

# ENERGY LINES

News from Hoosier Energy for members and employees. | APRIL 2016 | Vol. 39, No. 4

## SEASONAL SOLUTION

Find out how Worthington Station's cooling system upgrade is helping save thousands of dollars annually. | **PAGE 5**



A CONVERSATION WITH  
**DON SLOAN** Hoosier Energy Board  
Director for one year.

**SEE STORY, PAGE 8**

*"ALWAYS ON FOR YOU"*

## UDWI REMC Annual Meeting

*HE photo*

**MEMBER MEETING:** The CEO of UDWI REMC Brian Sparks speaks to members during their annual meeting on March 26 in Switz City. The message Sparks communicated to members focused on the cooperative principles.

*THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE*

## Decatur County REMC Annual Meeting

*Decatur County REMC photo*

**DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL:** Decatur County REMC member Rick Nobbe turns in his registration card and receives his ballot to vote from employee Amy Ewing at the 78th Annual Meeting on March 8. Members voted for two nominating committee members and two board members to represent them.

## Hoosier Energy supports Sullivan High School engineering team

Hoosier Energy is helping to sponsor one of Sullivan County's greatest spectacles in racing – the Super Mileage Team at Sullivan High School.

Employees from the generation and transmission electric power cooperative's Merom Generating Station in Sullivan donated \$1,000 to help the high school team in its quest to repeat as national champion for designing a diesel prototype car with the best fuel mileage.

The team has won the competition three years in a row, with the 2014 team setting a national record in the category, engineering a car that clocked 1,899 miles to the gallon.

The Super Mileage Team will face off against other Hoosier high schools at the state competition in Indianapolis on April 11 and will then face high schools and universities from across North America in the national competition April 23-24 in Detroit.

EnergyLines is published monthly by Hoosier Energy's Communication Department for members, employees and retirees of Hoosier Energy.

## ON THE COVER

Workers at the Worthington Generating Station find a better way to change the cooling system's water mixture – saving time and money. Matthew O'Hara of NAES points to the tank used to store glycol during the summer months.



## SEND COMMENTS TO

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# Hoosier Energy among top 100 cooperatives

Revenue ranking reflects members' economic growth efforts

Hoosier Energy continues to rank among the 100 largest cooperatives in the United States in the National Consumer Cooperative Bank (NCB) Co-op 100 list.

Each year since 1991, the Washington, D.C. –based NCB ranks the top revenue-earning cooperatives by annual sales from the previous year.

Electric cooperatives, including Hoosier Energy and 16 other generation and transmission cooperatives, one distribution cooperative and the national rural utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), were among those making the list. CHS Inc. of St. Paul, Minnesota, an agribusiness cooperative, topped the list for the second year in a row with nearly \$42.7 billion in revenue.

Hoosier Energy has earned a spot on the list at least every year for more than a decade, reflecting the G&T's steady growth in revenues and assets.

As a non-profit electric cooperative owned by its members, each year Hoosier Energy returns operating margins which exceed targeted thresholds to member systems through special bill credits. Operating margins are allocated to members and, upon approval from the Board of Directors, are returned after 25 years in the form of patronage retirements.

In 2014, the nation's top 100 cooperative businesses generated \$243.2 billion in revenue, an increase

of 4.1 percent from 2013, the report says. More than 30,000 cooperative businesses operate in the United States, serving more than 120 million members and 140 million customers, the NCB says.

NCB's full list is available at <http://www.ncb.coop>

## Electric Cooperatives among Top 100

2015 ranking noted before name reflects 2014 annual revenues.

