

# ENERGYLINES



## TEN SITES WITH A SOLAR FOCUS

From New Castle to New Haven, thousands of solar panels from arrays are adding to the renewable energy supply for member systems every day.

**Story on Page 4**

# Tanneberger named new CEO at SCI REMC

James Tanneberger accepted the position of President and Chief Executive Officer in September at South Central Indiana REMC (SCI REMC). He is the successor to Greg McKelfresh. With 42 years of service at the cooperative, McKelfresh will retire in January 2018.



Tanneberger

Tanneberger previously worked as Division Manager for Transmission, Substation, and Engineering at Bryan Texas Utilities. He is a licensed professional engineer and has his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Houston.

"I look forward to addressing the challenges facing SCI REMC and am committed to providing the best possible value to its members," said Tanneberger.

Tanneberger was selected by the cooperative's Board of Directors after thorough succession planning and a comprehensive search process.



HE photo

## Lieutenant governor visits Hoosier Energy

In September, Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch visited Hoosier Energy headquarters. Vice President of Management Services Bob Richhart, left, and Hoosier Energy CEO Steve Smith, right, explain aspects of Hoosier Energy with Crouch, center. The introduction was followed by a discussion of how the G&T interacts with her offices in rural development, infrastructure, agriculture and economic development.



## Cyber Security Month top safety tip

*What co-op employees can do to help keep their company safe from a cyber attack.*

Keep business computers, phones and tablets used for business purposes only. If a family member downloads a new app you are unaware of, it could be something that ends up compromising the network.

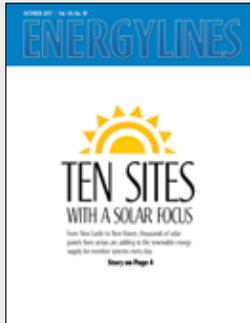
*From Hoosier Energy IT Infrastructure and Security Coordinator, Richie Field*

**Read the full cyber security discussion on Page 6**

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

## ON THE COVER

Completion of solar program adds to cooperative energy supply for member systems.



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# Census Bureau reports rural population decrease

## Rural population shifts from 21 to 14 percent

According to the Census Bureau, rural America experienced an overall loss of 21,000 people between July 2015 and July 2016, after accounting for births, deaths and people leaving small towns for larger areas.

The rural population now stands at about 46.1 million people, or about 14 percent of the U.S. population. It was at 21 percent in 2000, though definitions of rural America and data collection techniques have since changed.

“Although many rural counties have shown population losses for decades, this is the first period on record of overall rural population decline,” said John Cromartie, an analyst with the Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service, who studies rural demographics.

The major problem is that the number of births in rural America no longer offsets the combination of mortalities and migration.

Since 2010, there were 270,000

more births than deaths in the rural population. But an estimated 462,000 people left rural America, according to Census data, accounting for the record shortfall.

The result—from 2010 to 2016, some 325 rural counties had a population decrease because of natural change (births and deaths) for the first time. That’s in addition to 645 rural counties that saw their first natural change population falloff between 2000 to 2009.

“Net migration rates were often much lower in the past—during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1980s—but were always offset by higher rates of natural change,” Cromartie said.

Areas that rely on agriculture have seen the largest population losses, including the Corn Belt and parts of the Great Plains, Cromartie said. Appalachian areas from Kentucky to New York have also lost population, while rural counties closer to metropolitan areas have fared better.

Source: NRECA

# Facility tours highlight generation resources

Hoosier Energy hosted two facility tours for nearly 40 guests comprised of member managers, directors and distribution co-op employees.

The tours began at the Power Delivery Operations Center in Spencer, Indiana highlighting features of the facility. The groups then headed to the Worthington Station where they were shown the natural gas-fired combustion turbine engines.

The tours continued at the Merom Generating Station where Plant Manager, Karl Back and his staff explained operations and recent investments in the 1,070-megawatt facility followed by guided tours.

Decatur County REMC's Dan Schantz was among nine directors participating. Schantz said that safety is a big key at Merom and is evident everywhere. "Employees here take pride and it's apparent in the way they talk about the station," said Schantz.

David Burger, a director from Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC thought the tours were beneficial in understanding the difference between Worthington Generating Station – a natural gas-fired facility, versus Merom Generating Station – a coal-fired facility. Burger stated that Hoosier Energy employees were great tour guides and knew the system well.

James Tanneberger, recently named CEO of South Central Indiana REMC, has been around the electric utility industry his whole life but this was the first time he has toured a coal-fired facility. He found the process fascinating. [EL](#)



**ABOVE:** Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions to employees who work at the Merom Generating Station during recent tours.

**TOP:** Engineering and Performance Manager Jerry Simpson of Hoosier Energy, left, was a guide during recent tours at the Merom Generating Station for member managers, directors and distribution co-op employees.

