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Office Hours

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Chief Executive Officer**

Robert O. Williams

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In observance of the Easter holiday, Newberry Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 22. To report a power outage or other electrical problems, please call 276-1121. Emergency crews will be on standby.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

The generation gap

We're planning for day when gap between supply, demand closes

ELECTRIC CO-OPS HAVE important energy choices to make. Tighter government regulations—and the high



cost to comply with new rules—may signal lights-out for many of the nation's older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict energy demand will eventually outpace supply. We're approaching crunch time on our ability to keep

the lights on. We need to build new power plants.

As the economy rebounds, so will our nation's hunger for electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts when the 2010 numbers are tallied, energy use will shoot up 5 percent from 2009.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), a bulk power grid watchdog, estimates 135,000 MW of generation needs to be built by 2017 to meet American energy demand. Generation facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000 MW—leaving a generation gap.

Compounding this issue, a NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. If we wait too long, America could see power shortages by the end of this decade.

Reliability, affordability

At Newberry Electric Cooperative we're focused on two key goals: reliability and affordability. Although

Newberry Electric doesn't build and operate power plants—as a distribution cooperative, we focus on delivering power to you—we're working with our wholesale power aggregator, Central Electric Power Cooperative, to find the best fuel mix solution for your future.

We're proactively working to secure the power you need. While we continue to buy most of our electricity from Santee Cooper, the state-owned utility, last year Central signed an agreement to purchase some wholesale power from Duke Energy, an investor-owned utility. The first purchases are scheduled to begin in 2013 and, by 2019, could be as much as 1,000 megawatts of capacity, nearly a quarter of our present needs. That agreement is worth nearly \$2 billion in savings to S.C. co-op members.

Looking out for you

We're also proposing that the Carolinas' major utilities share the cost and power output of building new nuclear reactors. If everybody participates, we can hold down costs and gain flexibility to meet customer demand and new climate change regulations.

We appreciate your support as we make these critical and time-sensitive choices. Balancing your energy needs with electricity reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you.

Robert O. Williams
*Interim President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Set it, forget it—The benefits of a programmable thermostat

A **PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT** is one of the quickest, easiest and most inexpensive ways to save on energy bills year-round. The average household in the Newberry area spends more than \$1,200 in heating and cooling costs. Programmable thermostats—which cost between \$50 to \$200—are a smart investment because they can reduce energy costs by as much as 15 percent, or about \$180 annually.

A programmable thermostat makes saving energy easy by controlling the heating and cooling settings in both the winter and summer. It's like putting your house on "cruise control" by using

preprogrammed settings that regulate the home's temperature during the night and even while you're on vacation. This type of thermostat automatically turns down the heat in the winter and turns up the cooling in the summer. A homeowner can save energy and money while still maintaining overall comfort.

Programmable thermostats are an easy energy-saving tool. Here are a few more energy savings tips:

- ▶ Always look for the Energy Star label when buying a new thermostat.
- ▶ Use the preprogrammed settings to maximize energy savings.

▶ Heat pump systems require a special type of programmable thermostat. Consult with an energy advisor or a HVAC specialist to determine what will work best for your home.

▶ Be sure to have the thermostat installed correctly using a certified HVAC contractor.

Programmable thermostats offer a lot of value by maximizing energy savings without sacrificing comfort. Best of all, they can be tailored to match a family's schedules. To learn more about buying and setting a programmable thermostat, visit TogetherWeSave.com.



Employee and co-op member Benji Morris programs an Energy Star thermostat.



Read your meter to monitor energy use



Meter reader Kenneth Brooks holds one of the new digital meters that can help monitor energy use.

READING YOUR ELECTRIC METER doesn't have to be a job just for your electric co-op. You can read your own meter to better monitor electric consumption.

Checking your meter monthly lets you track spikes or dips in your electric use. Having that information at your fingertips allows you make better energy choices and nip potential unseen problems (such as a well pump that won't turn off) in the bud.

Analog meters act like clocks—current drawn from power lines into your home or business turns a set of gears inside the meter. The more power you draw, the faster the gears turn. To read an analog meter, write down the numbers shown on the dials from right to left. If the pointer

sits directly on a number, check the dial to the right. If it has passed zero, round up to the next higher number. If not, use the next lower number. If the dial falls between two numbers, use the smaller number.

If you have a digital meter, subtract the difference between consecutive months to record the amount of electricity used during that billing period.

Often, members feel that their meter may not be working properly or giving a false reading. However, meters rarely malfunction and the problem usually lies elsewhere in the home. If you have questions regarding your meter, please call the Billing Department. Visit TogetherWeSave.com for more energy-saving tips.