



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Our fiber internet journey

Following an overwhelmingly unanimous vote by our membership in October 2020, Singing River Electric (SRE) set out on a journey to build a fiberoptic network connecting our 45 electric substations and three offices together for electric benefit. With this decision, Singing River Connect, our fiber internet subsidiary, was created.

SRE began construction of this network in July 2021. In just three years, with the help of contractors, SRE has installed nearly 4,000 miles of fiberoptic lines resulting in the connection of 10,000 high-speed fiber internet subscribers across many parts of our service area. These newly connected subscribers are excited as they now experience what high-speed, fiber-to-the-home symmetrical internet service really is. This journey is making a significant impact on SRE members. Filling this need is another example of how SRE continues to place emphasis on our seventh cooperative principle – Concern for Community.

Your cooperative is beginning Phase 4 of this extensive buildout plan as we look toward providing reliable and affordable

high-speed fiber internet service to our entire service area. As mentioned in the past, SRE’s board of directors measures the success of each completed phase before moving to the next. Take rates continue to exceed consultants’ expectations, which confirms the need that exists within our service area.

Based on the success to date, we expect the journey to continue as we grow our fiber network and Singing River Connect continues adding subscribers at an unprecedented rate.



by **Brian Hughey**

General Manager and CEO

<p>2020 OCTOBER</p>	<p>Following an overwhelming vote, Singing River Connect is formed as a high-speed fiber internet subsidiary of the cooperative.</p>	<p>2021 JANUARY</p>	<p>SRE begins constructing fiberoptic facilities to be leased to SR Connect.</p>	<p>2021 DECEMBER</p>	<p>Based on the success of the pilot project, SRE board approves Phase Two of fiber project extending services to potential subscribers in George, Greene, Jackson, Perry, and Wayne counties.</p>	<p>2024 JULY</p>
<p>SRE members vote 96% in favor of amending the Certificate of Incorporation allowing SRE to provide electric and fiberoptic services.</p>	<p>2020 OCTOBER</p>	<p>SRE’s board approves plan to construct a 400-mile fiber ring connecting all SRE substations and offices and a fiber-to-the-home pilot project.</p>	<p>2021 JULY</p>	<p>SR Connect completes its first subscriber home installation.</p>	<p>2022 APRIL</p>	<p>SR Connect plans to celebrate its 10,000th subscriber and the construction of 4,000 miles of fiberoptic lines across our service area.</p>

Power restored following severe May thunderstorms



Spring and summer thunderstorms are common in south Mississippi, although not all bring high winds, lightning, and flooding rain as the ones that came through Singing River Electric's service area on May 10-13 did.

The weather caused scattered outages with the majority in George County. Linemen discovered lines on the ground along with trees and limbs on the power lines, removing them carefully before continuing the power restoration process.

Linemen changed out 28 poles and restored power to 11,847 meters over the long, severe weather weekend. Gautier and Sand Hill linemen handled outages in their areas and provided needed assistance in George County. Dispatchers, engineering staff, member service representatives, and contract line crews worked with our linemen until all outages were restored.



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:

- **Gautier substation** – Graveline Road, Highway 90, Old Spanish Trail, and surrounding areas.
- **Joe Batt substation** – Joe Batt Road, Jim Ramsey Road, Old Biloxi Road, and surrounding areas.
- **Leakesville substation** – Highway 57, Highway 63, Old Avera Road, and surrounding areas.
- **Brewer substation** – Highway 42, Rufus Walley Road, Union Road, and surrounding areas.

