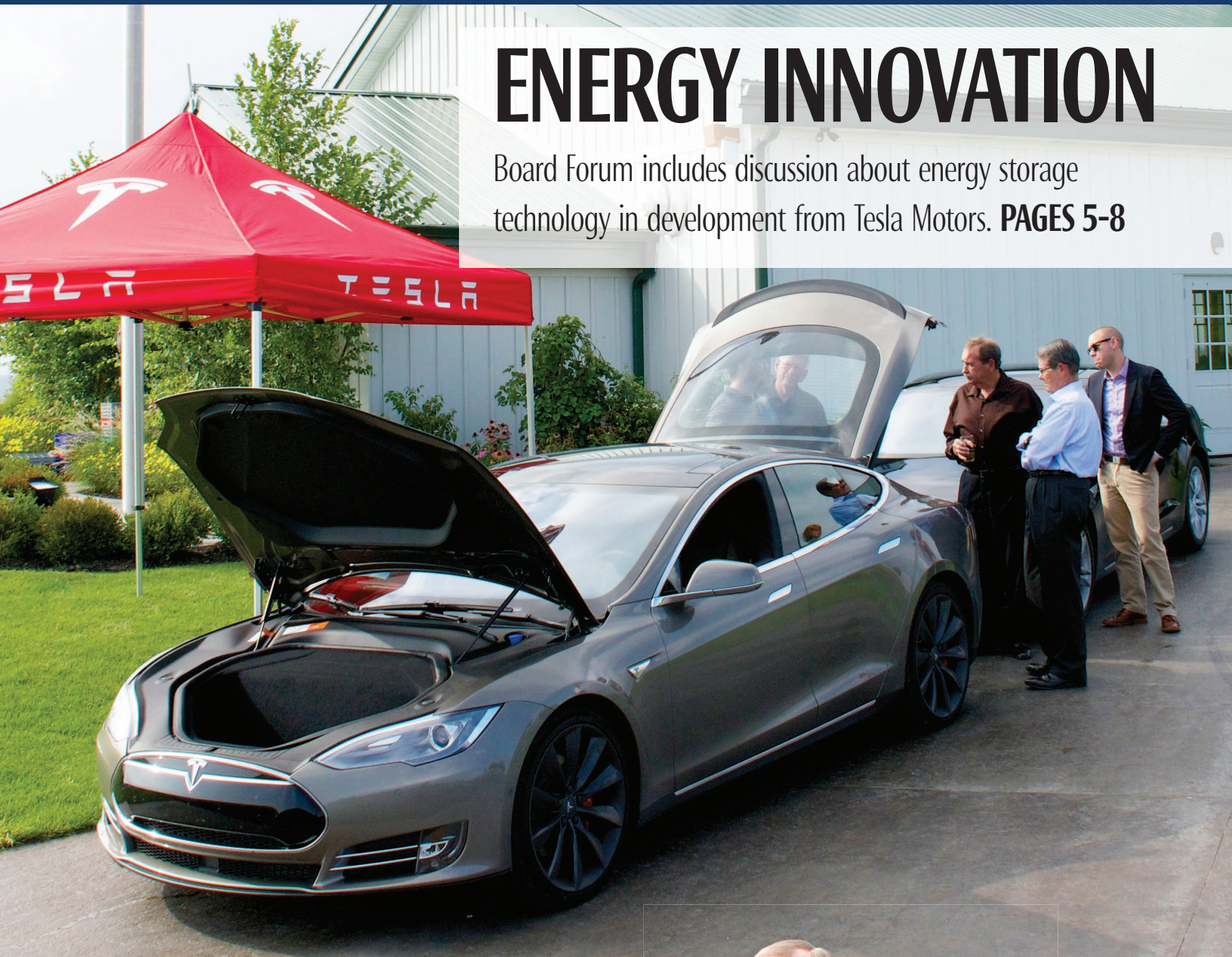


# ENERGY LINES

News from Hoosier Energy for members and employees. | SEPTEMBER 2015 | Vol. 38, No. 9

## ENERGY INNOVATION

Board Forum includes discussion about energy storage technology in development from Tesla Motors. **PAGES 5-8**



## A CONVERSATION WITH BOB

Hoosier Energy Board  
Director since 1990

**SEE STORY, PAGE 9**





# Hoosier Energy to build landfill gas plant

Hoosier Energy plans to construct a 4-megawatt landfill gas facility called Cabin Creek at the Randolph Farms Landfill located in rural east-central Indiana. The renewable energy plant will be the fourth landfill methane gas (LMG) facility for the electric power supply cooperative and the first landfill gas partnership with the Kalamazoo, MI-based waste and recycling company.

Cabin Creek is part of Hoosier Energy's strategy of furthering its all-of-the-above, diversified power supply portfolio that includes coal, natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency. "This project is another example of our commitment to provide affordable, reliable and sustainable power to member systems," said Steve Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hoosier Energy.

