

2013 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy

The 2013 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award will honor one electric cooperative for its leadership in wind power. All electric cooperatives that are members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) are eligible to apply. Cooperatives can nominate themselves or other systems and there is no cost to enter. The Wind Cooperative of the Year Award is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in partnership with the NRECA.

This year marks the thirteenth anniversary of the award. Since the program's inception, winners have included Iowa Lakes Cooperative, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Kodiak Electric Association, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Associated Electric Cooperative, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Holy Cross Energy, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Great River Energy, East River Electric Power Cooperative, and Golden Valley Electric Association. The 2013 winner(s) will be recognized at the NRECA [TechAdvantage Conference](#) in Nashville, TN on March 6, 2014 conference closing luncheon . Please submit nominations (using page two of this nomination form) to:

Randy Manion
Renewable Resource Program Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213
720-962-7423
manion@wapa.gov

Due Date

All nominations are due by close of business on January 15, 2014.

Additional Information

Entries will be judged in four areas:

- Corporate leadership
- Innovative marketing
- Benefits to customers
- Project creativity.

Page two of this form must be used as the template for all nominations, and responses should not exceed 1000 words. Graphics of the project and innovative marketing materials may be submitted as attachments. Nominations exceeding 1000 words may be penalized in the judging process.

For additional information, call Randy Manion, Western Area Power Administration, at 720-962-7423 or manion@wapa.gov.

Nominator Contact Information

Name: David Minster
Title: Mgr, Wind Energy Technologies Department
Company: Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)
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Albuquerque, NM 87185-1124
Phone: (505) 284-3082
Fax: (505) 844-6541
E-mail: dgminst@sandia.gov
Relationship to nominee: Client

Nominee Contact Information

Name: Timothy O'Leary
Title: General Manager
Company: Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative (LLEC)
Address: PO Box 639
205 W. Hwy. 14
Tyler, MN 56178
Phone: (507) 247-5505
Fax: (507) 247-5508
E-mail: toleary@llec.coop

Nominee Communications/Public Relations Contact

Name: Brian Jeremiason
Title: Energy Services Manager
Company: LLEC
Phone: (507) 247-5505
Fax: (507) 247-5508
E-mail: BJeremiason@llec.coop

Why are you nominating this organization? (In 500 words or fewer, please describe how this electric cooperative has demonstrated corporate leadership with wind power; any innovative marketing or customer education associated with wind power at this cooperative; how customers have benefited from the cooperative's involvement in wind power; and any creative solutions to barriers the cooperative faced in securing wind power. Please include information regarding the year the cooperative started considering wind power and the percentage of contribution wind provides to the cooperative's total power supply.)

SNL and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laborator (MIT-LL) enthusiastically nominate LLEC for the 2013 Award. Developers attending the 2011 AWEA Fall Symposium provided our DOE led Interagency Field Test and Evaluation (IFT&E) Team, which includes SNL and MIT-LL, with Tim O'Leary's name when we asked for assistance with a wind energy barrier reduction project. Tim's group was touted as the "best go-to team" in the MN/SD region where innovative thought was concerned. That assessment was 100% correct as the LLEC team greatly exceeded our expectations.

IFT&E Team is a joint government/industry venture dedicated to discovering mitigation solutions for the multi-million dollar wind turbine/radar interference (WT/RI) conundrum; a challenge that adversely affects air traffic control, national security, and public safety sectors. WT/RI issues span a range from degraded air surveillance coverage to disrupted weather prediction and inhibited homeland defense and security missions.

LLEC's service area includes 4100 customers in Lyon and Lincoln counties and portions of Murray, Pipestone, and Yellow Medicine counties in Minnesota. LLEC owns, operates, and maintains a 1,640 mile 12.5/7.2 kV distribution system. It purchases power from East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, SD. Much of the power comes from 2500+ wind turbines in LLEC's territory and in the area surrounding the IFT&E radar site at Tyler, MN.

When SNL staff approached Tim with the program objectives and needs, he and his staff recognized the significance and benefits of it to their local community and to all US citizens. Tim volunteered to act in a leadership role for the IFT&E effort even though he knew he faced significant challenges – the largest being to develop an understanding of the strained relationships between five major sponsors of the effort (the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Transportation, and Commerce and the wind industry which has had several high-visibility conflicts with the departments). Many of these conflicts have garnered Congressional and White House attention, as they try to reduce the potential interference caused by new wind energy projects.

For the IFT&E program to succeed, Tim has served as the needed envoy to the wind industry. Tim exhibited the finest qualities of a corporate leader – effectively demonstrating his strong commitment to Cooperative Principle #7 – Concern for Community. He effectively advanced the argument that the IFT&E program would open the door to increased economic development in Western MN. Also, he and his staff successfully (1) convinced local wind farm operators to participate in the evaluation, (2) researched and provided critical test site systems, (3) provided vendors with assistance in siting mitigation systems, and (4) helped multiple government agencies in efforts to remove a critical barrier to wind energy deployment through adopting a creative, unique, and innovative long-term marketing strategy that will benefit LLEC’s customer and, ultimately, cooperatives nationwide.