



Working together is the cooperative way

Southern Pine Electric Power Association:

- is a member-owned cooperative governed by a board of directors elected by the membership.
- was organized in 1938.
- distributes electricity to more than 63,000 meters in 11 counties in central and south Mississippi.
- distributes electricity through more than 9,700 miles of lines.
- serves an average of 6.55 electric meters per mile of line.
- employs more than 255 Mississippians.
- serves members from district offices in Taylorsville, Newton, New Hebron, Brandon and a branch office near Hattiesburg.

Southern Pine Electric Power Association joins the nation's electric cooperatives this month in celebrating national Cooperative Month.

The cooperative form of business is making a difference in all aspects of American life—utilities, housing, agriculture, health care, banking, insurance and child care.

Cooperatives serve more than 120 million members, or four in 10 Americans.

More than 39 million Americans enjoy the advantages of membership in electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives were established to provide electricity to people living in rural communities. The idea of providing federal assistance to accomplish rural electrification took shape when President Roosevelt took office in 1933 and began his New Deal programs.

After President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935, electric cooperatives began to spread across the country.

A year later, the passage of the REA Act marked the first steps in



By Don Jordan
General Manager

a public-private partnership.

Currently, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives supplying power from fishing villages in Alaska to dairy farms in Vermont to poultry houses in Mississippi.

Electric cooperatives are different from other forms of business, and members of cooperatives notice this difference. Cooperatives put members first because the members are the owners.

Electric cooperatives are locally owned and operated and are committed to providing safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

Southern Pine also is closely linked to the communities it serves. For example, your cooperative conducts safety programs at schools, helps stimulate economic development and promotes opportunities for young people, including the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi Youth Leadership program.

Cooperatives are about neighbors helping neighbors. Working together—that's the cooperative difference.

Southern Pine's new Hattiesburg branch office to open



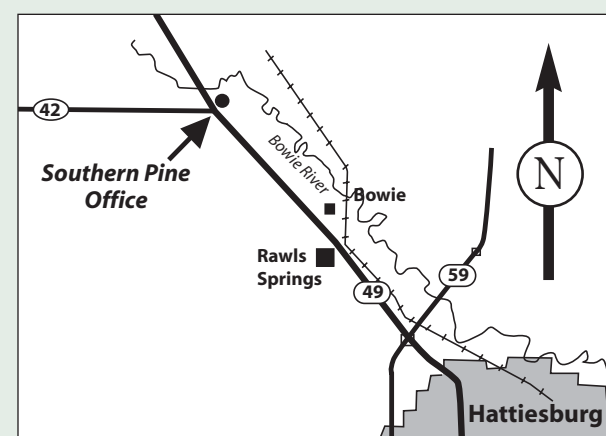
Southern Pine's new Hattiesburg branch office is scheduled to open in October. The branch brings drive-through service to Southern Pine members in the area. The branch office is located on the east side of U.S. 49 at the intersection of Miss. 42.

Southern Pine Electric Power Association opens a new branch office this month to serve the cooperative's members in the Hattiesburg area.

The 5,800-square-foot office is located north of Hattiesburg on U.S. 49 at the intersection of Miss. 42. It features drive-through window service for the convenience of members wishing to make bill payments. Walk-in service also is available at two cashiers' windows.

The office, previously located on U.S. 49 in Rawls Springs, was built to meet the growing needs of the area and to make the association more accessible to members in the southernmost counties of Southern Pine's 11-county service area.

For more information, contact the Hattiesburg branch office at (601) 264-0185.



Southern Pine services offer value, convenience

Southern Pine Electric Power Association was created in 1938 to provide electric service to members. As the association's membership has grown, so has the need for expanded services to meet growing needs.

Southern Pine members can choose from a variety of services designed with their convenience in mind. These services include the following:

• **Levelized Payment Plan.** This service for residential members allows bill payments of about the same amount each month. Under the plan, your monthly payment is based on an average of your actual monthly power consumption for a one-year period.

To qualify, you must be a residential customer of tax-free status; your meter must have established at least 12 months of billing history at your current place of residence with no record of tampering, disconnects and returned checks during that period; and the meter for the account must be accessible to meter readers.

Members dropped from the plan may reapply only after 12 months of good payment history.

• **Bank Draft.** Under Southern Pine's Bank Draft payment plan, your bank takes care of your payment transaction; you only have to adjust your checkbook. The plan eliminates the cost of stamps, helps to avoid the possibility of a late payment and saves you valuable time.

Paying your electric bill by Bank Draft is easier and more convenient for you. All you

Southern Pine members can choose from a variety of services designed with their convenience in mind.

do is sign a bank authorization form granting Southern Pine the authority to send a draft in the amount of your electric bill to your bank each month. You will continue to receive a bill from Southern Pine, but it will have the words "Paid by Bank Draft" printed on it. Your bank account will be drafted on the Due Date shown on your bill.

• **Surge protection.** Lightning can damage sensitive electronic equipment in your home or business. With proper surge protection, you can protect your valuable appliances and electronic equipment from damage caused by power interference resulting from a variety of factors inside or outside your home.

Ordinary power strips do not provide adequate protection. You need a true surge suppressor.

For an assessment of your needs and for additional details about surge protection, call your local Southern Pine district office.

• **Capital credits for deceased members.** Southern Pine refunds the accumulated patronage capital to the estates of deceased members. This is a one-time payment.

- **Today in Mississippi.** Each month you and all other Southern Pine members receive *Today in Mississippi*, which contains news about your electric cooperative as well as stories on people and places in Mississippi, electrical safety, energy management and major events occurring across the state.
- **Additional services.** These include the

Comfort Advantage program for new-home owners, security lights, heat loss/heat gain calculations, economic development efforts, and youth and adult education.

For more information on these programs or any aspect of Southern Pine's service, contact the district office that serves you.

Clip and **SOUND OFF!**

Have a comment or suggestion concerning your electric service from Southern Pine Electric Power Association? We want to know! Tell us on this form, then mail it to Don Jordan, General Manager, Southern Pine Electric Power Association, P.O. Box 60, Taylorsville, MS 39168. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary.

Please write your Southern Pine account number below. We appreciate your helping us serve you better. Southern Pine is a consumer-owned electric cooperative, dedicated to serving you reliably and safely.

WE'RE SERVICE PROUD

How to reach Southern Pine

Taylorsville Headquarters:

601-785-6511 or
800-231-5240
Hattiesburg branch:
601-264-0185

Newton District Office:

601-683-2200 or
800-698-9573

New Hebron District Office:

601-694-2711 or
800-698-9571

Brandon District Office:

601-824-7070 or
800-698-9574

Find Southern Pine online at
www.spepa.com

#7

OF 7 GUIDING PRINCIPLES COOPERATIVES FOLLOW

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY - While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.



If you plan to use a portable generator...

NEVER connect it directly to your home's wiring. This can energize power lines endangering our workers. Connect appliances directly to the generator. Operate your generator outdoors, NOT in a garage, carport or storage room. And always read the instructions first.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative