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ENERGYLINES

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Bucket trucks that have tracks like tanks provide power delivery crews increased access to power lines.

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2018 HOOSIER ENERGY ANNUAL MEETING

Ricchiuti

Guest speaker to tackle topics of uncertainty and opportunity

Peter Ricchiuti (Ri-Chooty) is the guest speaker for the 2018 Hoosier Energy Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place Thursday, April 5, 2018, at the French Lick Resort.

Ricchiuti's humor and insight have earned him numerous teaching awards at Tulane University where he created and runs the nationally acclaimed Burkenroad Reports student securities analysis program.

Ricchiuti is a graduate of Babson College and began his career with the investment firm of Kidder Peabody in Boston. He later managed Louisiana's $3 billion investment portfolio while serving as the assistant state treasurer.

Ricchiuti has been featured in BARRON'S, Kiplinger's, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. He also hosts a popular weekly business show on National Public Radio in New Orleans called "Out To Lunch."

Meeting in summary

Pesticide application seminar

■ 2/22/18 ■ Hoosier Energy Headquarters

Co-op continuing education provided for pesticide applications

Clearing the right-of-way in the proper manner is an important task for any electric co-op. It is also important for tree and lawn care companies. That is why Hoosier Energy extended an invitation to the 18-member co-ops as well as area companies that need to be in the know, for this pesticide seminar.

The full-day seminar offered five speakers as part of a continuing education (CE) program with herbal/pesticide application as the main theme. Topics included choosing the correct herbicide for the job, safe application, storage/hauling, and using the right tools for the job.

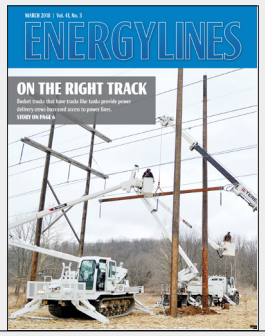
Attendees were able to receive CE credits as well as answer questions for prizes. With the cooperation and participation of several companies, the complete continuing education day was well-received. EL

ENERGYLINES

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

ON THE COVER

Track units allow Hoosier Energy to address maintenance and breakdown needs on the transmission system in a timely way.



SEND COMMENTS TO

EnergyLines Editor
Hoosier Energy
P.O. Box 908
Bloomington, IN 47402

BACK ISSUES

To read back issues, log on to Hoosier Energy's website at www.HoosierEnergy.com

ENERGYLINES EDITORIAL STAFF

Eric Neely
Communications Coordinator
e-mail: eneely@hepn.com

Chris Johnson
Video Producer
email: cjohnson@hepn.com

Crystal Rogers
Communications Coordinator
email: crogers@hepn.com

Trina Pardue
Communications Coordinator
e-mail: trina@hepn.com

Heather Hughet
Communications Coordinator
email: hhughet@hepn.com

Claire Gregory
Manager of Communications
email: cgregory@hepn.com

Ben Turner
Video Producer
email: bturner@hepn.com

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Committing to safety

Safety Achievement Program results continue positive trend

Every three years, Hoosier Energy undergoes a safety audit performed by the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). The program is a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). It strives to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives.

This year's RESAP audit was unannounced, meaning the auditors do not notify the organization of their plans to perform the audit in advance. It helps to provide an accurate picture of the day-to-day operating standards of the cooperative. This year's audit at Hoosier Energy included observances at the Operations Center in Owen County, the Worthington Generating Station and the Merom Generating Station.

The top two aspects that continue to exceed set standards for the audit are housekeeping and lighting.

Hoosier Energy has a very good housekeeping program that enables them to keep the facilities clean and maintained. Employees can easily submit work orders to request improved safety features within our facilities.

One of the most common work order requests is to improve lighting in work areas, which increases safety in those areas for employees and others on the grounds.

The audit is more than just a team of auditors coming on site to observe. It includes our executive leadership and employees making a commitment to provide a culture of safety.

The auditors were extremely pleased with what they saw and the dedication and commitment to safety from Hoosier Energy employees.

Safety and Training Team Leader Kyle Foli believes the Safe by Choice program is helping Hoosier Energy achieve a safe workplace.

