



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Broadband — taking a careful step forward



Brian Hughey
General Manager & CEO

After two years of research, including input from our members, review of feasibility studies, consultation with experts and visits with co-ops already deploying the service, Singing River Electric's (SRE) Board of Directors recently approved a plan

to build its first fiber project. It will consist of a 400-mile fiber ring connecting all Singing River Electric substations and offices, and a fiber-to-the-home pilot project.

This decision was made with careful consideration. Over the past 24 months SRE's management team and board of directors have spent extensive time conducting research on the possibility of providing high-speed internet service. We kept our members updated through the *Today in Mississippi* magazine. Because this is not our core business, SRE waited patiently for local communication or cable companies to give indication of their plans to provide high-speed internet service locally to areas lacking adequate service. Meanwhile, we continued our research efforts to ensure a sound business decision should the board decide to move forward. Additionally, our communities' dependency on high-speed internet service at an affordable price continued to strengthen due to challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. After two years and NO significant movement from other companies to provide this vital service to the underserved areas within

our service territory, the board made the decision in December to move forward with a broadband project in 2021.

Research also revealed owning fiberoptic cable along our electric distribution system could add immediate value for our electric members. Owning and operating fiber from our 42 substations to our three offices would allow for instantaneous monitoring and control of substation equipment, resulting in even more efficient member service. The addition of fiber to our electric system would also prepare SRE for the future of the electric business as technology continues to advance at a rapid pace.

The fiber ring project is scheduled to begin by summer 2021. It will be designed and built to potentially provide high-speed internet service to surrounding areas.

The fiber-to-the-home pilot project is expected to begin later this year as well. A pilot location will be identified within the next two months and shared with you in an upcoming *Today in Mississippi* magazine. Participation of SRE members in this pilot project will give the board direction on future broadband expansion to other areas.

We ask for your patience as our management team and board of directors continue to move forward in a careful and methodical manner to assure decisions are made in the best interest of Singing River Electric members and its communities. As your provider of safe, efficient and affordable electric service, we will continue to take every step to ensure this remains our primary focus.

Energy Tips



Nick DeAngelo
Manager of Energy Services and Economic Development
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Adjusting the thermostat quickly can take away your heat pump's advantage

This is the time of year for a heat pump's best energy savings. An important tip when you are turning your heat pump on is to be sure to do it slowly. Adjust the thermostat a degree or two at a time to reach the desired temperature. Adjusting the thermostat too quickly will engage the auxiliary or emergency heat and take away your heat pump's energy savings.



Notice of Singing River Electric Director Qualification Period

Candidates seeking election to the board of directors for Singing River Electric Cooperative must visit Singing River Electric's Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South and obtain a Director Qualification packet. The forms and petitions included must be completed and the packet returned by close of business on the last business day of February (Friday, February 26, 2021).

Ways to stay cozy this winter

When you are feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways to keep you and the family comfortable this winter without turning up the thermostat.

Here are a few easy ways to stay cozy and save money but not increase your electricity use.

- Set your thermostat to 68° or lower.
- Dress for the weather, even indoors. Keep your socks and sweater on to keep from raising the heat.
- Layer blankets on your bed and lower the thermostat while you sleep by several degrees. Program it to raise the temperature 10-15 minutes prior to your alarm for added comfort.
- Lower the thermostat while you are away. Every degree difference lower than 68° will save you around 5%.
- Harness the sun's heat by opening drapes and blinds in sunny windows and closing them at sundown.
- Close your fireplace flue when not in use.
- Use space heaters sparingly, if at all, and only while you are in the room.

For more tips to conserve, be comfortable and save money, see our heating and cooling tips at singingriver.com/ways-to-save.



2021 Mississippi Legislature



TATE REEVES
Governor



DELBERT HOSEMANN
Lieutenant Governor

AVAILABLE! A free, interactive legislative app for Mississippi

The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi offer the 2021 Legislative Roster. We hope this will be helpful in your involvement with state government.



