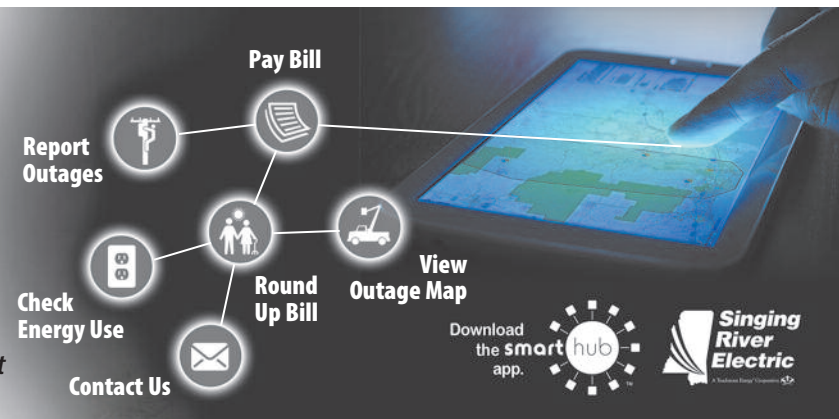




Singing River Electric is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Brian Hughey, General Manager & CEO
Lorri Freeman, APR,
Manager of Public Relations
Amanda Parker,
Public Relations Specialist

For more information, call
 601-947-4211/228-497-1313 x 2251 or visit
 our website at www.singingriver.com



CEO's Message

Hughey named CEO for Singing River Electric Cooperative



Brian Hughey
 General Manager and CEO
 Singing River Electric

As I begin settling into my new leadership role, let me first say that being able to continue my career of 25 plus years in an organization I love and a

community within which I was born and raised is an opportunity of a lifetime.

While serving as district manager of Jackson County and then assistant general manager, I had the privilege of being led and mentored by Mike Smith, former general manager and CEO, whom I have tremendous respect for both personally and professionally. His vision and passion for the future of SREC always included providing our members with quality electric service at the lowest possible cost. We saw many technological changes during Mike's time as manager which allowed us to provide better member service.

I plan to carry on this vision of

success, along with modernizing some of our daily work processes in order to more efficiently respond to member needs and requests. In doing so, safety will always be my top priority for our employees and members. We will remain focused on helping the communities we serve through continued involvement with local economic development foundations and participation in the USDA loan and grant program.

Our employees will continue to strive every day to provide excellent service 24/7. As for you, our member/owner, always know you have a voice in the future of SREC. I look forward to leading your cooperative.

Brian Hughey succeeded Mike Smith as CEO and general manager of Singing River Electric Cooperative in January. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

He is active in many local organizations including Jackson County Economic Development Foundation and the Lucedale Rotary Club.

Hughey will serve on the board of directors for

Cooperative Energy, the wholesale power supplier for SREC and 10 other electric cooperatives. He will also join the board of directors for Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, the organization that serves and represents the 26 electric cooperatives in the state. He and his wife, Connie, have two children: Eli and Anna Claire. They reside in the Hurley community and are active members of Safe Harbor United Methodist Church.

New Year Brings Extreme Cold



Nick DeAngelo, CEM
 Manager of Member Services and Facilities
deangelo@singingriver.com

The New Year came with a blast – a blast of cold air! Our service area saw low temperatures in the 20's and highs in the 30's for the entire first week. Because of the sustained and extreme low temperatures, many members will likely see higher power bills in February. When temps drop for an extended period of time, heating systems are required to run for longer periods. If you have an electric furnace, you have seen or will likely see a significant increase in your bill. The typical electric furnace will cost nearly \$1 per hour of run time, or approximately \$10 for 10 hours. During the first week of January, we saw reports of heating degree days from the National Weather Service that indicate heating load hours were well over 10 hours per day. Members who have installed heat pumps will likely see somewhat of an increase due to the abnormally low temps as well, although not at the same rate of homes relying solely on electric resistance heat.

Notice of Singing River Electric Director Qualification Period

Candidates seeking election to the board of directors for Singing River Electric Cooperative must visit Singing River Electric's Lucedale office (11187 Old 63 South) and obtain a Director Candidate Packet. The forms and petitions in the packet must be completed and returned by close of business on the last business day in February (Wednesday, February 28).

How Sustained COLD Can Raise Power Bills

We have actually had a winter this year. In fact according to National Weather Service meteorologist Jason Beaman, the first week of January 2018 was the second coldest on record for the area.

"Cold weather, especially extended or extreme cold weather, can create higher electric bills due to the amount of energy it takes to heat a home and keep it at the

programmed setting," said SRE General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey.

