

# SCANNER

JULY 2008 - VOLUME ONE - ISSUE THREE

## **A SUMMER OF CHALLENGE**

**RISING FUEL COSTS**

**HQ CONSTRUCTION**

**GENERATION COMPLETES  
PLANNED OUTAGES**



**SOUTH  
MISSISSIPPI  
ELECTRIC**

POWER ASSOCIATION

# SCANNER

JULY 2008 - VOLUME ONE - ISSUE THREE

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## TIME TO BE PREPARED



Jim Compton, General Manager/CEO

By the time you read this, you should have the revised Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Please review it carefully and be sure that you understand your assigned role. We have made some changes in responsibilities to meet new requirements and changes in job positions, so do not assume that you have the same role as in the past. No hurricanes have reached the Southeast during the past two years, but I believe this year we may not be so fortunate.

In July, we will have an ERP test with a simulated emergency. This should provide an opportunity to work on our response to an unusual situation. Some of you will likely be involved in this exercise.

We have also updated our Capacity and Energy Emergency Alert plan with our Member systems. This is a NERC-required plan which is to be implemented if our generation resources fall below load requirements due to plant or transmission system constraints. It is a systematic plan for reducing load as rapidly and effectively as possible to prevent a cascading blackout. Activating this plan will require quick action and good communication and coordination with our Members.

This tune-up in documents reflects the planning and preparation that goes on every day so that we can keep the lights on for our 402,000 homes and businesses that rely upon us. Whether your job is great or small, you need to be prepared to perform to the best of your ability. If an emergency hits, there will be no time to read the plans. Our responsibility is to keep the power flowing reliably, or to restore that flow in a timely and effective manner—whatever the challenge.

## MAKE YOUR PERSONAL PLANS NOW

All South Mississippi Electric employees should have a plan for family members and personal property in the event of a hurricane. Taking the time to prepare now can save time and anxiety in the event it is necessary to respond to an emergency.

Know where you and all family members will go during a storm. Determine if you will be in an evacuation area. Identify friends or family members outside our area who need to be aware of your plans and have their contact information available.

Gather important documents and place them in a waterproof container. Consider insurance and medical records, banking numbers, Social Security cards, etc.

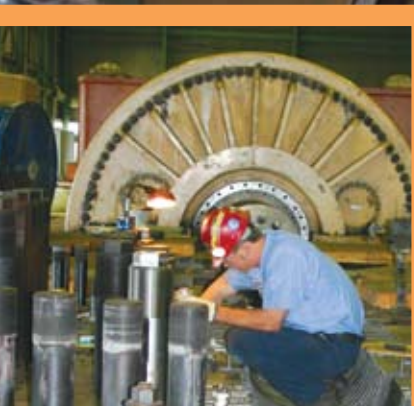
Keep supplies together—enough to last 3-7 days—including:

- Water - at least one gallon daily per person
- Food - snacks and non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices
- Paper plates and plastic utensils
- Special foods for infants and elderly family members
- Cooking tools, manual can opener
- Clothing - rain gear, boots
- First aid kit, medicines, prescriptions
- Flashlight and batteries
- Portable television and/or radio, with extra batteries
- Blankets and pillows
- Toiletries
- Toys, books or games for children
- Cash
- Tools

Plan for your pets in case of evacuation. Many shelters will not accept pets. Gather pet care supplies such as food and water, a carrier or cage, identification and immunization records, medications, and a muzzle or leash.

Make plans for securing other property, such as boats, cars, sheds, or camps. Keep personal vehicles filled with gasoline, as well as any fuel cans.





## SPRING OUTAGES COMPLETED AT PLANTS



**The Spring maintenance outages at Plants Morrow and Moselle are finally complete, and plant employees look forward to the challenges of meeting summer load demand. They are also looking forward to getting some much needed rest.**

Morrow's Unit 2 began its scheduled five-week outage in February and was successfully returned to service at the end of March. Crews performed routine annual maintenance, as well as burner inspection and replacement, boiler chemical cleaning, and stack repairs.

The Unit 2 project went according to plan—work was completed a day early and the startup process was smooth.

The planned outage for Unit 1 began on April 6 and was scheduled to be completed within six weeks. Among other projects, the unit underwent a complete turbine overhaul, which only occurs every six or seven years. In addition to normal inspections and maintenance, other major projects included installing new crusher dryers, relining the Unit 1 stack, and rebuilding the ball mills (coal pulverizers) for the first time since the plant was constructed in the late 1970s.

The outage had to be extended when the turbine overhaul revealed unexpected damage to some of the turbine blades. The entire rotor was shipped to a General Electric facility in Atlanta for repairs.

