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AUTOMATED OUTAGE REPORTING

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PICKENS

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 Pickens, SC 29671

OCONEE

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will operate as a competitive provider of energy services and a partner with local communities, with a focus on safety, service and integrity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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This organization is an equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

What a power supplier should be



“RESILIENCE” in *Webster’s Ninth Collegiate Dictionary* is defined as “an ability to recover from, or adjust to, misfortune or change.” In my experience, that’s one term that aptly describes Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and our employee team.

To be in the business of delivering electric power in an effective manner requires that every aspect of the cooperative’s operation be functioning well. It’s far more than just applying the best in construction standards to our line work; although, that’s certainly an essential part of the picture.

There’s also the maintenance. That would entail the regular clearing of power-line rights of way of undergrowth, or a systematic inspection of wood poles and then marking faulty ones for replacement. Methodical servicing of the in-place facilities at each of the cooperative’s 35 substations is also a must. The list of jobs associated with maintenance is a long one.

Operating at every level

Well-stocked and well-organized warehouses are vital to the tasks that must be accomplished by crews in the field. Fundamental to all of these work actions is a highly trained and dedicated group of employees operating at every level of the Blue Ridge organization.

Resiliency requires us to be at our best 24 hours a day during each and every day of the year. That means we quickly rise to that occasion when a storm emergency creates havoc across our 7,000-mile system of power lines. Our people are truly qualified to confront these outages. By the same token, they’re equally intent upon doing all

that’s at their disposal to prevent those interruptions from occurring in the first place.

Last September, Hurricane Maria cut a wide trail of destruction across the U.S. island territory of Puerto Rico. To this day, persons on that island are still waiting for their power to be restored. They’re the victims of an electrical system that had seen years of neglect. That power grid definitely lacked resiliency.

A massive ice storm

Here at Blue Ridge, the most-severe emergency ever to hit our system occurred in December of 2005. That memorable month produced a massive ice storm that caused 85 percent of our members to lose service. However, the Blue Ridge workforce, supported by 350 linemen from other co-ops and contractor organizations, reconnected every last member in fewer than six days. There are plenty of us folks still at Blue Ridge who well remember that storm and continue to marvel at how rapidly all the damage was repaired.

In my view, that experience provided an excellent portrayal of what a resilient power supplier should be. Your cooperative is totally serious about the subject and the objective of resiliency because we’re member-owned. Consequently, we sincerely believe you deserve the best possible service we can provide, and we’re making the investments to ensure you receive just that.

JIM LOVINGGOOD
 President and CEO

Blue Ridge energy services—your trusted energy partner



DO YOU HAVE questions about roof-top solar? Have you wondered how it would impact your monthly electric bill and how much it would cost to install? This is the kind of information you can find by talking with a member of the Blue Ridge Energy Services team.

Installing solar panels on the roof of your home requires a good bit of gathering information, pricing out the product, weighing the costs and benefits of a solar system, as well as finding a reputable dealer that will help you determine how profitable such a system would be.

We have one suggestion—CALL US FIRST. We have a website set up to quickly answer some of your initial questions. But most importantly, we have trained, knowledgeable people that will meet with you at your home, explain exactly how solar works, and give you a

cost estimate.

For instance, did you know that solar panels are more efficient when installed on the south/southeast or southwest oriented roof? Or that the typical pricing for a photo-voltaic solar array in South Carolina is around \$3.25 to \$3.70 per watt installed? A big part of cost savings for installing solar is found in Federal and State tax credits—will your taxable income make the investment worthwhile?

These are just a few of the questions we'll help you answer. Then, if you decide that a solar installation is a match for your needs, we'll help you arrange installation through a reputable company.

Blue Ridge is partnering with Tablerock Technologies to provide service and installation of roof-top solar to our members. Established in 2002, Tablerock

Technologies has been providing quality solar energy systems to both residential and business customers. Some of their most prominent clients are Clemson University, Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, Palmetto Health, University of South Carolina-Aiken, and the City of Charleston. They provide a full range of custom, turn-key solar power systems. They, along with an energy service representative will make sure you know what to expect from your solar array.

Blue Ridge Energy Services can also provide information about battery storage, generators and ground source heat pumps. We're here to make sure you spend your energy dollars wisely. Call us at 800-240-3400.

Predictable Monthly Power Bills for Home Sweet Home

Introducing Budget Billing...

Even though the amount of electricity you use can change with the seasons, your monthly bill doesn't have to.

With **Budget Billing**, you pay the same amount each month, based on the average of your previous year's monthly usage.

This is a great way to plan your monthly budget more easily with predictable monthly power bills—and it's **FREE!**

Give us a call today to find out if you qualify for Budget Billing.



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