18. Basin Electric Power Cooperative (ND)
39. Oglethorpe Power Corporation (GA)
40. Tri-State G&T Association (CO)
42. Central Electric Power Cooperative (SC)
45. Great River Energy (MN)
50. Seminole Electric Cooperative (FL)
51. Brazos Electric Power Cooperative (TX)
54. North Carolina EMC (NC)
59. Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (VA)
64. CFC (VA)
66. South Mississippi EPA (MS)
67. East Kentucky Power Cooperative (KY)
82. Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AR)
86. Wabash Valley Power Association (IN)
95. **Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
96. Cobb EMC (GA)
100. Buckeye Power (OH)

# Tapping into the benefits of utility-scale solar

G&T teams up with research institute on pilot program



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**EYES ON SOLAR:** The Electric Power Research Institute will monitor the performance and impact of utility-scale solar sites at Johnson County REMC and South Central Indiana REMC.

## BLOOMINGTON

Utility-scale solar installations such as Hoosier Energy's 10-site solar program offer a unique opportunity to demonstrate how an integrated grid benefits power distribution systems and – ultimately – consumers.

To learn more about these benefits, Hoosier Energy is participating in a solar demonstration pilot program through the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) Integrated Grid Project. A team

of engineers from EPRI will monitor the performance and impact of two utility-scale solar sites that are scheduled to be installed in Johnson County REMC and South Central Indiana REMC territories later this year.

The multi-year initiative will allow Hoosier Energy to collaborate with EPRI engineers and scientists to learn more about the technology behind harvesting energy from the sun. Analyzing real data from real systems can help assess performance of emerging communication

*“Consumers are increasingly interested in renewable energy applications. Pilot programs like this explore the use and value of integration of renewables into distribution and transmission grid operations.”*

**Heath Norrick,**  
Manager of Renewable Energy

methods and control systems as well as show the value of an “all-of-the-above” power supply strategy that encourages a highly flexible, resilient power system that optimizes all energy resources.

With this project, both Hoosier Energy and its member systems will have the opportunity to research and share knowledge about renewable energy implementation strategies.

Utility-scale solar installations, unlike most individual consumer installations, connect to both transmission and distribution transmission pathways.

“Consumers are increasingly interested in renewable energy applications,” says Heath Norrick, Manager of Renewable Energy for Hoosier Energy. “Pilot programs like this explore the use and value of integration of renewables into distribution and transmission grid operations.”

Results from the pilot are expected to show how distributed energy resources can provide grid support while minimizing impact to distribution systems. EPRI also expects the research to provide insights on how strategic placement of solar arrays directly benefits end-consumers.

Project milestones, quarterly assessments and a summary analysis of the project will be published on EPRI's integrated grid project website <http://integratedgrid.com/solar/>. **EI**



## Meeting in summary

Power Requirements Study (PRS) Workshop ■ Feb. 9 ■ Hoosier Energy Headquarters

### Attendees:

Representatives from 13 member cooperatives and 10 Hoosier Energy employees participated in the meeting sponsored by the Marketing and Business Development division.

### Purpose:

The workshop focused on educating attendees on the two-year (2016-2017) Power Requirements Study cycle, the PRS Work Plan, and PRS Representative's vital role as the primary communication liaison with Hoosier Energy's forecast team to successfully complete all related projects.

### For More Information:

Tina Elliott at [telliott@hepn.com](mailto:telliott@hepn.com) or Kyle Parker at [kparker@hepn.com](mailto:kparker@hepn.com)



**SOFTWARE DISCUSSION:** Forecasting Analyst Kyle Parker demonstrates the software used to securely exchange annually collected PRS data files with member co-ops.

### Next Steps:

The final PRS Work Plan developed in February will be distributed for approval to member system managers, Hoosier Energy Board of Directors and the Rural Utilities Service by the end of May. Members are submitting data for the annual data collection through April. Beginning this summer, the Forecasting group will visit all member systems to gather information on recent and expected system load growth changes in their territories in preparation for the next Power Requirements Study. The next PRS is due in the fourth quarter of 2017. Surveying for the next Residential End-Use Survey will be conducted in November 2016 through January 2017.

### Meeting Summary:

Hoosier Energy's Forecasting group presented an overview of the PRS Work Plan processes, annual data collection process, the value and uses of the Residential End-Use Survey, as well as the PRS modeling, forecasting, reporting, approval and uses.

