

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY



Report on Public Comments

**For the Proposed April 1, 2025
Rate Increases**

VOLUME II of II

October 2024

Section VI

Written Questions and Comments with Management Response

SECTION VI: Written Questions and Comments with Management Response

This section contains all written comments and questions received by Santee Cooper on the proposed 2025 rates and, where appropriate, management's response. 513 written comments were received after notices were posted in the retail offices, newspaper ads were run, and the news had coverage. 402 comments were from customers, 1 was from a non-customer, and 110 were unidentified. Most of the comments and questions covered the following areas, ordered from highest to lowest concentration of comments:

Overall customer comments have been focused on the following:

- The Residential Three-Part Rate
- Impact of increases on retired, fixed income and low-income customers
- Comments specific to industrial rate offerings

Management believes these comments and questions have been appropriately and adequately addressed.

Santee Cooper met with industrial customers during the development of the proposed rates to receive their comments and input on the proposed new rate schedules. Attached are the individual and collective letters and comments received from industrial customers on the proposed electric rate increases.

The Authority met with Central Electric Power Cooperative after public notice to discuss our proposal as well. No written comments were provided.

And finally, Santee Cooper also met on several occasions with the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, the South Carolina Department of the Consumer Advocate, and AARP South Carolina in order to discuss the rate proposal and have received comments from each of these organizations. Comments from the Office of Regulatory Staff and the Department of the Consumer Advocate were provided to the Board under separate cover. Comments from other entities and Santee Cooper's responses are included in this report.

**COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTIAL
AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS**

Submitter Information

First Name:	LISA	Last Name:	MCCRACKEN
Organization:	EXODUS HOMES LLC		
City:	MYRTLE BEACH	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000191

Date Submitted: 6/10/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I do understand the need for price increases. My question is why the residential customer gets the largest increase by %. We are all hit hard by the inflation that you mentioned, so why not increase the Commercial / industrial % by more and a little less for the residential customer? The commercial / Industrial customer can probably absorb the increase better than us. Just a thought.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear LISA MCCRACKEN,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Justin **Last Name:** Burcaw
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000207

Date Submitted: 6/10/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To whom this may concern, If you want a real investment, I will highly recommend Radiant Nuclear. They are a group of engineers who left SpaceX who founded Radiant to build modular nuclear reactors. The original design was to ship whole reactors that are almost plug-and-play for power companies. Once the reactors are used up or malfunction, the power companies send it back to Radiant and recycled. <https://www.radiantnuclear.com/> I am one of the few who is aware of the possible rolling blackouts coming in the next couple of years unless we build up our energy system. Shutdown the nuclear power plant project was honestly really dumb and it's coming back to bite us because too many people do not understand nuclear. You can use Radiant initially to prevent blackouts from occurring while a new infrastructure is being built for a Nuclear Power Plant is built around Radiant's technology. This allows Sante Cooper to leave all the nuclear problems to Radiant while Santee can focus on what they are already good at. Justin N. Burcaw **[REDACTED]**

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for South Carolina**



Dear Mr. Burcaw,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jim

Last Name: Davies

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000208

Date Submitted: 6/10/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

South Carolina needs to switch to electric choice

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Davies,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Virginia	Last Name:	Hutchinson
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC0000000192

Date Submitted:	6/10/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

This is outrageous that you want to jack residential rates over 8%, which is twice what you are doing for commercial customers. More and more seniors, some who survive solely on social security for their income, are moving into the area and will be expected to pay more for basic utility services than they were paying in the state they moved from. When I moved here 8 years ago I was shocked to find out I was paying twice as much for electric than I was in California. And now a huge rate increase. You need to find another way to pay for what you need instead of gouging full time residents and blaming it on inflation, among other things. We all know that the current so called inflation in this country is nothing more than corporate greed. It sounds like you are trying to hide behind something that is artificially created by corporations. Unfortunately for those of us who chose to retire here, we are hostages to utility companies as we can't choose who provides our service. For you to take advantage of this is not only cruel, but unconscionable.

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Dear Ms. Hutchinson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1745 full-time employees to 1578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We also understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Nancy

Last Name: Crump

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000206

Date Submitted: 6/10/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

You need to try an keep the rates lower for the Elderly that have limited income
Thanks Nancy Crump

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Dear Ms. Crump,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Stephen **Last Name:** Magyera
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000205

Date Submitted: 6/10/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I'm a retired disabled veteran suffering from the wholesale increase in the price of basic necessities of life, so I strongly oppose any increase in the price of the electric you provide. Rather than penalize people like me with even higher costs for basic necessities like electric, my recommendation would be to cut your costs by ending your 'Green Energy' & DEI programs. The public is well aware that 'Green Energy', even with gov't subsidies, is very expensive costs & doesn't offer a practical or cost-effective solution for replacing fossil fuel based power generation. It's a scam to enrich the well connected & we're doubly paying for it - with tax dollars subsidies & with electric rate increases & we all know it. Yeah, you're going to tell me your fossil fuel energy costs have gone up - they have but only because 'Green Energy' policies you support have restricted fossil fuel energy & artificially raised its' price to make 'Green Energy' look less expensive than it is by comparison. As to DEI, we all know it's illegal anti-American, anti-Constitutional reverse discrimination that is destroying truly equal opportunity our meritocratic-based workplace & society in general - two wrongs have never & will never make a right. This too is a scam rewarding otherwise non-productive bureaucrats with compensation levels they'd otherwise never receive for 'make work' efforts that destroy productivity, disincentive merit & disrupt workplace cohesion. And again, we're paying for it doubly with our tax dollars & electric rate increases. Come talk to us when you've eliminated this totally non-productive & disruptive fat from your cost structure & we can talk about rates, but until you do & get real it's a big non-starter with your rate payers - not that that means anything to those in positions of power these days. Stephen Magyera CC: Michael deMello [REDACTED]

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Dear Mr. Magyera,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1745 full-time employees to 1578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Kevin M	Last Name:	Kuttin
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000201

Date Submitted:	6/10/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper Management, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed electric rate increase that has been presented to the customers of Santee Cooper. As a resident and customer, I believe it is imperative to address the structure of this increase, which disproportionately affects residential customers. The current tiered system of rate increase places an undue burden on residential customers, who are slated to bear the greatest percentage of the hike. I strongly urge Santee Cooper to consider a uniform rate increase of 4.9% across all customer categories. This approach would ensure a fair distribution of the financial impact among all users of your services. Furthermore, I would like to state my opposition to the implementation of an "on demand" system. Such a system could lead to unpredictable costs and potentially higher charges that may not correlate with actual usage, causing additional strain on household budgets. I trust that Santee Cooper values its customers and will take these concerns into consideration when finalizing the rate adjustments. An equitable solution is in the best interest of both Santee Cooper and its loyal customers. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to a prompt and thoughtful response. Sincerely, Kevin M Kuttin

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Dear Mr. Kuttin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

We also understand the burden carried by our residential customers. The percent increases for each class are primarily driven by that class's allocated share of expenses, based on how it uses the electric system. Our residential customers receive a greater increase than the other classes because they are responsible for a greater portion of our increase in costs than the other classes.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kevin **Last Name:** Breneman
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000204

Date Submitted: 6/10/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Why is it there is a rate increase when you have been converting everything to solar that after the initial investment is practically free for you. I thought that was the purpose of this so called green energy. Not supposed to cost more and be less reliable.

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Dear Mr. Breneman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information**First Name:** Dan**Last Name:** Brown**Organization:****City:****Customer Type:** Residential**State / Zip:****SC Reference # : SC000000202****Date Submitted:** 6/10/2024**Origin:** email**Comment:**

The new proposed charges seem very complex compared with the previously used rate structure. I don't feel it has been adequately explained to me as a layman. As a family that uses electricity mindfully and relatively conservatively, I don't feel like I am going to be rewarded with the new changes. I have no problem trying to use less power during high-demand times, but I am wary of Santee Cooper wanting to know what I am doing and when I am doing it by installing systems that closely monitor my activity and/or controlling it remotely themselves. I also don't know enough about the current rates being charged to business and industrial customers, but I do not like that the residential customers seem like they will be forced to bear the brunt of this increase. I understand rates haven't been raised in a while and costs have increased since the last rate increase but, again, why is it that residential customers will see such a significantly higher increase? Thank you,

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Brown,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We also understand the burden carried by our residential customers due to some of the same reasons mentioned above. The percent increases for each class are primarily driven by that class's allocated share of expenses, based on how it uses the electric system. Our residential customers receive a greater increase than the other classes because they are responsible for a greater portion of our increase in costs than the other classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Christopher	Last Name:	Ophardt
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29588		

SC Reference # : SC0000000199

Date Submitted:	6/11/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I am writing to express my concern and frustration regarding the proposed rate hikes by Santee Cooper. An 8.7% rate increase is significant and raises several critical questions and issues. Firstly, if we supposedly have enough power generation capacity, why are customers being penalized for using electricity during peak hours? The proposed peak hour charges, especially the \$10.03/kwh rate, are exorbitant and unfair. This penalizes customers for their routine activities, such as cooking dinner at a normal time. It is unreasonable to expect families to alter their daily habits to avoid these high charges drastically. The suggestion to wait until after 6 p.m. to start dinner or to use a slow cooker is impractical and intrusive. Customers should not be dictated to when to eat dinner or use essential household appliances. Secondly, there is a lack of transparency about what specific projects or improvements these rate increases will fund. Customers deserve to know how their increased payments will be used and what tangible benefits they can expect. Clear, detailed information about the planned investments and how they will enhance the electric system is essential. Before moving forward with these proposed rate changes, I urge Santee Cooper to reconsider the impact on consumers and clarify the allocation of the additional revenue. The public deserves a fair and reasonable explanation for these changes, not just an imposition of higher costs.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Christopher Ophardt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1745 full-time employees to 1578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Buchanan'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Vincent	Last Name:	Napolitano
Organization:	Carolina Forest Civic Association		
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29579	

SC Reference # : SC000000200

Date Submitted:	6/11/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I am writing to voice my objection to the rate increase being proposed on our residents. After seeing massive increases in insurance rates, residents are at a breaking point for new costs. In my free time, I serve as Vice President of the Carolina Forest Civic Association, Vice President of the River Oaks Elementary School PTO, Vice Chair of the Horry County Schools Carolina Forest Advisory Board, and member of the Friends of the Library and Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. In many discussions with many individuals, all are in agreement that 8.7% increase for residential customers is too high all at once, and is not fair to our community. We respectfully ask for reconsideration on this matter.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Vincent Napolitano,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Regina **Last Name:** Duncan
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000203

Date Submitted: 6/11/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Our electric bill is in the name of my husband, Larry Duncan, Account # is **[REDACTED]**. With the new proposed rate structure involving different hours of the day, is there a way to get our current kWh per hour of the day? I would like to see how many kWh I use during the peak periods this year so that I know how to be efficient during those times next year. I am not opposed to these rate hikes. I do appreciate them not going up for five years. While I do not want to pay any more, I do know that prices on everything have gone up. Santee Cooper is no exception. I appreciate your response to my inquiry.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Regina Duncan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Your request has been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors, who should be able to help you locate your current kWh per hour of the day. You should be contacted by your Advisor within two business days.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	caryn	Last Name:	goldman
Organization:			
City:	loris	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	sc	29569	

SC Reference # : SC000000209

Date Submitted: 6/12/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

i would like to attend one of these meetings about the rate increases. My question is why are there none being held in the area of Loris? With work schedules it is almost impossible to get to Myrtle Beach in time. Which will exclude a large number of customers from attending Can an additional meeting be added to help this group out?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Goldman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Unfortunately, our public comment dates have been set and, due to scheduling constraints, cannot be changed. However, we have provided an opportunity for you to comment remotely via a virtual meeting to be held on September 24. We hope that you will join us at that meeting; information shared by management will be consistent with that shared at the in-person meetings, and those in attendance will have the same opportunity to comment as during the in-person meetings as well.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Kathleen	Last Name:	Kimball
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000216

Date Submitted:	6/14/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I understand the need for rate increases with the growth in Horry County, I myself just moved here a couple of years ago from Colorado, to retire. I am aware of my bill and have educated myself on the differences in the Santee Cooper video of consumption versus demand. I do have a couple of questions, that were not fully answered in the education online your company provides. What are the high demand hours? How would I know which hours are ones not to choose for making high demand on the system? Should I run my dishwasher at night? Run my clothes drying at night? What are the clock windows of high demand? What about people who are retired and on a fixed income? If you work you can adjust your air conditioner to use less when you are out of the home working - but retirees, on a fixed income, do not have that option and will use that appliance all day long. Are there recommendations for what temp to have our AC set at? I did not see recommendations in the Santee Cooper education I read. Thank you Kathy Kimball

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Kathleen Kimball,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

Your request has been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors, who should be able to help you locate your current kWh per hour of the day. You should be contacted by your Advisor within two business days.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Barbara A **Last Name:** Turner
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29588

SC Reference # : SC000000213

Date Submitted: 6/15/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I don't think it is equitable to ask the residential customers to have the highest increase in their bills. It should be equivalent to the commercial customers as a large number of Santee Cooper's customers are retired and this would have more of an impact on them. I can appreciate that there has not been a raise in some time but I think the increase is driven just as much by the boom in building as much as the increase in inflation. That being said, "I think the developers should have some responsibility to pay for the increased cost of expanding the electric grid infrastructure and the likely increased cost of hiring more employees.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Barbara A Turner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We also understand the burden carried by our residential customers due to some of the same reasons mentioned above. The percent increases for each class are primarily driven by that class's allocated share of expenses, based on how it uses the electric system. Our residential customers receive a greater increase than the other classes because they are responsible for a greater portion of our increase in costs than the other classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Scott **Last Name:** Campbell
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000217

Date Submitted: 6/16/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, In regards to the rate hike proposal, I would have to say that it is a terrible idea until and unless you greatly upgrade your net metering program which has the effect of robbing your solar owning customers. 5 years ago I moved here from a very solar friendly area only to hear from Santee Cooper that solar here, too, is a great idea. I enlisted the proposals of several of Santee Coopers "preferred partners" and all of them suggested the same amount of panels. I chose one of the three that were recommended to me through Santee Cooper and received the state and federal benefits. I thought that I had taken steps to me be more energy efficient AND save money. It didn't take me very long to realize I was wrong. I was massively oversold by these "preferred" partners. Because I am not a solar expert I had no choice but to go with what was suggested to me. It became clear that I was ripped off by them and you. I now pay roughly the same for electric as I did prior to the solar installation but now I also have a large payment due every month for the solar panels. When I called to inquire what the problem was I was informed by Santee Cooper that I was selling roughly 70% of the power I generated back to Santee Cooper... and at a massively discounted rate. 70%! Imagine my surprise when I heard that a Santee Cooper preferred partner had basically scammed me and that Santee Cooper was the beneficiary. Come to find out later that preferred partner went out of business, auspiciously for shady business, and the owner had opened a new solar business under a different name leaving me no recourse with the installer. So, now that the only recourse I have is probably through court, which, for obviously costly reasons, I would prefer to not undertake, I would have to be ardently against Santee Cooper taking any more of my money. Sincerely, Scott E. Campbell

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Campbell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	MARYANN	Last Name:	BREEN
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC000000215

Date Submitted:	6/16/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Why are residents being given a higher % rate hike than commercial & industrial customers ? I.e: 8.7% vs 4.1% (commercial) & 5.0% vs 2.8 (industrial) Most people are already suffering from inflation & barely making ends meet. This increase will definitely put an added strain on finances for families & individuals. Commercial businesses & industries can claim so many deductions for tax purposes where residents are not eligible. I realize this is a waste of time because it's not like we have an option to chose another company & the working class gets dumped on yet again...ugh !

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Maryann Breen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We also understand the burden carried by our residential customers due to some of the same reasons mentioned above. The percent increases for each class are primarily driven by that class's allocated share of expenses, based on how it uses the electric system. Our residential customers receive a greater increase than the other classes because they are responsible for a greater portion of our increase in costs than the other classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Barbara Shewmaker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Michael **Last Name:** deMello
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000221

Date Submitted: 6/17/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Very well said. On Mon, Jun 10, 2024, 3:00 PM Stephen Magyera **[REDACTED]** wrote: I'm a retired disabled veteran suffering from the wholesale increase in the price of basic necessities of life, so I strongly oppose any increase in the price of the electric you provide. Rather than penalize people like me with even higher costs for basic necessities like electric, my recommendation would be to cut your costs by ending your 'Green Energy' & DEI programs. The public is well aware that 'Green Energy', even with gov't subsidies, is very expensive costs & doesn't offer a practical or cost-effective solution for replacing fossil fuel based power generation. It's a scam to enrich the well connected & we're doubly paying for it - with tax dollars subsidies & with electric rate increases & we all know it. Yeah, you're going to tell me your fossil fuel energy costs have gone up - they have but only because 'Green Energy' policies you support have restricted fossil fuel energy & artificially raised its' price to make 'Green Energy' look less expen- sive than it is by comparison. As to DEI, we all know it's illegal anti-American, anti-Constitutional reverse discrimination that is destroying truly equal opportunity our meritocratic-based workplace & society in general - two wrongs have never & will never make a right. This too is a scam rewarding otherwise non-productive bureaucrats with compen- sation levels they'd otherwise never receive for 'make work' efforts that destroy productivity, disincentive merit & disrupt workplace cohesion. And again, we're paying for it doubly with our tax dollars & electric rate increases. Come talk to us when you've eliminated this totally non-productive & disruptive fat from your cost structure & we can talk about rates, but until you do & get real it's a big non-starter with your rate payers - not that that means anything to those in positions of power these days. Stephen Magyera

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Dear Michael DeMello,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jill	Last Name:	Corten
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000222

Date Submitted:	6/18/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

While I appreciate the need for a periodic rate increase, your references to the level of consumer inflation are largely irrelevant for the purposes of determining a rate increase. Whether eggs and bread have gone up 100% or 2% is largely irrelevant with respect to the cost of electricity. What matters is the actual costs of your inputs and expenses, neither of which have increased anywhere near the amount of inflation. For example, you certainly have not increased wages at a rate that approaches the published inflation rate, nor has anyone else. Regardless of your justification of a rate increase and the associated salesmanship, the rate structure change that you propose is a massive shift in the historical structure. While this may be needed and desirable, there needs to be a significant effort toward educating the residential customers about the new peak periods. The brunt of the burden of electrical rate increases should not fall on residential customers as is currently proposed. Finally, increases in the costs of your infrastructure should be passed on to those who are requiring additional additional infrastructure. If it costs more to add capacity for charging electric vehicles or for development of additional real estate, those costs should be paid by the entities who need those services and not the general residential customer. Any infrastructure costs attributable to residential customers should be limited to repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure, along with REASONABLE upgrades to MAINTAIN service, not to provide additional services. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Jill Corten,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We also understand the burden carried by our residential customers due to some of the same reasons mentioned above. The percent increases for each class are primarily driven by that class's allocated share of expenses, based on how it uses the electric system. Our residential customers receive a greater increase than the other classes because they are responsible for a greater portion of our increase in costs than the other classes.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Chyrdonna **Last Name:** Dean
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29577

SC Reference # : SC000000225

Date Submitted: 6/18/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper, I received your Notice of Santee Cooper Rate Adjustment, Review of Proposed Rates and Public Comment Period via mail. Seeing that I just moved here, I am not familiar with receiving cards like this in the mail; therefore, I contacted your office to receive clarification and if I wanted to comment about a possible rate increase I can. Please see the following comments: My personal feelings about a rate increase will continue hurting working people and retirees not to enjoy themselves in their homes for being worried about an increase when there are so many increases on everything to purchase. It is my understanding that you have not had an increase in 10 years and based on that, I think you should, but if you increase the amount too high then more people will not be able to pay then you will spend money taking them to court and if you think people are concern about their credits they are not like the past because they are trying to survive. I think it is a good idea to want to hear from the customers about an adjustment in their bill prior to a decision, thank you. Chyrdonna Dean [REDACTED] Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 [REDACTED]

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Dear Chyrdonna Dean,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kathy and Ben **Last Name:** Wentworth
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000223

Date Submitted: 6/18/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

How is \$.07/kwh during off peak time and \$10.03/kwh reasonable? I keep my thermostat at 78, run overhead fans when we are in the room. We run our dishwasher overnight. On June 14, between noon, 1 and 2pm, while it was 80 outside during that whole time, your usage shows we went from .93 to 2.4 and back to 1.31 -- we eat crackers and cheese and fruit for our mid day snack. Didn't run anything extra to make that. While we do eat dinner early, and normally have our stove running at your peak hours -- we had ham sandwiches and chips on Friday, June 14. Your usage shows we were over 2kwh at 4, 5 and (close) at 6pm. We ate at 4:30, sitting in our chairs watching TV or reading by 5:15 and in bed by 9pm. No old light bulbs in those lamps either! The way I am reading your new rate structure we will not be able to heat or cool our 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Much less cook or do laundry. Kathy and Ben Wentworth **[REDACTED]**

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Kathy and Ben Wentworth,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

Your request has been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors, who should be able to help you locate your current kWh per hour of the day. You should be contacted by your Advisor within two business days.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Janice

Last Name: Helms

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000227

Date Submitted: 6/18/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I respectfully submit there be no rate increase. I have solar panels and there is a fee each month from Santee Cooper for \$2.00 Solar Metering Charge and \$44.00 for Solar Stand-By KW charge which I feel is unnecessary and that fee should be deleted. These fee's double my light bill with Santee Cooper. I vote no to any rate increase.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Helms,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ann

Last Name: Baliunas

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000224

Date Submitted: 6/18/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Gentlemen, If my rate is going to increase, my answer to that is NO!!! Ann Baliunas **[REDACTED]**

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ann Baliunas,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1745 full-time employees to 1578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John & Helen **Last Name:** Spinazzola
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000226

Date Submitted: 6/19/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Good morning: We are writing regarding rate adjustments. My wife & I are retired & on fixed incomes. The rates have already increased & additional increases are devastating to retirees & anyone working with a family. We appreciate the work Santee Cooper does,, but with all the new homes & apartments being built in the area causing the need to expand grids to serve them shouldn't cause us to pay for this. Sincerely, John & Helen Spinazzola

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear John & Helen Spinazzola,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1745 full-time employees to 1578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	James	Last Name:	Arendt
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc	29526	

SC Reference # : SC0000000230

Date Submitted:	6/20/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Please make rooftop solar incentives more advantageous for homeowners. The current metering rates and standby fees disincentive eyes homeowners from investing in generating power for themselves in the grid. I can't imagine that a new natural gas power plant costs less to operate than reducing standby fees for power generation at the local level. "But we have to pay for infrastructure" =(No shit. Adjust rates so that even with rooftop solar production everyone shares in the cost of infrastructure instead of those of us who are interested in doing the right thing paying more than everyone else. Every customer shares in the coast of a new powerplant, so spread the coast of power generation to every customer, instead of the homeowner. "Inflation!" Yes transformers and copper cost more as well as labor but guess who's absorbing those costs when they put solar panels on top of their home. The homeowner maintains and pays for that stuff out of pocket so again incentivize it so that we all don't burn to a crisp by mid century because you guys are locked into some old way of thinking. Other energy companies have a much better deal but you were a monopoly that is state regulated and I don't have other options. I not asking for special treatment. Just get your foot off my neck.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear James Arendt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Henry

Last Name: Lowenstein

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000232

Date Submitted: 6/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please find attached my public comment submission on Santee Cooper's 2024 Rate Study and Proposed Rate Adjustment. An original signed hard copy of these comments has also been submitted to the designated public comment address at Santee Cooper by U.S. Mail.



HENRY LOWENSTEIN, Ph.D.
Research and Consulting Services LLC
8251 FOREST LAKE DRIVE
CONWAY, SC 29526-9001
Cell (843) 504-1331
hlowenstein@earthlink.net

June 18, 2024

Santee Cooper
Rates Public Comments (M301)
P.O. Box 2946101
Monks Corner, SC 29461

Submission by U.S. Mail and Email
rates@santecooper.com

Re: Public Comment on Santee Cooper Proposed 2024 Rate Increase

Dear Santee Cooper President Staton and Board of Directors:

As a Santee Cooper Residential Customer and professional in economic development work, I am submitting herein my comments on the proposed electric rate increase: (1) Supporting the proposed base load increase, and, (2) Opposing the proposed new On-Peak Demand Rate Structure.

By way of introduction, I am Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Management (retired) and former Dean of the Wall College of Business at Coastal Carolina University and, previously, Dean of Business and Public Administration at California State University Bakersfield. My consulting practice conducts economic and fiscal analysis for development projects for a number of clients in North and South Carolina, West Virginia and Virginia among others. This includes past years assisting the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp. in which I worked closely with fine Santee Cooper employees. My comments are submitted here in my individual capacity and do not represent those of my past university or clients.

RATES, RELIABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

One of the impressive mandates of Santee Cooper has been its stated mission to enhance economic development in South Carolina, a pivotal priority today in Horry and Georgetown County service areas. That said, nowhere in the general or specific rate study posted on line is a priority noted to ensure rates are established such that they continue to provide an incentive for enhanced economic development.

Why is this critical? Most native customers may well not be aware of the alarming electric rates that are faced by consumers in other states. Consider California, the state from which we moved here decades ago. Today, Pacific Gas and Electric which covers not only cities but rural and low income areas charges a residential rate of 36.81 cents per kwh (higher by level kwh used in summer). Added to that is over 20% in state added taxes & mandated fees

bringing the effective rate to about 44 cents per kwh (some local residents approach 50 cents kwh at peak periods); almost 4 times the highest Santee Cooper rate. And, there is no offset for the high heat of Southern California, which includes desert areas with frequent summer temperatures over 100 degrees, nor mountain areas where winter sub-zero temperatures are common.

Even at that, PG&E's thin load capacity to demand results in often rolling blackouts, just as found in Third World nations. That situation is devastating to its high tech and other industries contributing to a parade of firms leaving for other states including the Carolinas.

For both businesses and retirees, and especially growing high technology businesses, reliable affordable power has become a key decision factor. Keeping Santee Cooper rates low is the secret tool this region has to attract value added businesses and higher income employment fleeing high cost states such as New York, New Jersey, Illinois and California among others.

Santee Cooper's reliability in my experience has been excellent. Given the inflation of the past years and growth needs as noted, the 8.7% base load increase is more than reasonable toward those objectives.

THE NEW ON-PEAK DEMAND STRUCTURE: OBJECTION!

Notwithstanding the justified general base rate increase, I suggest the new proposed On-Peak Demand Structure is problematic and should be scrapped. The assertion that it gives rate payers more 'control' over their electric costs on further examination and long run appears to be illusory.

Santee Cooper has not considered the serious unintended consequences such structure poses to many customers. The combination of a higher summer rate plus the On-Peak Demand charge is unreasonable, far too much together. While that proposed structure appears a classic theoretical model, it is impractical in practice.

