

# ENERGYLINES

News from Hoosier Energy for members and employees. | AUGUST 2016 | Vol. 39, No. 8



## SUCCESS ON THE RAILS

Merom Station and Indiana Rail Road  
share a transload facility. | **PAGE 3**

## A CONVERSATION WITH STEVE DIECKMANN

Hoosier Energy Board  
Director for six years.

**SEE STORY, PAGE 8**



## Matheson begins tenure as CEO of NRECA

Jim Matheson, the former seven-term Utah congressman, began his tenure as CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) on July 19.



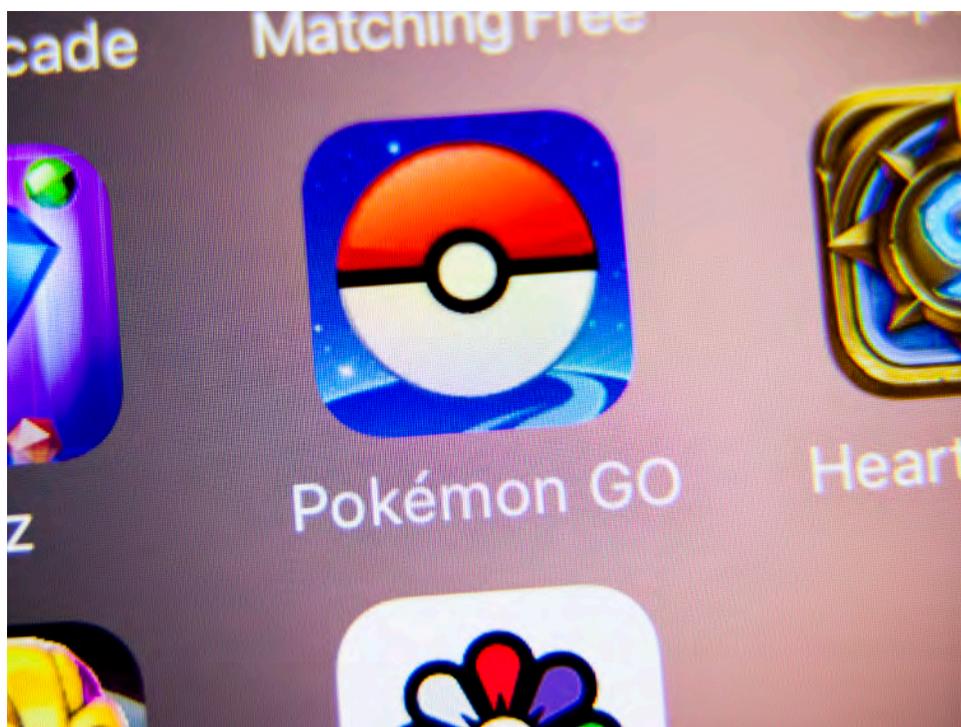
Matheson

Matheson was selected for the position last month by NRECA's board of directors. He succeeds Jo Ann Emerson, who fell ill in August 2015 after serving as CEO since March 2013. Emerson's chief of staff and NRECA Chief Operating Officer Jeffrey Connor served as interim CEO and will continue with the association as COO.

## Bill would allow co-ops to use drones

The U.S. Senate passed an FAA spending bill in July that allows electric co-ops to use unmanned aerial vehicles, popularly known as drones, to perform routine maintenance and respond to natural disasters. If President Obama signs the bill, as expected, the ensuing law will help cooperatives reduce risk for their employees, shorten outage times and save money for member-owners.

Source: NRECA



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## ELECTRICAL SAFETY URGED AS POKÉMON GO GOES VIRAL

Electric companies across the nation – including cooperatives – are urging extreme caution to anyone playing the Pokémon Go reality game. The app that went viral a few weeks ago is causing major concern for organizations that oversee critical infrastructure.