Our free, easy-to-use mobile app provides information on Mississippi's state and federal elected officials. Look for "Mississippi Legislative Roster" in the Apple App Store. An Android version is also available through Google play.



ROGER WICKER
United States Senator



CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator



STEVEN PALAZZO
United States Representative
Fourth District

Stay connected

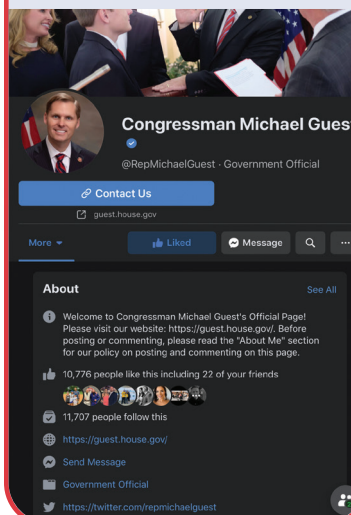
Facebook is a great way to stay connected to your legislators. Many of them have social media pages where they update constituents on what is happening at the state Capitol building and in Washington, D.C.



State legislators like Senators Brice Wiggins and Jeremy England are two who frequently post to explain bills, what's happening in Jackson and more.

Congressmen Michael Guest and Steven Palazzo, among others, work to keep you updated on a national level.

Check out this *Today in Mississippi* Legislative Issue to identify your state and national Mississippi legislators and take the time to follow their social media pages. You might be surprised how much you can learn. It is also a great direct line of communication to them.



Singing River Electric salutes Mississippi's senators and representatives who represent our state in Washington, D.C., and at our state capital in Jackson. We appreciate their dedication and willingness to serve in the spirit of public service to help shape the future of our state.

SENATE



Sen. Dennis DeBar, Jr.
District 43: George, Greene and Wayne counties
Address: P.O. Box 1090 Leakesville, MS 39451
Years in Legislature: 10



Sen. Chris Johnson
District 45: Forrest and Perry counties
Address: P.O. Box 18247 Hattiesburg, MS 39404
Years in Legislature: 6



Sen. Joseph M. "Mike" Seymour
District 47: Jackson, Pearl River and Stone counties
Address: 15417 Indian Fork Rd. Vancleave, MS 39565
Years in Legislature: 5



Sen. Jeremy England
District 51: Jackson County
Address: P.O. Box 6363 Vancleave, MS 39565
Years in Legislature: 2



Sen. Brice Wiggins
District 52: Jackson County
Address: P.O. Box 922 Pascagoula, MS 39568
Years in Legislature: 10

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Rep. Shane Barnett
District 86: Greene, Perry and Wayne counties
Address: P.O. Box 621 Waynesboro, MS 39367
Years in Legislature: 6



Rep. Dale Goodin
District 105: George, Greene and Perry counties
Address: 72 Memorial Church Rd., Richton, MS 39476
Years in Legislature: 2



Rep. Douglas D. "Doug" McLeod
District 107: George and Stone counties
Address: 1211 Bexley Church Rd. Lucedale, MS 39452
Years in Legislature: 10



Rep. Manly Barton
District 109: George and Jackson counties
Address: 7905 Pecan Ridge Dr. Moss Point, MS 39562
Years in Legislature: 10



Rep. Jeramey D. Anderson
District 110: Jackson County
Address: P.O. Box 311 Escatawpa, MS 39562
Years in Legislature: 9



Rep. Charles Busby
District 111: Jackson County
Address: 4703 Willow St. Pascagoula, MS 39567
Years in Legislature: 10



Rep. John O. Read
District 112: Jackson County
Address: 2396 Robert Hiram Dr. Gautier, MS 39553
Years in Legislature: 29



Rep. Henry B. "Hank" Zuber III
District 113: Jackson County
Address: 503 Minor Lane Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Years in Legislature: 22



Rep. Jeffrey S. Guice
District 114: Harrison and Jackson counties
Address: 1208 Iola Rd. Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Years in Legislature: 13