

# Business & Technology Update



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## NFPA Technical Committee Votes Down 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. The exclusion would allow cooperatives to continue following only NESC (National Electrical Safety Code) rules for facilities already governed by that code instead of also following an NFPA code for most types of utility battery systems. However, the NFPA Technical Committee later voted this change down. NRECA is working with EEI to file an appeal to NFPA's Standards Council to reconsider. Further details on this important issue are provided in the following advisory:

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

## Electric Trucks – Do They Make Sense?

Battery electric vehicles for commercial applications are a growing alternative to traditional gasoline, diesel, alternative fuel, and hybrid powertrains. NRECA has joined The North American Council for Freight Efficiency (NACFE) to help bring the latest information on this technology to support cooperative members' decision making. NACFE is an unbiased, fuel agnostic organization that works to drive the development and adoption of efficiency enhancing, environmentally beneficial, and cost-effective technologies, services and methodologies in the North American freight industry. This new NRECA advisory reviews a recent NACFE Guidance Report: Electric Trucks – Where They Make Sense.

- **Advisory: [Electric Trucks – Do They Make Sense?](#)**
- Related NRECA Website: [Market Potential for Commercial Electric Trucking](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Brian Sloboda](#)

## 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 second in a two-part series to provide a summary of the recent CEATI Generator Maintenance and Condition Assessment Guide and provides 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: [Off-line and On-line Testing: How to Find Generator Faults](#)
- Prior Article: [Generator Failure Mechanisms: What Can Go Wrong](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Dale Bradshaw](#)

### Upcoming Events

- 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



## Central Virginia Electric Cooperative Builds Broadband Using a Portfolio of Financing Sources

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) recognized that its members needed faster and more reliable Internet access. At the same time, CVEC had interest in ramping-up their communications for electric grid operations. This new NRECA Broadband Case Study details how CVEC embarked on a fast-tracked fiber deployment, and found success through a portfolio of alternative financing sources.

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

## 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](#)

## Developments in Augmented and Virtual Reality Technology

As our industry continues to evolve and the grid incorporates increasingly complex systems, it is essential that co-ops have adequate tools for training and operations. Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technology may be beneficial in providing enhanced data and information for a variety of essential functions, including emergency response, new employee training, safety protocol, among others. This article presents an introduction to AR/VR technology and some of the considerations co-ops may want to include in their investment decision-making.

- **Article**
- Contact for Questions: [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 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: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

## “A Journey to Zero Contacts” Video Added to Safety Toolkit

Since its launch in April 2018, the Commitment to Zero Contacts safety initiative has 550+ CEO commitments across 43 states. A Journey to Zero Contacts, shows how CEO, Ron Salyer, and his teams at Pioneer Electric Cooperative have put their commitment into action – using the



tools available in NRECA's Commitment to Zero Contacts Toolkit to take this nationwide safety initiative to the next level.

- [A Journey to Zero Contacts](#)
- [Commitment to Zero Contact Toolkit](#)
- Podcast: [Along Those Lines, Episode 7: Zero Contacts— Keeping Line Crews Safe](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Bud Branham](#)

## 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](http://cooperative.com):

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

## 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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