



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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.

Area events stress fun and learning

Mark your calendar for these big events:

Mississippi Women in Agriculture State Conference

April 1-3, Jackson

The MWA program seeks to increase the knowledge and skills of farm women in aspects of business management, including risk management. Session topics range widely from creating a Web page to opportunities in alternative energy to national economic issues. Keynote speakers are Troy and Stacy Hadrick, fifth-generation ranchers from South Dakota. The event will be held at the Hilton Jackson on East County Line Road.

Preregistration is required. For information, visit <http://msucare.com/womeninag> or call Sonia Hancock, program coordinator, at (601) 941-6082 or send e-mail to womeninag@ext.msstate.edu.

Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo

April 2, Raleigh

This annual expo offers a trade show, educational seminars and door prizes for beef and poultry producers. Sponsored by the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the expo will be held 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Smith County Ag Complex on Highway 35

South. Contact your local Extension office or Community Bank for an agenda.

Okatoma Festival

May 2, Collins

The 20th annual festival kicks off at 8 a.m. with a 5K run/walk and 1-mile children's fun run, followed by a parade at 10:30 a.m. Country music star Jeff Bates will be the festival honoree and parade grand marshal.

Attractions will include arts and crafts, food booths, art exhibit and sale, quilt exhibit, antique car show, children's park, softball tournaments, health fair and live entertainment. A street dance, featuring the Cowboy Blues Band, will be held from 6-10 p.m. For information, call (601) 765-6012 or visit the Web site at www.covingtonchamber.com.

Day in the Park

May 2, Morton

Farris Municipal Park will be the center of festivities, which will include a 5K run, arts and crafts, food booths, antique tractors, musical entertainment, domino tournament, ball games and children's activities. Country music star Jeff Bates will perform in concert at 8 p.m. For details, call (601) 732-8609 or (601) 732-6252.

Clip and SOUND OFF!

Do you have a comment or suggestion concerning your electric service from Southern Pine Electric Power Association? Have a question about electric utility restructuring? 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.

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.

Southern Pine aids Kentucky storm recovery

When Southern Pine called for help in restoring power after Hurricane Katrina, electric cooperatives in Kentucky joined others across the region in sending emergency crews and equipment.

Southern Pine returned the favor last month after a late-January ice storm knocked out power to 1.3 million homes and businesses in eight states, from Oklahoma to Ohio. Kentucky was one of the states hit hardest.

Eleven Southern Pine crew members mobilized to help West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corp. crews rebuild lines damaged by heavy accumulations of ice.

The Mayfield, Ken.-based electric cooperative serves 38,000 consumers in six counties. The cooperative experienced a total blackout at the peak of the devastating ice storm.

"This storm is very much like the '94 ice storm in the

Mississippi Delta," Southern Pine crew foreman John Barr said shortly after his crew arrived in Kentucky. "Lots of work to be done, but it can't hold a candle to Katrina."

A work force of 1,000 electric co-op employees from 12 states, including Mississippi, and about 700 contract workers repaired poles, lines and substa-

tion equipment. In the days following the storm, the crews toiled long hours in frigid, windy conditions.

Broken poles scattered throughout inaccessible hills and rough terrain slowed the workers' progress. Complete power restoration was expected to take weeks.

Southern Pine lineman Nathan

Hudson said emergency work can be satisfying for the dedicated line worker, despite the hardships. "If a person enjoys line work, this is the place to be at the moment. Cold, muddy and lines down in every direction," Hudson said.

Southern Pine emergency workers who traveled to Kentucky are John Barr, Nathan Hudson, Dustin McKenzie,

Trevor Phillips, Brock Hudson,

Shay Sanford and Jerry Cameron, from the Taylorsville district; Steve Lee and Barry McCool, from the New Hebron district; and Jimmy Arender and Matthew Keller, from the Newton district.

All 25 electric power associations in Mississippi sent emergency crews to help restore power for customers of electric cooperatives in Kentucky, Arkansas and Missouri.

"[It's] amazing how people pull together during such hard times," Hudson said.



Eleven Southern Pine Electric Power Association employees mobilized last month to help West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corp. restore power after a late-January ice storm swept eight states. Seated, from left, are Shay Sanford, Steve Lee, Buster McKenzie and Nathan Hudson; standing, from left, are Barry McCool, Trevor Phillips, Matthew Keller, Butch Weatherly (of WKRECC), John Barr, Jimmy Arender, Brock Hudson and Jerry Cameron. Ice storm photos below by John Barr.

