

ENERGYLINES

PORTAL POWER!

Capacity emergency portal helps
automate notifications. | **PAGE 3**

A CONVERSATION WITH GARY WANINGER

Hoosier Energy Board
Director for two years.

SEE STORY, PAGE 8





Top row, from left: Mary Jo Thomas, Whitewater Valley REMC; John Sutton, UDWI REMC; James Buhler, Southeastern Indiana REMC; Nicole Murphy, Henry County REMC; Chris Hopinger, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative; Tom Ruth, South Central Indiana REMC. Bottom row, from left: John Gates, Johnson County REMC; Todd Hammond, Southern Indiana Power; Marty Lasure, Bartholomew County REMC; Brad Pritchett, Jackson County REMC; Mike Mugler, Clark County REMC and Josh Bohlsen, Clark County REMC.

Graduates recognized for leadership

Developing future co-op leaders is the driving force behind the Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development (CALD) program. In November, the hard work of the second class of 12 graduates representing 12 co-ops was celebrated during a ceremony at the Indiana University Memorial Union. Graduates admitted into the program work in a wide variety of disciplines including member services, engineering, finance and corporate services.

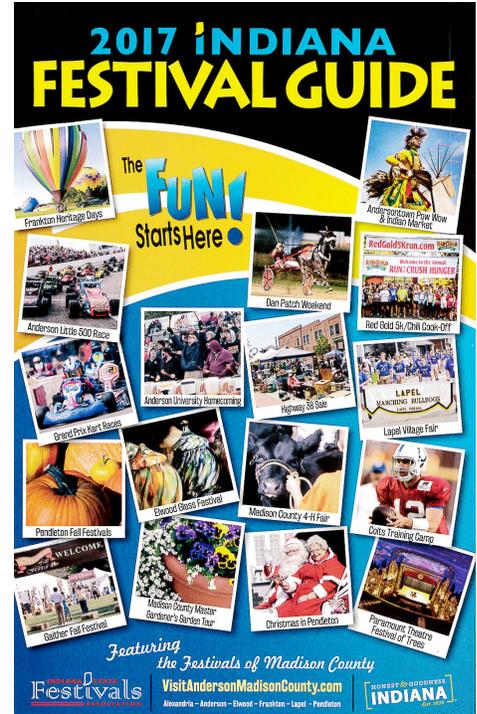
Officials say low natural gas prices ahead

“Natural gas production we think is actually going to go up quite a bit, with relatively low – and stable – prices. That’s going to support higher levels of domestic consumption, especially in the electric power and industrial sectors,” Adam Sieminski, administrator of the Energy Information Administration, (EIA) said in unveiling EIA’s Annual Energy Outlook 2017.

“We’re seeing natural gas production continuing to climb all through this forecast period,” which extends to 2040, Sieminski said Jan. 5 at a Washington, D.C. news conference.

Production was approximately 77 billion cubic feet per day in 2016, according to EIA. Some scenarios in the EIA report take it as high as nearly 140 bcf daily by 2040.

Source: NRECA



Hoosier Energy supports tourism in Indiana

With the arrival of the 2017 Indiana Festival Guide, Hoosier Energy and member cooperatives are supporting Indiana tourism by promoting local events.

It was 1972 when Hoosier Energy published the first Southern Indiana Calendar of events, which listed 41 festivals. In the decades that followed, Hoosier Energy and its member cooperatives teamed up with the Indiana Department of Tourism and in recent years the Indiana State Festival Association to sponsor the more comprehensive annual Indiana Festival Guide.

The 2017 edition of the Festival Guide features 96 pages of listings with more than 600 festivals, craft fairs, holiday shows, historical re-enactments and community celebrations held throughout the year in Indiana.

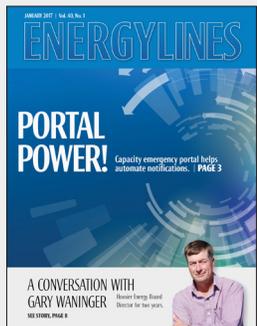
Tourism generates more than \$10 billion in annual spending in Indiana as well as supporting nearly 140,000 jobs.

