



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Recent cost of service study calls for rate adjustment

Beginning April 6, 2023, the residential and small commercial classes of members receiving single-phase Singing River Electric service will see a \$5 per month increase in their customer charge, changing it from \$25/month to \$30/month and averaging \$1/day. This charge offsets the fixed costs of operations such as the cost of building and owning electric facilities, the cost of the metering system, the cost of billing, and the cost of maintaining service. All these costs are incurred monthly regardless of whether one kilowatt-hour of electricity is used by the member.

The per kilowatt-hour charge, or energy charge, will not change for either member class. Even after the adjustment, Singing River Electric will continue to have one of the lowest residential electric rates in our state and region. While virtually all costs have continued to rise over the last few years, we pride ourselves on how little member bills have changed over the years.

The decision to make the change was guided by results from the cooperative's recent cost of service study. As expected, inflation proved to be a major contributor to this adjustment. As mentioned in previous editions of this publication, inflated material costs and increased fuel prices over the last three years have led

to higher freight costs, higher contractor expenses, and additional costs for Singing River Electric employees to build and maintain our electric distribution system. It is the responsibility of management and the board of directors to examine rates periodically to be sure they are equitable and reasonable. The cost of service study gives insight and guidance thus allowing the cooperative to fulfill its obligations to members and cooperative lenders. The study is the primary tool used to accomplish this goal.

Your power bill is comprised of different variables which are explained on our website located at singingriver.com/my-home. The site also offers a user-friendly bill calculator that breaks down your monthly bill in full detail. Singing River Electric's adjusted rates will be posted on our website beginning Monday, April 3. In upcoming Today in Mississippi issues, we will look at the demand component of the power bill SRE receives each month from our wholesale power provider, Cooperative Energy, and how this one component drives our wholesale power cost each month.

We value our members and will always place a strong emphasis on providing you with exceptional service at the lowest possible cost.



Gabe Robbins
Energy Services Representative
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Four reasons to schedule HVAC maintenance

As summer and warmer weather approach, an annual HVAC maintenance check can save you time and money – here are four ways how:

1. HVAC issues begin long before you notice a heating or cooling problem. During a scheduled service, technicians can identify any misaligned or worn parts causing stress on the system. Doing this offers a timely scheduled job that avoids the unnecessary cost and extended downtime of your system.
2. Even the most reliable HVAC system on the market requires maintenance to keep operations efficient. Annual maintenance will also prolong the life of your heating and cooling system. Annual checks are much cheaper than replacement or continuous repairs.
3. One of the most meaningful benefits of an annual HVAC service is reduced energy use. When systems become dirty or worn out, they also become less efficient, which translates into higher monthly energy bills and a noticeable difference in your comfort level.
4. Changing your air filter is easy and helps you save money. Almost half of your monthly power bill comes from using your HVAC system, so replacing a dirty air filter can take nearly 15% off your bill. The EPA recommends replacing air filters at least once every three months. Depending on your home and your system, this may need to be done every month.



by Brian Hughey

General Manager and CEO

Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's 36th COOPERATIVE LEADERS WORKSHOP

Kameryn Bardwell of East Central High School, Kevin McLain of Wayne County High School, and Daniel Pickens of Resurrection High School represented Singing River Electric at the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's 2023 Cooperative Leaders Workshop held March 1-3 in Jackson, Miss.

While visiting Jackson with a total of 82 students from around the state, these young leaders participated in team-building exercises, discussed solutions to current issues facing young people, toured the state capitol, and had breakfast with their state legislators. Governor Tate Reeves and Secretary of State Michael Watson spoke to the students during the event.

Kevin McLain was also chosen as a Top 10 finalist for Mississippi's Youth Leadership Council representative.

In June, the students will travel to Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour to visit our nation's historic landmarks and meet with Mississippi's senators and representatives.



LEARN. GROW. EXPERIENCE.



A. Secretary of State Michael Watson met SRE's students in the Capitol. **B.** Singing River Electric's Cooperative Youth Leaders Daniel Pickens, Kameryn Bardwell, and Kevin McLain with their awards. **C.** Sen. Joseph M. Seymour, Rep. Shane Barnett, Rep. Manly Barton, Sen. Brice Wiggins, and Rep. Doug McLeod with SRE's students.

national lineworker '23 appreciation month

Because
hard work
connects our
community.



national lineworker '23 appreciation month

Move over - for roadside crews

April is National Lineman Appreciation month. It's a time to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and dedication of electric lineworkers.

#thankalineman

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 – the Move Over law. It's also law in many surrounding states.

Protecting line and construction crews for both electric and fiber services is a priority for Mississippi electric cooperatives. If you are 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 and pay attention to road signs and driving conditions in order to keep control of your car as you pass. Eliminate all distractions as distracted driving can be deadly. April 17-21 is Work Zone Awareness Week. Help us spread awareness of this important safety message by sharing it with teenage drivers and all family members.

Visit singingriver.com/electric-safety for more information on safety tips and downloads.



Earth Day

April 22 is Earth Day. Singing River Electric recently participated in many conservation efforts including a clean up at the Pascagoula River Audubon Center and tree planting at St. Martin Middle School, Agricola Elementary, and Sand Hill Attendance Center.

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.**

Want to know what happens #BehindTheBroadband?

STEP 1: Make-ready engineering

Examine. Design.

Lucedale North substation



STEP 2: Make-ready construction

Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.

McLain, Big Point, Sand Hill, and Joe Batt substations



STEP 3: Construction

Building a network from the ground up.

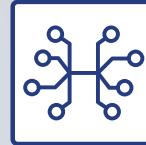
Sawmill, Basin, Kittrell, and State Line substations



STEP 4: Splicing

Connecting the dots.

Lucedale South and Lucedale substations – Twin Creek feeder



STEP 5: Service drop & drop splicing

The last outdoor step. Almost there...

Lucedale South - Central feeder and any previously opened areas



STEP 6: Installation

The speed of light, right to your home.

Lucedale South substation – Agricola feeder and any previously opened areas



SR Connect is delivering lightning-fast, fiber internet.

New fiber areas are announced by electric substation and feeder. You can search open fiber areas and your address for service at singingriverconnect.com/signup.

To find out which SRE substation and feeder serves your home, text a SRE MSR during business hours at 228-591-9166.

Scan here!



SRE now offers Outage and MSR Texting

**Don't like to
wait on hold?**

Neither do we.

Text a Singing River Electric member service representative (MSR) at 228-591-9166. We will return your text and help resolve your issue or answer your inquiry. You can also **text OUT** to 601-947-1744 to report a power outage.

As of Nov. 2022, SRE members were automatically enrolled in outage texting with the cell phone number listed on their account. Members must have a mobile number on file to use outage texting because the system locates their account information with the number. Phone numbers and other contact information can be updated using the SmartHub mobile app, by texting a MSR, or by calling 601-947-4211 or any SRE office.

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 power lines.

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

- **Kittrell Substation** – Highway 42, Woulard Bend Road, Knobtown Road, and surrounding areas.
- **State Line Substation** – Highway 63/57, Highway 45, Martin Luther King Road, and surrounding areas.
- **Tucker Road Substation** – Tucker Road, Seaman Road, Old Biloxi Road, and surrounding areas.
- **St. Martin Substation** – Washington Avenue, Goffville Road, Big Ridge Road, and surrounding areas.

