

ENERGYLINES

News from Hoosier Energy for members and employees. | OCTOBER 2016 | Vol. 39, No. 10

BATTLE LINES

The Emerald Ash Borer's destruction is killing trees – affecting rights-of-way.
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A CONVERSATION WITH LARRY HOSSELTON

Hoosier Energy Board
Director for eight years.

SEE STORY, PAGE 8





HE photo

TORCH RELAY: President and General Manager of Decatur County REMC Don Schilling had the honor of taking the torch through a stretch of Decatur County as he represented Indiana electric cooperatives.

Indiana Bicentennial Celebration TORCH RELAY

Hoosiers celebrated Indiana's 200th birthday through the Bicentennial Celebration and torch relay. The relay spanned 3,200 miles across the state from Sept. 9 to Oct. 15 traveling through 92 counties.

Conference updates members on Hoosier Energy programs

Co-op employees attended a two-day Marketing and Member Services Conference in French Lick. The event was hosted by Hoosier Energy and topics included: billing and forecasting; the importance of co-op members voting in November; insight on how the Midcontinent Independent System Operator works; residential solar and changes to the Demand Side Management programs in 2017.

CO-OPS VOTE:

BJ Myers, from Southeastern Indiana REMC spoke about the importance of co-op members getting out and voting this November. She created a fun and interactive way to get members interested about voting this fall no matter who they cast their ballot for.

CO-OP EMPLOYEE TOUR



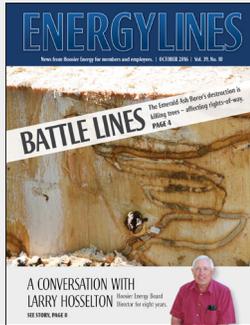
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Hoosier Energy hosted tours of its facilities for member directors, CEOs and other co-op employees marking the 12th year for the visits. In the photo above, Hoosier Energy Manager of Regulatory Compliance Kriss Miller, right, explains equipment at the Merom Generating Station to John Colin, Attorney for Harrison REMC. Nearly 30 people from four member cooperatives participated in the day-long bus trips. Other facilities visited were the Operations Center in Owen County and the Worthington Generating Station to see the quick-start, natural gas-fired combustion turbine engines.

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

ON THE COVER

The Emerald Ash Borer is digging a path of destruction in trees across the nation causing rights-of-way concerns for electric utilities.



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SAFE BY CHOICE: Merom Generating Station Plant Manager Karl Back addresses employees during a stand-down that kicked off safety week in August.

Safety week at Merom Generating Station

To kick-off the Merom Generation Station Safety Week Aug. 24-30 employees gathered during a stand-down to listen-up about the value of working safely. Merom Generating Station plant manager Karl Back set the tone for the week.

"We are progressing on our safety journey. Our goal is to have everyone thinking about safety in everything we do – on and off the job," said Back.

Driven by the Safe by Choice initiative there are more employees involved in safety efforts than ever before. Back provided context to employees on how safety connects to Hoosier Energy's strategy.

"To be reliable, efficient and competitive, working safely helps us keep these units operating smoothly and efficiently. In turn, this helps us be competitive in the energy market," said Back.

Vice President of Power Production Rob Horton was pleased to see a change in the safety culture throughout the organization – specifically at the Merom Generating Station.

"The passion I hear in the way your coworkers talk about safety shows that you are a driving force behind the safety culture at Hoosier Energy," said Horton. **EL**



DEDICATION: Standing in front of one of the six General Electric engines that turn methane into electricity are (from left to right): Matt Stuttle, Sales Manager for Advanced Disposal, Orchard Hills Facility; Bruce Knapp, General Manager, Orchard Hills Landfill; Rob Horton, Vice President of Power Production for Hoosier Energy, Dan DeWaard, Midwest Region Vice President for Advanced Disposal and Mike Rampley, Sr. Vice President of Marketing and Business Development for Hoosier Energy.

HE photo

Third landfill gas facility opens

Orchard Hills adds additional landfill gas resource to cooperative power supply

**DAVIS
JUNCTION, ILL**

Hoosier Energy recently celebrated the official opening of the Orchard Hills Generating Station at the Orchard Hills Landfill near Rockford, Illinois.

The new 16-megawatt (MW) generating facility adds to Hoosier Energy's renewable energy portfolio that includes wind, solar, hydro and landfill gas.

