



For All Your Customer Service Needs,  
Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

**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**

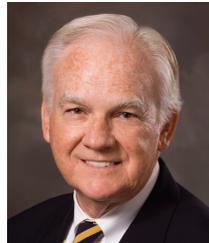
Franklin M. Looper, Jr., *Chairman*  
Kenneth G. Southerlin,  
*Vice-Chairman*  
J. Mendel Stone, *Secretary*  
Joel R. Davis, *Treasurer*  
Ben G. Bolt  
Joel Spencer Dalton, Jr.  
Jimmy Lee Dodgens  
William G. Elrod  
Len D. Talley



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Confronting Old Man Winter

WHEN HURRICANE ISAAC was threatening the Gulf Coast in late August, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative released 16



of our contract employees to go help with repairs. Those men started toward Florida, but redirected to Louisiana when it became apparent that Isaac was going to do his greatest damage there.

In addition, we placed several of the cooperative's own employees on standby, in the event their services would be needed. About 36 hours after Isaac came ashore, we received word that there were numerous power outages across the Bayou State. However, plenty of linemen from other cooperatives had already arrived by that time to address the trouble, and none of the Blue Ridge crews would therefore need to make the trip.

## December 2005

When I hear of storm emergencies such as this one, it calls to mind the major outages that have afflicted the Blue Ridge system in the years I've been here. We've had too many of these unwelcome events, but the December 2005 ice storm and its aftermath are most prominent in my memory.

That massive weather system interrupted service to the vast majority of Blue Ridge members. Our response was to call in more than 350 additional linemen from surrounding

North and South Carolina cooperatives to assist 100 of our own employees with repairs.

Long story short, those crews had every Blue Ridge member back in service at the end of only five days—and a full five days before the arrival of Christmas. To this very moment, I continue to marvel at how rapidly they restored electric service in the face of incredible destruction to the cooperative's extraordinarily large network of power lines.

## Plan for the worst

With the winter season of 2012-13 looming before us, those past storm emergencies serve as lessons for the Blue Ridge team. We don't know what the coming cold months may have in store for us, but we do know we'd better plan for the worst. I can assure you we've done just that.

The ongoing work our operations crews are performing helps to ensure the cooperative's system is in top condition. At the same time, we have tested procedures at the ready to confront whatever Old Man Winter might send our way. That's my commitment to you as Blue Ridge prepares to enter another potentially stormy period.

**Charles E. Dalton**  
*President and CEO*

## Statement of nondiscrimination

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's

nondiscrimination Title VI compliance is Terrel D. Ballenger. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H/V).

## New Central substation now in service



LIZA HOLDER

**DURING THE SUMMER** just past, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative energized its new Central substation. Located near the municipalities of Norris and Central, the facility provides quality electric service to cooperative members in portions of southern Pickens and northern Anderson counties.

The new unit replaced a nearby substation that was erected back in 1962. According to the Blue Ridge engineering department, the modern structure entails some notable improvements and advantages compared to its predecessor. The old substation was served by a 44-KV transmission line, whereas the new facility is receiving service from a 100-KV transmission system. A 100-KV line should be less susceptible to outages and, therefore, the new substation is expected to provide more-dependable service.

Mark Waters, system planning supervisor, explained that the new station also increased the capability for serving additional growth that could come to the area. “The larger transformer capacity at the new substation will allow Blue Ridge to add new load in the Central and Liberty areas, whether it be residential, commercial, or industrial. There are five main distribution circuits feeding from the station, and we have the option of constructing additional three-phase circuits in the years to

**Mark Waters (left) conducts a tour of the new Central substation for several of the co-op directors. Alan Blackmon, System Engineer, along with Jimmy Lee Dodgens, Spencer Dalton, Frank Loper and William Elrod had plenty of questions about this new structure.**

come. Actually, the co-op could add a second substation transformer, should future electrical-load growth warrant.”

Also, several portions of power lines serving Blue Ridge members around Piercetown and Pendleton were transferred to the Central facility. This action served to alleviate overload conditions at the station that had previously served those areas. Some existing locations that are receiving power from the new substation include the Pickens County Career Center, Chastain Road Elementary School, Central Walmart, and the 18 Mile Creek wastewater-treatment plant.

Blue Ridge President and CEO Charles Dalton said the substation activities are designed to bring about a greater level of service reliability. “The new station at Central is an enhanced apparatus whose operation should translate into even better electric service for the members it supplies. Our program of work is focused on seeing that members receive the kind of service they deserve. This project represents another of the major steps we’re undertaking to ensure the cooperative continues to fulfill that mission.”



### Celebrate National Co-op Month with Blue Ridge Electric

Join Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative in celebrating cooperatives in South Carolina and across America during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve, improving quality of life, special benefits and services, and the return of margins (the co-op term for profits) back to members in the form of capital credits.

“Cooperatives are special,” says Terry Ballenger, manager of communications. “We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and enhance our communities.”

Blue Ridge Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts, and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

“Electric cooperatives were formed because rural communities were struggling for lack of investment,” Ballenger explains. “Neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That’s what we celebrate each October.”

In addition to cooperative utilities, S.C. residents are served cooperatively by credit unions, food co-ops, agricultural co-ops, and more! To learn more about co-ops and find one near you, visit [go.coop](http://go.coop).