*HE photo*



# TEN SITES

## WITH A SOLAR FOCUS

### Completion of solar program adds to cooperative energy supply for member systems

Travel across any major highway in southern Indiana and motorists are likely to see one of 10, 1-megawatt solar arrays benefitting Hoosier Energy's 18-member systems.

On Thursday, Oct. 5, local REMC officials and Hoosier Energy dedicated the Center solar array. This is the capstone project in the partnership between the generation and transmission member system 10-site program.

Named after nearby substations, collectively, the thousands of solar panels from the arrays are adding to the renewable energy supply for member systems every day.

The solar program is part of Hoosier Energy's commitment to provide reliable and competitively priced energy to Hoosier Energy's 18-member systems and their co-op consumers through an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy.

"We think the best way to meet that commitment is through an 'all-of-the-above' power supply mix that includes coal, natural gas, energy efficiency and, of course, renewables," said Steve Smith, President and CEO of Hoosier Energy during the dedication ceremonies at the 10th array, located on I-74, southeast of the Greensburg interchange.

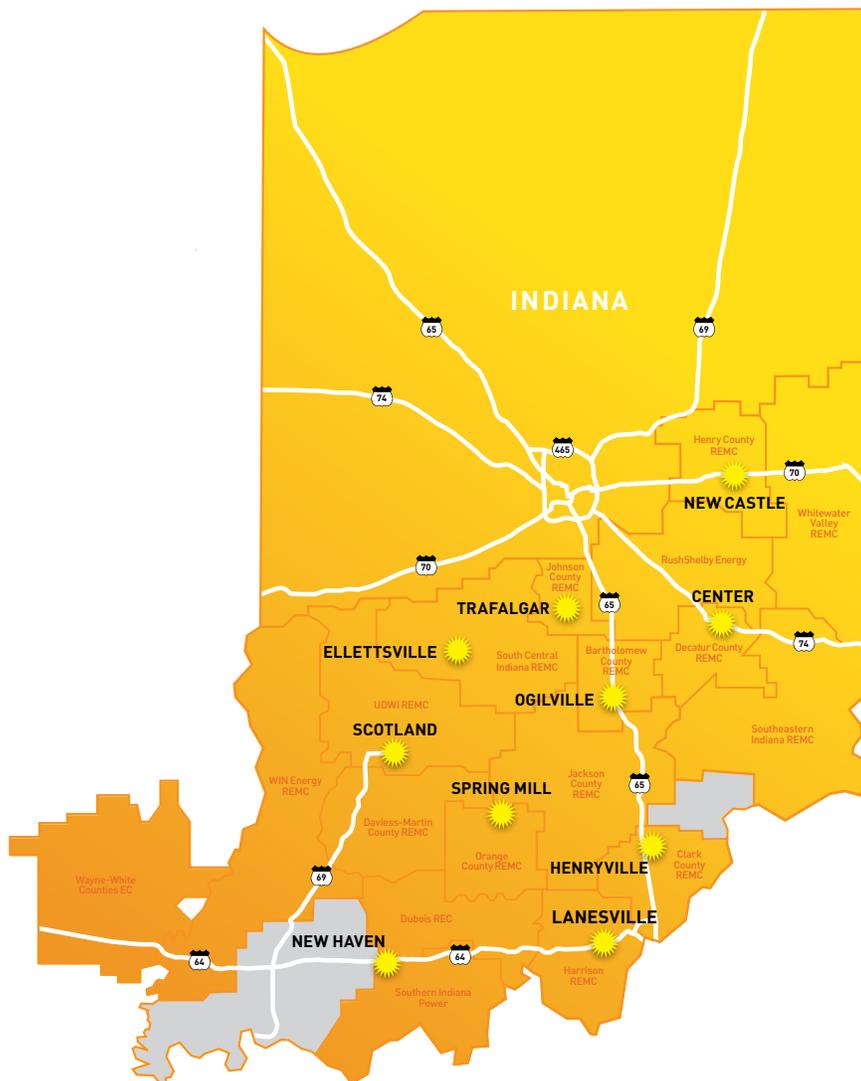
"We need all these resources. Taken together, they provide the best balance for electric service reliability, affordability and environmental stewardship."

Hoosier Energy's board of directors adopted a voluntary renewable energy policy in 2006, calling for 10 percent of the energy supplied to its 18-member systems to come from renewable energy resources by 2025. Hoosier Energy expects renewable energy to more than double from 4 percent of the G&T's power supply within a few years. The G&T's renewables portfolio also includes wind, hydropower and landfill gas plants. 

#### 10-megawatt solar program

The voluntary solar program began in 2015 and consists of 10, 1-megawatt solar arrays dedicated from 2015-2017.