The 156-acre Randolph Farms Landfill is located near Modoc, Ind., with electric service provided by Whitewater Valley REMC, one of 18 distribution cooperatives that own Hoosier Energy. Through the partnership with Randolph Farms, Hoosier Energy will capture landfill methane gas, which occurs naturally from decomposing waste, and use it to generate electricity. Landfill generation projects are instrumental in destroying methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

"As a family-owned company, Randolph Farms has always had strong ties to the community around us. There is a sense of stewardship that comes with that, so we're excited to be able to be a part of the renewable energy hub that is



HE photo

**RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Hoosier Energy plans to construct its fourth landfill methane gas facility at the Randolph Farms Landfill near Modoc, Ind. in Whitewater Valley REMC's service territory.

*"Any time members can benefit from a local source of clean, renewable energy, it's a win-win for everyone."*

**Mary Jo Thomas, CEO of Whitewater Valley REMC**

growing right here in Randolph County," said Robert D. Tinsman, Manager of Randolph Farms Landfill.

Construction will begin in the fall of 2016 with power production scheduled to begin in early 2017. To reduce risk and costs to member systems and co-op consumers, funding for the \$12 million project will come from low-cost clean renewable energy bonds.

"Any time members can benefit from a local source of clean, renewable energy, it's a win-win for everyone," said Mary Jo Thomas, CEO of Whitewater Valley REMC.

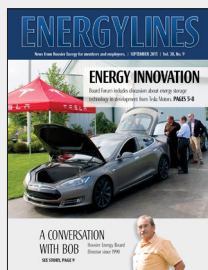
Hoosier Energy owns and operates two other landfill gas facilities including the 4-megawatt Clark-Floyd landfill methane gas project in Clark County, Indiana, and the 15-megawatt Livingston landfill-gas-to-energy facility near Pontiac, Ill. A third plant, the 16-megawatt Orchard Hills landfill in Illinois, is scheduled to be in service in mid-2016. Other current renewable energy resources include a 13-megawatt coalbed methane facility and 54 megawatts of wind and hydropower generation. Installation of a 10-megawatt solar program is also underway with ten 1-megawatt facilities scheduled to be in operation by the end of 2016.

With the addition of the Cabin Creek project, Hoosier Energy moves closer to achieving a voluntary goal of providing 10 percent of member system power needs from renewable energy resources by 2025. [EL](#)

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

## ON THE COVER

Hoosier Energy Directors and member CEOs were privy to a full slate of energy-related updates when they met for the two-day, 2015 Strategic Issues Forum and August board meeting at French Lick. Those in attendance were treated to rides in Tesla Motors cars to experience the company's advanced technology.



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## BACK ISSUES

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# Economic development program earns national recognition

The joint economic development program of Hoosier Energy and its member electric distribution cooperatives has been recognized once again as one of the top 10 utility programs in the nation. Site Selection magazine announced its top utilities in economic development in a press announcement.

This is the seventh time since 2002 that Hoosier Energy has been named to the top 10 list by the publication. The power supplier was recognized for economic development results with member cooperatives in 2014. Commercial and industrial projects announced in 2014 included 58 new and expanded businesses that are expected to add approximately 2,200 jobs and \$600 million in capital investment in communities served by member cooperatives. Key growth sectors included food processing, automotive and distribution industries.

"Electric cooperatives share a tradition of making rural areas better places to work and live," said Harold Gutzwiller, Manager of Economic Development and Key Accounts for Hoosier Energy. "Last

year's jobs and investment results were among the top five in our history and demonstrate our members' continued commitment to the cooperative principle of concern for community."

Partnerships with local communities and Hoosier Energy's 18 member systems have resulted in more than \$6 billion in new investments and almost 29,000 new jobs in the last 15 years.

Site Selection, which delivers expansion planning information to 44,000 executives of fast-growing firms, bases its selection on a mix of criteria that include project activity in the company's territory, submitted materials from utilities, survey input from corporate end users and site consultants, website tools and data, innovative programs and incentives, and the utility's job-creating infrastructure and facility investment trends. **E**

## ONLINEEXTRA

### Site Selection Top Utilities list

For more information on this year's winners, see <http://siteselection.com/issues/2015/sep/top-utilities.cfm>

## Interactive table provides state-of-the-art touch

Hoosier Energy's headquarters has an interactive kiosk in the lobby. The display allows visitors and employees an easy way to search for information on Hoosier Energy and its member systems as well as download content to an iPad.





# Co-ops learn about strategic purchasing

Conference brings co-ops from across the nation to learn about supply management processes and strategy



HE photo

**PURCHASING STRATEGY:** Dan Carroll of the Indiana University Kelley School of Business conducted a session on how to improve a product-sourcing strategy in August during the ISM-CU conference at Hoosier Energy.

## BLOOMINGTON

Making purchases is a part of life. Sometimes it's milk and bread, other times it's a car or house. At Hoosier Energy, purchases can equate to millions of dollars for power plant or power delivery projects.

Those working in the world of purchasing are tasked with making the right decisions based on what products are

purchased and from what suppliers.

Co-op employees from across the nation came to Hoosier Energy's headquarters in August for a conference hosted by the cooperative utilities affiliate of the Institute for Supply Management (ISM-CU) to learn about supply management process and strategy.

