



News Release

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Contact Person: Kurt Brautigam
Phone: 601.261.2348 or 228.861.0508 (cell)
Email: kbrautigam@smepa.coop
www.smepa.coop

South Mississippi Electric Receives National Right-of-Way Management Award

South Mississippi Electric Power Association was recently awarded the 2008 Quality Vegetation Management (QVM) Project Habitat Award for responsible vegetation management within the utility industry. Sponsored by BASF Professional Vegetation Management (ProVM), the Project Habitat Awards are presented annually to exceptional vegetation management projects that exemplify the principles and practices of QVM. It also rewards vegetation management professionals that uphold high standards of vegetation management.

South Mississippi Electric operates more than 1,600 miles of transmission lines throughout the state.

“Maintaining our rights-of-ways is essential to ensuring reliable service,” said Wesley Graham, right-of-way supervisor. “After Hurricane Katrina damaged so many of our lines, we determined that in many areas a vegetation management plan would be a more effective approach than mechanical cutting. Since implementing the program in 2007 we have seen great success in converting the land along many of our lines to a grassy environment that is conducive to wildlife. The program has also helped us reduce costs and has received overwhelming support from landowners.”

“South Mississippi Electric stands out as a leader in responsible environmental stewardship because of their commitment to the highest industry principles and practices,” said Kim Dorman, communications specialist for ProVM. “The commitment they have made helps sustain healthy vegetation and wildlife ecosystems.”

South Mississippi Electric, a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Hattiesburg, provides wholesale power to its eleven member-owner electric power associations. The overall system delivers reliable, not-for-profit electric service to more than 400,000 homes and businesses in 56 of the state’s 82 counties.

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