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Anderson, SC 29622

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Mission Statement
Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Winter-weather plans

SOME WEATHER OBSERVERS have forecast that this winter in the southeastern United States will be both wetter and colder than normal. That combination raises the likelihood our Blue Ridge service area will have endured one or more storm emergencies by the time spring arrives.

The cooperative's best defense against storm damage is to keep our system of nearly 7,000 miles of power lines in the best possible condition. Although the present economic recession has slowed system growth to a crawl, the downturn hasn't diminished our determination to move forward with planned improvements to these electric-distribution facilities. During the four-year period ending in 2012, Blue Ridge will invest another \$67 million in its electric plant.

However, a severe enough ice or snowstorm can inflict massive destruction on even the best-maintained power lines. There's no work action or other steps the cooperative or any other utility can take to prevent widespread outages when heavy, frozen precipitation strikes a geographic area.

Plan B

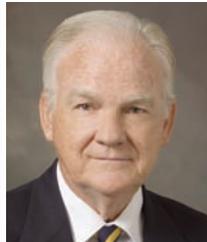
In that event, "Plan B" is immediately put into effect. That means Blue Ridge will attack the storm emergency with everything it has in the way of personnel and other resources.

The prime example of this robust reaction came with the December 2005 ice-storm emergency, which produced — by far — the greatest system devastation in the cooperative's history. Before that mess was cleaned up, Blue Ridge had put 100 of its own employees into the field and had called in another 350 outside workers to assist with the repair effort. With the rest of our work force providing support to the crews in the field, we managed to restore every member's service within five days. By anyone's estimation, that was a monumental accomplishment.

Tried-and-true process

In any storm emergency, our goal is to get power restored to the most members in the shortest possible period of time. That goal is ultimately accomplished by following a tried-and-true systematic process for repairing damage to our power lines.

As a member-owned utility, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is determined to deliver the finest in quality service. That's our commitment to you as we stay on high alert for whatever Mother Nature might send our way.



Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

American Red Cross gets help with disaster relief



DENNY SHORTT

Representatives from the American Red Cross, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and Blue Ridge Security were on hand as co-op employee Beverly Crenshaw presented the keys to Red Cross representative Betty Jackson.

WHEN THE AMERICAN Red Cross of Upstate South Carolina chapter recently contacted Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative about a contribution, the wheels started turning. The cooperative and its subsidiary, Blue Ridge Security Systems, began to look for a way to assist this emergency response organization in a way that would best serve the multi-county area the Blue Ridge organizations serve.

Blue Ridge President and CEO Charles Dalton noted that the Blue Ridge organizations often have a close association with the Red Cross. "When disasters such as house fires occur, our emergency crews often arrive on the scene at the same time as the Red Cross volunteers. This side-by-side work exposure gives our employees a deep appreciation for the valuable assistance the Red Cross delivers during times of severe loss and need," Dalton added.

After several weeks of discussion, the Blue Ridge organizations and the Red Cross decided that

there was a real need for a vehicle that would be strong enough to pull the Red Cross disaster-relief trailer, while providing adequate seating for volunteers. A truck was located that met all the requirements.

While the truck will be used to fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross in surrounding Upstate counties, it will also be utilized to address disaster situations in other states.

Attention! High school juniors

If you are a high school junior, you've got a chance to win an expense-paid, six-day trip to Washington, D.C., this summer, sponsored by Blue Ridge Electric Co-op. Two winners from the upstate will be selected to join high school students from across our state and nation, June 12-17. Students will be flown to Washington where they will explore our nation's history, learn about leadership and our government.

Tyler Polomski, a freshman at Winthrop University, represented Blue

Ridge on the trip in 2008. "My favorite part of Youth Tour was creating lasting friendships, not only with youth from around the state of South Carolina, but with youth from around the country. Youth Tour let me broaden my horizons while seeing that even today's youth can have an impact on tomorrow's future."

Applications are being accepted until February 2. Ask your high school guidance counselor for details and find an application online at blueridge.coop. Questions? Contact Liza Holder at (800) 240-3400.

Control your power... control your life

Never worry about the power going out again. Blue Ridge Security offers several lines of standby generators including the Briggs and Stratton EmPower and IntelliGEN. The EmPower series offers exceptional value with a full range of systems to meet your power needs and budget. The IntelliGEN series efficiently manages the same essential and

high-wattage appliances as a liquid-cooled standby generator nearly twice its size, while using up to 50 percent less fuel. All for nearly half the cost.

For more information or a free consultation, contact Blue Ridge Security at (888) 407-7233.

Energy-efficiency tip

"Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat in the winter."

That's tip #69 of the "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures for South Carolina," the handy booklet that Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative sent to its members in last February's magazine. If you want another copy, stop by one of our offices or access an electronic version of the booklet at www.blueridge.coop.

