

# ENERGYLINES

**Find out what happens next when a voltage regulator is damaged.**

SEE STORY ON PAGE 5



## Board of Directors tour Franklin Training Center



HE photo

The Hoosier Energy Board of Directors held its May meeting at the Franklin Training Center in Johnson County, providing the Board with the opportunity for a detailed tour of the training facility.

The meeting opened with a safety moment with Director John Trinkle from Jackson County REMC referencing a few tragic real-life events and suggesting that safety always be a topic at every board meeting.

After the business meeting, directors toured the safety training facility as apprentices in the Hoosier Energy Apprenticeship Training and Safety (HEATS) program demonstrated line work skills.

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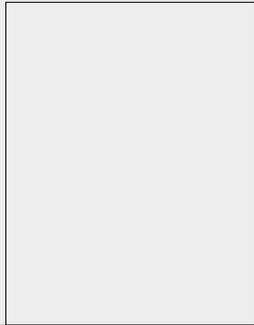


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## ON THE COVER

When voltage regulators are damaged, Hoosier Energy employees have the skills to repair them.



## SEND COMMENTS TO

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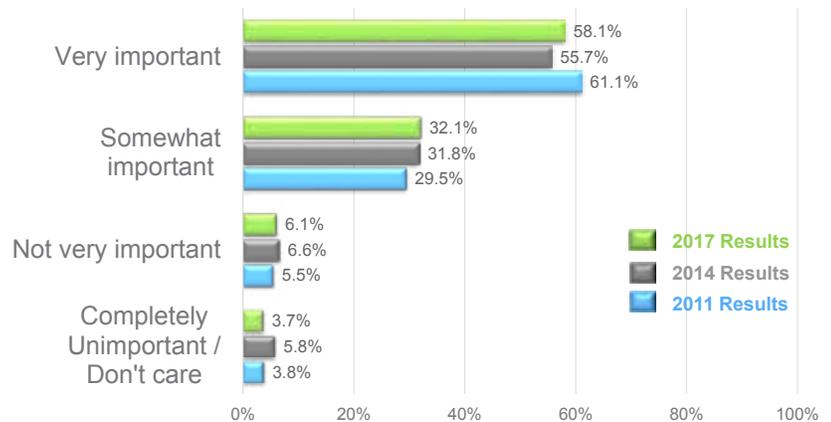
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## How important is it to use renewable energy to generate electricity?



# Consumers support renewable power supply

### Only 30 percent are willing to pay more for renewable energy

Consumers across central and southern Indiana and southeastern Illinois overwhelmingly support renewable energy as an energy source provided by their local cooperative, according to a recent survey conducted by Hoosier Energy.

The survey was conducted earlier this year to help Hoosier Energy's 18-member distribution cooperatives gain additional insight into consumer trends across their service areas. In the survey, 90 percent of the respondents said they want their co-op to provide electricity generated from renewable sources. However, only 30 percent said they were willing to pay more.

The findings confirmed results from similar renewable energy surveys of end consumers conducted in

2011 and 2014.

The data also indicated an uptick in consumer awareness that their local cooperative includes renewables in their power supply. Since 2016, member cooperatives have added a total of 10, one-megawatt solar arrays across the Hoosier Energy cooperative power network.

"Cooperatives are committed to bringing reliable and affordable energy to their members. As awareness of renewables in the cooperative power supply continues to climb, the use of solar and other renewable resources will continue to provide benefits for all homes and businesses in our communities," says Heath Norrick, Manager of Renewable Energy for Hoosier Energy. **EI**



HE photo

**THE POWER OF CHANGE:** A crew of 16 Indiana electric cooperative lineworkers, nine from Hoosier Energy member cooperatives, worked together to bring power to 60 homes, a school, a church and a clinic earlier this spring.

Empowering a global community

# Project Indiana brings power to Guatemala

A crew of 16 Indiana electric cooperative lineworkers, nine from Hoosier Energy member cooperatives, participated in a trip to a developing area of Guatemala earlier this year as part of an international initiative to bring electricity to the region.

“Project Indiana: Empowering Global Communities for a Better Tomorrow” electrified a part of the Central American country where none was available. The crew, supported by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s International Foundation, spent the second half of March electrifying the village of El Zapotillo in Huehuetenango.

