

**President and CEO**

E. LeRoy "Toy" Nettles, Jr.

**Chairman, Board of Trustees**

James A. Goodson

**Trustees**

Jule Conner

Preston Gainey

David Howell

Louise Kelley

Hamer Parnell

Fred Riales

W. F. Rogers

LaShon Sellers

Don Teal

Pat Thomas-Toney

**Office Hours**

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday

**Corporate Headquarters**

1355 East McIver Road

PO Box 491

Darlington, SC 29540

**District Office**

1811 North 501 Bypass

Marion, SC

**Report Power Outage**

(843) 665-4070

Toll-Free (866) 747-0060

**Web site**

PeeDeeElectric.com

**Co-op News Editor**

Tom Kinard



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## Winter Drives Heating Bills

There are ways to save on energy.

A residential household's kilowatt-hour use is largely weather-driven. We urge you to remember this fact as winter temperatures drop.



Freezing temperatures make heating systems work harder and operate longer. Water flowing into water heaters is colder and, therefore, requires added energy to warm it up and then maintain that warmth.

Along with the cold weather, the extra hours of darkness tend to keep families inside more, which presents additional opportunities to use electricity. Ultimately, heating and cooling represent about 50 percent of a typical home's energy use.

We can't do anything about the weather, but members can take advantage of the helpful programs Pee Dee Electric offers to manage energy use and costs. These include:

H2O Select -  
water heater rebate program

ERC Loans -  
to finance materials and labor  
for home energy improvements

Surge Guard -  
residential, meter-based surge  
protection

Please contact the Energy Experts at Pee Dee Electric Cooperative to learn more about these and other programs. Call 843-665-4070 or toll free 866-747-0060.



You can also find money-saving ideas in our free brochure, "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures for South Carolina." Stop by our office, or download one at our Web site, PeeDeeElectric.com.

Have a happy, safe and lower-cost New Year!

**E. LeRoy "Toy" Nettles Jr.**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

## Strength and Service Showcased at Annual Meeting

### PDEC's 70th Gathering of Members a Success

Over 5,000 members, families and friends heard Pee Dee Electric Cooperative President and CEO, Toy Nettles, give the annual "State of Your Co-op" report during the 70th Annual Meeting on October 24, 2009.

Mr. Nettles reminded the owners of the "ominous clouds" he spoke of at the 2008 Meeting. Although the cost of wholesale power (the power bill PDEC pays each month) increased 16% this year and 31% since 2007, through the use of good business practices, consolidation of services and "doing our dead level best to operate as efficiently as possible so that we can continue to absorb as much of the increase in the costs of wholesale power as humanly possible," Pee Dee Electric has been able to find some "silver linings." Beginning in August 2009, the co-op began deducting a Wholesale Power Credit from each member's monthly energy bill. The Credit made significant reductions in every bill. "Indications are power costs will remain stable throughout 2010. If that prediction comes true, the Wholesale Power Credit will continue. But remember, this is a volatile world and the future is uncertain. You can be absolutely certain that your Board of Trustees has no interest in or desire

to collect more than is necessary to efficiently deliver power to 30,000 accounts in six counties here in the Pee Dee."



Upon registering, each member was given a ballot and asked to vote in the contested race for Board District 10. The incumbent, W. F. "Buster" Rogers won re-election by defeating George McMillan. Three other Board members, Hamer L. Parnell, District 1, David W. Howell, District 2 and James A. Goodson, District 8 were unopposed and were re-elected by acclamation.

The Florence City-County Civic Center was filled with activity as members were treated to a free Health Fair provided

by Carolinas Hospital System, and booths distributing information on Surge Guard, the H2O Select water heater rebate program, ERC Loans for efficient home renovations and Green Power..

