



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Planning for future growth and reliable service



Brian Hughey
General Manager & CEO

Planning for improvements and additions to Singing River Electric's distribution system is essential for maintaining reliable electric service to our members. The planning process starts years in

advance to ensure our electric system is ready to handle expected load growth and future extreme temperatures.

Singing River Electric's engineering team develops and implements a Construction Work Plan every four years. This is the key to fulfilling an integral part of our mission — to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members. Planning begins five to six years in advance as our engineers evaluate our existing electrical system. After a projected growth rate is applied to the system, computer models reveal to our engineers any potential deficiencies. This information is what determines the large projects included in our Construction Work Plan. Each year our construction crews implement the plan by safely replacing undersized lines, upgrading transformers and building new substations.

In addition to the Construction Work Plan, Singing River Electric must maintain an aggressive right-of-way

clearing schedule to successfully fulfill our obligations to you, our members. Clearing and re-clearing the right-of-way around our power lines enhances service reliability and assures safety for our members, wildlife and the general public. The re-clearing of trees, limbs and underbrush along our more than 7,000 miles of power lines occurs every four to five years.

Singing River Electric will soon take yet another step to improve reliability to our members as our team begins installing a SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system. This project requires the use of fiberoptic cable installed along our distribution system to provide real-time information from SRE's 44 electric substations to our three offices. In addition to providing real-time information, thus minimizing outage response time, the SCADA system also allows the capability to control SRE substations, power distribution and voltage from our office. This system-wide project is being done in conjunction with our fiber-to-the-home internet pilot project and is expected to begin within the next few weeks.

With careful planning and skilled employees, Singing River Electric remains committed to providing our members the most reliable electric service at the most economical cost.

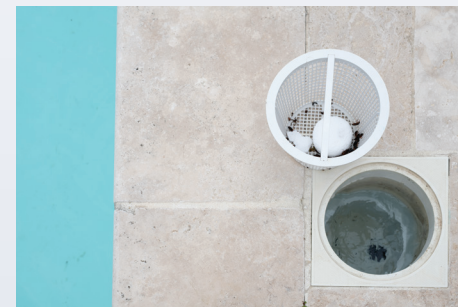


Gabe Robbins
Energy Services Representative
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Time for pool maintenance

As summer and warm weather approach, it's time to start planning for days in the pool, and with that, pool maintenance.

Skimmers and filters should be cleaned regularly to maximize the efficiency of your pool system. Clogged or dirty filters will cause the pool system to work harder which leads to increased load on the pump and higher energy costs.



If you need to replace your pump, be sure to replace with the same horsepower as your existing unit. Installing a higher rated pump will use more energy and require a larger load to run the pump.

Dual speed pumps will operate more efficiently in the low-speed mode; high speed can be used while cleaning or under other conditions. To maximize your energy savings, consider placing your pump(s) on a timer. Most pumps can be operated for eight hours a day to achieve the same results.

For additional energy tips, visit singingriver.com/ways-to-save.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 24

Watch for proxy/notice in the mail

Singing River Electric's 2021 annual membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 24. At this time, we are planning to hold an in-person meeting; however, that could change if COVID-19 restrictions are changed. Please monitor our website at singingriver.com and our social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates.



Credential and Election Committee members Phil Busby and Obie Wells supervise in-person voting for director elections at the 2019 SRE Annual Meeting. (Not pictured are C&E committee members Milton Driskell, Linda Eckford and Richard Fleming.)

The membership meeting will be held at our headquarters office located at 11187 Old 63 South in Lucedale. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting's business section will include the cooperative's financial, management and board reports, as well as the board of directors election. SRE has a 10-person board of directors elected from the membership in three geographic districts. Each year, one director post from each district is up for election. Every three years, District 3 has two director posts open. Directors are elected for a three-year period. Directors are listed along with the geographic district descriptions at singingriver.com/my-coop.

Nominations for election to the board of directors are made by petition. Interested members must acquire signatures of 25 SRE members on a form provided by the cooperative. Applicants must complete and return a director candidate packet to the Lucedale office and be certified by the Credentials and Election Committee before being placed on the ballot. **The deadline for nomination by petition to be placed on the 2021 Annual Meeting notice was February 26, 2021. This deadline and a notice for nominations was placed in the January 2021 and February 2021 issues of the Today in Mississippi member publication.**

This year's candidates include: District 1, Post 3 — Cary Williams; District 2, Post 3 — Travis Baxter; District 3, Post 3 — Eddie Thornton; and District 3, Post 4 — Mark LaSalle. The slate of nominees was approved by SRE members serving on the Credentials and Election Committee. According to the cooperative bylaws, the candidates' names will be placed in the nomination for election to a three-year term beginning June 24 at the cooperative's annual meeting.