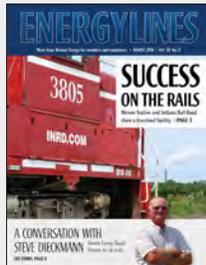
Indiana Electric Cooperatives (IEC), along with many co-ops, investor owned utilities and municipals, issued warnings to the public to stay away from power lines, transformers and substations. The reality game draws players into dangerous situations, allowing players to train, battle and capture Pokémon through “geocaching.” Players use their phones to hunt the characters hiding in the real world. Online threads are reporting the “electric” type Pokémon can be found near electrical sites.

Sources: IEC, NRECA

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

## ON THE COVER

On July 14 Hoosier Energy joined Indiana Rail Road (INRD) and the Nelson Brothers in dedicating the Merom Transload facility. The \$2.5M rail-to-truck facility, located on Hoosier Energy property, creates a more efficient supply chain and has added four jobs to the local economy.



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## Meeting in summary

NRCO Board Meeting ■ July 29 ■ Hoosier Energy Headquarters

### Attendees

National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO) Board members (approximately 30 attending either in-person or via teleconference).

### Meeting purpose

During their quarterly board meeting NRCO board members approved new directors and learned about emerging trends in renewables.

### Meeting Summary

Todd Bartling, Vice President of Renewables Development at

National Renewables Cooperative Organization provided insight about the corporations active in renewable energy.

Eric Spigelman, a renewables developer at National Renewables Cooperative Organization presented on the wind energy pricing overview for the PJM and MISO markets.

Extension of production tax credit continues to drive pricing in the short term.

Hoosier Energy wind PPA projects continue to remain competitive compared to current and future projects.



**FACILITY TOUR:** Hoosier Energy Vice President of Management Services Bob Richhart, center, led a tour for National Renewables Cooperative Organization board members following their board meeting at Hoosier Energy headquarters.

HE photo

## COVER STORY

# Transload facility partnership a success

## SULLIVAN, IN

On July 14 Hoosier Energy joined Indiana Rail Road (INRD) and the Nelson Brothers, who provide services and solutions to open pit mining operations, in dedicating the Merom Transload facility. This \$2.5 million rail-to-truck facility, located on Hoosier Energy property, creates a more efficient supply chain and has added four jobs to the local economy.

Hoosier Energy and the Indiana Rail Road began developing the facilities concept in 2012. Putting to use existing assets including Indiana Rail Road's main line and Hoosier Energy's existing property and rail spur, the project was formalized in 2015.

"This Transload Facility is a great example of the 25-year partnership between Indiana Rail Road and Hoosier Energy," said Will Kauffman, Hoosier Energy Manager of Fuels. "We both recognize that through collaboration we can better serve our members, customers and the residents of southern Indiana and Illinois."

The value this facility provides can be seen in the reduction of transportation costs. Soda ash used at the Merom Generating Station, to reduce sulfuric acid emissions, is mined more than 1,300 miles away in Wyoming. It is then transported to Indianapolis and sent by truck to the station.

The new transload facility gets the soda ash delivered 2.5 miles from the station. This transportation improvement reduces the delivery cost annually by \$250,000.

"The savings is just another example of Hoosier Energy identifying sustainable cost-management measures in order to continue providing our 18 member cooperatives with reliable and affordable power," said Rob Horton, Hoosier Energy Vice President of Power Production. [E](#)



HE photo

**DEDICATING THE FACILITY:** At the dedication of the Merom transload facility is, from left: Tim Zeli of the Nelson Brothers, Peter Mills of Indiana Rail Road and Rob Horton of Hoosier Energy.



HE photo

**THE FACILITY:** The Merom transload facility transfers a variety of materials from rail to truck fostering transportation cost savings due to its relative location to the Hoosier Energy Merom Generating Station.

# INDIANA YOUTH TOUR

TO WASHINGTON D.C.

