

Business & Technology Update



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CEOs Continue to Commit to Zero Contacts

In just over 4 months from the kickoff of the Commitment to Zero Contacts safety campaign, over 370 co-op CEOs have made the voluntary online commitment. The Federated S.A.F.E. job briefing app has been downloaded by over 400 co-ops, with over 2,000 field employees currently registered to use the app. NRECA encourages all co-ops to join in the nationwide initiative. Find out more in the advisory and toolkit below.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Toolkit](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Bud Branham](#)

ERCOT Hits New Summer Peak Demand

Summer 2018 was expected to be unusually hot, especially in the southwest. This led to concerns that the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) would face particular stress on normal operations. Read about how ERCOT endured a new summer peak of over 73.2 GW without any major outages.

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

New Webinar: The Value of a Broadband Backbone for America's Electric Cooperatives

When implemented into an electric system, a broadband backbone communications system unlocks the benefits of smart grid use cases. NRECA, NRTC, and Ericsson have partnered on a recent study, *The Value of a Broadband Backbone for America's Electric Cooperatives: A Benefit Assessment Study*, which examines and quantifies the economic benefits of a broadband backbone for electric cooperative operations. Join us for a webinar on September 13 at 3 pm ET, and learn more on this topic in the advisory below.

- [Webinar Registration](#)
- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Joe Goodenbery](#)

North Alabama EC Supports Economic Development with Broadband

With significant economic decline from industrial plant closures over the past decade, North Alabama Electric Cooperative knew broadband was an essential

Upcoming Events

- [G&T Resource Planning Association Conference](#) – October 1-3, Savannah, GA
- [Emerging Priorities in Energy Research Day & RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes](#) – October 31- November 1, Anchorage, AK – **Save the Date; registration to open soon!**
- [RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes](#) – November 13-14, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM
- [RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes](#) – December 11-12, Great River Energy, Maple Grove, MN

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lifeline for the area's recovery. Read about how North Alabama EC worked through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to secure the necessary funding to bring fiber-to-the-home to nearly its entire service area within three years.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Series of Co-op Broadband Case Studies](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Paul Breakman](#)

CEOs Play a Critical Role in Cybersecurity

NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program has been working with 36 electric cooperatives since 2017 on a self-assessment project, to help them improve their cybersecurity posture and resilience. Through this process, lessons were learned about both the challenges that exist for CEOs and steps an engaged CEO can take to improve a cooperative's cybersecurity posture. Find out more in this advisory.

- [Advisory](#)
- [Lessons Learned Series](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

Additional RC3 Cybersecurity Summit and Classes Announced

RC3 Cybersecurity Summits and classes are being offered at five locations around the country through 2018/2019. Registration is now open for the Summits and classes on November 13-14 at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM; and December 11-12 at Great River Energy in Maple Grove, MN. A third session will be offered in Anchorage, AK on October 31-November 1, and registration will open soon.

- [Registration: Summit and Classes at Sandia](#)
- [Registration: Summit and Classes at GRE](#)
- [2018 / 2019 RC3 Summit and Cybersecurity Classes Information](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Cynthia Hsu](#)

NRECA Seeking Participants for New DOE MEEDS Project

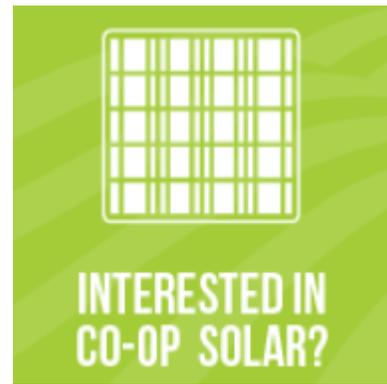
NRECA has partnered with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to assist with a new DOE-funded project that is a web-based solution to continuously monitor and detect distribution devices exposed to cyber threats to enable mitigation steps. The project is titled Mitigation of External-exposure of Energy Delivery Systems or MEEDS for short. NRECA is looking for cooperatives who are willing to participate in an information assessment collection to help inform the software design for the proposed solution and improve the quality of tools that are aimed at empowering cooperatives to improve their cybersecurity resiliency. Participating in this effort showcases cooperatives' leadership in research that supports strengthening the electric grid and cyber-threat information sharing. Find out more in the following advisory.

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



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