At a basic level, Santee Cooper's past low rates were so successful that most new homes (including mine) built in the service area are all electric. Unlike sophisticated computer controlled power systems in commercial hotels, factories and office buildings, the array of electronic systems and appliances in residences makes it impractical, if not near impossible for the average resident to consciously (and manually) "power down" three to 4 hours during every day of each month's peak period to save money, or, change their life schedules to accommodate it. In effect the proposed On-Peak structure becomes no more than an extra revenue enhancement trap that will snag most customers and produce little effect in reducing peak load demand.

Let's recognize Santee Coopers service area's socio-economic profile. Even with the spectacular growth it is still one of median family income 20.3% below than national average, a 12.5% poverty rate and one of the lowest hourly wages in the nation (Source: U.S. Census, 2022).

Our area experiences increasing influx of retirees on Social Security/fixed income pensions fleeing high cost, high tax, and high utility cost states. A number of elderly, unfortunately, have medical issues requiring consistent power use. Consider, those on medical equipment such as oxygen, kidney dialysis, heart pumps or other devices, use much electricity and are not built for energy conservation. Accommodating exceptions would add to administrative costs, rate complexity and equity issues.

Even for those without such devices, our area gets dangerously hot in the summer and potentially dangerously cold in the winter, a health risk to many that must keep their home temperatures stable for health considerations. Their demand cannot be curtailed for Santee Cooper convenience.

It is not hyperbole to suggest that people in such situations may incur risks trying to cut back peak electric use to save money, savings that would be illusory. Such irrational behavior may cause other public cost increase elsewhere. While not large to some, the On-Load monthly charge would be perceived as significant hit on low income customer living costs.

A key and growing structural change in business employment must be realized now and in the future. Nationally and locally employees of firms located elsewhere in the U.S. and world have relocated to our region and state. They work from home on-line trend brings to our area higher incomes and taking advantage of our lower living costs and lifestyle. The new economy has allowed great employee mobility from other high cost states; their homes are the modern *business office*, but without lower commercial rates. On-Line home employees, their firms and customers cannot collectively “power down” business, their home work environment 3 hours during peak load periods three months out of each season to minimize electric costs.

Likewise, new age digital businesses we seek to attract here require massive power demand, consistent load and reliability requirements for computers, servers and operations (e.g. Bitcoin, Google, etc.). Again, attempting to mitigate it with another layer of special or exception rates is counterproductive to Santee Cooper’s peak load reduction goals..

The proposed On-Peak Demand Structure further adds unnecessary complexity to a straight forward billing system using two seasonal rates, instead. Customers should not have to have a degree in mathematics to follow their monthly electric bills. While the modern Santee Cooper electric meters can measure it, most customers will not understand it and your Customer Service will be overrun with confused, irate customers. Why add such cost and complexity?

Santee Cooper’s 2024 rate report shows total residential annual electric sales of 4,001,301 mwh and industrial, 6,340,217 mwh for a total estimated sales of 10,341,518 mwh. **It is apparent a small incremental increase in a two seasonal rate structure rates per kwh spread out across billions of kwh (law of large numbers) would be far more efficient, effective, customer friendly and higher revenue producing than hitting 215,000 individual customers with a separate On-Peak Load monthly charge 6 months out of each year.**

A further reason to eliminate the proposed On-Peak surcharge structure is the reality that Santee Cooper is a state agency, hence an arm of the State of South Carolina. As such the On-Peak structure with its “use suggestions” presents all the appearances of “Big Brother” government telling people how to live their lives. It is an overreach Santee Cooper should avoid.

While Santee Cooper intentions may be good, your descriptions of telling/”suggesting” customers when customers do their laundry, cook their meals, run their dishwashers, computers, air conditioner/heaters, car charging and the like appears Orwellian and anathema to the people and practices of South Carolina. That is the type of mandating that has emanated from Washington, DC to the ire of the citizenry. South Carolina prides itself on being a free society.

All of this and more suggests the theoretical projected changes in the proposed On-Peak Rate Structure are unlikely to produce the peak load reduction anticipated and end up merely as an additional revenue producing charge at consumer expense.

There is no doubt as our region grows, Santee Cooper’s Peak Load Capacity must grow to meet demand, paid for by some means in the future. The On-Peak Demand Structure proposal is not that means.

A fairer, less onerous, practical approach is to utilize two seasonal rates, target the extra revenue generated at peak periods and bank those funds in an internal account to cover future peak load needs, rather than a separate peak load charge. Properly structured that would provide a more equitable system and, most likely, higher future revenues to Santee Cooper than the On-Peak structure proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The 8.7% increase in base load residential rate is reasonable and justified given the impact of present and past inflation.
2. Santee Cooper should eliminate the new proposed On-Peak Demand rate structure.
3. Instead, Santee Cooper should craft a revised two season rate structure that captures higher than normal monthly revenues during peak load periods, target the level of extra peak load revenue generated and bank in a separate internal account the revenue for peak load capital investment purposes. Such internal account can be the basis of backing needed capital bonds.
3. To the extent Santee Cooper wishes to experiment with some form of Peak Load Pricing, it should review and revise its current voluntary *Time of Day* alternate rate for customers to choose with appropriate meaningful cost incentives to do so. It should not, however, be a mandate imposed on all customers.

CONCLUSION

In my life, work and travel for decades across the United States and foreign nations, I have seen the electric utility used by governments directly or through state-local regulatory action as a coercive social control and fiscal revenue tool far beyond its established purpose to provide affordable reliable power. My previous California example is a case in point. Other states can be seen where such charges have become abusive.

Santee Cooper's past and future success depends on customer confidence of its continuous providing safe, cost effective service with transparent rates that provide reliable service for our future.

I hope Santee Cooper abandons the ill-advised, speculative On-Peak Demand Rate Structure proposal and returns to a seasonal rate system understandable, reasonable and transparent to customers, that meets the future load-growth needs of the system. And, let's keep Santee Cooper as that fabulous, not so secret incentive for business relocations' economic development here.

Thank you in advance for considering my remarks.

Sincerely,

s/ *Henry Lowenstein*

Henry Lowenstein, PhD
President/CEO
Research and Consulting Services, LLC

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Lowenstein,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rebecca **Last Name:** Gardiner
Organization:
City: Surfside Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29575

SC Reference # : SC000000235

Date Submitted: 6/21/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

How much of the rate increase is going toward the nuclear plant payoff to investors? Investment by definition requires risk. I'm quite sure the investors weren't going to divide their profits among the ratepayers. So why should the ratepayers have to cover their losses?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Gardiner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Matt	Last Name:	Faile
Organization:			
City:	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582- 8054		

SC Reference # : SC0000000236

Date Submitted: 6/24/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Your proposed rate changes punishes those who use small amounts of kW in a given bill period. If I am home and using energy only 1 week in a given month, my bill increase will be still be based on the highest kW use hour even though I did not have a true 30 days of usage. Part-time residents or those who work out of town for weeks at a time pay a significantly higher increased bill. Those residents who use 30 days of energy will see smaller increases. This rate change is unfair for users described above. There should be a minimum kWh usage on a bill BEFORE the max kWh hour rate applies. Your calculator shows small energy consumers with a significantly higher percentage increase than you are telling the public. Not all energy consumers are the same.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Faile,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mariellen	Last Name:	Lashoones
Organization:			
City:	Little River	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29566		

SC Reference # : SC000000237

Date Submitted:	6/24/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I believe too much of the increase is going on the backs of residential customers. The major increase should go to industrial/ commercial customers and residential customers should have the smallest increase. Our wages are not keeping pace with cost increases while industry is seeing record profits.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mariellen Lashoones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Even with these efforts, our costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We also understand the burden carried by our residential customers due to some of the same reasons mentioned above. The percent increases for each class are primarily driven by that class's allocated share of expenses, based on how it uses the electric system. Our residential customers receive a greater increase than the other classes because they are responsible for a greater portion of our increase in costs than the other classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Buchanan".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Carla **Last Name:** Censullo
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000238

Date Submitted: 6/25/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Rate Study - we will be attending the September 17 at 6:00 pm Hello: We watched and listened to the online video on the rate study on www.santecooper.com. My question is: With all the growth of residential, schools, businesses, medical facilities and more, why are you raising customer rates? With your business is flourishing, with all this new business, why do you find it necessary to increase rates? Thank you, Carla Censullo

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Carla Censullo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Neal	Last Name:	Cully
Organization:			
City:	Surfside Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC		

SC Reference # : SC0000000239

Date Submitted:	6/27/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

How much longer do your customers have to keep paying for Nukegate? I have never seen electricity rates so high. Neal Cully Surfside Beach SC

Dear Mr. Cully,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	John	Last Name:	Anderson
Organization:			
City:	Little River	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29566		

SC Reference # : SC000000243

Date Submitted:	7/15/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Good Day, As a senior citizen living in Little River I am against any increase in your rates as living on a fixed income this will effect our daily life. We live on Social Security only and every dollar counts. Only increasing residential rates is also wrong. If there is any increase it should be across the board plain and simple. In addition, Santee Cooper should offer a reduced rate for seniors 65 years and older as does Horry County with our taxes which you must apply for. Again, no increases please. Thank you and have a good day, John Anderson **[REDACTED]** Little River, SC 29566

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Anderson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Kathryn	Last Name:	Riggenbach
Organization:	Essential Alchemy Gems		
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29572	

SC Reference # : SC000000244**Date Submitted:** 7/15/2024**Origin:** web**Comment:**

Hello there, I understand submitting a comment has little to no affect on your proposal, but I'd like to take the opportunity to explain how 4.5% effects myself and others like me in the area. I currently am going through a divorce, meaning that all the bills that were shared for the last eight years are now solely my responsibility. I've begun working over 60 hours a week to make ends meet with my mortgage going up, legal, and medical bills to pay. I work as a cosmetologist and while I love my career, it's one of the first industries to see the effect financial fear plays on how people spend their money. While I'm not at all surprised you as a company need to increase rates to stay afloat, the percentage proposed can make all the difference whether someone can afford other necessities from one week to the next. I'm sure you're getting plenty of pity-party stories in response, but I do hope you will consider the sincere anxiety changes like this induces and will reconsider the percentage proposed.

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Dear Ms. Riegenbach,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Anne **Last Name:** Rymski
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000249

Date Submitted: 7/16/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

The information you have released so far butchers the definition of winter vs summer. Astronomical winter is 12/21 - 3/20 while meteorological winter is 12/1-2/28, while astronomical summer is 6/21-9/21 and meteorological summer is 6/1-8/31. So like the far leftist Marxist, your company is now claiming there are only 2 seasons: Winter will be 11/1-3/31 and Summer will be 4/1(not an April Fool's Day joke)-10/31(not a trick or treat). You are rewriting the English language as well as the culture. While I understand the premise of peak hours BUT the formula you have put forth DOES NOT add up. If I follow your formula, my electric bill goes down dramatically which is in opposition of the intent of your rate change. Your article seems to try to say our bills will be similar to what we now pay. This sounds like a bait and switch game. Your explanation must state: the cooler months from 11/1 to 3/31 will have the following hours for peak use: 6am-9am while the warmer months from 4/1 to 10/31 the peak use hours will be 3pm-6pm. You must give us a correct and accurate formula for how our bills will be calculated. It needs to be explained in terms that ALL customers can understand no matter their mathematical skills. To do otherwise means your company is operating in a manner that would make the Deep State of DC proud. This will not be acceptable in the sovereign State of South Carolina. Makes me question if your company is selling out to the Chinese Communist Party's plan to take over the USA from within. That would be a very bad move on the part of your company. Anne L Haun Rymski **[REDACTED]** "The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it." NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones. And when you have accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake - Victor Hugo

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Dear Ms. Rymski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Bonnie **Last Name:** Matthews
Organization:
City: Conway **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29527

SC Reference # : SC000000250

Date Submitted: 7/16/2024 **Origin:** mail

Comment:

[TRANSCRIBED BELOW; ORIGINAL LETTER FOLLOWS]

June 27, 2014 Santee Cooper, Rates Public Comments (M301) P.O. Box 2946101 Moncks Corner, SC 29461 Dear Sir/Madam: I'm writing in regard to the proposed rate adjustment. I understand that inflation has affected all of us; both at the individual and business levels. However, would your company consider reducing rates for us retirees? Those of us on fixed income have taken a beating over the past three or four years with little relief in sight. In addition, we are still paying \$19.50 per month to cover the cost of the now defunct Santee Cooper power plant. Will this expense we've been paying be rescinded or will we continue to foot the bill for your company's poor planning in addition to a rate increase? Sincerely, Bonnie L. Matthews **[REDACTED]** Conway, SC 29527 **[REDACTED]**

June 27, 2024

Santee Cooper,

Rates Public Comments (M301)

P.O. Box 2946101

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Dear Sir/Madam:

I'm writing in regard to the proposed rate adjustment. I understand that inflation has affected all of us; both at the individual and business levels. However, would your company consider reducing rates for us retirees? Those of us on fixed income have taken a beating over the past three or four years with little relief in sight.

In addition, we are still paying \$19.50 per month to cover the cost of the now defunct Santee Cooper power plant. Will this expense we've been paying be rescinded or will we continue to foot the bill for your company's poor planning in addition to a rate increase?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie L. Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Bonnie L. Matthews

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Dear Ms. Matthews,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

The existing \$19.50 monthly customer charge is proposed to increase to \$20.00. This charge is used to cover on-going fixed costs, such as billing, accounting, and meter reading, as well as some fixed installation costs like meters, wires, and transformers.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dorothy & Anthony **Last Name:** Sturniolo
Organization:
City: Conway **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29526

SC Reference # : SC000000251

Date Submitted: 7/17/2024 **Origin:** mail

Comment:

[TRANSCRIBED BELOW; ORIGINAL LETTER FOLLOWS]

July 9, 2024 Santee Cooper Rates Public Comments (M301) P. O. Box 2946101
Moncks Corner, SC 29461 Comments on Rate Increase on Residential Customers:
While we understand the requirement for a rate increase, we believe a certain but
small section of your customer base has not been represented fairly. We are the folks
who live on a fixed income. There are reasons for being on a fixed income (like
retirement), and increases in prices, fees, etc. are something we always have to deal
with. Again, while we understand that there is a need for an increase, the 8.7 %
proposed increase for people on a fixed income is high. For our group we could
accept a 3% increase. While it will still hurt, it impact will not be as great. Thanks for
listening. Dorothy & Anthony Sturniolo **[REDACTED]** Conway, SC 29526

Santee Cooper
Rates Public Comments (M301)
P. O. Box 2946101
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

July 9, 2024

Comments on Rate Increase on Residential Customers:

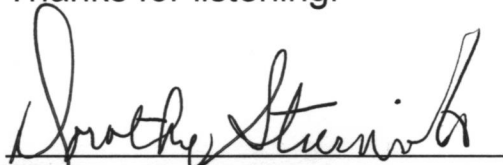
While we understand the requirement for a rate increase, we believe a certain but small section of your customer base has not been represented fairly.

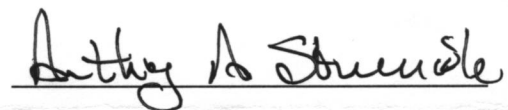
We are the folks who live on a fixed income. There are reasons for being on a fixed income (like retirement), and increases in prices, fees, etc. are something we always have to deal with.

Again, while we understand that there is a need for an increase, the 8.7 % proposed increase for people on a fixed income is high.

For our group we could accept a 3% increase. While it will still hurt, it impact will not be as great.

Thanks for listening.


Dorothy & Anthony Sturniolo



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Dear Mr. & Mrs. Sturniolo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: AJ	Last Name: No Last Name
Organization:	
City:	Customer Type: Other
State / Zip:	

SC Reference # : SC0000000349

Date Submitted: 7/25/2024	Origin: email
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Comment:

Hello - please see my feedback submission on the rate study in process and the proposed increases to utility bills: ----- So let me get this straight... Help me understand here. Your entire economic model for this area is based upon money from other states and your local residents are barely making it through because the average local salary around here is absolutely pathetic - \$15 an hour on average (which is basically poverty wages in Biden's America) and a home price of at least \$280,000-\$300,000 on average which translates into a \$1300-a-month mortgage. I think you all, being "intelligent" and well-off people financially can do the math on that one. And your "intelligent" answer is to raise residential rates more than DOUBLE what you will on the businesses (8.7% vs 4.1%) that exploit that same poverty-wage labor to selfishly make hundreds-of-thousands to millions of dollars per year? This is satire right? Or is it just that you want this entire area to be rich retired boomers from the northeast and the rest of us to just disappear? Be honest - say the quiet part out loud for once. You have homeless camps and people all over this place and you know exactly why that it is whether you "shoo" them into hiding during your "make money" tourist season or not. And to think you all sit in Church every Sunday and act like you're wonderful Christians/Catholics while doing everything you can to make the lives of your residents who lived here since birth worse in the name of another \$1 in your pocket that they don't have to give you. You know exactly who this will affect the most, and it's disgusting. Just..... Wow. Regards.

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Dear AJ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Toni	Last Name:	Jones
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000341

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

The proposed residential rate increase is exorbitant. It's twice that of the commercial increase proposal. You tout the average as being 4.9% but the heavy increase is on the average home owner or renter. It is patently insincere at best and disingenuous overall. The residential rate should be capped at 5.6% and the demand usage rates lowered to protect consumers who are also experiencing devastating cost of living increases across all aspects of our lives. Shame on you!

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Dear Ms. Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information**First Name:** C and J**Last Name:** Hegedus**Organization:****City:****Customer Type:** Other**State / Zip:****SC Reference # : SC0000000342****Date Submitted:** 7/26/2024**Origin:** email**Comment:**

Good morning, Here are my thoughts on your proposal. I am actually not opposed to adjustments but I am very disheartened that you continue to charge us a flat fee of \$19.50 every single month....and that is for what exactly? With all the homes in this area being built and you receiving this "free money" from thousands every month and that is unacceptable. It has already increased since we purchased our first place in 2014. Now you want to raise it to \$20 a month AND charge us more for our use? How is your company able to do this? What exactly does this monthly fee go to? For your short comings in the past as a business? I understand that operating costs are involved. If you want to increase the kWh rates, do it fairly and drop the monthly customer fee. I would love an explanation in writing as to why you can charge this monthly customer charge. (It's not like you have to pay someone to read the meters anymore.) When I have called about this issue in the past, I was told: "It is a charge and we also pay it as employees"...so that is supposed to be an answer and we just have to accept it? I have stopped asking until now. I feel that you need to be a little more transparent with your business to all the paying customers. Thank you C & J Hegedus

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Dear C & J Hegedus,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

The customer charge is used to cover a variety of fixed costs across the entire company (including salaries, overhead, etc.), there is no single line item that is directly associated with it. With the introduction of three-part rates, we've decided to keep the customer charge stable at this time, but we will continue to evaluate rate components to better serve our customers.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Lisa	Last Name:	Lombardo
Organization:	Resident		
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc	29526	

SC Reference # : SC000000254

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

How did they figure out the % between residents , commercial, lighting and industrial? Why is the resident's increase higher than commercial? Thank you Lisa Lombardo

Dear Ms. Lombardo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	John	Last Name:	Soule
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29576	

SC Reference # : SC000000255

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Hello, I understand the need to increase revenue but before rate adjustments should even be considered, cost reduction should be the first category every well run business considers. So, my question is what cost reduction programs have you considered/implemented, and what impact have they or will they have on your calculation for the rate increases you are proposing. Thank you, John Soule

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Dear Mr. Soule,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Scott	Last Name:	Bearden
Organization:	IOTech Team LLC.		
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29576	

SC Reference # : SC0000000256

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

8.7% - Really? We already pay peak adjustments. Seems like a money grab to continue to pay for failed projects of which no member had a say. I think that you need to come back to the table with something more reasonable. You already increase the rate during peak usage.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Bearden,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Alan **Last Name:** Hansen
Organization:
City: Pawleys Island **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29585

SC Reference # : SC000000257

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

In the company's rate hike announcement, it mentions as follows: Santee Cooper is proposing to change our rates, and we want your input. We need to invest in our electric system: • To maintain excellent reliability for customers. • To make significant system updates required by new regulations. When inflation is combined with these investments, our current rates won't provide enough funds to meet our costs. Please provide specifics on what regulations are driving the updates. Also, where can the public review financials and the inflation impacts data?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hansen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

You may find information on specific regulations that are partially driving cost increases for Santee Cooper in the presentation given to the Santee Cooper Board of Directors on June 10, 2024. This presentation can be found at santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study. All Santee Cooper financial information can be found on the corporate website under the "Investor Relations" section.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Christopher **Last Name:** Hemhauser
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29579

SC Reference # : SC0000000258

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I say no to a rate increase. What customer would say yes to a higher bill for the same service. I just heard a radio commercial for Santee Cooper the other day. It was advertising a money give away to a person that does good things. How about stop giving money away and don't advertise. I just saved you tons of money.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hemhauser,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Gerald	Last Name:	Kellar
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC000000259

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

This is a huge increase for residential customers. Why is it lower for commercial? I realize inflation is out of sight with this current administration, but I've never seen a rate increase this high in anything. Why not just charge customers charging cars more and cut the increase. What is the justification for the increase? There seems to be no explanation on this point.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Kellar,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Debra	Last Name:	Partridge
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526-	
		6779	

SC Reference # : SC0000000260

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

While I understand the need for upgrading infrastructure, I don't see why residential customers should bear the brunt of those costs. In fact, you are proposing a rate increase of over 100% more for residential customers than commercial customers. Why can't the rate increase be consistent for all classes of customers? Why should industrial and commercial customers have a lower rate increase than residential? With the recent news of record corporate profits, I hardly think a small rate increase is going to hurt local businesses. And, have you considered the fact that many residential customers -- myself included -- are retired and on fixed incomes? Perhaps you could consider an exemption for certain ages -- like over 65. I'm already facing increased property taxes which is taking a bite out of my disposable income, and now you want to increase my electricity costs? I think you need to have a more equitable solution. Thanks for asking for input.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Partridge,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Gordon	Last Name:	Cobb
Organization:			
City:	North Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582		

SC Reference # : SC000000261

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Please reconsider the proposed rate increase. To be fair about the increase residential and business must share the same burden in the cost increase. You are proposing a 4% increase for business and an 8 % for residential increase. Business can charge what they want for their product to make up the increase. Being retired, the funds I have available to me stay the same each month. To be able to afford the increase, the rob Peter to pay Paul saying has to be applied to cover the increase. I ask you to please reconsider the formula.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cobb,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for you. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets, such as a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022 as well as \$765 million in projected interest savings resulting from debt restructuring in 2022 and 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our staffing via attrition since 2017, moving from 1745 full-time employees to 1578 at the end of 2023. These cost reductions and debt restructuring are just two of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Callie	Last Name:	Crawford
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC000000262

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am concerned with the decision to increase residential rates disproportionately high, I request you reconsider. Residents are struggling, industry and commercial are thriving. Why harm your community more than businesses who do not struggle as much as the community members. If you can't switch the proportions around, why not at least make it an even increase instead of screwing over people already struggling with bills. Or, Simply increase after a set amount of energy is used- if customers (residential, industry, or other) use a lot of energy, they pay extra. Don't punish those of us already reducing our consumption.

Dear Ms. Crawford,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Peter	Last Name:	Bourey
Organization:			
City:	CONWAY	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29527	

SC Reference # : SC0000000263

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I appreciate that everything is costing more. It seems that no corporation is willing to reduce profits by actually cutting prices. This being the case, I think Santee Cooper should consider retirees in the mix. Our incomes do not increase and, in fact, in our case, we have less money all of the time to live on due to these increased costs. I would respectfully ask that in your cost analysis that you consider a rate adjustment for seniors who are already stressed to live within fixed incomes.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Bourey,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million over several years from debt restructuring in 2022 and 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Matt	Last Name:	Fletcher
Organization:			
City:	Moncks Corner	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29461		

SC Reference # : SC0000000264

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper. We live around the corner from Santee Canal park and your HQ building. We appreciate many of the things you do for our community and the steady and consistent power you provide us. Your line workers are great after the hurricanes and ice storms. We are glad you were not sold to a company which we think would result in higher rates and less services over time. I wanted to mention a couple things on your upcoming rate increase. 1) The residential cost increase is more than double the commercial cost increase. 2) If your costs went up 9% at one time, you would be pushing back on your suppliers and looking for new ones. 3) Future increases, like this one, is one of the reasons I did not participate in the solar panel sale program you had going. 4) I realize the increase is less than the rate of inflation if we look over the last two years. I know you know these things already. Thanks for the notice on the increase. Best wishes. Matt

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Fletcher,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Karen	Last Name:	Capps
Organization:			
City:	MURRELLS INLET	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000265

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

NO INCREASE IN RATES!!! IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO PAY MY BILLS NOW. I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN LIVING OFF OF SOCIAL SECURITY. YOU ALL MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY YOUR BILLS.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Capps,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Gwendolyn **Last Name:** Blizzard
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29588

SC Reference # : SC000000266

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I first thought what good will it do to make any comments because necessity bills we all have to pay will go up regardless if we get involve with our comments. Only thing I want to say, do not raise our electric bill. It's already confusing to see my electric bill fluctuate so much when I live alone with my dog. I rarely cook, it's not like I have to do laundry everyday, only lights I mainly use at night are 3 night lights, and my TV is on when watching it, also obviously the refrigerator is on and the microwave is plugged up. Times have surely changed since Covid, everyone wants to increase everything. Thank you

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Blizzard,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Brandon	Last Name:	Sarvis
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC000000267

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I understand inflation and rising costs for everyone and the need to increase costs, but do not understand why the residential customer class's increase is 2 to 3 times the percentage increase of all other customer classes. Why are working families shouldering the largest burden of these increases? Please explain.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Sarvis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Victor	Last Name:	Vaughan
Organization:			
City:	North Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	sc 29582		

SC Reference # : SC0000000268**Date Submitted:** 7/26/2024**Origin:** web**Comment:**

Your proposal features an 8.7% rate for residential customers, yet your own software tool to calculate a new rate shows my avg bill going up by 40% (results copied below). Understand that all businesses need to be profitable, I don't find this an acceptable increase. If in fact we are to expect such an increase you should be more accurate and transparent in your promotion and educational emails and info. Average Bill (Existing Rate) \$57.96 Average Bill (Proposed Rate) \$81.21

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Vaughan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. The 8.7% increase is the average across all residential customers. Individual customers may incur a higher or lower increase based on their particular usage patterns. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Rebecca	Last Name:	Williams
Organization:			
City:	Myrtlebeach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29572	

SC Reference # : SC000000269

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I am absolutely certain I am not the only customer who is struggling to keep above water financially. It may not seem like alot to you but raise in rates is happening on all fronts (rent, groceries, services etc). It all adds up. If my vote can change anything: I do not want this proposal.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Williams,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jennifer	Last Name:	Love
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000270

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I'm writing about the peak hour/rate increase. I'm mainly concerned about the peak hour increase. I find it truly unfair to "punish" people for using their own electricity that they are paying for during certain hours of a day. I find it intrusive to be monitored when I decide to make dinner or dry clothes in my own home. Why is it after all this time this company feels the need to dictate it's customers lives? Jennifer Love

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Love,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

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Dear Ms. Reeves,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Paul	Last Name:	Leroy
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000272

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The consumer continues to see increases in costs across the board in living expenses, while Santee Cooper has 450 million in revenue after operating expenses. The hits on consumers just keep coming while industry enjoys the positive monies of these discretions.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Leroy,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: William **Last Name:** Rohde
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29572

SC Reference # : SC000000273

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Good Morning This email is in regards to Santee Coopers proposed rate increase. Here is my new calculated rate. My Average Bill (Existing Rate) \$119.34, Average Bill (Proposed Rate) \$134.23, Average Monthly Change \$14.89. The \$14.98 rate increase is almost 12.5% not 8.7% that you said it would be. I do not approve of this rate increase. William Rohde [REDACTED]

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Dear Mr. Rohde,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Phillip	Last Name:	Tarves
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 25977		

SC Reference # : SC000000274

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Why should the residential rate increase be more than the commercial rate increase. Shouldn't it be the other way around. This is the same with taxes, home owners get screwed and businesses profit from it with lower rates and lower taxes.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Tarves,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Karen	Last Name:	Shaw
Organization:			
City:	MURRELLS INLET	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000275

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

So you want residents to take the biggest rate hike? Why can't you raise commercial and industrial to offset some of what you're asking residents to pay. Aren't we already overburdened with costs going up. Doesn't seem fair that residents will have a rate hike that is double what the other categories pay. And why is lighting higher as well then commercial and industrial. We can't control when the street lights come on.