## Youth tour nation's capital

### Trip helps build future cooperative advocates

Cami Rhea, a bright, energetic high school senior with an infectious smile, zips up her last bag as she prepares for a week-long adventure. All she has is one bag and one carry on as she leaves her Martin County home. The first stop – Indianapolis. Her destination by bus is our nation's capital. She is on the Indiana Youth Tour.

“On the first day I was extremely excited and nervous. I didn't know anyone or what to expect but I knew it was going to be amazing,” said Rhea.

The tour took a group of 81 high school seniors from across the state to experience parts of the country many have never seen. The group headed east through Ohio to the rolling mountains of Pennsylvania. The scenery began to change – so did the elevation.

“The mountains were gorgeous – so different than all the corn we see in Indiana,” said Rhea.





*“I will take all of these experiences with me throughout my entire life.”*

Cami Rhea,  
Daviss-Martin REMC member

*Photos submitted by IEC*

**TWO GREAT MINDS:** Cami Rhea sits next to a sculpture of Albert Einstein at his memorial in Washington D.C. during the Indiana Youth Tour. Below, Rhea works with other Youth Tour teens as they work through mock scenario facing leaders in our nation’s capitol.

While in the Keystone State the group visited the Flight 93 National Memorial and Gettysburg National Military Park – gaining perspective of significant events that the nation has faced through the years.

Next stop – Washington DC.

While in the Beltway, the group visited numerous memorials, museums and historic locations including the White House.

On the fifth day, the students gathered for the National Youth Tour Rally. The excitement level was high as the Indiana delegation joined other students from across the country. Together, they were able to network, gain industry knowledge and learn how cooperatives communicate with leadership based in Washington D.C.

The tour came to an end after visiting the home of George Washington’s estate and gardens at Mount Vernon. Traveling



by bus all night back to Indiana and on to her home outside of Loogootee, Cami reflects on the trip.

“I will take all of these experiences with

me throughout my entire life,” she said.

The trip was epic, the sights memorable and the cooperative difference shown to a new generation of cooperative advocates. 

## CONSUMER OWNED GENERATION

Toolkit helps consumers work with their cooperative to know what to expect

After months of work, the Distributed Generation Committee of Hoosier Energy's Member Manager's Association has put together an abundance of information materials on consumer-owned generation.

As distributed generation gains both popularity and interest, the materials are designed to help provide consumers who may be considering adding generation to their homes or businesses with unbiased, factual information.

"Too often, we find consumers don't know what to expect or wait until it's too late to ask for advice from their cooperative," said Don Schilling, chair of the Distributed Generation Committee and President/General Manager of Decatur County REMC. "These materials are factual and provide an abundance of information on what to expect or consider."

### The toolkit includes the following

- Policy letter – an open letter on what to consider before installing a system
- Questions to ask a potential solar panel installer
- Considerations before a distributed generation system is installed
- Myths v. Facts about distributed generation systems
- Glossary of Terms
- Consumer compensation
- Renewable energy avoided cost
- Interconnection documents



## Live line demo now available on YouTube

The video team at Hoosier Energy has produced a video showing use of the Live Line Demo portable demonstration kit. This video can be used by member cooperatives to show consumers the importance of being safe around electric lines.

The video can be found on the Hoosier Energy YouTube page at: [Youtube.com/MyHoosierEnergy](https://www.youtube.com/MyHoosierEnergy)





HE photos

**TEAM BUILDING:** An exercise during the Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development (CALD) program helps teams improve communication as they work together to reach their goal. From left is: Mary Jo Thomas, Whitewater Valley REMC; Josh Bohlsen, Clark County REMC; John Gates, Johnson County REMC; Marty Lasure, Bartholomew County REMC; James Buhler, Southeastern Indiana REMC and Brad Pritchett, Jackson County REMC.

**BELOW:** CALD participants take a moment to discuss lessons learned during the exercise.

## Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development

# Class of 2016 begins leadership journey

Developing future co-op leaders is the driving force behind the Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development (CALD) program. This year there are 12 participants representing 11 Hoosier Energy cooperatives.

