

Business & Technology Update



Friday, September 13, 2019 | coop.com | [BTS Website](#) | [Archive](#) | [Web Version](#) |

New RC3 Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Toolkit Helps Improve Co-ops' Cybersecurity Skills

Over 100 co-ops have already downloaded the new NRECA RC3 Cybersecurity TTX Toolkit since its debut last month. Developed by NRECA with cybersecurity consultant Delta Risk, LLC, the RC3 TTX Toolkit provides relevant cybersecurity incident scenarios with real world implications to allow you to test your co-op's ability to assess and respond to potentially damaging cybersecurity threats. There are three categories of scenarios designed to meet a broad range of cooperative skills. **Free for NRECA members.**

- **RC3 Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise Toolkit**
- Contacts for Questions: [Adaora Ifeigh](#) and [Cynthia Hsu](#)

NFPA Standards Council Denies Utility Appeal on Standard 855

The effort coordinated by EEI to appeal to the NFPA Standards Council on August 6th regarding the proposed NFPA 855 was not successful. That makes two strong efforts and failures to establish a blanket exemption on the standard for utilities already following the NESC. The remaining option is to appeal to ANSI, which governs both codes, however EEI is evaluating this carefully due to uncertainty of outcome and potentially unforeseeable consequences. The NESC Main Committee will likely discuss this chain of events at a meeting following the [NESC Workshop on Oct 2-3](#) in Kansas City, MO. For further information, please see EEI's update on the matter:

- **EEI Update on NFPA 855**
- **Additional NRECA Information on NFPA 855**
- Contact for Questions: [Robert Harris](#)

Exploring the Value of Consumer Segmentation

Effective consumer engagement is critical as cooperatives work to strengthen their relevance in our changing industry. Early co-op experience with consumer segmentation suggests that investment in tools and techniques to deepen understanding of consumer needs and preferences can pay off in increased levels of engagement, including higher participation in co-op offerings. This new advisory highlights the preliminary lessons learned from two co-ops already using consumer segmentation, and provides details on a new NRECA project to explore a variety of approaches to segmentation, how available data can be turned into actionable assets, and how the effectiveness of investments in segmentation can be measured.

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Sandhills Deploys Grid Energy Router to Improve Energy Resiliency

The changing nature of the grid and changing consumer member needs may require the deployment of advanced technology on distribution feeders. The second-generation grid energy router, referred to as GER, leverages years of field work with the single-phase grid energy router. Installations of these distributed devices within microgrids have the potential to modernize the distribution grid, while decreasing demand

Upcoming Events

- **EnergySec Cybersecurity Education Week:**
September 23-27, Colorado Springs, CO
- **CyberStrike Workshop**
October 10, Charlotte, NC
(Note: Registration Deadline - September 24)
- **2019 G&T Resource Planners Association Conference**
October 15-17, Lexington, KY
(Note: Hotel Registration Deadline - September 23)
- **Technology Planning, Decision Making and Leadership: Enhancing Organizational Effectiveness**
October 22-23, San Antonio, TX
- **Electrification 2020 International Conference & Exposition**
April 6-9, 2020, Charlotte, NC
(Note: Early Bird Rate Through September 30)



and energy and achieving near perfect power quality. This Surveillance article features the deployment of the first 3-phase grid energy router (GER) by Sandhills Utility Services, LLC that promises to improve energy resiliency at North Carolina's largest military base, Fort Bragg.

- **Article**
- Contact for Questions: [Brian Sloboda](#)

NRECA to Host CyberStrike Workshop: Registration Deadline Sept. 24

Join us on October 10th for the next CyberStrike Workshop led by Idaho National Laboratory (INL) at EPRI in Charlotte, NC. NRECA will be hosting the workshop, which is free for members, but space is limited. Attendees will experience a hands-on, simulated demonstration of a cyberattack based on real-world events. Through this experience, members will be able to test their ability to defend against cyberattack on the equipment they routinely encounter within their power generation systems and power distribution substations. **Registration deadline is September 24.**

- **More Information and Registration**
- Contacts for Questions: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Cynthia Hsu](#)

2019 G&T Resource Planners Association Conference: Hotel Deadline Sept. 23

Register for the 2019 G&T Resource Planning Association Conference, Oct. 15-17 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. After you register, make sure to **book your stay** at the event venue before the discounted hotel rate expires.

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

How HVDC Benefits Areas with High Renewable Generation

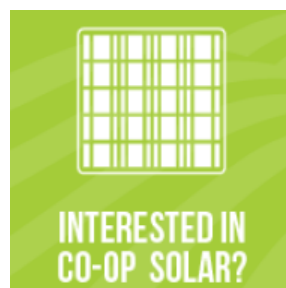
Because wind and solar potential is frequently highest in rural areas, long-distance transmission lines are often needed to transmit electricity from remote generation resources to load centers. Over long distances, High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission lines have the advantage of minimizing the reliability impacts of connecting remote generation to the bulk electric power system, minimizing energy loss and lower construction cost per mile. This new advisory discusses the advantages of HVDC for electric cooperatives, as well as various challenges that are currently affecting its deployment.

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: [Paul McCurley](#)

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 Ifebigh](#)



Guadalupe Valley Electric's Progressive Vision for Broadband

Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) is one of the largest electric cooperatives in Texas, serving 85,000 members with nearly 10,000 miles of electric lines in thirteen counties. Offering Internet services to its members starting in 1998, GVEC progressed with emerging technologies to successfully offer broadband, initially as a for-profit entity and ultimately as an operating division of the cooperative. This new case study highlights how GVEC launched their Internet business without the help of major grants, and made deliberate decisions to serve the needs of member-owners, control cost, and minimize risk.

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

NRECA Sponsors Electrification Conference

NRECA is proud to be an official Supporting Organization of the [Electrification 2020 International Conference & Exposition](#), being hosted by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on April 6-9, 2020 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This event will bring together stakeholders across industry sectors for vital conversations on accelerating the use of electrification technologies – from transportation, to industrial processes, to smart home applications and many more. **Early bird rate is available through September 30.**

- [Advisory with More Information](#)
- Contacts for Questions: [Maria Kanevsky](#) and [Keith Dennis](#)

NEETRAC September 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. Their latest newsletter provides an update on work being done on Cable System Rejuvenation and summarizes the Baseline projects that were closed during the May 2019 Management Board Meeting. These projects include Online Condition Monitoring of Transmission Assets, Update of Energy Storage in the Future Grid, and Arc Fault Resistance of HDPE and PVC Conduits. NEETRAC newsletters are available to NRECA members on [cooperative.com](#):

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

Saving Energy with Commercial Refrigerator and Freezer Systems

Refrigerator and freezer display cases are an often-overlooked area for energy efficiency improvements. Studies suggest that cases with doors not only save energy but can boost product sales. NRECA is working with our research partner CEATI to develop an easy tool for cooperatives to use in helping commercial customers evaluate the effectiveness of refrigerator upgrades for their facility. This new advisory provides a high-level overview of the market, misconceptions about refrigerator and freezer systems energy use, and suggested areas for energy efficiency improvement.

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Brian Sloboda](#)

Reliability Benchmarking Group (RBG) Offers Easy Online App for Members

Join over 100 cooperatives who are using an online web app to calculate SAIDI automatically and accurately without using other

complicated and expensive methods. The Reliability Benchmarking Group web app can track and analyze the outage data, benchmark cooperatives with each other nationwide, and provide real-time data through special tools in the program. Find out more and sign-up on cooperative.com.

- [More Information and Sign-up](#)
- Contact for Questions: [Tony Thomas](#)

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Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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