"We think part of the nozzle block partitions, which also showed damage, broke off and went downstream. This may have caused some of the damage to the rotor blades," said Jeff Brown, mechanical maintenance superintendent. "Any time small pieces of debris get into the steam path,



they are likely to cause problems. We had to replace the nozzle block and first stage turbine blading on the rotor. A crack was also discovered in a blade in the L-1 (next to last) stage on the generator end. We decided to replace both L-1 stages, generator and turbine ends, due to this crack and previous failures in this stage."

This was the first time a turbine overhaul was completed by contractor crews as a turnkey project. Plant crews supplemented the effort by providing technical assistance, doing machine work and supplying parts from inventory and through purchase.

For many employees, including Brown, the work meant different roles and responsibilities than in the past. "I had to switch gears from focusing on a few specific projects to overseeing the whole outage," said Brown, who was named to his position during the Unit 2 outage. "We also had several other people who were new or had new positions, so everyone focused on working closely together. Most importantly, there were no serious accidents."

Unit 1 startup activities were initiated during the Memorial Day weekend, and the unit was returned to service on May 27 after being down for seven weeks. It was taken off line for several additional days three days after the startup to repair steam leaks in the turbine and external piping.

"That is why we do preventive maintenance," said plant manager Charles Stuart. "We are approaching our peak generating season and could have encountered dire consequences had we not discovered the damage to Unit 1.

"This was an excellent job by everyone involved," Stuart said. "We faced some daunting tasks but got through it, and now we should be ready to meet our summer load demand."

Morrow crews will now turn their attention to other routine maintenance and projects in the coal yard to repair the conveyors and structures that move coal to the plant.

At Plant Moselle, in addition to routine spring maintenance projects, GE contract representatives replaced the Unit 1 switchgear. The main and tie breakers were replaced with vacuum style breakers, the boiler feed pump breaker was replaced with a soft start, and the FD fan, circulating water, and 480-volt breakers were replaced with latching starters. In addition, plant crews replaced the oxygen analyzers on Units 1 and 2. This was done due to the unreliability of the existing analyzers. Prior to the installation, testing was performed on the boiler exit duct in order to better position the new analyzers.

- Photos  
(top left) After being returned from Atlanta for repairs, the turbine rotor was carefully lifted to the turbine floor.

(near left) The turbine rotor coupling connects to the generator shaft, and the spinning blades of the rotor fit precisely into corresponding stationary blades of the turbine shell.

(center) A close-up of the turbine's intermediate pressure section, one of three sections the steam passes through to spin the rotor at 3600 rpm.

(far left) A view down the length of the lower half of the turbine shell, with the generator in the background and the huge bolting in the foreground that secures the top half of the turbine shell to the lower half.

# FUEL COST ADJUSTMENT PASSED BY BOARD

As each of us knows all too well, we find ourselves in challenging times. The prices of crude oil, gasoline, diesel, natural gas and all other fuels are rising at alarming rates. Transportation costs are increasing the prices of many other goods and services.

The electric industry is being affected by these trends just like other sectors. Fuels such as natural gas and coal are needed to generate electricity and are, by far, the largest driver of South Mississippi Electric's costs to provide service to its Members. Over the past 16 months, natural gas prices have risen more than 50%, and coal transportation costs have increased by nearly that same amount. We are also facing significant additional costs for environmental compliance over the next several years.

In order to continue recovering fuel costs through the rest of 2008, SMEPA's Board of Directors approved a 4.5 mills/kWh fuel cost adjustment that took effect in June. Although each Member has different pricing methods, the average retail consumer will an approximate \$5 per month increase on their bill beginning in July.

"This is not something anyone is pleased about, obviously, but it is necessary in these times of rising costs," said Jim Compton, general manager/CEO. "Rates are climbing for utilities around the country. Unlike other businesses, we do not see any financial benefit or profit by increasing costs, but we must recover our costs."

"Our member systems will now charge approximately \$110 for 1000 kWh/month. That compares to about \$120 for Mississippi Power and \$136 for Entergy, so we are maintaining our competitive advantage."

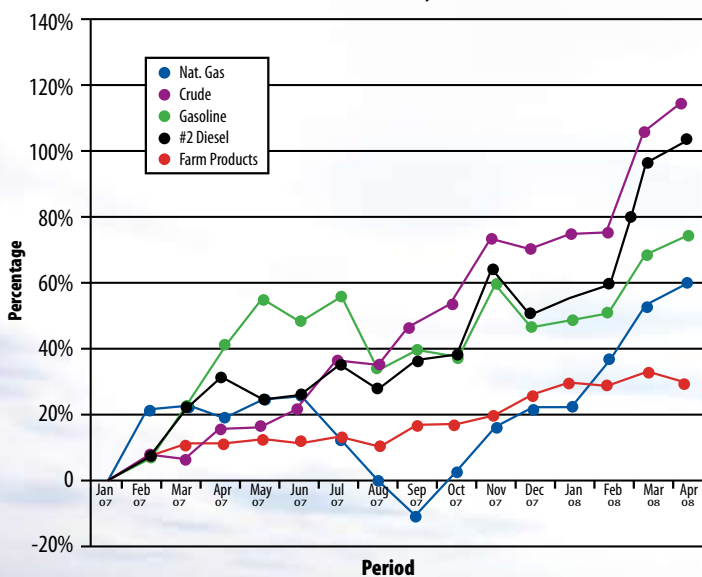
SMEPA is trying to work with its Members to help communicate the fuel cost issues and also help find solutions. Singing River Electric is offering its members an incentive to purchase and use new CFL bulbs as a way to help consumers reduce their bills and also to shave demand.

