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**SANTEE ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE NEWS**

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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL  
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## Capacity needs

**THE SECRET IS OUT!** South Carolina is the place to be! Those of us who were born here already knew

this, but the word is spreading. Is it the climate, the natural beauty, the friendliness of our citizens or the food? My suspicion is that it is all the above. We also know that the Palmetto State is doing a great job attracting industry. Is economic development driving the influx of people, or are the people driving development?

My goal this month is not to discuss why, but South Carolina is one of the fastest growing states in the country. I think that while growth is a great thing, it also brings infrastructure challenges. Growth puts a strain on schools, hospitals, highways and the electrical grid.

To prepare for the impact of this unprecedented growth on our electrical infrastructure, we need to do two things: build more capacity and make the best use of what we already have.

First, let's talk about what we need to build—generation, gas pipelines and electric transmission. I know it may sound odd for the guy whose job it is to sell electricity to promote gas pipelines, but that is exactly what I am saying. Electric utilities work together with gas utilities to locate generation where it's needed. Over the next decade, South Carolina needs to build new generation to replace coal and cope with growing demand, and it will take a lot of gas to do it. Furthermore, we need to beef up our transmission system to enable us to move power efficiently around the state and to import power when that makes economic sense.

What about making the most of what we already have? We absolutely

must do that too. Honestly, if power use across the state was spread evenly over every hour of every day of every year, our system would have more than enough capacity. However, extreme temperatures and human behavior tend to cause energy use to occur during common times of the day, instead of it being spread evenly around the clock. If we can do just two things, though, we can help a lot. First, discretionary loads—anything that does not have to run during the peak—should be run off peak. Second, any time you can pre-heat or pre-cool your home before a peak, you can reduce some of your demand on the system when it is under the most strain.

I acknowledge that every topic I have mentioned in this column has the potential to aggravate one person or another. Some people do not like the idea of the power company asking them to move energy use outside of peak hours. Others do not like the idea of building power lines, gas lines or generation plants. Still others are simply unhappy that South Carolina is “getting too crowded.”

Regardless of how we may feel about the impact of growth and change in our state, the responsibility of your cooperative is still to keep your electricity as reliable and affordable as possible. The only way for us to do that is to deal with reality and to prepare for it. Thank you for your tolerance of a rather heavy topic this month!

**ROBERT G. ARDIS III**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# Saluting our lineworkers

**IN APRIL**, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day to honor the men and women who power our lives. Rain or shine, day or night, lineworkers brave challenging conditions to make sure we have electricity when we need it. Their dedication is nothing short of extraordinary and a testament to their commitment to power our local communities.

Safety is always a top priority on the job, which is why lineworkers spend thousands of hours training as they advance their skills.

Here's a look at the career progression of a lineworker.

- ▶ **Groundperson/Linehelper** Many lineworkers begin their career as a groundperson, or linehelpers. They assist crews with tools, keeping jobs sites safe and operating smaller equipment.
- ▶ **Apprentice Lineworker** Before reaching lineworker status, they are required to work as an apprentice. Apprentice lineworkers earn competitive wages while receiving hands-on training and experience in the field. They typically spend four years in their apprenticeship.
- ▶ **Journeyman Lineworker** Post-apprenticeship and with roughly 7,000 plus hours of training, journeyman lineworkers are fully trained in their field. They repair,



**Being a lineman is a physically demanding job that requires intense focus, years of training and sacrifice. Santee Electric is proud of its linemen who will do whatever it takes to serve our members.**

update and install overhead and underground power lines, as well as other equipment.

- ▶ **Crew Leader** A crew leader is an advanced position that requires supervising lineworkers on job sites, coordinating with contractors and directing daily activities for crews.

## Summer peak hours begin April 1

**PEAK HOURS ARE CHANGING** this month! With SEC's rate structure, there are summer peak hours and winter peak hours.

On April 1, summer peak hours—4 p.m. to 7 p.m.—will go into effect. The peak charge on your bill is based off your highest one peak hour of the billing cycle. By adjusting your energy use during the peak hours, you can save!

The three easiest ways to shift energy use off the peak hours and save are:

- ▶ Manually adjust your thermostat so your HVAC runs less during the peak hours. A programmable/smart thermostat can also do this for you.
- ▶ Limit hot water use during the peak hours. Consider placing a timer switch on your water heater to help shift your energy use.
- ▶ Use your dryer or other high use appliances before or after the peak hours.

Visit [santee.org/rate-structure](https://www.santee.org/rate-structure) to learn more about peak hours and our rate structure or call (800) 922-1604.



## Text us!

**SEC HAS A FREE** texting service available to our members that allows you to report outages, check the status of your outage, receive restoration notices and important updates by text message. Members may also receive notifications from SEC concerning planned service interruptions in your area and/or other emergency information pertinent to potential service interruptions.

Opt into our texting service by texting SECIN to 85700. Your mobile number must be on file to use this option; if not, call us to update your contact information. For more information visit [santee.org/text](https://www.santee.org/text).

Message and data rates may apply. Please check with your carrier if you aren't sure about your text messaging plan.

