



For All Your Customer Service Needs,
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Automated Outage Reporting

1-888-BLUERIDGE
www.blueridge.coop

Pickens

P.O. Box 277
734 West Main St.
Pickens, SC 29671

Oconee

P.O. Box 329
2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Highway 123
Westminster, SC 29693

Anderson

1212 North Fant St.
Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville

3751 Highway 11
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

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.

Board of Directors

Jimmy Lee Dodgens, *Chairman*
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Major system projects under development

THERE ARE MANY things that we concern ourselves with on a daily basis at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative.



Foremost on that list is the cooperative's safety program. Our employees are our greatest asset, and we take very seriously their safety under all conditions at all times.

Another important part of our work is system planning. This undertaking consumes more of our attention because it's the function that will ultimately include and direct most of our capital-budget expenditures. New power-line extensions, improvements to existing facilities, and scheduled maintenance all come under the umbrella of system planning. There are also major projects like new substations and transmission lines to be added to our system.

At this time, the cooperative has five of these big jobs under development:

- ▶ **Northwestern Anderson-Southwestern Oconee transmission line and substation**—to provide enhanced service to many of our members residing in those two counties
- ▶ **Echo Hills substation**—to be erected adjacent to Oconee County's Echo Hills Commerce Park to supply power to the park campus and to some existing members in the wider area surrounding the commerce center
- ▶ **Cross Roads transmission line and substation**—new facilities to bring the source of central-station power closer to members in that Pickens County community
- ▶ **Pickens substation**—a proposed relocation and rebuild of an existing

facility that will strengthen service for members now fed by that substation

- ▶ **Central substation**—a soon-to-be-concluded relocation and rebuild of a substation that serves members in and around the municipalities of Central and Norris

I'm personally enthused about each of these projects. Once they're completed, I know they will position the cooperative to deliver an even higher level of service. As I've often said, quality service is a top priority at Blue Ridge.

Shifting gears, I now want to give you some brief and early details concerning the two big events on the Blue Ridge calendar. At the May 7 annual meeting, attendees will be entertained by perhaps the most-popular bluegrass group on today's music scene: IIRD TYME OUT. We're excited about securing this talented ensemble, and I hope you can be there to hear them.

Then, our Blue Ridge Fest charity fund-raiser on May 11 will feature two entertainment legends—Bobby Rydell and Jimmy Clanton. Between these two gentlemen, they scored dozens of hit songs during the 1960s. It will be a privilege to have both of them perform on the Blue Ridge stage.

In the upcoming editions of *South Carolina Living*, we'll share plenty of information with you about each of these events. In the meantime, please set aside both May 7 and May 11 and plan to join us.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Stop air flow and high energy bills

AFTER A LONG day at work, I'm ready to go home and relax. Our homes should be an oasis for all of us—where we can kick back and get comfortable.

But there's no oasis of comfort when your home is too cold in winter or oppressively hot in the summer. That means it's leaking air—and wasting money.

One of the best things you can do if you have high electric bills is check the insulation. How much is in your attic and basement or crawl space? What kind is it? Is there an air barrier along with the insulation? The answers to these questions will determine how much energy and money you can save.

Air infiltration is one of the main problems for most homes. It's healthy to have some air flow in and out of your home, but too much leads to discomfort and high electric bills. Properly installed insulation paired



Insulation saves money and energy resources, makes your home more comfortable and makes walls, ceilings and floors warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

CERAMTECH CORPORATION

with an air barrier can do a lot to save.

If you have fiberglass insulation—whether blown or rolled batts—you'll need to create an air barrier by sealing all of the cracks and gaps between the living spaces and unfinished areas with caulk and expanding foam.

Cellulose does a better job of blocking air, but only foam insulation offers its own air barrier.

For more energy tips visit our website and click on TogetherWeSave.com or sign up to receive a "tip of the day" reminder of ways you can save energy around your home.

Are you saving money yet?

AS A BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC Cooperative member, you are entitled to save money. How? By using your Co-op Connections card, you save on everyday purchases and prescriptions. And the savings are big. Last year, Blue Ridge members saved about \$553,000 in prescription discounts alone. Additional savings are available from more than 70 local businesses that offer discounts every day to card holders, plus thousands of national offers that are available

online. If you need a new card, you can come by one of our offices and get it along with a list of local business participants. To print a card yourself, go to healthysavings.coop and follow the easy directions. There are more and more benefits being offered with the card, so use yours regularly and discover the value of co-op membership!

We welcome the following businesses to the Co-op Connections program. Be sure to

visit them soon and take advantage of the discounts they offer.

- ▶ **DreamShots Photography, LLC** Easley
- ▶ **Hidden Treasures** Seneca
- ▶ **Silver Bay Seafood Restaurant** Easley
- ▶ **Valvoline Instant Oil Change** Clemson
- ▶ **You Name It (Outfit Her LLC)** Westminster
- ▶ **Electric City Grill and Pizzeria** Anderson

- ▶ **Newton's Shoes of Clemson Inc.** Central
- ▶ **Sunday's Restaurant** Anderson
- ▶ **Furnish 123** Seneca
- ▶ **Flowers and Gifts by Virginia** Pickens