ENERGYLINES

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

ON THE COVER

Hoosier Energy's new capacity emergency portal keeps members abreast of critical reliability notifications if a capacity emergency appears imminent.



SEND COMMENTS TO

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

BACK ISSUES

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ENERGYLINES EDITORIAL STAFF

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

Mary Lynn Beaver
Communications Specialist
email: mbeaver@hepn.com

Crystal Rogers
Communications Specialist
email: crogers@hepn.com

Chris Johnson
Sr. Video Production Specialist
email: cjohnson@hepn.com

Ben Turner
Sr. Video Production Specialist
email: bturner@hepn.com

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

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

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Coal pile reaches new height at power plant

SULLIVAN, IN

At the Merom Generating Station, the trucks and train cars

arrive daily, delivering tons of coal from southern Indiana.

As it piles up, the black backdrop beckons to the plant – standing ready to supply electricity for plants and factories, homes and businesses for Hoosier Energy's 18-member systems.

Not that long ago, the generating station ran full tilt most of the year, supplying most of the power needed to serve ongoing electricity demand for Hoosier Energy's 18-member systems.

This year, however, the role of coal across the industry changed considerably. Regulatory uncertainty combined with mild weather and low natural gas prices created soft market conditions for coal generation.

In a perfect cost-competitive world, the station targets a 500,000-ton inventory at any given time. In 2016, that inventory fluctuated upward, then down again. Currently, Hoosier Energy is trending toward 1.25 million tons in excess coal inventory for early 2017. But during winter months, this could change with little warning.

To manage coal inventory, Hoosier Energy renegotiated a fuel supply agreement and expanded the coal storage area, avoiding \$2.8 million in offset storage cost. "We save some money by being able to expand our traditional footprint. We can bring the coal on site and not have to store it off site or push coal out,"

says Shane Skinner, Fuels Analyst at Hoosier Energy.

Hoosier Energy is continually trying to keep costs down for the end consumer, negotiating better pricing with more flexible coal contracts to counter changing market forces.

"Like all utilities, we use forward data to predict how much coal to procure and at competitive prices," says Will Kaufman, Manager of Fuels for Hoosier Energy.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), more than three-fourths of Indiana's electricity generation is fueled by coal, underscoring the importance of this generation resource in an "all-of-the-above" power supply.

Electricity from coal plants supply 37 percent of the baseload needs for the Midwest to power ongoing, subsistence level electricity needs of homes, businesses and factories. Indiana ranked eighth among the states in coal production and third in coal consumption in 2013, the latest year for which data is available.

As the coal pile at the Merom Generating Station goes up and down relative to national market trends, the nearly 1,000 – megawatt plant remains an integral part of Hoosier Energy's "all-of-the-above" power supply and an essential resource in Hoosier Energy's Long Range Resource Plan. "Coal is still essential to the nation's energy supply and Merom is well positioned to continue to provide flexible cooperative power as the market and regulatory landscape changes," said Rob Horton, Vice President of Power Production. **EL**

