

DOE Awards \$13M for Testing of New Carbon Capture Technology at ITC

The Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC), supported by NRECA, has been the site of ongoing leading-edge research into methods for carbon capture. A promising new hybrid carbon capture membrane, developed by Ohio State University, will be tested in a small pilot at ITC by the Gas Technology Institute (GTI) in late 2021. DOE recently awarded GTI \$13M to research if this membrane process meets DOE's performance goal for carbon-capture technologies of a 90% capture rate with 95% purity at a cost of no more than \$40 per tonne of capture. If proven, this technology could be game-changing for co-ops as an effective and economical means of capturing CO₂ from the post-combustion flue gas of fossil fuel-fired power plants. This advisory provides more details.

- [Advisory](#)
- [More information on ITC](#)
- [Contacts: Dan Walsh and Will Morris](#)

Optimizing Generation by Coupling Renewable Energy with Battery Storage

Through NRECA's New Energy Resource Model Initiative, we are examining the innovative ways that cooperatives are adapting to industry changes, reducing risks and capturing benefits for cooperative member-owners. Our latest case study provides insights into how one generation and transmission cooperative in Oklahoma – Western Farmers Electric Cooperative – evolved from being an early leader in adopting renewable resources to developing one of the largest combined wind, solar and battery storage projects in the United States.

- [Case Study](#)
- [New Energy Resource Model Initiative Website](#)
- [Contact: Paul Breakman](#)

Podcast: How Data Is Revolutionizing the Electric Utility Industry

The proliferation of smart meters, sensors, and other downline devices means electric cooperatives now have unprecedented grid visibility and access to mountains of system data. In the latest episode of *Along Those Lines*,

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative CEO John Hewa and NRECA's Vice President of Integrated Grid Venkat Banunarayanan discuss how co-ops are using this data to improve reliability, plan for the future, and better serve their members.

- [Podcast](#)
- Contact: [Venkat Banunarayanan](#)

Webinar Dec. 3: Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities

The Defense Community Infrastructure Program (**DCIP**) is designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation in order to enhance the military family quality of life, resilience, or military value. In Fiscal Year 2020, \$50 million was appropriated to this program. Only state, local governments and rural electric cooperatives are eligible to receive the grant awards. In support of this effort, NRECA has just announced new customized services to assist cooperatives maximize the opportunity to potentially receive funds through DCIP. Join us for a free webinar on **December 3, 1-2 p.m. EST** to learn more.

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

FERC Order 2222 for DER Aggregation in Organized Wholesale Markets

In Order 2222, FERC asserts jurisdiction over DER aggregation transactions within RTO/ISO wholesale markets, including resources in front of and behind the distribution customer meter. A small utility opt-in feature allows almost all distribution cooperatives to maintain local control over the decision to allow aggregator access to their consumer-members. NRECA is seeking to defend this opt-in feature at FERC, which is crucial for electric cooperative operations. Cooperatives are encouraged to be involved in RTO stakeholder discussions and stay up to date on the many market and technical requirements for implementation as they evolve. This advisory provides further details:

- [Advisory](#)
- Contact: [Paul McCurley](#)

ASCE Standard for Overhead Utility Structures

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is starting an effort to write a Design Standard for overhead utility structures including distribution. The effect of the Standard could ultimately be to supersede the NESC District Loading rule 250B and require all distribution structures to be built to existing transmission standards. Cooperatives are encouraged to participate in this effort either with their own staff representation, through their G&T, and/or through NRECA, to ensure sufficient representation of distribution engineering. The following advisory provides additional information:

- [Advisory](#)

- Contact: [Robert Harris](#)

MultiSpeak® Guide Specifications and Online Training Now Available

The NRECA MultiSpeak® team is now offering Guide Specifications written around the business processes that co-op vendors are encouraged to support. These easy-to-use guide specifications are free with your MultiSpeak Subscription, and can be added directly to your RFI, RFQ and PO to help ensure critical interfaces are specified correctly from the start. Online training is also available from our MultiSpeak team for a modest fee. For more information, please contact: support@MultiSpeak.org.

- [List of Guide Specifications](#)
- [Online Training](#)
- Contact: [Tony Thomas](#)

Guidelines for Optical Groundwire Technology

Since the widespread installation of overhead optical groundwire (OPGW) technology in the 1980s, the utility industry has learned much about deploying OPGW. However, there are still knowledge gaps related to the types and reasons for utilizing this communication technology, as well as the design, testing, installation, commissioning and ongoing maintenance of OPGW systems. NRECA's new two-part *Surveillance* series summarizes the CEATI Transmission Overhead Design & Extreme Event Mitigation Interest Group's report: *Guidelines for Optical Groundwire Technology*, providing highlight of gaps in OPGW knowledge and expertise, and recommended mitigation strategies to help close those gaps.

- [Article Series](#)
- Contact: [Patti Metro](#)

Webinars: Solar Energy Affordability for Consumers in Need

NRECA's **ACCESS** project, supported by the U.S. DOE, is working with an extensive cooperative and industry stakeholder group to explore various technology and financing models to help make solar affordable to communities in need. As part of this initiative, we recently highlighted the efforts of Anza Electric Cooperative and Roanoke Electric Cooperative through case studies and our "The Power of Partnership" webinar series. View the webinar with Roanoke now, and the webinar with Anza will be coming soon:

- [Case Study: Anza Electric Cooperative](#)
- [Case Study: Roanoke Electric Cooperative](#)
- [Webinar Series: The Power of Partnership](#)
- [ACCESS Website](#)
- Contact: [Adaora Ifebigh](#)

WEBINAR AND PODCAST OPPORTUNITIES

Podcasts:

- [What is the Beneficial Electrification League?](#)

Webinars:

- [New Funding Available for Co-ops Serving Military Communities](#)
December 3, 1-2 p.m. ET

On Demand Webinars:

- [The Power of Partnership: Solar Webinar Series](#)
- [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](#)

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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