There was a booth manned by the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina where folks could sign an e-mail to be delivered to each of South Carolina's United States

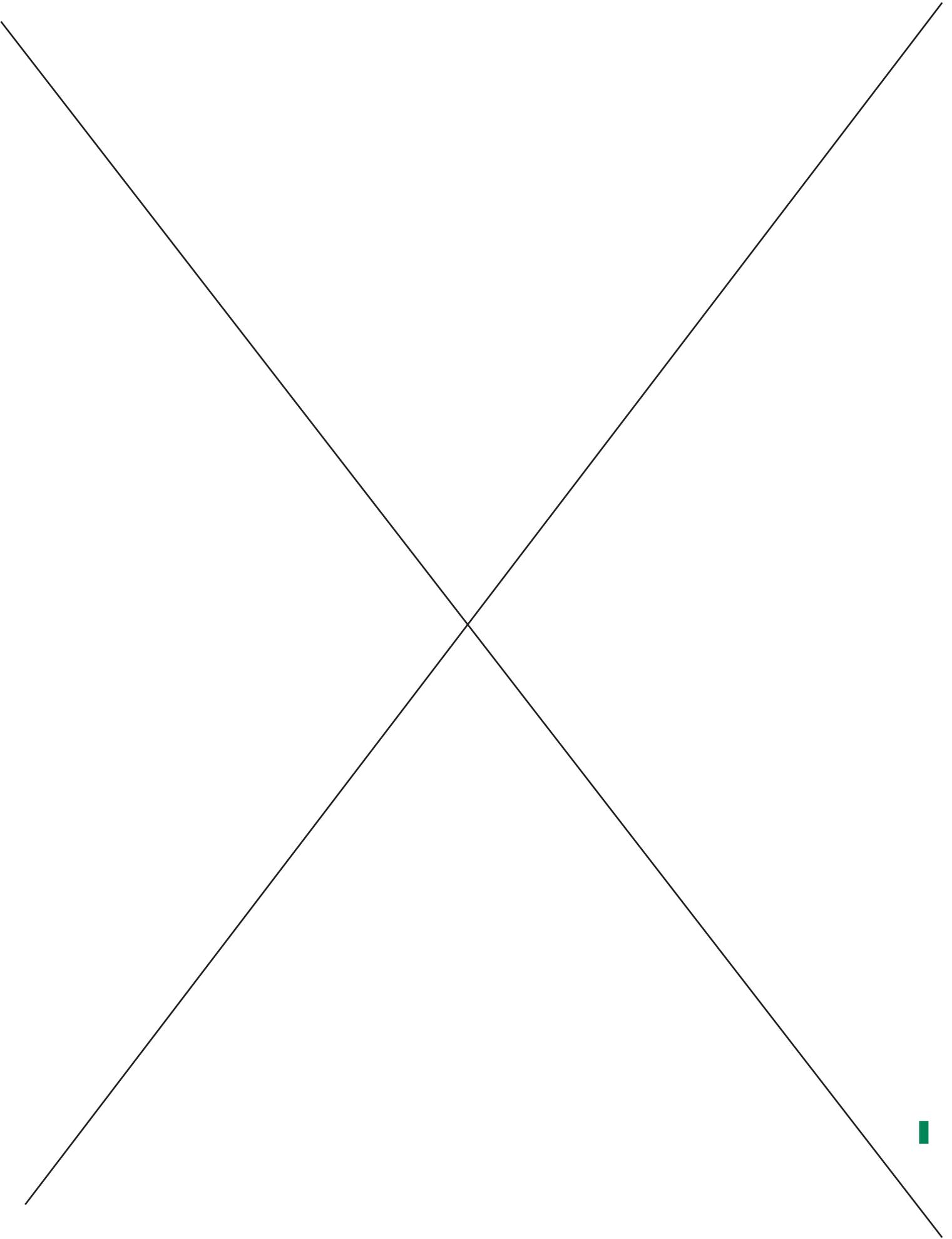
Senators. These e-mails urge Senators Graham and DeMint to help craft an energy policy that will be Fair, Affordable and Achievable.