### Photos/Graphics:

Located on Dropbox  
<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Photos/Power%20System%20Requirements%20Mtg>

### ONLINE EXTRA

## EnergyLines online

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HE photo

**EFFICIENT TRANSFER:** Jason Robertson and Matthew O'Hara of NAES connect the glycol tank transfer pump. This device pumps glycol out of the boiler loop to the glycol storage tank when the station prepares for summer operation.

## Keeping cool

Cooling system water mixture upgrade at Worthington Station saves thousands

**There's got to be a better way...**

That's what the plant workers at Worthington Generating Station kept thinking each spring and fall when they changed out the cooling system's water mixture.

The cumbersome process to flush the system is necessary for winter operations, something the plant wasn't originally designed for. As a peaking plant, the 174-megawatt natural gas combustion turbine plant in Greene County was initially designed to help meet member energy needs when consumer

demand for electricity is especially high, such as during a hot summer afternoon or during a prolonged cold spell like the polar vortex of 2014.

In 2003, Hoosier Energy modified Worthington to provide year-round peaking power, a strategic move that has helped the G&T take advantage of lower gas prices and better meet member needs all year long.

Gas combustion turbine plants depend on water to cool the outside air, which mixes with the gas to drive the turbine, which then produces energy onto the grid. Glycol, a chemical compound that acts much like the antifreeze/coolant in your car radiator, is added

*“The Worthington staff knew something needed to change. Each transfer point posed potential risks to worker safety, hindered plant operations, and raised environmental concerns if the glycol/water solution should spill.”*

**Greg Vonfeldt, Manager of Gas Production facilities**

to the chiller system to keep the system from freezing.

In the summer, the plant’s chiller system cools warm air to maintain the appropriate water temperature and less glycol is needed in the water to act as a refrigerant.

During the winter, however, it is impacted by frigid temperatures. An auxiliary boiler heats the air coming in and a higher percentage of glycol in the water is necessary to prevent the system from freezing.

Each spring and fall, plant workers switch out the glycol solution for the next season’s operations. Storing the seasonal glycol/water mixture saves hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. But getting it into storage tanks is tricky.

## The Problem

The time-consuming, multi-step process involved using an industrial vacuum to drain 30,000 gallons of chiller water into a storage tank. But the vacuum couldn’t remove all of the chiller water and typically 12,000 gallons remained behind in an area known as the vault. Workers removed the rest by manually connecting a two-inch hose to a slow-release pump similar to a basement sump pump while carefully monitoring the water as it oozed into 1,000-gallon totes.

Next, three operators loaded the full totes onto a trailer and towed them to the main storage tank. Out came the hose and pump system again to release the glycol/water mixture into the storage tank.

The entire process took three operators up to four days to complete and often required overtime.

## The Solution

“The Worthington staff knew something needed to change,” said Greg Vonfeldt, Manager of Gas Production facilities for Hoosier Energy. “Each transfer point posed potential risks to



HE photo

**SUMMER SEASON PREPARATION:** Matthew O’Hara of NAES tests the glycol tank transfer pump before its use for the season.

worker safety, hindered plant operations, and raised environmental concerns if the glycol/water solution should spill.”

The team wanted to streamline the process, he said, to eliminate the safety and environmental concerns, reduce overtime and restore the plant to maximum operating capability more quickly. They figured out a new procedure that eliminated the low-flow pump procedure. Installing an isolation valve in the vacuum pump, they theorized, would allow them to add a tee to connect a transfer pump for the remaining chill water, thus allowing them to empty the system fully without using the cumbersome offloading method.

