



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



## National Co-op Month celebrates the cooperative difference

### Facts about your cooperative

Southern Pine Electric Power Association's mission is to provide reliable, safe and efficient electric service at a competitive price to all members, whether a poultry farm, an urban subdivision or a multimillion-dollar industry. Your cooperative's commitment is to set the service standard for providers of electric service. Here's more about your cooperative:

- Incorporated: 1938
- Headquarters: Taylorsville
- Residential meters served: 60,160
- Commercial and industrial meters served: 4,763
- Total miles of power line: 10,045
- Average meters per mile of line: 6.47
- Employees: 261

### We're all about service

#### Try hassle-free bank drafts

A bank draft plan that automatically pays your electric bill from your bank account each month is available from Southern Pine. The amount due on your electric bill will be withdrawn automatically from your bank account on the bill's due date. You will continue to receive a monthly bill, but it will be marked "pre-paid by bank draft."

The bank draft plan is especially helpful for members who travel extensively; no more late bills to worry about! Get details at the Southern Pine office that serves you.

#### Capital credits for deceased members

Southern Pine refunds the accumulated patronage capital to the estates of deceased members. This is a one-time payment to the heirs of a deceased member. The amount of the refund is based on the deceased member's kilowatt-hour use through the last full year of service. Learn more at your Southern Pine district office.

#### Pay at district offices

For your convenience, you may pay at drive-through windows in most Southern Pine offices. All Southern Pine offices have drop boxes for after-hours and weekend payments.

Each October, cooperatives all across America celebrate the role, accomplishments and contributions of our nation's cooperatives. Observing National Co-op Month gives electric co-ops yet another reason to tell our members that they are part of something special.

As a member of Southern Pine Electric Power Association, a consumer-owned electric cooperative, you enjoy a number of benefits:

- You, your family and/or business enjoy electric service at a reasonable price, despite the fact that you live in a rural or fairly rural area of Mississippi.
- When you receive service from our electric cooperative, you are more than just a customer—you are an owner of our business. Southern Pine is accountable to you.

Margins earned through electric sales are used to make improvements to the electrical systems and to help keep rates low. This benefits our local economy.

As a member, you have a voice in the future of this cooperative. You may call at any time to voice questions or concerns; you may attend and participate in the Southern Pine's Annual Membership Meeting; and your thoughts and concerns are reflected through the board of directors, which is made of co-op members elected by the membership.

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ty programs, provides special services, presents energy efficiency programs to schools and other groups, and works diligently with economic development organizations in each of the 11 counties it serves.

Southern Pine is a good employer, operating offices in five locations: Taylorsville, Brandon, Newton, New Hebron and Hattiesburg. The money our employees earn and spend stays in the local communities.

- Southern Pine gives community members opportunities to develop their leadership skills through employee training initiatives as well as through programs sponsored through local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations.

In addition, Southern Pine sponsors a Youth Leadership Program annually, which assists high school juniors in developing their skills. Many of our employees are truly active community leaders and use the leadership skills they've developed at work to benefit church and civic organizations.

- Southern Pine plays a major role in improving the quality of life for its members and strives to keep its mission of high-quality service at the forefront of all it does.

Southern Pine is a great organization and its employers are proud to provide reliable, affordable electric service to about 65,000 meters. Learn more about Southern Pine at our Web site, [www.spepa.com](http://www.spepa.com).

For more information on National Cooperative Month, visit [www.coopmonth.coop](http://www.coopmonth.coop).



By Don Jordan  
General Manager



By John Barr  
Construction Foreman

## Periodic line upgrades ensure reliable service

THE ENERGY EXPERT

Just as the highway department adds lanes to accommodate increasing traffic, Southern Pine Electric Power Association must upgrade some of its power lines to serve members' growing electrical use.

Southern Pine has a team of engineers that monitors the "load" on our system. Load is the actual use of electricity measured in amps. Since Southern Pine was formed in 1938, the load on its system has grown continually as we have become more dependent on electricity.

Upgrading lines is the job of all Southern Pine crews, in addition to building new lines and repairing damage to existing lines.

Southern Pine also has one crew whose main purpose is to upgrade, or re-phase, existing lines.

Although there are many benefits to re-phasing a line, the most important is increasing its load-carrying capacity.

Re-phasing a line also usually solves "blinking" problems—the type that causes your digital clocks to flash 12:00. Blinks are brief power interruptions that may be caused by a number of factors on a line, including aging equipment.

Under ideal circumstances, wire and poles would last forever; there are, however, no ideal circumstances. Mother Nature plays a big role by throwing in rain, lightning, cold, heat and humidity, all of which can break down line hardware over time. When our crews re-phase a line, all line hardware, including poles, is replaced. This practice eliminates 99.9 percent of existing problems on the line.

Considering Southern Pine has 10,000 miles of line to maintain, it's a large job to solve all blinking problems, especially when the problem is not obvious. Problems with load can be determined as easily as taking an amp reading on a particular line. But blinking problems can be caused by a number of things, including a cracked insulator, tree limbs and even animals.

Besides the benefits of re-phasing to



John Barr, second from right, is a Southern Pine construction foreman who has worked at the cooperative for 23 years. His crew members are, from left, Dustin McKenzie, Nathan Hudson, Trevor Phillips, Brock Hudson, Jerry Cameron and Shay Sanford.

our members, there are benefits for our crews as well. We may take the opportunity to move an existing line from the woods to the roadside, which makes future line maintenance and repair far easier, safer and faster.

Re-phasing projects also give us the opportunity to meet and talk with our

members while working in any given community.

Re-phasing is not a quick job. Depending on the area and the length of the line, it could take up to several months to complete a job. During this time, we get to know our members (and we have the best in the country) pretty well. They

tend to work very well with our crews' needs while on their property. Usually by the time we've finished the job, we have made some lasting friendships.

It's a satisfying job that helps Southern Pine and its members.

## 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.

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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.

#### Southern Pine 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](http://www.spepa.com)