"Among other considerations, we are trying to find ways to reduce demand wherever possible," Compton says. "Lee Hedegaard (Singing River's general manager) looked at the numbers and determined that giving away CFL bulbs would actually pay for itself very quickly, both for his system and for his members if they buy additional bulbs. SMEPA has offered to help pay part of the cost because it helps our system too. We are hoping that some of the other Members will consider similar plans."

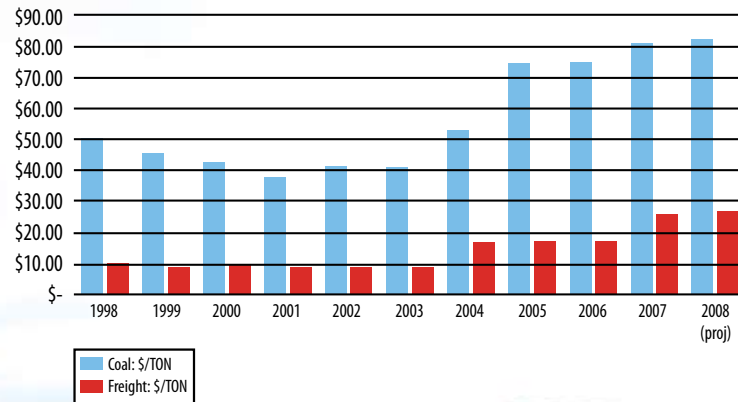
Rising natural gas prices are causing problems for utilities and other industries nationwide. For example, SMEPA's budgeted fuel costs for 2008 were based on a delivered natural gas price of \$8.34/MMBtu. In April those costs were projected to be more than \$9.80/MMBtu for the rest of the year, as gas is currently in the \$11.00 - \$12.50 range. South Mississippi Electric prepurchases or financially hedges 50 percent of its gas, according to Board policy.

"The cost of purchased power during peak summer months may rise as well, because much of that power is also generated from natural gas," said Compton. "We will continue to work hard to find solutions. In the meantime, we need everyone in our organization to be aware of these trends and be focused on doing their jobs efficiently, as always. Our industry has not faced times like these since the 1970s."

COMMODITY PRICE CHANGE (by %) IN PAST 16 MONTHS



COAL COST (\$) PER TON DELIVERED



# Directors' Update Provides Information

Climate change and global warming. The state of the G&T. The need for communicating our story effectively. An economist's look at future energy use.

Our industry has more than its fair share of issues, and all of the above topics and several others were discussed at SMEPA's annual Directors' Update Meeting, held on June 11 at the Hattiesburg Lake Terrace Convention Center. More than 125 people attended the update, including directors from all eleven Members and other invited guests.

"It is essential for everyone associated with running our business to be aware of these many issues," said Jim Compton, general manager/CEO. "We face a time that is unprecedented, in terms of the number of issues that can now affect our industry. Our challenge is not only to understand and work through each item, but to effectively communicate the potential consequences to all of our Members and their members."

Compton updated meeting participants on soaring fuel costs, power supply needs and transmission related matters. SMEPA is moving forward with new sources of generation, including a long-term purchase agreement for output from the Plum Point coal-fired facility now under construction in Arkansas and the repowering project of Units 1 and 2 at Moselle. Both projects will result in more than 350 MW of new generating capacity by the end of 2011, plus lower energy dispatch costs.

The participants were exposed to the side of the global warming debate rarely presented in the mainstream media these days. Dr. John Christy, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, discussed the scientific realities of climate change, noting that recorded temperatures around the world have actually been steady for the past decade.

He also addressed many other myths associated with the debate:

- while some sections of the Earth's polar regions are seeing reduced ice coverage, the overall ice levels are steady;
- glaciers constantly grow and recede, but mainly because of local conditions like cloud cover and their exposure to the sun;
- Greenland is not in danger of melting and causing mass flooding—in fact, the Earth has been much warmer in the past than it is now, and Greenland did not affect ocean levels.

Christy has testified at numerous hearings related to legislation aimed at "combating" the effects of carbon dioxide, and in every instance his research indicates that the proposals would have virtually no effect in changing world CO<sub>2</sub> levels. Man's contributions to overall global levels are just too small.