Dear Ms. Shaw,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Naji	Last Name:	Tawfik
Organization:			
City:	North Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582		

SC Reference # : SC000000276

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Please reconsider the proposed steep rate increase of more than 8%. It is much higher than the rate of inflation!! This will undoubtedly add a heavy financial burden on all of your residential clients!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Tawfik,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Robin

Last Name: Rein

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000345

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

So you plan on gouging residential people struggling. commercial companies pay 1/2 residential and industrial companies pay 1/4 what residential people pay planet are you from. Robin Rein

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Dear Ms. Rein,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Cynthia	Last Name:	Carrizales
Organization:			
City:	Little River	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29566	

SC Reference # : SC000000277

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Inflation is bad enough right now with groceries and gas, and wages aren't increasing to match. I'm sure I'm one of many that oppose this increase in yet another monthly cost of living. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Carrizales,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mark	Last Name:	McKitrick
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC000000278

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Increasing rates to residents to 8.7% then calling the "average" increase of 4.9% is unacceptable and sounds almost like a bait and switch tactic. Furthermore we don't need a calculator app. Be transparent and give us the peak and off peak rates workout having to waste our time. Please consider: The retirees that don't get a 8.7% increase from SS. They end up going without something else while businesses get a fairer increase. Retirees on SS should get lower rates than all. The current rates are already not at a bargain. Use the new construction to pay for your supposed increased costs. New construction is mostly new people coming from higher electric cost places or they are new so it is justifiable to charge more to these types as a surcharge. Please don't subsidize new customers and businesses with aging seniors.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. McKittrick,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Christopher **Last Name:** Dunton
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29579

SC Reference # : SC000000279

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I have reviewed your rate proposal, and frankly to claim that it represents an approx. 8.9% increase for residential customers is an outright falsehood. Utilizing your calculator, my billing would increase by an almost 60% during the peak heating months of November - March, which I suspect is likely the same for all those residents that utilize heat pumps (heat via electric systems) in your service area. As I am sure you know, while it certainly warms up after 9 AM, in the area, prior to that time it is generally too cold, for heat pump systems to obtain heat from the external air, and therefore require the assistance of the systems Aux. heating system to bring temps back up to a reasonable temperature, before the systems can later function as a heat pump normally does by extracting warmth from external air, once the outside temperatures rise appropriately. I am sorry to say that this looks like nothing more than a blatant cash grab on the part of Santee Cooper. Particularly, when there isn't a similar impact during the "summer" peak hours, despite the fact that is the hottest part of the day. This is because most homes are sufficiently cooled at that time, not requiring any particular specific changes or deviations from normal operations from their systems to operate efficiently. I have to say, that if you need to increase rates for the electricity you actually provide, then that is what you must do, provide a justification for that. This just smacks of another fee of some other color, just like cell phone companies and banks and credit card companies. To say that the customer has control over the cost of their energy usage is in their control with this plan, is disingenuous at best. The customer has no option on a cold January morning, but to put the heat on. The customer can't tell the heat pump how it is to operate. When it is too cold out to extract heat from the air, it is going to default to auxiliary heat, driving up electric usage, during your definition of a "peak demand time". Please stop putting lipstick on a pig. This is nothing more than marketing spin. While I am not happy about the prospect of a rate increase, truth and honesty go a lot farther, than marketing spin. I would rather pay for the electricity at a fair rate, than based on some trumped up usage fee based upon some calculation your organization has come up with as a marketing scheme. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Dunton,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Richard	Last Name:	Kornacki
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29571		

SC Reference # : SC000000280

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Kindly explain why your Residential rates are expected to increase more than double compared to your Commercial rates and triple your Industrial rates. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Kornacki,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Janice	Last Name:	Kowalec
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000281

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I understand a rate hike, but why are residents getting hit with so much higher percentage increase? If you need the 4.9% increase why can't it be a flat 4.9% across the board?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Kowalec,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	DARYL	Last Name:	OLIVER
Organization:			
City:	GARDEN CITY	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000282

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I vote against a rate increase. Please reconsider due to the current amount of inflation. Thank you, Daryl

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Oliver,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Kelli	Last Name:	Folino
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000000283

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

On the email about the rates Residential is being increased by the largest percentage. Why? Why not increase Commercial & Industrial by a higher percentage & give the poor people just trying to survive in this economy a break. You are increasing Residential by 4 times the increase for Industrial & 2 times for Commercial. This just seems unfair to those of us just trying to survive.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Folino,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Scott	Last Name:	Stewart
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29588		

SC Reference # : SC000000284

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

1) is there a higher increase getting paid back to the accounts that sell you back there extra power from there solar panels? 2) how do I stop sending you my extra power from my solar panels? Because your selling the extra power for a lot more money plus charging me a Solar Stand-By KW Charge. Scott Stewart

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Stewart,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Stephen	Last Name:	Runkle
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582		

SC Reference # : SC000000285

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I am fortunate that I do not have trouble paying my bill and can handle the increase. That said, the most important thing is that our power stays on. If updates are needed for that to happen, we have no choice. You must stay up to date with your equipment.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Runkle,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jeanine	Last Name:	Lauttenbach
Organization:			
City:	Surfside beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc 29575		

SC Reference # : SC000000286

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

It is terrible for you to even think to raise rates and inflation is outrageous already to consider 8.7 is horrible and should be stopped Put it on corporations

Dear Ms. Lauttenbach,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Darlene **Last Name:** Wilson
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29588

SC Reference # : SC000000287

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I do not agree with the rate hike percentages. Residential is increasing more than twice than the commercial rate. Inflation is already deeply impacting financially challenged families and seniors who are struggling to buy medicine, food, daycare and other daily necessities. We are stretched to the max. Raise the rates 4.9% across the board. Horry County has just re-assessed our property values and they went through the roof due to the high demand of property in the area. Your solar program is a total rip-off. I regret that decision. I actually pay to have solar every month! I have 36 panels but only 15 are being read and I'm being charged \$45 in stand-by and metering fees. Yes, I have tried to get that addressed over and over with no results. Thank you for absolutely nothing.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wilson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

Additionally, our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Dan	Last Name:	Dyer
Organization:	Tier 1 Public Relations		
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29577	

SC Reference # : SC0000000289

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I see that your proposed rate increase of 4.9% would increase my bills by an average of 8.7%. However, my current average billing is \$86.00, but your new rate calculator shows my current average is \$118.62. Your New Rate Calculator also shows my new monthly rate will be \$131.11. So going from my current Real Monthly Rate of \$86.00 to your proposed new monthly rate of \$131.11 = 52.45% increase. I'd rather see you simply raise my rate by 8.7% - $\$86.00 * .087 = \7.48 . for a new average rate of 93.48. Your New Rate Proposal is unacceptable!!! I look forward to your response. Regards, Dan Dyer Ph: **[REDACTED]**

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Dyer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

Please note that the rate comparison tool results are preliminary and for estimation purposes only. The results do not include any charges and/or credits from the Fuel Adjustment, Demand Sales Adjustment, or Economic Development Sales Adjustment. The results also represent calendar month usage and do not correspond to individual customer bill cycle dates. If you had service for less than 12 months, but the location has usage available, it will be included for informational purposes. Once new rates are approved and become effective, your bill will be calculated on actual usage. Other charges may apply.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	James	Last Name:	Parker
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29576	

SC Reference # : SC000000290

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

After reviewing the proposed rate increases, I feel that of all the residential should have the lowest increase of all. The proposed increase of 8.7% is higher than commercial and industrial proposals combined and is steep when the residents help contribute to supplementing the energy bills for both commercial and industrial businesses. The combined proposed rate increase of the three, residential, commercial, and industrial is 15.6%. Of that total, my recommendation is as follows percentage changes. Commercial - 6.8% Industrial - 5.2% Residential - 3.6% The combined populace of residents would more than suffice the demands alone based on 3.2%, along with the contribution to the commercial and industrial business, based on the purchase of goods and services. It would appear highly illogical to make the residents pay even more when they are already contributing beyond their monthly usage.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Parker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lisa **Last Name:** Hall
Organization:
City: Little River **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29566

SC Reference # : SC0000000291

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I can appreciate that Santee Cooper hasn't raised rates since 2017, but I think it would be a better idea to have industrial/commercial pay a higher percentage rate since they are the ones who use more electricity and can better afford the cost than can residential customers. Thanks for the opportunity to give my thoughts. ~ Lisa Hall

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Hall,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Marvin	Last Name:	Huber
Organization:			
City:	Loris	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29569	

SC Reference # : SC000000292

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

The rate increases you are proposing are going to be very difficult for retirees who are on fixed incomes. I would like to see you provide some type of discount structure for people over sixty-five (65) years old. I hope you will not put people in a position to have to decide to choose between food or medicine vs. electricity. Please think about this as you make your decisions ongoing.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Huber,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jill **Last Name:** Underwood
Organization:
City: Little River **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: Sc 29566

SC Reference # : SC000000293

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

According to your chart, residential customers will be taking the highest percentage increase which, in today's economy, is difficult to bear. I used the rate calculator and my bill total rose by 65% which was shocking. While rate increases seem to be the norm these days, I believe a 65% increase is unreasonable. Ten percent perhaps, that can be squeezed into the budget but what you are proposing will drastically change your customers' financial picture. Please reconsider something more amenable to the working class; we are a main reason why peak demands are low midday...we are working to earn a living. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Underwood,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	James	Last Name:	Watson
Organization:			
City:	myrtle beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	sc	29577	

SC Reference # : SC000000294

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I have no issue with an increase of rates to provide good service; however, I have a serious problem paying MORE for the same service we have been receiving, which is to say that our power goes out frequently for any and all and no apparent reason at all. We experience this regardless of visible weather issues, and worse we can see that it often only affects our side of the street. Our backyard neighbors and those across the street from us often maintain power when the handful of houses on our row lose it. There is obviously something wrong with some connection, somewhere, yet it does not seem that any attention is being made to fix whatever problem may be the cause of constant interruption of service (our perception may be more than reality, but any interruption which can be avoided is unacceptable.). Quite honestly we believe this complaint will continue to fall on deaf ears. As you are the only power option, we have no recourse and the gives you the ability to ignore this, but while you are gathering feedback on increasing rates, perhaps you might give a little attention to this problem. Our money is just as valuable as all other customers, we expect the same attention and consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Watson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The information you provided on your outage issue has been shared with our Customer Care department for investigation. A representative will contact you directly to follow up on your situation.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Andrea	Last Name:	McManus
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC000000295

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I am adamantly opposed to the outrageous, unjustified and deceptive 8.7% rate hike to residential customers. How are retired citizens supposed to absorb these types of increases? This increase is extremely misleading due to your new "peak demand charge" which will cause residential costs to be significantly higher than "advertised". I find this a ridiculous ploy to take advantage of residential customers. Most of us don't want to prepare our meals at 3:00 AM to be able to afford our utility bill. Santee Cooper has been notoriously mismanaged for years and I suggest you take aggressive action to lower your internal operating costs first - and limit any rate increases to a maximum of 2.5% every 5 years and eliminate the peak period ABUSE of residential customers. An educated guess tells me the actual residential rate increases will be closer to 15%- 20% for residential customers, which should be against the law. Shame on Santee Cooper and its' abysmal executive management team for making such a huge effort to deceive your customers. PS: Your current rate and proposed rate chart did not come close to aligning with my actual Santee Cooper bills and is the perfect example of the way SC misrepresents reality in order to justify an unconscionable rate increase.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. McManus,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Henry	Last Name:	Cigolle
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29572		

SC Reference # : SC000000296

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Trying to understand with all of the growth in this area, why your revenue and "profit" are not increasing substantially and funding the necessary improvements. Seems like if the customer base continues to grow, more people are paying an electric bill. Can you please explain? Thank you!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cigolle,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Roxane **Last Name:** Smith
Organization:
City: Pawleys Island **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: Sc 29585

SC Reference # : SC000000297

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Based on the rate calculator and based on the heavily weighted to residential fee increase, my adjusted charge increases by \$25/mo! That's a lot. \$5 or \$10 I can understand. My husband and I are now on fixed incomes and this increase has a big negative impact. I do understand the need to conserve in peak hours. I hope you would consider a more balanced increase for commercial /residential use! Roxane Smith

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Smith,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

Additionally, the rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Michael **Last Name:** Lewycky
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29577-3068

SC Reference # : SC000000298

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I'm opposed to any rate increases. This is insensitive to the financial difficulties too many are suffering from. This will cause hardships and require many to make decisions that would reduce their quality of life. Many may also be endangered by their needs to conserve money at the expense of their health and comfort. Does SC want to be seen as complicit in the likely deaths during hot and cold periods. We, as customers have no option to shop for other providers and customize our service and rates . SC monopoly and greedy cash grab will only result in lower public confidence and opinion. I would look to cost cutting options first before burdening your hostage customers. How will the increases impact the salaries of your executives? Isn't the insane level of development and population growth generating more profits? Residents like me will have to decide upon where to reallocate ~~to~~ provide for the higher bills. Will we eat? Have medication? I wish that the persons making these decisions consider the harm these unnecessary increases will impact our families. In conclusion I object to any electrical bill increases for Santee Cooper customers.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Lewycky,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Buchanan".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Gilbert	Last Name:	Sambolin
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000299

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Completely taken aback by the proposed 8.7% increase scheduled for 2025. There's a significant amount of construction underway in Carolina Forest. This will increase revenue in the very near future, as new customers come on line. Why doesn't Santee Cooper use this giant uptick in expected revenue to offset projected infrastructure expenses necessary? By universally imposing this 8.7% increase, you're in effect punishing the existing customers who have contributed all these years making Santee Cooper the great utility company we've come to experience. Moreover, this adds to the tremendous inflation that troubles all Americans today. When you're a utility that is required by every household, we have no choice. This increase will add to the snowball effect hampering low income and middle income households in almost every area of their lives. If you calculate the increase revenue expected in 2025 from all the new customers Santee Cooper will have in the very near future, your bottom line will not be affected where your return on investment will not be affected drastically if at all. So please reconsider and roll back this proposed increase.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Sambolin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Laura **Last Name:** Montville
Organization:
City: Murrells Inlet **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29576

SC Reference # : SC000000300

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

While it's likely that the final responsibility for all of Santee Cooper's approved rate changes will eventually rest with the private citizens of SC - whether through increased pricing from your commercial customers to compensate for their increased energy costs or by increased taxes from your municipal customers to cover our fair share, why is the brunt of the increase being planned directly upon our individual residential accounts? I like the potential for high/low demand decisions but I don't think drying my clothes in the middle of the night is going to preserve my home budget allowance for electricity. Will there be any other opportunities for fixed income senior citizens to offset the 8.7% increase? I can't stop paying my taxes so those increases will inevitably be mine to bear. I'll have to restrict my spending with your commercial customers to save enough to cover the delta. I haven't had a pay increase since 2012 so I certainly understand your point about it being your turn to raise prices. Hopefully, it will be my bank account that gets the next boost.

Dear Ms. Montville,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	HARRIET	Last Name:	Sansone
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC0000000301

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I understand the need to grow and develop products necessary, but for some of us, your proposed price % hike would make it very difficult for some, me included. I "scrimp" and save as much as possible, but future is looking like that will be an impossibility. My husband passed 2 months ago, and without his contribution to my household cost, my participation is not nearly enough to sustain my home, my life. Everything today costs more than "yesterday", and your business must also need to grow to accommodate the influx of new-comers here in SC, but it would be in all best interest if you might propose a lesser increase in our residential rates. Thank you for taking the time to read this, as it was not easy to express my own fears to anyone, especially at my age at 81. Harriet Eve Sansone

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Sansone,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	robbie	Last Name:	safa
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC000000302

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

You guys really think now is a good time to raise your rates during a time where the average american is struggling to put food on the table and support their families? What extra value are we getting with the rates increase? How many more in millions of profit do you need to make? Why doesnt the CEO take a pay cut? Its not like we have any other choice in the matter. Who is your competitor that we can choose to go to if we are not happy with the rate increase? I am totally against this rate increase. Please reconsider. Your rates are high enough!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Safa,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Buchanan".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Bonnie **Last Name:** Aubin
Organization:
City: MYRTLE BEACH **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29579

SC Reference # : SC000000320

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I would like to express my serious concerns over the proposed rate increases. Consumers are struggling to pay the bills as it is, without a nearly 10% increase for such a necessity. Seniors like me are susceptible to heat stroke and hypothermia. This will be made worse if we are charged more during the very times we need heat or AC the most, i.e., "peak" surcharges. If we can no longer afford the necessity of electricity we may all suffer consequences that may be very, very serious. I also question why the proposed increase is hitting consumers more than any other sector. What is the reasoning behind charging individuals nearly 3 times more than the 2.8% increase to industrial and more than twice as much to commercial customers? This is going to be a very big hit to residential customers that I don't feel is at all appropriate. Sincerely, Bonnie Bonnie M. Aubin Cell [REDACTED] Sent from my iPhone

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Dear Ms. Aubin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Danielle **Last Name:** Wright
Organization:
City: Goose Creek **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29445

SC Reference # : SC000000321

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

My name is Danielle Wright and my account number is [REDACTED] I feel that commercial and residential increases should be even. I don't approve of your multi approached proposed rate increase plan. I do not like the peak hour portion, I'm disabled and cannot control what hours I use medical equipment so I would prefer the rate be even straight across the board instead having fluctuations. I understand that everything has gone up and that you've had a rate freeze but I hope you will reconsider this proposed plan and keep it simple with just an increase without fluctuations. Thank You, Danielle Wright

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wright,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: ROBERT **Last Name:** JONES
Organization:
City: Little River **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29566

SC Reference # : SC000000322

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

It's really annoying that residential is getting upped by 8.7% but commercial is only going up 4.1%. I'm sorry but Walmart and these fancy restaurants in our area can afford 8.7% too. Many here are already struggling with the ever increasing costs and it's frustrating that the people struggling the most(residential) have the largest increases. Robert Jones **[REDACTED]**. Thank you for your time

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Keith **Last Name:** Williams
Organization:
City: Murrells Inlet **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29576

SC Reference # : SC000000323

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Keith and Lisa Williams, Account number [REDACTED] Thank you for allowing public comments regarding the unprecedented rate adjustment increases beginning in April 2025. We agree with the demand rate schedule, customer increase tiers and the need for rate increases. However, the ratio across customer categories is a disgrace. Our proposal below keeps the same tier increase structure and is much more fair. • Industrial should be 3.9%, 1.1% higher than proposed • Commercial should be 5.0%, 0.9% higher than proposed • Lighting should remain at 5.0% • Residential increase should be the remaining gap We understand conflicts of interest and wink wink favors account for the low commercial and industrial increases. Please do the right thing and spread the cost increases out among some of the largest energy consumers and not dump an almost 9% rate adjustment increase on the residents. We understand how economics works too. Please let it work. Thank you. Keith and Lisa Williams

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Williams,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: ELLEN **Last Name:** BANG
Organization:
City: PAWLEYS ISLAND **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29585

SC Reference # : SC000000324

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Acct. #: [REDACTED] Name: Ellen & Frederick Bang In document dg-17-rider.pdf, what (if any) changes are being considered for the Solar Stand-By KW Charge? As a Solar Panel owner, we have been penalized every month just for the "privilege" of having panels on our roof. Our specific fee has been \$32.38 every month, minus the KWHR credits, which are typically minimal... Since you are NOW looking into changing your rate structure, what's going on with the "solar fees"? Thank You, Fred & Ellen Bang [REDACTED]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bang,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Nancy **Last Name:** Underwood
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29579

SC Reference # : SC000000325

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Hello, I just received this email, and I am trying to understand it. My husband and I are retired and want to have the lowest rate available, so which one is best for us? We do not need to use much electricity during those peak hours and can adjust what we need to for a lower bill. Can you tell us what to do and to have the right program for us. Thank you Nancy Underwood MY HOME Account #:[REDACTED] SERVICE ADDRESS Nancy Underwood, [REDACTED], Myrtle Beach, SOUTH CAROLINA, 29579-8526

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Dear Ms. Underwood,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We will have a Santee Cooper Energy Advisor reach out to you directly so that you can discuss the best way to reduce your electricity bill.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Wayne **Last Name:** Purdy
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29579

SC Reference # : SC0000000326

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To whom it may concern I feel it is my obligation as one of your customers for over twenty- five years to voice my reaction and concern to your coming rate increase. I honestly feel it is despicable. This is not a small increase. It is not being introduced in steps over years, it is being introduced all at once. Like any responsible home owner, needs of the future need to be considered in budgets of today to offset the impact of massive expenses. Apparently, Santee cooper doesn't operate that way, as a responsible utility company. Or do the extra funds just get absorbed in overpaid bloated corporate executives salaries and failed misguided utility projects of the past? It is also a joke and an insult to try to sell it to customers as a "way to save on your bill", by not using electricity during "peak hours". This is nothing but a self serving well calculated plan to rape the customer. Your number crunchers figured out through studying peak usage both winter and summer hours, when to hit the public with an increased rate. These hours during the winter are when families are getting ready for school and work. This is during the time of day that this usage is almost unavoidable. Likewise, in the summer when the morning usage goes down, your company flips the peak time to the heat of the afternoon when it is inevitable that a/c units will be struggling to keep people cool. Jump through nearly impossible hoops and we your compassionate utility company will give you a break on your rate. This is despicable, and an exploit of people's intelligence. What's worse, is that you then try to sell it customers as an advantage with this new rate program! Give me a break. I, and many others are sick and tired of companies trying to sell their greed to customers as an advantage to them. WE ARE NOT THAT STUPID! As an example, by using my own situation, my monthly budget for 2025 has now increased at this point by \$260. That is insane. And my example is going to be mirrored by virtually every other citizen of South Carolina that owns a home in South Carolina. This is not about inflation due to cost of goods. No, this is due to ridiculous increases by companies like yours. And all the letters sent to customers are all the same. " Due to future needs and unforeseen cost... blah, blah, blah", we are increasing rates. My home owners policy, (along with most South Carolinians) will increase by two hundred dollars a month! This is not due to personally having made a claim, no it is simply because the industry deems it necessary. Likewise my home owners association fee is increasing by forty dollars a month for the exact same reasons listed above. And now Santee Cooper. These combined increases equal the two hundred and sixty dollar amount that I used as an example. Like I said, this type of increase is being mirrored across our state, virtually every household. It is time for this corporate greed and poor planning by companies like yours which are necessities in all of our lives to stop raping the public that they serve. Soon all South Carolinians will be out priced on just being able to provide the basics for their families. Mr. Wayne Purdy [REDACTED] Myrtle Beach, SC 29579 Customer # [REDACTED]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Purdy,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

In regard to our executive salaries, we do benchmark all salaries, including our executive compensation, and target the median for our peer group of similar utilities or from general industry, depending on the position.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Daniel	Last Name:	Buonomo
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000303

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Why is the proposed residential rate increase so much more than all of the other users?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Buonomo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mauro **Last Name:** Pino
Organization:
City: PAWLEYS ISLAND **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29585

SC Reference # : SC000000304

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Acc# [REDACTED] Last name PINO I received your communication about the new rates. Thank you for the heads up. While I understand several years passed since last adjustments, I have to say that in my case (I run the simulation) the adjustment you are proposing is higher than the inflation rate and it's going to impact our expenses in a not secondary way. I don't think there is anything I can do being a happy customer of yours. Just a math calculation Have a great day MFP

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Pino,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Boseman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	marvin	Last Name:	williams jr
Organization:			
City:	Surfside Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC000000306

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

residential rate increase is too much, should not be any more than 2%

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Williams,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Paula **Last Name:** Hayes
Organization:
City: North Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29582

SC Reference # : SC000000329

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Homeowners shoulder More than our share of fees, taxes and costs. Why should we pay a higher percentage increase? The retired, elderly, poor, young people, parents raising children in fact, no one can afford higher energy cost. Give us a break. Please. Paula Hayes [REDACTED] North Myrtle Beach, SC [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Hayes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Robin	Last Name:	Cuellar
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29572		

SC Reference # : SC0000000330

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Hello, I know you are talking about raising rates in the near future...however, I believe you have already raised them considerably. I have noticed a dramatic increase in my bill and I am not even there full time. I usually have a bill that is between \$30 and \$100, depending on the month. My last bill was around \$160, and I had not even been at my condo! So, leaving my hot water tank turned OFF, leaving my AC set on 78, and no other electric being used has increased my bill over \$100! Please tell me you already increased the rates, and are not planning to increase them even more. I cannot handle that level of increase. Robin Cuellar [REDACTED] Myrtle Beach, NC 29572 [REDACTED]

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Dear Ms. Cuellar,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Gruber,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Vivian Lee **Last Name:** Mozuch
Organization:
City: Murrells Inlet **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29576

SC Reference # : SC000000332

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I'm a residential customer of 12 years here in Murrells Inlet account #**[REDACTED]** and I find this increase and timeframe idea absolutely ridiculous. Those of us who are disabled or who are caregivers of the disabled that are on oxygen can't comply to these time frames with an oxygen concentrator running 24/7 to keep people alive. So , that means we will be paying penalties for services we absolutely need and cannot survive without. In Gods name have you even considered this as an issue ... you are crippling the retired on fixed incomes and kicking the disabled when they're down. In all fairness to "ALL" customers this TIMEFRAME" idea is not a good or positive move. People are on medical adjunctive equipment that is life saving like ... OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS, CPAP, BIBAP, HOME VENTILATORS , Etc etc that must run 24/7 or they can die!!! There are many other considerations I'm sure you haven't entertained or thought of . So...please be more cognizant of needs and issues beyond ones control and drop this TIMEFRAME USAGE... it's a bad idea and it's encroaching on many peoples well being! South Carolina is the state of choice for people to retire to because it was affordable. You are addressing this age group with unreasonable prices and ridiculous time frames as to when they can use electricity! The amount of stress and anxiety placed on the older citizens of South Carolina, which is the greater percent of people, is harming them in unspeakable ways. Someone needs to read this in the administrative office and let that enlighten them to another facet of how this will affect your retirees and disabled citizens of Georgetown County. Thanks for taking the time to read this. Vivien Lee Mozuch Sent from my iPhone

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Mozuch,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Timothy	Last Name:	Millwood
Organization:			
City:	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582		

SC Reference # : SC000000334

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Why are residential rates increasing more than commercial? When commercial rates increase, they will increase cost. We as residents are going to be hit in all directions. Our rates will increase and the cost of goods and services will increase to pay for the commercial increases. We as residents are screwed! Sent from my iPhone

Dear Mr. Millwood,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Robert	Last Name:	Palma
Organization:			
City:	LITTLE RIVER	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29566		

SC Reference # : SC000000335

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I firmly believe that that individual homeowners should pay a lessor hike rate. Make companies and businesses that make profits from consumers pay higher rates. More money will be raised to cover the higher production costs. The cost will be passed on to consumers anyways. Stop the cycle of hurting the little person! Please be the first in the industry to change. Change must Start Now. Or the next generation will even be worse off while Blackrock, Vanguard and Statestreet end up owning everything. Help keep housing affordable. Seriously. Best regards, Robert Palma

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Dear Mr. Palma,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Kim	Last Name:	Warne
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000336

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Your residential customer base has skyrocketed over the past 5 years! As such, your revenue has increased exponentially. I have no doubt you have given your upper 10% huge raises instead of increasing the grid. Now you want US TO PAY FOR IT! No way!!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Warne,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Attracting and retaining a qualified and quality workforce is essential to our ability to operate in today's challenging environment, and Santee Cooper needs to offer competitive salaries at all levels of our workforce to best meet your needs today and plan strategically for tomorrow. We benchmark our salaries to fall at the median for a peer group of similar utilities or from general industry, depending on the position.

