

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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**TO REPORT  
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**  
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Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Horry Electric Cooperative Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Shedding light on the need for power generation



**IT'S SECOND NATURE**—we flip a switch and the lights come on, from one room to the next and one activity to another. Powering your life is our day-to-day responsibility, but this sense of reliability comes at a cost with many processes and very complex

systems working continuously behind the scenes.

Last December, as many families prepared for Christmas Day festivities, we faced a power supply crisis. Low temperatures drove the demand for electricity to record highs and power grids to the brink. As a result, many utilities across the Southeast, including in South Carolina, implemented temporary, planned power outages—called rolling blackouts—across their systems, leaving millions of customers without power on Christmas weekend.

Thankfully, Horry Electric members did not experience rolling blackouts. As our leadership team monitored the situation and prepared for the worst, we knew we were facing an even greater problem ahead. We cannot be content with this near miss, nor can we be complacent. We must speak up

about the urgent need for new power generation now.

In May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) released a report that warned about an increased number of areas at an elevated risk of “insufficient operating reserves” if demand spikes during summer. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson called these threats to the power grid unacceptable and said that “America’s ability to keep the lights on has been jeopardized.”

While the NERC Summer Reliability Assessment states that the Southeast was at a lower risk for reliability issues, we can’t continue to operate as we are, settling for near misses. We must be proactive.

Like many cooperatives around the country, Horry Electric Cooperative is a distribution utility. We rely on Central Electric Power Cooperative to contract with bulk power systems that generate and transmit power, so we can distribute power to our members. The interconnected nature of the electric grid means we are all reliant on one another to deliver power to homes and businesses. Whether one generates power, transmits power, or as we do—distributes power, together, we are all vulnerable to future power shortages.





JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Horry Electric has been working this year to expand and upgrade the Jones Road substation, which serves areas near Highway 544 and Highway 31, to meet growing demand. Crews are also building a new substation in the Red Hill area off Business 501. The growth in Horry Electric's service area is part of a significant increase in demand for power in the Southeast due to an influx of population, as well as an increase in economic development.

### How have we reached this point?

A number of factors have contributed to this shortfall. First, our industry has been forced by environmental regulations to permanently shutter fossil fuel generation plants without building adequate replacement generation. Also, the Southeast has experienced a significant increase in the demand for power due to an influx of population as well as a significant increase in economic development.

### What can we do to solve this problem?

We need to find a way to increase our natural gas capacity in South Carolina, not only to supply new power plants, but also to continue to support robust economic development. All stakeholders must gather around the table, working side-by-side to solve the permitting challenges for both natural gas pipelines as well as additional electric transmission lines. Current federal and state permitting costs and timelines are unreasonable and unacceptable—both present significant obstacles to solving this problem. Further compounding our dilemma remains the ability for literally anyone

to bring forth a lawsuit challenging permitting and construction. This, too, must be addressed. The failure to launch V.C. Summer nuclear units 2 & 3 has put utilities in South Carolina 10 to 15 years behind in building generation. This is a critical call to action to move forward before it's too late.

### So what actions are we taking?

Fortunately, a great deal of discussion and preplanning has taken place, with more efforts to address this issue. Area leaders met with the governor in June to discuss the issue further. I want to stress again that we are in critical times—this cannot be a can that we kick down the road for our children and grandchildren to solve.

Cooperatives, too, are taking action. We are sharing everywhere about the need for power generation, from Board and staff meetings to community gatherings and editorials. We are reaching out to lawmakers and providing them with the information they need to push this issue forward. Furthermore, we are informing you, our members. It's important for us to be transparent and for you as a

member to understand the challenges facing our power grid. We also need to prepare. If we do need to ask you to conserve energy in the future, we hope this communication will provide context and the reasoning behind it. We hope you will join us in spotlighting this issue, whether in conversations with your neighbors or by contacting our legislators. The power of our cooperatives has always been in its people and in the visibility of that strength to others.

As the founders of our cooperative did so many years ago, we are committed to bringing light to darkness, forging new paths and tackling the hard tasks for our members. I never want to face another day like last Christmas Eve. We do not want rolling blackouts to be the reality we face for years to come. The lights are on today, with the expectation that when you flip the switch they will be on tomorrow. We are speaking up now to keep it that way!