New Castle, dedicated: Sept. 16, 2015; Scotland (Greene County), dedicated: Sept. 29, 2015; Laneshville, dedicated: Dec. 9, 2015; New Haven, dedicated: Oct. 5, 2016; Henryville, dedicated: Oct. 7, 2016; Ellettsville, dedicated: Oct. 17, 2016; Trafalgar, dedicated: Oct. 26, 2016; Spring Mill, dedicated: Sept. 14, 2017; Ogilville, dedicated: Sept. 21, 2017; Center, dedicated: Oct. 5, 2017.



# Co-ops respond, provide disaster relief

## INDIANA CREWS HEAD TO GEORGIA TO RESTORE POWER



*Photo courtesy Clark County REMC*

**COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE:** In September crews from Clark County REMC, Decatur County REMC, Harrison REMC, Johnson County REMC, Southern Indiana Power, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative and Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC traveled to Georgia to assist with Hurricane Irma recovery efforts.

National Co-op Month has been celebrated annually in October across the United States for more than half a century. It is a time for cooperative businesses to reflect on their shared principles and to educate others about the value of cooperative membership.

Cooperation among cooperatives is just one of seven principles for electric cooperatives, but it's an important one. Last month, eight Hoosier Energy member systems sent crews and equipment to Georgia to assist in Hurricane Irma recovery efforts. The storm created widespread property damage and left more than six million without power in the southeastern part of the country.

"Indiana's electric cooperatives take

care of needs at home first, but our crews are eager to help those in need," said Gayvin Strantz, Vice President of Job Training and Safety for Indiana Electric Cooperatives. "They take tremendous pride in representing their home cooperative and the state of Indiana. They represent us well with how hard, professionally and safely they work."

Crews were scheduled to work in two-week shifts until power is restored to the region by performing standard outage restoration – cutting trees, repairing lines and replacing poles. Co-ops provided fuel trucks on site as well as extra materials.

"Every cooperative in the Indiana electric cooperative family is an integral part of a state and national network of hundreds

of fellow cooperatives," said Strantz. "It is incumbent upon us to work together and help one another in times of disaster, to make sure our power delivery systems are repaired as quickly, safely and cost-effectively as possible."

Because the national network of transmission and distribution infrastructure owned by electric cooperatives has been built to federal standards, line crews from any American electric cooperative can arrive on the scene ready to provide support, secure in their knowledge of the system's engineering.

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, based in Fairfield, Ill., also joined the recovery effort. The co-op sent ten people to help with power restoration in Georgia. [E](#)

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

# Cyber threats to G&T and responses taken



It is difficult to predict when cyber crimes might take place.

Equifax can attest to that.

The data and security breach at the credit bureau exposed the personal information of up to 143 million Americans. In late September federal authorities have opened a criminal investigation into the breach and the CEO has stepped down.

This breach shows why it is important to properly secure Internet connected devices at work and home.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month and EnergyLines sat down with IT Infrastructure and Security Coordinator, Richie Field to talk about what Hoosier Energy is doing to identify cyber security risks.

**Q** What is the current business impact of Internet-based risks to Hoosier Energy?

**A** “The most likely form that someone would use to get into a Hoosier Energy system is through a phishing email that includes an attachment or link. We have multiple systems in place that scan email for these types of attacks before it hits an employee’s inbox.

If a phishing email uses a link to gain access to our system, if clicked, it will redirect to a third-party cybersecurity company. This company will then examine the link and determine if it is legitimate.

Another common way hackers attack Hoosier Energy systems is through social engineering. For example, an employee might receive a call from a hacker posing as someone from the Information Systems Department. From there, hackers direct

employees to a website where they will be able to gain access or take control of that computer. To stay safe, we recommend that users don’t give logins or passwords over the phone.”

**Q** How many and what types of cyber incidents do we detect in a normal week?

**A** “On our corporate network we see a lot of low-level threats such as computer virus attempts. Overall, the majority of the inbound email attempts are blocked by our systems in place.