## The Results

The new procedure eliminates the safety and environmental hazards associated with the old procedure and the plant can be back to full operations in a single shift instead of four days, saving nearly \$20,000 annually in overtime costs alone. **EL**



Submitted photo

**ON THE HILL:** Representing Indiana coal concerns in Washington D.C. are from left: Hoosier Energy Fuels Manager Will Kaufman, General Counsel at The Indiana Rail Road Company Kristen Bevil, Vice President of Power Production Rob Horton, and Congressman Larry Bucshon.

# RAILROAD DAY ON CAPITOL HILL

Hundreds of rail industry representatives and industry observers visited Capitol Hill last month in a grassroots advocacy campaign to highlight industry concerns.

The goal of the annual event is to create increased awareness among congressional leaders and their staffs about the role of the rail industry in furthering the nation's economy. Issues include tax credits, balanced regulation and infrastructure funding needs.

Will Kaufman, Fuels Manager at Hoosier Energy, and Rob Horton, Vice President of Power Production joined representatives from Indiana Railroad for the daylong activities.

They met with several congressional leaders and their aides,

including Indiana Rep. Larry Bucshon, Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly, and Illinois Reps. Rodney Davis and John Shimkus. Discussions centered on two main areas of concern: extension of industry tax credits and continuation of a balanced regulatory environment.

"A long-term relationship with the rail industry helps Hoosier Energy maintain our competitive advantage while also contributing to the economic support of our communities," said Horton. "It's important that our elected officials hear that message."

Other industry attendees from across the nation included shippers, state and local government leaders, railroad contractors, rail supply representatives, and short line, regional, and Class I railroads. [EL](#)

## New Indiana Railroad facility saves transportation costs for Hoosier Energy

Indiana Railroad is building a transload facility near the Merom Generating Station to help facilitate transfer of bulk cargo from rail to trucks. The new stationary facility for warehousing and transloading material from rail cars to semi trucks is located about two miles east of the station along the Hoosier Energy rail spur.

The facility is a result of the long-term relationship between Indiana Railroad and Hoosier Energy. The transfer station will offload approximately 275 tons of soda ash a week for Hoosier Energy, or about 15,000 tons a year. That adds up to significant transportation cost savings each year, helping maintain Merom Station's competitive position, said Will Kaufman, Fuels Manager. Soda ash is used in Hoosier Energy's SBS injection system to control SO<sub>3</sub> emissions.

The transload facility also offloads ammonium nitrate for Bear Run mine operations. Railroad officials are considering moving other products through the site as well. [EL](#)

# Out of the Board Room

## DON SLOAN

Don and Dianna Sloan were married in 1995 and honeymooned in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. – a somewhat popular destination for those who love the mountains. Their story, however, has a unique chapter. The cottage they rented would become the pattern for the home they would soon build in rural Knightstown – standing some 20 years later as a testament to the vows they made to one another.

Ushering in guests, Don is eager to share details about the house. “All the wood you see here is native to the property,” he says. “The wood flooring is ash, the handrail is walnut, the steps are maple.” The brick home – a slightly larger version of the honeymoon cottage – was built in 1996 on 10 wooded, rolling acres – a corner of the original farm where he was raised. Don, an electrician by trade, wired the home and helped the contractor nail down the dimensions.

It’s a brisk day in early March when this Henry County native, now in his 19th year of service on the Henry County REMC Board and serving in his first year on the Hoosier Energy Board of Directors, sits down on the sofa to talk



*HE photo*

**RURAL ROOTS:** Board member Don Sloan and his wife Dianna share a laugh on their property in rural Knightstown. They have been married just over 20 years and their home’s interior is a near replica of their honeymoon cottage.

about his career, his hobbies and people who have inspired him throughout life. As he talks, the sun washes over the room through the expansive windows, which also frame the outdoors. Don says wildlife frequently come into view.

“We see deer, muskrats and the occasional red fox. And because of the pond we see a lot of beaver, turtles and geese.”

