

CONNECTIONS

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NRECA ASSOCIATE/SERVICE MEMBERS AND CO-OPS WORKING TOGETHER

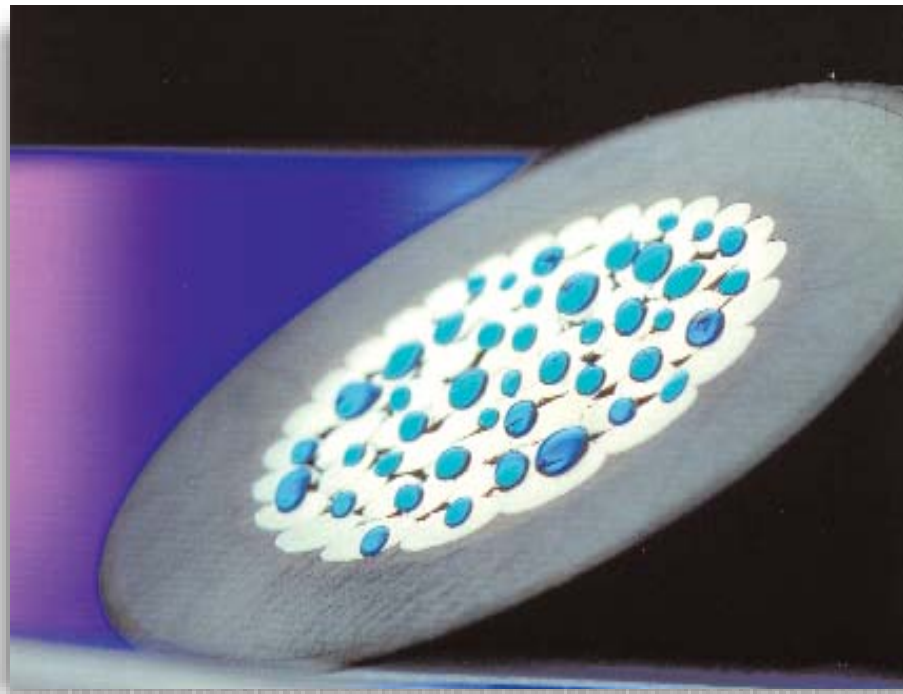
FINDING THE CURE FOR AGING UNDERGROUND

This advertising supplement shows how NRECA Associate/Service Members help electric co-ops solve operational problems and boost consumer relations. For information about Associate Membership, contact Nancy McMahan: 800-230-2601 or nancy.mcmahan@nreca.coop. Or visit Cooperative.com and click on "Contact."

With roughly a third of its 20 miles of underground cable more than two decades old, Sierra Electric Cooperative in Elephant Butte, N.M., was in the market for a fast and effective way to keep those facilities in service. So Emery Owen, Sierra Electric operations manager, compared the cost of replacing the cable against a new injection treatment from UtilX Corporation.

"UtilX's CableCURE technology came up a winner," he stresses. "We were able to remedy the situation for less than half the cost of cable replacement. In addition, it was much less disruptive to our consumers, field proven, and accompanied by a 20-year satisfaction warranty."

Overall, UtilX injected 7 miles of Sierra Electric aging underground last year. "To date, we have not seen a single failure on any of those lines," Owen says.



Contact: Gus Derezes, UtilX Corporation, 253-395-4537, utilx.com; or Emery Owen, Sierra Electric Cooperative, 505-744-5231. ❖

CERTIFIED STAKERS

Staking technicians at electric co-ops throughout Mississippi have a clearer grasp of their jobs, and are doing them better, thanks to a certification program launched by the co-op's statewide service association and Hi-Line Engineering, a GDS Associates company.

"The course goes over things folks need to do a good job staking," observes Stan Rucker, vice president of safety & loss control at Ridgeland-based Electric Power Associa-

tions of Mississippi, which has sponsored the intensive three-week training and certification effort for four years.

The comprehensive curriculum provides practical staking instruction emphasizing safety, reliability, and efficiency. Specifically, it covers overhead and underground design, permitting, easement acquisition, joint-use staking, surveying, transformer sizing, over-current protection, construction contract administration, inspections, code application and use, and unique structures.

Graduate engineers, line foremen, and construction personnel have all taken part.

"It's been a hit with all of them, Rucker concludes. "We've not had one bad evaluation yet."

Contact: Kevin Mara, Hi-Line Engineering, a GDS Company, 770-425-8100, gdsassociates.com; or Stan Rucker, Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, 601-605-8600. ❖



Special Advertising Supplement