

Essence 2.0 – Helping Cooperatives Detect Cybersecurity Threats

Cybersecurity is of paramount concern for all businesses including electric cooperatives. NRECA has developed a new diagnostic tool, Essence 2.0, which accelerates the detection of malicious cyber threats on systems **from months to seconds**. DOE has awarded NRECA \$6M to deploy Essence to assist cooperatives and the electric industry as a whole. Initial test sites have implemented the tool, and NRECA is seeking an additional **55 cooperatives for deployment**. This new fact sheet provides further details on the benefits of Essence, and our website provides instruction on how cooperatives can be involved:

- [Factsheet](#)
- [Website](#)
- Contacts: Doug Lambert and Emma Stewart at Essence@nreca.coop

RADWIND: Insights on Distributed Wind Generation

NRECA Research's *Rural Area Distributed Wind Integration Network Development (RADWIND)* seeks to understand, address, and reduce the technical risks and market barriers to distributed wind adoption by rural utilities either as a standalone generation option or as part of a hybrid power plant with other DER. Several new resources are now available to provide valuable insights to members:

- [Survey Report](#)
This report summarizes the results of a recent survey of NRECA's distribution cooperative and other rural distribution utility members. Its focus is on co-op awareness, experience, and interest in wind technologies as a distributed generation resource.
- [Use Case Report](#)
Developed with PNNL, this is the first in a series of NRECA Research reports about wind as a distributed energy resource. This report explains the primary ways, or use cases, that wind energy technologies can be deployed in electric cooperative service territories as a DER.
- [Case Study: Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative](#)
This case study, the first in a series on distributed wind deployment by co-ops, highlights the initiative of Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in developing two wind farms sited next to two large industrial loads and connected to their associated front-of-meter distribution substations.
- Contacts: [Michael Leitman](#), [Mike Sassman](#) (for survey information), [Maria Kanevsky](#) and [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

Run On Less – Electric: Educational Series

The trucking industry is beginning its move to an electric future. To demonstrate this, NRECA has signed on as a sponsor of the **Run on Less - Electric** (RoL-E) project by the North American Council for Freight Efficiency (NACFE) and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). To kick off the event, there will be a 10-part “bootcamp” educational series on electric trucks **starting April 20**. Co-op staff and their C&I members are invited to attend these events.

- [More Information](#)
- [Run On Less – Electric Website](#)
- Contact: [Brian Sloboda](#)

Carbon Capture Technologies to Meet Co-op Needs

Interest in technologies associated with carbon capture has been growing rapidly in both the public and private sectors in recent years, as government and industry grapple with how to move cost effectively to a low-carbon future. Through its National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is supporting the testing of a wide range of technologies. This article, the first of two, focuses on post-combustion capture (PCC), the technology class most likely to be retrofitted at the nation’s existing fossil fuel-fired power plants and the focus of DOE’s carbon capture program.

- [Article](#)
- Contacts: [Dan Walsh](#) and [Will Morris](#)

Electric Cooperative Solar Market Analysis and Trends

The **Achieving Cooperative Community Equitable Solar Sources (ACCESS)** project, the flagship project of NRECA’s initiative **Advancing Energy Access for All**, aims to improve the affordability, performance, and value of solar technologies on the grid. Through this project, NRECA is working with co-ops and industry stakeholders to examine program designs and financial mechanisms that would help facilitate access to solar options for low-to moderate-income consumers (LMI). Our third and final ACCESS report in this series provides on-the-ground observations about the solar market from interviews with 12 generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives and other wholesale power suppliers.

- [Report](#)
- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

More MultiSpeak Guide Specifications Available

MultiSpeak® is a key industry-wide standard for system application interoperability currently in use at more than 800 electric cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, municipals, and public power districts in at least 21 different countries. MultiSpeak® Guide Specifications make specifying MultiSpeak compliant interfaces quick and easy, and NRECA has recently expanded the set to include Demand Response Guide Specifications. Using guide specifications enables vendors to know exactly what you want and enables you to know what you’re getting. Just download the appropriate MultiSpeak specification and add it to your purchasing and request for proposal

documentation.

- **Guide Specifications** (select icon for “Information”)
- **MultiSpeak Website**
- Contact: [Tony Thomas](#)

Using Artificial Intelligence to Predict Outages – A Case Study

The increasing quantity and variety of data available through operating systems such as SCADA, GIS, OMS and AMI presents an opportunity for cooperatives to gain valuable insights. The challenge is being able to easily and cost-effectively access and analyze the data to realize benefits. Join us for a webinar on **April 14, 11am-12pm ET**, when White River Valley's CEO, Chris Hamon, will describe how they are using Artificial Intelligence to forecast outages on their distribution grid using the PwrMetrix software. Tony Thomas from NRECA and Alvin Razon from Aerinet-PwrMetrix will discuss the importance and value of using AI-based tools for predictive data analysis.

