



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Thank you doesn't quite cover it.



Brian Hughey
General Manager & CEO

Line workers are highly skilled and encounter some of the most challenging work conditions. Safety must remain a lineman's primary focus, as his life and the lives of those who work with him depend on it.

April is National Lineman Appreciation Month. Reflecting on our linemen's efforts this past year has me grateful. Beginning in August 2020, Singing River Electric's distribution system was grazed by Tropical Storm Cristobal, and our linemen worked quickly to restore service to 10,000 SRE members. Later that same month, we were spared the impact of Category 4 Hurricane Laura. However, more than 20 SRE linemen volunteered to help restore service to Beauregard Electric members in Deridder, La. In September 2020, Hurricane Sally appeared to be making a direct path for the Mississippi Gulf Coast when it wobbled east making landfall in Gulf Shores, Ala. Though we avoided a direct hit, our linemen faced outages for more than 9,500 SRE members. Power was restored to all that same day.

Our luck dodging storms ran out late

in the season with Hurricane Zeta. This storm caused more damage to our electric distribution system than any storm since Hurricane Katrina. Following Zeta, 82% (62,388) of Singing River Electric's 75,798 meters were without electricity. With the assistance of 18 additional co-op crews, Singing River Electric linemen replaced more than 1,100 broken power poles, 320 damaged transformers and 21.61 miles of power lines. After working 10 consecutive 16-hour days, SRE crews were finally able to get back to their normal schedule.

As we entered the new year, our country faced a series of ice storms. While Singing River Electric did not experience ice-related power outages, 26 SRE linemen and engineers responded to help both Magnolia Electric Power and Southwest Electric cooperatives over a two-week period.

It's been a busy six months from August 2020 through February 2021 and this year, more than any year, saying thank you doesn't quite cover it. We honor Singing River Electric linemen and all linemen across our great nation for their strength of character and love of family, community and country. This April we are grateful for our linemen and all of our employees, as well as the families who support them.



Jeff Gray
Energy Services Representative
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HVAC Summer Service

The summer heat is almost here. Now's the time to ensure your air conditioner is operating at its highest efficiency. We recommend having a service contract with an air conditioning contractor to have your system checked at least once a year.

Maintenance issues could include: low freon, dirt on outside or inside coils, an inaccurate thermostat, duct leaks and more. Any of these issues can cause your unit to operate longer cycles, using more energy and resulting in higher energy costs and decreased comfort.



If your unit needs repairs or added freon every year, it's time to consider replacing it. Singing River Electric has a Comfort Advantage rebate program for replacing an electric furnace or gas furnace with a new electric heat pump. It is the most advanced and efficient heating and cooling system available today. Visit singingriver.com/my-home/heat-pumps for details.



Lineworkers brave ice, fire, floods and storms,

Keeping Life Connected.

Thank you doesn't quite cover it.

Move over – for roadside crews.



Moving over for police, firefighters, utility crews, road crews and other emergency personnel on the side of the road isn't just polite – it's a Mississippi law. It's also a law in many surrounding states.

Protecting line and construction crews is a top priority for all Mississippi electric cooperatives. According to Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Vice President of Government Relations Paul Purnell, Mississippi was the second state to add utility workers under the Move Over Law's protection. Electric contract crews are protected by the same law.

"Move Over is not only a good law, it's also the courteous thing to do," said Singing River Electric Safety Manager Jason Havard. "Our crews already perform dangerous work to keep the lights on every day. We work to ensure their work environments are as safe as possible, but here we need your help."

If you're traveling and see a crew up ahead and there is more than one lane on your side of the road, move over to the farthest lane from the working crew. Slow down as you go by the crew. Pay attention to road signs and driving conditions in order to keep control of your car as you pass the working crew. Eliminate all distractions as distracted driving can be deadly.

"We want to make sure each and every crew member returns home to their family," said Havard.

April 26-30, 2021, is National Work Zone Awareness Week!

It's a great time to discuss the Move Over law with teenage drivers and family members. Help us ensure our linemen return to their families as they work to keep your life bright. Remember to drive safe, work safe and save lives.

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.
- **Aleco Substation** – Wire Road, Highway 15, Highway 57, Old Biloxi and surrounding areas.
- **Lucedale South Substation** – Highway 26, Twin Creek Road, Highway 63 and surrounding areas.
- **Harleston Substation** – Highway 613, Hurley-Wade Road, Highway 614 and surrounding areas.

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SRE fiber project Member update

Singing River Electric is working closely with its consultant, Conexon, to move forward with the 400-mile fiber ring and fiber-to-the-home pilot projects.