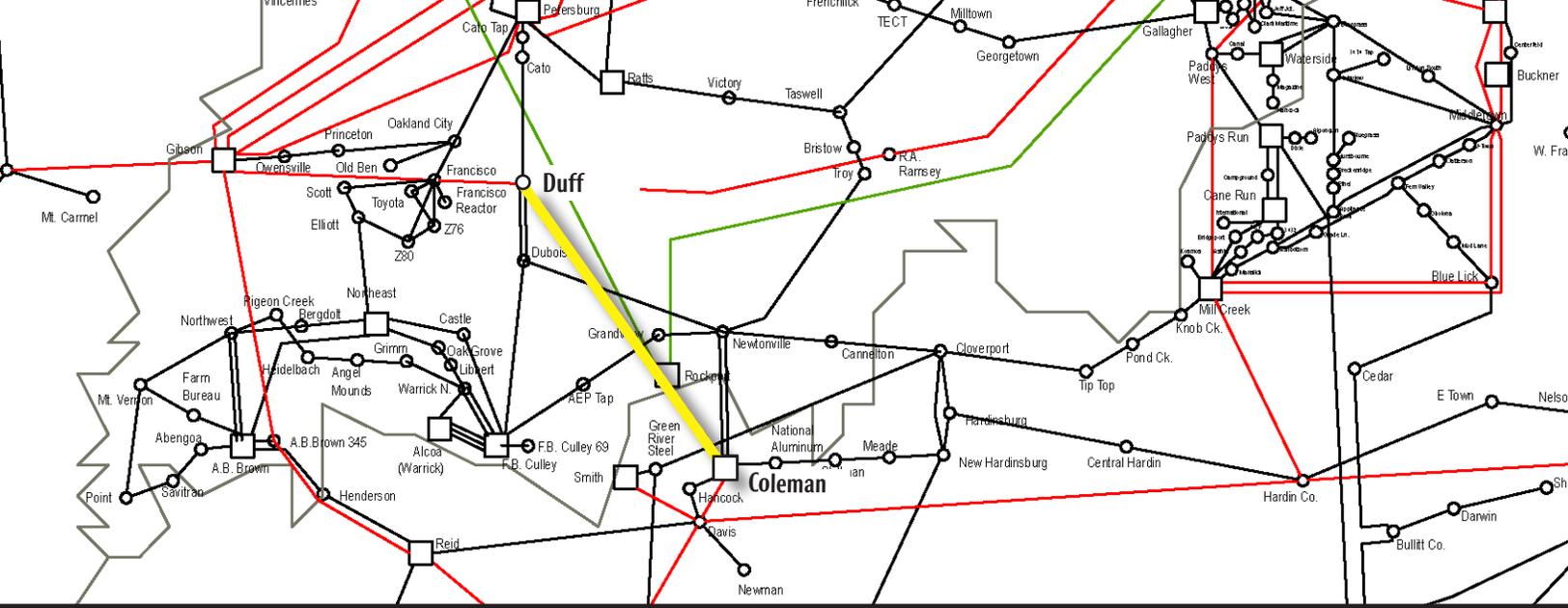


Image submitted by MISO

TRANSMISSION EXPANSION

Hoosier Energy, partners win bid to build, maintain 345 kV transmission line

Hoosier Energy, in conjunction with Big Rivers Electric Corporation and LS Power, has been awarded participation in the first competitive transmission project in the Midwest.

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional transmission organization overseeing wholesale energy markets and reliability for 15 states, including Indiana and parts of Kentucky, made the announcement Dec. 20. Republic Transmission, (a Hoosier Energy and LS Power partnership) together with Big Rivers Electric Corporation, was selected from 11 proposals to develop, build and maintain the 345 kilovolt (kV) Duff-Coleman line. Duff-Coleman will run about 30 miles through southern Indiana and northern Kentucky from the Duff Station just west of Huntingburg in Dubois County across the Ohio River into Kentucky to the Coleman Station. The project crosses the service territories of two Hoosier Energy members, Dubois REC and Southern Indiana Power as well as Kenegy, a distribution cooperative member of

“We were awarded this project in part due to our ability to demonstrate a history of effective, efficient and safe work on our own transmission system.”

**Dave Sandefur,
Vice President
of Power Supply**

Big Rivers, a G&T headquartered in Henderson, KY.

Hoosier Energy will receive transmission revenue from MISO to help offset other MISO costs. Additionally, once completed, Hoosier Energy will provide operations and maintenance (O&M) services for the Indiana portion of the project.

The Duff-Coleman line is MISO’s first competitive project under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s

(FERC) Order 1000. FERC Order 1000 seeks to increase collaboration and competition in transmission development. Project owners construct, own and maintain the line.

