



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Striving to provide reliable service in all weather conditions



During January, our service area experienced temperatures well below normal, even dropping to 17 degrees on January 17. With our heaters running nearly continuously to keep our homes warm in this extreme cold, the energy demand from our members set new records for Singing River Electric. Through advanced planning, distribution system upgrades, and proper right-of-way clearing practices, Singing River Electric's distribution system performed exceptionally well. In addition, our wholesale power provider, Cooperative Energy, met our record peak demand with adequate generation and transmission service to our substations.

Planning for improvements and additions to Singing River Electric's distribution system is essential and proves to be

invaluable for maintaining reliable electric service for our members. Our engineering team not only considers the potential effects of system growth but must also plan for how extreme temperatures can stress our electric distribution system. Developing 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.

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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Prepare your AC unit for spring

As we move away from cold temperatures, spring is the time to have your Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system serviced – especially if it has been some time since it was last inspected. Having insufficient amounts of refrigerant, dirt coils, or obstructed drain lines can cause several issues for your HVAC unit.

Neglecting necessary maintenance ensures a steady decline in air conditioning performance while energy use steadily increases. Left unchecked, these issues could result in a significant increase in summer power bills or cause the unit to stop working completely.

A quick way to determine if your air conditioning unit is functioning properly is to measure the air temperature at the supply duct (usually in the ceiling or floor closest to your HVAC unit) and take a temperature reading at the return air grill (located beneath the indoor unit). On a typical spring day, you should have a 15–20-degree temperature difference between those two points. If the difference is below this, your unit needs attention.

Spring is also a great time to open windows during the morning and evening to take advantage of what I like to call free AC. Doing this will also bring a boost of circulating air into your home provided by Mother Nature free of charge. This will also eliminate run time on your AC unit and in turn, lower your energy consumption and power bill.

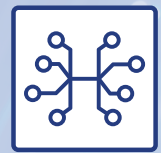


SR Singing River Connect *Fiber Construction Timeline*

Step 1: Make-ready engineering
Examine. Design.
 St. Martin substation area



Step 4: Splicing
Connecting the dots.
 Joe Batt substation area



Step 2: Make-ready construction
Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.
 Forts Lake, Helena, Escatawpa South, Helena Industrial, and Tucker Road substation areas



Step 5: Service drop & drop splicing
The last outdoor step. Almost there...
 Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell, McLain, and all previously opened fiber internet areas



Step 3: Construction
Building a network from the ground up.
 Rocky Creek, Lucedale North, Leakesville, Vancleave, Benndale, and Wade substation areas



Step 6: Installation
The speed of light, right to your home.
 Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell, McLain, State Line, Kittrell, and all previously opened fiber internet 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 member service rep. during business hours at 228-591-9166.

Scan here! →



COOPERATIVE

Days of Service



Joining electric co-ops from across the state, Singing River Electric participated in Cooperative Days of Service, held annually in conjunction with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence," King stated. For the sixth year, SRE employees volunteered for community service projects.

The first project included moving playground equipment from Lucedale Municipal Park in George County. The park is going through a major renovation including extensive foundation work, irrigation, and eventually, all new playground equipment. Employees helped dig up old equipment buried deep in concrete, then



moved the pieces to two other area parks. The second project involved packing and moving books for the Jackson-George Regional Library System. Employees worked in the genealogy and law libraries at the Pascagoula branch to prepare for upcoming building renovations.

A third service project for the Greene Rural Events Center in Greene County was postponed due to weather. "Our employees take great pride in volunteering for these projects for the betterment of the communities in which they live, work, and play," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "Concern for community, a guiding cooperative principle, is one SRE employees live daily."


STREAMING IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3, 4

Say goodbye to buffering when streaming TV and movies – thanks to Singing River Connect's high-speed fiber internet connection. Visit our StreamNow site to learn more about the cost-saving, convenience, and personalization of streaming, and feel confident to cut ties with your cable or satellite provider.

1 Choose your ideal internet speed for streaming
 Selecting the optimal bandwidth for your household is the first step to streaming. Use our bandwidth calculator at gostreamnow.com/singing-river.




2 Review your streaming service options
 There are many on-demand and live TV streaming services. Visit our StreamNow site to see which services carry your favorite channels.



3 Find, purchase, and connect the right device
 Smart TVs are ready to stream. For older TVs, you can buy a streaming device like a Roku or Amazon Fire TV Stick. You can stream on your smartphone, tablet, and computer in addition to your TV.



4 Sign up for streaming services
 Let the fun begin! Sign up for a streaming service or two. Most require only a 30-day commitment. This makes it easy to try out different services and cancel the services you don't use or like.



gostreamnow.com/singing-river



East Central Middle School students show off the underwater remote control SeaPerch vehicles funded by a Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant.

Underwater remote-control vehicle captivates students' interest

SRE NHN Grant purchases SeaPerch STEM kits

Sixth and seventh grade students at East Central Middle School in Jackson County are experiencing a new way to engage in STEM education—by designing, building, and wiring underwater remote-operated vehicles.

“This project gives students a new and exciting way to learn and teaches them how to work with others in small groups,” explains teacher Johnathan May.

The \$2,500 Neighbors Helping Neighbors grant allowed May to add an additional 10 SeaPerch kits to his class, which not only engages students in class, but will also allow students to participate in competitions with other schools in the region.

Students will learn practical skills by using measuring tapes, power drills, PVC cutters, and soldering irons.

“Our mission is to empower our students to be highly educated, responsible, independent thinkers,” adds May.

Concern for Community

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, \$360,643.98 has been awarded to local non-profits in local communities.

For more information on SRE NHN Community Grants and how to apply, visit singingriver.com/my-community. The next grant application deadline is Friday, May 10, 2024.



Annual membership meeting notice

DATE:

Thursday, June 27, 2024

TIME:

Registration – 5 p.m.
Meeting – 6 p.m.

LOCATION:

SRE office, Lucedale

The meeting will include co-op business and director elections.

Defend yourself against scams

Be wary of calls, texts, and emails from unknown numbers or contacts. Scammers want to scare you and may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect service if you don’t pay immediately.

If this happens over the phone, hang up. Delete any scam texts or emails. Check your account status on the SmartHub app or call us at 601-947-4211. Please report potential scams to us, so we can warn other members.