

Business & Technology Update



Friday, July 12, 2019 | coop.com | [BTS Website](#) | [Archive](#) | [Web Version](#) |

Distributed Energy Resources: Trends and Impacts on G&Ts and Their Member Cooperatives

The impact of distributed energy resources (DER) is quite pervasive – affecting many areas of both generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) and electric distribution cooperatives, from business and planning processes, communications and security, rates and pricing, policies, contracts, and member relations. The rise in DER adoption is driving change and prompting G&Ts and distribution cooperatives to evaluate new services and programs within the electric cooperative business model. This report identifies DER trends, summarizes the potential impacts on G&Ts and distribution companies, and offers questions co-ops may want to address when considering DER.

- **Report**
- Contacts for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#) and [Mary Ann Ralls](#)

NFPA Votes for Exclusion for Utilities Under Standard 855

At the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) annual meeting, voting secured a scope-level exclusion for utilities under NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems. Further details on this important milestone will be provided to members soon. In the meantime, related NRECA information on NFPA 855 is provided below for reference:

- Related NRECA Information on NFPA 855
 - Advisory: [Station Battery Update - National Fire Protection Association Standard 855 for Energy Storage](#)
 - Advisory: [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\) Standard 855 for Energy Storage Systems](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Robert Harris](#)

Project Opportunity to Reduce Solar Deployment Soft Costs

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through the Solar Energy Technology Office (SETO), has announced the availability of \$130 million in grant funding for up to 80 projects that will advance research in solar energy technologies. One area of focus is identifying ways to reduce deployment soft costs and increase solar affordability, particularly for low and moderate-income areas, such as federally designated Opportunity Zones. NRECA is seeking cooperatives to participate in research on how to use this funding to implement projects in Opportunity Zones, address reduction in soft costs, and help to expand the benefits of solar energy and investment further into our co-op communities. **Co-ops interested in participating are asked to respond by July 15.** Additional details are available in this advisory:

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: [Jan Ahlen](#) and [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

Improving Manufactured Homes Efficiency

Recently, government agencies and electric industry stakeholders have considered the effectiveness of whole home replacements for inefficient manufactured homes as opposed to the more traditional energy-efficiency measures on the existing homes. In what situations is

Upcoming Events

- **Midwest Regional Municipal Cybersecurity Summit**
July 24-25, the University of Nebraska at Kearney
- **EnergySec Cybersecurity Education Week:**
September 23-27, Colorado Springs, CO
- **2019 G&T Resource Planners Association Conference**
October 15-17, Lexington, KY
- **Technology Planning, Decision Making and Leadership: Enhancing Organizational Effectiveness**
October 22-23, San Antonio, TX



manufactured home replacement more cost-effective than other efficiency improvements such as weatherization? This paper provides an update on NRECA's prior reports on manufactured home weatherization opportunities, presents weatherization efforts undertaken by several co-ops, and explores funding mechanisms that can be used to implement these improvements.

- **Article**
- Contacts for Questions: [Brian Sloboda](#) and [Adaora Ifeigh](#)

Finding and Addressing Generator Faults

Generation & transmission cooperatives with significant wind penetration in their service territories or the markets in which they operate may need to cycle their fossil-fuel fired plants in response to wind ramping. It is important for co-op engineering staff to understand the new operating regimes, common failure modes, appropriate test and inspection methods, and how to apply this knowledge when faced with major repair decisions. This new Surveillance article is the first in a two-part series to provide a summary of the recent CEATI *Generator Maintenance and Condition Assessment Guide*, and provides concise information on the fault mechanisms of turbine/generators and the damage they can cause. The second article will provide guidance on the types of off-line and on-line tests and monitoring systems that can be used to detect and correct generator fault mechanisms.