To conduct business at the annual meeting, a quorum of at least 10% of the membership is necessary. The quorum is derived by adding the number of members present at the meeting, the valid online votes, and the number of valid proxies received.

Annual meeting notices and proxies will be mailed on Monday, May 10, to all members. The deadline for voting online and returning proxies is Tuesday, June 15, at close of business. Your participation in director elections counts toward the quorum needed to hold and do business at the meeting. It is crucially important that we receive your online vote or proxy in order to reach our quorum this year. The meeting will comply with current COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

Any member may vote in person at the June 24 membership meeting. Members can also vote online or by proxy. Each member is entitled to one vote regardless of the number of accounts in the member's name. A proxy may be assigned to either another SRE member, including a member of the current board of directors, or appointed to the board as a whole. A member can vote up to 200 assigned proxies at any membership meeting. The presence of a member at the meeting, or in the case of a joint membership, the presence of a spouse shall revoke the proxy. All proxies must be received by SRE's Lucedale office by close of business on June 15.

Members returning their proxy, voting online as well as those who attend the meeting, will qualify to win up to \$500 cash. Those attending the annual meeting will be eligible for attendance prizes.



2021 Annual Membership Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 24 Registration opens at 5:00 p.m.
11187 Old 63 South, Lucedale Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m.

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

Six members who vote online or return their proxies by the June 15 deadline will be selected to receive a \$250 CASH prize. One member who votes online or returns the proxy by the deadline will receive a special grand prize of \$500 CASH!

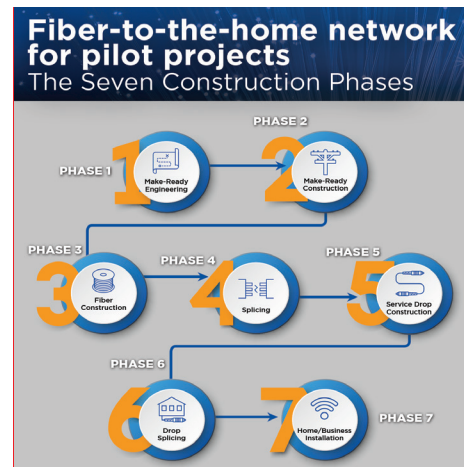


SRE Project Engineer Brandon Welford speaks with prospective substation site foundation and rock work contractors. Fiber huts will be built at substations to house routers and other fiber equipment.



“The fiber ring connecting SRE substations and offices will be the backbone of the fiber system,” said Project Engineer Brandon Welford. “We will also have three pilot projects, one each in Greene, George and Jackson counties. Engineering work for the pilot locations is being finalized, and an announcement of the locations and SR Connect website/preregistration portal is coming soon in an issue of the Today in Mississippi magazine.”

The fiber ring or backbone will not only support SR Connect’s fiber project but also SRE’s effort to install SCADA or Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition technology. Access to SCADA will provide real-time data and allow control of SRE substations, power distribution and voltage in the main dispatch center.



Singing River Connect

SRE launches broadband affiliate

The fastest fiber-to-the-home internet service is just around the corner for many Singing River Electric members. Welcome to Singing River Connect (SR Connect).

After two years of research, including input from our members and feedback from consultants and feasibility studies, we are ready to launch fiber service in southeast Mississippi. As you know, the project will first consist of a 400-mile fiber ring connecting all SRE substations and offices, as well as three fiber-to-the-home pilot projects with potential further broadband expansion.

Building a fiber ring and fiber-to-the-home projects takes time to design, construct and deploy. The seven construction phases include make-ready engineering, make-ready construction, fiber construction, splicing, service drop construction, drop splicing and home or business installation. SR Connect is currently completing make-ready engineering and entering into the make-ready construction phase.

“SCADA will compliment existing technology in our dispatch centers and allow for more effective communication with our generation and transmission partner, Cooperative Energy.” said General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. “This addition will result in even faster outage response times for our members.”

Keep reading *Today in Mississippi* magazine for more information and updates on SR Connect and this fiber project.

Medallion Award

The NASS Medallion Award was created to honor individuals, groups and organizations that support the national association’s goals, including service to state government, specifically as it relates to the elections and the duties of the office of the Secretary of State.



Singing River Electric Cooperative was awarded the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion Award on Wednesday, April 7, in recognition of SRE employees’ hard work following Hurricane Zeta to ensure polling sites had power in the midst of working to restore electricity to local communities.