“We are pleased to participate with LS Power and Big Rivers on the Duff-Coleman project, which opens a pathway for affordable, reliable power to be delivered to thousands of consumers,” said Steve Smith, President and CEO of Hoosier Energy. The line will relieve congestion on the system, bringing additional efficiencies to the competitive wholesale market.

“We were awarded this project in part due to our ability to demonstrate a history of effective, efficient and safe work on our own transmission system,” said Dave Sandefur, Hoosier Energy Vice President of Power Supply.

The MISO Board of Directors approved the market efficiency project in December 2015 as part of the MISO Transmission Expansion Plan 2015 (MTEP15). The project has a scheduled in-service date of Jan. 1, 2021. [E](#)

COVER STORY

Portal provides critical capacity notifications

System automates communications between Hoosier Energy, members

A strong communications network helps power system operators stay one step ahead of potential threats to electric reliability.

With the introduction of Hoosier Energy's new capacity emergency portal this summer, members now have a tool that instantly keeps them abreast of critical reliability notifications if a capacity emergency appears imminent.

The new portal automates communications between Hoosier Energy and member systems, saving precious minutes in the unlikely event member systems would be directed to shed load. The portal also is an important communication tool in advising members of the potential of a capacity emergency alert as well as the severity level.

System Control uses the portal to advise member systems of emergency directives issued by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which oversees

electric reliability for a 15-state region.

The portal came in handy last summer when MISO declared capacity emergencies on July 21 and Aug. 29 both due to unplanned generation outages and higher than forecasted energy usage.

The Aug. 29 event only reached the alert level where entities are asked to review their capacity emergency plans and to be prepared to take further action in case the emergency escalates.

The July emergency was more serious where MISO directed all available reserve resources to be ready to start at a moment's notice, but this emergency did not escalate to a point where MISO would direct voluntary public appeals to reduce energy usage.

This event could have escalated to brownouts or blackouts if there had been more forced generation outages. The new capacity

emergency portal proved to be an important communications tool in advising member systems when circumstances changed quickly this past summer, says Stan Elmore, System Control Coordinator, Operations and Training for Hoosier Energy. "The System Control supervisor's ability to communicate with member systems through the portal then allows them to dedicate particular attention to the possible extreme conditions of the bulk electric system." >>

The portal began as an idea from member systems operations personnel in 2014 as a potential process, safety and communications improvement. The two-year internal development effort was managed by Hoosier Energy Reliability Engineer Jeff Duff with programming technical development by Sr. Programmer / Analyst Bryan Wadsworth. The portal was recognized this fall during a North American Transmission Forum (NATF) peer review. A team of electric utilities from across the country called out the portal as a “noteworthy” best practice that should be shared with other NATF members across the country – highly unusual for a new practice or procedure.

As this summer showed, having such a tool is essential if MISO issues an alert. Because MISO looks at the big picture across the region, when demand is high and supplies are tightening, they can issue a call for conservative operations or invoke emergency messaging such as a request for reserves, which means activating all available generation sources on standby status.

Hoosier Energy and other power suppliers must keep a certain percentage of reserves available to meet federal reliability standards. In June, MISO announced that reserves were tightening in the region, a trend noticed by Hoosier Energy over the last few years.

“No one can know for sure whether MISO alerts will become more prevalent in the future but if they do, we want to be prepared,” said Dave Sandefur, Hoosier Energy Vice President of Power Supply. “With the new portal and other tools, Hoosier Energy and our member systems are in a much better position to respond efficiently to MISO instructions and head off a potential regional system emergency before it’s too late.” [EL](#)

Understanding MISO’s MaxGen messages

To maintain reliability of a 15-state electric system, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) operates under a set of carefully defined operating procedures to guide the actions of local transmission operators such as Hoosier Energy.

During periods of widespread high electric usage, generation supplies may not be enough or transmission lines may become strained. Thus, MISO may invoke conservative or emergency operating procedures to ensure reliability. These procedures detail successive levels and steps based on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation’s Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) levels 1, 2, 3. MISO’s directives are communicated in escalating order as alerts, warnings and events.

