

PowerPoints

News & Information for Residential Customers

August 2009



Your opinions are valued

Over the past months Santee Cooper has encouraged our customers to provide input concerning a proposed two-year rate increase and rate restructuring plan. Your opinions about our new rates matter to us. We have received many comments and changes have been made that reflect your input. Our Board of Directors will meet on Aug. 24 and is expected to vote on the proposal.

No one likes a rate increase. The cost of producing power has significantly increased since Santee Cooper last raised rates 13 years ago. Unfortunately, an increase cannot be postponed any longer. Santee Cooper recognizes that affordable, reliable electricity is crucial to our quality of life here in South Carolina. We are committed to delivering electricity to you at the best price possible and appreciate your continued trust in managing your dollars responsibly.



Mini-bond sale coming

For as little as \$200, you can purchase a Santee Cooper Capital Appreciation Mini-Bond. Or for \$500, you can get a Santee Cooper Current Interest Bearing Mini-Bond. Maximum combined purchase is \$50,000 per individual. All interest earned on these Bonds is excludable from gross income for federal and South Carolina income tax purposes under current law.

- Sept. 23 - Interest rates will be announced.
- Sept. 25 - Oct. 21st - Orders will be accepted.
- Oct. 21 - Last day to place orders.

Go to www.santeecooper.com/minibonds for more information, email us at scbonds@santeecooper.com, or call Bondholder Relations toll-free at 1-877-246-3338.

*For more information, go to
www.santeecooper.com/minibonds
or send an e-mail to
scbonds@santeecooper.com*

Account number please

Santee Cooper's continued commitment to providing excellent customer service recently resulted in a new bill format. We hope the new bill look, which was based in part on input received by customers, means your bill is easier to read and understand.

Your account number changed

Your account number changed from a 9-digit to a 10-digit number. Please remember to include your account number on all bill payments so that your payment can be charged accurately.

Online bill payments

If you pay your bill through an online service or bank, you need to change your account number to the new number. Otherwise, your payment may not be credited properly.

Questions? Contact your local Santee Cooper customer service office at the number listed on your bill.

A best buy with auto-pay

It's a great time to sign up to have your Santee Cooper bill automatically drafted from your bank account through auto-pay. Call or go online for details at www.santeecooper.com/myhome.



Challenging times in the energy industry

Proposed transmission costly, unnecessary

So far, 2009 has proven to be one of the most challenging times ever in the energy industry. Global concerns about climate change, rising costs of energy fuels and construction are just some of the issues of importance. The construction and maintenance of new transmission lines across the country is an issue of great concern to many electric utilities.

Effects of possible renewable energy requirements

Affecting the transmission concern is any legislation creating a mandatory renewable energy requirement for utilities. Most of America's proposed land-based renewable energy resources are in the Midwest stretching from Texas to North Dakota. By contrast, most of the electrical load in the eastern 2/3 of the US is concentrated along the East Coast. There are proposals in Congress now to build massive new high-voltage transmission lines designed to bring renewable generation from the Midwest to the East Coast. Although many routes have been discussed, the most likely route for the proposed new transmission lines would begin in Texas and head north to North Dakota and then turn east to Minnesota and terminate at a location in the Northeast, probably New York. All utilities east of the Rocky Mountains would be required to pay for building and maintaining the new transmission lines. It is estimated that Santee Cooper customer rates could increase by as much as 50 percent to pay for these proposed new lines.

Santee Cooper's transmission system already reliable, maintained

Santee Cooper is adding renewable generation to our system that is South Carolina-based, practical and affordable, in keeping with our commitments to reliable, low-cost power and to provide 40 percent of our energy by 2020 from non-greenhouse gas emitting resources, biomass, conservation and energy efficiency. We continue to build transmission to reliably serve our load and have maintained an excellent transmission system through the decades that is well positioned for our future growth requirements. These proposed new high-voltage transmission lines would not provide any benefits to Santee Cooper or South Carolina, yet our customers would end up subsidizing them. A renewable energy requirement that is a one-size-fits-all approach is impractical and could be economically devastating to some parts of the country, including South Carolina.



*Lonnie N. Carter
President and CEO*

Get to know your ducts

More hot summer days are before us and the last thing you want in your home is to lose cooled air to the outdoors. The ducts that carry cooled and heated air throughout your home must be properly sealed and insulated to make your house more comfortable, energy efficient, and safer. Whether your duct work is underneath your home or in the attic, get acquainted with it.

Making improvements to your duct system can:

Improve comfort

Sealing and insulating ducts can help with common comfort problems, such as rooms that are too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter.

Enhance indoor air quality

Fumes from household and garden chemicals, insulation particles, and dust can enter your duct system, aggravating asthma and allergy problems. Sealing ducts can help improve indoor air quality by reducing the risk of pollutants entering ducts and circulating through your home.

Save money

Leaky ducts can reduce cooling and heating system efficiency by as much as 20 percent. Sealing and insulating ducts increases efficiency, lowers your energy bills, and can often pay for itself in energy savings. Plus, if you're planning to install new heating and cooling equipment, a well-designed and sealed duct system may allow you to downsize to a smaller, less costly cooling and heating system that will provide better dehumidification.

Check with a professional contractor for duct improvement projects. Most heating and cooling equipment contractors also repair ductwork. Contact your contractor today and get to know your ducts.