- **Webinar Link:**
 - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/879141973>
 - By Phone: 224-501-3412
 - Access Cde: 879-141-973
- Contacts: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#) and [Tony Thomas](#)

Two Weeks Left to Register: Update on DCIP FY21 Funding

The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (**DCIP**) is designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation in order to enhance the military value, resilience or military family quality of life. In Fiscal Year 2021, \$60 million is appropriated to this program for grant awards for state, local governments and rural electric cooperatives. NRECA provides customized services to assist cooperatives in maximizing this opportunity. **Join us, April 22, 2 p.m.** EST for a **free webinar** with further details.

- **Webinar Registration**
- **More Information about DCIP**
- **Website: Electric Co-ops and The Military**
- Contacts: [Lauren Khair](#) and [Maria Kanevsky](#)

Co-ops Added Record New Renewable Capacity in 2020

Last year, co-ops added nearly 1.6 gigawatts of new renewable capacity, more than any previous year, despite some slowdowns caused by the COVID-19 health crisis. Furthermore, growth is set to accelerate in the next three years, driven in part by large solar projects. The recent extension of federal renewable tax credits will likely also spur growth. This new advisory explains this market development.

- **Advisory**

- **Contacts:** [Michael Leitman](#) and [Russ Wasson](#)

Co-ops Continue to Lead the Industry in AMI

As advanced communications have become increasingly important for electric system operations, cooperatives have been transitioning from Automated Meter Reading (AMR) to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and phasing out meters with no communications capability. According to updated analysis by NRECA, electric co-ops continue to lead the industry in AMI deployment. Read details in this new advisory.

- **Advisory**
- **Contacts:** [Michael Leitman](#) and [Tony Thomas](#)

2021 National Compensation System Now Available

The National Compensation System (NCS) provides comprehensive salary information compiled from NRECA member systems across the country. Accessible anywhere via your secure Cooperative.com login, it allows users to customize their data search and export individual reports into a variety of formats. Ordering is now available for NRECA members. Data will be accessible within 1-2 business days of placing your order.

- **Website**
- **Contact:** [Beth Wray](#)

2021 TechAdvantage® Sessions Available On Demand with ENCORE

If you attended the 2021 TechAdvantage Experience, you still have access to the recorded content, using your log in credentials, until April 30, 2021. For those who missed attending this year's TechAdvantage Experience, you have the chance to benefit from the content through [TechAdvantage® ENCORE!](#) ENCORE gives you access to the same sessions that were delivered during the virtual TechAdvantage Experience. Content is available to watch at your leisure until June 25, 2021. Click [here](#) to learn more about TechAdvantage® ENCORE and how to purchase access to this valuable online product.

- **TechAdvantage® ENCORE**
- **TechAdvantage Schedule**
- **Contact:** [Mary Ackleson](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

- **What is the Beneficial Electrification League?**
- **How Data Is Revolutionizing the Electric Utility Industry**

Webinars:

- **Using Artificial Intelligence to Predict Outages – A Case Study**
 - April 14, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
 - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/879141973>
 - By Phone: 224-501-3412
 - Access Code: 879-141-973
- **FY21 – The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP)**
 - April 22, 2–3 p.m.

On Demand:

- **2021 Co-op Economic Outlook**
- **New Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities**
- **The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series**
- **DOE Hydro - Informational Webinar**
- **Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items**
- **Future Of... Volume 1: EVs, Battery Energy Storage, and Grid Analytics**
- **Future Of... Volume 2: UAS, Analytics, and Distributed Operations**
- **Aligning Compensation with Your Business Strategy**
- **Broadband as an Essential Service**
- **DOE Wind Energy Webinar**
- **RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program**
- **Impacts of COVID-19 on Renewable Energy and Storage Development**
- **Impacts of Postponing or Canceling Annual Meetings and Director Elections due to COVID-19**
- **Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**
- **Series: Mitigating Bird Issues**

Resources Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on Co-ops

NRECA has completed several analyses on the impact of COVID-19 on electric cooperatives, including economic, job sectors, safety, broadband, and other areas. Below are links:

- RE Magazine Article: **The Covid Effect: Contact Injuries**
Contact: [Bud Branham](#)
- **Measuring Co-op Response to COVID-19: Key Take-Aways and Action Items**
Contact: [Mike Sassman](#)

- **Report: Mid-Year 2020 U.S. Economic Outlook: A Focus on Rural America**
Contact: Joe Goodenbery
- **Paycheck Protection Program: Loan Forgiveness**
Contacts: Allison Hamilton and Joe Goodenbery
- **Financial Impact Report**
Contacts: Russell Tucker and Joe Goodenbery
- **Financial Impact and Pathways to Relief**
Contact: Allison Hamilton
- **At Risk Job Sectors Report**
Contact: Michael Leitman
- **Impacts on Generation and Transmission Cooperatives**
Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman
- **How COVID-19 Is Impacting Electricity Industry Sectors**
Contacts: Lauren Khair and Michael Leitman
- **Tools to Help Manage Energy Expenses**
Contact: Brian Sloboda
- **The Criticality of Broadband**
Contact: Paul Breakman
- **Business and Technology Resources to Use Virtually**
- **NRECA COVID-19 Hub**
- **Special Edition: Business and Technology Update**

See past issues of *Business and Technology Update* in our [archive on cooperative.com](#).

Discover the value of NRECA membership. Learn more.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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