Each MISO directive mandates steps or actions that must be followed to either prevent or resolve the emergency condition.

It’s important to note that MISO has never issued a call for rolling brownouts or blackouts, despite some of the hottest summers on record in 2006 and 2012, and record cold during the polar vortex of 2014.

But if they do, the capacity emergency directives to Hoosier Energy would occur under the two scenarios outlined below and the Hoosier Energy Emergency Capacity Portal would immediately issue a blast communication to member systems as well as the media.

■ MISO MaxGen Event Step 2d (NERC EEA2)

- call for voluntary reduction in energy use.

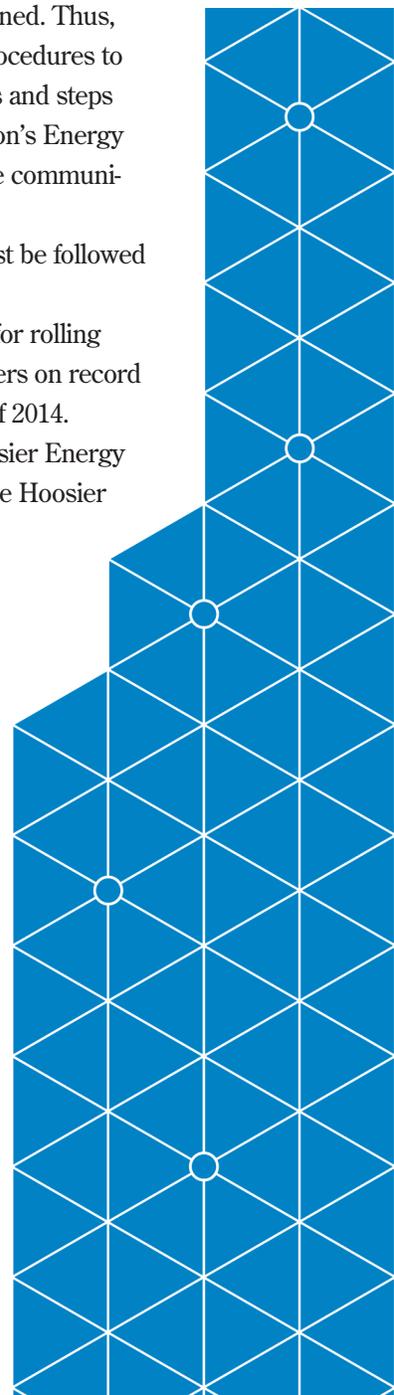
Hoosier Energy’s portal will send a message to member systems directing them to prepare to shed load at a moment’s notice. A message to area media will be issued separately advising the public of the immediate need to conserve electricity.

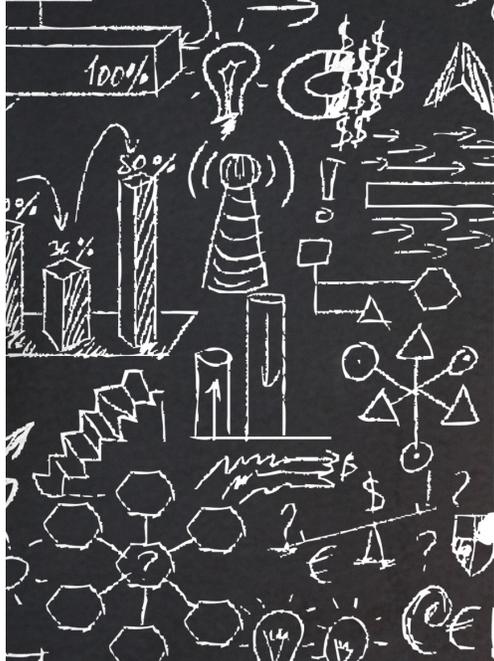
■ MISO MaxGen Event Step 5b (NERC EEA3)

– Rolling brownouts or blackouts (shed load).

Hoosier Energy’s portal will send a message to member systems directing them to shed load immediately at their indicated amount. A message to area media will be issued separately advising the public of emergency power outages.