The team electrified 60 homes, a school, a church and a clinic with four miles of

primary line, 27 miles of secondary line, 36 anchors and six transformers – all by hand and without the aid of modern conveniences, such as bucket trucks.

This was the Indiana electric cooperatives’ third trip to Guatemala. In August 2012, 28 Hoosier lineworkers from 17 of Indiana’s electric cooperatives, spent four weeks working across the mountainous terrain to construct more than 20 miles of power lines and bring electricity to three villages. In April 2015, 14 lineworkers battled extreme heat and the rugged land to string 11 miles of wire to connect 76 poles across 2,500 feet of mountains.

## Project Indiana crew

The crew of nine Hoosier Energy mem-

ber cooperative linemen were supported by Indiana Electric Cooperatives employees Gayvin Strantz, Terry Adkins and Scott Willett.

- Kevin Porter, Clark County REMC
- Derrick Mullins, Whitewater Valley REMC
- David Guthrie, Jackson County REMC
- Travis Goffinet, Southern Indiana Power
- Jesse Fisher, South Central Indiana REMC
- Tyler Asbell, Dubois REC, Inc.
- Scott Adkins, WIN Energy REMC
- Mike Wagner, Southeastern Indiana REMC
- Robert White, Orange County REMC



## Meeting in summary

Reliability Workshop ■ May 18 ■ Hoosier Energy Headquarters

More than 42 representatives from the Hoosier Energy power network attended a reliability workshop to review a new system for outage reporting. The system also coordinates response measures in the event of a capacity emergency.

Hoosier Energy System Control Coordinator Stan Elmore demonstrated the transmission outage restoration process along with iTOA (Transmission Outage Analysis), a new interruption reporting system that will allow Hoosier Energy to better document and analyze outages enhancing identification of developing trends affecting reliability.

Hoosier Energy also reviewed the Midcontinent Independent

System Operator's Capacity Emergency plans and when the Hoosier Energy Capacity Emergency Portal would respond to such emergencies.

Members that participated in the afternoon session completed Hoosier Energy's NERC Cyber Security Training Program on Hoosier Energy's Cooperative Academy. The training included more than 10 state-of-the-art training modules from the SANs Institute that are used to qualify G&T staff for unescorted physical access to restricted cyber areas. The training also provides an excellent overview of what is involved in a comprehensive cyber security program. [E](#)



## Meeting in summary

Marketing and Member Service Meeting ■ May 23 ■ Hoosier Energy Franklin Training Center

Employees from member-co-ops who implement marketing, communications, public relations and energy efficiency programs attended the spring marketing and member service meeting at the Franklin Training Center. Hoosier Energy departments updated members about programs and services. Marketing, Communications, Renewables, Billing and Forecasting and Economic Development detailed what is new in their areas.

The meeting concluded with a session about distribution systems conducted by Hoosier Energy Safety and Training Transmission Team Leader Kevin Burch. The session took place in the classroom as well as in the training area of the facility. The instruction included showing the variety of equipment in place from substations to member meters. [E](#)



**FRANKLIN TRAINING CENTER:** Professionals from member cooperatives attended a day-long meeting that included a session about distribution systems conducted by Hoosier Energy Safety and Training Transmission Team Leader Kevin Burch.

HE photo

COVER STORY



# *THE REGULATORS*

Repairing equipment is a cost-effective way to keep smart grid reliable



**A**t Hoosier Energy there is a repair shop at the Operations Center where voltage regulators get a second life.

At the shop, the smell of oil hangs in the air. Overhead there is a crane used to move equipment that can weigh as much as 10,000 pounds. Nestled in the corner is an oven the size of a bus. This is the place where voltage regulators for both Hoosier Energy and member systems are tested and repaired.

The shop has its own nickname – “The Pit.” Coined from the previous shop at the old Bloomington headquarters that had an oil containment pit used to safely store used oil before being recycled.

The work that takes place here is specialized. The skills required to successfully service regulators are taught from employee to employee as well as through specialized training. One employee passing along these skills is Substation Apprentice Jared Bartlett. Working in The Pit, Bartlett knows how the equipment works and integrates into the electric distribution system.