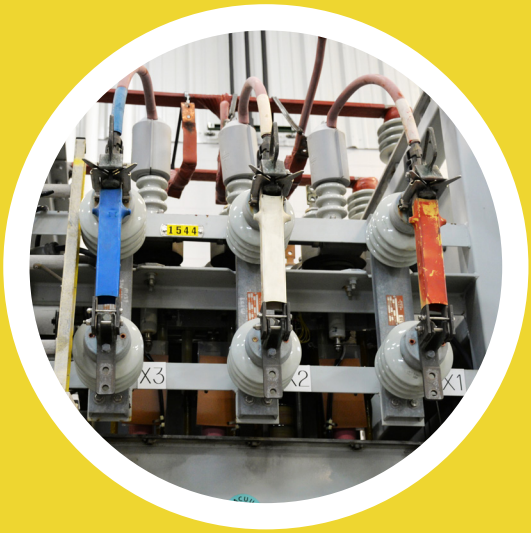
The safety team appreciates the commitment and all the work that employees put into their jobs every day to make Hoosier Energy a safe place to work. EL

Guiding principles

The RESAP audit program is based on two fundamental guiding principles that are essential to achieving safety excellence:

- Safety must be embraced as a core value where the actions and decisions of the cooperative reflect a fundamental and unwavering commitment to safety at all levels of the cooperative.
- Cooperative leaders and employees take ownership of the systems and processes that create a safe working environment.

MOBILE SOLUTION



Fleet of six mobile substations keep electricity flowing so crews can safely work on equipment

It isn't often that you see these big vehicles out in the field, but when you do, they are doing their fair share of work. A mobile substation is a large piece of equipment, replicating the job of a stand-alone substation, that can be transported to a designated location, set up and then used for an undetermined amount of time (usually one to seven days) so that service is not interrupted while work is performed on the substation.

Hoosier Energy has six functioning mobile substations, the first one dating back to the 1970's. Each mobile substation has a designated voltage and current rating. These mobile substations range in voltage to match the substations' transmission voltage (34.5, 69, 138, 161kV). When needed, each mobile station is transported to the designated location by a semi and then set up to maintain uninterrupted service. The equipment is designed and dispatched to eliminate or minimize any perceived performance differences by end consumers.

Each mobile substation is ready to be deployed. They are protected in designated bays – out of the weather at the Operations Center. Maintenance is performed at scheduled times to ensure each mobile substation is performing as designed. This maintenance can take anywhere from a couple of days to a little over a week, depending on the amount of work planned. Maintenance is routinely done during periods when their use is minimized due to system conditions. It is important to perform preventative maintenance because these mobile substations are doing the same work that the full substation is providing, but

These substations receive maintenance at scheduled times to ensure each is performing as designed.

in a much smaller area, with the added risk of being physically transported.

In addition to the mobile substations, there are also accessory trailers with equipment that may be required for each individual job. A regulator trailer is available to assist with voltage control. This device monitors the voltage, watching for when it goes up or down and then adjusts accordingly. There is also a trailer with breakers set up for individual use when a mobile substation has a need for more than two breakers. In some cases, all three trailers (mobile substation, regulator and breaker trailers) may need to go out for one job.

Hoosier Energy has a complete mobile workforce to ensure that the 18-member co-ops have the proper tools at their disposal to make sure their members stay connected. EL

"The mobile substations are a valuable component to Hoosier Energy's maintenance plan. Our members know that they can count on the mobile substations to keep the electricity flowing during maintenance, outages, or emergencies – allowing members to have uninterrupted service."

Ryan Moore,
Power Delivery Coordinator

Meeting in summary

Superintendent and Engineer meeting
■ 2/14/18 ■ Hoosier Energy Headquarters

A recent meeting for member co-op employees showed value-added services Hoosier Energy staff provide.

Presentations included:

Dave Helton – Safety and Training Instructor

Helton discussed the Franklin Training Center's new energized underground switchgear. This unique resource will give apprentices experience working with underground equipment.

Richie Field – IT Infrastructure and Section Coordinator

Field shared information technology services available to this group including: Collaboration software called WebEx; public IP address scanning to discover vulnerabilities; rack space for disaster recovery and off-site backups.