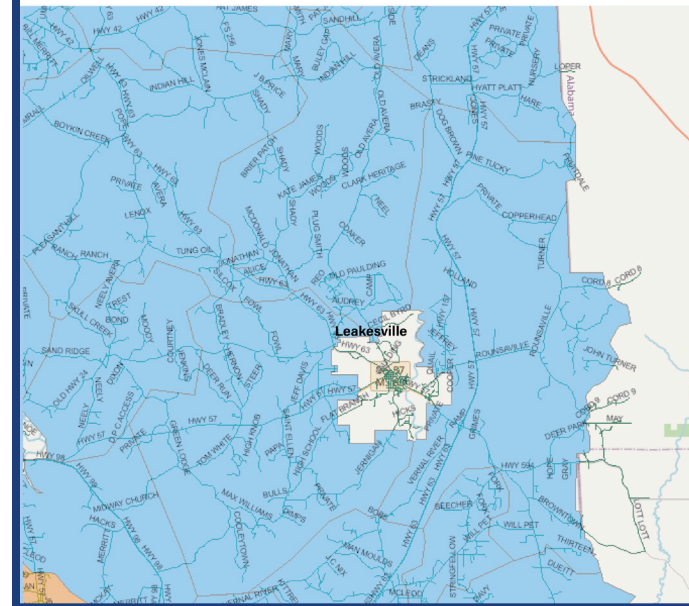


Leakesville substation area now open for sign-ups

Great news for the Leakesville area – fiber internet sign-ups are open! If you receive electricity from the Leakesville substation, you can now receive blazing-fast fiber internet service. Let your trusted local provider get you connected – visit singingriverconnect.com/signup.



Signing up now
Coming soon



GET CONNECTED - STAY LOCAL!

Get connected with **blazing-fast** fiber internet from your trusted **local** provider!

singingriverconnect.com | 877-272-6611



Fiber Construction Timeline - July 2024

Step 1: Make-ready engineering

Examine. Design.

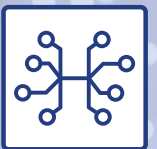
Sunplex, Fountainbleu, Singing River Mall and part of Hamill Farm substation area



Step 4: Splicing

Connecting the dots.

Benndale substation area



Step 2: Make-ready construction

Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.

Ocean Springs and Gulf Park substation area



Step 5: Service drop & drop splicing

The last outdoor step. Almost there...

Rocky Creek, Leakesville, Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbeast Bluff, Frank Snell and all previously opened areas



Step 3: Construction

Building a network from the ground up.

Fort Bayou, Martin Bluff, Hickory Hills, St. Martin, Tucker Road, Forts Lake, Helena, Helena Industrial, Escatawpa South and Wade substation areas



Step 6: Installation

The speed of light, right to your home.

Rocky Creek, Leakesville, Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbeast Bluff, Frank Snell and all previously opened areas



Blazing-fast fiber internet from local people you trust.

New areas are announced by electric substation and feeder; text a SRE member service rep. at 228-591-9166 to find out which one serves you. Visit singingriverconnect.com/signup to apply for service and to see all areas where SR Connect fiber internet is available.

SINGING RIVER ELECTRIC ACCELERATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN JACKSON COUNTY



MISSISSIPPI EXPORT RAILROAD



Singing River Electric facilitated a \$2.36 million United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Economic Development zero-interest loan for Mississippi Export Railroad (MSE). The short-line railroad, which operates in Singing River Electric's service area, will use the loan to build a railcar repair shop at the Helena Industrial Park in Moss Point, Miss.

Singing River Electric awarded the funds in August 2023, and MSE announced the project at its Gold Spike groundbreaking ceremony on May 13.

According to MSE, up to 24 new full-time jobs are expected within the first five years of operation.

Through the Rural Economic Development loan program, USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities, like Singing River Electric, which in turn pass through the loans to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The funding awarded to Mississippi Export Railroad includes a \$2 million loan from the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant fund and \$360,000 from Singing River Electric's Revolving Loan Fund, made up of grant funds that are re-lent for projects positively impacting Singing River Electric's service.

ENERGY TIP

SERVICE YOUR AC FOR SUMMER

As we enter the dog days of summer with outside temperatures increasing, air conditioner run times will also increase – dramatically. With heating and cooling being the largest contributor to your electric bill, make sure your unit is operating at maximum efficiency.

- Service your unit, if you haven't already this year. Make sure your unit is working properly and has enough freon to help avoid higher than needed electricity bills. Having your unit serviced at least once a year is money well spent.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or as high as comfortably possible. The lower your thermostat temperature, the more your unit will have to work to keep your home cool while battling the outside temperature.
- Change your air filter each month or according to manufacturers' directions. Dirty or clogged filters will quickly

lower the efficiency of your unit. The life of a filter varies depending on the grade of filter you purchase.

- Avoid covering your outdoor condensing unit with shrubs, shades, or other items. Condensing units need open air flow to work properly and at peak efficiency.

Visit singingriver.com/ways-to-save for more energy-efficiency tips.



by *Gabe Robbins*

Energy Services Representative • robbins@singingriver.com