During the conference, Dan Carroll of the Indiana University Kelley School of

*"The Hoosier Energy facilities are great and the technology in place helps with meetings such as this. The familiarity of employees there gained by hosting events helps build relationships, which is beneficial."*

**Said Jon Elkins, Operations Manager at South Central Indiana REMC**

Business, conducted a session on how to improve a product-sourcing strategy. Carroll explained how a centralized process of market, spend and cost analysis can help an organization make strong purchasing decisions.

"I want to help you put diverse tools to use so you can have a strategic approach to the work you do," said Carroll.

Tammy Martin, Hoosier Energy Contract Administrator, believes Carroll accomplished that.

"The session conducted by Carroll provided a framework for supply chain professionals to work strategically – creating efficiencies for continuous improvement throughout the process," said Martin, who is also ISM-CU second Vice President.

Attending the two-day conference was Operations Manager Jon Elkins of South Central Indiana REMC. Elkins said the workshop helped verify what they are doing at the co-op.

"For example, having a diverse set of vendors is something we have been building for years. This helps us during times of need when we must move quickly," said Elkins.

The added benefit of having this event at Hoosier Energy's new headquarters proved valuable for members.

"The Hoosier Energy facilities are great and the technology in place helps with meetings such as this. The familiarity of employees there gained by hosting events helps build relationships, which is beneficial," said Elkins. [E](#)

# State energy leaders address regulatory challenges

## TOUGH DECISIONS LIE AHEAD FOR ELECTRIC INDUSTRY

*HE photo*

**ENERGY POLICY SUMMIT:** Marc Lewis, Vice President of Regulatory and External Affairs, Indiana Michigan Power, discusses regulatory changes in the industry with Steve Smith, CEO and President of Hoosier Energy.

### BLOOMINGTON

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce Energy Committee met at Hoosier Energy's headquarters in Bloomington on Aug. 12, 2015, to discuss the many challenges facing the electric energy industry in Indiana.

State Rep. Eric Koch (R-Bedford), chairman of the Indiana House Energy Committee, opened the session, thanking the participants for their hard work on behalf of energy consumers.

"The importance of energy policy to our businesses and citizens of Indiana is as critical now as ever," he said. "The kinds of rules and regulations coming at us will

have dramatic impact. They all compound on one another."

Mark Maassel, President of the Indiana Energy Association, provided an overview of current industry challenges, particularly environmental regulations. More stringent air emission regulations over the last decade have forced significant coal plant retirements or costly retrofits to natural gas while increasing compliance costs, he said.

"Conservative estimates show that compliance with these rules has required utilities to spend more than \$3.7 billion over the last decade," he said, and that's not counting the cost to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

The EPA released its final ruling on the Clean Power Plan requirements on Aug. 3. The voluminous 3,700-page ruling requires a great deal of analysis, but one thing is certain, Maassel said: "This is going to be expensive. This is a time when we truly need an all-of-the-above strategy for Indiana."

Donna Snyder, Sr. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Hoosier Energy, said the final plan differs significantly from the proposed rule and will require more analysis to determine the effect on power providers. To comply, states will likely adopt stricter renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency requirements and carbon trading programs. That could cause stranded assets that have remaining useful life, she said.

States are facing some tough decisions. "Do they adopt a rate-based plan to comply or mass-based plan, which caps the total tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emission annually," Snyder said. "And how much is this going to cost the end consumer? No one really knows yet."

Fortunately, Indiana utilities are proactively addressing these issues, increasing energy efficiency programs and renewable energy options.

Dave Stolz, Manager of Power Markets for Hoosier Energy, provided attendees with an overview of power markets and how transmission congestion on the bulk electric system impacts power supply economics. Changes in capacity and underlying fuel costs can have a profound affect on market pricing, he said.

Attendees included Sam Schlosser, Chair of the Indiana Chamber Energy Policy Committee and president of Plymouth Foundry, Chamber President Tom Easterday, Executive Vice President of Subaru of Indiana, Vince Griffin, Vice President of the committee, as well as representatives from Duke Energy, Indianapolis Power & Light Company, Vectren Corp., Indiana Michigan Power, coal companies and large manufacturers. [E](#)





HE photo

**FORUM IN SESSION:** Hoosier Energy CEO Steve Smith (center) addresses Hoosier Energy Directors and member CEOs at the Strategic Issues Forum

in August. All 18 member systems were represented at the two-day forum in French Lick, IN.

# Strategic Issues Forum focuses on energy innovation and integration

## FRENCH LICK, IN

Hoosier Energy Directors and member CEOs were privy to a full slate of energy-related updates, including early interpretations of the Clean Power Plan, when they met for the two-day, 2015 Strategic Issues Forum and August board meeting at French Lick. The event was attended by leaders from all 18 member systems.

## Utility innovation

The two-day leadership forum commenced with an impressive panel of speakers focusing on the latest technol-

ogy in renewables, including the current landscape of renewable integration, how operations look with large solar saturation, and the arrival and future of various types of battery storage.

Jim Spiers, Vice President of Business and Technology Strategies with the Cooperative Research Network of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, set the three-hour panel presentations in motion by reviewing the changes in the electric grid from 1880 to 2015. He presented the challenges that reforms could bring to the distribution system operator in terms of governance, the engagement

model with consumers and technical architecture. He said the challenge for co-ops will be in finding autonomy and independence while maintaining cooperation among cooperatives – all core values of the cooperative model.