- Article: **Generator Failure Mechanisms: What Can Go Wrong**
- Contacts for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Dale Bradshaw](#)

Co-op Technology Survey Results Now Available

In March 2019, NRECA began an initiative to update the 2013 Co-op Technology Survey to reflect the current state of technology policies and practices at cooperatives around the country. 196 co-ops completed at least some portion of the survey, and these participants will be emailed a copy of the resulting full report. An executive summary of the survey results is available to all NRECA member cooperatives through our website, [cooperative.com](#):

- **Executive Summary**
- Contacts for Questions: [Mike Sassman](#) and [Adaora Ifeigh](#)

ERCOT Reserve Margin Below Reference Level for Second Consecutive Year

For the second year in a row, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is the only North American Electric Reliability (NERC) planning region with a reserve margin below its reference margin level. ERCOT's summer reserve margin fell from 2018 to 2019, as forecasted peak demand increased and demand response availability fell. According to ERCOT's Seasonal Assessment of Resource Adequacy report, any of four studied contingencies could trigger Energy Emergency Alert status at peak load or extreme peak load. This new NRECA advisory explains this situation and the potential impact on cooperatives.

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: [Michael Leitman](#)

Ouachita Electric Cooperative Pilots On-Bill Financing for Energy Efficiency Upgrades

As part of its commitment to helping address the dual problems of poverty and energy inefficiency, Ouachita Electric Cooperative launched an opt-in, tariffed, on-bill program for cost-effective energy efficiency investments with the approval of the Arkansas PSC. While the program is not specifically targeted at low-income members, Ouachita has for the first time been able to finance efficiency upgrades in multi-family housing, and renters have accounted for approximately one-third of



program participants. This new advisory, part of our *Advancing Energy Access for All* initiative, highlights Ouachita's efforts and how they have benefited members.

- [Ouachita Case Study](#)
- [Advancing Energy Access for All Website](#)
- Contacts for Questions: Keith Dennis and Adaora Ifeigh

United Electric Cooperative Finds Success in Operating a Broadband Business

United Electric Cooperative (UEC) serves one of the lowest density areas in rural America with only 2.6 meters per mile of electric line. An estimated 89 percent of the co-op's roughly 5,000 square mile service territory was unserved or underserved in terms of broadband Internet access as late as 2010. UEC has committed to addressing this situation by investing over \$50 million to deploy 1,800 miles of fiber mainline. To date, 9,200 broadband subscribers have signed-up. This new advisory explains UEC's approach to operating a successful broadband business in conjunction with their electric distribution system, which has provided a significant economic boost to their members, the communities in which they live and work, and the cooperative itself.

- [United Case Study](#)
- [Broadband Case Study Series](#)
- Contact for Questions: Paul Breakman

Midwest Regional Municipal Cybersecurity Summit

As NRECA has partnered with the [American Public Power Association \(Public Power\)](#) to enable their members to attend our RC3 Cybersecurity Summits, Public Power has reciprocated an invitation to NRECA electric utility cooperatives to attend their [2019 Midwest Regional Municipal Cybersecurity Summit](#), July 24-25 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The Summit includes education on cybersecurity tools, technologies, and resources; networking and information sharing opportunities; a virtual reality cybersecurity laboratory tour; and an incident response exercise. While tailored to Public Power members, information from this Summit can also benefit cooperative attendees.

- [Registration](#)
- Contact for Questions: Cynthia Hsu

Discount for Next EnergySec Cybersecurity Education Week: September 23-27

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program (RC3) has negotiated a reduced registration fee for our members to attend a week-long cybersecurity training hosted by Energy Sector Security Consortium, Inc. ([EnergySec](#)). This next training is September 23-27 in Colorado Springs, CO and designed for utility cybersecurity professionals. Instead of the normal registration fee of \$3,495, members can register for \$2,500 using Promotional Code 30RC3.

- [Registration](#)
- Contact for Questions: Adaora Ifeigh

2019 G&T Resource Planners Association Conference

Registration is now open for the [2019 G&T Resource Planning Association Conference](#), Oct. 15-17, 2019 in Lexington, Kentucky. Hosted by [East Kentucky Power Cooperative](#), this year's presentation topics include Small Modular Reactors, Economic Dispatch Modeling, and more. Join us for this event where we'll also tour East Kentucky Power Cooperative's Solar Facility and Market Operations Center and have some great networking opportunities to help you share best practices and connect with other cooperative planners around the country.

- **Additional Information and Registration**
- Contact for Questions: [Allison Hamilton](#)

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