As Don talks about the outdoors he so obviously appreciates, >>

*"I have a sense of knowing whether to trust someone. I call it intuition. I think I've got a knack for judging character, but I generally keep it to myself."*

## DON SLOAN

his attention shifts to a shadowbox table in the center of the room. "Here's an arrow head I found on the property," he says. Trinkets and other special memorabilia saved by the couple are housed in the see-through case. "This belonged to my brother. He was killed in Vietnam," Don says, cradling a Purple Heart in his hand. "Here's Dianna's kindergarten glasses," he says, picking up the tiny pair with care.

"Here's something from a cruise," Dianna says. "After you've been on so many cruises, they classify you as platinum. We've been on eight so far. We're going on another one in November," she adds. "It's just something we like to do," Don says. "We go just about every year."

"And here are my UAW pins," he says with obvious pride and for good reason. Don worked as an electrician for General Motors from 1964-1998. "I could have earned my Associate's Degree, but I never pursued it." Instead, he opened Sloan's Electric in 1974, specializing in electrical service for residential and farming operations. He continues to operate the business.

The love of power, beyond electricity, has provided other career opportunities for Sloan. For about 10 years he leased Mt. Lawn Speedway in New Castle, an asphalt track steeped in history that began in the 1930s as a dirt track. In those days it had

### About the series

This is the eighth in a series featuring Hoosier Energy Board of Directors in an "Out of the Board Room" series in EnergyLines. These personal stories are intended to build stronger relationships among us. A different Director from each of the 18 member systems will appear each month.

onsite amenities that included cabins and a ballroom. The famous Dorsey Brothers and Sammy Kaye were among those who played the ballroom during its heydays of the '40s and '50s. While the famous dance halls met their demise by fire years ago, the track is still in operation.

While Sloan never raced, he and Dianna are avid NASCAR fans and he owns an IMCA Modified, a car body sanctioned by the International Motor Contest Association as the top division. The racer is a hybrid of an open wheel car and a stock car. Don's model has an Impala front end with enclosed tubing on the rear.

"It was pink when I got it. It took all winter for me and friends Gary Cross and Larry Sexton to transform it," he says. Now, it's black. And while the car once saw racing

days, it's been relegated to duties as a pace car and parade showpiece.

As the morning turns into afternoon, the couple continues to share their many interests, moving from the living room to the kitchen, down the stairs to see the expansive NASCAR collection and for a stroll around the pond where the sun is glistening off the water and a lone goose is standing guard in the distance.

Their enthusiasm never wanes and they have a litany of hobbies to talk about, some of them money-making ventures. Flipping houses is a half-and-half activity they enjoy – half for fun, half for a little profit. Dianna's son is involved in that venture. To date they have renovated seven homes in six to eight years. The seventh was a 101-year-old home when they acquired it. Two years and nine months later it was a restoration treasure that sold to the first person who looked at it.

"It's a hobby," she says. Don nods in agreement. "We give it our best to keep the houses here," he says of the ones they remodel. "We do them up right."

Don and Dianna continue to talk about the things they have in common. "Right here is the one that motivates me," he says. She chimes in. "I just tell him to get up out of that chair," she says, endearment in her voice. They both laugh. "We do almost everything together," he says.

That includes mushroom hunting, a season fast approaching. “They’ll be popping up soon,” she says. “When we met she had never been mushroom hunting. The first time we went out, we found about 300 yellow morels in one spot that had never been touched. Now, we go every year and we share them with everybody. We have ‘mushroom cooks’ and we make sandwiches out of them,” Don says.

Don makes it clear that his wife is his closest companion and friend. His four daughters, nine grandchildren, great grandchild, as well as Dianna’s son and daughter are also important.