Spiers' presentation was followed by Dave Bissell, President and CEO of Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC), who began his career in the utility industry at Hoosier Energy. Bissell presented a solar report from the front lines. His cooperative in Hawaii has the highest percentage of solar online than any other utility in the U.S. Half of its daytime load is met

by solar. The future for more solar there is trending upward, with 50 members per month installing solar. The cooperative is a relatively new operation, formed in 2002 and currently serving 33,000 members, of which 3,000 have rooftop systems.

Bissell said the industry is facing a lot of false advertising claims regarding rebates, federal incentives and erroneous facility charges. He said, however, the solar revolution is being driven in his area by 4-cent utility-scale solar, the promise of home energy storage such as the Tesla-released Powerwall, the fear of climate change and the resulting federal and state legislation that could increase taxes. In short, he said customers want more control and more choices and that cooperatives must embrace the competition while reinforcing to members that they – as long-standing utilities – have created a great product with 24/7 unlimited use. He said the greatest challenge ahead is pricing charges and fixed costs so they are fairly distributed among consumers. Even with challenges, he believes solar must be embraced. “Everybody loves solar. Fight solar at your own risk. I believe it’s a mix of the renewables plus the traditional, while keeping rates as low as possible.”

Richard Benedict, of neighboring Indianapolis Power & Light, now a subsidiary of AES Corporation, joined the Utility Innovation Panel with updates on its utility-scale battery storage project. The \$25.5 million battery array, capable of storing 20 megawatts of power, will be located on Harding Street in Indianapolis. The foundation was being poured in mid-August and is expected to go online in the summer of 2016. The completed power storage facility will include numerous rows of large lithium-ion batteries inside an enclosure. It is the first grid-scale energy storage array in the 15-state Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) grid system.

Also speaking on battery storage was Tesla engineer and entrepreneur in research development, Archan Padmanabhan. He leads product strategy and application engineering. “We have over a billion miles of data,” Padmanabhan said. Because of the battery-powered Tesla car, he said the company currently claims 5 GW of storage on the road with an anticipated 10 GW, or a million vehicles, on the road by 2020. With those sales come free superchargers that

*“Everybody loves solar. Fight solar at your own risk. I believe it’s a mix of the renewables plus the traditional, while keeping rates as low as possible.”*

**Dave Bissell,  
President and CEO  
of Kaua’i Island  
Utility Cooperative**



*HE photo*

**EMBRACING SOLAR:** Dave Bissell, President and CEO of Kaua’i Island Utility Cooperative, discussed the future of solar. His cooperative has the highest percentage of solar online than any other utility in the U.S.

represent 200-plus megawatts of worldwide load.

Like the Tesla car, the company is hoping its wall-mounted Powerwall and ground-mounted Powerpack technology – unveiled earlier this year – will be seen by utilities and their consumers as a viable option to supplement power. Padmanabhan said the premise for the new technology is in keeping with the current landscape of energy demands. “With more power plants coming to end of life, it represents an opportunity for more renewables or storage. There is a good argument for storage to help balance the grid in real time,” he said.

Padmanabhan said Tesla is currently looking at ways to deploy the technology at a cost-effective point. He said their current Powerwall 7 kWh model sells for \$3,000 and a 10 kWh model for \$3,500. Those costs would be in exchange for control when demand goes up. Likewise, the Powerpack would also help consumers avoid the peak. He spoke favorably about the role of utilities and the supplemental roles of Tesla’s latest inventions.

“We strongly believe that storage is not meant to help customers go off the grid. Battery is not meant to be a full backup. The poles that are out there are the true backup,” Padmanabhan said, adding: “I think if you embrace new technologies as part of the retail experience, you can install storage in front of the meter or at the back of the meter.” >>



## Changing Demographics of Members

Allan M. Parnell, Vice President of the Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities and a Senior Fellow at the Kenan Institute on Private Enterprise, presented on demographic trends in cooperative territories and the challenges and opportunities the trends represent. The presentation included statistics on age, race, birth and death rates, as well as immigration and gender population trends. In the statistical portion of his presentation, he said the greatest population change has occurred in the south with an increase of 14.3 percent. He also said by 2042, minority groups will outnumber Caucasians and it's up to the U.S. population to determine how it will adjust. Will there be greater equality or will it divide the country?

Parnell advised cooperative leaders to get more involved in communities through education and embracing immigrants. "You're losing population because more people are moving out than moving in. And some counties have more deaths than births. Nobody is collapsing, but for some counties, the numbers are moving in the wrong direction," Parnell said. He recommended cooperatives work on recruiting replacements in their workforce by looking to the 30-plus demographic who see value in affordable housing and small town family life.

## Consumer Owned Generation

A panel of three including Don Schilling of Decatur County REMC, Rich Macke of Power System Engineering and Heath Norrick of Hoosier Energy brought perspectives on just what consumer owned generation, to date, means in terms of power supply.

As a point of reference, it was noted that 1 MW of consumer generation is less than .05 percent total G&T capacity and that current G&T policy caps member purchases from Distributed Energy Resources (DER) at 50 kW nameplate rating and 1 percent of the most recent 12-month peak demand.

