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EMERGENCY POWER OUTAGES
To report a power outage, please call 800-933-7362. We are available to serve you 24 hours a day.

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Products and Services*
Tina Gienger
Credit and Payment Plans
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Doug Dickmeyer, P.E.
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Residential Line Construction Design
Ray Burns
Tree Trimming and Spraying

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Your membership means more!



Now, as always, is a great time to be a member of your electric cooperative, Noble REMC.

Not only were we built by members like you, but we are led by you and belong to the same communities you do. This means we're better able to listen and understand how to serve the unique needs of our community.

While many customers pay power bills to companies that answer to far-away stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local members call the shots at electric co-ops like ours.

Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits. Instead, we try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service. Co-ops also share excess revenue back with the members we serve in the form of patronage capital or invest it back into the business locally.

Your co-op's directors — who are fellow members, by the way — have two priorities in mind: keeping your lights on safely and reliably, and keeping costs affordable in our local community. That's why you elected them. And that's what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change the leadership through your vote at our annual meeting or by running for the board yourself!

While co-ops have a storied history of being built by the communities they serve, we are not just products of a proud past. These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize the co-op

As a locally owned and operated business, Noble REMC understands the people we serve. That's the cooperative difference.

approach — members working together to achieve price and service benefits — can work for other needs just as effectively as it delivers affordable power to rural communities.

Leadership at Noble REMC shares the same concerns as you, our members, because we live and work in the same community you do. We are accessible. You can give us a call or send us an email and know someone here is listening. And at our upcoming annual meeting and picnic on June 1, you'll have a chance to visit with us in person — we'll be the ones in green! — and share insights on how you think we can improve your service or programs.

As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops understand the people they serve. Directors and employees at Noble REMC share the same values and have the same pride of place as you do because it's our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

That's the cooperative difference.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO



Safety Standard

CO-OP JOINS NRECA SAFETY COMMITMENT

Noble REMC is living up to its mission: "Where safety is the standard, and members are the priority."

Noble REMC CEO Ron Raypole signed NRECA's Commitment to Zero Contacts in October and recently implemented the program cooperative-wide.

The initiative is designed to provide cooperative leaders with ideas and resources needed to help eliminate serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contact and enhance co-op safety programs.

We join the 45% of Indiana co-ops which have also signed similar pledges. More than 400 cooperatives across the country have made the commitment since the program was introduced in April 2018.

And in the spirit of Electrical Safety Month, the pledge fits into our mission to always prioritize safety for our members and ourselves.

Raypole said the evidence that accident numbers are dropping, but fatalities nationwide were not, was alarming. He, alongside the safety leadership team, thought it was imperative to be part of the program to make sure they're doing all they can to ensure

safety internally and externally.

"My goal is to have zero contacts," Raypole said. "Nobody comes in contact with electrical lines or hazards."

This includes getting into the local high schools to show the next generation of drivers what to do when a line falls on a vehicle. It's important to teach them what to do before they start driving, Raypole said.

And as always, Noble REMC will continue to provide electrical safety presentations to local schools and organizations when requested or available.

Doug Dickmeyer, Noble REMC's manager of engineering and construction, explained how the operations department is currently using the program's S.A.F.E. app to conduct crew job briefings onsite before starting each project. The department reviews the work before beginning, going through a step-by-step job hazard assessment and property safety procedure.

The app allows the crew to slow down and create a safer and more efficient plan of attack, Dickmeyer explained.

"We're rolling it out to our crews with the full intention to use it daily, for every job," Dickmeyer said. "Our goal

is to make sure our employees go home every night to their families."

One of the first to use the app was Journeyman Lineman Jerry Garcia. While the crews previously kept paper records of their assessments and site work, the app is another progression in how the department documents the safety procedures in place and provides it to leadership in real time, Garcia explained.

"We've always been committed to safety, and this provides another way to stay in line with that mission," Garcia said.