In regard to our executive salaries, we do benchmark all salaries, including our executive compensation, and target the median for our peer group of similar utilities or from general industry, depending on the position.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Adams,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Richard,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Diane **Last Name:** Lyons
Organization:
City: LITTLE RIVER **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29566

SC Reference # : SC000000339

Date Submitted: 7/26/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Hi - thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns about the proposed rate change. Being retired and living on a fixed income, this would be a significant increase (\$20/month) to our account. Social Security increases do not keep up with inflation trends and this would be a financial burden to many. I urge you to reconsider this large percentage increase. Thank you for your consideration. Lyons Account: **[REDACTED]**

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Lyons,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	James	Last Name:	Anderson
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29579	

SC Reference # : SC0000000340

Date Submitted:	7/26/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I am against such a large increase. It would, by your estimates increase my average electric bill by 25%!! Way to much!,from \$61/ mo to \$75/mo. Thank you. Jim Anderson Acct. **[REDACTED]**

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Anderson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Linda	Last Name:	Slee
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000307

Date Submitted: 7/27/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

We all know how proposals go...it's called implementation. But here I go. With 1.4M in revenue a year, 10.8M in grants this year, and receiving 100M from Biden's 13-billion-dollar equipment modernization and expansion infrastructure grid program in 2022, tell me again why are you passing on this "modest" increase to us from 4.9 to 8.34? Is it really because of inflation or mismanagement of funds. And this increase of rates gives me more control? Control over what exactly.... powering down my air conditioner, refrigerator, hot water heater, clothes dryer and everything else running in an all-electric home during peak hours? That's not control...that's dictating... dictating on how I run my household. Your one size fits all pie chart doesn't fit all households. Plus, we have 4 seasons here in the South...what happened to the other 2? Are you saying we consume so very little electricity in the Spring and Fall months that it doesn't fall into the consumption equation? Great! Can't wait to get my rebate checks during those months. According to you a tax increase is going to save me money in the long run...well, that's a new one for the books...then I have a bridge I'd like to sell you. And you want a standing ovation because you haven't raised rates since 2017?. When you make your lead statement straight out of the gate like that then duck because here comes the BS is right behind it. You really didn't think that was going to soften the blow any did you? Sorry, but I'm not drinking the Kool-Aid you're pouring. But you're still going to tout chicken little the sky is falling to us. Our equipment can't handle the heavy load and the grid is expanding. It's been 7 years since upgrades and price increases so it's time to ask for a "modest" blood donation from our customers. Again, where did the 110.8 million go? Apparently not to the outdated overtaxed equipment or grid expansions it was supposed to be used for. We've been in inflation mode since 2021 and our borders have wide open for the past 4 years. You didn't see the tsunami coming? The influx of Northerners alone during the pandemic should have raised red flags not to mention normal in state growth. Here's a marvel thought. Since the influx of our open borders is caused by the current administration, ask Biden for more bail out money for the great state of South Carolina for the strain he has put upon his "true" citizens and for much needed infrastructure updates. But you were given Millions to put towards these upgrades 2 years ago. So once again, where did it go? Pay increases to your CEO plus bonuses and to the Board of Directors? Look, I like so many other single elderly Americans are on a fixed income. So, your tax increases no matter how "modest" YOU may think it is it's very "taxing" on us. I don't make millions; my paycheck doesn't cover all the high costs we're faced with now. I make decisions daily if I'm able to buy groceries this week or have to hold off and which bills take precedence. I already sit in the dark at night, wash my clothes once a week and hang them up to dry, I quit using the dishwasher and oven. So why have a kitchen. The only reason I guess is for resale value. I've unplugged devices, turn the ceiling fan on only in the room I reside.... increase the thermostat in the summer and freeze my derriere off and lower it in the winter...and the list goes on. I've been doing my part way before your pie

chart ever existed. There's nothing more I can do other than sell my home and live under a bridge or a tent city...and its coming to that. Everybody's answer is to tax the middle class until there's no middle class left. Well, mission accomplished but that's not always the answer. Now, how about doing your part. Go back to the drawing board. Why not have your innovation partners earn their pay and come up with other cost-effective plans please. And while you're at it, if your electrical equipment only has a self-life of 7 years then scrap the China crap and buy American made. It should last longer than our residential appliances for god's sake. So, it's a NO for me on your proposal.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Slee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

In regard to our executive salaries, we do benchmark all salaries, including our executive compensation, and target the median for our peer group of similar utilities or from general industry, depending on the position.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	William	Last Name:	Snodgrass
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC000000308

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Why raise the rates on residential twice as much as commercial. Some of us are living off of SSI and are barely making it now, when the commercial and industrial can better afford it. Thanks for making our lives more difficult.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Snodgrass,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Phil **Last Name:** Dieser
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: Sc 29588

SC Reference # : SC000000309

Date Submitted: 7/27/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

To whom it may concern, being disabled on a fixed income all expenses impact my life. This increase I don't believe is fair to residential customers. Businesses are thriving with the influx of both new business and customers. I understand the need for new fees but residential is already paying more percentage than the businesses. Make the businesses cover the increased cost since they are directly benefiting from their increased profits.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Dieser,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ronald	Last Name:	Spagnuolo
Organization:			
City:	Travelers Rest	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29690		

SC Reference # : SC000000310

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Myrtle Beach address is: **[REDACTED]** An 8.7% residential increase is absurd when your other increases are as low as 2.8%. Nothing more than a money grab from your residential customers.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Spagnuolo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Gaskill,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	James	Last Name:	DiFazio
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000348

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

If you can convince Social Security to increase my pension by the same rate as you are proposing, then I'll go along with your rate proposal. If not, then I disagree with a rate hike.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. DiFazio,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Clarence	Last Name:	Mills
Organization:			
City:	North Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582		

SC Reference # : SC000000311

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Totally understand the need. This can also be another hardship for retired individuals (me), with many things taking a price increase. Would there be any type of discount for seniors?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mills,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring over the next 10 years. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

At the moment, we do not offer a senior discount but we remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Eugene **Last Name:** Gogolinski
Organization:
City: Little River **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29566

SC Reference # : SC000000312

Date Submitted: 7/27/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Just leave it as it is.

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Mr. Gogolinski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	PAUL	Last Name:	MUELLER
Organization:			
City:	MYRTLE BEACH	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29577-	
		7626	

SC Reference # : SC000000313

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Resident users do not profit from electricity use! Commercial and many industrial users profit from electricity use! All rate structures should be the same or Residential rates should be less than others. While most Residential users lack advocacy and other users employ people and contract firms/organizations to lobby for lower rates, electrical suppliers should propose equality in rates, and state agencies should respect same. Utility rate structures should not be determined by donor amounts to politicians. While politicians' "war chests" are funded mostly by commercial and industrial users, those politicians should strongly consider who casts the votes to elect them!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mueller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mizell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Timothy	Last Name:	Winger
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC000000315

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Why are you proposing such a large increase for residential customers? Why not make it fair for all and raise them 4% across the board?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Winger,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Debbie	Last Name:	Jones
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC000000316

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Hi, I looked at your proposed rate increase and it would make my monthly bill go up about \$10-12. I am a single person living on a budget and though I understand the need of updating our technology, the increase wouldn't benefit me in saving any on my monthly bill. Thank you, Debbie Jones

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Thomas	Last Name:	Vranish
Organization:			
City:	Little River	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29566		

SC Reference # : SC000000317

Date Submitted:	7/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I don't understand why you are levying the largest percentage increase on residential customers and letting commercial and industrial customers off relatively lightly. As an owner who does not live there full time our electric bill varies widely depending on season and our presence or lack thereof. I do not feel that we should be forced to absorb a disproportionate share of Santee Cooper's lack of long term planning and demand anticipation. I am very familiar with the utility industry as my family has been. Deeply and directly involved for decades and I have not seen a record of smart decisions by Santee Cooper.

Dear Mr. Vranish,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Atkinson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mark **Last Name:** Shipman
Organization:
City: North Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29582

SC Reference # : SC000000319

Date Submitted: 7/28/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I understand what is being proposed. Using the modeling template you provided, our monthly bill will increase about 20%...that's obscene, and a shock to our wallet. But I'd like to figure out what is responsible for our "peak demand" that generates this significant increase. 1. Can you cap this increase to, say 10%, for residential customers for a period of time (e.g., 6 months) till we can train ourselves on demand charges? 2. How about providing the ability for us to see minute to minute demand numbers? 3. Could you start to provide a comparison of the current monthly bill to the new bill on each future monthly statement? Again, the demand charge is a freaking shock to our wallet. 4. Would removing the current control mechanisms installed by Santee Cooper that permits a 4 hour hold on our AC, Heat or hot water impact our bill under this proposed structure?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Shipman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Unfortunately, at this time we do not have the capability to provide minute to minute demand numbers. As our data collection grows, the information will be updated regularly to the residential calculators for your review. We will have one of our Santee Cooper Energy Advisors reach out to you directly to speak to you on how you can save money on your bill.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Maldonado,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Michael	Last Name:	Cooke
Organization:			
City:	N. Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29532		

SC Reference # : SC0000000328

Date Submitted:	7/28/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I understand you haven't raised your rates since 2017. BUT, to raise your rates 8.7% in ONE JUMP is astronomical. My property tax doubled in ONE CALENDAR YEAR in Horry County and looking to INCREASE another 20-25% this year by assessments I'm receiving in the mail. How many people do you know got a 8.7% increase in wages/income over the past year or the last several years combined??? If you raised the rates in small increments it wouldn't hurt people as much as doing it all in one jump. If you needed money to sustain the company then you should have increased the rates along the way. Now you say you're forced to do it to invest in upgrades...just sounds like a fancy way of saying it. That's the question I have for ALL COMPANIES (textile, utilities, Food industry, etc). The working person gets a 2% cost of living raise (on avg each yr) and everything goes up way more than that. The hole we are in keeps getting deeper and deeper in expenses and wages don't keep up. NO WAY YOU SHOULD NEED 8.7% in one jump...mis-management of funds to need such a huge of an increase to stay afloat. No sugar coating an increase of this magnitude. We need to stop using power during certain times of the day...is this a 3rd world country. So, if I use during "peak" hours I have to pay even more than 8.7% increase. It's a BUILT IN WAY TO GOUGE CONSUMERS. Wait...let me buy an Electric Vehicle...hell no...gas is much cheaper and reliable, I don't have to pay extra during a 3 hour period of the day and to hear you guys say it..."we don't have enough power to handle the surge on the power grid...my question is WHY NOT?? Doesn't matter what we say anyway...the rate is a done deal and we (CONSUMERS) have to deal with it. It's not like we can "CHANGE POWER COMPANIES". WE don't have a choice in the matter. Pay up or have no electricity. DONE

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cooke,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Fred	Last Name:	Newell
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000351

Date Submitted: 7/29/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am a retired 73 year old person on a fixed income. My income does not change when you charge more each month. Even a small amount can cause a problem with my budget.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Newell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ryan	Last Name:	McCallum
Organization:			
City:	WAKE FOREST	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	NC 27587		

SC Reference # : SC000000352

Date Submitted:	7/31/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Our Santee Cooper serviced address in Garden City is a small, 600 sqft condo, used as a second home. On average, we visit for a total of about 7 days per month. Outside of those days, we do whatever we can to avoid consuming energy in our absence. This includes unplugging household lighting and appliances, increasing the thermostat to 78 in the summer and decreasing it to 50 in the winter months to avoid freezing. Enclosed is a copy of our rate comparison table of the old and new rates for the last 12 months. It demonstrates that despite our limited occupancy of the unit and minimal energy consumption while we occupy it, that the newly proposed rates disproportionately affect us. The average advertised increase of 8.7% for residential customers is actually an average 29% bill increase for us. For some months, the bill nearly doubled! Upon review of the breakdown of charges, it appears the existing and proposed customer charges and energy charge make little difference. The proposed demand charge is where the catastrophic bill swings occur. This proposed rate is marketed at providing more consumer control over their bill. I ask you, how? On average, our 12 month comparison demonstrates an average peak use of 1.9kW, already incredibly low. Shall I cut my heat off and not cook breakfast in the morning during the winter? Or cut the air off on 100 degree days in the direct sun while not preparing dinner? From my perspective, there is little more that could be done to improve our energy efficiency to avoid these proposed peak charges. As such, the proposed increases provide less freedom and ownership of energy charges, not more as you've marketed.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. McCallum,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Dear Mr. Venezia,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Dear Ms. Godwin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Dear Ms. McCloskey,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Christina

Last Name: King

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000356

Date Submitted: 7/31/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I understand inflation and the need to raise rates, but I feel the commercial should pay the same increase as the residential because most of them are more equipped to handle the increase than many of the residents that are on fixed incomes in this retirement area. Sincerely, Christina Sutherland -King

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. King,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Peter	Last Name:	Eisenberg
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC000000357

Date Submitted:	7/31/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Except for the years 2021 & 2022, the inflation rate has remained below 4% for the last 10-years, and in some cases, below 2% . So I believe your proposed Residential rate increase of 8.7% is excessive.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Eisenberg,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Richard	Last Name:	Kolozsi
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC000000360

Date Submitted:	8/2/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

To Whom It May Concern In checking the new requested rate chart, it seems my electric bill will increase around over 20%. As a retired senior on a fixed budget this seems very excessive. I do understand upgrades are needed, but with all of the other increase this economy has given us it seems out of line. I see you say 8.7% increase, so it's very interesting that mine is around 20%. I wonder how many others are just looking at the 8.7% instead of the estimated amount from your chart. I could see maybe a couple of years rollout for your upgrades, so we retired seniors could absorb this instead of all at once. Please take into consideration my email request and not act like other government agencies. Thank you Rick Kolozsi

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Kolozsi,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Judy

Last Name: Linke

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000363

Date Submitted: 8/3/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I'm opposed to the proposed rate increases as well as the peak usage fees. For one, the peak usage fees are going to affect the elderly and disabled the most. We're barely getting by in this economy and additional fees and/or an increase is only making it harder. Have all of these builders pay for it, but not us. We worked hard our whole lives and my husband did 20 years in the Marine Corps only to have to continue working so we can keep up with the skyrocketing inflation. Is my husband going to have to work overtime so we can pay your increases when he should be retired? Enough is enough. Have some compassion for the people of the community you serve. Please.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Linke,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: thomas **Last Name:** graham
Organization:
City: Pawleys Island **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29585

SC Reference # : SC000000361

Date Submitted: 8/3/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I support your rate increases. My father had an entire career with a regional power company in the upper midwest. I understand that electric companies operate on a slim margin. Thank you for your reliable service.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Linda	Last Name:	Howells
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29572		

SC Reference # : SC0000000362

Date Submitted:	8/5/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I understand that a rate increase may be due, but this particular proposed rate increase will have a significant and disproportionate impact on lower income families such as myself. I have a limited income (\$2500/month) and live with my disabled daughter. The apartment we rent is 100% electric. To save money, we do not use any air conditioning during the summer since I have a high tolerance for warmth and the apartment remains reasonably comfortable (74-78 degrees). But during the winter, our apartment gets very cold. We turn the heater off at night, and then we turn it on again in the morning. But we still keep the temperature between 62-64 degrees at all times, setting aside our comfort and bundling up to save money. This proposed increase would not raise our rates by 8.7%, which is what it appears at first glance. Instead, because of the peak hour rate hike, our bill would go from approximately \$60/month (which we have now) to over \$100, based on your calculator. Over 40% increase! \$40 a month may not seem like a lot to you, but it's a huge hit to my budget. Since we're already spending the minimum we can on groceries and household items, as well as utilities and other necessities, that means that most likely I'll skip dental and healthcare needs that are not urgent because I don't see any other way to make up that gap. Please reconsider a new formula that does not hurt lower income families. I'm certain I speak for many more families who are just getting by and don't have the time or energy to respond to this proposal. Sincerely, Linda Howells

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Howells,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Carole **Last Name:** VanSickler
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29579

SC Reference # : SC0000000364

Date Submitted: 8/5/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I hereby propose an alternative three tier rate increase Understand the added charges for Peak time periods but believe it should be graduated into the residents. 3% in 2025, 2.7% in 2026 and then 3% in 2027 Carole M. vanSickler **[REDACTED]** Myrtle Beach, SC 29579-1856 Landline **[REDACTED]**

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. VanSickler,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Steve

Last Name: Donnelly

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000365

Date Submitted: 8/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Hello, There are 2 things that I am concerned with the rate changes: - Would be a big advantage to you and me if you supplied your customers smart thermostats for heat/cooling and switches for their electric hot water heaters. It reduces your demand and saves customers money. - Smartrewards will cycle my heating/cooling and hot water on/off during peek hours. But, I don't see a program that will turn off my hot water heater during the whole 3 hour peek period. I could very easily turn my hot water heater for 3 hours a day with no adverse effect. Regards, Steve Donnelly

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Donnelly,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

We will have one of our Energy Advisors reach out to you directly to discuss ways to help reduce your bill.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	CRAIG	Last Name:	O'DONNELL
Organization:			
City:	CONWAY	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC0000000366

Date Submitted:	8/7/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

We understand that inflation has created a need for Santee Cooper to increase rates. And we appreciate that they have held rates steady since 2017. What we don't understand is why residential customers have to bear such a heavy burden of the increase - especially senior citizens. It seems incomprehensible that you would ask residential customers to absorb an average of 8.7% increase while only asking 4.1% and 2.8% of commercial and industrial customers respectively. To a large extent, commercial and industrial customers can handle these types of increases better than residential customers due to their larger incomes and budgets - and that fact that they can pass at least a portion of those increases off to their customers. Residential customers have nowhere to pass any of these increases off to. To some extent (and a very limited extent at that), residential customers that are working can ask for a raise, apply for a better job, or take on part time work to supplement their income in order to help offset the increases. But senior citizens on a fixed income have extremely limited possibilities of those types of offsets. We are at the mercy of the government to calculate our cost of living increases which are based on only a three month average of inflation and applied to the costs of working people. We pay more proportionately for healthcare, utilities, food and living expenses than the average middle class working family. An average increase of 8.7% is just too much to ask. We respectfully ask you to sharpen your pencils to see if you can reduce the overall increase and to also find some more equitable way to apply those increases - keeping mind the plight of senior citizens.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Dwight	Last Name:	Jowdy
Organization:	residential		
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC000000369

Date Submitted: 8/8/2024 **Origin:**

Comment:

Do you have a method to not use a heat pump or water heater during the "On Peak Demand" hours? Since these are the largest users, then it seems tough to turn these "energy hogs" off during the Peak demand hours or else your whole scheme on the rate comparison is a SHAM. Sorry, I tend to call them as I see them. Also, how does this affect those of us who are trying to help you get more Solar generated electricity by mounting solar cells on our roofs? Seems to me it is driving down the amount of dollars we make selling energy to you. With your basic charge (Solar Stand-By KW Charge \$ 28.68) I have yet to see any payback on selling you energy. Now it will be less as I will be paid less for the KW I put into the system. Will the "Solar Stand-By KW Charge" be lowered as well since the KW pricing has changed? Either you are not looking at this area (it is a KW based fee if I am interpreting correctly) and, by all fairness, you should, or you are not publishing all the facts. Sincerely, Dwight Jowdy

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Jowdy,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

We will have one of our Energy Advisors reach out to you in the near future to discuss ways in which you can reduce your bill.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Wanda

Last Name: Eucare

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000370

Date Submitted: 8/8/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Account #**[REDACTED]** As usual you attempt to increase rates the highest to residential and not commercials. Commercials needs the highest increase while residential need the lowest because those people are low and middle class who under this economy cannot afford your high rate increase. Stop screwing over the little people and start making big business pay the majority. Wanda K Eucare

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Eucare,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Geraghty,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is proposing a new rate structure that will give residential customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-demand appliances. The three-part rate structure includes an on-peak demand charge based on the highest one-hour integrated demand for each customer meter during the three-hour on-peak window for the month. These proposed rates will reward customers for shifting their usage from periods of high system usage, or demand, to periods of low usage, and will reduce the base energy charge by about 40%. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

Santee Cooper's proposed three-part rate would replace the existing two-part RG rate offered today. As an alternative, Santee Cooper has also proposed a two-part time-of-use rate (RT-25). The time-of-use rate does not include a demand charge, but rather a customer charge and an energy charge that varies by time of day.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Zaki,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bauer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Nola	Last Name:	Bacci-Koziol
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC000000375

Date Submitted:	8/10/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Your so called 8.7% increase plus new rate structure would increase my bill 30% per my current usage. This is a totally unacceptable intrusion on my quality of life. I am a 78 year old woman with health issues which require appropriate temperature control whether the hours are peak or non peak. I am retired and living on a fixed income as are many people in my area and cannot afford your unreasonable rate structure. In addition, your telling me I cannot prepare my meals at a time convenient for me is utterly ridiculous and unacceptable. I STRONGLY OPPOSE these unreasonable and unaffordable rate increases.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bacci-Koziol,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Susan **Last Name:** Hopf
Organization:
City: Conway **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29526

SC Reference # : SC000000764

Date Submitted: 8/10/2024 **Origin:** mail

Comment:

[TRANSCRIBED BELOW; ORIGINAL LETTER FOLLOWS]

To Whom It May Concern, N.P.R. South Carolina Public Radio reporter Vince Kolb-Lugo broke the story on the V.C. Summer Nuclear Reactor Scam against South Carolinian Residents. He reported on Westinghouse, Scanna, S.C.E.&G. and Santee Cooper's involvement in creating a better energy service using Nuclear Energy but knowing ahead of time, that the area was already leaking dangerous radioactive materials into the groundwater. All four groups avoided full prosecution under the law and made a deal with South Carolina to send payouts to the residents in the state. S.C.E.&G. was bought out by Dominion of Virginia and the Westinghouse Executive agreed to a plea deal. The project was scrapped, but to this day, nobody has cleaned up the site. It is still leaking radioactive materials into the ground water. Nobody has the right in any of these agencies, including Santee Cooper, to ask for rate hikes to recoup the monies they lost to the scam they committed against South Carolinian residents. If anything, all of these groups, Dominion and Santee Cooper included, need to swallow the debts they incurred for their bad business deal with the V.C. Summer Nuclear Reactor Project failure. They also need to restructure their Board of Commissioners and employees and first, clean up the site, and then, with the help of all South Carolinian Residents, immediately change from coal power unclean energy to Geothermal and Green Hydrogen Energies at affordable rates and ensure the energy is clean, healthy and safe that protects the air, land, water, and all sentient beings, wildlife and humans. It would also help to build healthy, safe zones for wildlife to live unencumbered by humans. Santee Cooper customers need Santee Cooper to have offices in Conway and other areas where the public can walk in to pay their bills too. These changes need to happen now! No rate hike. Sincerely, Susan Hopf & Chalil Jimenez

August 10, 2024

Attn: Santee Cooper Board of Commissioners
Re: April 1, 2025 Energy Rate Hikes

To Whom It May Concern,
N.P.R. South Carolina Public Radio reporter, Vince Koltz-Lupo broke the story on the V.C. Summer Nuclear Reactor scam against South Carolinian residents. He reported on Westinghouse, Seanner, S.C.E. & G and Santee Cooper's involvement in creating a better energy service using Nuclear Energy but knowing ahead of time, that the area was already leaking dangerous radioactive materials into the ground water. All four groups avoided full prosecution under the law and made a deal with South Carolina to send payouts to the residents in the state. S.C.E. & G. was bought out by Dominion of Virginia and the Westinghouse Executive agreed to a plea deal. The project was scrapped, but to this day, nobody had cleaned up

the site. It is still leaping radioactive material into the ground water. Nobody has the right in any of these agencies, including Justice Cooper to ask for rate hikes to recoup the monies they lost to the scam they committed against South Carolinian residents. If anything, all of these groups, Dominion and Justice Cooper included, need to swallow the ~~ad~~ debts they incurred for their bad business deal with the U.C. Summer Nuclear Reactor Project failure. They also need to restructure their Board of Commissioners and employees and first, clean up the site, and then, with the help of all of South Carolinian residents, immediately change from coal power nuclear energy to Geothermal and Green Hydrogen Energies at affordable rates and ensure the energy is clean, healthy and safe that protects the air, land, water, and all sentient beings, wildlife and humans. It would also help to fund healthy, safe zones for wildlife to live unencumbered by humans. Justice Cooper voters need Justice Cooper to have offices in Conway and other areas, where the public can walk in to pay their bills too. Special charges need to happen now! No rate hikes