Schilling, representing the Consumer Owned Generation Committee, said the group of cooperative managers and Hoosier Energy managers has met multiple times in the last seven months and is focusing its efforts on fairness to all consumers, creating consistency on consumer owned generation and



HE photo

**ENERGY STORAGE:** Tesla engineer and entrepreneur, Archan Padmanabhan said the premise for the new home energy storage technology at Tesla is aligned with the current landscape of energy demands.

developing guidelines, policies and compensation that can be communicated to staff and consumers.

Norrick, who represents renewables at the G&T, said he is reviewing interconnection documents, including insurance to protect the system. He said no damage has occurred as a result of a solar system, which has resulted in no national standard for insurance coverage.

Macke focused his presentation on rate design. He said it's important to know how energy metering is viewed by the consumer and to make sure it's fair. He said costs are shifting, showing some customers getting more for energy than what the cooperative pays, which results in other consumers picking up the shortfall or cost shift. He said agreements must be drawn up that can ensure that members generating power also pay their share of fixed costs because they are still relying on the grid.

Schilling said the committee still has a lot of work to do before more recommendations can be made, but eventually a model will be created for distribution co-ops to reference.



## Member Leadership Training

Kate Frank, Mike Chapman and Matt Deaton, representatives of member cooperatives, shared their experiences as participants in the first class of the Cooperative Accelerated Membership Leadership Program. The program, modeled after Hoosier Energy's Executive Leadership Development Program, was developed at the request of the Managers' Association for succession management and a general means to transfer knowledge from retirees. As a result, the I.U. Kelley School of Business has worked in conjunction with Hoosier Energy to offer leadership training to members' staff willing to learn to lead themselves, others and the cooperative business.

Comments from the three participants were all positive with Frank of SCI REMC saying she was introduced to Base Camp, an organization tool.

"It's worth its weight in gold," Frank said. Chapman, from Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC, said he would encourage continuation of the program. "If I was to score this class I would have to give it an A. It's applicable immediately." Deaton, the new CEO at Orange County REMC, said he is a product of the Targeted Selection Process. After the training, he also returned to his co-op with a plan of consistent messaging. "You want your vision to be simple so it won't be lost in translation," he said. [EL](#)



U.S. Representative Todd Young, a native of Orange County, addressed Strategic Issues Forum attendees referencing the Clean Power Plan and its implications for cooperatives.

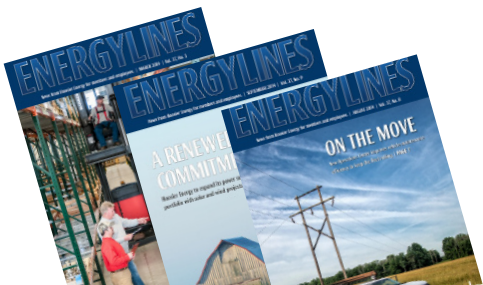
### ONLINE EXTRA

## EnergyLines online

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**COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY:** Cindy Gaskins, president of the Pike County Community Foundation, accepts Hoosier Energy's matching funds for the Frank E. Ratts endowment from Jesse Billings, Plant Manager at the Ratts Generating Station.

# Hoosier Energy establishes Frank E. Ratts endowment

Community services in Pike County are getting a boost thanks to an endowment from Hoosier Energy in memory of Frank E. Ratts, a pioneer leader in bringing the first electric power cooperative generating facility to Indiana.

Cindy Gaskins, director of the Pike County Community Foundation, accepted Hoosier Energy's \$5,000 donation from Jesse Billings, Plant Manager at the Frank E. Ratts Generating Station, a long-time employer in Pike County. Combined with a matching grant from the Lilly Endowment, the Pike County Community Foundation is receiving \$10,000 in unrestricted funds to further its efforts to respond to the community's most pressing needs.

"This will go a long way toward helping us continue to sustain the level of service we provide to those in need in our community," Gaskins said.

Hoosier Energy's contribution is part of the company's ongoing commitment to support member communities. "Giving back to the community is what the cooperative spirit is all about," Billings said. "In these difficult economic times, it's not always easy for community organizations to secure the funding they need just to meet day-to-day expenses," Billings added.

Frank E. Ratts was Hoosier Energy's first manager and led efforts to build Indiana's first electric cooperative generating station. Named after him, the Frank E. Ratts Generating Station sits on the banks of the White River near Petersburg in Pike County. The 250-megawatt low-cost coal plant came online in January 1970 and ceased operations on March 10, 2015. [EL](#)



# Out of the Board Room

## BOB STROUP

Gardener, baker, cabinetmaker ... and voracious motorhead are just a few of the titles that define Robert “Bob” Stroup – 25-year Hoosier Energy Board Director. His home, just off State Road 44 in Shelby County, is a veritable showcase of his hobbies and his lifestyle.

Pulling up the drive to Stroup’s home, a visitor’s first encounter is a fierce-looking eight-legged fortress – two, New Foundland, Great Pyrenees-crossed pups, weighing about 150 pounds each and aptly named Sampson and Delilah. In truth, they are a couple of friendly nuzzlers.