*Daniel B. Shelley, III*

**DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III**  
Executive Vice President and CEO





PHOTOS BY JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Advanced Line Technician Jacob Riddei checks the condition of a power pole by performing the hammer test. Riddei has to listen for a distinct sound to ensure the pole is not rotting or decaying.



Horry Electric vehicles have a yellow oval decal with Willie Wiredhand waving in the center.



Advanced Line Technician Chad Tyler (left) and Crew Foreman Heath Hardwick drive on a side-by-side to inspect co-op equipment in the Island Green neighborhood in Myrtle Beach.

## Crews conduct system-wide inspections

What to know if you see crews working in your area

**ROUTINELY INSPECTING** the cooperative's electrical equipment is essential to delivering safe and reliable service to our members. Horry Electric crews work year-round to inspect equipment across our service territory. If a piece of equipment needs to be repaired or replaced, crews respond quickly to make the necessary repairs or upgrades.

Horry Electric also has contractors who work throughout the year on various jobs, including building power lines, boring and vegetation management.

### What you will see

When Horry Electric crews are in your area, you will see:

- ▶ Employees in Horry Electric uniform (each employee has an ID badge for identification).
- ▶ Employees on your property.
- ▶ Horry Electric vehicles/side-by-sides/golf carts.
- ▶ Machines working.

Contractors who work with Horry Electric also have ID badges for identification.

### Important reminders

Horry Electric does not allow any sort of attachments on any piece of electric co-op equipment. Horry Electric's Bylaws and Service Rules and Regulations state members have to grant the cooperative access to electric equipment. These rules and regulations are in place to keep everyone safe. System inspections allow us to continue providing safe, reliable electricity to members.

It's important to remember the vegetation maintenance requirements for overhead and underground service, in addition to the meter base(s) at your service location. For overhead service, a 30-foot minimum right-of-way (15 ft. on each side of the pole) is required for overhead lines. Horry Electric reserves the right to trim trees within the 30-foot right-of-way.

The rules for access on an underground padmount transformer are 10 feet in the front, and four feet on the left, right and back sides. The handle, lock and sticker are on the front of the transformer to remind you of these requirements.

Meter bases cannot be in an enclosed space. These must be on an exterior wall or in an approved meter room. Plants and shrubs must be planted at least three feet from the meter.

### Contact us for questions

Horry Electric wants to remind members that personnel/crews can be in your area at any time. If you ever have questions regarding system inspections or daily jobs, call (843) 369-2211.



## Local students connect with Youth Tour experience

Congressional visit, museums and memorials highlight the co-op sponsored trip to nation's capital

JOSH P. CROTZER

**WHENEVER A NEW** Apple product is released, you can find Conway teenager Keegan Johnson on his YouTube channel, walking viewers through the latest iPhone or iWatch experience. Subscribers to his channel, @\_Keegan\_Johnson\_, can also now watch him talking about a whole new experience not provided by the tech giant.

Johnson, along with four other students from Horry Electric's service territory, was among 59 student delegates representing South Carolina's electric cooperatives on Washington Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital.

"I usually review tech products, mainly Apple," says Johnson, a rising senior at Aynor High School. "But I'm going to do a recap of everybody's experience on this trip. I really enjoyed going to the different monuments and learning about the history of the United States."

In addition to Johnson, the students sponsored by Horry Electric were Mackenzie Brown of Aynor High School, Jessica Christia of Carolina Forest High and Rachell Hernandez and L.J. Washington of Conway High School. The students spent six days in the Washington, D.C. area visiting historical and educational sites like George Washington's Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Mall and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"Before I got here, I thought we'd run out of things to do, but there are so many museums and so much to learn," Hernandez says. "I'm currently enlisted in the National Guard, so I found the National Museum of the Marine Corps really interesting. It gives me a good idea of what the military really does for our nation."

Christia was also able to make a personal connection to what she saw at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which explores the black experience and contributions to the nation from the slave trade to the modern era.

"My great-great-great-grandfather was a slave in Charleston and my grandparents lived through segregation," says Christia. "I wish I had more time there because it has so much history and it's something that I can connect to. My ancestors were there, and I was able to see what they had to go through."

Christia and fellow youth tourists Lily Baggott of Fairfield Electric, Ella Adair of Laurens Electric and Elli Berry of Blue Ridge Electric participated in a wreath laying ceremony at Mount Vernon's Slave Memorial and Cemetery, which commemorates the community of enslaved people who lived and worked at Mount Vernon.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

Area students who experienced their nation's capital thanks to Washington Youth Tour were (from left) Mackenzie Brown, Keegan Johnson, Rachell Hernandez, L.J. Washington and Jessica Christia.