Sincerely,

Susan Hoff & Ehab El Jimenez

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Ms. Hopf & Mr. Jimenez,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Linda **Last Name:** Wilcox
Organization:
City: Moncks Corner **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29461

SC Reference # : SC000000376

Date Submitted: 8/12/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper, I agree that a rate increase is in order based on inflation and fuel costs. The several base pay increases to top management have had an impact on this need and really do not reflect well. Even so, I understand that we need to create new facilities or strengthen older ones. When I worked for the utility, it was not unusual to have to delay projects based on budgetary constraints. My greatest concern is power quality. On the late evening of either June 13th or the early hours of June 14th, 2024, a system surge destroyed my inverter card on my newer Trane unit. I have an upstairs and downstairs identical units of the latest technology using a variable scroll compressor and the units were 3 1/2 years old that the time. I had never had a problem before with either of these units. Only certified Trane technicians with Coastal Air Solutions have ever worked on this system and the system has been serviced every year under their maintenance agreement that is based on Trane's schedule of checks, etc. I was shown that the inverter card on the first unit was destroyed by a power surge so great that it burned off part of the hardwire connections to the plug on that card. This card costs \$1000 and was covered by my warranty with Trane. The labor, however, was not. The cost to troubleshoot was \$110 for the service call. I have a 10% discount on labor because of carrying the maintenance contract. The labor to install this card was a whopping \$1000. My final cost was \$851.98 for all of 30 minutes of one technician's time to install and test. The breaker on my AC panel locked out during the event and would not reclose until the problem was cleared. I was not the only customer affected that night. Michael Sott, a resident of Water's Edge subdivision near the west dike, living on the corner Lake Moultrie Passage had the identical problem with his Daikin unit that also has a variable scroll compressor utilizing an inverter card. His service company wanted to charge over \$600 for the repair. It is a catastrophic impact on any household that suffers one of these power surges for what the service companies charge. Either a generating unit was lost during that timeframe or voltage support facilities failed that allowed a power surge like this to take place on the distribution system. The whole complexion of the distribution has changed drastically since Santee Cooper had its last rate increase. High density neighborhoods and apartment complexes are popping up everywhere that land is available. The demand has only grown greatly. People are moving here from all over the country. I have lived in my home almost 27 years and not one single time did a power surge impact my home until now. I would like for the company to investigate this issue and provide some feedback on plans to strengthen the system for the direct-serve distribution customers in the Moncks Corner area. I would like to hear about high voltage projects that provide critical voltage support and plans for redundancy as well. My pocketbook really can't afford for something like this to happen again. I am grateful for the reliable, high quality power I have enjoyed for over 30 years with the company and normally, your work is stellar based on a lack of incidents. The power surge I experienced is proof that we need serious investments in our facilities to

maintain the high power quality and reliability that the company has based its reputation upon for so many years. Thank you for trying to keep costs under control, but not to the detriment of power quality and reliability. I appreciate your time and look forward to your early response on my specific situation. Warmly, Linda Wilcox

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Mrs. Wilcox,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The information you provided on your power surge issue has been shared with our Customer Care department for investigation. A representative will contact you directly to follow up on your situation.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Les **Last Name:** Pitzer
Organization:
City: Pawleys Island **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29585-7656

SC Reference # : SC0000000377

Date Submitted: 8/12/2024 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I feel your breakdown of the increase estimate of electric bill is incorrect. Residential rates will not increase by almost 9% unless residents change their usage habits during peak demand hours. Based on the information you supplied my electric bill will increase 19% or almost \$350 a year which equals about 2 1/2 months of my normal bills. I understand and support your need to increase since nothing has been done since 2017 but I find this proposal beyond ridiculous. I'm certain you know that the overwhelming majority of your residential customers in Pawleys Island are retired. This increase would be devastating to retirees.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Pitzer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Sherman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information**First Name:** James**Last Name:** Cronin**Organization:****City:****Customer Type:** Residential**State / Zip:****SC Reference # : SC0000000379****Date Submitted:** 8/13/2024**Origin:** email**Comment:**

Why can't you at least be honest and tell your customers that you need a 22% raise ? This announced 8.7% raise to residents suddenly becomes 22% when projected using your online tool. This is dishonest, disgusting, disappointing and disheartening. If you were honest I would love to see the justification for the actual increase but since you are totally dishonest I hope you get thrown in jail. I don't want to hear anything further until I make some waves in the government, not necessarily to stop the rate increase but to stop the lies.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cronin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Mennel,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

We will have a Santee Cooper Energy Advisor reach out to you directly to discuss your specific circumstance.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Dear Mr. Jensen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

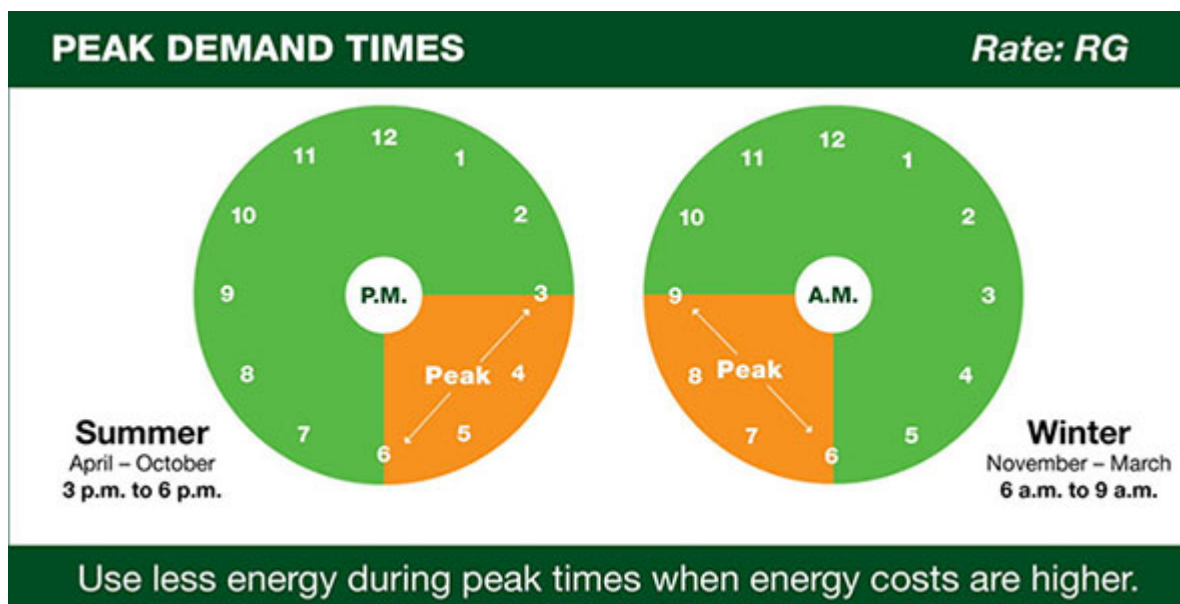
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Birmingham,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Mr. Stark,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Beth

Last Name: Alford

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000393

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I don't want santee cooper to use this failed system to increase our monthly payments. Where is president Biden? Beth Alford

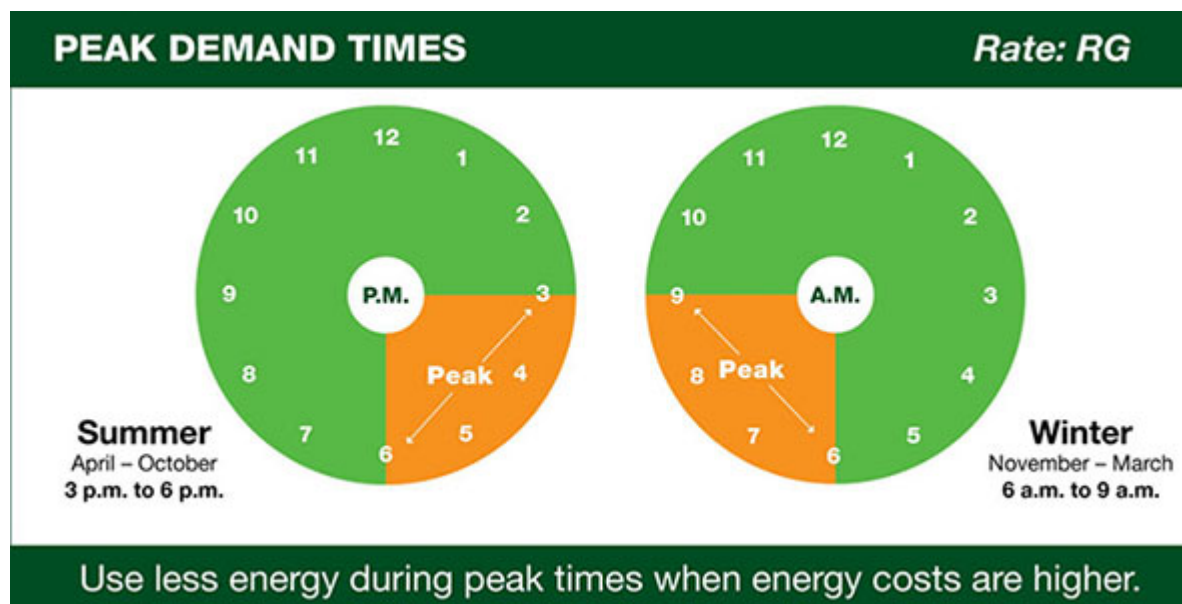
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Alford,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Lyman

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000394

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

The Peak Rate system is unfair and discriminatory. I hear-by protest as Un fair .

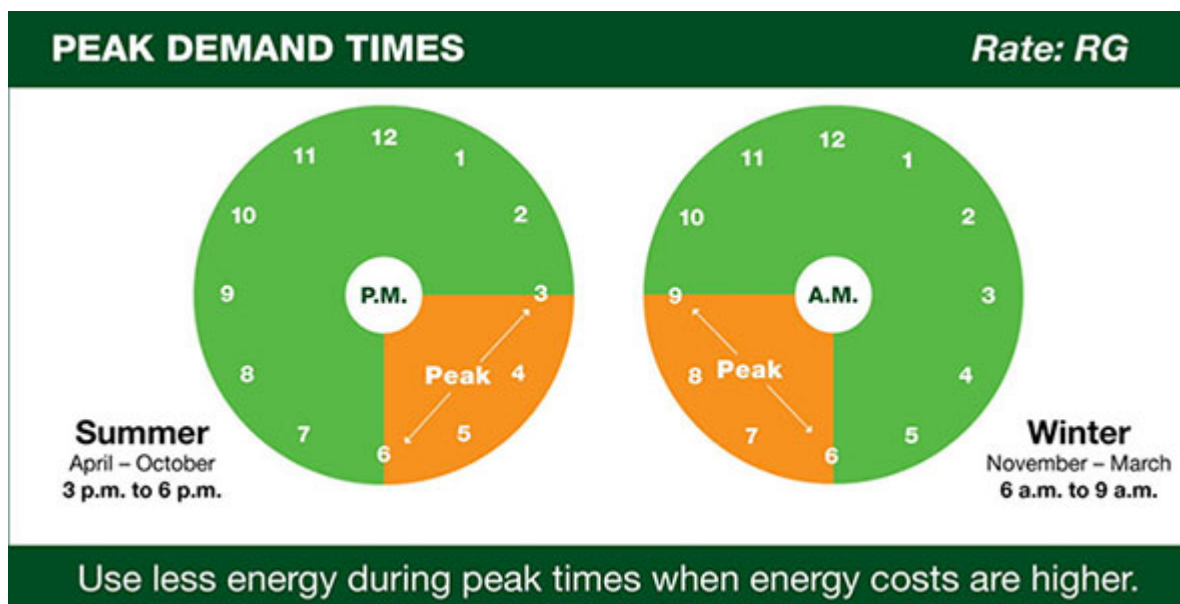
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Dear Mr. Lyman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

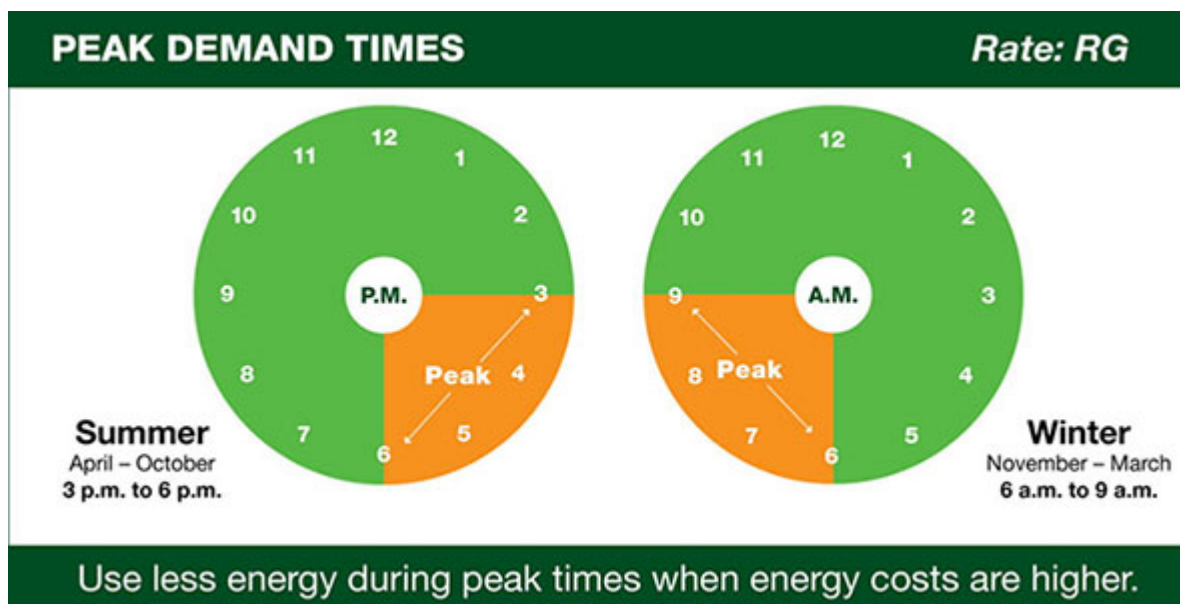
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Elsasser,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Russell

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000396

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

The rate structure that you are preposing that includes the demand charge is both unfair to your customer base and confusing. Using the dinner hours of 3-6 PM for your peak demand hours in the summer is especially unfair to residential customers. No one will know what the charge is until they get their bill. There has to be a better way to fairly balance your rates. I strongly oppose this rate structure. Robert Russell

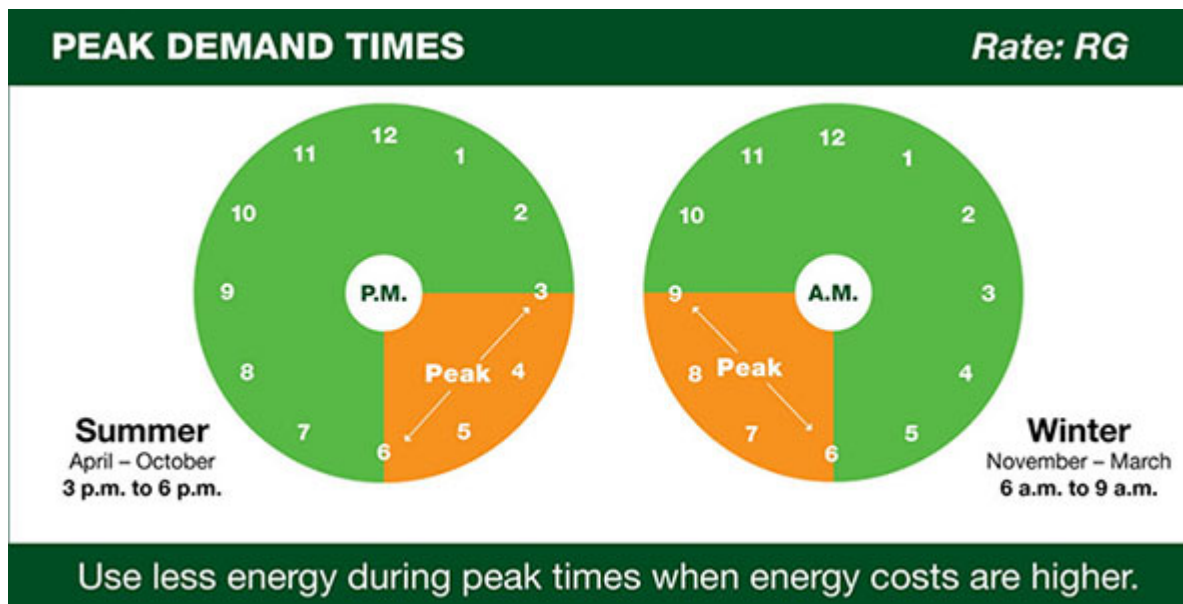
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Russell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Henry

Last Name: Mulhair

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000398

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Very bad idea, Santee Cooper has a great reputation, don't ruin it

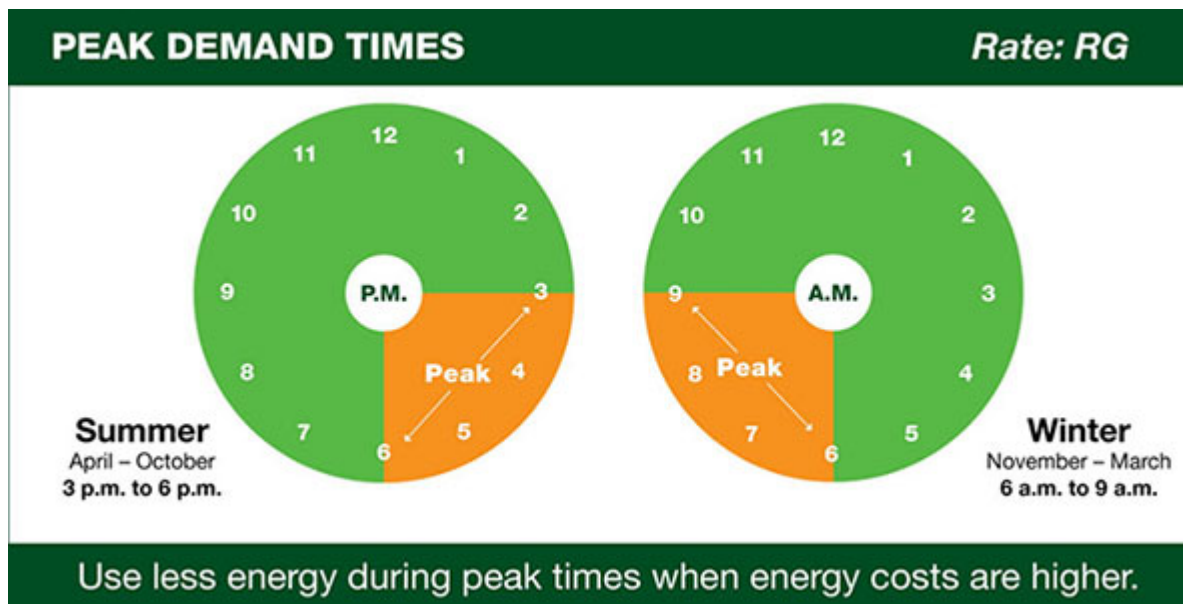
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mulhair,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

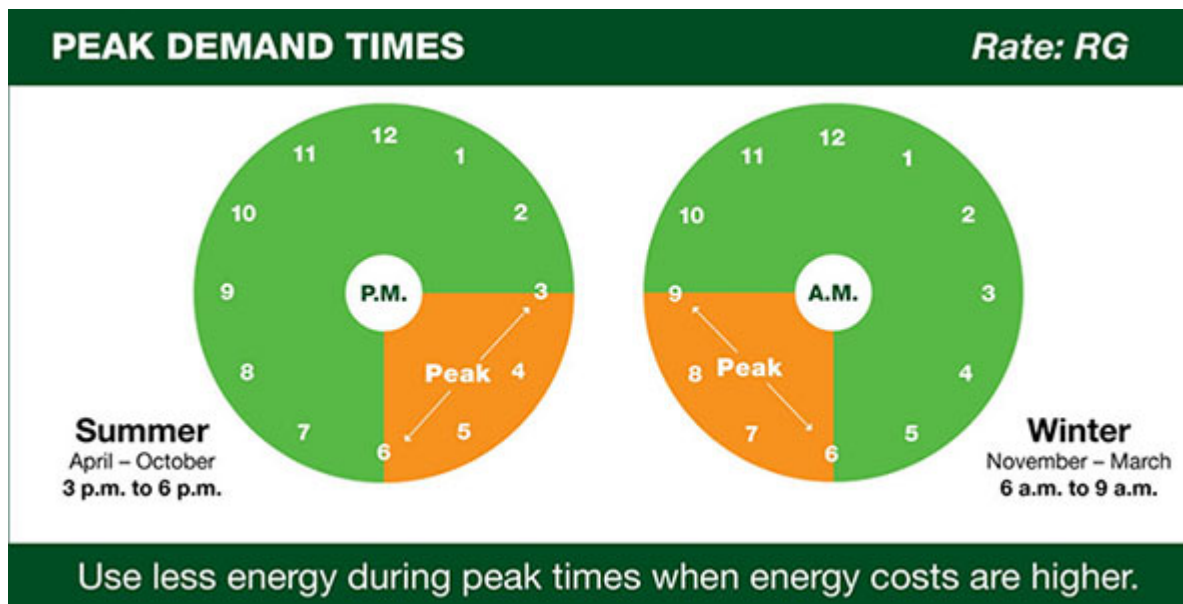
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Dear Ms. Lyman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Susan

Last Name: Mull

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000400

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested. Bill too high already

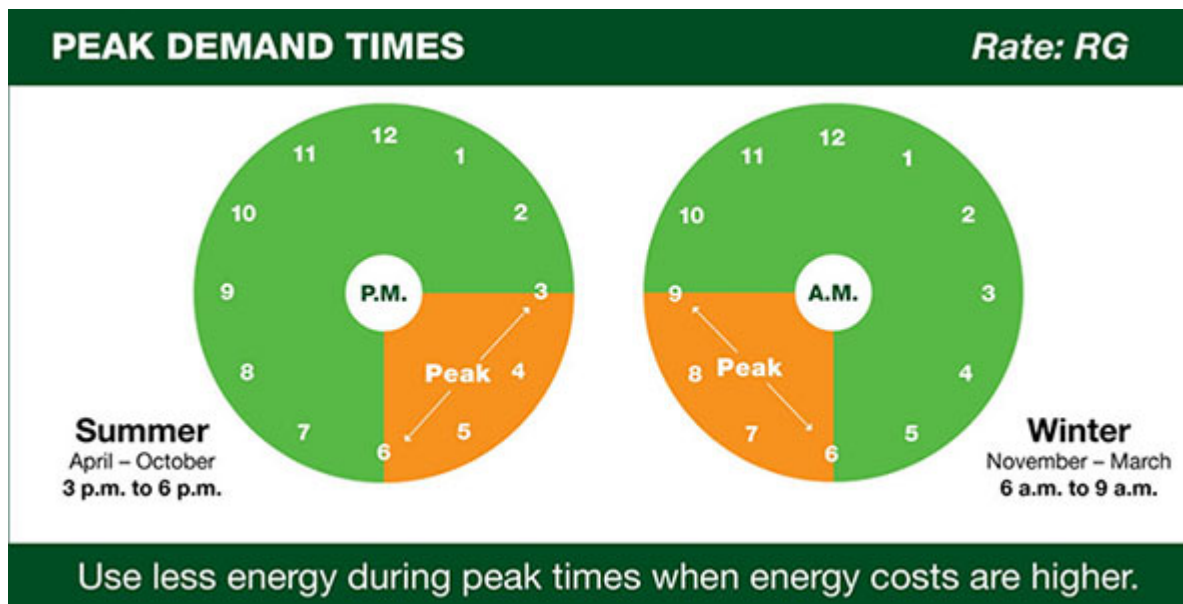
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Mull,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Carmen

Last Name: Tulino

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000401

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment with 3 tier rates.