Stroup, dressed in jeans, a button-down shirt and construction boots, saunters out from the garden with a couple pint-sized tomatoes, stunted from the lack of sunshine in an extraordinarily rainy summer. He grumbles a bit about the low yield, but passes it off on this August day – one of the freshest of the season, a cool, 70-something degrees with a gentle blowing breeze. Taking a break, Stroup pulls up a chair on the front porch of his log home.

Stroup’s 20-acre homestead is located in the heart of his family’s acreage. His father was born in a log home on the property across the road, family-owned since 1842.



HE photo



*"If it runs fast, I love it ... And it has to make noise. I would like to race one again. I used to be quick at cutting the trees."*  
(Referring to his passion for motorcycles and racing) **BOB STROUP**

His mother's parents lived about a mile away. Stroup, one of six children, says he is a "war baby" born when his mother was in her 40s. His oldest sister was born about 25 years before him and lived into her 90s; another sister has just reached that milestone. His father lived until he was 95; his aunt died at 104 years of age.

"Our family does live a long time," Stroup says, then quips: "I've tested it a lot."

That is Stroup being modest. He has lived what many would describe as a hard, fast life, focused on fun, family and community service.

Stroup's personal story jumps from birth to age 9, when he remembers working on the farm. At age 12, alongside his uncle, he first tested his hand at carpentry, a skill that would become his life's work. Stroup is a master kitchen installer, remodeling the old or installing new, including hard surface countertops. His work stretches the gamut from simple to elaborate; one of his kitchens was featured as the cover story in an Indianapolis magazine.

"I started cabinetry 52 years ago this year. I put in my first kitchen the day President John F. Kennedy was killed." He says it's one of those moments you just don't forget. "I can't remember what I had for breakfast, but I can remember that day."

## About the series

This is the second in a series featuring Hoosier Energy Board 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.

It wasn't all work and no play for Stroup. At age 15 he got his first motorcycle, and the four he owns today – three Harleys and a Honda – are a testament to his love for two-wheeled motorized transportation. He's also working on a 1965 motorcycle, restoring it to stock.

Not only did he refurbish bikes, but the '60s were Stroup's era to play. "I raced motorcycles professionally," he says, clarifying that it was drag racing, illegal in Indiana in that decade except for an occasional race at the Outlaw Track in Muncie. To satisfy his insatiable taste for speed, he traveled countless times to New Jersey, Niagra Falls, Ohio and Canada to participate in motorcycle races.

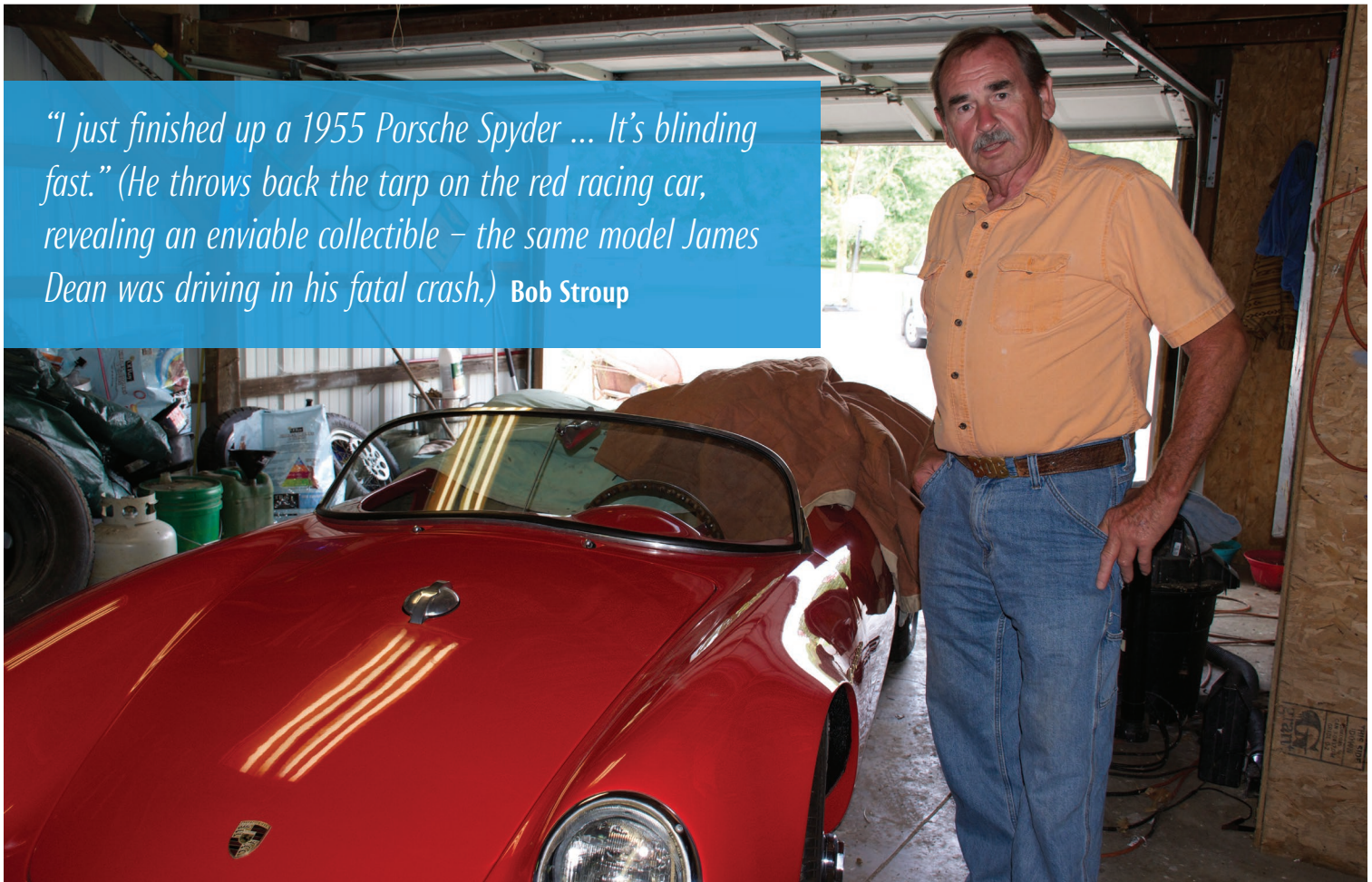
"If it runs fast, I love it," he says, remi-