Economist Lowell Catlett, a Regent's Professor at New Mexico State University, ended the conference with an entertaining and enlightening presentation about what he projects for our industry in the future. He noted that demand for electricity will continue to expand and that coming generations will find new ways to use it. The nature of expanding civilizations is that what was a luxury for one generation becomes a necessity for those that follow.

Catlett observed that Americans are trained to work hard and solve problems, and that our economy will continue to grow despite any challenges. He echoed Christy's remarks, noting that without energy, life is brutal and short. We live in an energy-dependent world and that will not change, but we must also understand the evolving needs and dreams of our customers so that we stand ready to meet their expectations.



## Paul Ott Selected to Help Deliver Messages

Entertainer Paul Ott was also on hand at the Directors' Update to lighten the mood a little, but his spot in the program allowed participants to experience how effectively he can capture an audience. His brand of humor, singing, and storytelling has entertained millions around the world, but he has strong relationships with a variety of groups and leaders throughout the state and region.

After the meeting, South Mississippi Electric's Board voted to retain Ott as an unofficial representative to help communicate many of the messages which are important to all of the Members.

"Paul has a huge following and he has credibility at many levels," said Kurt Brautigam, communication and member services director. "He is a proud member of Magnolia Electric and shares many of our views about issues. As a co-op member, he is concerned about rising costs, climate change, and how essential it is for our industry to survive."

"We believe Paul can help us communicate facts about many of the issues we face, especially to his fan base of everyday Mississippians. People know and trust him because he is sincere, but he is also informed. He is well known for his protection of wildlife and environmental concerns, but he also balances those with the realities of economics and a strong quality of life. He really wants to help us tell our story, and we believe he will be very effective in helping us reach many audiences."



# HEADQUARTERS RENOVATION WORK UNDERWAY



**Crews from Mac's Construction Company began work in May on the 16-month-long project to expand and renovate several Headquarters facilities.**

The work will be done in four phases in order to allow employees to continue to perform normal job duties and occupy the existing buildings, and subsequently coordinate moves with the work as the project progresses.

The initial work on parking and driveway areas began on May 19. A new road was cut through a forested area to reach the Conference Center so that the facility will now have its own access outside the main security fence (photo 4). Extra parking spaces will also be added there, as well as new drainage and conduits for security cameras.

Work on the main visitors' parking lot is also underway (photo 1). When completed, the lot will provide access to the new entrance and offices which will be added to the front (south side) of the main headquarters building. Work there includes installing new drainage culverts, which closed the main entrance driveway off Highway 49 for three days in early June (photos 2 & 6).

"Phase 1 will allow us to get some of the necessary pieces in place for all the moves that will follow," said assistant general manager Marcus Ware, who is overseeing the project. "We have a temporary visitors' parking area still available for access to the front entrance. This phase should be complete sometime in July."

In mid-June, **Phase 2** demolition work began on the old warehouse building, where a new control center and offices will be constructed (photos 3 & 5). Parts of the old front and rear loading docks and the building roof over the back loading dock have been demolished and removed by cranes and other heavy equipment.

"The workers are making good progress, and the weather has cooperated so far," Ware said. "The next steps will involve work on the new communications shop, which will be located at the east end of the old heavy equipment storage building. We will also complete all the work at the Conference Center so the permanent security fence and gates can be put in place. There is still an extensive amount of conduit and plumbing that will have to be coordinated with the paving work and sub-surface drainage pipes, and we will be installing new geothermal wells and piping for the HVAC systems.

"Once the front parking area is complete, the crews will begin work on the new additions to the main office, probably around early July. That's when we will see the new façade begin to take shape over the course of the next year."

**Phases 3 and 4** will include full renovation of the main office building and the Engineering building, and then final repaving. All employees are asked to use caution when coming and going from the parking lots and driveways, as well as around the construction areas.