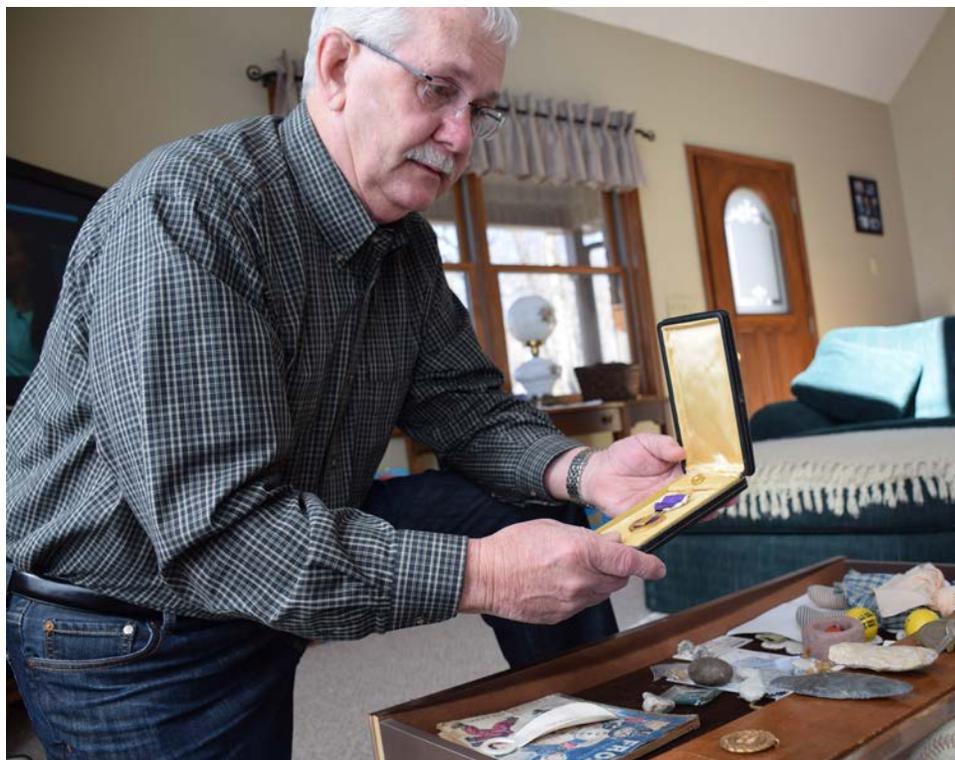
### Who has inspired you the most in life?

“I would have to go back to my high school days for that. It would be a baseball coach by the name of Bill Nixon. It was his way or the highway. I remember distinctly one of the things he said that made an impression on me. He said: ‘I don’t care what your name is. I don’t care what your dad does. If you can play ball, you can be on this team.’

“Later in life, I guess that inspiration came from my mom. She worked daylight to dusk, and she didn’t mind rolling you out of bed, either. But the thing you have to admire about her is that she had her own farming business. She was a tomato patch farmer. She had a Quonset building and she packaged the tomatoes in there and sold them in Indianapolis.” While Don says he no longer has any of the heirloom seeds, he knows it takes the proper amounts of rain, sunlight and fertilizer to grow a good tomato. And he recalls planting season. “We would ride the tomato setter. It went so fast, occasionally you would look down the row and see the roots sticking out of the ground instead of the leaves,” he says. “Good memories.”

### When it comes to character, what is the single most important trait a person can possess?

“Honesty. If you’re honest, you don’t have to worry about anything else.”



HE photo

**IN HONOR:** Don Sloan holds the Purple Heart that was awarded to his late brother. The medal is on display in a shadowbox in the couple’s home.



HE photo

**KEEPING PACE:** Don Sloan grabs the roll cage of his IMCA Modified pace car and slides in behind the wheel. The car is a common site in Henry County parades.

### What would others be surprised to know about you?

“That I have a sense of knowing whether to trust someone. I call it intuition. I think I’ve got a knack for judging character, but I generally keep it to myself.” **EL**

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APRIL 18, 2016

## A DAY TO CELEBRATE

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association designates the second Monday of each April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Hoosier Energy pays tribute to all Power Delivery Professionals who work at the G&T and among our member cooperatives. We applaud your accomplishments and devotion to duty, which represent the heart of the cooperative spirit.