Josh Cisney – Renewable Energy

Cisney explained Hoosier Energy's process for distributive generation projects that are above 50kW. Hoosier Energy will work with these consumers and their co-ops to develop solutions.

Projects electric consumers implement often consist of solar, wind, battery and storage technologies and non-renewable technologies such as back-up generators.

Dave Stoltz – Manager of Power Markets

Stoltz discussed power markets and how Hoosier Energy integrates with the wholesale markets and regional transmission organizations.

Chris Blunk – Manager of Human Resources

Blunk reviewed the Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development and Bell Leadership programs available to members. Blunk also showed training resources available for members to use through the Hoosier Energy Cooperative Academy and the value of the ability to create development plans for employees. EL

COVER STORY

‘Tracking’ progress

HE photo

TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT: Hoosier Energy lineworkers use track vehicles to access sites that are difficult to reach due to terrain or wet/muddy conditions.

Track-based bucket vehicles provide broader access to right-of-ways for power delivery crews

NAPOLEON, IN

Daily obstacles for many at Hoosier Energy don’t consist of mud and ravines. But for the power delivery team, these aspects can really be cumbersome. Increasingly, crews were being challenged to safely maneuver bucket trucks into position at job sites.

The power delivery team researched ways to get the job done safely as difficult situations arose. The team determined that in water-soaked environments, replacing a bucket truck with one on tracks, similar to a tank, gives them the ability to drive through wet and muddy terrain with almost no visible property damage.

“Track units allow us to address maintenance and breakdown needs on the transmission system in a timely way,” said Brady Mann, Manager of Delivery Services. “It is truly amazing to see – financial, environmental, and relationship benefits can be tied to the tracked units,” continued Mann.

Bucket trucks equipped with standard tires often get stuck in mud. A bucket truck loaded with equipment can weigh nearly 60,000 pounds. When that weight is distributed across 10 tires, there is a significant amount of pressure placed onto the ground. The result is a truck stuck in the mud.

One solution is to use a winch to pull the trucks out of the mud. When that is unsuccessful, another option is to hook a bulldozer to the front to the truck and drag it out of the mud. This increases costs and damages property, which must be repaired.

Tracked vehicles have a much larger area on the ground to distribute weight. They don’t sink in mud. Mann compares

DID YOU KNOW?

- The cost of a track truck is comparable to that of a regular bucket truck.
- Track bucket trucks can access muddy locations that a regular bucket truck cannot.
- The track vehicles use the same equipment (other than the track unit itself) as regular bucket trucks.

it to trying to walk across fresh snow in a snow shoe (the track unit) versus high heels (bucket truck).

"Rubber-tracked machines reduce our operational cost and increase efficiency by minimizing travel down blacktop roads without requiring us to protect the road or load the machine onto a trailer," said Mann.

The track vehicles were used last year for a line upgrade to the Abydel substation in Orange County. The tracks enabled the crew to complete the project without a single contractor to move equipment around the job site. Without the tracked vehicles, the contractor would have been needed each day of a multi-month project at a minimum of $250 per hour.

Because of this equipment investment, Hoosier Energy does not have to depend as much on contractors or dry weather to get into some of the right-of-ways. This allows for more flexible scheduling and as such, a higher degree of efficiency in that scheduling. EL

Track vehicle Q&A

Why haven't we done this sooner?

Tracked vehicles have progressed in their capabilities and strength over time. Most of the units available in the past were either too small, designed for distribution work, or too large, designed for 345kV work and above.

How much are we saving?

From a transmission perspective, a simple three-day project that would require a contractor to tow equipment in and out could avoid almost $7,500 in just one three-day project.

Are the machines more expensive to maintain?

Other than the tracking unit itself, the equipment on the machine, such as the bucket and the digger, are the same as those on standard bucket trucks.

Powering rural communities

Electric cooperatives in Central and Southern Indiana and Southeast Illinois serve many agricultural farms like this one in Southeastern Indiana REMC territory. Hoosier Energy has been serving member cooperatives since 1949 with the mission of providing assured, reliable and competitively priced power to its members.