"Orchard Hills plays an important role in Hoosier Energy's future along with continued reliance on coal and natural gas," said Rob Horton, Vice President of Power Production for Hoosier Energy during the ribbon cutting ceremonies on Oct. 1. "We look forward to producing a lot of renewable energy here for many years to come."

The station is located at Advance Disposal's landfill in Davis Junction, Illinois. The engines are undergoing testing for syncing

to the grid prior to full operation, which is expected by the end of November.

The facility turns landfill gas into electricity and in the process removes a potent greenhouse gas. Mechanical energy from the six GE Jenbacher 620 reciprocating engines literally burn the methane, causing it to combust, which in turn rotates the generators for electric generation. The facility is capable of producing enough electricity to power 8,000 to 10,000 homes that use 1,200 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month.

Orchard Hills is Hoosier Energy's third landfill methane generation facility. The Clark-Floyd Landfill Gas Plant in southern Indiana produces about 4 megawatts of electricity and the Livingston Landfill Gas facility near Pontiac, Illinois produces 15 megawatts. **EL**

COVER STORY

THE BEETLE BATTLE

Emerald Ash Borer claim thousands of trees

Work progresses to keep rights-of-way clear

Each spring, Perry Dow, Hoosier Energy's vegetation management coordinator climbs into a helicopter and patrols miles and miles of transmission rights-of-way that crisscross southern Indiana and southeastern Illinois. He's looking for dead trees, overgrown brush or any other vegetation growth threatening to inter-

fere with power lines along Hoosier Energy's nearly 1,700-mile transmission network.

It's one of several aerial patrols he makes as the seasons turn to target dangerous trees before the dead hulks topple into power lines and potentially cause an outage or, worse, a fire. >>

Every growing season brings new challenges, so after several seasons of wet conditions, Dow feared the worst.

What was different this year, though, was not an increase in overgrowth conditions. That spring patrol showed something else. “We identified 900 clusters of dead trees threatening power lines. The largest majority of them were ash,” Dow said.

“After the patrol, I went onto the DNR website and found a map. It was dotted with where the ash borer had hit. And those dots were right in the middle of Hoosier Energy power lines, especially near English and Napoleon,” Dow said.

Why so many dead ash trees? The reason is a pesky beetle called the Emerald Ash Borer. This wood-boring beetle native to Asia first surfaced in Michigan in 2002. It showed up in Indiana in 2004 and has continued a steady destructive march throughout 28 states ever since, killing millions of ash trees in its wake.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection, the EAB is responsible for the death or decline of tens of millions of ash trees in North America – the largest plant infestation in history.

The Midwest has been particularly hit hard by the pest.

Professor and Extension Specialist Clifford Sadoff of Purdue University’s Department of Entomology has been studying the problem for years.

There are more than 147 million ash trees in Indiana, he says, and easily about 25,000 or so in or near utility rights-of-ways. All are likely infected. “The first time I saw it, it almost brought me to tears. In 2010, we would look at an area and find 50 good, 50 fair, 50 poor trees. By 2012, 80 percent of the trees had passed into the poor category. It was that dramatic.” >>



RIGHTS-OF-WAY: Crew members remove trees along a Hoosier Energy rights-of-way affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. This beetle has killed millions of ash trees across the U.S. since being found in Michigan in 2002.

HE photo

Sadoff estimates that the beetle could kill most of them – at a die-off rate that keeps doubling every year. “As sure as night turns into day, the problem will get worse before it gets better.”

For Hoosier Energy and member systems, the numbers keep climbing.

“We’re averaging 85 trees that are eliminated each week,” says Brady Mann, Manager of Delivery Services. “An ash tree killed by the EAB dies quickly and will fail at the base, creating a real hazard for power lines.”

Dave Barton, Manager of Operations & Engineering for Clark County REMC, agreed. “We have ash trees on every circuit, every sub. A few years ago, it wasn’t so much of a problem. But now, they’re dying as we speak.”

Often located outside a traditional utility right-of-way, a mature but dying ash tree with height and breadth can threaten cooperative power lines inside the right-of-way. Barton says recent outages on the Clark system have been due, in part, to diseased ash trees located outside the traditional right-of-way.

