

Responsible energy transition and our civic duty

All of us have certain aspects of our jobs that give us a measure of anxiety. The farmer is beholden to unpredictable weather and fluctuating market prices. A kindergarten teacher's daily outlook can be drastically altered by changing curriculums or the presence of one or two ill-behaved children. The factory worker is sometimes at the mercy of company performance and industry demand for his or her job security. It's easy for each of us to perceive our own points of anxiety, but sometimes it's more difficult to remember that nearly all of us face this plight in one form or another. The electric utility industry is no different.

At Nolin RECC, we face many of the same day-to-day challenges as other workplaces. Most of them are trivial, and the good far outweighs the bad for us.

Much more serious in scope for me and many of my colleagues are concerns about energy policy and regulation. These are things that can have a profound impact on the reliability and affordability of your electricity.

The current state of federal energy policy calls for drastic decreases in carbon emissions from electrical generation in a very short period of time. Furthermore, other federal and state regulations foster circumstances that significantly subsidize some forms of carbon-free energy production, like wind and solar power. There is nothing inherently wrong with overarching goals to reduce

emissions, but the proposed path to doing so presents many challenges that could affect every one of us.

A prudent transition

As we move forward, Nolin RECC and many of its peer organizations will be committed to supporting a prudent transition to electricity generation sources with lower emissions. While that sentiment is sincere, it gives me pause that large volumes of reliable, affordable coal plants continue to be closed at a rapid rate when the cost of emissions controls to meet new standards eliminates their operational viability. This is placing extreme pressure on the natural gas supply chain—which has already demonstrated real fragility (i.e. Winter Storm Uri 2021) and dependence on imports—as well as creating substantial reliance on nondispatchable generation assets like wind and solar. Yes, wind and solar are carbon free at the point of electrical generation, and they should be utilized in a balanced energy portfolio, but they do not have the resilience nor the predictability in output to be relied upon as a dominant component of a responsible energy plan.

Utility scale battery storage technologies continue to improve—maybe someday they can legitimately fill the concern with nondispatchable generation—but that time is not here yet.

Robert Bryce, a well-known and

respected author and journalist in our industry, has said, “If you are anti-carbon dioxide and anti-nuclear, you are pro-blackout.” As of now and for the foreseeable future, he is correct. A few months ago, I wrote this column on the potential need for curtailment measures in the future. While I hope it's never needed, I wrote about that because it's a legitimate concern and important for you to understand.

The laws of physics, as we currently understand them and are physically able to practically deploy them, dictate that the safest, most dependable and affordable means of electricity production is done by having a giant mass of iron or steel spinning in a circle. Should we continue to search for more efficient and lower emission technologies? Absolutely! But that's going to be hard to do if we're freezing and sitting in the dark.

Phasing out older generation technologies can be done slowly over time. But not until equally reliable (and hopefully

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by Greg Lee

From the
President/CEO

Continued from 26A

affordable) technologies can take their place. Reducing emissions is great, but rushing to eliminate them overnight will create more problems than it resolves. As it stands, there is currently more coal-fired electrical generation under construction in China than is presently in operation in the United States. Think about that. Of the world's six largest economies, the U.S. has reduced its carbon emissions more than all others since 2000, all while India and China signifi-

cantly increased carbon emissions. Yes, we should try to be good stewards of the environment, but even a maximalist approach to reduction here domestically makes a limited impact globally.

Let's say a typical monthly experience for a Nolin member is about a \$200 electric bill and hopefully only a handful of minutes of service disruption (I know each month can vary, but this is about average). Now, imagine a future where that bill is \$500 and you

don't have electricity for several hours. None of us want that.

Directly or indirectly—through reliability, affordability, or both—each of us will be impacted by our nation's energy transition. As the new year begins, please uphold your civic duty and let your members of Congress and state legislators know that we must keep responsible energy transition at the forefront. Find more information and resources at www.nolinrecc.com.

Washington Youth Tour and scholarship application deadline is January 30

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Washington Youth Tour is happening June 17-22, 2024! Apply for this all-expense-paid trip to experience our nation's capital and learn about leadership, government and the role citizens take in our democracy this summer.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

You could be selected for one of our \$1,500 or \$2,500 scholarships that will help toward college or career training.

