

APRIL 2020 | Vol. 43, No. 4

ENERGYLINES



GRID EXPANSION

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Find out how the electric utility industry has responded. **PAGE 1**

TOP RESOURCES

The top resources for you and your family related to COVID-19. **PAGE 3**

NRECA ANNUAL MEETING



Submitted by NRECA

MATHESON SPEAKS OF CO-OP LEGISLATIVE WIN WITH RURAL ACT

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting in March, CEO Jim Matheson shared a success story of cooperatives working cooperatively.

Co-op leaders worked with NRECA in 2019 to show lawmakers the value of passing the RURAL Act. The act, saving the co-op tax-exempt status, passed in December.

"It is a great feeling, for me and for the entire team at NRECA, when we get to work with you to put a win on the board that means something in the communities we serve together," said Matheson.

If the act did not pass, some co-ops were facing the prospect of paying taxes this year. Any co-op that accepted grants to restore service after storms or bring broadband service to rural communities risked losing its tax-exempt status by exceeding the 15 percent limit on non-member revenue.

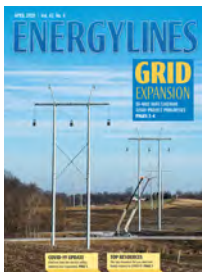
ALONG THOSE LINES

Utility-scale battery storage topic of NRECA podcast

A recent podcast by NRECA tackles the topic of battery storage as electric utilities are deploying large battery systems to store power. The discussion focuses on how co-ops are integrating storage, and how they are using it to serve their members.

ON THE COVER

Conductor has been pulled for a section of the Duff/Coleman 345kV grid expansion project.



ENERGY INDUSTRY NEWS

The U.S. energy sector — like everything else — is experiencing an unprecedented disruption as a result of the novel coronavirus. The reporting at UtilityDive.com shows the impact COVID-19 is having on the entire utility sector. The information on the site is timely as it is updated daily.

Electric co-op response to COVID-19

Stemming from the effects of the rapid spread of COVID-19, on March 20, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) sent a letter to House and Senate leaders in Washington, D.C. asking for Rural Utilities Service flexibility, rural broadband support and co-op energy disconnect moratoria.

The following is taking place effecting Hoosier Energy facilities and employees:

Half of the transmission operations workforce will remain at home and available for call-out to perform critical/emergency work as needed while the remaining half will report to their normal operational or designated location. Those two groups will swap positions every 14 days.

A minimum number of employees required to maintain continuous operation at Merom and Holland has been identified. A two-shift operation with employees reporting to the site for two weeks at a time will be incorporated while the remaining two shifts will remain at home and available for call-out if needed. This schedule will run on a two-week cycle, followed by a shift rotation.

Natural gas-fired sites will be operated remotely and operations personnel deployed to the sites as needed. **EL**



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energylines

Eight ways Hoosier Energy works to succeed

These are the strategic priorities that the Hoosier Energy workforce strives to achieve every day.

EMERGING
TECHNOLOGIES

MEMBER
FOCUS

RISK
MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

COMPETITIVE
RATES

COST MANAGEMENT
AND PERFORMANCE

SUPPLY
PORTFOLIO

OPERATIONAL
EXCELLENCE

DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT

Report highlights energy efficiency program success


Information transitions to a digital publication, quarterly updates to be distributed

The Demand Side Management (DSM) annual report focuses on program descriptions and data, as well as highlights from the year, the most significant being in the lighting programs. The residential lighting program accounted for nearly 90 percent of 2019 measures, with cooperatives securing more than 9,000 LEDs and members buying an additional 16,000 bulbs through the lighting store.

On the commercial and industrial side, 90 projects received incentives that resulted in almost 16,000 MWh in energy savings and 15.23 MW of winter peak demand reduction.

“Both lighting programs have great potential for growth, which is evident because we’re still seeing such a high take rate,” Manager of Energy Management Solutions Blake Kleaving said.


Along with the annual report, Hoosier Energy’s marketing department will generate and distribute a quarterly DSM report based on members’ feedback. The first one should be available around the end of April.

