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**Santee Electric
Cooperative News**
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Thankful for our many friends

THE TWO WEEKS of preparation and restoration for Hurricane Matthew now seem like a blur. Everyone at Santee



Electric worked non-stop, yet tirelessly, to restore electric service to our entire four-county service territory.

It was a long, hard slog. The cooperative's 2,005-square-mile service area is the largest of any electric co-op east of the Mississippi River. More than 5,500 miles of power line stretch across the territory, often through farm fields, woods and swamps. Stretched into a single line, the system would reach California and back.

Finally, a week after Matthew struck, we could see the light at the end of the tunnel as we drew near restoring power back for most of our members. I felt a surge of pride in our employees. Their dedication, commitment to serve, and pure hard work was remarkable, both during the preparation for and the recovery from Matthew.

It proves once again that Santee Electric is more than a utility that provides electricity to our members. It shows the value of having employees who are local residents, involved in the communities where they live and work. Like local law enforcement and other first responders, they are there when you need them.

I'm also proud of Santee's extended co-op family, which includes our state association, the Electric Cooperatives

of South Carolina, Inc., the 19 other distribution co-ops in South Carolina, and our power supply aggregator, Central Electric Power Cooperative, as well as our utility supply co-op, CEE-US. All worked together, coordinating resources to help us.

And, thanks to mutual aid agreements that electric co-ops have in place before natural disasters or other emergencies occur, Santee received help from co-ops in Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky. Hundreds of lineworkers came to help get your lights back on. Cooperation among co-ops is a cooperative principle, and we'll be there for our co-op friends when they need us.

We also thank Santee Cooper, the state-owned utility that generates most of the power we distribute, as well as our contractors and vendors, for their help. But most of all, we thank our members. You demonstrated patience and understanding, and countless acts of kindness, in the aftermath of the storm.

As life gets back to normal for most of us, please don't forget the local residents and businesses that were not as fortunate. Many people have a lot of challenges ahead. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Robert G. Ardis III
President and Chief Executive Officer

We'll be back in January!

South Carolina Living publishes a combined November-December edition this time each year.

Until then, we'll stay in touch via santee.org, Facebook or Twitter.

Our offices will close Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, for Thanksgiving as well as Friday, Dec. 23, for Christmas and the following Monday, Dec. 26. We'll also close the following Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year's. Emergency crews will be on standby.

We'll be back with a new issue of *South Carolina Living* in January. Until then, happy holidays from Santee Electric Cooperative!

Thanks for your patience, Santee members!

We appreciate your support
after Hurricane Matthew



Special thanks to these electric co-ops and companies, which assisted SEC after Hurricane Matthew:

Alabama

Black Warrior Electric Membership Corp.
Dixie Electric Cooperative
Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative
Marshal-DeKalb Electric Cooperative
Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative
Southern Pine Electric Cooperative
Wiregrass Electric Cooperative

Kentucky

Halifax Electric Cooperative
Jackson Purchase Electric Cooperative
Meade County RECC
Nolin RECC
Townsend Corp. (right-of-way crews)

Maryland

Choptank Electric Cooperative

Mississippi

Southern Pine Electric

North Carolina

Carolina Tree Service
Lee Electrical Construction Co.
Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

South Carolina

Asplundh
Berkeley Electric Cooperative
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
Davis Construction
Jimmie's Tree Service
Lucas Tree Experts
McCall-Thomas Engineering Co.
Santee Cooper
Sumter Utilities
Tru Check

Tennessee

Duck River Electric Membership Corp.

Virginia

North Virginia Electric Cooperative

