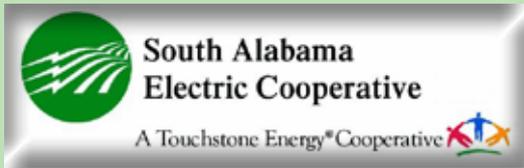




Max Davis
General Manager of South Alabama
Electric Cooperative



South Alabama Electric Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold	27,842,513
Avg. Utility Bill	\$214.94
Average Use.	1,718
Total Accounts Billed	16,208
Total Miles of Line	2,606
Consumers per mile of line	6.22

Information from FEBRUARY 2010

Electric rates continue to fall

Beginning with the April 8th statements, you should have noticed a negative power cost adjustment. This means you saw an additional savings of \$2.29 per 1,000 kWh used.

The credit was applied to your March electric usage and should continue through year-end provided the wholesale power cost remains stable.

In fact, this is the second time this year we've been able to reduce the cost you pay for electricity.

Our cost of service study produced rates which are designed to cover the cost of doing business. So when those costs go down, we're able to pass the savings along to you.

This current reduction occurred because of two primary events. PowerSouth Energy Cooperative's (our wholesale power supplier) hedging program has stabilized fuel costs for 2010. This event coupled with the higher than normal kilowatt hours you, our members, purchased during the extreme winter months established this reduction. If you remember, we had 16 consecutive days in January where the temperatures stayed at freezing or below.

"...this is the second time this year we've been able to reduce the cost you pay for electricity..."

PowerSouth Energy Cooperative has always included a diverse fuel mix, including coal, natural gas and renewable to try and offset these fluctuations in the costs to generate electricity. However, over the past couple of years, this prudent management hasn't been enough to offset the increases.

South Alabama Electric Cooperative saw huge volatility in the price of our wholesale power costs in 2009. These increases were primarily driven by the increased cost to generate electricity and we had to pass those increases along to you. Thankfully, the market for 2010 has seemingly stabilized and we've been able to pass those savings on to you as well. In February, we reduced your power cost adjustment by \$4.00 per 1,000 kWh.

We are keeping a watchful eye on these markets but need you to continue to do your part as well. Wise use of electricity is critical. We encourage you to continue your conservation and efficiency efforts. As summer approaches, make sure you set your thermostats at 78 degrees. Invest in added insulation if possible. If you are replacing appliances, pick an Energy Star model. And don't forget the small things like changing your old incandescent light bulbs out with CFLs and turning off appliances or lights when they are being used.

As a cooperative, we will always keep you – our members – first.

Study could have impact on future generations

Relay For Life is just around the corner and Pike County participants have a unique opportunity to participate in a study designed to help better understand the lifestyle, behavioral, environmental and genetic factors that cause or prevent cancer.

"Ultimately, we hope they use this research to eliminate cancer as a major health problem for this and future generations," Laura Clark, CPS 3 chair and Pike County Cancer Board Member said. "As a whole, the American Cancer Society is seeking 500,000 volunteers to participate in this study. It's an opportunity that only comes to your Relay once and it's a real honor for Pike County to be chosen."

According to Clark, Pike County was chosen because of how successful and well attended Relay for Life has been attended in past years.

Enrollment in the study will take place the night of Relay, May 7, 2010 from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

"It's a simple process," Clark said. "The night of Relay, you'll come by our tent and fill out a short survey. You'll have your waist measured and sign a confidentiality agreement. Then you'll have your blood drawn just like they do in a doctor's office."

The process is open to anyone interested as long as they meet a few requirements and only takes about 30 or 45 minutes to complete.

"Anyone who is 30-65 years in age and never been diagnosed with cancer are encouraged to participate. Basal or



squamous cell cancers - skin cancers - don't count. You also have to be willing to make the long term commitment to the survey.

"After Relay is over, you'll receive a longer survey in the mail that asks for more detailed health history and asks questions about your behaviors."

Clark said follow-up surveys will be sent every couple of years.

"If you develop cancer, they will look at all the factors you have indicated and then they group you with like participants and see what issues you have in common."

Clark encourages everyone to come out and participate.

"This is a great way for you to have an impact on this and other generations. This is the third process of this research. In previous studies they have found links in obesity and certain types of cancers."

If you are interested in learning more about the previous studies you can visit www.cancer.org/cps3. You can also call 1-888-604-5888 if you don't have access to a computer.

"I'll also be happy to answer any questions people might have," Clark said. "They can e-mail me at lauralou2585@yahoo.com. I'll even send them an e-mail reminder so that they don't forget to come and sign up on May 7th."

Board of Trustees

Bill Hixon
District 1

James Shaver
District 2

Leo Williams
District 3

Ben Norman
District 4

DeLaney Kervin
District 5

Norman D. Green
District 6

Glenn Reeder
District 7

James May
At Large



Visit our
Web site
at
www.southaec.com

3 steps to electric safety

It is easy to take electricity for granted. In the United States on any given day, almost 4,000 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity is consumed in homes and businesses to power light bulbs, air conditioning or heating units, refrigerators, irons, toasters, televisions – everyday essentials. However, on an average American morning, electricity may not cross even a tenth of the minds of those using it.

