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New Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Tool to Help Determine Your Co-op's Readiness

NRECA now offers a Cybersecurity Self-Assessment DIY [Toolkit](#) to help member co-ops to identify cyber threats and vulnerabilities. The Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program staff designed the toolkit to provide a starting point for small- and medium-sized co-ops in the early stages of developing a cybersecurity program. The toolkit has an overview of the assessment process, a 2018 self-assessment template, and a scoring worksheet. The RC3 team expects to update the toolkit later this year.

- [RC3 Cybersecurity Self-Assessment DIY Toolkit](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

Increasing Numbers of Co-op CEOs Make Commitment to Zero Contacts

The number of CEO commitments to the Commitment to Zero Contacts nationwide safety initiative is growing! With almost 500 commitments across 42 states, we are on our way to seeing full participation from our members this year. There's still time for your CEO to make the voluntary online commitment.

Our [Commitment to Zero Contact Toolkit](#) has new features to make it easier to find ideas and resources to enhance your safety program, and a new Clearance Procedures Video courtesy of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and Northwest Lineman College. Also, our new RE Magazine article highlights how member co-ops are incorporating ideas and resources available in the Toolkit to reinforce and remind co-op employees of their pledge to use safe behaviors, every time.

- [Commitment to Zero Contact Toolkit](#)
- [RE Magazine Article: Safe Co-ops: Commitment to Zero](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Bud Branham](#)

Using Strategic Sourcing to Win Opportunities at Military Facilities

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) continues to privatize utility services at many of its 2,600 military installations in the U.S. Currently, there are 17 electric utilities at military installations listed for privatization over the next four fiscal years. This new advisory highlights how Sandhills Utility Services is staying

Upcoming Events

RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes January 28-29, Idaho National Laboratory

CyberStrike Workshop January 30, Idaho National Laboratory

2019 TechAdvantage® Conference and Expo March 10-13, Orlando, FL



ahead of evolving needs and demands of the DoD and successfully bid for a recent large project. Their lessons learned can benefit similar current and future cooperative efforts.

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: [Lauren Khair](#)

USDA RESP Now Allows for Whole Manufactured Home Replacement

The Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) provides loans to entities that agree to make affordable loans available to help consumers implement cost-effective, energy efficiency measures. The program was authorized by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill and appropriated in 2016. As a departure from the requirements in 2016, the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2018 now allows for the replacement of the whole manufactured home unit if the new unit will result in energy efficiency savings. This advisory discusses the potential impact of this change and some key takeaways from a recent conference held in Washington, DC.

- **Advisory**
- Contacts for Questions: [Adaora Ifebigh](#) (Business and Technology) and [Mary Ann Ralls](#) (Government Relations)

2018 Summary of Business and Technology Articles and Advisories

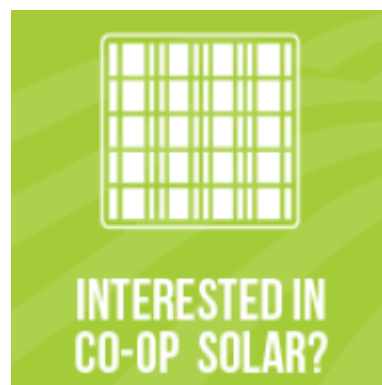
Throughout 2018, NRECA's Business and Technology Strategies department issued over 90 Surveillance articles and Advisories to assist cooperatives in addressing various opportunities and challenges facing our industry. Here is a summary, including links to each document.

- **Summary**
- Contacts for Questions:
 - Analytics: [David Pinney](#)
 - Cybersecurity: [Cynthia Hsu](#)
 - Distributed Energy Resources: [Brian Sloboda](#) and [Jan Ahlen](#)
 - Generation, Environment and Carbon Dioxide: [Dan Walsh](#)
 - Resource Adequacy and Markets: [Michael Leitman](#)
 - Transmission and Distribution: [Robert Harris](#)

NEETRAC December Newsletter Now Available

Our members are able to benefit from the National Electric Energy Testing Research and Applications Center's (NEETRAC's) research and reporting through a membership established by NRECA. NEETRAC is a center within the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech that aims to help the electric utility industry solve the everyday problems associated with the complex task of transmitting and distributing electric energy reliably and efficiently. Their latest quarterly newsletter is available on NRECA's cooperative.com:

- **NEETRAC Newsletter**
- Contact for Questions: [Robert Harris](#)



Broadband Case Studies Available Online and at TechAdvantage® 2019

NRECA's Broadband case study series exemplifies the initiative of co-ops in implementing broadband to support their members' needs and local economic development. In addition, this year's TechAdvantage® Conference will feature sessions focused on broadband technical issues and case studies highlighting the success and challenges co-ops have experienced when considering delivering broadband to their members. From details on designs of broadband networks to lessons learned, if your cooperative is considering broadband delivery, you don't want to miss this opportunity.

- **Broadband Case Study Series**
- **TechAdvantage Registration**
- Contacts for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#) (Case Studies) and [Mary Ackleson](#) (TechAdvantage)

Complimentary Registration for Online Courses on PV Safety and Impact Available to Members

Two one-hour online courses are now available to NRECA members regarding PV Safety Concerns and a PV System Impact Guide. NRECA has worked with SOS Intl, a leading training provider for electric utilities and NRECA Associate Member, to convert material developed during the Solar Utility Network Deployment Acceleration (SUNDA) project to create online courses for members. This advisory provides details on this opportunity and how members can receive complimentary registration:

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: [Patti Metro](#)

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