The Hoosier Energy portal will also send a follow-up communication to member systems once the emergency event has ended and system integrity has been restored. [EL](#)





detailed model-specific information on what to inspect and how to properly reassemble the valves.

Merom Generating Station chose to seek third-party providers of steam turbine valve overhauls during 2013 and 2014. The information from EPRI document 1010211 was used to write a detailed bid specification. A significant one-time cost savings was documented. This represents the difference between the third-party service provider cost and the OEM cost. This option would not have been considered without access to technical guidance offered by the EPRI guide. [E](#)

ONLINE EXTRA

EnergyLines online

Access to digital files of current and back issues of EnergyLines are available online. The back issue library dates to 2007 and all files are saved as a PDF.

>> [Log on to view current and back issues of EnergyLines.](http://www.hepn.com/energylines.asp) (www.hepn.com/energylines.asp)



Meeting in summary

Safety Leadership Summit ■ November ■ Fort Worth, Texas

Hoosier Energy's best-in-class "Safe by Choice" campaign gained national attention and this year was invited to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Safety Leadership Summit in Fort Worth, Texas to showcase best practices. The Summit helps co-ops learn new ways to improve safety. More than 500 employees from cooperatives across the nation were in attendance ranging from linemen to chief executives.

Twenty cooperatives from across the nation were invited to participate in the leading practices showcase. The showcase highlights electric co-ops that demonstrate outstanding professional safety. Sharing this information helps other co-ops develop and sustain safety as a core value. Hoosier Energy Process Safety Management Specialist Eric Wilson; Senior I&C Technician Lonnie Bedwell; Merom Plant Manager Karl Back and Manager of Safety and Training Joe Henson were at the summit to answer questions regarding incident reporting and investigation procedures with other cooperatives. Over 250 attendees visited the Hoosier Energy booth and nearly 100 requested more information.

Breakout sessions were offered focusing on "why." Why do employees want to be safe? The resounding answer in each session was the same, "our families."

Keynote speakers included:

- Leif Babin, a former Navy Seal, discussed "Muscle Mind," how we learn things and they became so routine that we can fail to recognize dangers around us;
- Charlie Morecraft, a former Exxon employee, who burned more than 50 percent of his body by failing to follow proper procedures;
- Kirk Lippold, Retired Navy Commander, spoke on Crisis Management and the attack of his ship, the USS Cole in Yemen. Lippold emphasized that there was no preparation for the attack. Prior training and following safety protocols made his team stand out as leaders and they were able to make critical decisions that led to the saving of the vessel and the lives aboard the ship.

These messages show that safety is everyone's responsibility and, as noted in the signs at the entrance to the Merom Generating Station, "your family's reward tomorrow is you working safely today!" [E](#)

Out of the Board Room

GARY WANINGER

Siri identifies this part of southern Indiana as a remote location, albeit the correct address. “Prepare to park your car and walk,” the electronic personal assistant calls out from the iPhone. Ignoring the advice, the old car chugs along the dusty, single-lane gravel drive, winding up and down the hillside, revealing breath-taking scenery as the pass opens up.

At the end is a rainbow of sorts – the homestead of Gary and Jackie Waninger – set in a picturesque valley that few people would recognize as Indiana territory.

The couple’s nicely-groomed brick home and multiple barns dot the landscape here – known by locals as Anderson River. The area is steeped in history, including the lingering footprints of the 16th president of the United States. Waninger says about two miles from their property, Abraham Lincoln was known to walk the ridge to the Anderson River, just north of the historic Huffman Mill Covered Bridge.

But Waninger has spent much more time living on and tilling the farms in the area than Lincoln >>



HAPPY, TOGETHER: Gary and Jackie Waninger have been married for 23 years.

HE photo

ever dreamed. “I’ve been here my whole life,” Gary says. Gary and his brother, Alan grow crops (corn, soybeans and wheat) and also have a beef cattle operation on their 1,000 acres of two adjoining farms. The old “homeplace,” where Gary grew up, is less than a mile away.