Jessica Christia (far right) participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Mount Vernon's Slave Memorial and Cemetery.

"It was nice to remember the people that lived here and worked here," says Christia. "It meant a lot to be able to honor them as people and not just as slaves."

In addition to the museums, memorials and monuments, the students also spent a day at the U.S. Capitol Building where they toured the complex, visited Congressional offices and met with staff members. U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman spent time answering the students' questions on the Capitol steps.

"One thing that I would take away from this trip is what the Congressman told us," says Johnson. "The future of this nation really depends on what we want it to look like. That's a lot to take in, but it was a really special moment."





Tours inside the White House are no longer available, but a photo in front of it is always at the top of the Washington Youth Tour agenda.



L.J. Washington snaps a shot of Washington from the observation deck of the Old Post Office Tower.



Rachell Hernandez (left) and Santee Electric's Camryn Coles at the National Air and Space Museum.

"I didn't realize how big the Capitol was," says Brown. "It's crazy to me just how many people work there. They ranged from the people in the political realm that you see on TV, to a guy that went to my high school. He's an intern for Rep. Russell Fry."

When they visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, each student was provided the name of a soldier from their area killed in the Vietnam War.

"When you see all the names, you realize how many families were

affected," says Brown.

Throughout the trip, the students participated in the Soda Pop Co-op. The co-op sold snacks and beverages to the students. Some of the students served as cooperative board members, others were a part of the management team. As member-consumers, the students each received \$7 in capital credits, their share of the co-op's end-of-trip margins. The exercise allowed the students to learn first-hand how the not-for-profit co-op business model works.

South Carolina's youth tourists were not the only student delegates in Washington. They were among more than 1,500 representing electric cooperatives across the nation. The students traded their state pins with one another and went on a riverboat dinner cruise along the Potomac River. Students from across the country also gathered for National Youth Day where they learned about the rich history of electric cooperatives and the important role of being an active participant in our democracy.



## Be prepared for summer storms

**SUMMER STORMS** can roll in unexpectedly. When severe weather threatens, Horry Electric crews are prepared to respond and we encourage members to also be prepared.

**Have a plan** In the event of any storm or natural disaster, it's important to have a plan for you and your family. Have an emergency kit stocked with nonperishable foods, water, batteries and flashlights. If you need to take shelter, go to a centrally-located room without windows, like a hallway or closet.

**Have a backup** When severe weather is predicted, make sure your devices are fully charged and portable power banks are ready to go. Make sure to have a weather radio available.

**Stay informed** Listen to local weather updates to track the storm and visit Horry Electric's Facebook page for outage and restoration information. In the event of a natural disaster, outage and restoration information will also be posted on Horry Electric's Instagram and Twitter pages.

**Stay safe** High winds may bring down power lines. Remember, if you come across downed power lines, turn around. Treat all lines as if they are energized. Stay away and never drive over them. If you encounter standing water while driving, turn around and find a safer route.



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

**Advanced Line Technician Bradley Floyd stocks ties on his truck to prepare for storms. Ties wrap around insulators and hold the power lines in place at the top of a pole.**

For more information and storm preparedness tips, visit the outage center "Preparedness" section on [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com). To report an outage, text OUT to MyOutage at 1 (844) 369-2767, call PowerTouch at (843) 369-2212, log in to the MyEnergy Online portal, use the HEC mobile app or text OUTAGE to 352667.



We're Proud to Power  
**FRIDAY  
NIGHT  
LIGHTS**

To all the players, coaches and supporting staff, we wish you a great and safe 2023 football season. We're rooting for you.

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## Have you tried our payment kiosk yet?

**PAYMENT KIOSKS** are available 24/7 in the drive-thru lanes of the Conway and Socastee offices.

Cash, check and card payments are accepted. When making a cash payment, please insert the dollar amount you wish to pay. The kiosk does not give back change.

There is no transaction fee for cash payments, but check and credit/debit card payments will be charged transaction fees consistent with the current fees for online and mobile app payments.

The payment kiosks are a great way to pay your bill if you're not able to visit one of our offices during regular business hours.

If you have questions, or need help using one of our kiosks, please call (843) 369-2211.