niscing about his racing days. "And it has to make noise," he adds. "In fact, I would like to race one again. I used to be quick at cutting the trees."

A stroll around Stroup's property provides a window into his very busy life. Gardens, tended by his fiancé Lee Ann, provide ambience. A half-acre pond behind the house is a "fish heaven" for his great grandson, and the barn is home to all things motors – tractors, go-karts for his great grandchildren, and home to his latest feat:

"I just finished up a 1955 Porsche Spyder." He throws back the tarp on the red racing car, revealing an enviable collectible – the same model James Dean was driving in his fatal crash. Stroup says its reputation holds true. "It's blinding fast" and for sale, since Stroup is actually too tall to fit into the ground-hugging model.

Stroup's passion for motorized vehicles is far-reaching. He built an airplane – an RV Aerobatic, and then sold it in 1998. He also refurbished a Chevelle and a Nova. "The 1970 Nova was pro-street." One quick punch and "it would pull the wheels right up off the ground." He also built what is commonly called a "lead sled" in the auto world. It was a '51 Chevy, customized with parts from 30 different cars, which when finished, looked like a >>



*"I just finished up a 1955 Porsche Spyder ... It's blinding fast." (He throws back the tarp on the red racing car, revealing an enviable collectible – the same model James Dean was driving in his fatal crash.)* **Bob Stroup**

HE photo

1951 Mercury. The car was a show winner.

Stroup's log home is unique to his lifestyle. The walls are 8-inch by 10-inch rectangles of assorted lengths, some weighing as much as 1,400 pounds. He and his late father built the basic structure in 30 days.

Stepping inside the front door, it's quick to see that Stroup has a refined taste in rustic, man cave ware. Hides and stuffed trophy animals from hunting expeditions adorn the walls, along with arrowheads found on or near the family property. Civil War collectibles and a 1912 pool table complete the look. Dad to four children, and proud grandpa to five grandchildren and five great grandchildren, Stroup's eclectic taste in collectibles says some-

thing different to each person.

"The girls call it the Room of Death," Stroup laughs. "The boys, of course, love it."

While he masquerades as a tough guy, his kitchen would suggest otherwise. Sitting on the island are his favorites – big, soft cookies and a multi-layer cake, prepared by none other than Chef Stroup for the evening board meeting at RushShelby Energy. He says he's fairly accomplished at cooking, but gives tribute to no one person for his culinary skills. "I learned out of necessity. At some point, I thought I would learn to cook or starve to death," he jests.

That alone would suggest Stroup is a survivor. True, to the greatest degree.

In March of 1999, Stroup was diagnosed with cancer. Doctors said the lump

in his throat would claim his life within nine months. Refusing to surrender to the illness, Stroup sought out second and third opinions. A doctor at the IU Medical Center in Greenwood saved his life. He removed the tumor and gave him large doses of chemotherapy and 60 days of radiation.

"He said, 'If you can take this, it will kill the cancer.'" Eighteen years later, Stroup remains free of cancer. He goes for regular checkups to make sure he remains clean.

"I beat the odds. I appreciate every day. Every day is a good day," he says. If asked what the most important thing in life is, he is quick to reply with one word. "Breathing." He expounds: "Not too many things are worth worrying about." **EL**

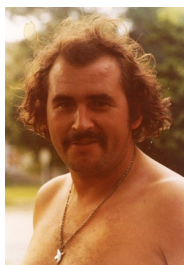


## Stroup through the decades

### Q: Can you describe yourself by the decade?

**1960s** – “Just plain crazy. I was a teenager. Everything was a party.” On the responsible side – he helped start a chapter of the National Exchange Club in Washington, Ind. and he served as president of another Exchange Club in Shelbyville. He also became a dad in this decade.