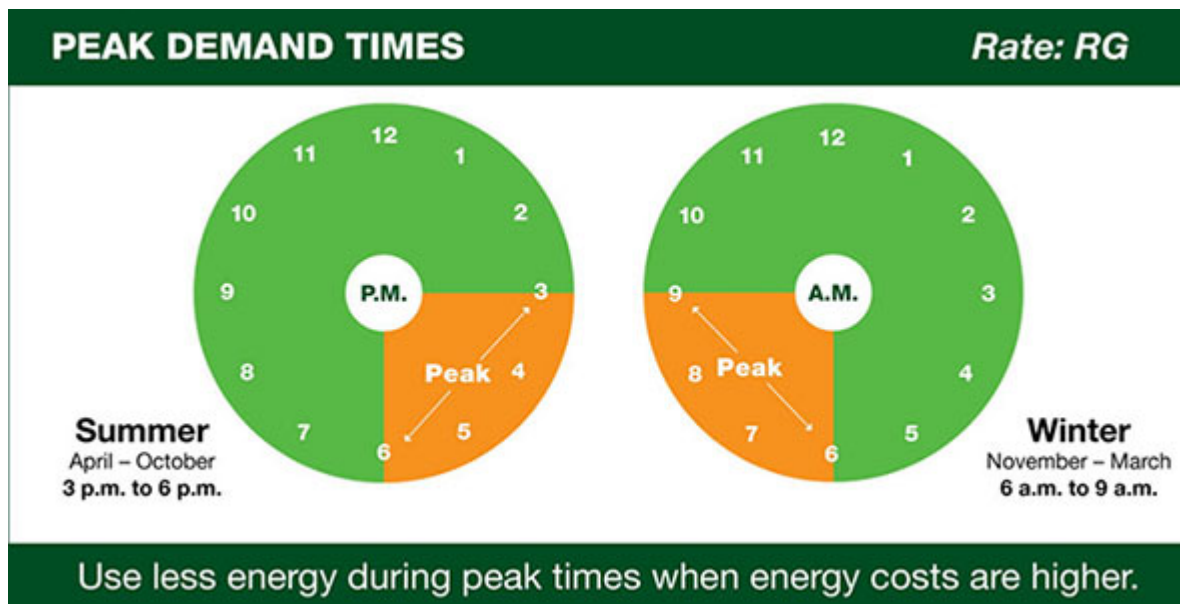
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Tulino,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Donald

Last Name: Blanton

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000402

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am opposed your your 3 part rate hike. It's hard enough as it is without you adding these charges. Your Customer, Don Blanton

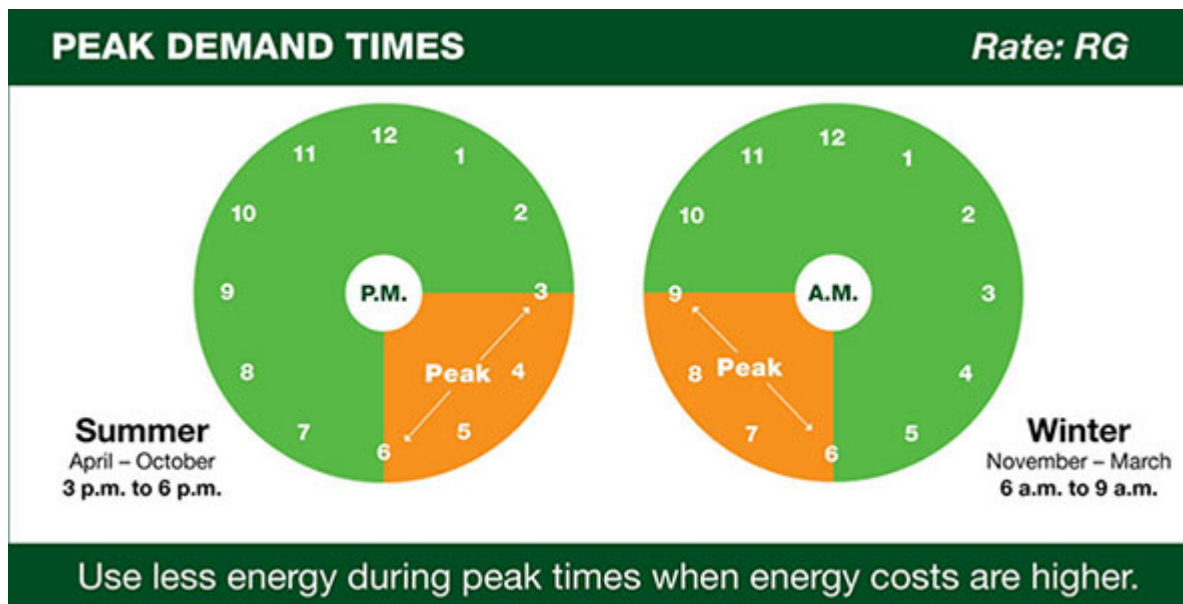
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Blanton,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Michele

Last Name: Engels

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000403

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I do not want to participate in your rate increase experiment. Michele Engels

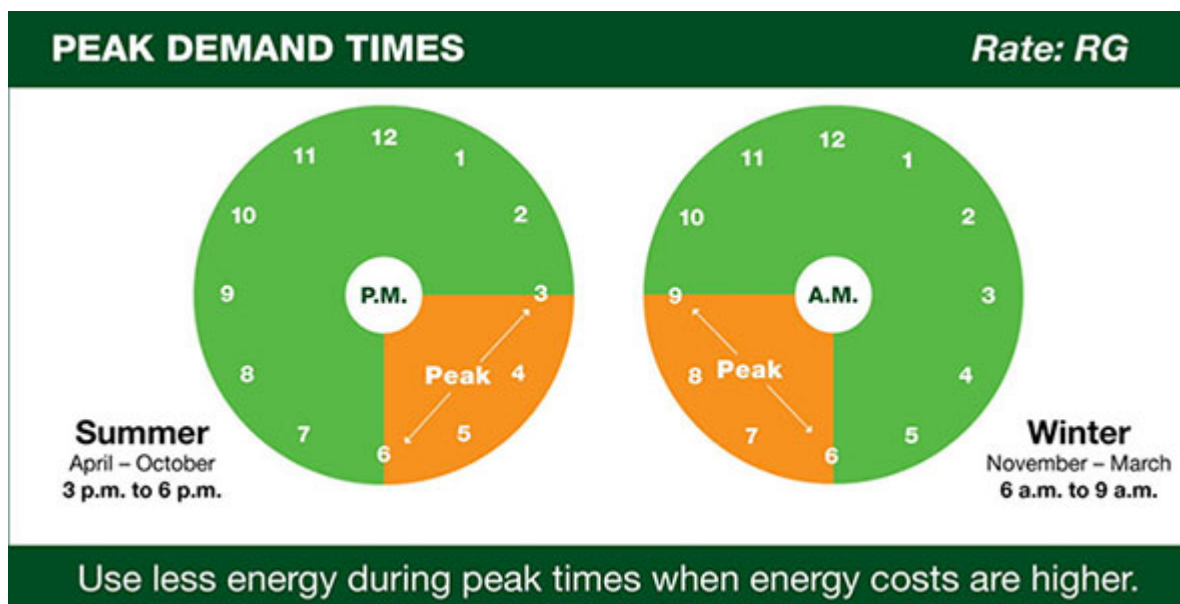
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Dear Ms. Engels,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

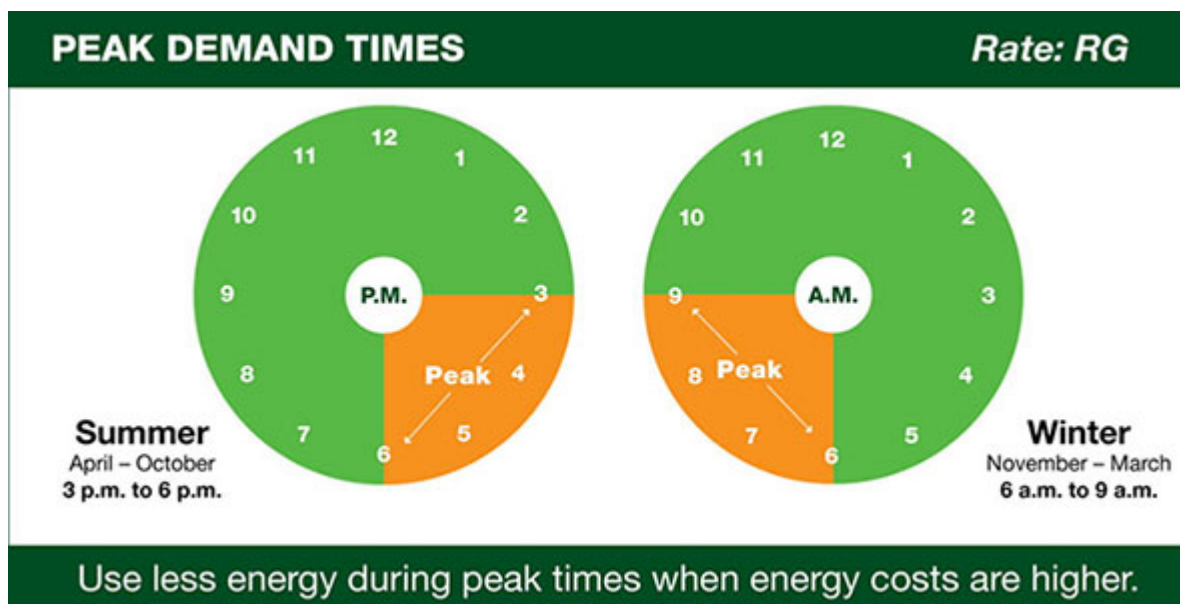
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Clingerman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Gary

Last Name: Leonard

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000405

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am against this rate structure. Why can't we know what the charge is per kwhr for the time period first?

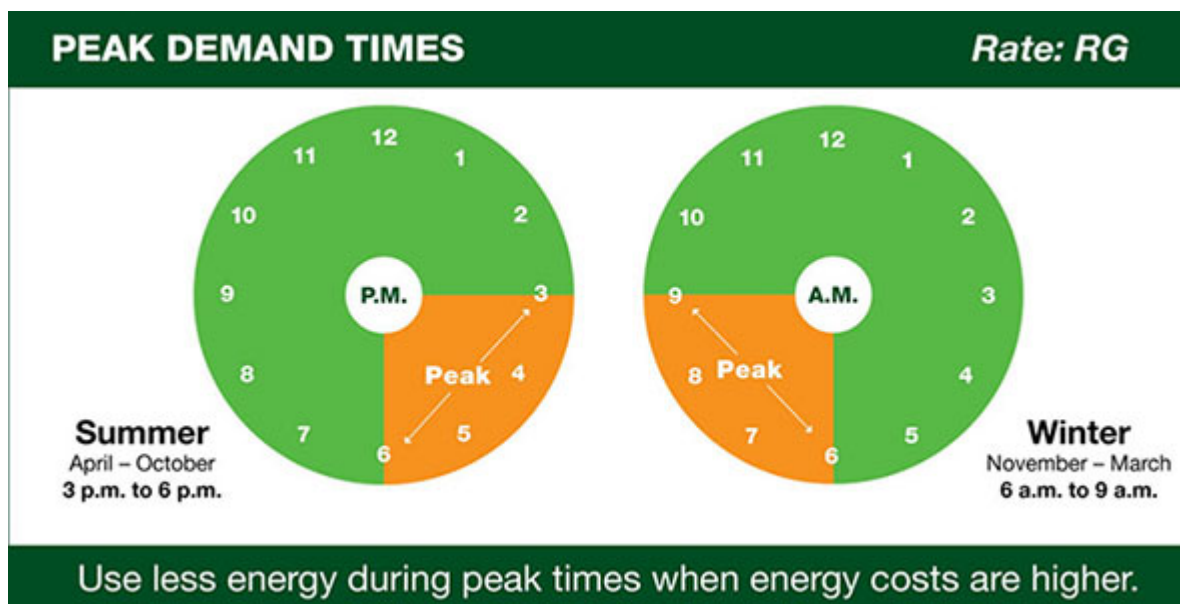
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Leonard,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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The proposed charge per kWh is always \$0.0684 regardless of season or time.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Chris

Last Name: Cannon

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000406

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

It ain't fair just like AARP has stated. Please reconsider these new rates that will be passed down to us the consumer. Some of us are on a fixed income!

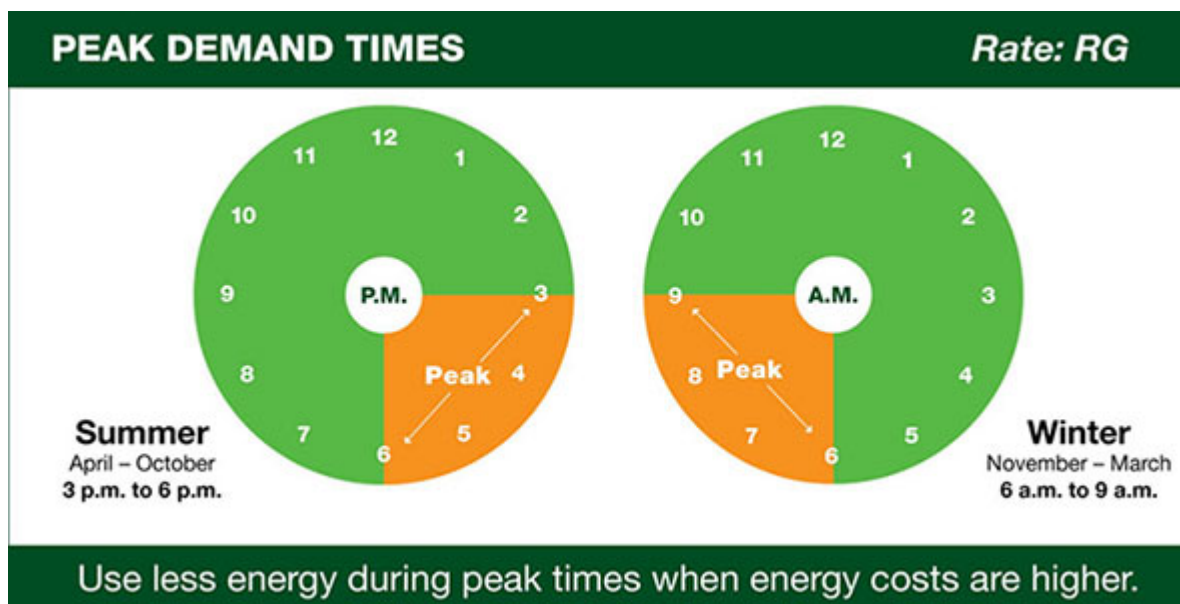
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cannon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

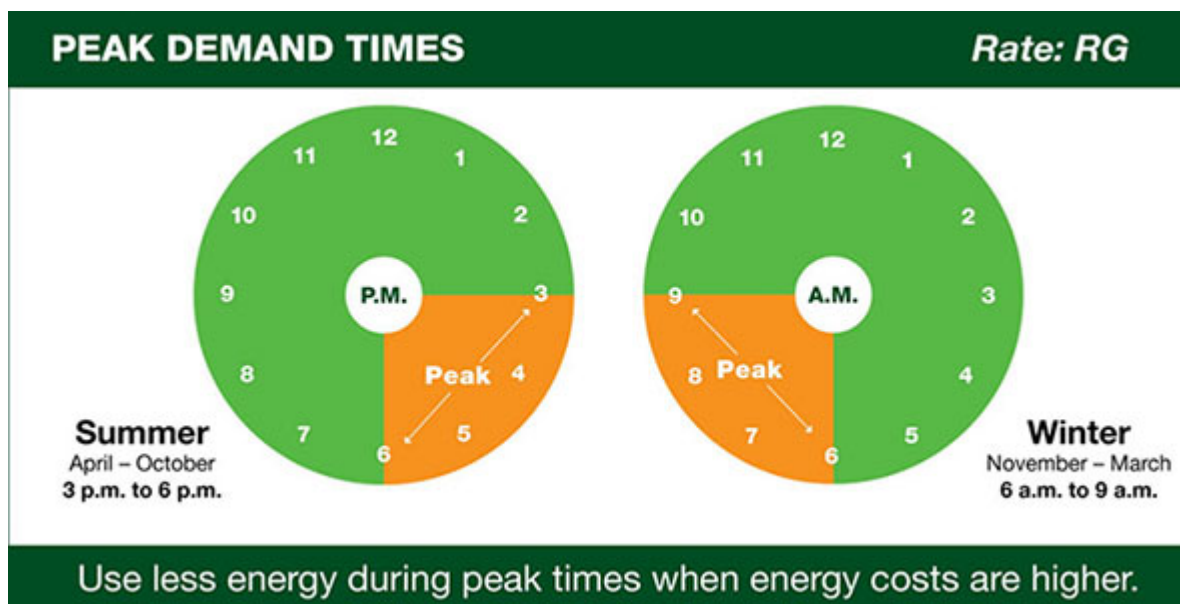
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Volosyn,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

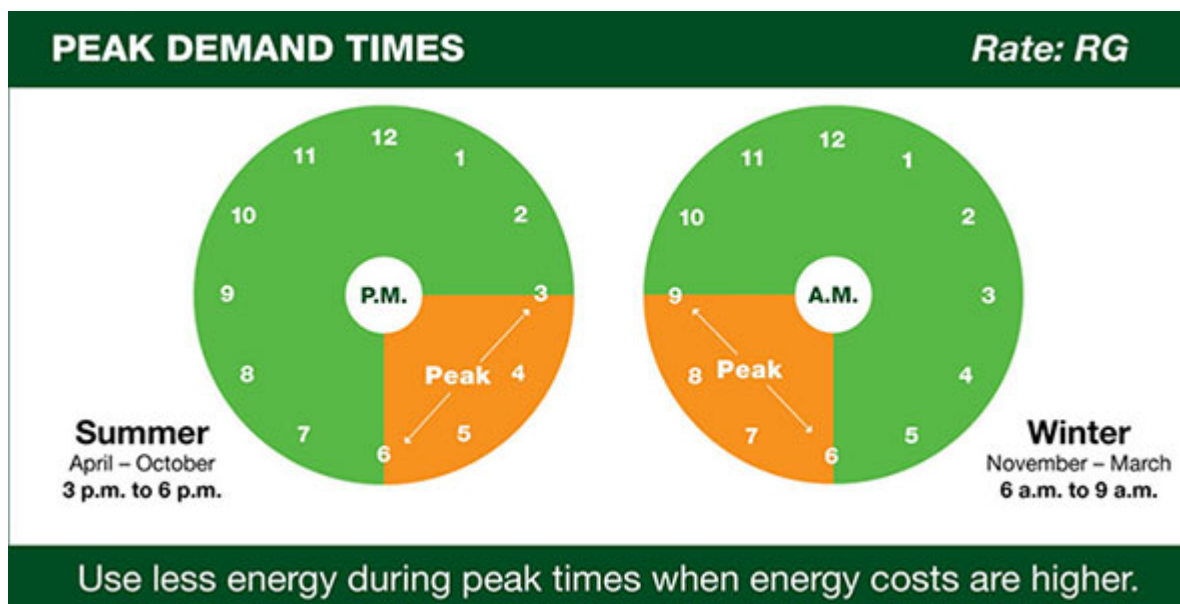
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Whitsitt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lori

Last Name: Rizor

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000409

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Santee Cooper, Our household is not interested in participating in this demand charge you want to impose on customers. Thank you, Lori Rizor

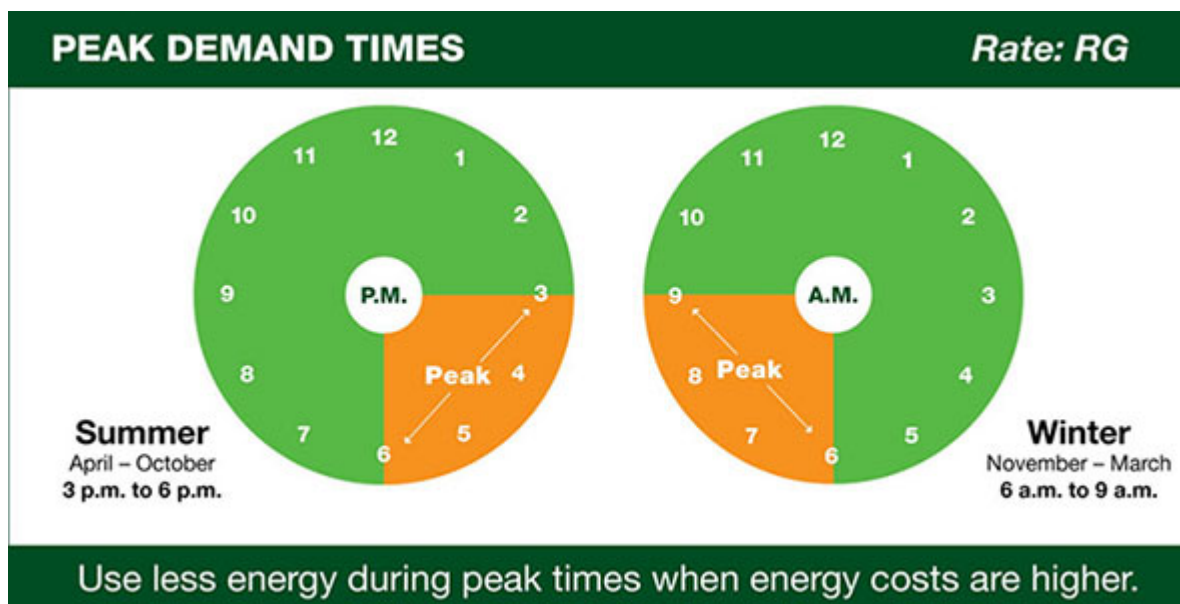
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Dear Mrs. Rizor,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rhonda

Last Name: Leggett

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000410

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I strongly oppose this new rate proposal!

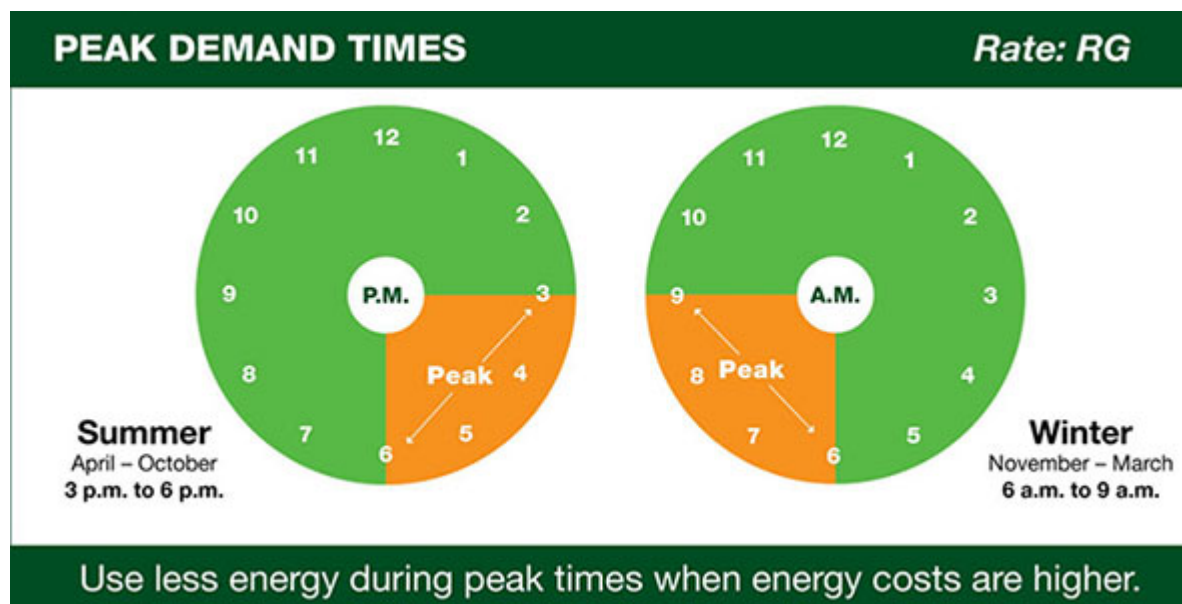
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Leggett,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Matt	Last Name:	Mazurco
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000411

Date Submitted:	8/21/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Santee Cooper, I am STRONGLY against this new "demand charge" that you're proposing. All this will do is raise my rates. It is a misguided proposal and needs to be rejected ASAP! Thank you.

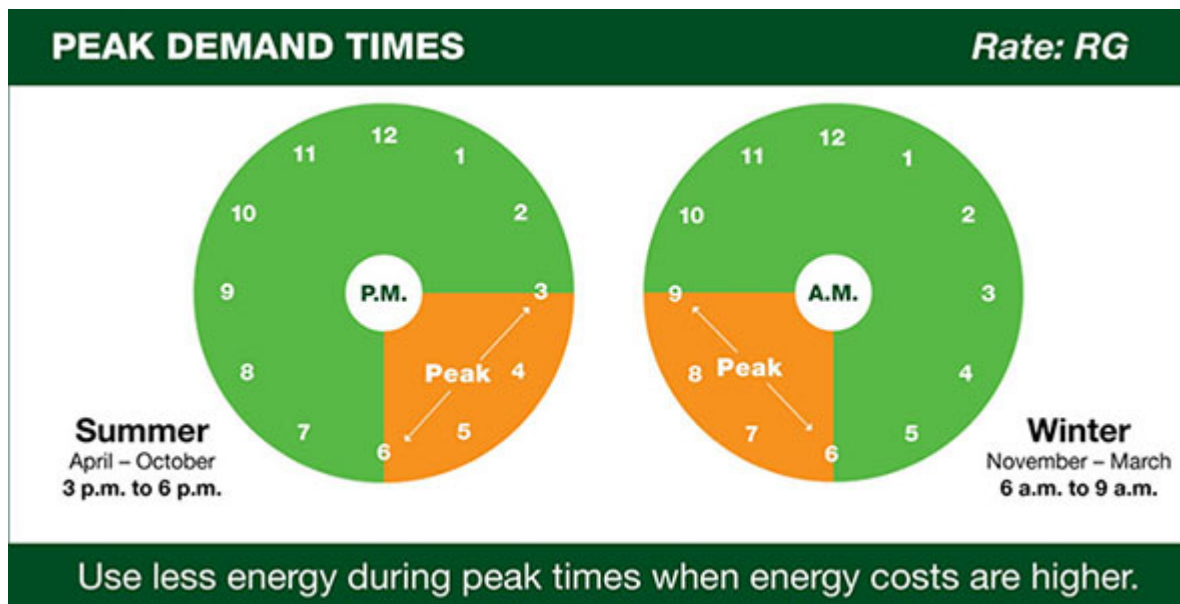
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mazurco,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Imbriano,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Catherine	Last Name:	Lynch
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC0000000413

Date Submitted:	8/21/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I'm not interested in participating in your 3 part rate proposal. I'm a senior citizen on a fixed income & not knowing what the rates will be is absurd.

