



**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**

## Cut energy cost by reducing energy use

This time of year, Southern Pine Electric Power Association employees are often asked, "Why does my electric bill go up in the winter?" Even customers who do not have electric heat may see their electric bills rise in January and February, and they wonder why. Simply put, electric bills are higher in winter because we use more electricity. But pinpointing just where the extra energy is being used can be difficult, because families are unique. Each household uses more or less electricity than the next due to differences in lifestyles and personal habits. Because we all take electricity for granted, we use it without giving it much thought. When the monthly bill comes, we often have used far more electricity than we expected and, consequently, the bill is higher than usual. Southern Pine members, when discussing the increases in their bills, often

examine their electrical use to determine why their bill might be higher during any one month. When the weather is cold, an electric heater might be the culprit (not to mention having to raise the thermostat). But the exact cause can be difficult to determine, especially since the bill may come weeks after electrical use increases. Electricity is still one of today's best bargains. An average Southern Pine customer spends less than \$4.50 per day for all the conveniences that electricity affords. And, according to the Department of Energy, Southern Pine's rates are among the lowest in the nation. The important thing to remember is that you and your family can control your energy use—and reduce energy cost—by increasing your energy conservation awareness. Controlling the thermostat is one of the easiest and most economical ways to control energy use.

We encourage you to read your meter often, so you can keep track of and understand your energy use. Here are a few reasons your recent energy bill may be higher than usual:

- Because days are shorter in winter, we use more lighting, both indoors and out.
- We watch more TV in the winter.
- We use clothes dryers more in the winter; we're wearing heavier clothes and using heavier bedding, which take longer to dry.
- Many people use electric space heaters, electric blankets and heating pads to keep warm.
- Most heating systems require electric power in some way, and they run almost every day when it's cold outside.
- Have you added new electrical appliances or equipment to your household? Computers, TVs, kitchen appliances—all of these add to your monthly kilowatt-hour use.

If you would like a free booklet with tips on energy use, visit or call the Southern Pine district office that serves you.



### What a cool idea! The Compact Fluorescent Light.

CFLs are "in" – in lamps, overhead fixtures and just about anywhere you see light bulbs. And it's no wonder. They use 2/3 less energy, last up to 10 times longer, and generate 70% less heat which reduces cooling costs. Plus, you can save \$30 or more in energy costs over the lifespan of each bulb.



### If your bill is high...

- Make sure the thermostat is secure and level to the wall.
- Keep thermostat set at 68 degrees or lower in the winter.
- If the outside heating/cooling unit runs all the time, there may be a problem with the unit.
- Check for adequate attic insulation.
- Check for air leaks in windows and doors. If cool air is entering, fix the leak with caulking.
- Fix hot water leaks or drips.
- Check water heater temperature.
- Change heating system filter at least every three months.
- Mobile homes should have skirting around the bottom.
- Close fireplace damper when not in use.

## SOUTHERN PINE BRIEFS

# Bank draft simplifies bill payments

Paying your electric bill payments by bank draft is a win/win situation for both you and Southern Pine Electric Power Association. You benefit by having the bank take care of the transaction for you. The only thing you have to do is adjust your checkbook. Each month you will continue to get a bill from Southern Pine, but it will be marked "Paid by Bank Draft." The bill will provide you the amount of your bill and serve as your reminder to make the adjustment in your checkbook. Making the adjustment in your check-

book or in your personal financial software program is all you'll do each month. You'll eliminate (1) writing a check; (2) postage for the envelope; and (3) delivering the payment to the post office for mailing. Bank draft will also ensure your bill is paid, even if you forget it; avoids the possibility of late fees; is paid even when you're traveling; and saves valuable time. Enrolling in Southern Pine's bank draft payment plan is easy. All you need to do is sign a Bank Authorization form, which authorizes Southern Pine to send a draft to your bank each month in the

amount of your electric bill, and provide a voided check. Your bill will be mailed to you prior to sending the draft to the bank. Your bank account will be drafted on the Due Date, shown on the bill. That leaves your money in your bank account as long as possible. To enroll in Southern Pine's bank draft program or to find out more, visit the Southern Pine district office that serves you. Our cashiers and member service folks will be glad to review the program with you and will provide you with a bank draft application.

## Daylight-saving time begins early, on March 11

With the passage of the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress and President George W. Bush extended daylight-saving time by about four weeks, beginning this year. As a result, daylight-saving time in the United States will begin three weeks earlier, on the second Sunday in March, and end one week later, on the first Sunday in November. Set your clocks forward one hour on March 11. Computers and other electronic equipment may need to be adjust-

ed for the change as well. Daylight-saving time has been used in this country and in many European countries since World War I. The time change was part of an effort to conserve fuel needed to produce electric power. Most localities retained daylight-saving time after the war. Daylight-saving time is observed in every U.S. state except Hawaii and Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Indian Reservation). Half of Indiana did not observe daylight-saving time before

a new state law, passed in 2005, required statewide observance beginning in April 2006. In addition to resetting clocks on March 11, the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommend that consumers change the battery in smoke and carbon dioxide detectors. Changing the batteries when daylight-saving time begins and ends will ensure the detectors will be working in case of a fire.

# 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.

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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.

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## Statement of nondiscrimination

Southern Pine Electric Power Association is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Donald L. Jordan, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statues and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202)720-5964 (VOICE OR TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

## Notice to members

Southern Pine Electric Power Association's dedicated employees take pride in providing quality service to members in a courteous and respectful manner.

However, we recognize that an employee could engage in behavior that we would neither authorize nor condone, and that may be objectionable to a member or other person.

Accordingly, if you ever believe a Southern Pine employee has treated you in an abusive, discourteous or disrespectful manner, subjected you to immoral or indecent conduct, or harassed you due to your gender, race, religion or national origin, you are encouraged to contact either Donald Jordan or Charlie Ware at 1-800-231-5240 or (601) 785-6511.