The scale of the problem is enormous and affects nearly every member system with those on the eastern side of Indiana hit the hardest. To counter the threat, Hoosier Energy and member systems are proactively working to remove the

ONLINE EXTRA

To learn how to report or identify infested trees, go to Purdue University’s EAB website <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/index.php> or contact a tree professional in your area.

infested trees in a timely, cost-effective way consistent with state and federal regulations and quarantine notices regarding the infestation.

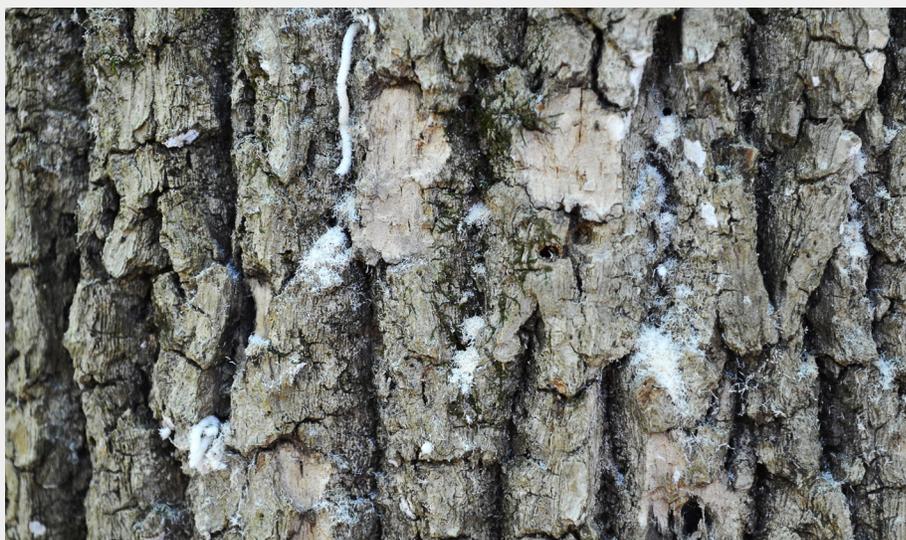
Removing these beautiful trees is not an easy decision, especially for homeowners. David Vince, General Manager of Clark County REMC, says he has more than 30 trees on his property that have fallen to the disease. “I hated to see them go, but we had to take them down.”

“We’re taking a planned approach, scheduling crews to take them down and moving on,” Barton says. “We’re also working with the county to help us with cleanup on the roads. Homeowners, when we approach them, understand. We’ve been successful so far.”

In the long run, Dow says, developing a strategy to stay ahead of the destruction prevents outages, which would be a far greater cost than removal. “If we don’t get this taken care of, the dangers, and costs, will just skyrocket.” 

How the Emerald Ash Borer is destroying trees

The green beetle lays eggs in the bark of every type of ash tree found in America. When the eggs hatch into larvae, these worm-like creatures bore into the tree to eat, destroying the tree’s vascular system for water and nutrients. In the late spring, the adult beetle emerges from a distinctive D-shaped hole to start the cycle again. Another sign of EAB infestation is the presence of woodpeckers, which tear apart the bark of the tree to reach the larvae.



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TREE DESTRUCTION: As the Emerald Ash Borer digs underneath the bark, the remnants can be seen on the surface as a fine powder of wood remnants.

Source: RE Magazine

Leadership program participants present projects

Developing future co-op leaders is the driving force behind the Cooperative Accelerated Leadership Development (CALD) program. This year's participants, representing 11 member systems, presented their major project called the

Action Learning Project. The Managers Association, made up of all 18 co-op managers, selected the topics for each team so participants could remain focused on the work and research itself. The following are summaries of what they presented.

TEAM ONE

James Buhler - Southeastern Indiana REMC

Chris Hopfinger - Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

Nicole Murphy - Henry County REMC

Brad Pritchett - Jackson County REMC

TOPIC: *Community solar*

For this project the team provided specific recommendations about consumer-owned generation ranging from installation and ownership, interest surveys, marketing plans as well as a financial analysis.

TEAM TWO

Marty Lasure - Bartholomew County REMC

Johnathan Sutton - UDWI REMC

Tom Ruth - SCI REMC

Mike Mugler - Clark County REMC

TOPIC: *Cooperative recruiting process*

The team identified the necessity for guidelines due to rising demands for talent across all industries. They presented a multi-part toolkit, based on the Targeted Selection model, that will help cooperatives attract and grow the best candidates.

TEAM THREE

Mary Jo Thomas - Whitewater Valley REMC

John Gates - Johnson County REMC

Todd Hammond - Southern Indiana Power

Justin Bohlsen - Clark County REMC

TOPIC: *Employee onboarding*

The team developed a plan to help new employees as they join the workforce called the Cooperative Employee Education Plan. This extensive plan helps prepare employees as they learn about the cooperative and industry. The team recommended an ongoing plan for employee growth by implementing a Learning Management System.



Meeting in summary

Hoosier Energy Economic Development Seminar ■ Sept. 7 ■ Indianapolis

OVERVIEW

Harold Gutzwiller, Manager of Key Accounts and Economic Development at Hoosier Energy and Chuck Martindale, Economic Development Coordinator at Hoosier Energy, painted a detailed picture of Hoosier Energy's history and mission for its 18 member systems.

For someone in the economic development field, project Requests for Information (RFIs) and electric cost estimates are not only common, but important. Martindale shared how Hoosier Energy calculates projected monthly costs and cost per kWh while including a sample of a good RFI and commonly used electric terminology.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Steve Braun discussed a few major initiatives at the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The Indiana Career Council is bringing stakeholders from the employer community, state agencies and the education community to align and coordinate education, job skills development and career training to ensure the needs of the state's employers are being met. Each attendee was provided a Practitioner's Guide to Workforce Development with information about the Federal Workforce Development, national trends and best practices.

The Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK), a collaboration among the governor's office, Indiana Department of Education, Commission for Higher Education, the Department of Workforce Development and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration will leverage the power of data to improve education and the livelihood for Hoosiers. Through this new initiative, INK can provide a demand-driven workforce by engaging, aligning and advancing employees to get the right skills at the right time in the right way for Hoosier employers.

Indiana has an estimated one million jobs to fill over the next decade. Skill Up Indiana is a training initiative in conjunction with INK that focuses on the implementation of strategies aimed at ensuring Indiana citizens have the skills necessary to fill the one million jobs.

Out of the Board Room

LARRY HOSELTON

Larry and Kay Hosselton were having breakfast at their kitchen table when the news broke in 2001. The World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a plane crash in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania were the sites of terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of 3,000 innocent people. They watched the horror unfold, live on television, with the rest of the world.

Fifteen years later, to the day and hour, the couple were sitting at a Gregg's Park picnic table in Vincennes, talking about the tragedy. "Yesterday, we watched the broadcast from St. Louis as they put up a piece of the iron from the devastating site – a lasting tribute," Larry says. "When I reflect on it, I think about the loss of lives and the amount of money the government has spent on security since that day. In many ways it has united us as a nation, but the cost is overwhelming."

Those are the words of the quiet and introspective man who serves as a director for Hoosier Energy, the only leader who literally crosses the line for his service to the board. Larry reigns from his farm in Illinois. Counting them off on his fingers, he says: "We're nine miles from Clay City, 22 miles from Fairfield, 22 miles >>



HE photo

DIRECTOR, FARMER, FRIEND: Larry Hosselton and his brother own a farm in Illinois where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat and a small herd of Angus cattle.

from Olney, 14 miles from Flora, one hour from Mt. Vernon and about an hour from Effingham (all Illinois towns) and just over two hours from Hoosier Energy. On this day, he traveled about an hour to the Vincennes park – a show of consideration and a characterizing trait for this rural gentleman.

So where does that put their 1,000-acre farming operation? “Out in the middle of nowhere, almost,” he reasons. He’s OK with that. He was born in Olney, schooled in the area, married someone close to home and they moved into what he calls “a little bachelor house” that existed on the property. Later the couple built a larger home on the acreage and raised three children there: Teri, Susan and Gary. Their grown children have given the couple seven grandchildren.

While life sounds simple in the rural area, Larry’s life has been anything but that. As a child in the late ’40s, he attended a myriad of one-room school houses in the country. He said they came about as a result of the oil-field boom.

“There were lots of houses, no more than half-a-mile apart,” he says. Lots of men were working in the oil fields and their families located in small houses nearby. Later, the population dwindled.

“As each school closed, I was routed to another. I went to Wells, then Banker, Woodside and finally ZIF grade school for grades sixth through eighth. I ended up at Clay City High School,” Larry says. “There my dad served as president of the school board, and he actually handed diplomas to me and my brother Claren



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FRIENDS FOREVER: Larry Hosselton and his wife Kay share a laugh at a park in Vincennes.

