

ENERGYLINES

SAFE BY CHOICE

Safety week at Merom Generating Station highlights safety at home and work – especially while driving.

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY LAW

California sets energy law to be carbon-free by 2045.

PAGE 1

STEPPING UP RELIABILITY

Backup transformer at Merom Generating Station to improve replacement response time. **PAGE 3**



Meeting in summary

Rural Utilities Service Training Session

■ 8/16/18 ■ Hoosier Energy Headquarters

Meeting Details

A Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Training session was held Aug. 16 at the Hoosier Energy headquarters in Bloomington, Ind. Attendees included employees from Hoosier Energy, member systems, Indiana Electric Cooperatives, outside contractors and other Indiana cooperatives.

Meeting Highlights

The training was about comprehensive environmental policies and procedures hosted by Lauren Cusick from RUS. She provided a big picture overview about what is needed for environmental reviews that utilities face.

Cusick provided helpful tips to attendees for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, Timing of Funds Obligation and the overall NEPA process.

Key take-aways for submitting RUS permit applications include:

- Provide a complete project description
- Include important construction details of a project
- Provide details about current land use
- List the extent of the disturbance from the proposed construction
- Include a map detailing the location of a project



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CARBON-FREE: California looks to be carbon-free by 2045 by using more renewable resources such as these wind turbines located outside of Palm Springs.

California sets energy law to be carbon-free by 2045

In September, California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law requiring the state, including electric utilities, to be carbon-free by 2045. The legislation requires utilities to source 60 percent of their energy from carbon-free sources.

An article published on September 10 in The San Jose Mercury News reported, "This law goes further, saying the last 40 percent of the 100 percent total can come from "carbon-free" sources, including large dams, nuclear power and even natural gas-fired power plants, if they can capture and store the carbon in the ground, which so

far is an unproven technology."

California has only one nuclear power plant, Diablo Canyon in San Luis Obispo County, and its owner, PG&E, has announced it will close by 2025."

California has a diverse renewable energy portfolio including wind, hydroelectric, solar, geothermal and biomass sources. The state imports about one-fourth of its daily energy needs from other regions according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

California joins Hawaii in committing to use carbon-free energy by 2045.

ON THE COVER

Merom Generating Station Safety Week's keynote speaker asks others to do their part to end distracted driving.



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ENTREPRENEUR SEMINAR: Speaker, author and executive coach Caroline Dowd-Higgins and Lisa Whitman, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Digital Stories Media Group presented at Hoosier Energy to a local group of female entrepreneurs looking to grow their business through digital storytelling.

Female entrepreneurs improve storytelling

According to a 2015 study by Microsoft Corporation the human attention span is approximately eight seconds – less than that of a goldfish. Based on this, savvy entrepreneurs engage their customers by leveraging the power of digital storytelling.

In late August, speaker, author and executive coach Caroline Dowd-Higgins and Lisa Whitman, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Digital Stories Media Group, presented at Hoosier Energy. They spoke to a local group of female entrepreneurs looking to grow their business through digital storytelling.

Dowd-Higgins explained how to share your company or brand's compelling story through video to attract your audience. Whitman helps clients find their authentic voice, allowing them to define their message and brand.

Together, the presenters taught those in attendance how to tell their brand's story simply by using a smart phone. This fun and interactive session helped attendees put together a personal story video ready to post to social media platforms to increase engagement in their individual brand. [E](#)

Hurricane rains wash coal-ash out of landfill

As Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina it's progression slowed bringing record rainfall to the region.

Duke Energy operates a coal-ash landfill at the L.V. Sutton Power Plant near Wilmington, N. C. The plant has been converted to burn natural gas.

In the Sept. 17, issue of the Wall Street Journal, a report said Duke Energy had 2,000 cubic

yards, or two-thirds of an Olympic-size swimming pool, of coal ash wash out of the landfill into a containment ditch and spilled into nearby Lake Sutton. The lake feeds into the Cape Fear River.

Duke Energy has begun repairs to the landfill to contain the area.

The power station recorded about 30 inches of rain during a three-day period.

MEROM GENERATING STATION



HE photo

FOCUS ON RELIABILITY: A backup step-up transformer was delivered by rail to the Merom Generating Station.