Participants are divided into three teams where they work on a major project throughout the year called the Action Learning Project. New for 2016 is the way topics are selected and vetted. The member management association selects the topics so participants can remain focused on the work and research itself.

An integral part of the CALD program relates to teamwork and team building exercises. One exercise this year had each

team identify someone to lead the group on a series of tasks where the main goal was group communication.

“This exercise helped me learn how vital effective communications is to successful team projects,” said Brad Pritchett, Operations and Engineering Manager at Jackson County REMC.

The program brings together academia and industry experts with an emphasis on the cooperative business model. Member managers select employees to attend the program. Faculty from the I.U. Kelley School of Business teach the coursework, which includes formal learning along with an emphasis on action-learning projects that add value for the co-ops. [E](#)



# Out of the Board Room

## STEVE DIECKMANN

A humble Steve Dieckmann is quick to list off the things he doesn't do, or have. "I have no man cave, no sports car, we don't travel and I don't hunt," he says, suggesting his life story is mundane. But this Hoosier Energy board director, who is a 17-year director of Decatur County REMC, has a unique depth and breadth about his character. Each day for Dieckmann is about three commitments: faith, family and farming.

His love for farm ground and all things about it began as a child when Dieckmann played with toy tractors in his mom's garden. At the young age of 12, he and his 16-year-old brother Danny would start their own business, renting ground for a farming venture. Together they raised their first crops of corn and beans on 150 acres of ground. No child's play.

His wife, Carren of 40 years, says he finally grew into the man-sized boots he put on as a child, and he's never taken them off.

"He still likes playing in the dirt," she says. "I'm a dirty old man" he jests, saying dirt literally falls off his clothes in chunks after a hard day's work. His calloused hands >>



*HE photo*

**ON THE FARM:** Steve Dieckmann's farm is the original 120-acre farm bought by his parents in 1951 – the year Steve was born. The farm is just a stone's throw away from the Napoleon Substation, owned and operated by Hoosier Energy.

and hammer-blackened fingernails are proof of long, strenuous hours. He works a typical 60- to 65-hour week on the farm, more during planting and harvesting season. His routine day starts around 6:30 in the morning, just after devotions and breakfast. He comes out of the fields anywhere from 6 to 9 p.m.

Dieckmann's farm is the original 120-acre farm bought by his parents in 1951 – the year Steve was born. The farm is just a stone's throw away from the Napoleon Substation, owned and operated by Hoosier Energy. He points to the nearby communication tower as he strolls from building to building with Leroy the farm dog close by. Some of the buildings are full of massive machinery; another houses several head of feeder calves that scramble as he slides open the door.

Just beyond the cattle barn sits another farming passion – the truck that houses his side business. For 11 years, Steve has used his “extra time” to install drainage tile. “The kids gave me a fishing pole so I would have a hobby, but I just love the trenching equipment.”

Then it's off to the small chicken coop – a hobby for Carren and a ding to Steve's pride. “I'm not a chicken farmer,” he's quick to point out. But on this day in mid-July, he's gracious to help gather some eggs – a small bounty of six, to be used by Carren in the kitchen.

“Carren is a wonderful cook,” he says bragging on his wife's culinary skills. “I love her meatloaf, lasagna and chili,” and the list goes on. “She cooks dinner for us and the work crew every day,” he adds.



HE photo

**A GOOD “COMBINE-NATION:”** Steve and Carren Dieckmann stand just outside the cab of the combine used on their family farm today. A much earlier version was the setting for his wedding proposal 40 years ago.

## About the series

This is the 12th in a series featuring Hoosier Energy Board of 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.

“As for me, I can burn a hot dog on the grill and run the microwave. That's about it.”

The couple settles in on the loveseat

in the farm house living room, which overlooks a long drive past the grain bins. They each share some of the finer moments from their marriage and family-rearing years.

