

## NRECA Membership in NEETRAC Brings Resources and Engagement Opportunities to Co-ops

### Highlights

- The National Electric Energy Testing Research and Applications Center ([NEETRAC](#)) is a self-supporting, membership-based center within the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech that aims to help the electric utility industry solve the everyday problems associated with the complex task of transmitting and distributing electric energy reliably and efficiently.
- NRECA has an established membership with NEETRAC, allowing our members to benefit from this organization's research and reporting.
- This advisory provides a summary of NEETRAC offerings and the resources and engagement opportunities available to NRECA co-op members.

### Overview

The **National Electric Energy Testing, Research & Applications Center (NEETRAC)** is a member-focused research and testing facility housed within the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at **Georgia Tech**. Established in 1996, NEETRAC serves electric utilities and manufacturers by providing **pragmatic, value-oriented solutions** to challenges in electric energy transmission and distribution.

- **Mission:** To improve grid efficiency, resiliency, reliability, and safety through collaborative, actionable research.
- **Vision:** To be a globally recognized center of excellence in electric power research and applications.

### Core Services

NEETRAC offers a wide range of services, including:

- **Condition assessment** of overhead and underground power lines
- **Root cause failure analysis** for components like conductors, cables, transformers, and arresters
- **Comparative performance testing** of products from different manufacturers
- **Quality assurance** testing for new components
- **Commissioning support** for underground cable systems
- **Custom testing and consulting** for utilities and manufacturers

## Facilities & Certification

NEETRAC maintains specialized labs for:

- Medium and high voltage testing
- Mechanical and environmental analysis
- Forensics and QA It is also **ISO 9001 certified**, ensuring high standards in its operations

## Research & Impact

NEETRAC conducts both **baseline projects** (funded collaboratively by members) and **individual proprietary projects**. Topics range from:

- DER integration and grid flexibility
- Aging infrastructure diagnostics
- QA benchmarking
- Safety in energized environments
- Impact of emerging technologies like 5G on utility infrastructure

## NRECA Membership in NEETRAC

NEETRAC operates as a **self-supporting, membership-based center** with over 35 members, including utilities and manufacturers. Members help guide research priorities and benefit from proprietary reports, collaborative projects, and access to Georgia Tech's resources.

As a NEETRAC member, access to NEETRAC baseline research, testing and project reports extends to NRECA members. Also, a portion of our annual membership fee is allocated toward a Direct Placed Account. This allows NRECA members to submit specific projects, the findings of which are proprietary.

NRECA has a vote on the NEETRAC Management Board. David Farmer of NRECA and Tony Eason of Pee Dee Electric participate on the Management Board. The purpose of the Management Board is to advise NEETRAC management, approve budgets for baseline projects, support baseline project ideation, and approve funding from our Direct Placed Account.

## More Information

The NEETRAC page of Cooperative.com has recently been updated. Recent project reports and newsletters can be found by logging into cooperative.com and searching for NEETRAC, or by this link: [www.cooperative.com/NEETRAC](http://www.cooperative.com/NEETRAC).

## Engagement Opportunity for NRECA Members: NEETRAC Technical Advisors

NRECA co-op members can participate on NEETRAC projects as Technical Advisors, or TAs. These TAs are assigned to help develop and finalize project plans for NEETRAC Baseline projects and assist with the guidance of these projects to completion. Technical Advisors should be familiar with the topic area covered by the project. Member organizations may assign more than one TA per project, or none depending on the level of specific interest.

Technical Advisor activities include participation in conference calls as well as the review of test plans, test data and draft reports. Travel is rarely needed, but advisors are always encouraged to visit NEETRAC to witness and or discuss Baseline programs.

To become a Technical Advisor, please send your contact information and the project for which you would like to volunteer to David Farmer at [david.farmer@nreca.coop](mailto:david.farmer@nreca.coop).

### Contacts for Questions

#### David Farmer

Senior Principal, Distribution Grid  
NRECA Business and Technology Strategies  
Email: [David.Farmer@nreca.coop](mailto:David.Farmer@nreca.coop)  
Office: 703-254-7957

#### Tony Eason

VP of Engineering and Operations  
Pee Dee Electric  
Email: [TEason@pdemc.com](mailto:TEason@pdemc.com)  
Office: 910-997-8941