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Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday

General Information

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Nights, Weekends, Holidays

(803) 276-1121

President & Chief Executive Officer

Daniel P. Murphy

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Happy holidays!

Newberry Electric Cooperative will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26, in observance of Thanksgiving. We will be closed on Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27, in observance of Christmas. The New Year holiday will be observed on Friday, December 31. Please call 276-1121 to report power outages or electrical problems. Emergency crews will be on standby. Happy holidays to all!



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

The power of local control

Knowing our area well helps co-op meet local needs

AT NEWBERRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, we're not alone in our mission to deliver a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power to rural residents. There are 20 electric distribution cooperatives like us in South Carolina and more than



850 nationwide. Despite our obvious similarities, each co-op is different—first and foremost because the areas we serve are unique.

Each co-op boasts its own history and serves a distinctive mix of residential, industrial, commercial and agricultural consumer-members. All make their own business decisions independently, as described in the Fourth Cooperative Principle, "Autonomy and Independence." It's one of seven unique guidelines that govern cooperative operations.

Electric cooperatives are generally subject to less oversight by federal and state utility regulators because of the healthy way in which you, our members, regulate us. This independence, enshrined in the laws of most states, rests on our historic commitment to the communities we serve.

Remaining autonomous and independent allows us to best serve the needs of you, our owners. That's because what might be a sound decision for one co-op, say, with a relatively small number of members spread out over an extremely rural area, might not work for another that has a larger number of members in a more urban setting. Local service and attention to your unique needs explains why having local control is best for each locally owned and governed electric co-op.

But although Newberry Electric

Cooperative sails our own ship, so to speak, we are not sailing alone. Our co-op belongs to a statewide association, the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative, Central Electric Power Cooperative, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Arlington, Va.-based national service organization representing more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the United States. We're also a member of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, an alliance of more than 700 electric cooperatives nationwide.

Despite these benefits, none of these groups tells us what to do. Decisions about how to deliver your electricity at the lowest possible cost are left to our board of trustees, who are elected by you, our members, and to our employees.

On occasion, we might need a large amount of capital to pay for expansion. We can borrow it from a number of sources including banks and private market lenders controlled by electric cooperatives. We enter into any agreement with a great deal of deliberation, no deal gives a third-party control over our operations.

Leaders of our co-op, who are also members just like you, know this area and its needs well. Our ability to make our own decisions allows us to serve you in the most efficient way possible. And that's the way it should be.

Daniel P. Murphy
President and CEO

Make smart connections this holiday season

BY TRAVIS CHAPMAN

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, families often string together extension cords without a second thought. Unfortunately, all cords are not created equal.

Just because an extension cord can reach an outlet across a room doesn't mean it's the right one for the task at hand. If a tool, appliance, or holiday display draws more current than an extension cord can carry, it may cause the cord (and whatever is connected to it) to overheat and start a fire.

Cords come in many lengths and



are marked with a size or gauge. The gauge is based on the American Wire Gauge (AWG) System, in which the larger the wire, the smaller the AWG number.

For example, a 12-gauge wire would be larger and power larger wattage appliances than a 14-gauge wire.

Using the right cord for the job is only the first step in using extension cords safely. Follow these tips from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to ensure safe use and make smart connection decisions:

- ▶ Look for the UL symbol. It means that samples of the cord have been tested for safety hazards.
- ▶ Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors, as it could result in electric shock or trigger a fire. Extension cords that can be used outdoors will be clearly marked "Suitable for Use with Outdoor Appliances."
- ▶ Extension cords should not be placed underneath rugs or other heavy furniture, tacked in place to a wall or taped down, or used while coiled or bent. Match the length of



Travis Chapman plugs in a UL-approved extension cord.

- the cord to your needs.
- ▶ Store all cords indoors when not in use. Outdoor conditions can deteriorate a cord over time.
- ▶ Unplug extension cords when not in use. The cord will continue conducting electricity until unplugged.
- ▶ On cords with more than one outlet, use the covers provided for unused openings. Children and pets face serious injury if they chew on unused outlets or stick sharp metal objects into the openings.
- ▶ Do not use extension cords that are cut or damaged. Touching even a single exposed strand of wire can result in an electric shock or burn.
- ▶ Never file or cut the plug blades or grounding pin of an extension cord or appliance to plug it into an old outlet.
- ▶ As a safety feature, extension cords and most appliances boast polarized plugs (one blade wider than the other). These special plugs are designed to prevent electric shock by properly aligning circuit conductors. If a plug does not fit, have a qualified electrician install a new outlet.

TRAVIS CHAPMAN is the operations line superintendent for Newberry Electric Cooperative.

Opportunity for Newberry area high school juniors

Are you ready for the ultimate road trip this summer?

Newberry Electric Cooperative will once again sponsor two high school juniors on a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. this summer. The 2011 youth tour is scheduled for June 11–16.



This isn't just your average road trip. Students will learn how the nation's capital operates, talk with their senators and other representatives, as well as visit our capital's various monuments, museums and many other attractions.

Information has been distributed to local area high schools. The deadline for applications is January 18. Applicants must be a member of the cooperative to be eligible. For more information, contact Debra Shaw at 276-1121.