Transformer to help improve reliability

Backup transformer stored on-site will improve response if current transformer needs replaced

MEROM, Ind.

If the step-up transformer at the Merom Generating Station fails, it can take as long as a year to repair or replace. It's best to take precautions in advance and have the equipment already purchased and waiting. This saves time and money in the event of an emergency outage. To improve reliability for member co-ops, Hoosier Energy has a back-up transformer on location. Early in September, a spare transformer was transported from Mexico and delivered to the Merom Generating Station in Sullivan, Ind. by rail.

Once on site, crews began working to unload the 283,475 pound transformer on Aug. 8 onto an eight-axle transporter using

a hydraulic slide system. The transformer was then transported to the concrete pad adjacent to the primary substation at the plant, where it will reside until needed.

Since this transformer can serve several sites, relocation time will vary with its destination – ranging from 2.5 weeks to a month. The process of specifying, manufacturing, ordering and receiving a transformer of this magnitude can easily take a year.

In the case of an emergency outage, trying to expedite the process to obtain a replacement transformer tends to increase the costs and mistakes.

Mark Hall, Hoosier Energy's Substation Design Engineer, said, "In short, it is wise and responsible to be prepared. In this case, we save 11 months and possibly hun-

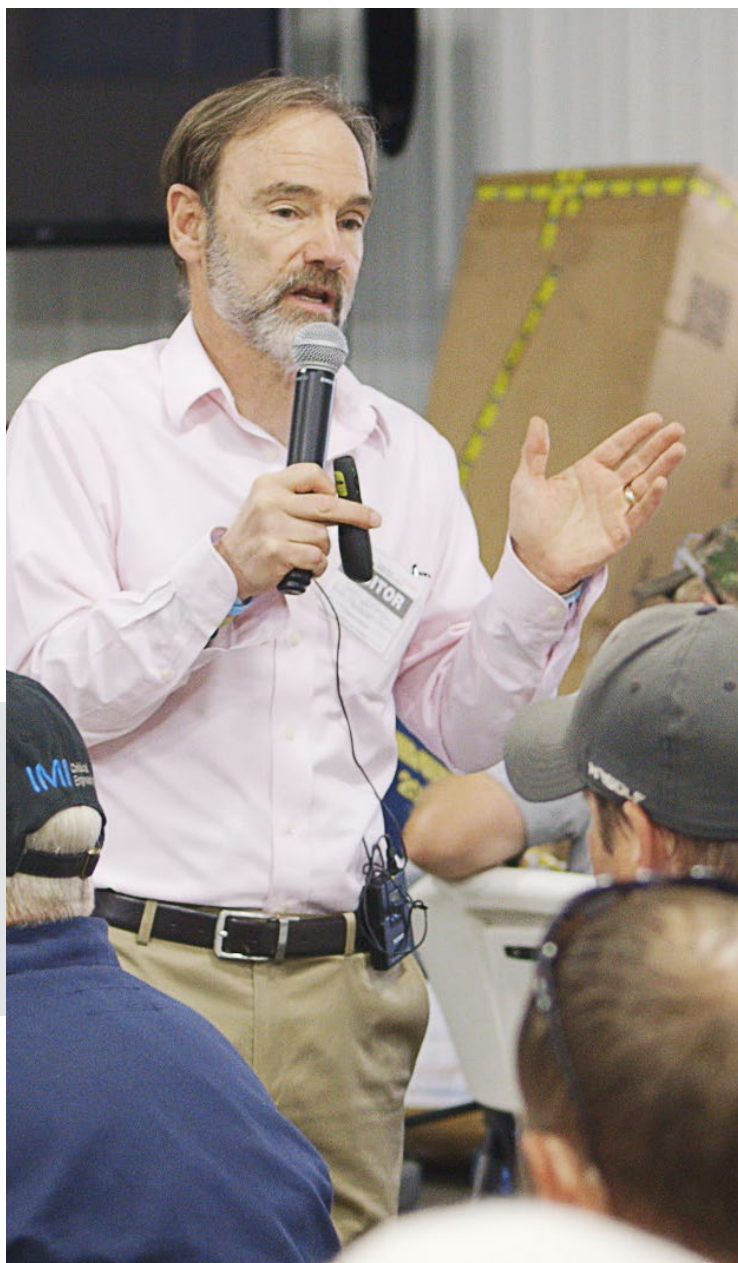
dreds of thousands of dollars."

