

# Singing River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Brian Hughey  
 General Manager and CEO  
 Singing River Electric

## CEO's Message

### Still here to serve

Each October, Singing River Electric along with over 900 other electric cooperatives celebrate National Cooperative Month. As an organization, we are reminded of why and by whom we were formed. The answer is very clear and still is at the center of our decisions today. Singing River Electric is operated by and for the people of the communities we serve. One of our primary goals is to provide reliable service to our members. While our employees work diligently to plan

system upgrades and clear right-of-way to prevent system outages, Mother Nature can still cause interruptions to our electric system. When this occurs, our employees focus on restoring power as efficiently and safely as possible.

While reflecting back on last month's Tropical Storm Gordon, I am proud to say that your cooperative performed well in restoration efforts to over 10,000 members who were left without power. While we did obtain additional linemen from other cooperatives, our own employees remained at the forefront of the restoration process. It continues to amaze me how these men and women excel in times like these. While most residents within our service area were enjoying their holiday weekend, many of our employees were spending Labor Day afternoon at the offices making necessary emergency response preparations. Our employees had a limited amount of time to prepare their homes and families for the incoming storm. Once the storm cleared, ALL of our employees went to work, leaving their families to begin the clean-up process at their homes. This is not the first time our employees have shown unwavering dedication during times of extreme weather conditions.

It's times like these that exemplify the cooperative way in our member owned, locally operated, not-for-profit organization. I hope our membership is as proud of our employees' tremendous efforts as I am.

## Keeping the lights on!

### Upcoming right-of-way clearing projects

Singing River Electric clears trees, limbs and underbrush from the area around and below the power lines, which is called the right-of-way. Right-of-way clearing helps decrease the number of outages and reduces the risk of someone coming in contact with the power lines.

Some of our members were fortunate to not lose their power during Tropical Storm Gordon, and that was in large part due to our diligent right-of-way maintenance.

The following substations and surrounding areas are either currently being cleared or will

be cleared soon:

- **State Line Substation** – Highway 42, Highway 57, Knobtown/ MLK Road and surrounding areas.
- **Benndale Substation** – Highway 57, Highway 26, Deep Creek Road and surrounding areas.
- **Big Point Substation** – Highway 613, Highway 63, Big Point Road and surrounding areas.
- **Helena Substation** – Highway 613, Saracennia Road, Wildwood Road and surrounding areas.

# Tropical Storm Gordon

## knocks out more than 10,000 meters across southeast Mississippi

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Gordon early Wednesday morning, Singing River Electric had 10,500 meters without service. The storm had caused severe flooding in Alabama and Florida prior to landfall. It crossed over land just east of Pascagoula, and west of the Alabama and Mississippi state line around 10 p.m., on Tuesday, September 4.

Singing River Electric management and engineers spent the Labor Day weekend preparing for the storm's arrival including checking the maintenance of vehicles, moving equipment for easier access, organizing crews and submitting requests for assistance from electric co-ops across the state.

"We basically doubled our outside workforce," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "Cooperatives have mutual aid agreements across the nation, and this allows us all to increase personnel very quickly by calling on them in our time of need."

Having more linemen and trucks allows for quicker response time when making storm restorations and that is exactly what happened. Singing River Electric crews began the day with assistance from only local contract crews for right-of-way and clearing. However, several

hours later the number of outside personnel doubled, and the outage numbers began to plummet.

"This storm caused damage and outages across the entire service territory, which covers over 7,000 miles of power lines," said Hughey. "The increased workforce allowed us to strategically flood the area with trained, skilled linemen and get power restored in a large area quickly."

By 8:30 p.m., power had been restored to all but two outages affecting only 18 meters. Singing River Electric crews worked late into the night to complete restorations to all members.

"The key to success is having a good plan and sticking to it," said Hughey. "Our plan worked in Hurricane Katrina, and it also worked this week for Tropical Storm Gordon. The most important preparation is having a plan and not underestimating a storm, no matter what the size or projected outcome."

For more information on storm preparation and what to do before, during and after a storm, visit [singingriver.com/storm-and-outage](http://singingriver.com/storm-and-outage) or join the social media conversation on Facebook (SingingRiverElectric), Twitter (SRECooperative) and Instagram (SingingRiverElectric).