The electric co-op was hit hard by Hurricane Zeta with 82% or 62,388 of its 75,798 meters without power following the storm on Wednesday evening, Oct. 28, 2020. The co-op worked to replace more than 1,100 power poles, 322 damaged transformers and 21.73 miles of power lines following the storm.

“Hurricane Zeta was unique in many ways, including the

intense damage that was concentrated north of our coastal communities and the timing, making landfall just six days prior to a presidential election,” said General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. “We thank Secretary Michael Watson for working to ensure Singing River Electric linemen and visiting crews had an opportunity to vote in the midst of their long hours working to restore power in southeast Mississippi.”

Only five medallions can be awarded by the Secretary of State annually. In addition to Singing River Electric, the award was also presented to Coast Electric Power Association, Mississippi Power Company and Entergy for their efforts restoring power to polling sites following Hurricane Zeta.



Singing River Electric energy services representatives met with Cooperative Energy representatives and contractors to discuss the installation of a Level 2 EV charging station at Singing River Federal Credit Union in Lucedale.

Community members will soon have a way to charge electric vehicles (EVs) thanks to a partnership between Singing River Electric, Cooperative Energy and Singing River Federal Credit Union.

Plans include a two-vehicle electric charging station located at Singing River Federal Credit Union's Lucedale branch. "The Lucedale electric vehicle charging station is expected to be complete by late summer, and plans are in the works to provide additional locations in Jackson County," said Singing River Electric Gautier District Manager Nick DeAngelo.

"The planned charging station for George County will be a Level 2 - able to fully charge an EV in just a few hours, or less for a boost charge," explained DeAngelo. Electric vehicle charging stations range from Level 1, which is a basic or slow charge, a Level 2 and a Level 3 fast charge, which can charge a vehicle fully within minutes.

With vehicle manufacturers across the country shifting toward EVs, the advantages are increasing. "Cooperative Energy is committed to promoting electric cars and trucks in Mississippi because of the benefits they provide to our members and communities," said Sara Peterson, Cooperative Energy corporate communications manager.

Programs like this demonstrate a co-op's commitment to improving access to environmentally-friendly technology for our members. For more information about EVs, visit myelectriccooperative.com and follow our conversations on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Charge me up

Bringing Level 2 EV charging stations to South Mississippi



Supporting career-focused education

SRE NHN Grant benefits George County High School horticulture program

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.

George County Career and Technical Education program received a \$2,500 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant. Funds helped build a pole barn to store horticulture materials, protect soil and equipment and provide a sheltered area for outdoor learning. The horticulture program introduces students to basic plant and soil science and focuses on horticulture structures, plant propagation, pest management, container and field crop production and landscape design. According to instructor Rick McMullan, students enjoy having the working space with a roof and make the best of their outside learning time.

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.

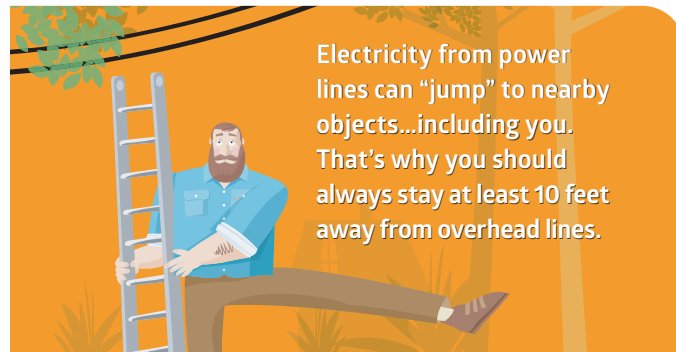
May is Electrical Safety Month

Whether you are at work or staying connected from home, it is important to always think safety first. Staying clear of downed power lines may be an obvious danger, but there are many other tips including carrying ladders and other equipment horizontally, calling 811 before you dig and checking for live wires behind walls when completing DIY projects.

For more information visit our website at beawareeverywhere.com for tips on power line, DIY, severe weather, water and seasonal safety. We also have a section designed especially for students! Download safety guides and have a family meeting to discuss what is most important - protecting you.

To be SAFE, be AWARE EVERYWHERE.

Electrical safety starts with being aware of electrical hazards. Think safety first and use these tips to stay safe at home, on the job and on the go.



Electricity from power lines can "jump" to nearby objects...including you. That's why you should always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.

Attention DIYers: There are live wires behind those walls. Use an electrical cable detector to locate them before your drill bit does.



Before you dig that flowerbed, remember there may be underground lines where you're about to dig. Call 811 to locate them and your project will turn out just rosey.