



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

The importance of planning for future growth and reliable service

Planning for improvements and additions to Singing River Electric's distribution system is essential for maintaining reliable electric service for our members. The planning process, led by our engineering team, begins five to six years in advance as we evaluate our existing electrical system and ensure our system is ready to handle expected load growth and increased demand during extreme temperatures. The development of a Construction Work Plan is an integral part of this process as it provides a roadmap to assure the highest level of member service. Each year our construction line crews implement the plan by safely replacing undersized lines, upgrading transformers, and building new substations.

Crews completed construction and energized the Cumbest Bluff substation in Jackson County in June 2022. This substation will more than satisfy the energy needs of our members in that immediate area as well as provide back-up electricity to nearby substations in the event of an unforeseen major outage. Singing River Electric's engineering team is actively planning two substation relocation projects in other parts of our service area, thus providing electric energy closer to the load centers of those areas. Additionally, crews have completed more than 10 miles of line upgrades throughout our system since July 2022. In a continued effort to assure efficient member service, our engineering team has studied and

planned for more than 21 miles of necessary line upgrades to begin later this calendar year.

Along with our 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 7,600 miles of power lines occurs every four to five years.

In conjunction with our ongoing fiber-to-the-home internet project, we have taken another step to improve electric service reliability to our members as our team of employees and contractors begin installing a SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system. This extensive project requires the use of fiberoptic lines installed along our distribution system to provide real-time information from SRE's 45 electric substations to our three offices. We are in the process of training our employees on how to safely use this tool to utilize its full potential, thus avoiding potential outages and minimizing outage times for you, our members.

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



by Brian Hughey

General Manager and CEO

Energy Tips



Gabe Robbins
Energy Services Representative
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Weather can have an impact on power bills

Weather often has a significant impact on power bills. On mild winter days, your heater or air conditioner may not run much at all. However when the temperature drops for an extended period of time into the 30s, 20s or teens, heating systems can run most of the day and night. This added electricity use can raise power bills dramatically.

An electric furnace is the most expensive way to heat a home. Heat pumps are the most efficient, as they draw heat from the air outside to heat the air inside of your home or business. Heat pumps work best in at least 40-degree temperatures. Higher performing heat pumps can still perform well in temps below freezing. Because our region tends to stay mild, even in the winter, heat pumps work best in both efficiency and function. The exception is when you have several days of extreme cold. On this rare occasion, the heat pump must use its built-in emergency heat and operate the same as an electric furnace. That is why even if you never touched the thermostat on these days, your heating unit is working harder and longer and using more electricity, and your electric bill will be higher due to the increased kilowatt-hours used.

For more information on seasonal energy use or a link to our online energy audits, visit singingriver.com.

Notice of Singing River Electric Director Qualification Period

Candidates seeking election to the Singing River Electric Cooperative board of directors must visit the 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 the close of business on the last business day of February (Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023).



Community Co-op Days of Service

Electric co-op employees complete local service acts to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.



Singing River Electric joined other Mississippi electric cooperatives to participate in the Cooperative Days of Service, held annually in conjunction with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and holiday. King stated, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve." Singing River Electric employees volunteered for three days of community service. The first project involved applying water sealant to picnic tables at Leakesville's Green Park on Main Street. Volunteers also painted bleacher seats at the Bear Creek Baseball Complex t-ball fields.

The second project had volunteers removing invasive plant species from a large area near the Pascagoula River Audubon Center's entrance and performing other tasks around the Moss Point center and grounds.

The third group of volunteers worked in the kitchen at George County's SREA Head Start to replace ceiling tiles, replace wiring, upgrade all kitchen fluorescent light

fixtures to LED lights, and remove laminate from the kitchen counter so it can be recovered.

"Our employees take great pride in their communities and performing service projects like these that will benefit others," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "These acts align with the cooperative principle 'Concern for Community,' which Singing River Electric employees keep top of mind year round."

Singing River Electric was joined in the Co-op Days of Service annual event by Cooperative Energy, Coahoma Electric, Coast Electric, Dixie Electric, Magnolia Electric, Southern Pine Electric, and Southwest Electric. These electric cooperatives completed similar acts of service including serving at community kitchens, collecting diapers and food, removing debris from boat ramp areas, and more.

For more information on each of the service projects, visit singingriver.com or join us on our social media pages on Facebook/Instagram (SingingRiverElectric) and Twitter (SRECooperative).

“
Everybody
can be great,
because
anybody can
serve. –
Martin Luther
King, Jr.



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Mardi Gras

SPOTLIGHT

Gautier Men's Club Parade



We interviewed Bob White, president of the Gautier Men's Club, to talk about the group's annual night parade.

SRE: How long has the Gautier Men's Club sponsored the Gautier night parade?

White: 2023 will be our 33rd year of parading at night through Gautier.

SRE: What makes the Gautier parade unique?

White: Our parade has always been a night parade, and our parade is 100% family-oriented.

SRE: What is the date and time for the 2023 parade?

White: We will roll through Gautier on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. You can find the parade flyer, route information, and participant application at Gautier Men's Club on Facebook. The deadline for parade participation is Feb. 4.

