

Singing River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Bringing power and energy services to local communities

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Rising to the challenge this hurricane season



Brian Hughey
General Manager
& CEO

Living along the Gulf Coast is always stressful this time of year. As south Mississippi residents, we are accustomed to keeping an eye on the Gulf of Mexico and adjusting our schedules as storms threaten our area. August ended with Hurricane Laura taking aim at the northern Gulf Coast. If you recall, Laura was originally predicted to make landfall in Alabama, but as the storm entered the Gulf of Mexico, Laura's path shifted west and made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane. The storm left behind over 100,000 outages for our neighboring Louisiana electric cooperatives. Singing River Electric responded by sending 22 employees over a two-week period to help Beauregard Electric in southwest Louisiana with the restoration process. Unfortunately, the trip was cut short after another storm rolled off the southern tip of Florida.

On Sunday, Sept. 13, Singing River Electric linemen were called home from Louisiana due to the threat associated with Tropical Storm Sally. At the same time, our management team activated the cooperative's Emergency Storm Plan which has proven to be very effective through the years. The slow-moving storm took on a mind of its own as the forward speed decreased to less than 5 mph as it moved

closer to the northern gulf. Initially, Sally was expected to make landfall near the Mississippi/Louisiana line as a Category 1 hurricane. As it inched closer to the northern Gulf Coast, Sally steered more eastward than originally projected. Singing River Electric's employees were prepared to respond, and additional help was secured and ready to assist as we patiently awaited Sally's landfall. The storm grew to a Category 2 hurricane, eventually making landfall at 4:45 a.m. on September 16 near Gulf Shores, Ala. While Singing River Electric's distribution system did not take a direct hit, we did have 9,522 meters out as a result of the storm. The biggest challenge for our linemen was safely and efficiently working through the day while winds were still in the 30-40 mph range. Our linemen stepped up to the challenge as power was restored to all meters by 8:00 p.m. the same day, with the exception of houseboats and river camps only accessible by boat.

This is not the first time our employees have shown unwavering dedication during times of extreme weather conditions. It is 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. As we continue to keep those who experienced major damage and flooding in our thoughts and prayers, we look forward to the end of the 2020 hurricane season.

BRIAN HUGHEY
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SRE is an equal opportunity
employer and provider.



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Decrease A/C runtime and increase fall savings

As fall approaches, we will begin to see cooler temperatures move into our region. With the cooler temperatures, be sure to set your thermostats back so your air conditioning system is not running while it is not needed.



As humidity and temperatures drop, the need for A/C lessens. By cutting your air conditioner's run time, you should see substantial savings on the cooling portion of your electric bill. This is a simple yet effective way to save on your bill not only in the month of October but also throughout the fall.

For more tips like this, visit singingriver.com and check out 101 more ways to save energy and money.



Sally makes her presence known in South Mississippi.



As a Category 2 hurricane, Sally made landfall over Gulf Shores, Ala., in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020. Effects were felt as far west as southeast Mississippi.

The storm began causing power outages beginning late on Tuesday. Crews worked to restore power until around 11 p.m. and were called back to the offices and sent home due to high winds and unsafe working conditions. Lucedale and Sand Hill office crews began working at first light on Wednesday. However, Gautier crew members left for their assigned areas around 7 a.m.

"Winds must decrease below 35 miles per hour for it to be safe for crews to make repairs in bucket trucks, and areas along the coastline

were still experiencing significant wind gusts at first light," said SRE General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey.

At the peak, SRE had 9,522 meters out on Wednesday due to the storm. Our linemen and crew members aided by contract and right-of-way crews were able to restore power to all meters accessible by land that same day. Remaining members along the river were restored the next day.

"I'm proud of the exceptional effort from our team of employees and partners. I also appreciate the patience and support of Singing River Electric members," said Hughey.

For photos of restoration progress, visit Singing River Electric's Facebook page at facebook.com/singingriverelectric.

Answering the call for help

SRE crews help Beauregard Electric in Louisiana



It's hard to wait and watch as a Category 4 hurricane nears an area. It's even harder to wait to respond and help a fellow cooperative after devastating reports of property damage and large-scale power outages, but the bottom line is the affected cooperative must be ready to receive your help.

Beauregard Electric, headquartered in DeRidder, serves 43,000 meters in rural southwest, central Louisiana. They were one of two Louisiana electric cooperatives decimated by Hurricane Laura. Following the storm, all members were without power.

