



Kevin Brownlee

## High bill questions, answers

By Kevin Brownlee,  
V.P. Marketing/Economic Development

### Q Why has the bill increased so dramatically?

A. The cost per ton of coal has risen from \$53 per ton to \$104 plus per ton for 2009, a 96.22-percent increase. Coal suppliers are charging more because of higher rail transportation costs, heightened federal mandates on mining standards and increased demand for coal from overseas markets. Higher coal prices are a world-wide fact.

### Q. Will prices fall?

A. Prices are not expected to fall. As the population of our state grows, so does the need for additional electric power generation. And the cost of building these facilities is a slow and expensive process.

### Q. Gas prices have dropped, why has electricity not followed?

A. The price of crude oil does not affect the price of coal dollar for dollar. The market demand for each is affected by its own independent market forces.

### Lynches River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 308  
1104 West McGregor St.  
Pageland, SC 29728  
Phone (843) 672-6111  
or 1-800-922-3486  
www.lynchesriver.com

Automated Outage System  
675-LREC (5732)  
or  
1-866-675-LREC (5732)

### Q. I am on a fixed income, how can I manage my monthly bill?

A. Let us suggest three ways,  
1.) Follow the energy conservation tips we provide.  
2.) Enroll in our Levelized Billing program, which averages the monthly bill over a 12-month period and helps you avoid the shock of the high months.  
3.) Enroll in bank draft and eliminate the monthly check writing and mailing or trip to pay the bill in person.

### Q. What is the carbon tax Congress is planning and how will it affect me?

A. The proposed Carbon Tax legislation in Congress is a tax on the coal-burning power companies. The purpose of the tax is to create an incentive for power producers to offer alternate energy sources. However, coal plants are relatively clean and the cost of other energy sources is much more expensive. Furthermore, our geographic region does not have the availability of other energy sources. Coal is our most economical, reliable and available energy source.

### Q. Why does my bill fluctuate so much?

A. Monthly bill fluctuations are usually the result of two things: weather and usage. When the weather turns cold or hot, usage patterns follow with an increased need for heating or cooling. Plus, in winter, longer nighttime hours increases the need for longer lighting.

### Q. Why is Lynches River more than Duke Energy?

A. Our investment and revenue per mile of line is vastly different. Lynches River serves nearly seven consumers per mile of line; Duke Energy's density is likely near 40 consumers per mile of line. Lynches River serves proportionately more homes than businesses. Investor-owned

utilities serve more densely populated and profitable metropolitan areas with higher concentrations of commercial and industrial customers, which are much more profitable.

### Q. Do Lynches River Employees or Trustees get a discount?

A. Employees and Board Members do not get a discount. They pay the same fees and charges as all members.

### Q. What is Lynches River doing to hold down costs?

A. Lynches River has reduced its operating budgets, cut costs and implemented a hiring and pay freeze.

### How you can conserve energy

- Fix dripping faucets and install low-flow shower heads.
- Limit shower lengths to 5-7 minutes.
- Don't let water run while shaving and brushing your teeth.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty loads.
- Consider using a "solar-powered" clothes dryer, an old-fashioned clothes line.
- Let hot food cool before storing in the refrigerator.
- Rinse dirty dishes with cold water before putting them into the dishwasher.
- Operate a dishwasher only when fully loaded, use the air-dry cycle instead of heat-dry cycle.
- Turn computers and monitors off when not in use. Unplug battery chargers not in use.
- Replace any light bulb illuminated more than one hour per day with a compact fluorescent bulb.
- Set thermostats to 78 degrees F in summer, 68 degrees F in winter.
- Close fireplace dampers when not burning a fire.
- Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out during summer. Open drapes and shade to catch free solar heat in the winter.
- Change HVAC filters monthly.
- Ensure windows with window-mounted A/C units have weatherstripping between the middle of the top and bottom pane.

### Office closed for Independence Day holiday

The Lynches River Electric Cooperative office will be closed Friday, July 3. If you need assistance, standby personnel are available 24 hours a day. They can be reached at 672-6111 or toll free at 1-800-922-3486. To report an outage, call the Automated Outage Reporting System at 675-LREC (5732) or 1-866-675-LREC (5732). The Board, management and employees of Lynches River Electric Cooperative wish you a safe Fourth of July.

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# Trustee qualifications, nominations

## (Excerpts from Bylaws)

### ARTICLE III Trustees

**Section 1. GENERAL POWERS.** The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of nine (9) trustees which shall exercise all powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation or by these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

**Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS, ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE OF TRUSTEES.** The persons named as trustees in the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative shall compose the Board of Trustees until the first annual meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative who:

(a) Has not for at least five (5) years immediately prior thereto been a member and consumer in good standing of the Cooperative, whose principal residence is served by the Cooperative and such residence lies within the particular district which he or she is to represent, as such district is defined by the Board of Trustees in accordance with Section (3) below, for the immediate prior 5 years.

(b) Does not have the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract.

(c) Has a material conflict of interest as determined by a majority of the Board of Directors at a legal meeting of the Board of Trustees.

(d) Is employed by the Cooperative or was employed by the Cooperative at any time during the preceding five (5) years.

(e) Is a close relative of (spouse, parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, child, step-child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother, half brother, step-brother, brother-in-law, sister, half sister, step-sister, sister-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew) an incumbent Trustee or a Cooperative employee. However, no incumbent Trustee will lose eligibility to remain a Trustee or to be re-elected as a Trustee if he/she becomes a close relative of another Trustee or an employee because of a marriage to which he/she was not a party.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board.

At each annual meeting beginning with the year 1965, a number of trustees equal to the number of trustees whose terms expire at the time of such meeting shall be elected by secret ballot, by and from the members of the Cooperative to hold office for a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have been qualified. The nominee or candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be elected and declared as a member of the Board of Trustees. It shall be the duty of the committee on nominations to certify as to the proper qualifications of their nominees. Should there be nominations by means of petition,

it shall be the duty of the Cooperative's Attorney to certify as to the proper qualifications of such nominee. Provided, however that the Board of Trustees shall have the authority to review the decision of the Cooperative's Attorney at a regular or special meeting of the Board which may be called and which must be held, in accordance with Article IV of these bylaws except that any such meeting called for the purpose of reviewing the Cooperative Attorney's decision concerning a petition candidate shall be held within ten (10) days of receipt of the petition at the Cooperative's headquarters office in Pageland. If a majority of Board members attending such meeting should disagree with the decision of the Attorney, then the Board shall have authority to overrule the Attorney's decision on this matter. Should there be but one nomination or candidate to fill any one vacancy on the board of trustees, it shall be permissible to elect and declare the election by viva voice vote of the members in attendance.

**Section 3. DISTRICTS AND NOMINATIONS.** The territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be by the Board of Trustees divided into eight districts. Each district shall be represented by one Board of Trustees member and, in addition thereto, one trustee shall represent the territory of the Cooperative at large. The Board of Trustees in its discretion may at any time, not less than ninety (90) days prior to any meeting of the members at which Board of Trustees members are to be elected, change, alter and reconstitute the districts by redelineating of the districts. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, not less than ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall nominate one nominee for each vacancy on the Board of Trustees and shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least seventy-five (75) days before the meeting a list of nominations for trustees, but any one (1) percent or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. No member may nominate more than one candidate or sign more than one nomination in writing. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of trustees to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. The members may, at any meeting at which a trustee or trustees shall be removed, as herein before provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of trustees.