As a young boy, Gary attended a nearby grade school. The bus driver was the former owner and resident of their current home. “Often in winter, we would walk over here to help the driver put chains on the tires just so he could come and pick us up,” Waninger says with a warm smile.

When he was a little older, he attended Heritage Hills High School, an area also home to the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. There he was involved in what one would expect: Future Farmers of America. After graduation he returned to the farm to help his father.

It’s a life he’s loved, through the good times and bad. His wife has been there beside him, always supporting him. But she recalls a time she questioned the value of the hard work. “Wouldn’t it be easier to just get a 9 to 5 job?” she asked Gary. “The look on his face showed that he has farming in his blood,” she says, noting that in 23 years of marriage they have yet to argue.

“He just won’t let an argument happen. If I’m upset, he says, ‘let’s talk about it,’” Jackie says, admiration in her voice and a smile in her eyes. “He’s the best thing that ever happened to me, along with my son.”

The couple’s bliss got its spark at



HE photo

SOUTHERN INDIANA FARM: Board Director Gary Waninger leans on the fence that keeps his herd of cattle together. The 1,000-acre farm is a picturesque, quiet setting in southern Indiana.

About the series

This is the 16th 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.

Ferdinand’s three-day, 150th celebration in 1990. “I walked up to him and just started talking,” Jackie says. “I thought he was someone else.” There was unmistakable chemistry in that first meeting.

“The next night, I was standing on a picnic table, looking out over the crowd trying to find him. Then I thought, ‘what’s wrong with me?’” Apparently nothing. Gary called her for a dinner date soon after. On their second date they got adventurous and went hiking – an ordeal that left a lasting impression. They came home with what is known as Turkey Ticks. After a good deal of scratching, the couple recovered and continued dating. They were married in 1993.

This happy couple, who admittedly likes to travel, made a trek in 1998 they will never forget. In that year, the couple went to St. Petersburg, Russia where they met their 7-month old son in an orphanage. They recall the trip with heartfelt description.

In the last 200 years, what do you consider the most important invention?

“Electricity is a no-brainer,” Waninger said, suggesting that he needed more time to come up with the perfect answer. After an hour passed, Waninger circled back around to the initial question. As he strolled leisurely on his farm, the answer came to him. “Although it’s a little longer than 200 years, I have to say the greatest invention is the Constitution of the United States.”



HE photo

HOME IMPROVEMENT: The Waninger’s have enhanced their original home, remodeling the interior and bricking the exterior. Their most recent project is a large back patio overlooking the property. It’s complete with a grill and gas fire pit.

An adoption agency had presented the young boy as an option. “We saw a very short videotape of him. Basically the orphanage just held him up to the camera and set him back down,” Gary says. That’s all it took. The couple pursued the adoption with fervor, getting to 11-pound Mikhail as quickly as possible. “When we saw him, the tears were flowing,” she remembers. Jackie recounts the meeting. “There was record heat that day and they had him wearing a T-shirt, a terry cloth onesie, a hat, knitted booties and double cloth diapers.”

And on this unseasonably warm day in the last week of October, the couple is planning for their son’s birthday. Ryan Michael, as they named him, just turned 19 and graduated from the same high school as his dad.

The years in between have been both challenging and rewarding, filled with typical family antics. Vacations have been some of the most fun. The family has traveled twice to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone, rafted in the Grand Tetons, white water rafted in Tennessee,

visited Yosemite and seen the powerful waters of Niagara Falls.

But when the adventures end, Gary finds himself back on the farm and serving on boards. His many years of service include 17 on the Southern Indiana Power (SIP) board, serving 13 as board chairman and two years on the Hoosier Energy Board. He has also served as president of the National Farmers Organization of Indiana and Chairman of the Board for St. Joseph Mutual Insurance, where he’s been an agent for 27 years. He also serves on the St. Boniface Catholic Church Grounds and Maintenance committee where he led the quarter million dollar stained glass window restoration project that was completed in April 2016. The 151-year old church is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Waninger’s obvious traits are being

reserved and pleasant. But what else defines this director? Five words or phrases describe Gary, some supplied by him, some by his wife: humble, very patient, voice of reason, reliable and honest.