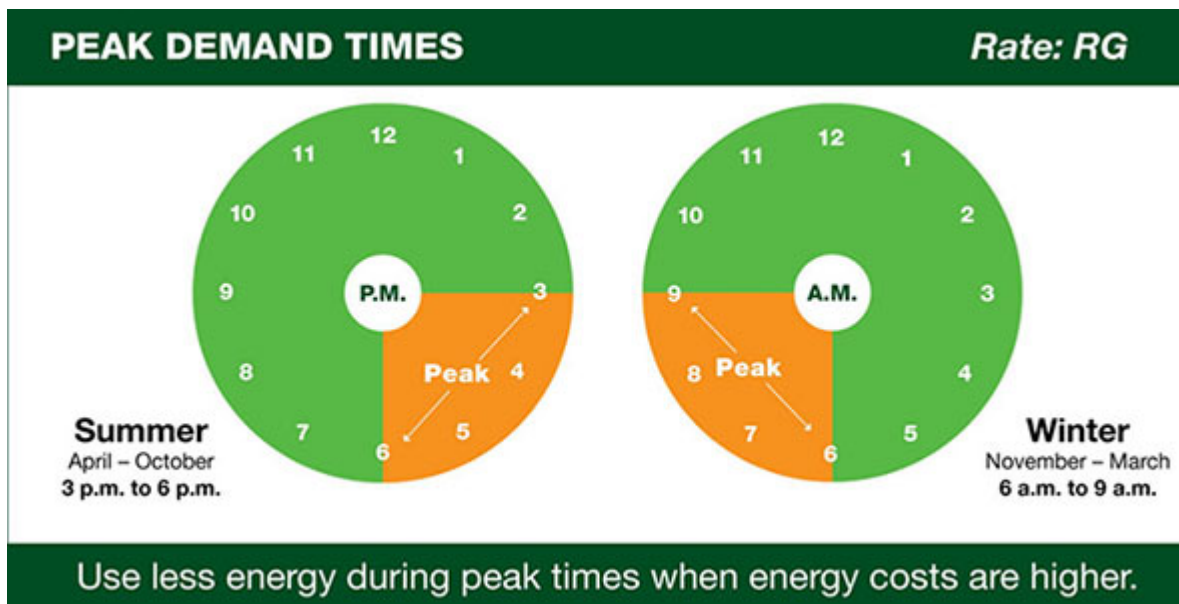
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Lynch,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
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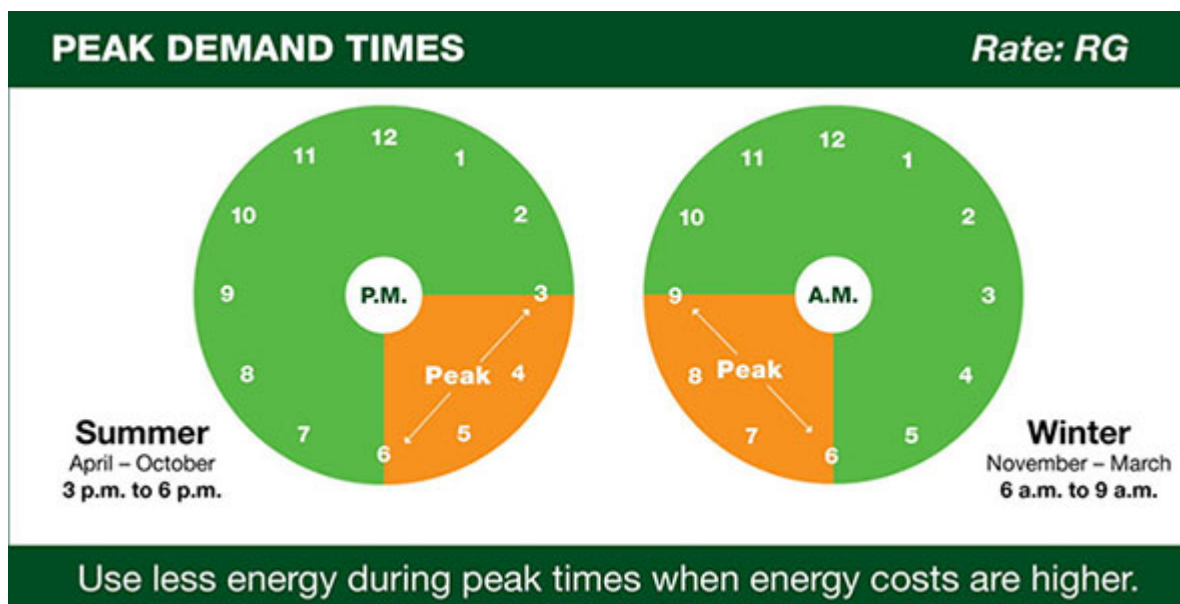
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Dear Ms. Lockett,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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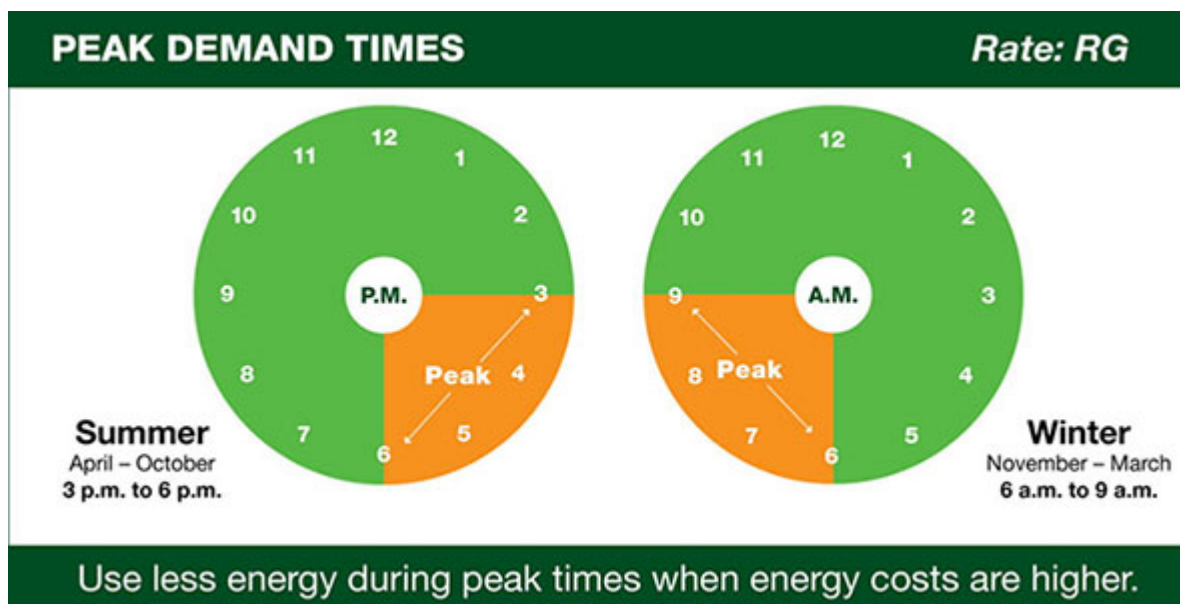
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Findlay,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Marinus

Last Name: Deyoung

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000416

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested in a rate increase Should be a better option to become more efficient
But as usual the people with power don't care about the public Just there bonuses

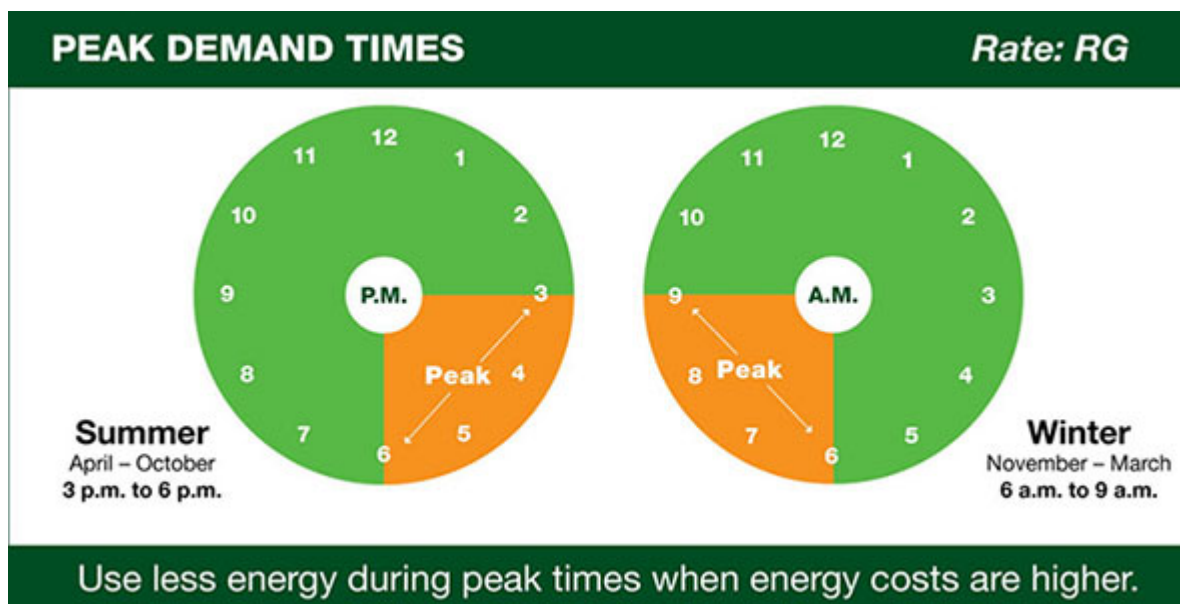
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Dear Mr. Deyoung,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

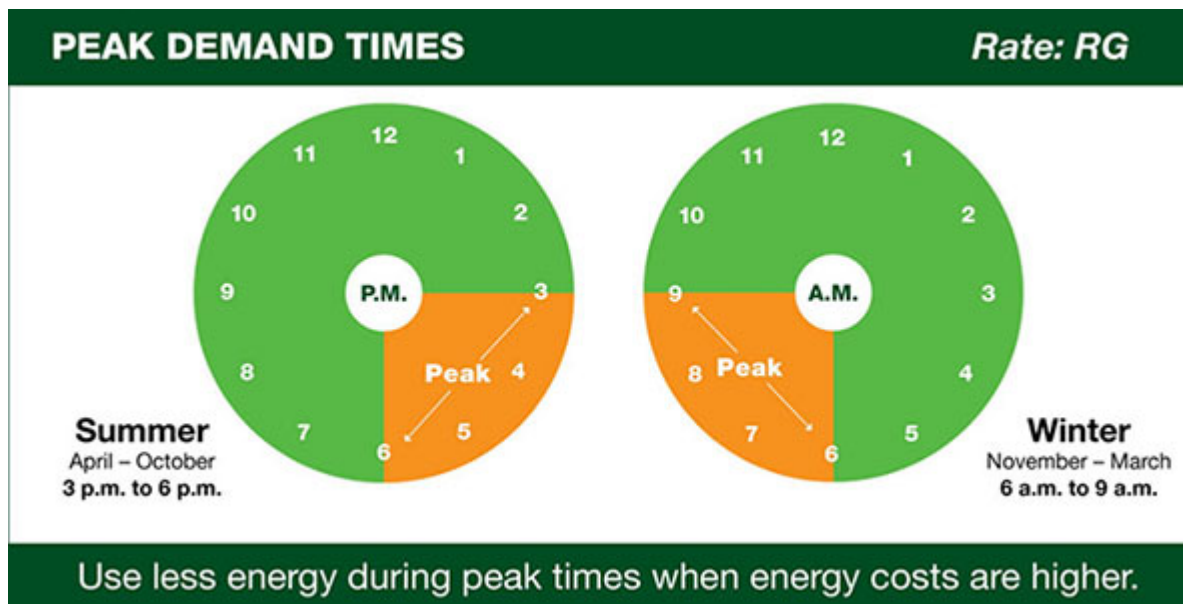
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hearl,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Barbara	Last Name:	McCann
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000418

Date Submitted:	8/21/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I would like to make you aware that I am a Santee Cooper customer, and I am definitely opposed to the possibility of a new rating price structure for peak hours.

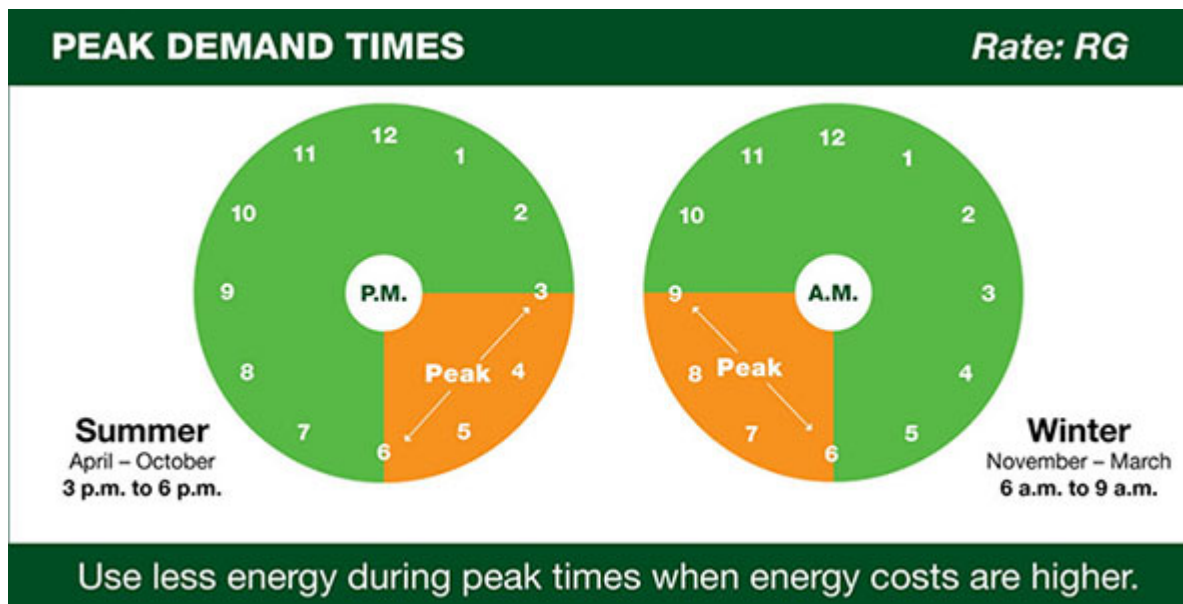
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. McCann,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Randolph **Last Name:** Wilson
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip: SC 29588

SC Reference # : SC000000419

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Rate adjustment??????? How about a rate increase?.....that's what this BS needs to be called. I'm retired living on a fixed income. You think my heat pump will know when the peak hours are? What about when it's cold or hot?? I'm tired of paying for your failed Nuclear disaster, the Sumner's debacle. You can opt me out of this idiotic plan. Shame on you for painting this as a rate adjustment. This is a RATE INCREASE. OPT ME OUT!!!!!! Randolph & Sally Wilson MEMBER OF AARP

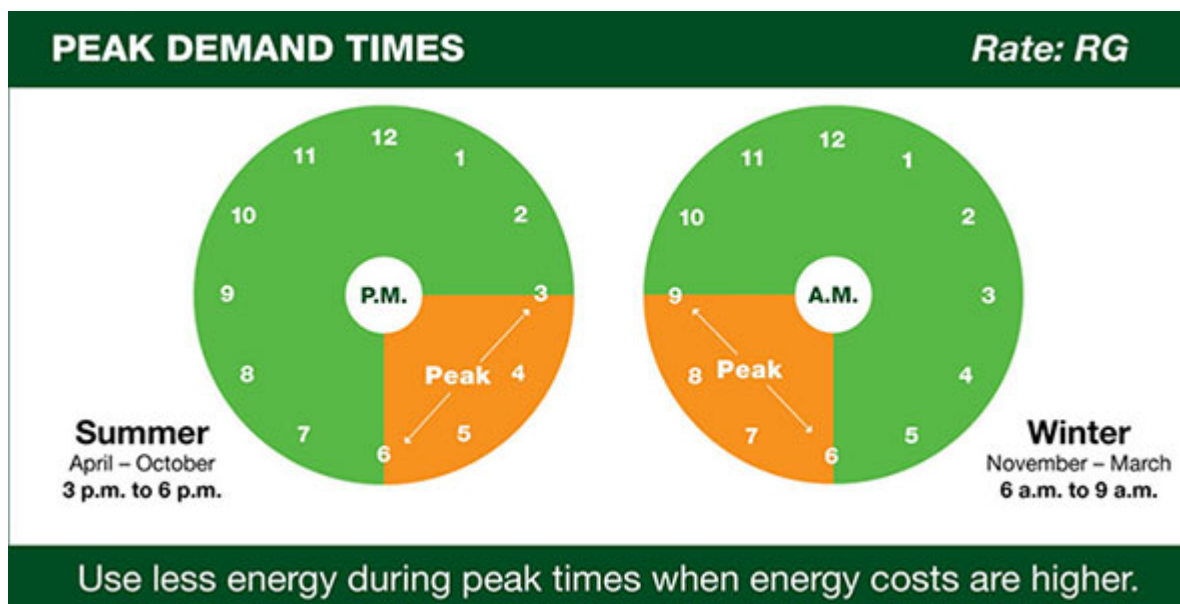
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Wilson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Janet

Last Name: Wolfe

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000420

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

BIG NO TO THIS NEW SUMMER/WINTER BILLING.

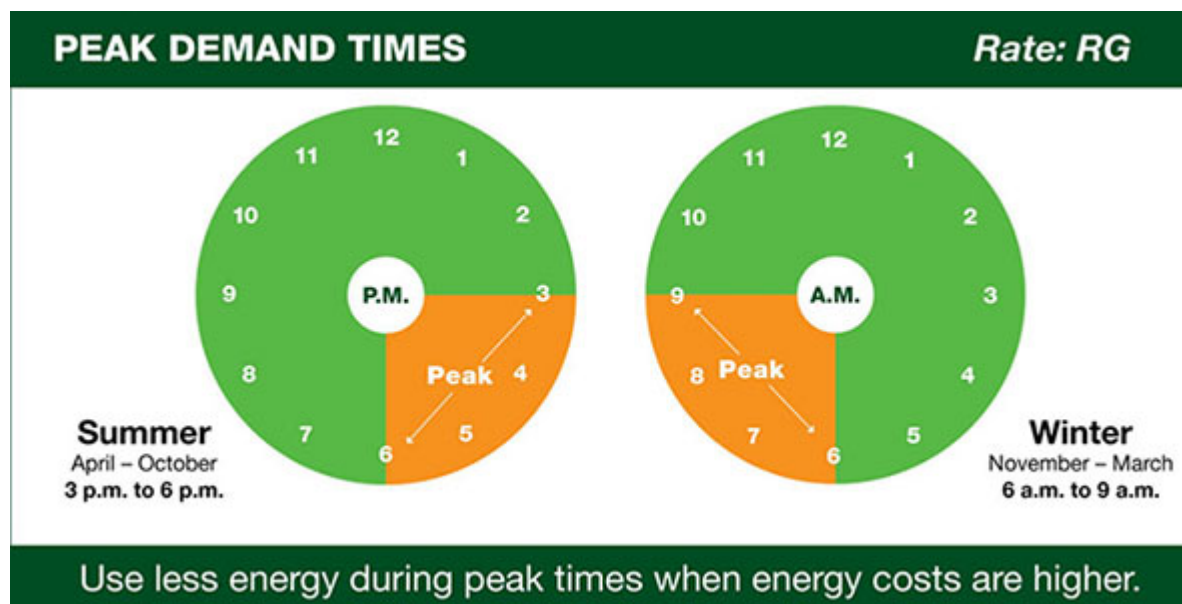
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wolfe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Philip

Last Name: NO LAST NAME

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000421

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

AGAINST THE NEW PROPOSED RATE HIKE INCREASE. IT IS OUTRAGEOUS

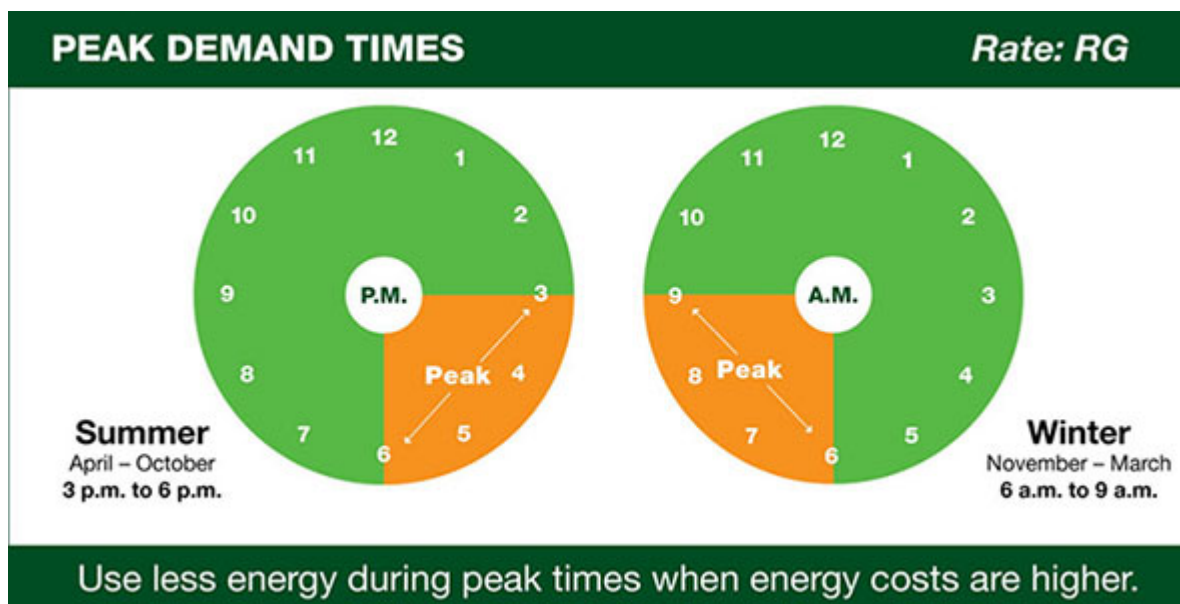
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Philip,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

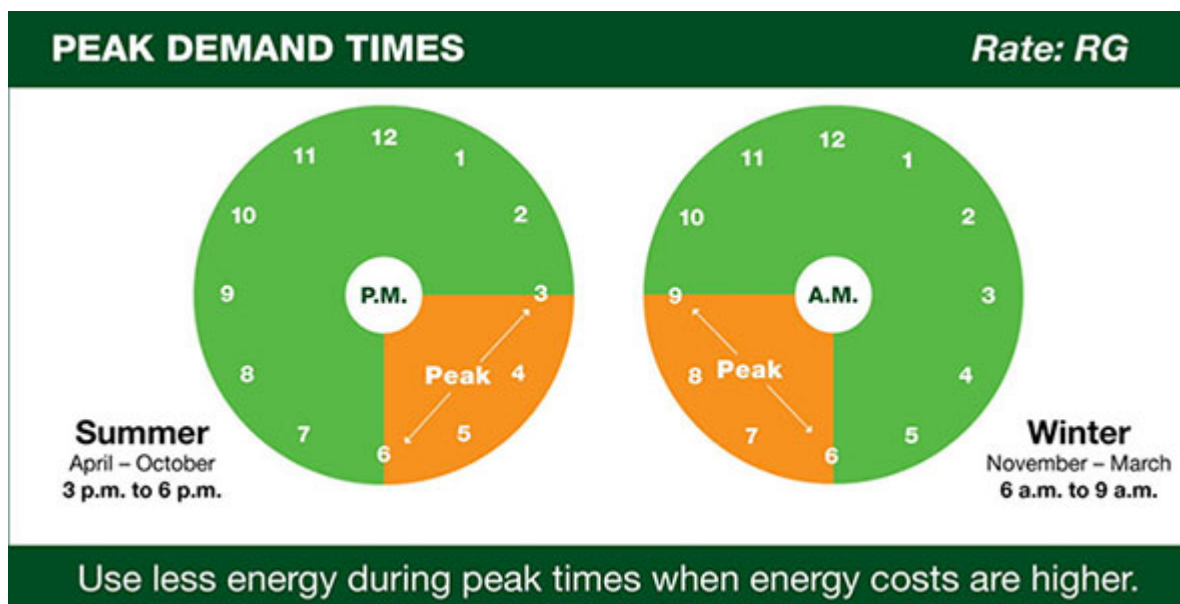
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

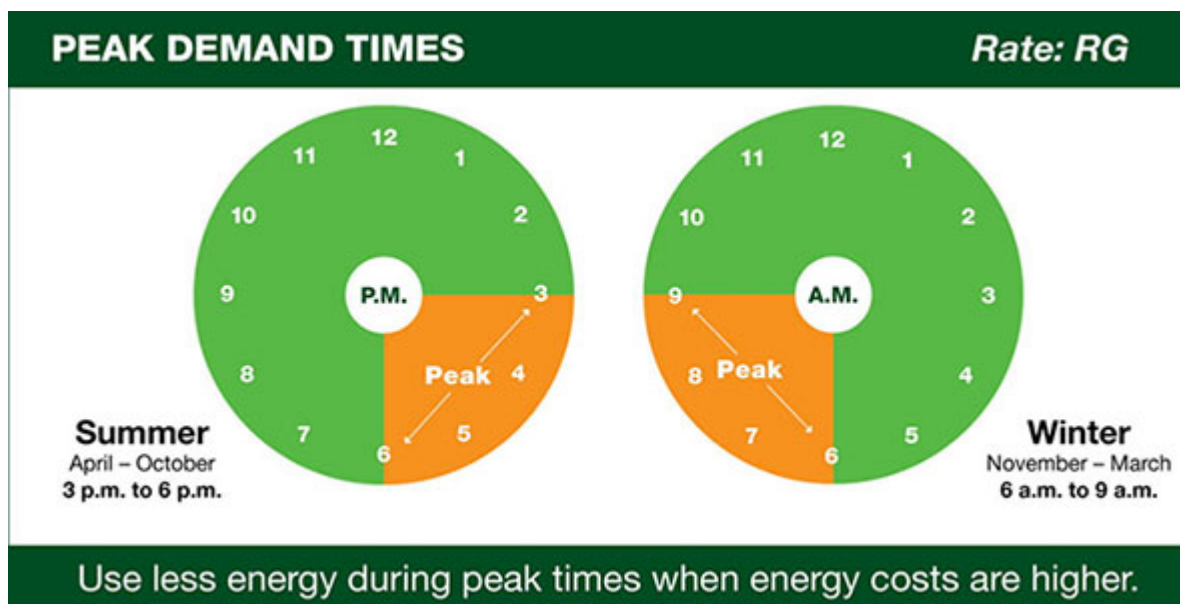
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Adams,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Chief Customer Officer
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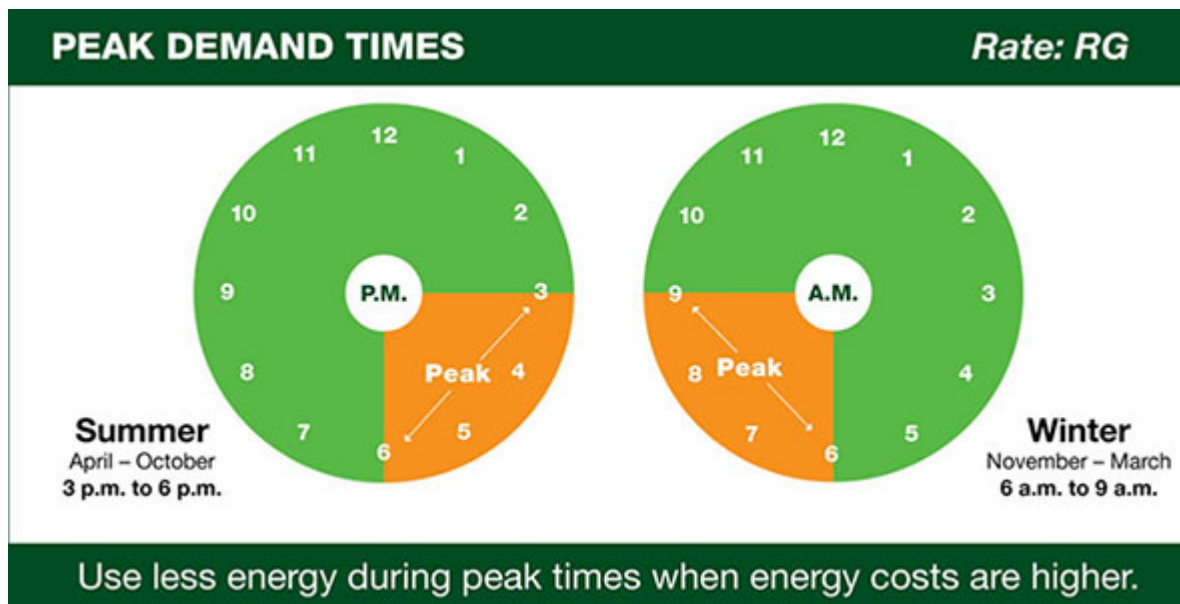
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cropp Jr,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Ellis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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PEAK DEMAND TIMES

Rate: RG



Use less energy during peak times when energy costs are higher.