“The addition of a quarterly report makes DSM information more accessible so members can make informed decisions about how to proceed with their programs,” Kleaving says. “Members can easily go back and see where the programs are either trailing or needing a little help and make adjustments throughout the year.” 

Survey results drive DSM annual report transition to digital

Supported by feedback from marketing and member services managers, the 2019 Demand Side Management (DSM) Annual Report is now exclusively a digital publication.

This change was instigated by survey results that supported an annual report with streamlined information that is accessible online. For the few member cooperatives wanting a hardcopy version, the annual report also can be downloaded and printed.

“We made changes based on feedback from our members, and that’s how we’re going to continue with our programs and services moving forward,” says Blake Kleaving, manager of Energy Management Solutions. “This change is part of becoming more member focused and engaging members in a different way.” 

ONLINE EXTRA

>> View the DSM annual report at:
<https://hoosierenergy.com/reports/2019-dsm-annual-report/>

Top resources for COVID-19 information

As COVID-19 spreads across the nation, up-to-date information is valuable. These are the top resources we recommend for timely information about COVID-19 that affects the utility sector and your family.



YOUR HEALTH:

CDC: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shares information and comprehensive resources on detecting symptoms and testing, preparing your family, and caring for others. The CDC is the official national source for data about COVID-19, both for preparations and documentation of cases.

COOPERATIVE NEWS:

NRECA: [Cooperative.com](https://www.nreca.org)

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association provides co-op updates every few days. This includes changes to new director training dates as well as COVID-19 response from co-ops across the nation.

STATE NEWS:

Indiana: [in.gov/coronavirus](https://www.in.gov/coronavirus)

The Indiana State Department of Health posts daily updates about COVID-19's impact in the state, which includes a tally of diagnosed cases per county, as well as resources across the state.

Illinois: [dph.illinois.gov](https://www.dph.illinois.gov)

The Illinois Department of Public Health operates in the same way as Indiana, sharing COVID-19 updates in Illinois, as well as a tally of diagnoses and deaths per county.

DUFF COLEMAN TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Grid expansion

The Duff/Coleman 345 kV project will span 30 miles when complete. Crews were recently pulling conductor over I-64 near Dale, Ind.

Republic Transmission (through a Hoosier Energy and LS Power partnership) together with Big Rivers Electric Corporation, have completed about five miles of the single circuit 345 kilovolt Duff/Coleman line. Spanning 30 miles, this transmission line will cross sections of Dubois County, Indiana; Spencer County, Indiana; and Hancock County, Kentucky.

Recently, conductor was pulled through structures spanning over I-64. Pulling conductor is a process that begins with a rope, or straw line. The straw line is fed through massive pullies attached to each H-frame structure. The straw line helps guide the conductor into position. To help keep the conductor level as it travels through the pullies, a device called a gator is used.

For this project, conductor is pulled through 6-7 miles at a time using reels of wire that have 2 miles of conductor spooled. As one spool of conductor ends, it needs to be attached to the next spool to meet the desired length for the pull. Dynamite is used to fuse the wire together.

"We do this at the pulling station. The connection made is 200 percent stronger than a compression connection and 200 percent better for amperage," said Jon Osborn of Republic Transmission.

The project is estimated to provide over \$1 billion in benefits, which far exceeds the cost for the project. Republic Transmission is leveraging its technical capabilities in the construction and operation of the project, benefitting from Hoosier Energy's existing local operations, maintenance experience and capabilities. [E](#)



PULLING LINES: At top, from H-structure. A crew member

project moves forward



The bullwheel:

A double bull wheel tensioner is used to pull lines up to seven miles in length. This machine pulls conductor through the H-structures at 25 percent of the tension of the conductor is rated to withstand.

From left: Jon Osborn of Republic Transmission explains how conductor is guided using large pulleys. A pulley is being attached to the top of a tower as conductor is pulled through the H-structures.



HE Photo

ENERGY EDUCATION: Cody Christianson, a first year line apprentice at Clark County REMC, center, works with Charlestown High School students as they learn about the electric grid. Christianson discusses how and where electric utilities place a power pole near a stream or river.