“It is interesting how simple by design this equipment is and how important it is to have on the grid so members have a properly functioning power system,” said Bartlett.

Often found on power poles and in substations, voltage regulators help deliver consistent voltage levels. This helps to properly supply electric equipment in your home if voltage fluctuates due to electrical storms or high demand on the electrical distribution system.

On average, it takes three to four hours to refurbish a unit. Work includes checking parts such as contacts and insulating oil. Then the team performs a functional test at over 7,000 volts.

But there is something that can wreak havoc on a regulator and it is something we use every day – water. To remove this liquid destroyer, the huge oven in the corner of the shop is put to use. In a few hours, hot air from the oven evaporates water from a unit before it is serviced. This simple step increases safety and reliability of the equipment.

The work being done reduces costs by increasing the useful life of the asset and saves time a unit would be out for service. Many of the units sent to the shop will go on to their second life – a life of safe, reliable, and cost effective service that can last up to 40 years. 



HE photo

**BIG BANG:** This voltage regulator exploded due to a squirrel making a path to ground near the bushings. A unit like this can cost up to \$30,000. The crew in The Pit replaced the damaged parts for about \$3,000. Without any major issues, this unit can be in service for the next 40 years.



HE photo

**WATER REMOVAL:** These regulator components have been placed in the large oven that helps remove water from equipment.

## New director serving on Hoosier Energy board

*Editor's Note: Two directors are new to the Hoosier Energy Board this year, William Watkins, Utilities District of Western Indiana, and Dan Schantz, Decatur County REMC. Last month we featured a profile of Director Watkins. This month, we profile Director Schantz.*

Dan Schantz, representing District 8 for Decatur County REMC, succeeds Steve Dieckmann as the co-op's representative on the Hoosier Energy Board of Directors.

Schantz and his wife Jamie of 46 years are familiar with southern Indiana and electric cooperatives. Dan grew up on a farm outside of Batesville and Jamie in Vincennes. Since 1975, they have been served by Decatur County REMC in rural Ripley County. They have three grown children, Leah, Jon and Kerri, and three grandsons, ages 2, 4 and 6.



Schantz

Schantz retired after more than 30 years of service at Hillenbrand Industries Incorporated where he held executive positions in accounting, finance and human resources. He also has provided consulting services regarding rules and regulations related to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

An active member of the community, Schantz has served on the Ripley County Community Foundation board and the Oak Heritage Conservancy board. He enjoys golfing and walking in the woods with his family. In celebration of 100 years of the Indiana State Park system last year, he and Jamie visited every Indiana state park and logged more than 120 hiking miles in addition to lodging overnight in every state park that provided inn keeping services.

Beyond his accomplishments in his business career, he considers his greatest personal accomplishment instilling in himself and others a sense of total responsibility, fairness and perseverance.

As a new director to both Decatur County REMC and Hoosier Energy, he hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the challenges both organizations face. [E](#)

*"Forecast generation falls by 1.2 percent in 2017 and then grows by 1.6 percent in 2018."*

## Energy Information Administration

# EIA forecasts decrease in electricity generation

The Energy Information Administration said electricity generation fell 1.2 percent during the first quarter of 2017, compared with the same time last year. And EIA points to forecasts of cooler summer temperatures in calling for a 3.3 percent decline in generation during the third quarter of this year versus the same period in 2016.

"Overall, forecast generation falls by 1.2 percent in 2017 and then grows by 1.6 percent in 2018," EIA said in its Short-Term Energy Outlook, released June 6.

Higher than expected natural gas prices are impacting where the nation's electricity comes from. EIA said natural gas will go from accounting for 34 percent of last year's total utility-scale electricity generation to "less than 32 percent in both 2017 and 2018."

Spot natural gas prices at Louisiana's Henry Hub are expected to average \$3.16 per million Btu this year, before soaring to \$3.41 next year, EIA said.

While natural gas will remain America's dominant source of electricity generation, there are other sources. Non-hydro renewables are expected to provide 9 percent of this year's electricity generation and 10 percent next year, according to EIA. The agency also forecasts coal's share edging up from 30 percent last year to 31 percent in 2017 and 2018.