Singing River Electric prepped for the storm but as we realized it was headed west, we notified the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi (ECM) that we were ready to answer the call for help. ECM provides support services, including mutual aid, for

all 26 Mississippi electric cooperatives.

"Our linemen were anxious to head to Louisiana and do what they do best," said SRE General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "We let them know that the housing conditions might be hard, but they didn't care. They just wanted to help."

At the time of publishing, Singing River Electric had sent two separate crews to Beauregard Electric including 22 crew members and 10 vehicles. They joined 1,200 crew members from 12 states working to restore power.

"Beauregard Electric believes it will take four weeks to complete repairs and energize their communities," said Hughey. "They have linemen on every circuit and are making great progress. We are proud to help, not only Beauregard Electric, but these communities and families in Louisiana."

SRE crews worked in Glenmora, La., while assisting Beauregard Electric.

Flashback

Give back after Hurricane Katrina.

One the evening of August 28, 2005, SRE prepared for a monster storm. We had no idea that the next day would re-write the history books on storm response and preparation or just how truly devastating a monster storm could be. Our fellow cooperatives in Louisiana have sadly now lived this nightmare. SRE employees swelled to more than 1,000 following Katrina. We were ever so grateful to all who came from near and far away. We will always answer a co-op's call for help.



2020 Broadband Drive-in Vote and Meeting

WE NEED YOUR VOTE TO AMEND SRE'S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION



Your Co-op. Your vote.

EARLY VOTING DEADLINE: OCTOBER 5

Drive-in vote to amend SRE's Certificate of Incorporation

Friday, October 9

11187 Old 63 South, Lucedale

Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m.

Meeting begins at 4:00 p.m.

Participate by voting in person, online or returning your ballot by mail. Co-op bylaws require a 10 percent quorum of the membership in order to conduct business. Your participation is crucial to our success, and with it you will be eligible to win prizes including \$500 in cash!

Eight members who vote online or return their ballots by the October 5 deadline will be selected to receive a \$250 CASH prize. One member who votes online or returns the ballot by the deadline will receive a special grand prize of \$500 CASH!

THERE ARE **THREE** WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: IN PERSON, BY MAIL AND ONLINE



Voting in person can be done at the drive-in vote meeting on **Friday, October 9, at 4 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the SRE Lucedale office at 11187 Old 63 South and **will be held outdoors to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.**



Return your completed ballot by mail using the enclosed self-addressed, postage-paid envelope by **Monday, October 5.** You may still attend the meeting.



Voting online is easy! Members can vote online beginning **Tuesday, September 8, through Monday, October 5.** Simply click on the "Vote Here" icon on either the SmartHub app or website at singingriver.com. By entering your membership ID and zip code, you can view the ballot and cast your vote.

Upcoming right-of-way projects

Singing River Electric clears trees, limbs and underbrush from the area around and below the power lines 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.

Here are the substations and surrounding areas that are either currently being cleared or where clearing will begin soon:

- **Agricola Substation** – Highway 613, Barton-Agricola Road, Highway 612 and surrounding areas.
- **Leakesville Substation** – Knobtown Road, Highway 63, Highway 57, Hillman Crossing and surrounding areas.
- **Lucedale Substation** – Highway 26, Twin Creek Road, Highway 63 and surrounding areas.
- **Harleston Substation** – Highway 613, Hurley-Wade Road, Highway 614 and surrounding areas.



Supporting our neighbors

SRE employees participate in Habitat for Humanity Women Build in Gautier

As electric cooperatives, we belong to the communities we serve.

We adhere to a set of seven cooperative principles, and the seventh is concern for community. It is a part of all that we do.

Seven Singing River Electric employees signed up at the first of the year to participate in the early summer 2020 Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Gulf Coast Women Build. Teams were scheduled to help build a home in Gautier. Funds were raised and the home was built, but team participation was limited by COVID-19. Two team members participated in a wall-signing event, and all remaining team members worked to raise awareness for HFHMGC on the scheduled Virtual Build Day in September.

Visit singingriver.com/my-community for more information on community donations.

Protecting women

Singing River Electric employees recently donated health and hygiene items to Adrienne's House, a domestic violence shelter for women and families in Jackson County associated with Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence. For more information about Adrienne's House, visit www.gccfn.org.

Agricola Elementary receives NHN Grant

Students at Agricola Elementary have an opportunity to check out new audio, chapter books from the school's library to improve reading scores. The book sets have playaway devices to assist struggling readers and are available for all students. For more information, visit www.singingriver.com/nhn.