## Surviving the Summer Heat and Sun!

By: D. E. Ganas, Security and Safety Coordinator

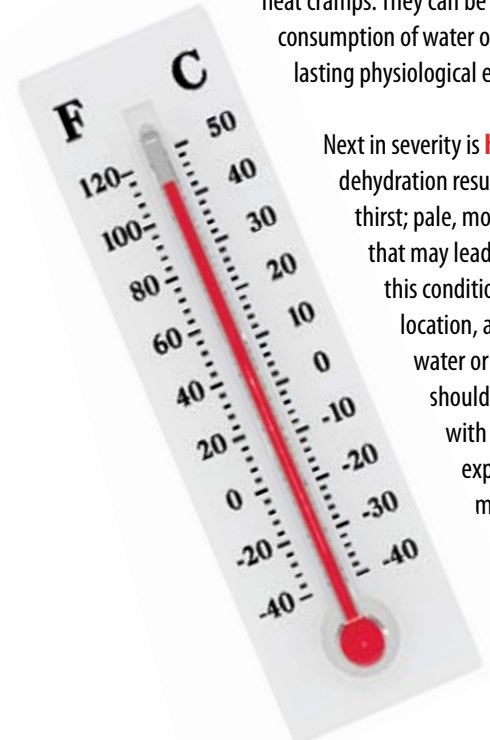


One of the subjects discussed by the **South Mississippi Electric Safety Committee** in the June 6th meeting was heat stress. SMEPA employees have many jobs that could potentially cause heat stress. We try to prevent any occurrences of heat stress by training employees and supervisors annually about the dangers of hot working conditions and sun exposure, and by instituting engineering and administrative controls to reduce the effects of heat on the individual.

**But how can we reduce these dangers in our homes and community?** Over 4,000 individuals die of heat stroke each year and over 1.2 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year. Education (training) is just as important in the general population!

**Heat stroke** is the most dangerous of the heat stress disorders. If a person is aware of the symptoms of heat stress disorders, heat stroke can be prevented in all but the most grave situations—for example, a child in a locked car.

**Heat cramps** are the precursor to more serious disorders. Heavy sweating and the loss of electrolytes cause heat cramps. They can be quickly reversed with the consumption of water or sports drinks. There is no lasting physiological effect on the body.



Next in severity is **heat exhaustion**. Serious dehydration results in rapid pulse; intense thirst; pale, moist skin; and general fatigue that may lead to collapse. A person in this condition must be moved to a cool location, and when conscious, provided water or sports drinks. The person should receive rest and lie down with legs elevated. A person experiencing heat exhaustion may be more susceptible to heat stress disorders for weeks afterwards.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency. In this condition the person has been subjected to excessive heat and dehydration and the body core temperature is too high to allow the natural body temperature control systems to operate. Symptoms include hot, dry and red skin; rapid pulse; chills; and ultimately unconsciousness. Emergency medical assistance is required immediately for a person in this condition. Body temperature must be lowered rapidly by trained medical personnel. Heat stroke can leave lasting physiological effects or result in death.

While it is necessary to know the symptoms and treatment for heat stress disorders, it is more important to understand how to prevent the occurrence. The same measures taken to prevent heat stress can also provide protection from the sun's harmful rays, which can lead to skin cancers. First, understand that a person must acclimatize to heat in order to work at his or her full potential. Weekend projects do not afford an opportunity to acclimatize, so one must work at decreased intensity or employ sufficient work/rest cycles for the person's condition.

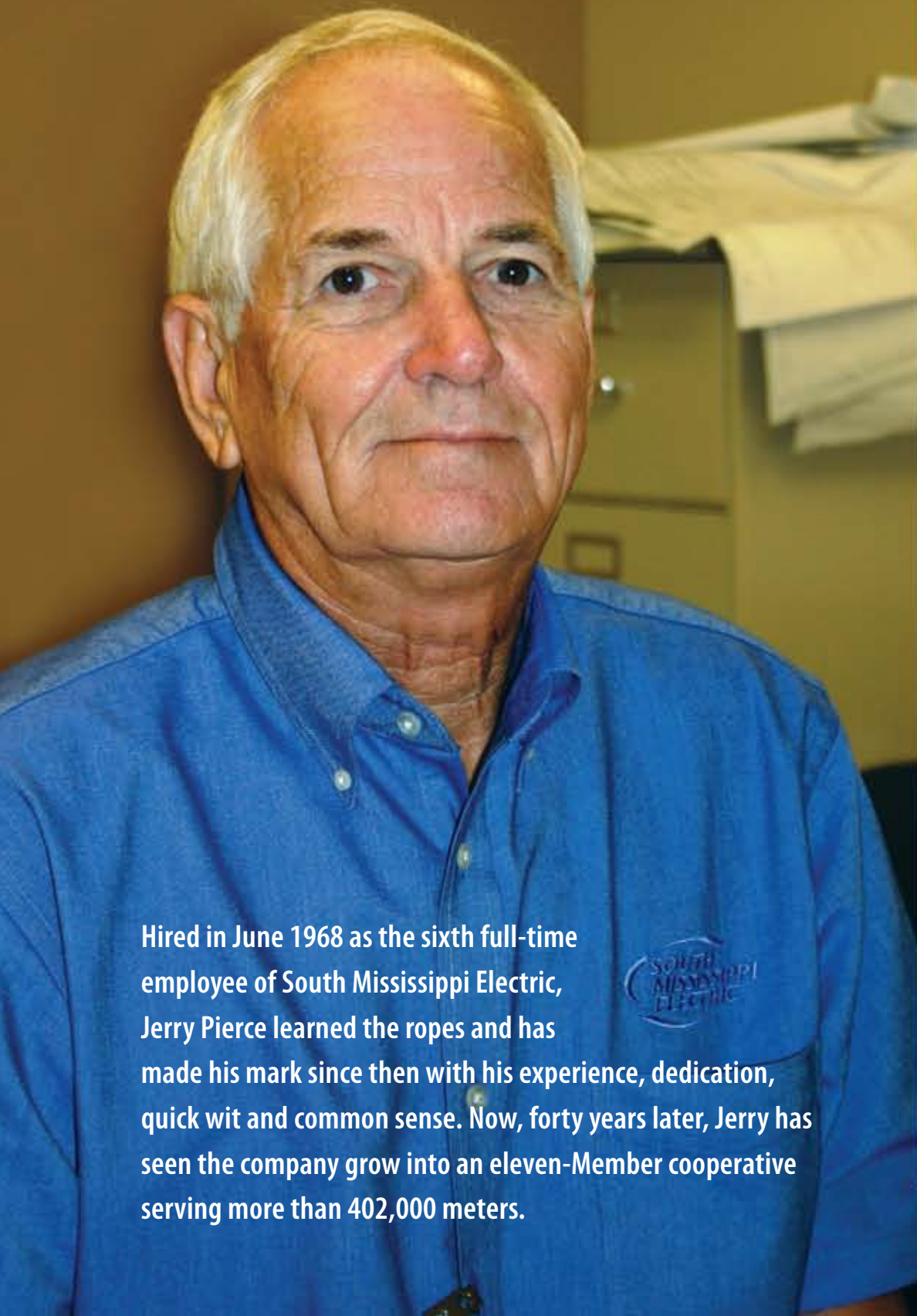
Adequate hydration is critical to heat stamina. Begin drinking liquids at least one hour before beginning work and consume 8 ounces of liquid every 20 minutes during heavy work periods. Sports drinks are popular and provide replenishment of electrolytes lost to perspiration. Alcoholic beverages cause further dehydration and should be avoided.