"Having this spare on hand reduces our outage time, thereby increasing our reliability and minimizing our need to purchase power," he added.

A prolonged outage at this level restricts maintenance practices, which in turn, adversely affects reliability on the entire system – including our service to our cooperatives.

The delivery of this transformer prompted an overall inspection of the health and condition of the railroad spur coming into the Merom Generating Station. The subsequent upgrades will serve future deliveries into the plant and assure that this transformer can be relocated elsewhere should the need arise. [EL](#)

COVER STORY



SAFE BY CHOICE: Keynote speaker during the Merom Safety Week, Joel Feldman asked everyone to help end distracted driving.

HE photo

MEROM SAFETY WEEK

SAFE BY CHOICE

Joel Feldman's daughter was killed by a distracted driver. Since that day he simply asks others to do their part to...

END DISTRACTED DRIVING

The keynote speaker at this year's Merom Safety Week travels the continent to discuss a topic close to his life.

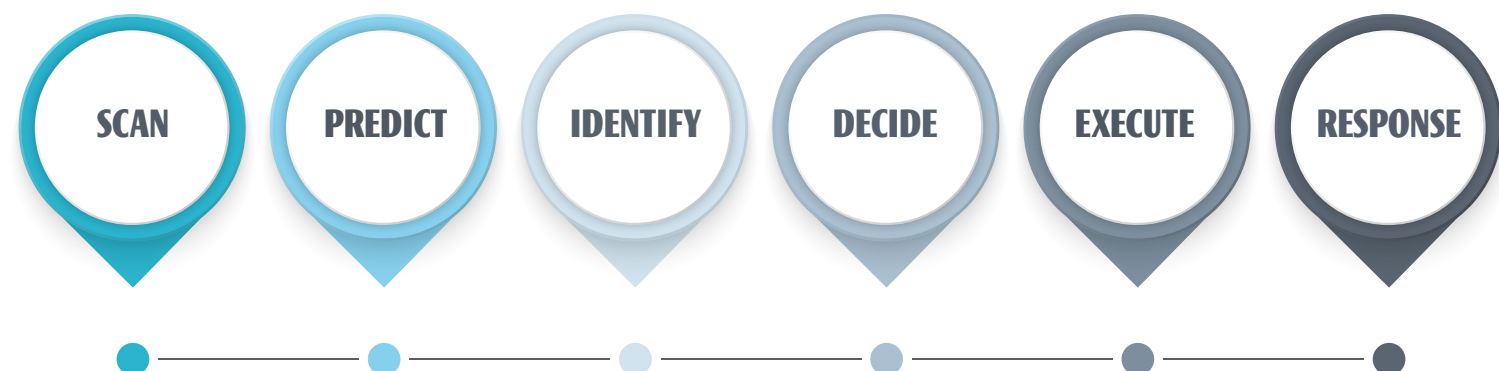
Joel Feldman, has been a lawyer for 37 years but his topic was not about lawsuits. Nine years ago, Feldman lost his 21 year-old daughter to a distracted driver. She was crossing the street, in a crosswalk, during broad daylight when a 58 year-old man looked down to reach for his GPS and entered the intersection at 45 mph.

Feldman's daughter died on the way to the hospital. >>

MEROM SAFETY WEEK

Safety when behind the wheel

Joel Feldman suggests using the anagram SPIDER to be a safe driver.



Scan your driving path from side to side, looking for potential obstacles in your path.

Predict actions from other drivers. Are they weaving? Do they see you? Will they pull out in front of you?

Identify risks. A child playing ball close to the road could suddenly run into the road after the ball.

Decide what you need to do to remain safe.

Execute a Response that keeps you and others safe. This must all be done within a few seconds. This cannot be accomplished if you are driving distracted.

A car traveling at 55 MPH will travel, on average, 80 feet per second. In the four seconds it takes to look at your phone and read a text message, you have traveled the length of a football field without looking at the road. Feldman asked the audience if they would close their eyes for four seconds while driving. No one raised their hand. Feldman continued, "Yet, we feel comfortable reading a text."

"Driving is about respect," said Feldman. "Respect for others on the road, respect for their loved ones, and respect for your own loved ones. People may consider themselves safe drivers, but are they really just lucky drivers? One day the luck will run out."