Have you had a mentor in life?

“My dad. He taught me to be patient and kind. Mom had a lot to do with that, too.” Jackie adds, “I can vouch for that. His parents were awesome.”

What do you believe our country needs? “Ethics. There’s no work ethic anymore and the people are relying too much on the government. We need people who understand what our Founding Fathers went through. We’re letting it all slip away.”

If you could change anything in life, what would it be? “If we had the opportunity, we would have adopted a second child.” **E**

2016

YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Maintaining value for members

Member systems and Hoosier Energy had a successful year in 2016. Collaborative efforts showed that the G&T can face and overcome a broad array of challenges. These challenges range from changes to the fuel and power markets to cyber security concerns. Amidst these challenges, Hoosier Energy

employees have continued to improve our position as a reliable and competitively priced power supplier.

Accomplishments reflect the dedication of the G&T to meet the needs of members. The following are highlights of how Hoosier Energy has served members in 2016.



HE photos

COAL COUNTRY: Regulatory uncertainty, mild weather and low natural gas prices created soft market conditions for coal generation in 2016. A cycling strategy for Merom Generating Station combined with a renegotiated fuel supply agreement is positioning Hoosier Energy for potential changes in market and regulatory environments. Additionally, it is providing greater fuel supply flexibility while saving \$1 in member rates compared with the prior business plan.



FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY: While affordability is constantly challenged by rising costs, Hoosier Energy remains one of the most competitive wholesale power providers in Indiana. Caleb Steiner, Manager of Corporate Strategy at Hoosier Energy, helped execute new financial and operational strategies to significantly reduce a projected wholesale rate increase while improving the equity policy to support strong credit ratings.



WE HEAR YOU: Completion of a communications audit resulted in measurable actions for improving communication for Hoosier Energy and local directors, members and employees. Look for improvements to our web and print vehicles in 2017 to better meet the modern communication needs of Hoosier Energy's membership.



INNOVATIVE WORKSPACE: Hoosier Energy's headquarters won top honors as one of the state's innovative workspaces by Spaces Indiana – a commercial real estate initiative. Judges commented on the unique design that emphasizes natural light while encouraging collaboration and the use of indoor and outdoor spaces.

COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE: Unlike investor-owned utilities, cooperatives return surplus capital after a certain time period, as approved by the Board of Directors. Despite ever-present cost pressures, Hoosier Energy returned \$6.5 million in patronage and \$6 million in special bill credits to members in 2016 bringing total retirements and special bill credits to nearly \$96 million since 2000.

2016

YEAR-IN-REVIEW



POWERFUL ASSET: Holland Energy, a Hoosier Energy and Wabash Valley Power natural gas combined cycle facility, had an exceptional year. A new monthly record was set in August with 244,000 MWh being generated. As natural gas remains low, this facility provides strong reliability and value in the energy markets.



POWER PROJECTS: Hoosier Energy employees work to provide safe, reliable and affordable power for member cooperatives. To accomplish this, power delivery projects totaling \$23 million were completed throughout member territories leading to improved reliability of substations and interconnects.



TRASH CONVERTED TO ENERGY: Oct. 1, 2016, Hoosier Energy added another renewable source of energy to its portfolio with the Orchard Hills landfill site. In conjunction with Advance Disposal, Hoosier Energy launched its third and largest to date landfill methane gas facility, providing energy to 8,000-10,000 residences in Southeastern Illinois.



NEW LABOR AGREEMENT:

Hoosier Energy worked diligently this year to negotiate a new labor agreement in 1/10 time of previous bargaining, saving over \$225,000 on the process. In addition, the new labor agreement will provide \$1 million in annual savings.

ENERGYLINES

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



MOO-VING INTO WINTER

A light snowfall covered a farm near Centerton. After the snow fell, so did the temperature – landing Indiana into single digit weather.