

Ohio Cooperative Decides Proactive Beats Reactive

'Exacter' helps locate line problems before they occur

The Cooperative is using new technology from Exacter, Inc., a central Ohio-based company that uses proprietary, patent-pending equipment to identify and predict electric line failures before they happen.

The Exacter Outage-Avoidance System measures radio frequency noise to help predict potential electric outages based on power line noise. Rick Stover, operations manager for the Logan County Electric Cooperative, spent five hours in early November checking the three-phase lines and found some problem areas.

Often, equipment installed on overhead power lines that is faulty can still function on the electric grid properly for a period of time before it fails. Equipment malfunctions can create outage incidents along the electric grid. The Exacter system performs something similar to an equipment diagnostics check by measuring the radio fre-

quency noises emanated by the equipment.

To find even one problem could be worth its weight in gold if we can avoid an outage to our members. "We prefer to be proactive rather than reactive," says Doug Miller. "It is much more difficult to repair problems after something has failed. A planned outage causes less hassle for fewer people."

In addition to locating cracked or failing insulators, the Exacter system also can identify other problems, including poor electrical connections, bad lightning arresters and poor or broken grounding

connections. Given continued success in using this system, the Cooperative will be able to more accurately plan and budget system upgrades and improvements. In addition to competitive electric rates, the Cooperative's primary focus is on service reliability.