Co-op helps high school students learn about electric utility jobs

According to the Indiana Electric Cooperative's recent workforce development study, over 25 percent of employees in the state's cooperative utility industry are expected to retire within the next 10 years. Clark County REMC is working closely with a high school on a project in hopes that the experience will inspire students to pursue careers in the electric utility industry.

The semester-long project teaches students about the work Indiana co-ops are doing in Guatemala through Project Indiana.

"Through this project, co-op employees serve as the subject matter experts, but it's all STEM-focused and helps students meet graduation requirements," said Brian Omerso, Manager of Marketing at Clark County REMC.

During the spring semester, students are constructing small-scale solar panels and wind-turbine models that generate

electricity to power a light bulb. This project shows students how the grid works and what it takes to provide power to communities like their own.

Omerso says the project is designed to show students what kind of impact can be made at home and around the world.

Through the construction of the models, students will use geometry to determine how many power poles to install — including the best location for pole placement. They will apply engineering skills as they design a simple power system. The goal is to construct a power system that will energize a lightbulb.

Clark County REMC employees are committed to their community. This is why they are helping students learn valuable hands-on skills through this project. Co-op employees work with students for three hours each week, helping more than 100 students. [E](#)

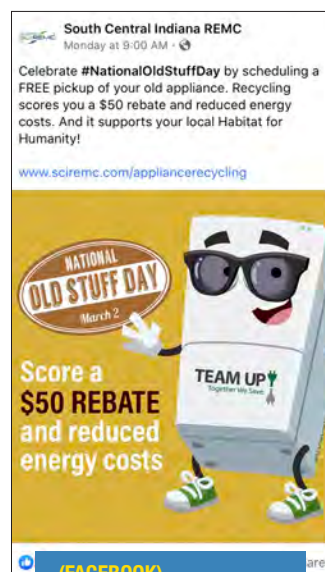
Social session

Clark County REMC provided tips to help member-consumers stay safe while charging electronic devices.

SCI REMC reminded member-consumers on National Old Stuff Day to consider recycling their old refrigerator through its appliance recycling program.



(FACEBOOK)
Clark County REMC



(FACEBOOK)
SCI REMC



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Kleaving named manager of Energy Management Solutions

Marketing department head has family co-op history stemming back to his grandfather

When Blake Kleaving started his first day as manager of Energy Management Solutions in the marketing department, he already had a long history in the cooperative world – from his grandfather, Louis Evrard, serving on the Southern Indiana REC (now Southern Indiana Power) board to his father Randy's own SIP and Indiana Electric Cooperatives board representation.

But Kleaving's personal involvement didn't happen until 2009, when he was selected for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and as the Indiana representative for the NRECA Youth Leadership Council.



Kleaving studied marketing and

finance at the University of Evansville and earned his master's degree in communications, public relations

and energy policy from Purdue University. He interned for multiple agencies, including two summers at Hoosier Energy.

After several industry jobs, Kleaving accepted a position in Hoosier Energy's marketing

department, before moving to a member services position at Daviess-Martin County REMC. He returned to Hoosier Energy in February.

"Hoosier Energy has just always felt like home because it was my first internship," Kleaving says. "I'm really happy to be back and in this role."  



Kleaving

NEWS BRIEFLY

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

Hoosier Energy communications team earns national awards from NRECA contest

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has recognized EnergyLines as the best internal publication in its nationwide "Spotlight on Excellence" contest.

The Spotlight on Excellence Awards Program recognizes a body of outstanding work produced by electric co-op communication and marketing professionals across the cooperative network.

"The communications team and I are proud to receive recognition for EnergyLines. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we do producing it," said Communication Coordinator Eric Neely.

Hoosier Energy's Communication Coordinator Trina Pardue also received an award for best event. Pardue coordinated the Electrify Indiana event that took place at Headquarters last fall.

"I am honored to be recognized for the hard work I put in to make the Electrify Indiana event world-class," said Pardue.

"The recognition our communications team has received shows we are producing industry-leading work for the cooperative network," said Communications Manager Greg Seiter.



Early spring day in member territory

South of I-64 in Dale, Ind. the rural landscape is lined with power poles as winter overcast skies break showing faint blue skies.