**1970s** – “I was racing bikes, building cars and working all the time.” Well, maybe not all the time. “I had a big ‘ol three-story house in Shelbyville, a former funeral home. There was a party there every night, between 20 and 150 people, even if I wasn’t there.” He fondly recalls, “My kids were small, but they always thought they were going to find bodies in the basement.” He also started another community endeavor – a new Lion’s Club. He earned his 45-year pin in mid-August of this year. This decade he also donated cabinetry and labor to the Fraternal Order of Police in Shelbyville, resulting in a lifetime membership.



**1980s** – Gambling entered the picture as a primary interest. “Every three weeks for 12 or 13 years, Donald Trump paid for me to fly to Atlantic City to the casinos.” I also started a cabinet factory, became a father of two more boys and was a bank director.

**1990s** – Became an REMC board director of what is now RushShelby Energy. Joined the Hoosier Energy Board of Directors in 1993 and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) board in 1996. He also served on what is now the Indiana Electric Cooperative board for five years. He was a part of the REMC’s down troop, working parades and benefits. He became a grandpa in this decade and also fought back against cancer and won.

**2000s** – Became a great grandpa. “They appreciate you more than your kids,” he says with a grin.

### Q: What’s the most unique thing about yourself that you want others to know?

“I’ve done a lot of charity work. Once I donated bathrooms to the Catholic Church. The priest blessed me and everyone thought the roof would fall in.”



HE photo

**TRACTOR TREASURE:** A Ford tractor is just one of the many motorized keepsakes Bob Stroup stores in his barn. It keeps company with motorcycles, go-karts and other toys enjoyed by Bob and his great grandchildren.



HE photo

**AT HOME:** Bob Stroup has always known his way around a pool hall, he says. This 1912 pool table is a fine specimen, displayed in his home.





HE photo

**CLEAN WATER:** The wastewater treatment facility at the Merom Generation Station begins operation in September. The facility will increase water flow

capacity to 1,050 gallons per minute with twice the solids-removal of the previous 30-year-old system.

# Water treatment facility investment

## MEROM GENERATING STATION'S NEW WASTEWATER PLANT TESTS, TREATS MORE WATER

### SULLIVAN, IN

At the Merom Generating Station, water quality is taken very seriously.

In the electricity production process, water creates steam to spin turbines to generate electricity. It's used for fuel processing, cooling, combustion efficiency, the environmental scrubber systems, mechanical systems and metals removal. Water is so essential to the production of electricity that its use – and quality – are carefully monitored.

With the 30-year-old wastewater treatment facility reaching the end of its useful life, Hoosier Energy invested in a new industrial wastewater treatment plant at

### About the facility

- Treats 1,050 gallons per minute at maximum capacity
- If the system ran at maximum capacity for 24 hours, it's capable of removing ~ 6,300 pounds of iron per day and 16,400 pounds of total solids per day.

Merom to meet current and future water quality regulations. The facility was completed this summer and begins operation in September.

The new system's increased water flow capacity consists of two trains that can treat up to 1,050 gallons per minute with

twice the solids-removal capacity of the previous system. "With the new system, we are better able to control iron, pH and total suspended solids," said Todd Collins, Generation Analyst at Merom.

That's important when the 1,070-megawatt Merom Generating Station produces near capacity levels, using up to 500 million gallons of water per day.

The new wastewater treatment system takes "dirty water" – coal and limestone runoff that contains metals, solids and iron and cleans it through a highly sophisticated separation and filtration process.

The untreated water is first processed through an aeration tank that oxidizes the iron in the water and adjusts the pH levels






**CLEANING UP:** The water treatment facility has a filter press to dewater sludge in the wastewater process.

HE photos

through a series of chemical treatments. The water is then passed through a reactor and clarifier tank that removes the sludge. The pH adjustment and backwash-filter tanks then clean and filter the water to meet the latest effluent standards before being discharged into Turtle Creek Reservoir. Any sludge removed from the stream is eventually dewatered through a filter press where it is then transported to the Merom Station's landfill.

The new water purification system is also scalable, allowing Hoosier Energy flexibility in meeting ever-changing federal and state water quality standards. "The new system's integrated design helps us meet current effluent requirements and it positions us well to meet more stringent regulations," said Toni Presnell, Manager of Environmental Services for Hoosier Energy.

"Keeping water flowing, keeping it clean and meeting environmental regulations – now and in the future – are essential to the environment and to plant operations," Presnell added. "This system helps us continue to achieve those twin objectives." 




**SQUEAKY CLEAN:** Todd Collins, Generation Analyst at the Merom Generating Station, stands on top of the new wastewater treatment basins. The treated water is then discharged into the effluent basin, which feeds into Turtle Creek Reservoir.



# ENERGYLINES

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As part of the Merom Generating Station's inaugural Safety Week, an employee from Occupational Medicine, left, helps Merom Plant Manager Karl Back, right, learn how to use a blood pressure monitor. The monitors will be installed at the Merom Station, Operations Center and at headquarters to help employees be proactive when it comes to their health.

## Safety week at the Merom Station

The resources dedicated to Merom Safety Week, Aug. 17-21, reinforced Hoosier Energy's commitment to working without injury, says Safety Initiative Team Coordinator Cory Samm.

Activities involved all plant personnel. The week-long event was planned by the Safety Awareness Team as part of the Safety Initiative program developed in 2014.