

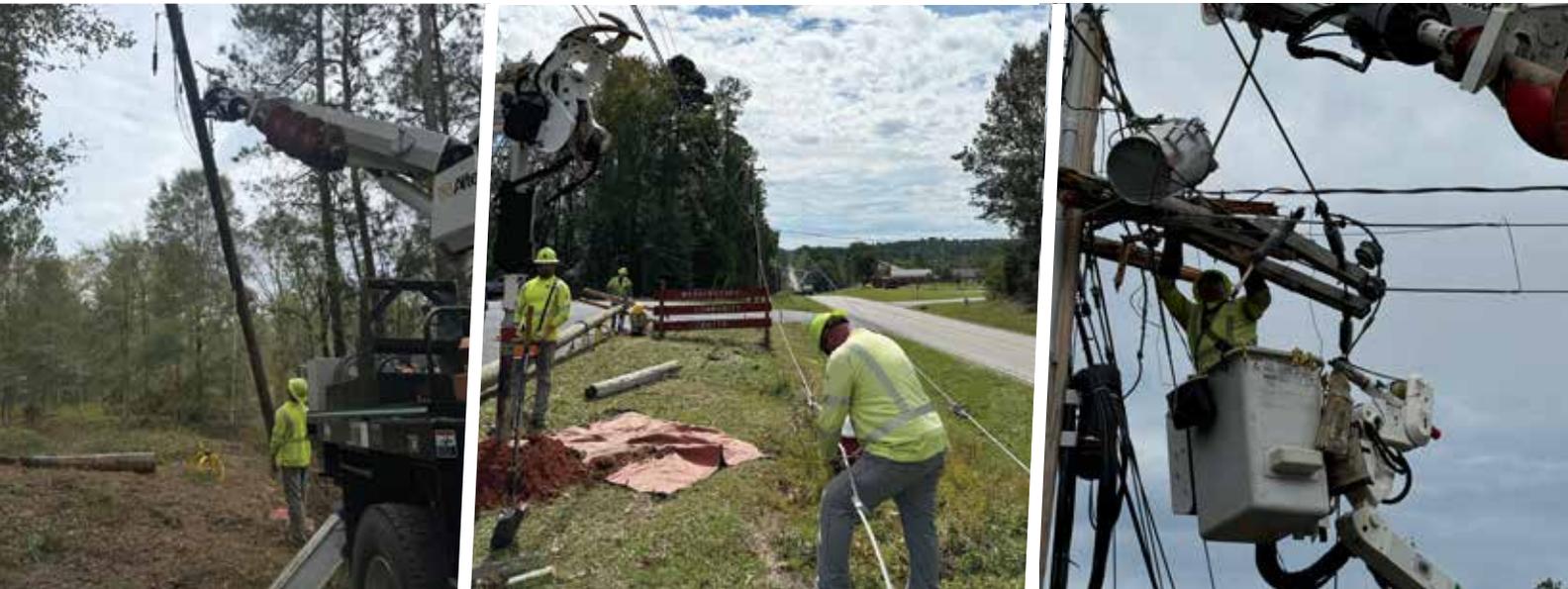


# REBUILDING SOUTH CAROLINA

A few short days in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative and 14 other Wisconsin electric cooperatives responded to a call for help through ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) to help repair the widespread damage caused by the high winds and rain that came with this catastrophic storm.

*Pictured above: SREC crews work on repairing lines in South Carolina after Hurricane Helene.*

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Despite the uncertainty of the climate and work conditions they would face, several linemen were willing to accept the call for help. Ultimately, it was determined that four linemen would represent SREC and make the journey to Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. in South Carolina. This four-man crew consisted of two linemen from our Grant County office, and one lineman each from our Lafayette and Crawford County offices.

To support their efforts, the SREC crew drove to South Carolina in an aerial lift (aka bucket) truck and a digger derrick truck. The aerial lift truck, vital for repairing overhead power lines, allowed safe access without the need to climb poles. Given the extensive miles of line that required repair and the rough terrain, this truck was invaluable. Likewise, the digger truck, sent to assist with digging and setting poles, became critical as the crew's first task upon arrival was repairing three-phase poles.