Rest breaks should be taken in the shade or in a cooled indoor environment. Wear loose fitting and light colored clothing that will allow perspiration to reach the surface, but block the sun. Wear a hat that allows air to circulate, with a large brim to protect your face. A fan is the most efficient mechanical control and should be used whenever the work site permits. And, of course, use sun block on any exposed skin. Skin cancer is epidemic in our country today. Children under six years old should be protected by using a sun block of SPF 30 or greater; older children and adults with SPF 15 or greater. Reapply sun block often, especially when swimming or perspiring heavily.



# Jerry Pierce Reaches 40 years of Service



Hired in June 1968 as the sixth full-time employee of South Mississippi Electric, Jerry Pierce learned the ropes and has made his mark since then with his experience, dedication, quick wit and common sense. Now, forty years later, Jerry has seen the company grow into an eleven-Member cooperative serving more than 402,000 meters.



Jerry Pierce still believes in the purpose behind SMEPA's formation – providing electrical energy to the members.

"That's our job," Jerry said. "Serve the Members. What we do affects the individuals at the end of the line. What we do affects what they pay for their power."

Jerry was first introduced to SMEPA when working for Shows and Dearman, a company contracted to survey power lines. He was eventually hired to do layout surveying work for the original construction at Plant Moselle. Since that time, Jerry has held a number of positions within the cooperative, including Senior Engineering Assistant, Construction Superintendent and Transmission Department Manager. Now, he is Director of Transmission Construction, a role that is the culmination of all his working years.

General Manager/CEO Jim Compton is among those amazed by Pierce's longevity and service. "I consider him one of the smartest and most knowledgeable employees we have ever had regarding the transmission system," Compton said. "The fact that he has worked here forty years is a remarkable record. He has seen South Mississippi Electric grow from an idea to a billion-dollar business."

"South Mississippi Electric has been fortunate to have a person with Jerry's dedication and knowledge of the transmission system," said retired general manager Henry Thomas. "He has been involved in the construction of it since South Mississippi began. Everyone who has worked with Jerry knows of his loyalty to South Mississippi and its Members."

What Jerry remembers most about the start of SMEPA is what he calls the "true co-op spirit."

"Everyone understood what it meant to be working for a co-op," he said. "Everyone cared how energy worked and did whatever needed to be done, regardless of whose job description it fell under. I still work like that. I do for them (the line crews) what they expect me to do."

His experience and expertise is now applied to the technical aspects of the business. His duties include assisting in routing transmission lines, contracting survey crews, issuing and overseeing the right-of-way clearing contracts, and supervising new transmission line construction projects.

Forty years of experience in the same company speaks to Jerry's always-positive attitude and desire to make a difference. Although his responsibilities have changed over forty years, his dedication to his work has not. "There's never been a day that I haven't wanted to come to work," he says.

