



# Line Items

The Official  
Newsletter  
Of Excelsior EMC

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## STRENGTHENING RURAL POWER GRIDS: THE TRANSITION FROM 7,200 TO 14,400 VOLTS

Over the past few months, some of you may have noticed Excelsior EMC linemen working or you may have even received a letter stating that you would be part of a scheduled outage and wondered, “What are they doing?” We have recently completed a major line voltage conversion project in our Jimps substation which affects the areas near Country Club Road, Turkey Trail, Walmart Distribution, Southern Comfort and Greenhaven. Through these conversions, we have stepped up to 14,400 volts from our old standard of 7,200 volts. This change was necessary due to projected load growth in the area and it will allow us to serve that load more reliably.

Rural areas, where there’s a lot of land to cover and fewer people, have different challenges for delivering power. The usual 7,200-volt lines were adequate for decades, but now they can’t handle the growing demand for power in these places. Going up to 14,400 volts gives a big boost in capacity, making the power supply more reliable.

One of the main benefits of raising the voltage is that it lowers the loss of power during delivery. Higher voltage means less current, which reduces how much power is lost as it travels through the lines. This makes energy delivery more efficient, saving money for the cooperatives and their members. This is why the huge transmission lines that you see have such high voltages, with some even reaching 500,000 volts!

Also, moving to 14,400 volts helps the power grid deal with high-demand times and changes in how much power people need. Rural areas often see shifts in electricity use due to farming seasons or different times of the year. Upgrading the power lines ensures a steady power supply, even during busy times, and makes power more reliable. Think of it like having a larger highway that can handle more traffic without

slowing down. This upgrade is part of a bigger plan to make our power systems better for the future. It’s not just about fixing things now; it’s about getting ready for new and improved ways of using energy. By making our power grid stronger, we’re making sure our communities can grow, businesses can thrive, and people can enjoy a better quality of life. This move toward 14,400 volts isn’t just a number change—it’s a step toward a more efficient, resilient, and sustainable energy future for everyone in rural communities.

We are constantly improving our distribution system, with voltage conversions being just one example. In all that we do, we strive to serve our members to the best of our ability. As always, our top priority is to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members.



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Joseph Jones  
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

### *Reliable Power for Today—and Tomorrow*

Ringing in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. For me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering--and empowering--our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on for all of us. Excelsior EMC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy providers and from there we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. Our current energy resource mix is made up of 57% natural gas, 28% nuclear, 8% solar / hydro, and 7% coal.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, we are using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and the meter. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps us save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Georgia and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Excelsior EMC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve--for today and tomorrow.



Every Member Counts



# NEW FACE AT EXCELSIOR EMC

Dillian Lawrence has recently joined the Excelsior EMC team as a Dispatcher. Dillian has a background in logistics and is a native of Metter where he lives with his wife (Anna) and three children (Brooklyn, London, and Luka).

In his short time with us, Dillian has shown that he is a quick learner and that he has what it takes to be a valuable asset to the Cooperative. Please help us welcome Dillian!

## PROJECT SHARE: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For several years Excelsior EMC consumers have had the opportunity to help needy people in our community by contributing to the Salvation Army program known as Project SHARE. Excelsior EMC is one of the many utilities involved in helping citizens who need assistance with basic necessities such as housing, food, medical care, and utility services. Project SHARE helps the elderly, disabled, and those afflicted with illness, and others who are experiencing serious financial hardships.

An attractive part of the program is that your contribution goes to help someone from the county where the donation originated. Locally, the Department of Family and Children Services handles Project SHARE funds.

If you would like to participate, check the appropriate space and complete the form located on this page and return with your next payment.

This amount will be added each month to your bill. Anyone wishing to make a larger contribution should mail it directly to:

**The Salvation Army**  
Project SHARE  
P.O. Box 930188  
Norcross, GA 30003-0188

**Yes, I'd like to participate in Project SHARE.**

Please add  \$1  \$2  \$5 to my electric account each month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number (*we bill*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM EXCELSIOR EMC



# FIVE TIPS FOR SPACE HEATER SAFETY



As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips to keep you, your family and your property safe.

- 1 MATERIALS** - What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.
- 2 PLACEMENT** - While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a nonflammable floor surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, preventing fire hazards. The most important rule about space heater placement is the three-foot rule. Wherever your heater is, it should always be kept three feet away from flammable materials.
- 3 SPECIAL FEATURES** - Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function if tipped over? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver. If you currently own a space heater without auto shutoff, consider purchasing a heater with this important safety feature.
- 4 CORDS** - You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause the cord to overheat. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Also make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.
- 5 USE** - Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.

Following these tips and making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can keep your family safe and warm this winter.

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