Entertainment was provided by Todd Norris who inspired the audience, made them laugh with his stories of family life, especially about the new edition due very soon.

Pee Dee Electric Cooperative member Letha Green told her mother on the way to the Annual Meeting, "I really need that truck." She was referring to the GMC pickup truck that was given as the Grand Prize after the business meeting. On the left, see the big smile on her face as she accepted the keys to her truck from PDEC Vice-President of Marketing, Brian Kelley. That's momma smiling in the middle.

Just before the business meeting began at noon, a special video was premiered showing the birth, growth, challenges and technology of Pee Dee Electric Cooperative. We were officially incorporated on December 18, 1939. At that time, members purchased electricity at \$.10 per kilowatt hour. Your rate today is less than in the beginning!

Pee Dee Electric: The energy you need and the service you want.





# Jeff's Energy Tips

by Jeff Singletary • PDEC Energy Expert

Believe it or not, it's a fact that 70 years ago, when Pee Dee Electric Cooperative was incorporated, the cost of electricity was \$.10 per kilowatt hour. In recent months the cost of electricity has dropped below \$.10 per kilowatt hour.

*Then why is my bill higher than the \$5.00 to \$6.00 monthly bills of 1939?*

Good question, but it's an easy answer: we all use a lot more electricity. Those \$5.00 bills were for electricity to power two to three light bulbs and a radio. Today, we use much more power than that in each room of our house.



Think about your HVAC, water heater, TVs, chargers, refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, dishwasher, disposal plus a myriad of other items we don't think we could live without.

We're really getting into the worst part of winter weather, so this month's tips are concentrated on keeping you comfortable — in your house and in your wallet.

▶ Turn the computer off when not in use. A monitor accounts for at least 60% of the power used by the computer system.

▶ Thaw vegetables in the refrigerator instead of using warm water.

▶ Most of the energy used by incandescent lights is lost as heat. Only about 10% of the energy used by these bulbs actually produces light. (Remember, with only slight modifications, incandescent lights are the same as when they were invented by Thomas Edison.) CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lights) use about 75% less electricity and usually last 10 times longer than



“standard” lights. It's easy to see you can really conserve energy and save money using CFLs.

▶ Clean the lint filter in your dryer after every use. A dryer with a blocked lint filter can use up to 30% more energy and can be a fire hazard.

▶ Compared to conventional washing machines, front loading machines use about half the water per load, more effectively remove the water from the clothes and cause less wear and tear on your clothing. Front loaders are worth the extra investment “up front.”

▶ Turn lights off when not needed.

▶ Keep your thermostat on 68 degrees until warm weather is back. Every degree higher than 68 you set your indoor temperature will cost you about 5% extra on your heating bill. Try wearing the sweater Aunt Annie sent you for Christmas.



▶ Install a programmable thermostat.

▶ Change your HVAC filter every month.

▶ Check your windows and doors, making sure they close and lock properly, window gaskets are in good condition and doors have good-fitting weather stripping.

▶ Use expandable foam insulation to seal plumbing and wire openings under sinks and in utility rooms.

▶ If you use space heaters, please use them with caution. Whether you have an electric or kerosene heater please read the article on page 20C for more details on how to safely operate your unit.

▶ Don't forget you can read or download “101 Low-Cost / No-Cost Home Energy Saving Measures” from our Web site, PeeDeeElectric.com or drop by our office and pick up a copy.

Call me with specific questions or if you have a tip that saves you money. Let's share and we'll all save. Phone 843-665-4070 or toll free 866-747-0060.