Two-thirds of 18 year-old drivers do not text and drive. It has become a social norm for this age group to not text and drive because they have been targeted for years with the messaging

of how distracted driving can cost lives. Yet, 38 percent of the American workforce feels that they need to be available at all times for work, including drive time. This is a self-inflicted demand as most companies have policies against distracted driving.

Driving should be "your uninterrupted time," encouraged Feldman. He continues, "Stop making excuses. Reclaim the time in the car as a time to unwind and be out of reach of distractions from work, family or other sources."

Distractions can include texting, eating, looking up directions or anything that takes your eyes and your concentration off the road. Feldman said, "Show your family and other drivers the respect they deserve by keeping your eyes on the road at all times. End distracted driving." [EL](#)

"Driving is about respect. Respect for others on the road, respect for their loved ones, and respect for your own loved ones. People may consider themselves safe drivers, but are they really just lucky drivers? One day the luck will run out."

Joel Feldman
Keynote speaker

MEROM SAFETY WEEK

☆ Safety All-Stars ☆

Employees recognized for their efforts through the Safety Recognition Program



HE photo

SAFETY ALL STARS: From left: Ernie Russell, Justin Rice, Kenny Goggins, Tommy Lammers, John Sneed, Scott DeMoss, Lonnie Bedwell, Kriss Miller, Bob Forbus, Eric Wilson, Greg Welsh, Luke McKinney, Mark VanMeter, Larry Snellenberger, Brett Burkett, Josh Springer and Bob Pippin.

Not shown: B.A. Pence, Steve Blair, Mike Dayhoff, Jordan Rash, Tommy Harrison, Robert Monroe, Evan Lewellyn, Clay Pinkston, Todd Chenowith.

Employees at the Merom Generating Station recently completed a week of safety awareness.

Throughout the week, employees attended safety-related events. The top 25 employees to earn safety points through the Safety Recognition Program were recognized as Merom's Safety All-Stars.

Engineering and Performance Manager Chad Cornelius says employee All-Stars are individuals who have gone above and beyond.

"They have completed required safety training, attended additional safety trainings, participated on safety improvement teams, identified unsafe conditions or equipment and took action to ensure our employees are safer when they're at work so we can all go home safe to our families," said Cornelius.

In addition to recognizing the Safety All-Stars, there was a Safety Recognition Program gift card drawing. Award winners were Justin Rice and Jordan Rash. [EL](#)

"(These employees) have completed required safety training... and took action to ensure our employees are safer when they're at work so we can all go home safe to our families."

Chad Cornelius, Engineering and Performance Manager

MEROM SAFETY WEEK

Safety fair provides valuable health information

More than 100 employees visited the health and safety fair during Merom Generating Station's Safety Week. Vendors provided information and demonstrations of safety products and health information.

Representatives from various companies took part in the safety fair including:

■ A Milwaukee Tool representative showed safety features of many of their tools.

■ Milburn's Health Mart Pharmacy and Home Health Center displayed natural remedies and were available to discuss potential health benefits.

■ Staggs Safety Equipment passed out safety glasses to those in attendance.

■ Indiana Vein Specialists offered complimentary vein screening and discussed the importance of using compression socks while standing to prevent blood clots.

■ Mark Grundman, of Grundman's Shoes shared the benefits of custom fit insoles, boot fittings and the importance of appropriate footwear.

■ Local health services offered blood pressure checks, glucose level checks and spirometry test.

■ IBEW Local 1391 was on hand to display safety services available.

■ Other vendors present were: Appleseed Farms, Fresh Thyme and Petty Pit Stop – who shared healthy recipes. [E](#)



SAFETY BOOTHS:

Top: A representative from Indiana Vein Specialists speaks to a group of employees about varicose veins and blood clots and the importance of compression socks.

Middle: Tommy Harrison has his blood pressure checked.

At left: Mark Grundman of Grundman's Shoes, discusses the importance of the appropriate footwear with employees.

HE photos

WORKFORCE TRAINING

APPRENTICES BEGIN FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM

HOOSIER ENERGY APPRENTICE TRAINING AND SAFETY PROGRAM COMBINES 144 HOURS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION WITH 13 HANDS-ON TECHNICAL SCHOOLS



It was the first day of school for 33 apprentices.

