



Southern Pine Electric Power Association

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

How to reach Southern Pine Electric Power Association

For quicker service when you call Southern Pine to report a power outage or just to check on your bill, call the district office that serves you and have your account number ready. Use the phone numbers below or look for the number of your district office on your Southern Pine bill.

District Offices

- **Taylorsville:** (601) 785-6511 or 800-231-5240; Hattiesburg branch: (601) 264-0185
- **Newton:** (601) 683-2200 or 800-698-9573
- **New Hebron:** (601) 694-2711 or 800-698-9571
- **Brandon:** (601) 824-7070 or 800-698-9574

Visit your electric cooperative online at www.spepa.com

Climate change debate: Let's be real

The electric utility industry faces many significant challenges in the years ahead. Electricity is vital to our lives, so we must have a reliable and affordable supply to meet an ever-growing demand. But there is no large, inexpensive supply of electricity we can tap into whenever future needs arise.

The reality is that supply is rapidly being matched by demand. Many new sources of electricity generation will have to be built, both in Mississippi and throughout the region, to serve consumers' growing need for electric power.

Our electricity supplier, South Mississippi Electric Power Association, is working to determine the best approach for meeting these increasing needs of Southern Pine members. Building

power plants is expensive, especially if the process is made needlessly complex.

Pressure is mounting in Congress to do something about climate change.

Those debates have the potential to have great impact here. Any national debate must be based on a realistic look at climate change with a clear understanding of the effects of legislation.

There needs to be much more discussion about current proposals that have the potential to double or triple your monthly electric bill, while providing limited, if any, real benefits.

We believe it is vital to be a part of the climate change discussion, to try to bring facts and clarity to an emotional and complex issue.

For example, do you know that carbon dioxide (CO₂) makes up less than 0.05 percent of the Earth's atmosphere, and that man-made CO₂ is less than 5 percent of that total?

Of course, the nation's power plants should be as environmentally sound as

they are economical. But there needs to be much more discussion about current proposals that have the potential to double or triple your monthly electric bill, while providing limited, if any, real benefits.

Southern Pine pledges to do all we can to protect your interests, including providing information on this topic in the coming months.

We will also call upon our elected officials to be leaders in framing the debate about these issues in realistic terms.

We ask you, our members, to stay informed and let us know if you have any questions.



By Don Jordan
General Manager

Southern Pine director Gary Crumpton passes

C. Gary Crumpton, a member of the Southern Pine Electric Power Association board of directors, passed away April 17, 2008.

A resident of Smith County, Mr. Crumpton began serving on the Southern Pine board in August 2002.

"Gary was a real asset to our board," said Don Jordan, general manager. "He always had the employees' and the members' interests at heart. He was not only a board member, he was a friend to all."

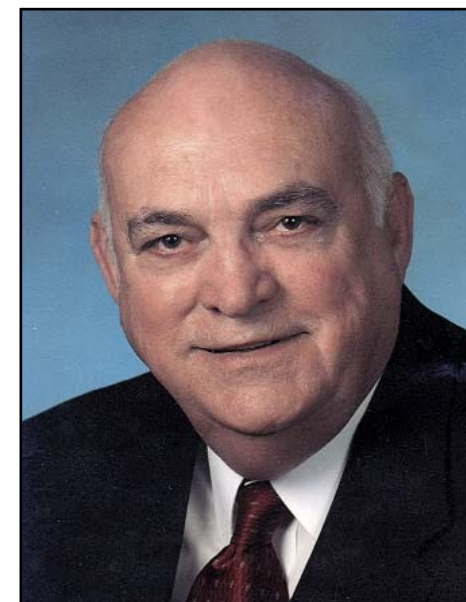
Mr. Crumpton served as Smith County Chancery Clerk and on various boards. He was active in many civic and community organizations. He was

a lifelong farmer and cattleman and a member of First Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Among his greatest joys were his family, his farm and his work in county government.

He is survived by his wife, Beth, of Raleigh; children, Robert "Bob" Kelly Crumpton of Jackson, John Lawrence Crumpton of Raleigh and Gary Houston Crumpton of Raleigh; and six grandchildren.

Southern Pine Electric Power Association wishes to thank the Crumpton family for Mr. Crumpton's dedication and service to our board, and we offer our prayers and condolences.