Find details and applications for Washington Youth Tour and Nolin scholarships at www.nolinrecc.com. The deadline to apply for both is January 30.



STEP UP AND LEAD

★
2024 YOUTH TOUR
WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 17-22



- MEET ELECTED LEADERS
- EXPLORE CO-OP ENERGY ISSUES
- MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE
- INCLUDES ALL-EXPENSES-PAID DAY TRIP TO FRANKFORT AND WEEKLONG TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. (application required)



PHOTOS: TIM WIEBB

EMILY/ADOBE STOCK

High school juniors apply by January 30!
Learn more at www.nolinrecc.com

Community partnership

Hardin County Clerk Brian D. Smith has announced plans to open a branch office for vehicle registration in the Nolin office building at 101 Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff. Nolin RECC is partnering with the Hardin County Clerk to provide an additional site for Hardin County residents to pay their vehicle registration,

transfer a vehicle, request a title and other related services.

Effective January 15, 2024, the 101 Lincoln Trail Blvd. office location will no longer provide drive-thru or lobby options for transacting Nolin RECC business. A new payment kiosk and drop box in the front of the building offer various payment options for

Nolin RECC members.

The opening date of the new Hardin County Clerk vehicle registration branch will be formally announced once it is finalized. Find more information about all the methods available to Nolin members for managing their Nolin RECC account at www.nolinrecc.com.

Change in the Nolin RECC Office at 101 Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 15, 2024

101 Lincoln Trail Blvd., Radcliff will offer a Nolin RECC payment kiosk and night drop ONLY.



Available services for Nolin members at location:

PAYMENT KIOSK

Members can make a payment 24/7 with cash (bills only, no coins*) or Visa/Mastercard and the payment posts immediately to their account. *Cash payments over the account balance will be credited to the member account, no change will be given.

NIGHT DROP

Checks and money orders can be deposited in the night drop near the kiosk and payments will be picked up and posted every business day, (M-F) after 9 a.m.

EFFECTIVE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

101 Lincoln Trail Blvd. will be a Hardin County Clerk branch office offering vehicle registration services.



Available services for Hardin County Clerk customers at location:

VEHICLE REGISTRATION SERVICES

The lobby and drive-thru will be exclusively for Hardin County Clerk customers to pay vehicle registration, transfer a vehicle, request a title and other related services. This will not impact the services offered at the Hardin County Clerk Elizabethtown branch.

Hardin County Clerk employees will NOT be able to receive Nolin RECC payments or transact any Nolin RECC account business.



Spreading cheer

Nolin employees were busy during November and December helping our communities get ready for the holiday season.



Nolin Line Tech Elam Stillwell hangs decorations at Fort Knox. Photo: Nolin Line Tech Anthony Huff

How to reach Nolin RECC

ELIZABETHTOWN OFFICE

411 Ring Road | Elizabethtown, KY 42701
8 a.m.–5 p.m., Mon-Fri | (270) 765-6153

RADCLIFF OFFICE

101 West Lincoln Trail Blvd.
Radcliff, KY 40160
Payment kiosk and night drop only

TOLL-FREE BUSINESS CALLS

1-888-637-4247

PAY DIRECT BY PHONE TOLL FREE

1-855-938-3651

FOR EMERGENCIES

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Download our SmartHub App



Nolin employees and their families enjoy a ride on the Nolin float during the Hodgenville Christmas Parade. Photo: Sarah Fellows



Nolin Line Tech Blake Copelin helps deck the halls in Glendale. Photo: Nolin Line Tech Jamie Price

GUILLAUME PHOTO/DOBBE STOCK



Office closure

Our offices will be closed for the New Year's holiday on January 1



J.J. BROWN

Right-of-way work schedule

In an effort to keep our members informed, we provide a list of where our right-of-way crews plan to work each month. This information is subject to change.

January 2024:

Wide Open Utility Service—Vertrees Substation, Hardinsburg Road, Howe Valley Road, Shipley Road, Salt River Road.

Contract crews—Radcliff Substation, Hill Street, W. Lincoln Trail Boulevard, Redbud Circle and Spruce Court.

Free unprocessed wood chips are available. Call (270) 600-2714 for details.