Operations crew members will be receiving hard hats with the Commitment to Zero Contacts logo on them as a reminder to the public of our mission. Additionally, each employee will be given a logo-ed coin to carry to remember that safety is the priority, for themselves and our members.





Ask the energy advisor

By **Brian Hawk**

It's getting to be that time of year. Birds are chirping, rain is falling, temps are rising and the sun is shining longer.

This is not just good news for farmers and mushroom hunters. This is good news to all who want to go, or have gone, green.

Longer days bring the opportunity to create more electricity through solar panels.

While out and about, we've heard questions about the big block of solar panels in LaOtto, just off of State Road 3 (see some photos at right). The solar array is part of the program Noble REMC has been talking about for over a year: Co-op Solar. The community solar program is offered by our wholesale power supplier, Wabash Valley Power, in conjunction with Noble REMC.

Wabash Valley owns the array, but you get to use it!

The program is designed for our members who want to use green energy, but don't want the investment or have room for a solar array at their home. There is an opportunity to purchase solar power from these arrays at our member level, to continue to move toward a greener footprint on a broader level.

For some time now, there has been a growing movement to go green, and Wabash Valley proactively started purchasing and building arrays to kickstart this program. Noble REMC is fortunate to have one of these arrays on our system that will be tied in and producing clean renewable energy by mid-summer for our members and other area cooperative members.

Since this is officially a Wabash Valley generation array, the initial investment is paid at the wholesale level. It does not mean a rate increase. In fact, this is an effort to sustain affordable production costs moving well into the future.

The days of building multi-billion-dollar fossil fuel generation facilities are days of old. Regional micro-grids are becoming more of a reality daily.

As with any change, I'm sure there will be differing opinions, but green energy production will continue to grow and supply larger amounts of our total consumption. This makes the opportunity to be on the front end of this revolution a high priority for Noble REMC.

If you are interested in participating in the Co-op Solar program, please visit nobleremc.com or contact me for more information.

Brian Hawk is the energy advisor at Noble REMC.



About the LaOtto Solar Generating Station

- 1-megawatt array, totaling 3,648 solar panels
- Encompasses six acres of an eight-acre plot
- Located on the southeast corner of C.R. 70 and S.R. 3
- Owned by Wabash Valley Power, located and serviced on Noble REMC lines
- Part of our Co-op Solar program, from which you can benefit from purchasing blocks

Attention!



NOBLE REMC ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Registration:
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Noble REMC
300 E. Weber Road, Albion

SEE YOU THERE!

EVENTS, DISPLAYS AND GIVEAWAYS:

- \$10 energy credit on your bill for registering
- Attendance gift for members
- Director elections (Districts 1, 2 and 8)
- Clowns, balloon animals and face painting
- Pork burgers, hot dogs, chips and ice cream
- Bounce houses
- Noble REMC programs and displays
- Exotic animal exhibit
- Community organizations
- Musical entertainment — The Time Travelers

Spraying for safety and reliability

Spraying for weeds in your own yard is a big enough project. Now imagine doing that over more than 1,200 miles. That's what Noble REMC's right-of-way crew is responsible for maintaining.

With the warming weather, controlling vegetation is one of our main priorities over the next few months, as foliage will begin growing rapidly. This maintenance includes spraying herbicides on power line rights-of-way.

Beginning this month, the Noble REMC right-of-way crew will begin

spraying in the middle third of our service territory, which includes properties between U.S. 6 and Baseline Road from north to south and from Lake Wawasee to Garrett from west to east. The crew will also be finishing part of last year's project to cover the southern one-third of our service area.

The spraying application uses non-restricted chemicals that are scientifically designed to work on plants, not people or animals, and is considered safe by the Environmental Protection Agency when properly applied.

Noble REMC instituted its right-of-way program more than 30 years ago, and since that time, power interruptions and outages have been reduced considerably, making the system safer and more reliable for you – our first priority.

If you would like to maintain the right-of-way that crosses your property in some other way, "Do Not Spray" signs are available at the Noble REMC office, but you must make sure the signs are visible and legible from the roadway and notify us of your location.