Mitch Westberry, a 33-year SMEPA transmission system veteran who is now a construction inspector, first met Jerry when Westberry was working for a contractor building the Magee substation. "No one has been more hard working when it comes to SMEPA—for Jerry, nothing is more important," Westberry said. "He is very humble, but he deserves a lot of credit for where we are as an organization. He has put his whole life into this company and that is hard to find these days."

"Jerry has not only been a great boss, but a great friend to me, and that means a lot. Back when I first started, we had limited resources, and we had to do more with less to be successful. We worked a lot of hours, and Jerry took on a lot of that extra effort himself. He has always been good at explaining things so that I knew what he wanted, although sometimes he thinks a lot faster than he can talk."

Although the business side of SMEPA has grown and changed, Jerry has stayed true to simple principles. To him, the secret is in the observation.

"Listen and watch from people who know," he said. "They will teach you what you need to know."

Pierce has also taught countless lessons to many people over the years. Line foreman Matt Ready, with 32 years of service at SMEPA, has worked with Jerry for all of that time. "Jerry has always been very knowledgeable about the jobs we had to do out in the field. I liked the way he did things—he always had things ready to go when we had a job to do. He is a good fellow, and he can catch fish, too."

The image of hard work and determination, Jerry is now being honored for his devotion to SMEPA, its Members and the power industry. His experience is valued, and his spirit is contagious. He believes in the commitment of safety, reliability and service and has proven to be an invaluable asset to the growth and success of the cooperative.

"SMEPA has been good to me, and I try to give them something back," he said. And he has.

"Whatever you do," he says, "make sure that when it is over you do not mind signing your name to it."

Congratulations, Jerry. You can sign your name to forty years of dedicated service to South Mississippi Electric and your co-workers. You have contributed from the beginning, and we are proud you have been a part of our lives.

*By Nicole Raulston*

**New Employees**



**David Alleman** began work on June 16 as a project engineer at Plant Morrow. He received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Penn State. New to the power industry, David previously worked with Superior Manufacturing as a project engineer. He is originally from Lancaster County, PA and has lived in Mississippi for ten years. David has his Professional Engineering license and enjoys woodworking and bicycle riding.



Meter Tech III **Charles Hennis** started work with South Mississippi Electric on May 19. He recently received his associate's degree in Electronics Technology from Pearl River Community College, where he received the department's Outstanding Student Award. Charles is a native of Oak Grove and has worked for SMEPA for two years as a part-time laborer in the vehicle maintenance shop.



**Christy Triggs** began working as the receptionist at headquarters on May 12. A Hattiesburg native and FCAHS graduate, she has a Business Administration degree from Pearl River Community College. Christy and husband David have two children, Tyler, 12 and Seth, 9. Christy enjoys being outdoors and supporting her sons in their sports.



Laborer **Matt Prentiss** began working in vehicle maintenance on April 21. Before coming to SMEPA, Matt was employed as a salesman at Garner Lumley Electric Supply in Hattiesburg. A native of Runnelstown and a Perry Central High School graduate, Matt enjoys hunting, fishing, building things and remodeling houses.



**Jonathan Magee** began work as a laborer at Plant Moselle on April 14. Jonathan received an associate's degree in plastic technology from JJC and was previously employed with Superior Manufacturing. Jonathan graduated from Seminary Attendance Center and enjoys hunting and fishing. He and his wife Amanda have one daughter, Addison.

**New Directors Join Board**

**South Mississippi Electric's 22-person Board of Directors welcomed three new members at its June 11 meeting.**

**Keith Hurt** is Coahoma Electric Power Association's new general manager. He is the Association's former office manager and replaces Giles Bounds, who retired after 43 years of service.

**Bruce McCaffery** is Magnolia EPA's new representative, and **Jack Reed** of Twin County EPA is filling the unexpired term of Warren Hammett.

**Family Fun**



The FOC held an open house in June for employees to show their families where—and in some cases, how—they work. (above) Right-of-way inspector William Murphy provided 4-wheeler rides around the property, including one for Alicia Brown, daughter of chief operating officer Nathan Brown. (right) Haley and Hunter Wilborn, grandchildren of substation maintenance technician George Morgan, received a bucket truck ride courtesy of line foreman Bill Regan.



**Congratulations Recent Graduates!**



**Shanna Casanova**, daughter of Kenny Casanova, graduated from Sumrall High School. She plans to attend Jones County Junior College in the fall and pursue a nursing degree.



**Leila Gwen Fortenberry**, daughter of William and Stacy Fortenberry, graduated from Pearl River Community College in May 2008. Leila participated in String of Pearls dance team and was a member of the Baptist Student Union leadership team. She received an Associates of Applied Science degree in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and is currently employed at Windham House as a PTA.