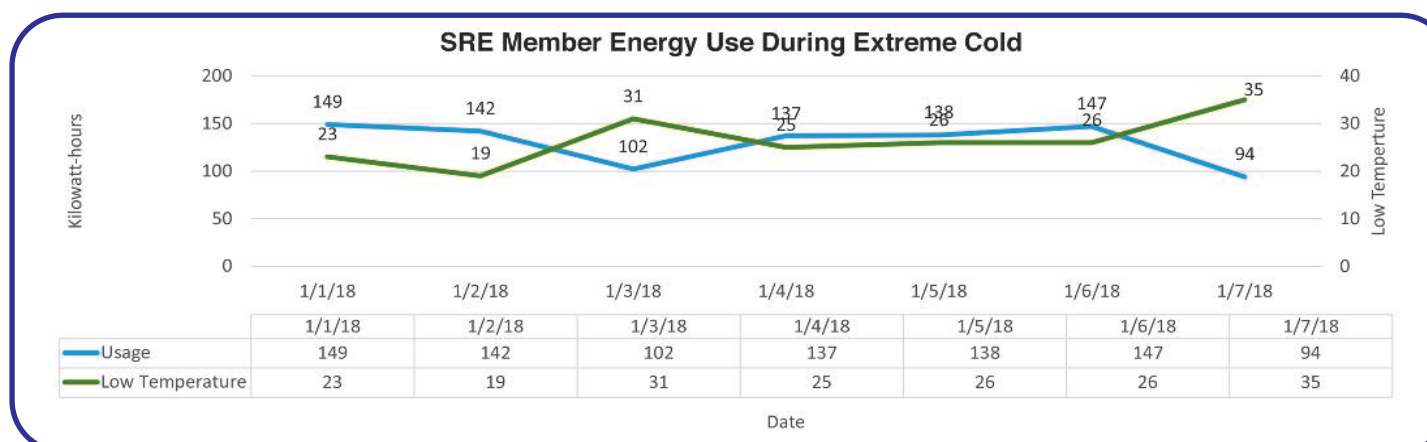
South Mississippi homes are not built for sustained cold. We normally have sustained heat. When temperatures drop below freezing for several days, heating systems have to cycle on and off and work much longer to maintain heating settings. On January 2, when the low was 19 degrees, home heaters

had to work harder to make up the 49 degree difference between the frigid outside air and the inside, programmed 68-degree setting.

Heating and cooling is responsible for the largest part of a typical power bill and is the number one driver for member energy consumption. However, there are a few things you can do to manage energy use and keep power bills as low as possible.

10 Tips to Stay Warm This Winter

1. Open drapes during the day to let in sun's warmth, and close them after the sun sets to keep out the cold.
2. Dress for the season, even indoors. Wear layers inside, and keep your shoes on.
3. Close the fireplace damper when not in use. An open flue forces heated air outside, forcing your heating system to work harder.
4. Add extra blankets to beds at night, and lower your heating setting a few degrees while you sleep.
5. Program heater a few degrees lower while you are away from home.
6. Avoid using space heaters, which are energy hogs. If you do use space heaters, keep safety in mind.
7. Winterize your home, including caulking around windows and sealing with weatherstripping around doors.
8. Set water heaters at 120 degrees.
9. Ensure attic insulation levels are sufficient and that ductwork is adequately sealed.
10. Change or clean filters monthly, or according to manufacturer's instructions.



True Cost of a Space Heater

1. Multiply 1,500 watts by hours of use:
 $1,500 \text{ watts} \times 24 = 36,000$
2. Multiply by your electricity rate per kilowatt-hour:
 $36,000 \times 11\text{¢} = 3,960$
3. Divide by 1,000:
 $3,960 / 1,000 = \$3.96 \text{ per day}$
 (*Almost \$4/day)

For more information, visit singingriver.com, or join our energy conversation on social media (SingingRiverElectric for Facebook and Instagram, and SRECooperative for Twitter).

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Upcoming Right-of-Way Clearing Projects



Singing River Electric clears trees, limbs and underbrush from areas around and under power lines, called the right-of-way. Right-of-way clearing helps decrease the number of power 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 will be cleared soon:

- **Fort Bayou Substation**
 Fort Bayou Road, Windsor Park and surrounding areas.
- **Helena Substation**
 Highway 613, Saracennia Road, Wildwood Road and surrounding areas.
- **McLain Substation**
 Thompson Hill Road, Neely Road, Old Hwy 24 and surrounding areas.
- **St. Martin Substation**
 Big Ridge Road, Lemoyne Boulevard Washington Avenue and surrounding areas.

Clearing means safer and more reliable electric service for you.