The crews were not sent empty-handed either. Care packages from home included essential items like an extra pair of socks, first aid supplies, toiletries, water, electrolyte drinks, and of course, snacks—a lineman staple.

Despite the hurricane's extensive damage, a "tent city" was quickly set up. Linemen were provided basic but functional living arrangements where they slept on cots, used porta-potties, and had access to hot showers, meals, and laundry services. These accommodations allowed crews to rest and recharge after a long day's work. A fuel truck also remained on site to fuel up the trucks at the end of each day.

A closer look at the living conditions was recently shared on our Facebook page.

Wisconsin crews worked together in teams for long 16-hour days to repair/rebuild three-phase and single-phase lines, set poles, and untangle wires. Their quick, efficient work shown on the first day received praise and brought hope to those awaiting power restoration. Their efforts energized quite a few members, leaving an emotional impact as tears of relief and gratitude filled the eyes of those who saw their homes light up once again.

The widespread damage left behind from Hurricane Helene was catastrophic. We are proud to be part of a caring community of cooperatives. We hope that we will never need to make a call for help, but if we do, we know ROPE and our cooperative neighbors will be there.



Left to right: Hunter Fortney, Travis Klein, Lucas Ritchie, and Pat Pennekamp.

# #WIHeleneHelp

# ROPE

## RESTORATION OF POWER IN AN EMERGENCY

The ROPE program was created with two key cooperative principles in mind—Cooperation Among Cooperatives and Concern for Community. It embodies the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, where cooperatives, even from across state lines, step up to assist each other in times of grave need.

The careful planning and meticulous organization that went on behind the scenes at Aiken Electric Cooperative Inc. to make this recovery effort possible did not go unnoticed. We wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) for arranging the travel plans for a fleet of electric utility trucks traveling across state lines, daily updates, and internal support.

We are deeply grateful to the linemen’s families and our dedicated crews that filled in the gaps during their absence. Your support made it possible for us to respond to this call for help. We are incredibly proud of our SREC cooperative family.



## HONORING OUR SREC VETERANS

On November 11, we pause to honor the men and women who have served our country. We are grateful to all veterans and their families for their past service and their continued service to our communities.

We are honored to have two very dedicated veterans serve on our Board of Directors. We are grateful for your service and bravery. **#neverforget**



Left to right: Don Schaefer, District 6 board director, and Delbert Reuter, District 5 board director.

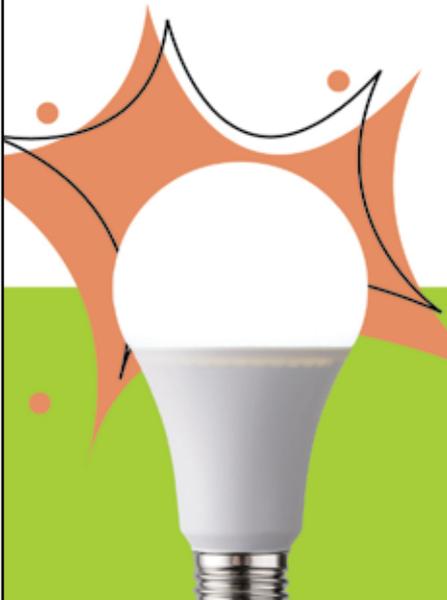


SREC offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28, for Thanksgiving.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs, and gaming consoles.



# LOAD MANAGEMENT TEST SET FOR NOVEMBER 20

The 2024 Winter Preparedness Test for interruptible heat (dual fuel) accounts is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 20, beginning at 7 a.m. This annual load control test is performed in advance of the winter Full Load Control season to ensure member familiarity with the control sequence and to ensure that backup heating systems have been validated for proper function. During the test, residential Interruptible Heat load classes (2, 2W, 4B) will be controlled:

- 6:55 a.m. – control start
- 7:00 a.m. – all loads interrupted (2, 2W, 4B)
- 10:00 a.m. – Class 2, 2W and 4B begin restoral
- 10:30 a.m. – Class 4B loads fully restored
- 11:00 a.m. – Class 2 and 2W loads fully restored

If you experience any problems during this test, or if you have questions, please contact Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative at 800-236-2141.

## NOVEMBER MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The November Photo of the Month is "Electrifying Lightbulb," submitted by Linda Hackett of Boscobel.



Steve Lucas, CEO

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