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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# Power cost adjustment decrease for SRE members

Beginning in January 2025, Singing River Electric bill statements reflected a power cost adjustment decrease of 1.0 mills or 0.1 cent/kilowatt-hour. This reduced member bills by \$1.00 for every 1,000 kWh of energy used. The reason for the adjustment is due in large part to natural gas prices continuing to be slightly lower than expected.

The power cost adjustment is driven by the cost of generating and purchasing electricity. Cooperative Energy, our wholesale power provider, generates and purchases electricity using a diversified mix of fuel sources including natural gas, coal, nuclear, hydroelectric, wind, and solar. This allows Cooperative Energy to keep the cost of power as low as possible.

Singing River Electric's goal is to meet our members' energy needs while providing electric service at the lowest possible cost and enhancing the lives of the members and communities we serve. Wholesale power costs are a pass-through expense, and we are happy to pass along the savings.





by Brian Hughey

General Manager and CEO

### **Notice of Singing River Electric Director Qualification Period**

Candidates seeking election to Singing River Electric Cooperative's board of directors must visit Singing River Electric's Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South to obtain a director qualification packet. Completed forms and petitions must be returned to the Lucedale office by 5 p.m. on the last business day of February (Friday, February 28, 2025).

### **Energy Tips**



Gabe Robbins
Energy Services Representative
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### **Cold weather heating tips**

South Mississippi is feeling the cold, even freezing temperatures at times. Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills.

Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains, or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

When operating a heat pump, it is critical to remember to adjust the thermostat only 2 degrees at a time. Adjusting more than two degrees will cause your heating elements (strips) to cycle on. Heating strips are much more expensive to run vs. a heat pump.



The recommended temperature for heating is 68 degrees. When temperatures drop below 38 degrees, lowering the thermostat as low as possible will help lessen the run time of your heating unit. However, when temperatures dip into freezing, even if your unit is set to 68, the heat is still going to run depending on how well your house is insulated. A heat pump will automatically kick on the heat strips when temperatures reach below 35 degrees.

singingriver.com/ways-to-save

### **EFFECTIVE WAYS**

### To Lower Home Energy Use

Outside factors, such as fuel and equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.

### **Thermostat Management**

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Department of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



### **Maintain Equipment**

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.



#### **Seal Your Home**

According to ENERGY STAR®, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels, and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping. This is a simple. effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



### **Spread Out Your Energy Use**

Plan energy-intensive chores and tasks, such as running the dishwasher and washing clothing, to happen at different times so your home's demand for electricity is lower. By scheduling these activities throughout the day and night, you can lower your demand and control this part of your bill.



## DOWNLOAD THE APP TO SAVE TIME AND MONEY

singingriver.com/smarthub

You will need your account number the first time signing in.



- Pay your **ELECTRIC BILL**
- Review your **BILLING HISTORY**
- Manage your ELECTRIC USE
- Report a **POWER OUTAGE**
- View a LIVE OUTAGE MAP







## GET CONNECTED. STAY

Singing River Electric's Forts Lake, Helena, Helena Industrial, Escatawpa South, and Wade substation areas now have access to Singing River Connect's fast, reliable fiber internet service!

Whether you are a Speed Fanatic, an Entertainment Enthusiast, or an Everyday Scroller, Singing River Connect has the perfect package to fit your home and business internet needs.

All packages include:

- Unlimited data
- 24/7 tech support
- Free installation a \$200 value
- Local customer service
- Equally fast upload and download speeds
- Free installation AND equipment (modem/router)

SINGINGRIVERCONNECT.COM/SIGNUP



### Singing River Fiber Construction Timeline - February 2025

### Step 1: Make-ready engineering

Examine. Design.

This step is complete!



### Step 4: Splicing

Connecting the dots.

St. Martin and Tucker Road substation areas



Singing River

Connect

#### Step 2: Make-ready construction

Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.

Bayou Cassotte, Kreole, and Monaco Lake substation areas



### Step 5: Service drop & drop splicing

The last outdoor step. Almost there...

Forts Lake, Helena, Helena Industrial, Escatawpa South, Wade, Cumbest Bluff, Benndale, Rocky Creek, Vancleave, Joe Batt, and all previously opened areas



#### **Step 3: Fiber Construction**

Building a network from the ground up.

Singing River Mall, Gautier, Fountainbleu, Hamill Farm, Ocean Springs, Gulf Park Estates, Sunplex, Fort Bayou, Martin Bluff, and Hickory Hills substation areas



### Step 6: Installation

The speed of light, right to your home.

Forts Lake, Helena, Helena Industrial, Escatawpa South, Wade, Cumbest Bluff, Benndale, Rocky Creek, Vancleave, Joe Batt, and all previously opened areas



Blazing-fast fiber internet from local people you trust. singingriverconnect.com/signup

# Helping Magnolia Electric Power after severe weather

After restoring power for Singing River Electric members during a weekend of thunderstorms, a 13-man team of Singing River Electric employees traveled to Magnolia Electric Power on December 30 to help do the same for their members.

Magnolia Electric, headquartered in Summit, Miss., reported around 11,000 without power and 59 broken poles in their southwest Mississippi service area after severe weather. Singing River Electric's linemen worked in Franklin County along the damage path of a tornado to set new poles and hang power lines. They returned home on January 2.

Thank you to these linemen for their willingness to help others as they live out the 6th Cooperative Principle - Cooperation Among Cooperatives.







### **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:

- Bayou Casotte Substation Detroit Avenue, Lanier Avenue, Highway 90, Martin Road, and surrounding areas.
- Monaco Lake Substation Old Mobile Highway, Industrial Road, Highway 90, and surrounding areas.
- Aleco Substation Highway 57, Wire Road, Highway 15, Old Biloxi Road, and surrounding areas.
- Dickerson Sawmill Substation Old Highway 63, Highway 63, Brushy Creek Road, and surrounding areas.
- Agricola Substation Highway 613, Barton Agricola Road, Highway 612, and surrounding areas.