Steve, one of three boys, is a graduate of Jac-Cen-Del High School. No surprise, he was active in Future Farmers of America, better known as the FFA, where he excelled in soil judging. He also went to vocational school where he learned the trade of electrical wiring.

“I've wired up some things on the farm as a result, but when it comes to motors and such, that is beyond my expertise,” he concedes. But his electrical background would be the catalyst for his assignment with the Air Force Reserves. While his brother was sent to Vietnam, Steve

*“We were having trouble getting the crops in the ground due to weather, when my daughter said, ‘dad, let go. Let God.’ That was a memorable moment in my life.”*

## STEVE DIECKMANN

enlisted at Bakalar Air Force Base in Columbus and was later stationed at Grisom Air Force Base in Peru, working as a Ground Radio Equipment Repairman. “Had the conflict continued, I’m sure I would have been sent on,” he says. He served from 1969 to 1975.

In 1971 he met the love of his life. The young Steve and Carren were both involved in what was called the Rural Youth Program. “We square danced a lot,” she recalls. But it took three months of wooing her before the first date happened. She fondly recalls that date. “It was the Jac-Cen-Del, Batesville sectional game on Feb. 20, and Jac-Cen-Del won.” The couple dated for three years and married in 1975 after she completed nursing school.

The proposal is a classic story, one befitting a farmer, but over the top by most standards.

“Get this. He proposed to me on the combine and he didn’t even stop,” she says. “He had the ring in his pocket.” But wait. There’s more. The two were riding together in the cab of the combine. “So he pulls a washer and a grain of corn out of his pocket and says, ‘will you wear my washer?’ Then he pulls out the ring.

“I still have the corn and the washer in my jewelry box,” she says, scurrying off to retrieve the memorable keepsakes. The story brings a smile to Steve’s face and an



*HE photo*

**ON CALL:** Steve Dieckmann and his wife Carren have reclaimed some of the original family antiques, including this phone that was stored in the attic. It hangs in its original location, and the Dieckmanns remember its original number – “two shorts and a long” ring.

explanation. “We’re simple people. We like it that way.”

The couple is the parents of three children, two daughters and a son. Seven granddaughters, ages 5 to 13, complete the family circle. “I didn’t get to buy any tractors for any grandsons,” Steve says. No worry, he’s got plenty of his own – a mix of Deere, Ford and International, he says. To that Carren replies with a friendly nudge: “When we got married, they were

all red, and my family had green. I like to say I converted him.”