At Hoosier Energy Headquarters, the apprentices received information about the Hoosier Energy Apprentice Training and Safety program (HEATS).

Instructors from Hoosier Energy detailed the commitment required to complete the four-year 8,000-hour program.

In this class are 21 line workers and 12 meter-relay workers from nine member-cooperatives.

John Bullock, Safety and Training Specialist, standing, discussed details of the program to the new class of apprentices. [EL](#)

Co-op annual meeting highlights



HE photos

TOP: The annual meeting had a record attendance with 1,082 member-consumers in attendance.

MIDDLE: The Ross County Jamboree band provided entertainment prior to the business meeting.

BOTTOM: Member-consumers in attendance received tablet sleeve-style cases to promote Jackson Connect – the co-ops fiber internet service.

The Cooperative Difference

Jackson County REMC annual meeting

Meeting details

Jackson County REMC's 80th Annual Meeting was held on July 19 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Brownstown, Ind. Attendance was strong with 1,082 members present. This was the largest recorded member-consumer turnout ever.

Prior to the business meeting, there were a host of entertaining activities, including the Ross County Jamboree band, hand-dipped ice cream, a presentation with animals for children and a food stand. Jackson County REMC organized booths advertising the new fiber internet subsidiary, Jackson Connect, LLC and Hoosier Energy organized the energy efficiency booth.

Jackson County REMC member-consumers in attendance received a gift. Items include: tablet sleeve-style cases, folding chairs and coffee mugs. A prize drawing was conducted for attendees to win gift cards.

Meeting highlights

Jackson County REMC's Chief Executive Officer Mark McKinney's presentation centered on the Fiber at Home project. He also noted that electricity remains Jackson County REMC's core business. A survey conducted by the REMC last year overwhelmingly supported the new fiber internet project.

McKinney outlined the project schedule. The first 300 miles of fiber is complete with 147 homes and businesses connected. Phase 2 will include 600 miles, which is underway and will provide access to 5,000 members. The project is scheduled to take five years. The total project is expected to cost \$62 million with 5,000 miles of fiber to homes and businesses.

Earl Pottschmidt announced his retirement from the Board and was recognized for his 39 years of service.

Election of Officers

District 2: Walter Hunter was elected. He was unopposed.

District 5: Jerry Kelley defeated James Boswell

District 8: David Hall defeated J. Andy Fountain II

Co-op annual meeting highlights



The Cooperative Difference

SCI REMC annual meeting

Meeting details

The 79th South Central Indiana REMC (SCI REMC) annual meeting was held on August 18 at Mooresville High School. Member-consumers arriving at 8 a.m. were offered a hot breakfast and provided time to visit booths – including a booth for the SCI REMC Fiber project. This project will bring fiber internet connection to rural areas that SCI REMC serves, providing many member-consumers high speed internet for the first time.

The meeting began with an invocation by Joe Peden, exiting board member, and presentation of the flags by American Legion 103 and VFW Post 111. As the meeting progressed, winners of \$100 bills were announced. Mike Schultz, attorney for SCI REMC, took the podium to announce Board election results.

Meeting Highlights

James Tanneberger, CEO, discussed future ventures for SCI REMC, including the roll out of fiber connections for member-consumers. Construction was started on June 18, 2018 and they hope to begin connection services on January 1, 2019. This will be a four-year project.

Election of Officers:

District 8: Jim Koch was elected and was unopposed.
District 3: Jim Cox was elected and was unopposed.
District 4: Lisa Prosser was elected, defeating Victor Szczechowski.



HE photos

TOP: An interested member talks with South Central Indiana REMC Chief Executive Officer James Tanneberger.

BOTTOM: The new SCI Fiber project will offer high-speed internet to rural areas of the SCI REMC territory. Members were asked to preregister to determine need and interest.



Softball size hail damages solar array in Greensburg, Ind.

The Center solar site, located east of Greensburg, Ind. along interstate 70, was damaged by a hailstorm on Aug. 25. About half of the panels were affected. The damaged panels are working but are producing significantly less kilowatt hours of energy. The panels are able to withstand golf-ball sized hail moving up to 100 mph and the storms that moved through the area produced softball-sized hail. Repairs are being scheduled by Hoosier Energy.