



Line Items

The Official
Newsletter
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HIGH FUEL COSTS BRING HIGHER ELECTRIC BILLS

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Excelsior EMC members receive power for what it costs us to deliver it to them. We strive to deliver low-cost energy to our members by keeping overheads low and working to purchase wholesale energy at the lowest price. When our wholesale energy price increases, the cost of power for our members increases as well.

As you know from filling your gas tank at the pump, the cost of fuel has increased significantly over the past few months. The unprecedented increase in the cost of natural gas (it has nearly tripled over the past year) has significantly driven up power generation costs. As reported in the news, several factors are contributing to the increased natural gas prices: inflation, supply chain issues, workforce shortages, and the war in Ukraine.

Due to these high fuel costs to generate power, Excelsior EMC members will see increased energy charges in their electric bills. The cost increase will be reflected in the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) on our members' power bills. The WPCA is the cost per kWh to purchase power that Excelsior EMC needs to meet the electricity demands of all our members. The additional amount each member pays each month will vary based on how much electricity is used.

We understand that higher energy charges are never welcomed news. We sincerely hope that the fuel costs will return to normal soon and that we can lower our energy charges to what our members are accustomed to seeing. As always, we will strive to do our very best at providing you with reliable and affordable electricity.

CHANGE IN NATURAL GAS PRICES



source: tradingeconomics.com

(MMBtu is the unit of measure for natural gas - MMBtu = 1,000,000 British Thermal Units)

Line Items

BRONSON BRAGDON
Editor

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When Your Power is Off – Call (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Construction Update

The 2021-2025 construction work plan called for a number of system improvement projects in the area surrounding the Jimps Substation next to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center south of Statesboro. The first Pike Electric crew arrived in June 2021 and began work in the Country Club Road area. The second Pike crew arrived in January 2022 and began work in the Country Lake Estates area off of US Hwy 301, south of Statesboro. Both of these crews should finish their work by the end of August. This work was needed so that we can increase the capacity and voltage of the Jimps Substation in November of 2023.

These crews will now move to other areas of the system to begin system improvement efforts there. One of the projects is to convert 1.8 miles of power line from single-phase to three-phase along Pond View Road creating a connection between our Metter Primary and Stillmore substations. This connection just north of Metter will allow for better balancing of load on the circuit and establish a key tie between the two substations. This project will allow us to make the best use of the excess capacity in the Stillmore Substation and prolong a transformer upgrade at the Metter Primary Substation. This connection will also give us greater reliability when outages occur and provide flexibility for shifting load for maintenance. This crew will continue their work northward along Hwy 121 from Metter increasing the size of the conductor to the Stillmore Substation.

The other crew will begin work just east of Statesboro in the George Moore Road / Youngblood Road area. This project will convert 2.3 miles of single-phase power lines to three-phase thereby increasing the capacity, voltage levels, and reliability in the area. Once they complete this job they will convert 3.2 miles of single-phase power lines to three-phase between Brooklet-Denmark Road and Wilson Road / Mud Road. This project will relieve loading on the existing power line and establish a tie between circuits which will improve service in this area.

We continue to work with our suppliers to stay ahead of material shortages. We have significantly increased our inventory to eliminate delays, but the challenges are real. We appreciate your patience as we continue to work each and every day to improve how we serve you.



Every Member Counts



GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

With the summer heat comes inevitable thunderstorms that have the potential to leave you without power. While we always do our very best to get your power back on in the shortest amount of time, having a generator on hand could come in handy during an outage. Follow the safety tips below to ensure the safety of you and your family:

- Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause back feeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs.
- To prevent back feed, standby generators should have a transfer switch installed by an electrician and portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system.
- When using a portable generator, use an extension cord to plug appliances directly into the generator outlets.
- Ensure your generator is properly grounded and only use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure the extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you first turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- Shut down the generator properly. Before shutting down a generator, turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.
- Keep the generator dry. Generators pose electrical risks when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by using it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain underneath it.
- Never fuel a generator while it is running, and remember to always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never operate a generator in a confined area such as a garage. Generators can produce numerous gases, including toxic and deadly carbon monoxide. They require proper ventilation.
- Remember to maintain the generator between uses. It is a good idea to inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level, and fuel quality and to start the generator on a regular basis before an emergency occurs.
- Read and follow all manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.



**STAY BACK.
STAY SAFE.**

Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.



If you find yourself trapped inside your car while in contact with a downed power line, please remain in the vehicle and call 911 and Excelsior EMC immediately. Warn others to stay away. Do not try to exit the vehicle or drive away until you are told it is safe to do so by emergency personnel.

If your vehicle is on fire and you must exit the vehicle, please follow these steps:

1. Slowly open your door and avoid touching any metal on the vehicle.
2. Prepare to jump by bringing your legs together and crossing your arms across your chest to make yourself as compact as possible.
3. Carefully jump from the vehicle while keeping your feet together and landing on both feet at the same time. Avoid touching any part of the vehicle during the jump and landing.
4. Shuffle away from the car while keeping both feet on the ground and no more than 6 inches apart from one another until you are at a safe distance of 50 feet or more from the vehicle.

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