

Business & Technology Update



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New Mid-Year Report Outlining the U.S. Economy's Impact on Rural America Available for Download

NRECA economists and RE Advisers portfolio managers have published Mid-Year 2019 U.S. Economic Outlook - A Focus on Rural America, a new report that outlines several economic issues expected to impact rural electric cooperatives and likely to play a big role in the communities they serve.

- **Download the Report**
- Contacts for Questions:
 - Report: Russell Tucker, Chief Economist, NRECA, Russell.Tucker@nreca.coop, 703-907-5823
 - Portfolio Management Perspectives: Dima Awamleh, Senior Institutional Client Services Associate, Homestead Funds, Dima.Awamleh@hmsteadfunds.com, 703-907-6869

Forecast Tool for Dynamic Load and Storage Control

Efforts to implement measures to shave peak demand are only as effective as the utility's ability to predict energy consumption. Deep learning and neural networks can offer an accurate picture of the next day's energy consumption. This new advisory discusses neural networks available within NRECA's Open Modeling Framework (OMF) to create a day-ahead load forecasting model to assist co-op decision-making.

- **Advisory**
- Contact for Questions: David Pinney

Leaks and Tube Fouling in Steam Condensers

As fossil fuel plants cycle, the plants' components go through unavoidably large thermal and pressure stresses which cause damage. Changing operating mode from steady state operation to varying modes of cycling can substantially affect condenser performance and life expectancy. This new Surveillance article is the first of a two-part series summarizing the CEATI Thermal Generation Interest Group's report: *Best Practice Guidelines for the Operation and Maintenance of Steam Condensers and Their Auxiliaries*. It provides concise information on the fault mechanisms of steam condensers and their auxiliary systems.

- **Article**
- Contacts for Questions: Dan Walsh and Dale Bradshaw

Sho-Me Power Broadband Initiative Meets Both System and Consumer Needs

Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative is a G&T cooperative that supplies power to nine electric distribution cooperatives serving 220,000 member-owners across 26 counties in south central Missouri. While initially installing fiber-optic network as a way to replace their 2 GHz microwave communication system, the company broadened their offerings in response to their commercial consumer needs. This new advisory explains how Sho-Me Power's entry into broadband with its for-profit subsidiary Sho-Me Technologies demonstrated that a statewide,

Upcoming Events

- **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
- **Electrification 2020 International Conference & Exposition**
April 6-9, 2020, Charlotte, NC
(Note: Early Bird Rate Through September 30)



largely wholesale model for providing broadband services was not only viable but could leverage other providers' attempts to reach unserved and underserved areas.

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

North Carolina Co-ops Support Bright Ideas

Since 1994, North Carolina electric cooperatives have offered local educators the opportunity to apply for grants to "bring their ideas to life" where resources were not otherwise available. Over the past 25 years, the Bright Ideas Education Grant program has awarded more than \$12.2 million in grants to nearly 11,700 projects, directly impacting 2.3 million North Carolina students. This new advisory, part of our *Advancing Energy Access for All* initiative, highlights how North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives' Bright Ideas program not only helps alleviate economic challenges in their communities, but also makes investment in the next generation.

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

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 Ifebigh and Cynthia Hsu

Otero County Co-op Video Added to Safety Toolkit

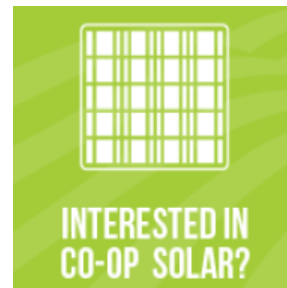
Since its launch in April 2018, the Commitment to Zero Contacts safety initiative has 560+ CEO commitments across 43 states. Our latest video showcases General Manager/CEO Mario Romero and his team at Otero County Electric Cooperative in Cloudcroft, New Mexico. See how they have made positive changes to their safety culture using tools available in the Commitment to Zero Contacts Toolkit.

- [Otero County Co-op Commits 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

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 October 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

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

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

2019 G&T Resource Planners Association Conference: Oct. 15-17

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.

- **Additional Information and Registration**
- Contact for Questions: Allison Hamilton

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

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.

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