

Santee Cooper to add additional transmission line to Hilton Head Island

Santee Cooper will add a third transmission line from Bluffton to Hilton Head Island in order to enhance reliability and add more capacity to accommodate the growing customer demand for electricity in that area.

Santee Cooper owns and operates the two existing 115 kV transmission lines, which help deliver electricity from the generating stations to Palmetto Electric Cooperative, which in turn distributes the electricity to its customers in and around the Hilton Head and Bluffton region.

Lowering operating costs

“Because of the increased transmission capacity to Hilton Head, this new line will lower Santee Cooper’s operating costs overall by reducing dependency of combustion turbines on the island,” said Bill McCall, Santee Cooper executive vice president and chief operating officer. “This additional line will enable us to maintain reliability and accommodate the extra energy demands.”

“Working with Santee Cooper to stay ahead of the curve in terms of upgrading the power delivery system is critical,” says Tom Upshaw, president and chief executive officer of Palmetto Electric. “It’s essential to do all we can to assure increased reliability, reduce costs and provide a dependable flow of power. This boost in transmission capacity is important in responding to the needs of our customers.”

Timing, routing

The \$4.4-million project will begin Aug. 29 and continue through May 2006. Santee Cooper is timing the construction work to avoid the high-volume tourist

traffic season in the summer months.

The work will involve transmission lines routed over Highway 278 from Bluffton to the east side of Hilton Head. Work will be conducted on Pinckney Island, near Buckingham and Bluffton

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— *Bill McCall*
Santee Cooper
Executive VP/CEO

and near the bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. The most visible activity will take place in April 2006, when work will cross over Highway 278 near the Intracoastal Waterway. It is important to note, construction work will not be conducted during the area’s MCI Heritage golf tournament in April.

Osprey habitat

The existing transmission towers south of the bridge to Hilton Head

in the Intracoastal Waterway will be shortened to 30 feet and left up as platforms for osprey habitat enhancement. New transmission lines will be built next to these older and soon-to-be-unused lines.

Palmetto Electric, a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, is one of South Carolina’s customer-owned utilities serving 62,000 consumers in Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper counties. For more information, visit www.palmetto.coop.

Santee Cooper is South Carolina’s state-owned electric and water utility and serves 146,000 residential and commercial customers in Berkeley, Georgetown and Horry counties. The utility also generates the power distributed by the state’s 20 electric cooperatives to more than 650,000 customers in all 46 counties. All total, almost two million South Carolinians receive their power directly or indirectly from Santee Cooper. For more information, visit www.santeecooper.com. ↑

