

# SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



PO BOX 369, EKALAKA, MT 59324 • PH 406-775-8762 • WWW.SEECOOP.COM

## Our board is your board

**S**OUTHEAST Electric Cooperative's trustees are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill-sets. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in Southeast Electric's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board. This is why we like to have directors with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. Above all, we look for folks who love

our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future.

What does it mean to serve on the board?


Our board members use their individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that, in turn, benefit the larger community. Day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by a board whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves.

They provide input on budgets, cooperative goals and direction, community/charitable contributions, capital investments, upgrades in equipment and technology, and cooperative

involvement in economic development.

### SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC CONSISTS OF SIX TRUSTEES WHO SERVE THREE-YEAR TERMS:

- **District 2:** Doug Gardner – since 2016
- **District 3:** Michael Hansen – since 2015
- **District 5:** Clayton Jardee – since 2020
- **District 6:** Karen Kreitel – since 2006
- **District 8:** Dave Hayden – since 2005
- **District 9:** Albert Paul – since 2012

*Thank you to these individuals for giving their time to represent the members.* 


## FULL NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA

(not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination

complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). 

# SCAM ALERT!

## ENERGY SCAMS ARE COMMON, BE READY

**E**NERGY scams are becoming increasingly common. You are contacted, by phone, text or email, by someone claiming to be from your energy company. Scammers use aggressive tactics, such as insisting your account is delinquent and threatening to shut off service immediately. As a customer, it can be difficult to ignore.

If your bill is, in fact, delinquent, Southeast Electric Cooperative will not immediately disconnect service. First, you will receive a bill highlighting the overdue amount. If payment is still not received, the next step is a disconnection notice. Southeast Electric will also contact you by phone before disconnecting service.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, scammers can drain your account and use

personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If a “refund” scam or “delinquent” scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a “phishing” attempt) or by text (“smishing”), do not click any links. Instead, delete it and, if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Southeast Electric will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle.

### Major Red Flags:

- Demand for payment in unconventional ways, such as cash, bank transfer or a check in their name. Southeast Electric does not accept any payment type over the phone. Hang up the phone and call us at 406-775-8762.

- Requests for personal information such as your Social Security number and bank account numbers. Southeast Electric does not process payments over the phone.

- The caller ID says Southeast Elec-

tric. Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.

Tips to prevent being scammed:

- Report the suspicious activity to your local law enforcement.
- Report the incident to Southeast Electric. We want to warn all of our members if this occurs.
- Spread the word to family, friends and neighbors so that they don't become victims of the scam.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number or banking account information.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.

Remember Southeast Electric will not require its members to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection. If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up. With this knowledge, you can empower yourself against scammers. RM

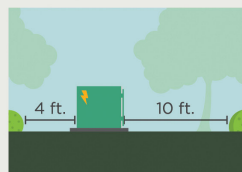
## 3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

**1. Plant trees in the right place.** Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



**2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.** Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



**3. Report dangerous branches.** If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



**Trimming improves safety for all. Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.**



**Know what's below. Call before you dig.**



**SMARTHUB** the on-line bill payment system is now available. It is convenient and easy!