**Adam Green** recently graduated from Petal High School. He is the son of Ken and Lisa Green and the grandson of Plant Morrow retiree Nathan Moseley. Adam played soccer at PHS, and was voted Class Favorite and Most School Spirit. He was also a Mississippi Scholar, a MHSAA Merit Scholar Athlete and recently completed nine years of State Bible Drill. Adam plans to attend Southern Miss in the fall on an Eagle Award Scholarship.



**Jacob Ryan Holder**, son of Jan Holder, received a bachelor's degree in advertising from the University of Southern Mississippi. While at Southern Miss, Jacob was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He is currently employed with Walgreens Pharmacy in a Management Training Program.



**Leslie Paige Holder**, daughter of Jan Holder, graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences. Leslie received numerous awards at Southern Miss and was very involved in campus organizations. Leslie has been accepted into the Professional Portal Track program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she will begin the Biomedical Science Graduate Program in the fall and the School of Medicine MD Program in 2010.



**Carlie Dale McCrary** graduated with Honors from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is the daughter of Mike and Carol McCrary. Carlie earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism with a minor in Spanish. At Southern Miss, Carlie participated in the British Studies Program, Kappa Delta Sorority and several honor societies and student organizations. She is currently pursuing a master's in public relations.



**Stephanie Lynn McElhaney**, daughter of Steve McElhaney, graduated from Oviedo High School in Oviedo, FL. Stephanie, who earned several scholarships, plans to attend the University of Central Florida in the fall and major in math education. After college, Stephanie hopes to become a high school math teacher.



**Hannah Elizabeth Pickering**, daughter of Clifford and Debbie Pickering, graduated with Honors from North Forrest High School. Hannah was the drum major for the NFHS band, served as Vice President of her class for four years, participated in numerous organizations and was selected to the NFHS Hall of Fame. Hannah plans to attend the Technical College of the Low Country in Beaufort, South Carolina and major in radiology technology.



**Sean Phillip Wolfe**, son of Brad and Marguerite Wolfe, graduated Valedictorian of his class at Laurel Christian School. Sean received a Citizenship Award and placed 1st in the State FBLA Competition. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta and was selected to the MPSA South District All District Basketball Tournament Team. Sean will attend Jones County Junior College in the fall on a full scholarship.

## SMEPA Leads Cooperative Renewables Effort

South Mississippi Electric is a founding member of the newly created National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO), a joint venture formed in May by the National G&T Managers' Association and NRECA. The organization's goals are to assist cooperatives nationwide in their efforts to develop new, economically viable renewable energy resources, while also enhancing the use of renewable technology currently available. Electric cooperatives across the country are now in the process of establishing a wide variety of renewable energy requirements and goals, and the new organization plans to help with research and development.

Jim Compton was elected to the new organization's 15-member board of directors and also elected treasurer. The board includes ten G&T managers, with SMEPA and Oglethorpe Power (Georgia) representing cooperatives in the southeastern U.S.

"At this point, it is difficult to pin down exactly how best to develop renewable resources, because what works in one area of the country may not work in another area," said Compton. "This cooperative effort will try to identify the best possible resources and assist with a coordinated plan to bring these resources on line. We hope to be able to identify renewable projects for Mississippi and our region. There will be co-ops of every size participating, so we want to ensure that participation is affordable and without unnecessary risks and duplication."

NRCO will provide expertise and research tools needed to search for and evaluate renewable opportunities and projects. Several states have already adopted required renewable standards for utilities. Some national legislative initiatives are also considering making renewable sources mandatory components of any future energy policies.

The initial goals of NRCO are to select an energy management company, finalize financial issues, and begin screening projects. The NRCO board hopes to initiate development of its first project in 2008.

"There is much to be explored regarding renewables," Compton adds.

"At this point, the demand required to keep up with ever-increasing customer growth far exceeds the potential for renewable sources, but every new source is important because the needs are so great. We want to find options that will be a good fit for the not-for-profit side of the electric industry, as well as what is beneficial for our Members, if national standards for renewables are enacted."



## The Power of 12



G R O W I N G M I S S I S S I P P I

### Our Mission:

Deliver the South's best value for safe and reliable electric energy and serve as a common resource for our Member-owners.

### Our Competitive Strengths:

- An experienced, skilled work force
- A commitment to employee safety and system reliability
- A long-term contractual relationship with our Member systems
- Financial health, including our Members
- Sustained load growth in our Members' service territories
- Long range planning for cost-effective generation resources
- Fuel diversity in generation resources
- Environmental stewardship

## Environmental Questions Real Responsibilities

Climate change is on everyone's mind, but it's a complex issue clouded with emotion and conflicting information.

Meanwhile, demand for electricity is rapidly catching up with supply. Tough decisions lie on the horizon. As your electric cooperative, we're working to protect your interests both economically and environmentally while continuing to provide you with safe, reliable electric energy.





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