contact: David Pinney

What's your SAIDI Score?

System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) is how to measure your cooperative's distribution reliability. The Reliability Benchmark Group (RBG) is a group of cooperatives that provide outage data to help NRECA with outage statistics. The basic version of Aerinet's PwrMetrix data analytics product is available at no cost to members of the RBG to compare and benchmark their reliability scores with their peers. Would you like to learn more about your outages and how to improve your SAIDI score?

- **Join the Reliability Benchmarking Group**

- Contact: Tony Thomas

National Directors Survey Results Now Available

Every other year, NRECA conducts the National Directors Survey — a comprehensive survey of system policies and practices pertaining to cooperative governance. This year, 58% of distribution systems participated. The report compiled the input of 3,500 individual directors from across the nation. Co-ops who did not participate can still purchase the results. NRECA also offers governance consulting services for co-ops wanting assistance supporting their governance decisions, including CEO and Board evaluation, CEO transition services, and governing policy development.

- **Report Request Form**

- Contact for Questions and Consulting Inquiries: Kim Christiansen

New NRECA Cybersecurity Community and Resources

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) program has many ways cooperatives can engage virtually to advance their cybersecurity posture. Join our RC3 Participants professional community to discuss cybersecurity issues with the RC3 team and fellow cooperatives. Use our Online Self-Assessment with On Demand webinar instruction to determine areas for improvement and gain insights for building your Action Plan. Our Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Toolkit has a variety of scenarios based on real-world cybersecurity incidents to test your staff's awareness and response to cybersecurity risks. **The Self-Assessment and TTX can be done virtually with staff and do not require people to be assembled in the same location.**

- **RC3 Participants Community (under Private Communities)**

- **Self-Assessment**

- **Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Toolkit**

- Contact: Cynthia Hsu

NRECA Seeks Co-op Participation in Two New Projects

Predictive Maintenance Tool Project for Distribution Feeders

NRECA is **seeking five co-op partners** to advise and provide data for the development of the Incipient Failure Identification for Common Grid Asset Classes (IFID) project, which will initiate predictive and prescriptive maintenance tools for distribution utilities. NRECA has partnered with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) on this effort. The following advisory provides further details. **Notification of interest is requested by July 31, 2020.**

- **Advisory**

- Contact: Meredith Miller

ACCESS Solar Project

U.S Department of Energy (DOE), through the Solar Energy Technology Office (SETO), awarded NRECA a cooperative agreement to research how to make solar energy affordable for communities with fewer financial resources and extend the benefits of solar development to low-and moderate-income consumers. NRECA is currently **seeking four additional cooperatives** to be leaders in this effort**.** The following advisory provides details:

- **Advisory**

- Contacts: Adaora Ifebigh and Maria Kanevsky

User Experience with Mobile Substations

More robust and compact designs of higher-capacity mobile substation equipment are presenting new opportunities for applications. This article, second in our series based on CEATI Station Equipment Program's *State-of-the-Art Review of Mobile Substations*, presents user experience with mobile substations and observations derived from the literature search and vendor and user surveys.

- **Article: User Experiences and Observations**

- **Article Series**

- Contact: Patti Metro

'The Future Of…' Webinars Available On Demand

NRECA's new webinar series "The Future Of…" highlights technology, market advances and new services that are and will continue to shape the business of electric cooperatives. Sessions now available On Demand focus on the momentum in electrification of trucking and commercial transportation, the implications of battery energy storage, and the future of grid analytics using AMI data for actionable insights.

- **On Demand Webinar Series**

- Contact: Robbin Christianson

CEATI Guidelines on Pressure Parts Maintenance

NRECA's recent *Surveillance* article series reviews guidelines on pressure parts maintenance, based on the CEATI Thermal Generation Interest Group's report *Best Practice Guidelines for the Management of Pressure Parts in Power Plants*. The first article focuses on damage mechanisms and inspection guidelines; the second on maintenance and repair strategies and component integrity analysis; and the third on component management strategy and pressure parts management programs.

- **Article Series**

- Contact: Dan Walsh

MultiSpeak® Functional Sets Help Co-ops Ensure Interface Interoperability

MultiSpeak Technical Committee members announce the new MultiSpeak Function Sets, based on the specific business processes that interfaces are expected to support. These sets establish the minimum requirements that a vendor would expect to support for the endpoint. Specifications for the function sets are available through the MultiSpeak Guide Specifications, for easy download and inclusion in your PO, RFQ or other purchasing documentation. Find the Guide Specifications in the Purchasing Support section of MultiSpeakorg.net, or for individual purchase by those without a MultiSpeak membership in the MultiSpeak Marketplace.

- Contact: Tony Thomas or Support@multispeak.org

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

- **Broadband Case Study**
  August 5, 2:00 p.m. ET

- **"Future Of…" Series**
  On Demand

- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program Instruction Series**
  On Demand

- **Impacts of COVID-19 on Renewable Energy and Storage Development**
  On Demand

- **Impacts of Postponing or Canceling Annual Meetings and Director Elections due to COVID-19**
  On Demand

- **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)**
  On Demand

- **Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**
  On Demand

Additional Resources Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on Co-ops

NRECA has recently completed several analyses on the impact of COVID-19 on electric cooperatives, including economic, job sectors, and broadband. Below are links:

- **Financial Impact Report**
  Contacts: Russell Tucker and Joe Goodenbery

- **Financial Impact and Pathways to Relief**
  Contact: Allison Hamilton

- **At Risk Job Sectors Report**
  Contact: Michael Leitman

- **Impacts on Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**
  Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman

- **How COVID-19 Is Impacting Electricity Industry Sectors**
  Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman

- **Tools to Help Manage Energy Expenses**
  Contact: Brian Sloboda

- **The Criticality of Broadband**
  Contact: Paul Breakman

- **Business and Technology Resources to Use Virtually**

- **NRECA COVID-19 Hub**

- **Special Edition: Business and Technology Update**

See past issues of *Business and Technology Update* in our **archive on cooperative.com.**

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

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