**Source:** Cooperative.com

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## Co-op annual meeting highlights



### *'Seven Cooperative Principles'*

## WIN Energy annual meeting

WIN Energy's annual meeting was held on Saturday, April 1 in Vincennes, Indiana at Lincoln High School.

### **Highlights:**

#### *Chairman message*

The Chairman at WIN Energy, Dan Schuckman, welcomed members to their 78th annual meeting. Each member received a \$5 bill credit, energy efficiency kit and an umbrella. Schuckman explained changes made to the language of the bylaws including the redistricting of board of directors. The decision was made to decrease the size of the board from nine to seven members.

#### *Lockhart tribute*

On December 28, WIN Energy suffered a great loss with the passing of Lead Line Specialist Ray Lockhart who lost his life during a tragic accident that occurred while working to restore power in northern Sullivan County. A moment of silence took place during the meeting to honor Lockhart.

#### *Directors elected*

Directors Barry Bane and Randy Kuppler were re-elected without opposition.

*HE photo*

**TOP:** Evan Twitty, a student at South Knox High School, performs bluegrass music before the meeting begins.

**MIDDLE:** Dan Schuckman, Chairman at WIN Energy, addresses members. Schuckman spoke about the strong commitment the cooperative has to make a difference in the communities served.

**BOTTOM:** An employee of the cooperative hands out a gift won by a member attending the annual meeting.

## Co-op annual meeting highlights



*'The cooperative difference'*

### Dubois REC annual meeting

Dubois REC held its 78th annual meeting April 11 at the Huntingburg Event Center in Huntingburg, Ind. There were approximately 1,100 co-op members in attendance.

#### Highlights:

Guests received their gift of energy efficient light bulbs and cast their votes shortly after arriving. Entertainment for the evening consisted of Bingo with a \$5 cash prize and a children's program staffed by YMCA. Dubois REC General Manager Don Book focused his message on slow growth in kWh sales due to low member growth throughout the service territory and energy efficiency. The Operation Round Up program earned approximately \$51,000 in 2016. The 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour and Touchstone Energy Camp participants were recognized.



#### *Election of officers*

District 3 – Mark Montgomery was elected  
 District 4 – incumbent David Rudolph defeated challengers Craig Greulich, Josh Himsel and Richard Weyer

District 5 – Steve Speedy was elected

*HE photo*

**TOP:** Members of Dubois REC began the evening with Bingo and casting their ballots.

**MIDDLE:** Joe Boesing provided the auditor's report during the Dubois REC annual meeting.

**BOTTOM:** Dubois REC recognized three employees for 30 years of service: From left to right, Patrick Lichlyter, David Sternberg, Scott Rottet. Rickie Hobson, right, for 40 years of service.

## Co-op annual meeting highlights



*HE photo*

**TOP:** Bartholomew County members register for the meeting that took place at the Clarion Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ind.

**MIDDLE:** The Marlinaires entertained members before the meeting began with rock, country and blues.

**BOTTOM:** Bartholomew County board member Janet Anthony speaks with members at the annual meeting.

### *'The cooperative difference'*

## Bartholomew County annual meeting

The Bartholomew County REMC annual meeting took place April 20 at the Clarion Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, Ind. with nearly 450 members filling the conference room.

While waiting for the meeting to begin, the crowd was entertained by the Marlinaires, a group performing hits from rock, country and blues.

### **Highlights:**

CEO Jim Turner introduced a video that focused on the history of the co-op and rural electrification in Indiana. He then spoke about the seven cooperative principles.

Chairman Curt Burbrink talked about the cooperative mission. He highlighted Hoosier Energy's diversified generation resources with a focus on solar projects. A video was shown that highlighted renewable energy and provided details about the 1 MW solar array being built south of Columbus.

Turner talked about consumer-owned solar and resources at the cooperative if members want more information.

Chairman Burbrink announced that there would be no rate increase in 2017, which received spontaneous applause from the members.

Turner spoke about the importance of energy efficiency and announced a seminar on that topic. He then talked about the four areas of performance the co-op is focused on including: member satisfaction, safety, reliability and cost control.

Incumbent Directors Dan Fleming and Curt Burbrink were re-elected, representing Districts 3 and 6, respectively.

# Springing to life

The start of a wheat crop can be seen on Davis Mill Road in Ramsey, Ind. at this Harrison REMC member's farm.