We are able to view threats and where they might come from. This includes multiple countries around the world. During a recent week Hoosier Energy was able to block 9,000 threats from China and 8,000 from Russia. These were attempts to break through

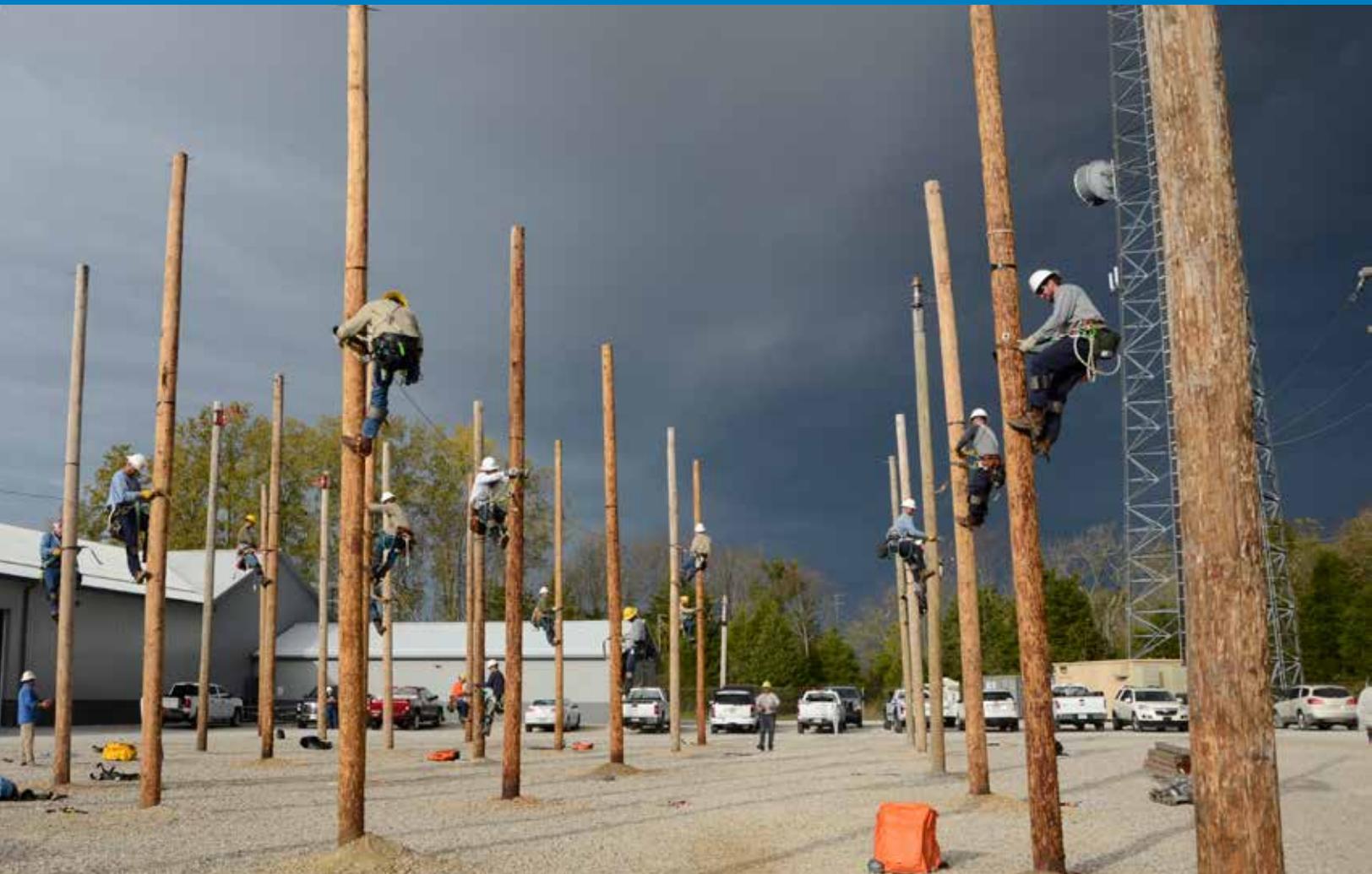
our firewalls – software and hardware that screens out attempts to access company systems.”

**Q** How does our cybersecurity program apply industry standards and best practices?

**A** “Hoosier Energy’s latest NERC cyber security audit is the strongest example of applying industry standards. The audit went very well. The main area of focus during the audit relates to system threats. We have multiple systems that analyze intrusion and detection of incoming threats to help protect our server-based assets.”

**Q** How comprehensive is our cyber incident response plan?

**A** “We implement a range of tools in place to help us detect threats. In addition to that, we have solid back-up systems. For example, if something on our system was compromised such as a server, we could roll back to an un-compromised state and then take the compromised server to the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) which is operated by NERC and DOE. They will analyze the data for us. Based on their report we will know what area of the system we need to strengthen and take the appropriate action.” **E**



## Apprentices climb ‘all the way to the top’

Climbing School got underway the first full week of October at the Franklin Training Center. New apprentices spent the first few grueling days learning to endure heavy weight and weak legs as they climbed poles in the training yard. In the classroom they were tying knots and learning rescue techniques. Hoosier Energy member systems with current participating apprentices include Johnson County REMC, Southeastern Indiana REMC, Orange County REMC, Clark County REMC, SCI REMC and Whitewater Valley REMC.