BY TODD H. CUNNINGHAM

Photo courtesy CoServ

CoServ's new predictive assessment regime includes an ultrasonic receiver that can detect whether insulating components are compromised.

TEXAS CO-OP FOCUSES ON GRID RESILIENCY

CoServ Electric, building on the success of its Power Quality & Reliability initiative that cut its SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) from 92 to 35 minutes over a two-year period, is using predictive assessment technology to further improve the performance of its operations.

Ohio-based Exacter **(exacterinc.com)**, a strategic partner of CoServ supplier Davey Tree **(davey.com)**, used patented sensors to survey 180 miles of three-phase circuits to help identify locations with conditions at risk for power outages or equipment failures. The Corinth, Texas, co-op found the survey results insightful, but also surprising, because some areas needing maintenance had recently been rebuilt and undergone in-depth visual investigations.

According to Brian Flage, CoServ's reliability manager, at-risk lightning arrestors interested the co-op the most "because they are our defense shield against the many storms we have." The analysis found failed and failing arrestors that showed no visual signs of problems, he added.

CoServ is considering expanding the use of Exacter's field intelligence to make it a more important element in the co-op's reliability database, Flage says. The predictive data "enables us to stay ahead of future power outages and make our grid more resilient."

Contact: CoServ Electric, Brian Flage, 940-270-6807; Exacter, Steve Engel, 614-880-9320.

HOLSTON IS PROACTIVE ON RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Holston Electric Cooperative's service territory, which includes a landscape of heavily wooded mountains, hills, and valleys, makes right-of-way maintenance a real challenge for almost 2,600 miles of distribution and transmission lines.

The Rogersville, Tenn., co-op has partnered with Pennsylvania-based Asplundh Tree Expert Co. **(asplundh.com)** to implement a preventive approach to reducing the influence of greenery on reliability. The contractor performs daily vegetation management work, including pruning, removals, and herbicide applications.

When volatile East Tennessee weather causes trees to fall, Asplundh crews accompany Holston Electric linemen on system restoration efforts. "During storm emergencies, it is all hands on deck," says Arthur Davenport, the co-op's director of operations. "Without Asplundh on site using chain saws and chippers, it would likely take our crews twice as long to get the power back on."

Contact: Holston Electric Cooperative, Arthur Davenport, 423-272-1011; Asplundh, Tom Mayer, 800-248-8733, ext. 4206.

SHARED SOLAR SITE IN WISCONSIN

The 2,376-panel solar facility that is now rising in Richland Electric Cooperative's Wisconsin service territory is actually a pair of projects: 396 of the panels are for the Richland Center-based co-op's Transition Energy community solar project, while 1,980 panels make up La Crosse-based Dairyland Power Cooperative's (G&T) utility-scale solar project.

When completed, the facilities—installed, owned, and operated by Chicago-based SoCore Energy **(socoreenergy.com)**—will produce more than 1 million kWh of renewable energy annually.

Richland Electric members can purchase a 25-year subscription for the output of a Transition Energy solar panel for $699, with each panel expected to produce about 475 kWh annually. "Members had a need they wanted met and expected us to deliver a product that was safe, affordable, reliable, and sustainable," says Shannon Clark, Richland Electric's CEO/general manager.

For Dairyland Power, the facility represents the first of 12 major solar projects announced in February. They will