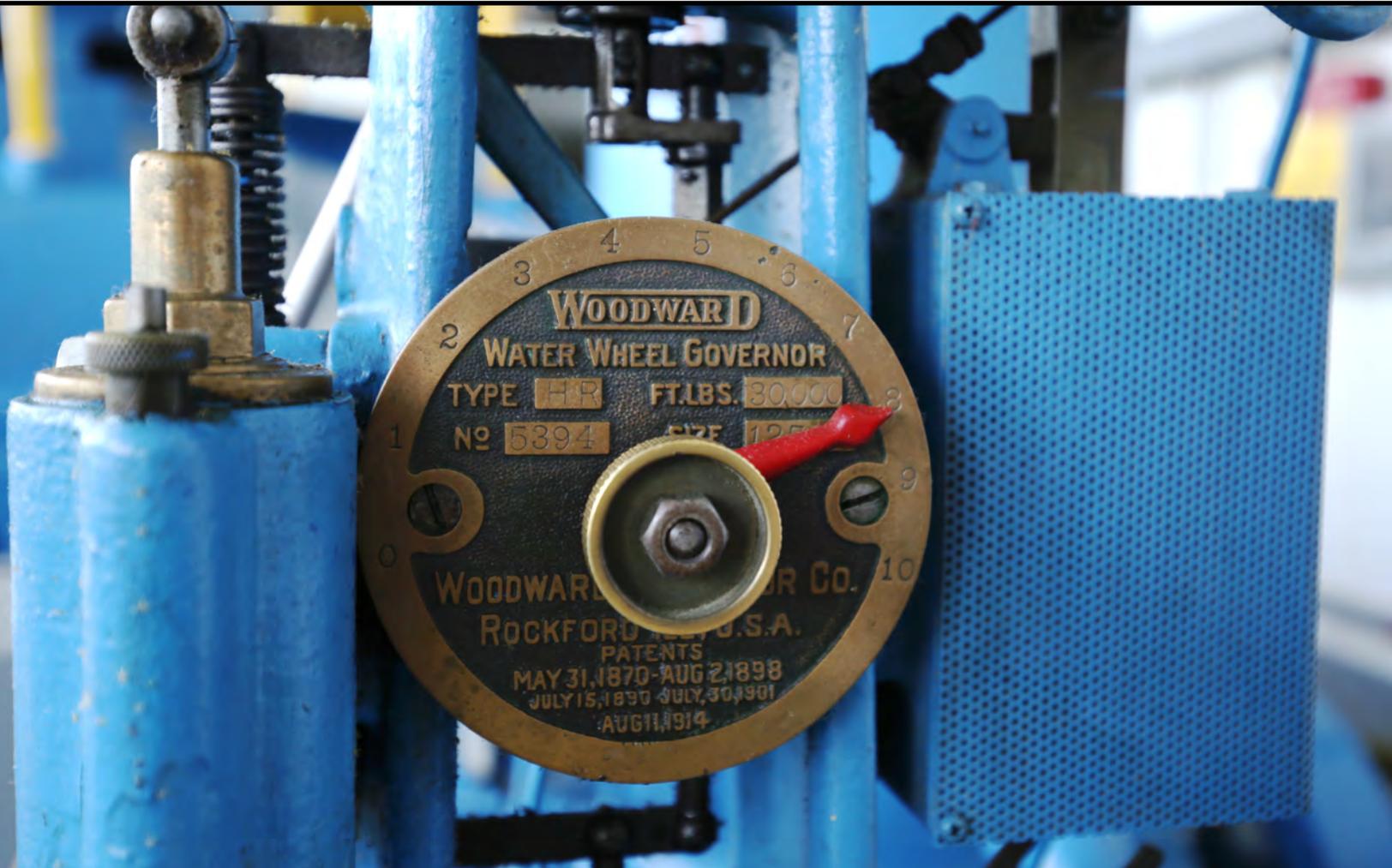
Both Steve and Carren exude a peace about them that transcends everyday weariness. Steve speaks to that, saying he had an “aha” moment in 1998. “We were having trouble getting the crops in the ground that year due to weather, when my daughter said, ‘dad, let go. Let God.’ That was a memorable moment in my life.”

**Q: If you could roll back the clock 40 years, what would you say to a young Steve?** “Be fair and square in everything you do and take chances that are solid chances. As far as farming, today I would say, ‘buy more land.’ But overall, do the best you can do and be happy in the world. We (meaning society) are missing that. How do you achieve that? Have a good background in faith and be content.”

**Q: Do you have even one hobby?** “I like to go on mission trips with my church. I went to Tuscaloosa, Ala. after a tornado; Biloxi with Habitat for Humanity and to St. Louis in the 70s to help victims of the floods. Every time you go on a mission, it’s not about you. You are helping people who really need help. And you find that the skills you don’t have honed, God provides for you. You end up making some great friendships.” [E1](#)

# ENERGYLINES

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## Hydro facility part of 'all-of-the above' generation mix

In 2012 Hoosier Energy finalized a power purchase agreement for electricity produced at a 4-megawatt hydroelectric facility near Dayton, Illinois. The plant produces about 18,000 megawatt-hours annually, enough to power about 1,500 homes. Above shows a water wheel governor that is used to regulate the speed of the turbine.