About the series

This is the 14th 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.

when we graduated.” That was 1963.

Immediately after graduation, not knowing exactly what he wanted to do for his career, Larry went to work with his father on the farm. But a life-changing

incident somewhat sealed his fate.

“I was disking a field for my uncle, one that was foreign to me, when I unknowingly came upon some stumps that had been pushed up around the pond. The wheel of my tractor hit the stumps, causing my spring-loaded seat to throw me off. I fell under the left wheel of the tractor, breaking off a part of the cap on my left shoulder,” he says. A doctor examined the shoulder and said it would heal, but a cat scan in recent years shows he no longer has a joint in the shoulder. It is supported only by muscle and cartilage, he says, raising his arm to show the limited mobility.

Like 9-11, the farm injury left lasting memories. It occurred on Oct. 22. Hosselton spent four weeks in the hospital and

“Your friends and their reputations are important. The traits they have are important and working beside them in community service allows friendships to develop. Life is too short to not be friendly.”

Larry Hosselton

eight weeks longer in bed at home. It was during that time that the United States experienced another tragedy – the shooting death of President John F. Kennedy.

“I watched it from my bed on Nov. 22. I saw it as soon as it hit TV. Soon after I would see the accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald gunned down by Jack Ruby.

“And then my birthday came on Dec. 21 and I kept thinking, ‘What will happen next?’”

The next thing up was military service. Despite a 15 percent loss of movement in his arm from the injury, he was accepted into the Army Reserves in Fairfield. During his enlistment, he learned some things about cooking.

“I was on duty to make spaghetti and meat sauce,” he says. It sounds easy enough until factoring in the size: 55 gallons of spaghetti and 30 gallons of meat sauce. But that’s not the biggest surprise.

“The recipe called for one gallon of mustard,” he says. “I thought it was wrong, but I asked my sergeant and he told me to put it in. As it turns out, it takes the bite out of the tomato taste,” Larry points out and suggests others try the 30-to-1 ratio.

As the years passed, positive things awaited Larry. Some friends introduced him to Kay. About a year later they were

married. The couple admittedly doesn’t share many common interests: she is a city girl, he is a farm boy; he likes to shop, she doesn’t; neither like to travel, because they can’t agree on where to go. Yet in 2018, they will celebrate 50 years of marriage. Larry says marriage takes perseverance, commitment and some strategy.

“You have to give and take. If you don’t, you won’t live together,” he says with fervor. And he’s not a proponent for waiting a long time to marry. “If you’re a bachelor too long, you think you are the boss. That just won’t work,” he adds.

Larry says there are other measures of success in life. One of the greatest to him is to make a friend.

“If you can’t have friends, you are stuck out there by yourself. If you are not friendly, you can’t be sitting on boards,” he says, noting his 25-year service on the Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative board, as well as 13 years on what was the Soyland Power Cooperative in Illinois, now known as Prairie Power.

He continues. “Your friends and their reputations are important. The traits they have are important and working beside them in community service allows friendships to develop. Life is too short to not be friendly,” Larry says with

a meaningful smile.

As they talk, the couple notes the brown squirrels scurrying about gathering walnuts for their winter stash. They enjoy the wildlife but say they’re vastly different from the squirrels at home. Olney’s claim to fame is “The Home of the White Squirrels” – an obvious point of pride.

But the farm, as is true for many other rural directors, is at the heart of Larry’s world. He and his brother grow corn, soybeans, wheat and a small herd of Angus cattle on their shared acreage. Larry is also an electrician and certified in HVAC installation and repair.

He says his injury delayed his pursuit of college and ultimately landed him back on the farm. Does he wish it had turned out differently? “Not really,” he says. “I’m alright with it. I got married and raised a nice family. None are in jail and none are divorced,” he says with a smile.

And with that he and his wife were off. They would return to the farm in the afternoon, where his brother was “on watch” – a credit to his bond with Claren.

“Farming takes up a lot of your time. If it weren’t for my brother, I wouldn’t be able to serve on all of these boards,” he says. “Invariably, when you leave home, the cattle will get out.” **EL**



Rural life in southern Indiana

Co-op lines follow a county road outside of Orangeville in Orange County.
The September day brought light rain and the first glimpse of cool, fall weather.