# Pee Dee Electric Cooperative Urges You: "BE COUNTED IN 2010."



*The U.S. Census Bureau is issuing a call to action for every resident of our nation.*

## The Census: A Snapshot

IT'S IN OUR HANDS  
2010census.gov

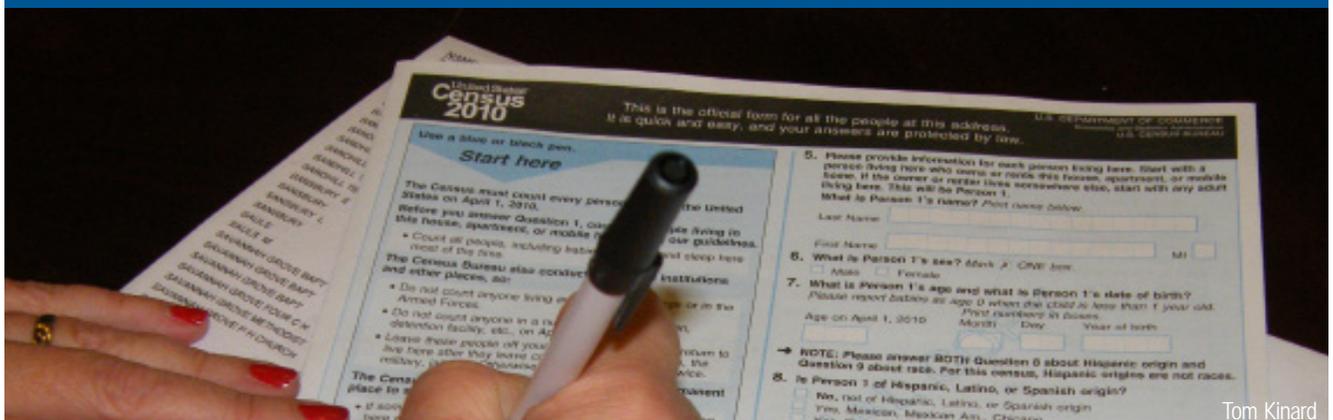
- ▲ **What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.
- ▲ **Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted - people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- ▲ **When:** Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. More detailed socioeconomic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the **American Community Survey**.
- ▲ **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. There's a good chance South Carolina will gain a Congressional seat. This fact alone makes it imperative we are all counted.
- ▲ **How:** Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers will visit households that do not return questionnaires.

## A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

- ▲ Businesses use demographic and economic census data to locate retail stores, new housing, new manufacturing plants and other facilities.
- ▲ Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- ▲ Census data guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, schools, housing and more.
- ▲ Census data determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and in state and local governments.

## 2010 Census Questionnaire: Quick, Easy and Confidential

- ▲ With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete.
- ▲ By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.



Tom Kinard

# Pee Dee Electric — Vital to Your Community

The United States Department of Agriculture, in its efforts to support and promote growth in America's rural areas, created the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, commonly referred to as the REDLG (pronounced "Red Leg") program. This initiative partners with Rural Utility Cooperatives such as Pee Dee Electric.

PDEC has been part of several loans to increase the industrial and community advancement in which our member-owners work and live. These loans carry a zero percent interest rate because we are loaning money that belongs to the United States government.

Pee Dee Electric is not at risk should any of these loans go bad. We make

sure any loan in which we participate carries maximum guarantees.



To date, our loans have assisted in the creation of over 1,000 jobs in the Pee Dee Area including: Monster.com's new facility, City of Florence's parking facility for Francis Marion University's Performing Arts Center, City of Darlington's downtown revitalization, Darlington County's new

industrial park, McCall Farms expansion, the Artisan's Center in Lake

within and around our service territory. Just like the initial REDLG loans,

## loans have assisted in the creation of over 1,000 jobs

City, and, most recently, the new Business Incubator at the SiMT facility at Florence-Darlington TECH.

The grant portion of the REDLG program consists of a Department of Agriculture grant to Pee Dee Electric for the purpose of a zero interest loan initially to a qualified project such as community development or government assistant ventures. The ultimate and greatest purpose of the grant is to establish a local Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) managed by Pee Dee Electric to be used for smaller projects

the RLF carries similar security. However, the loans can be made after approval by the cooperative and not the Federal government, therefore making the approval process faster to help businesses with financial needs and job creation.