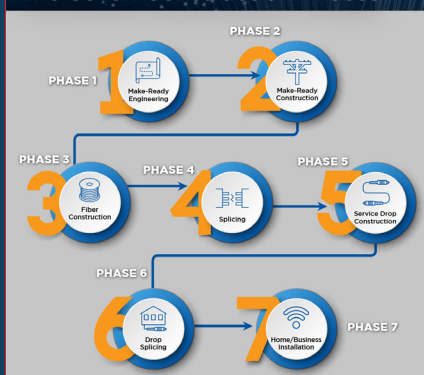
April update

- Broadband project manager is onsite at the co-op.
- Contract crews have been hired for make-ready engineering and construction.
- The project manager continues to drive through some of SRE's service area. Should you see his truck, this does not mean you will be getting fiber soon.
- Constructing the fiber ring and pilot projects will take time. Fiber will need to be installed on power poles and within substation buildings or huts constructed in substations to support the project before service can be offered to members.
- SRE is not yet ready to announce pilot project locations or begin pre-registering for fiber service.

We are committed to keeping SRE members informed of this project and managing expectations. Keep reading the *Today in Mississippi* monthly magazine, referring to the website at singingriver.com/broadband and joining conversations on social media to stay informed.

Fiber-to-the-home network for pilot projects

The Seven Construction Phases



Singing River Electric board member Mark LaSalle (second from right) joins SRE employees to plant trees in Lucedale City Park as part of the co-op's Mississippi Arbor Day events.

Board Leadership

More than just attending meetings, today's board values community and continued education.

What does it take to be a leader? If you're a member of an electric cooperative, you can lead by serving on the board of directors. Our 10-member board is made up of SRE members throughout the service area in three geographic districts.

Today's director is not only concerned with providing quality, reliable electric service, but also giving back to local communities, transparency through member communication and continued education. Directors must attend monthly meetings and take classes to stay up-to-date on everything from accounting issues, technology and innovation, renewable energy and more.

For more information, visit our website at singingriver.com/my-coop.



Singing River Electric board members (top) Cary Williams and Eddie Thornton, and (bottom) Mark LaSalle and Kristal Sisson.

Geographic Districts

Singing River Electric board members are elected for a three-year term from three geographic districts. District 1 directors represent members in Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Mississippi and Washington County in Alabama. Three District 2 directors represent members in George and Stone counties in Mississippi and Mobile County in Alabama. Four District 3 directors represent members in Jackson and Harrison counties in Mississippi. The number of board representatives is based on population in the area.



Credentials and Election Committee

Five Singing River Electric members currently serve on the Credentials and Election Committee. These individuals serve the co-op by verifying board candidates prior to election. They also help oversee board elections, allowing for member oversight and ensuring transparency.

Board Election

Each year, Singing River Electric holds a board election for three to four posts in the three different geographic districts. Board candidates must submit a candidate packet within the deadline and be approved by the Credentials and Election Committee. Elections are held beginning in May and run through June, just prior to the annual membership meeting. Notice of the meeting is mailed to all members prior to the election period. Directors are elected by the membership by online ballot, mail-in proxy and in-person ballots.



Supporting vocational education

SRE NHN Grant benefits Greene County High School Vo-Tech welding classes

NHN Community Grants

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) Community Grants help Singing River Electric merge efforts with the hard work of those within our communities.

Since the program's inception in 2001, \$312,178.15 has been awarded to local non-profits in local communities.

Greene County Vo-Tech received a \$2,371.56 Singing River Electric Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant. Funds purchased a large gas metal arc welding machine with accessories for the newly expanded and growing welding program. Students learn welding skills along with safety, communication and employability skills, blueprint reading and construction math. Welding students recently constructed stairs and guard rails for the McLain Attendance Center football field and have other school-related projects planned.

For more information on SRE NHN Community Grants and how to apply, visit singingriver.com/my-community. Grants for up to \$2,500 are awarded to nonprofits in SRE's service area three times a year in January, May and September.

Earth Day

April 22 is Earth Day. Singing River Electric recently participated in many conservation efforts including donating trees to the Nature Conservancy of George and Greene Counties, Pascagoula River Audubon Center and the cities of Gautier and Ocean Springs. Employees also helped plant trees at Lucedale City Park.

April is Safe Digging Month!



Take time to call 811 and safely locate utility lines before digging. Always consider the mature height of any tree you plant. Look up and see if there are power lines or any obstructions for the tree in the future.

**Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.**