Why the “forgettable” nature of electricity? Well, for starters, it’s invisible. Unless you yank the hair dryer cord out of its socket with the dryer still running and see the electrical blue arc for a millisecond afterward, you don’t know what you’re dealing with. Electricity is intangible. We love it, we need it, but we don’t see it.

Electrical hazards surround us every day. Where electricity is, danger is lurking also. However, staying on top of how you, your family and your employees can face electrical dangers head-on may mean the difference between life or death.

Electrical safety and the use of safety technology are proven to reduce deaths by electrocution, as well as reduce injuries and economic losses due to electrical hazards. Most damage caused by electricity could have been prevented by taking simple safety steps combined with a healthy dose of respect for the danger lurking that you can’t see.

THREE SIMPLE STEPS

1. Contact a licensed electrician and request an electrical system inspection for your home or business. If your home or building was constructed before 1970, an inspection is imperative. An inspection ensures any dangerous defects, smoke detector issues, problems with arc or ground-fault circuit interrupters and much more are caught and corrected.

2. Electrical system problems cause more than 55,000 home fires each year. As a result of these fires, more than 500 deaths and 5,000 injuries occur. The financial burden is also high, considering \$1.6 billion worth of property damage occurs annually due to

electrical fires. To make sure your family, employees and investments are safe, make sure your electrical systems aren’t overburdened leading to fires, deaths and injuries.

3. Be aware of electrical shocks. Any shock – even a mild tingle – may be warning of an electrical danger. Pay special attention to small children, and cover electrical outlets with tamper-resistant receptacles. Nearly 4,000 injuries annually are due to electrical outlets, and almost one-third of these injuries occur when children insert objects into outlets.

While following the three steps described above will eliminate many of the most common electrical dangers, it is important to reinforce these methods with additional safety practices recommended by manufacturers of appliances and other electric-powered devices. A healthy dose of common sense won’t hurt either. (Remember: water and electricity don’t mix!)

For additional electrical safety tips, visit our Web site at www.southaec.com or contact a co-op representative today. You may not see electricity every day, but it’s our business.

Sources: Energy Information Administration; Electrical Safety Foundation International; Consumer Product Safety Commission; and Occupational Safety and Health Administration.





DON'T DIG UP TROUBLE

Protect yourself and your property against underground utility damage. Find out where underground utilities are located before you begin excavation. Electrical cables, gas lines, water lines and wastewater lines could all be present under your property. Hitting these lines could result in injury or property damage.

The power is in your hands...be safe.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

The power is in your hands.

Energy efficiency offers new harvest for farmers

By Megan McKoy

To get the biggest bang for their electricity dollar, more and more farmers are turning to energy efficiency to boost their bottom line and productivity.

Electricity on the farm powers heating (water, space, heat lamps), pumping (irrigation, water wells, manure lagoons), refrigeration, ventilation, lighting, fans (drying grains, aeration), and materials handling, feed augers, manure conveyors, milking, and egg conveyors. In the area of motors and lighting alone, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) estimates farmers could save \$88 million annually by implementing cutting-edge efficiency measures using available technology.

EnSave, a Vermont-based farm energy audit group, has created a pyramid revealing steps agricultural operations can take to cut down on energy use, arranged by cost and benefits of improvements.

First, farmers should analyze energy use. This may reveal opportunities to save on electric use and in some cases could lead to increased productivity. Next, farmers should try energy conservation—changing behaviors and simply using less energy daily. After this, the greatest savings may be achieved through energy efficiency – working smarter and saving money by using more efficient equipment.

Each farm—from dairy and poultry to general agriculture—provides different opportunities for efficiency upgrades, varying by region and crop. However, regular equipment maintenance provides universal benefits.

For example:

- **Clean equipment:** Removing dust, soot, and debris from equipment will allow it to do more work with less effort, extending its life and reducing energy use.

- **Inspect regularly:** Equipment should be checked regularly. Replace parts that are showing excessive wear before they break and cause irreparable damage.

- **Plug leaks:** Be it a pin-

prick hole in a hose or a drafty barn, leaks waste money, fuel, and electricity. By plugging the leaks, savings can be considerable.

- **Remove clutter:** Hoses should be regularly flushed to clear them of debris. Ensure fan and motor intakes and exhausts remain clutter-free for maximum circulation and efficiency.

Lighting presents another efficiency touchpoint. Light work areas, not entire buildings, and use daylight when possible. Installing dimmable ballasts can also help control light levels.

Types of lights used on the farm make a difference. Incandescent lightbulbs typically convert only 10 percent of the energy used into light.

There are many other options available:

- **Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)** deliver the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs, but use only a quarter of the electricity. Installing CFLs may cost a little more initially, but they can last up to 10 times longer.

- **Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFLs)** can last up to 25 times longer and have around the same efficiency as CFLs.

- **T-8 and T-5 lights** with electronic ballasts generate less noise, produce more light per watt, offer better color rendering, minimal flickering, and cooler operation, and provide electric cost savings.

For more regional and/or crop-specific energy efficiency options, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service provides farm energy calculators. From animal housing operations to irrigation estimates, the calculators assess how much energy your farm currently uses and provide insights on how to cut your energy costs. Learn more at www.energytools.sc.gov.usda.gov.

Sources: American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, EnSave, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service