Gary Crumpton

THE ENERGY EXPERT

Electrical safety is no accident

May is Electrical Safety Month and a time for everyone to be reminded of the importance of safety at all times.

Southern Pine Electric Power Association encourages you to review the safety information provided on these pages and to always be careful when using or working around electricity.

For example, ladders contacting power lines cause 9 percent of electrocution-related deaths each year, according to recent data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Landscaping, gardening and farming equipment cause another 7 percent.

To avoid electrical hazards, make sure you and your family follow these simple tips:

Outdoors

- Teach children to stay away from electric transformers and substations, and explain what posted warning signs mean.
- Never fly a kite near overhead power lines.

- Never build a pool or spa or place a child's pool under electrical lines.
- Avoid damp conditions when using electricity. Keep all electrical devices and cords away from water.
- Assume any downed wires are dangerous. Stay away and keep others away.
- Contact Southern Pine before trimming or cutting trees near power lines.

- Contact Southern Pine before digging near a pad-mount transformer.
- Indoors**
- Place waterproof covers on all outdoor outlets.
 - Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in outlets where water may be present.
 - Only use extension cords marked for outdoor use; match power needs of an electric tool or appliance to the cord's



By Larry Blakeney
Safety Coordinator

label information.

Power Tools

- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housing, and repair or replace damaged items.
- Store power tools indoors.
- Unplug outdoor tools when not in use.
- Do not carry power tools by the cord.

Ladders

- Use only a fiberglass or wooden ladder if you must work near overhead wires.
- Carry and use ladders well away from all power lines.
- Never touch a person or an object that has made contact with a power line.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International; CPSC

If you see a downed power line:

- Move away from the line and anything touching it.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick.
- Do not step in water where a downed power line is located.
- If you are in your car and it is in contact with a power line, stay in your car. Honk the horn for help and tell others to stay away from your car.
- If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together; avoid contact with the car and the ground at the same time.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

This year, there's even more to like about Grand Paradise

Whether you enjoy racing down twisting water slides or relaxing in a tube in a gentle current, you'll want to get wet at Grand Paradise Waterpark, in Collins.

Collins businessman and native Billy Pickering opened the elaborate 7-acre waterpark last year after two years of construction. He was inspired to create the park while on a cruise, where he watched passengers line up at a water slide. "People had such a good time on that slide. I told my wife I was going to go home and build one," Pickering said.

Pickering built not one but four water slides, which serve as the centerpiece of a vast playground of water activities suitable for all ages. The tallest slide towers four stories above the park. The 860-foot-long Lazy River offers an endless loop of relaxing tubing fun, and a 9-inch-deep child's pool has slides designed specifically for the youngest visitors.

Grand Paradise, a member of Southern Pine Electric Power Association, is a family business operated with the help of Billy and Rachel Pickering's three children, Steve, Mike and Suzie Davis. The family works tirelessly year-round to maintain the park and improve on its attractions and amenities.

During the off season, they added three levels of seating, expanded the food court area and added more shade to better serve the summertime crowds that overran the park last year. "We know more about how to run a waterpark this year," Pickering said.

Employment will peak this summer at around 150 people to take care of as many as 1,500 guests per day. The workforce will include some 30 certified lifeguards and students.

The park has become a favorite venue for birthday parties, church outings and



The Water Fort, one of the attractions at Grand Paradise Waterpark, lives up to its name with splashing, spraying, pouring and sliding water. The park is open weekends only in May. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the park will be open daily through the summer. Photo courtesy of Grand Paradise Waterpark

company picnics. Pickering said the park can easily accommodate parties of up to several hundred guests, and special group rates are available.

Grand Paradise offers an affordable family vacation with a complete package of nightly and weekly accommodations. Rentals include four townhouses, nine apartments and nine cabins. An RV park

offers 27 camping pads with full hookups, and a Best Western motel is located next door.

Lunch is available daily at the Cedars Restaurant, adjacent to the park.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.grandparadisewaterpark.com, or call (601) 765-8118. To reserve accommodations, call (601) 765-0800.



MEMORIAL DAY
Join us in honoring the men and women who have sacrificed their life so we may enjoy our freedom.

Southern Pine's offices will be closed Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.
A dispatcher will remain on duty to respond to emergency calls.