For over 70 years Pee Dee Electric Cooperative has not only provided electric power to light homes and businesses, but added to the quality of life of each community we serve in our six-county territory — and beyond..

## WINTER Safety Spotlight on Space Heaters

A lot of consumers rely on space heaters to heat their homes or to take the chill out of a cold morning. Many homeowners fail to follow the instructions or safety rules of their heaters. They forget for a moment that death and serious injuries, including burns and carbon monoxide poisoning, affect thousands of Americans each year.

It is estimated that electric space heaters are a contributing cause of 2,400 fires each year. These fires cause an average of 80 deaths, 240 injuries, and \$48.2 million

in property loss on an annual basis

PDEC recommends a number of things when dealing with space heaters:

1. Heaters need to be placed away from flammable items, water sources, and not in high traffic zones.
2. Whenever buying a new space heater, it is important to choose one that has been tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.



These heaters will have the most up-to-date safety features while older space heaters might not meet the newest safety standards.

3. Choose a space heater with a guard around the heating element. The heater should be on a level, hard, nonflammable surface. There should not be rugs, carpets, bedding, or drapes close to the heater.

4. Doors in rooms with space heaters should be kept open if an unvented fuel-burning space heater

is present. This prevents pollutant build-up and promotes proper combustion.

5. Never leave a space heater on while going to bed or place it near a sleeping person.

One of the biggest safety features that is now required on a heating device is an automatic shut-off device. These are required to turn off electric or kerosene heaters if they tip over. More guarding around the heating coils of electric heaters and the burner of kerosene heaters is also required to prevent fires.

For more information, please go online to the US Consumer Products Safety Commission <http://www.cpsc.gov/tips.html>

## An Ice Storm Is No Fun — For Anyone

It's been a long time since we had a real bad one, but ice storms are an inevitable part of winter. Although glistening ice can be pretty to look at and a lot of school kids enjoy the time off from their studies, built-up ice can lead to downed power lines and inconvenient outages.

Unlike hurricanes that usually travel slowly enough that advance warnings are given and there's time to prepare; ice storms many times occur with little or no warning. Fast moving cold fronts collide with warm fronts and the results can be devastating.

Remember the following advice to stay safe and warm should you find yourself and your family without power after an intense ice storm.

▶Never touch a fallen power line. Ever. Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. It's always better to err on the side of safety. If you have an outage, call Pee Dee Electric Cooperative at 665-4070 or toll-free 866-747-0060. If you see a downed line, call immediately to report its location. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities.



Trees blocking roadways and power lines down are, unfortunately, two very common occurrences following an ice storm. There were several major ice storms in the late 60s that hit our area, but none lately. That could change overnight. Be prepared.

▶In the event of an outage, an alternative heating source — such as a fireplace, propane or kerosene space heater or wood stove — may be used. Extreme caution should be used at all times, especially if small children are present.

▶Plan to stay in an area of the home where the alternate heat source is located. Never leave the heat source unattended.

▶All fuel and wood-burning heating sources should be vented. Please be sure to follow manufacturer's recommendations.

▶Make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. A few minutes of your time is a small price to pay for your family's safety.

▶Do not use a gas oven for heating. Whether natural gas or propane, a gas oven may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.

▶Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside your home. Do not charcoal briquettes in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

▶If you use a portable generator to power a heating source, be sure the generator is located outside the home for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in an attached garage. Carefully follow the manufacturer's directions and safety precautions for operating the generator.

▶Take special care not to overload the generator. Use the correct size extension cords to carry the electric

load. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug and are in good condition.

▶Never run cords under rugs or carpets.

▶Never connect generators to power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute and unsuspecting Pee Dee Electric Cooperative worker.

▶Ideally, your family will stay warm until the power is restored, but keep an eye on family members (especially the elderly and young children) for signs of hypothermia which include shivering, drowsiness, mental and physical slowness. Call 911 immediately should you notice these symptoms.

▶At least one telephone not using electricity should be available in the home.