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Sincerely,

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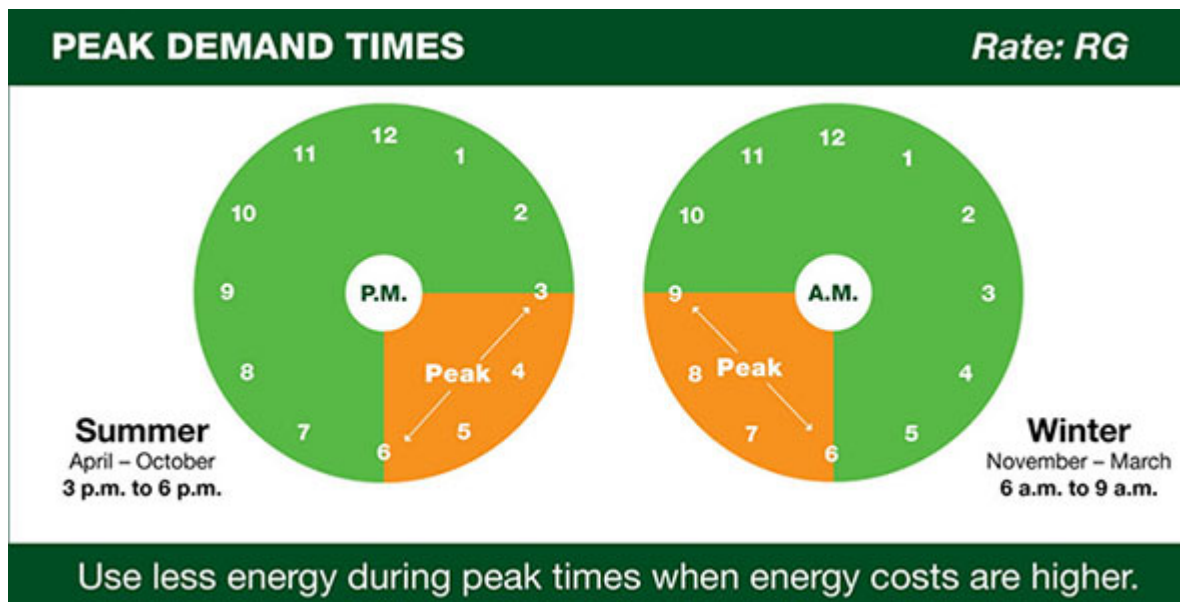
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Dear Mr. Hess II,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Chief Customer Officer
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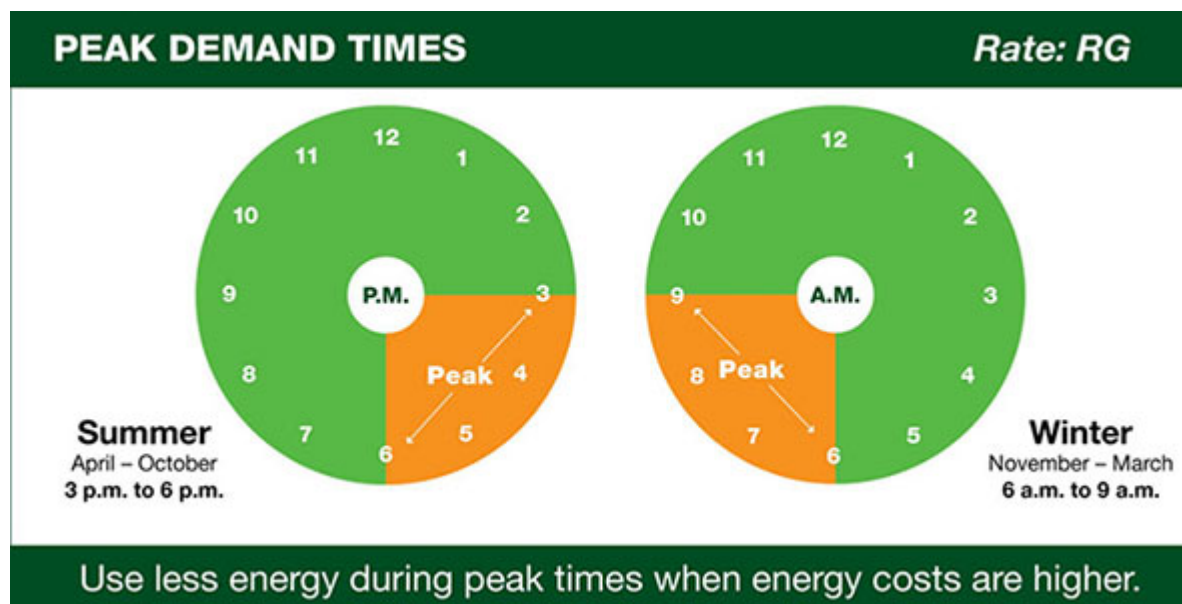
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Dear Ms. Ready,

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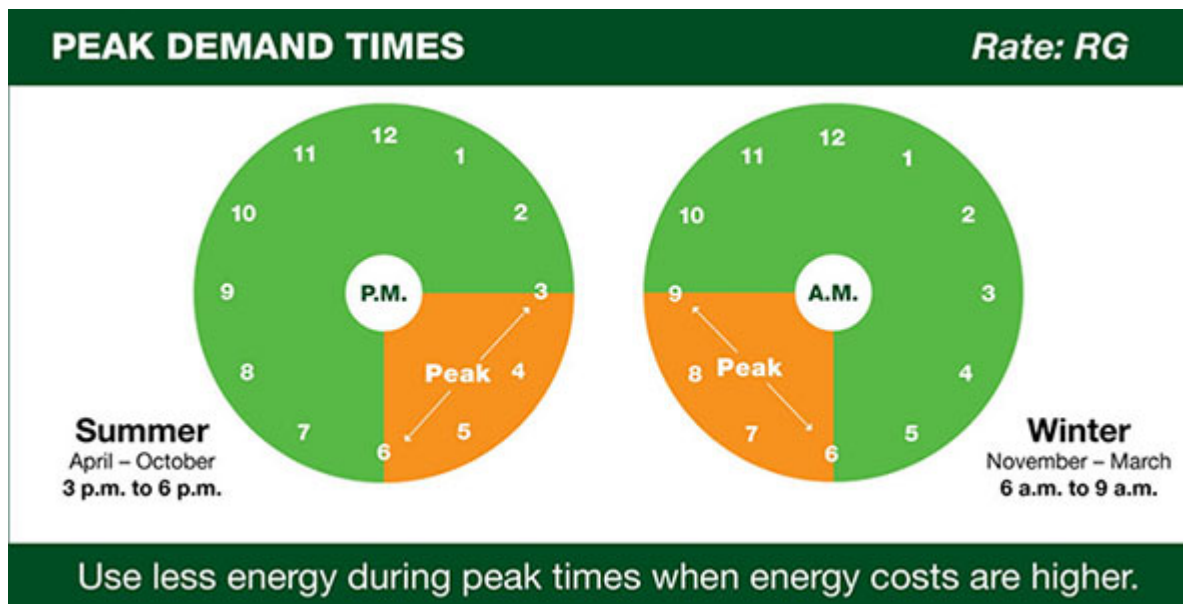
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Dear Mr. Dicks,

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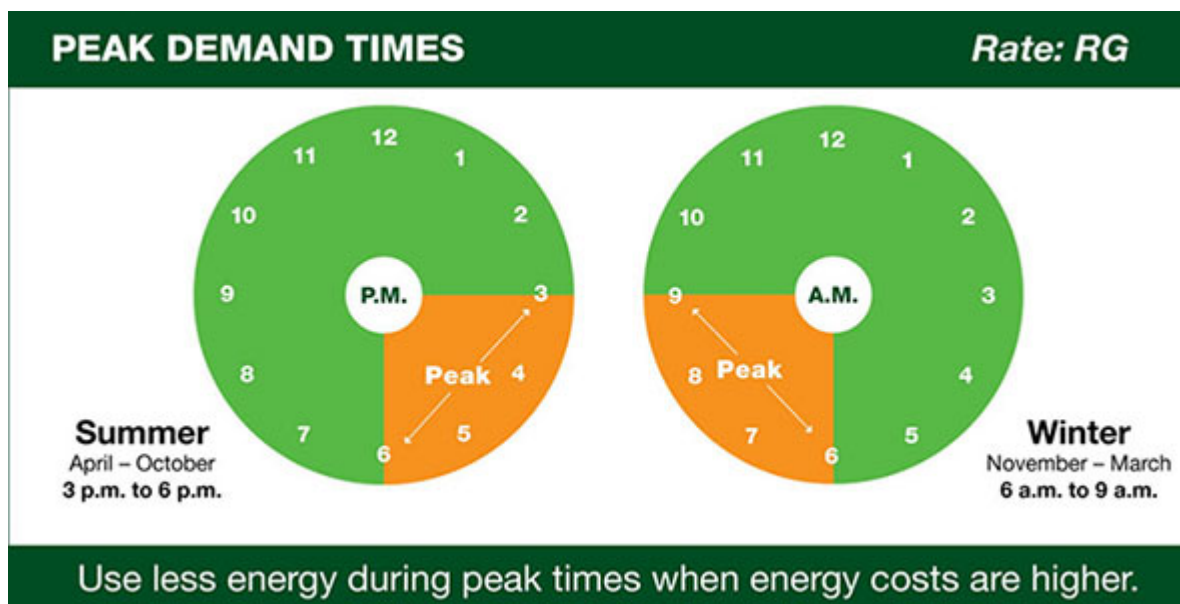
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Dear Ms. Johnson,

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Use less energy during peak times when energy costs are higher.

By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Darlene	Last Name:	Helms
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000430

Date Submitted:	8/21/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I don't understand this prime time rating other than it rips off people at times most families are at busy household times ! I have bi pap with oxgen I have to use at diffrent times during day. So I am going to have to pay more because I am sick? Not right way to treat people!

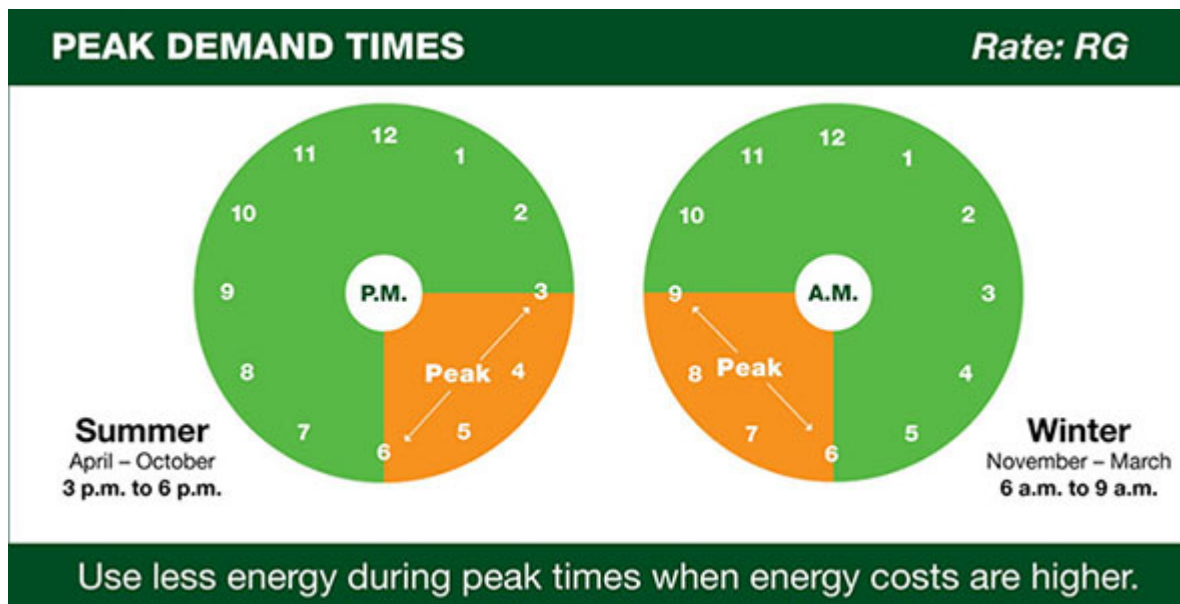
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Helms,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jimmy

Last Name: Johnson

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000431

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

NO!

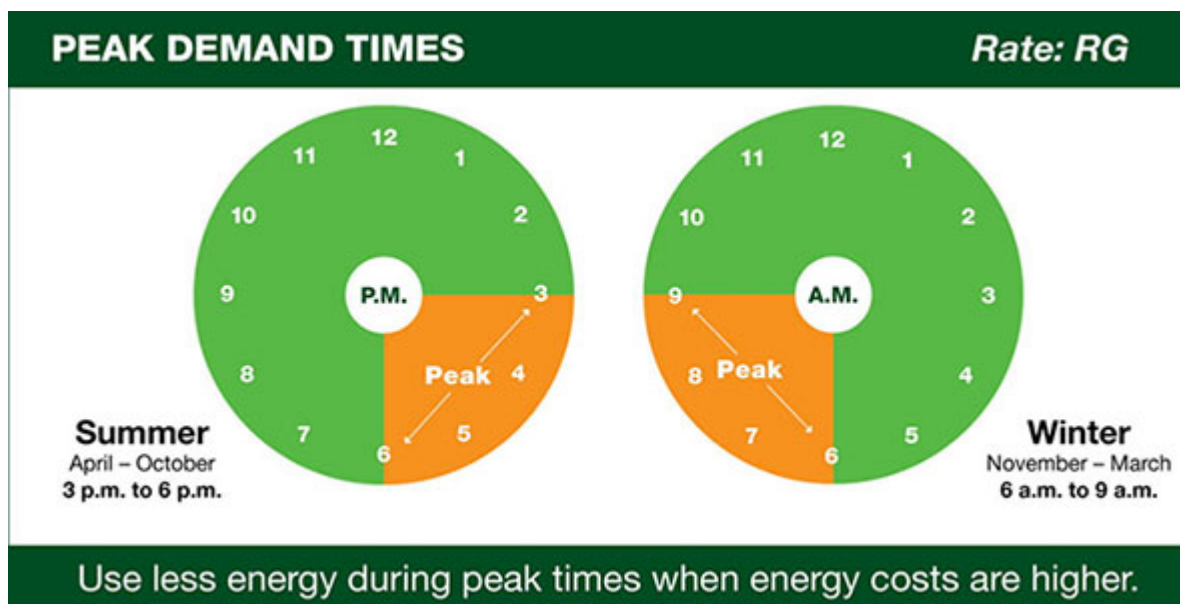
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

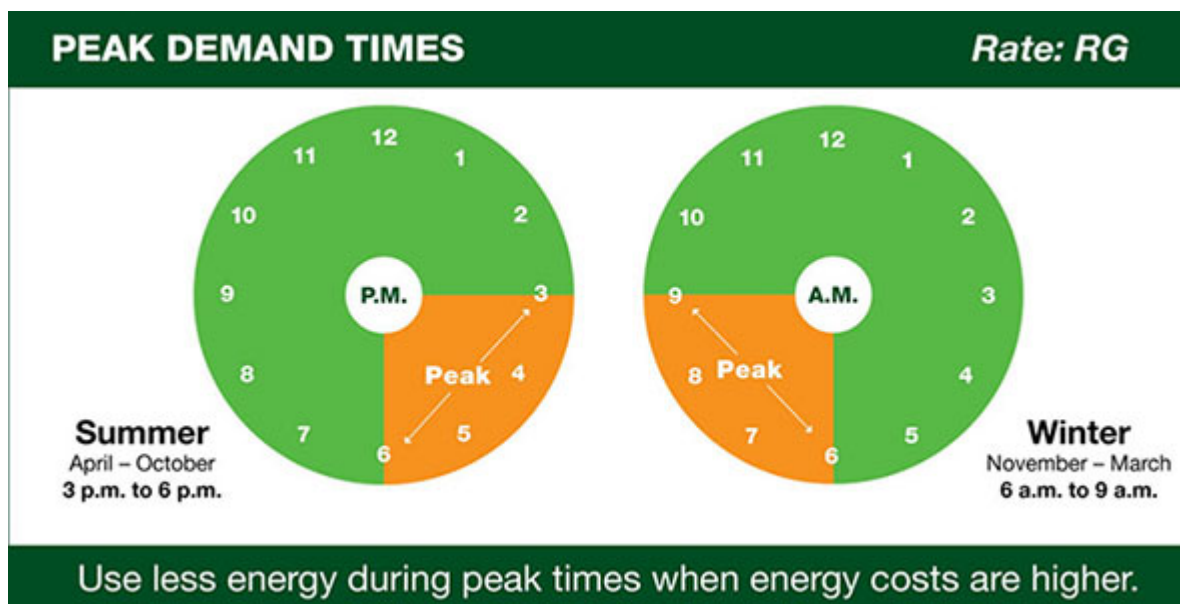
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Currence,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Tara

Last Name: Burgess

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000433

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I no interest in your rate increase during peak hours. Charge me for what my family uses and nothing more. Peak times change according to a family 's needs. This will be different across the board. Respectfully, Timothy and Tara Burgess

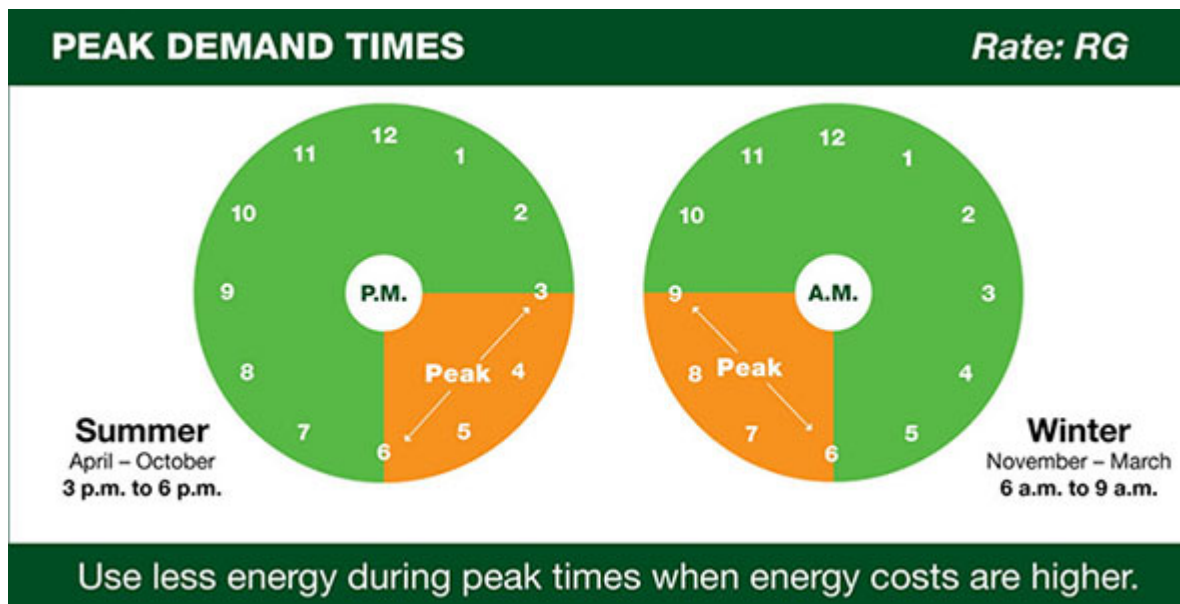
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Burgess,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Dear Ms. Perron-Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Helen

Last Name: Galdieri

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000435

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

To who It may concern: This is to let you know we do not wish to participate in this failed rate adjustment. Sincerely,, John & Helen Spinazzola

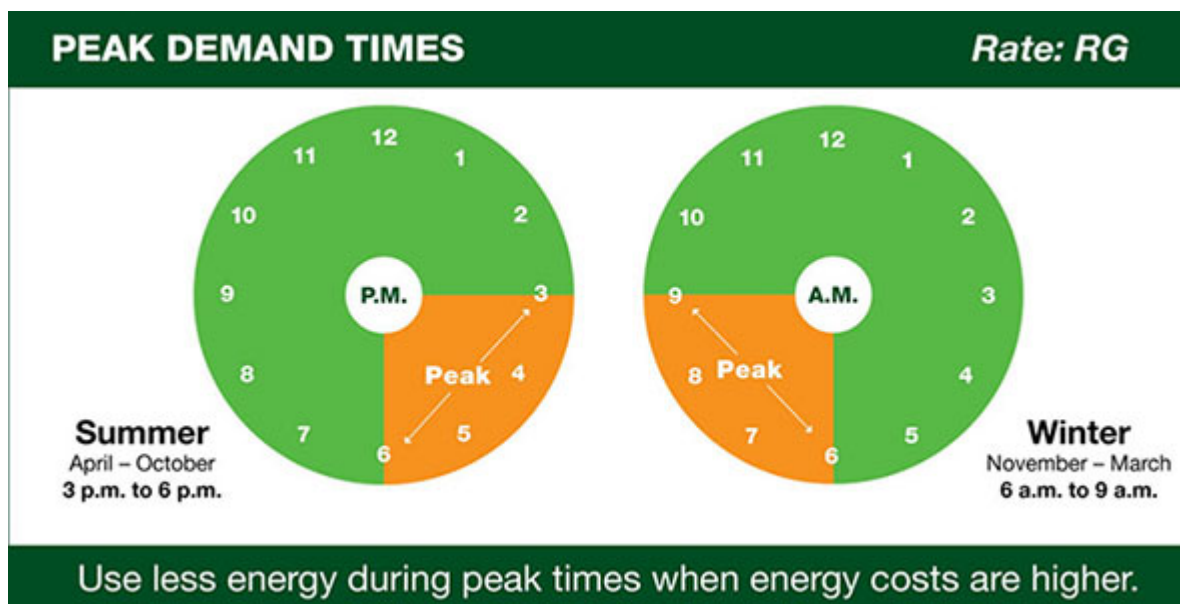
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Ms. Galdieri,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Brantly

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000436

Date Submitted: 8/21/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Hi This proposed tiered hike is un American and smacks of extreme corporate greed .
Stop and desist

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

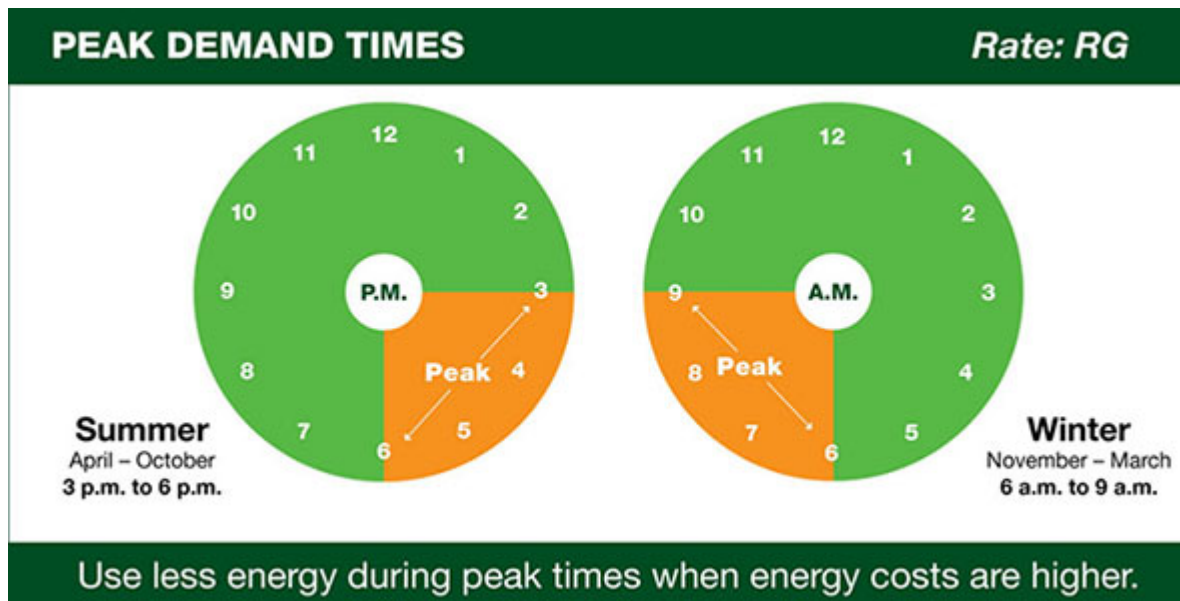


Dear Mr. Brantly,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John

Last Name: Skeels

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000484

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please do not start the hidden rate increase trick **[REDACTED]**

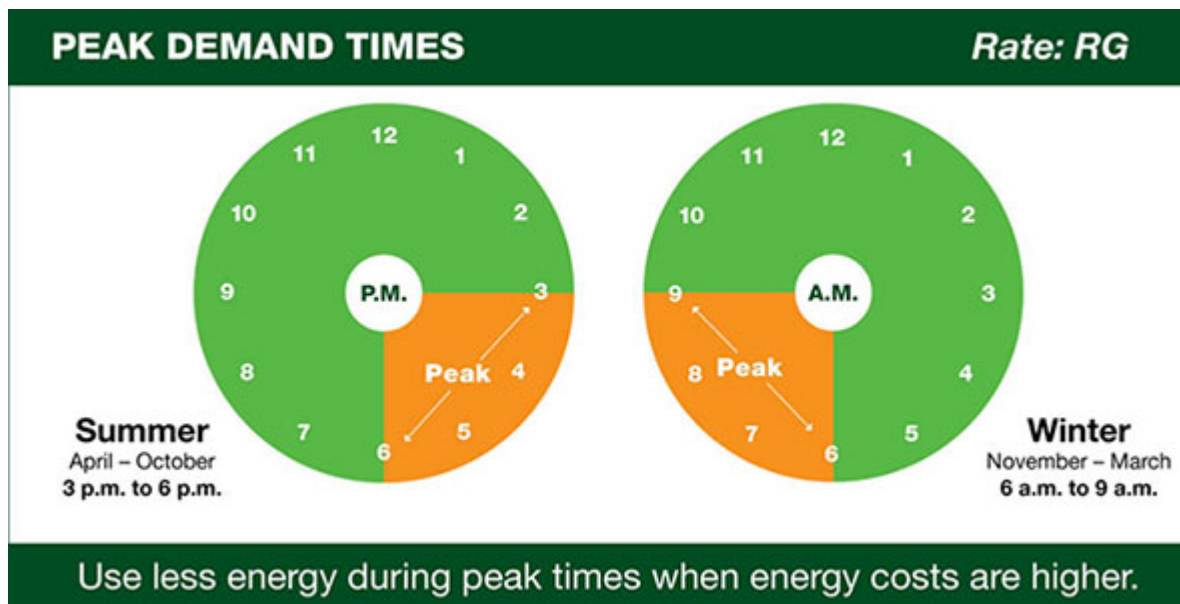
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Skeels,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Gayle	Last Name:	Bahler
Organization:			
City:	Little River	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29566		

SC Reference # : SC000000485

Date Submitted:	8/22/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I am totally opposed and confused by Santee Cooper's new summer and winter rate proposals. DO NOT IMPOSE THESE RATES. A Santee Cooper electric customer - Gayle Bahler , Little River, SC .

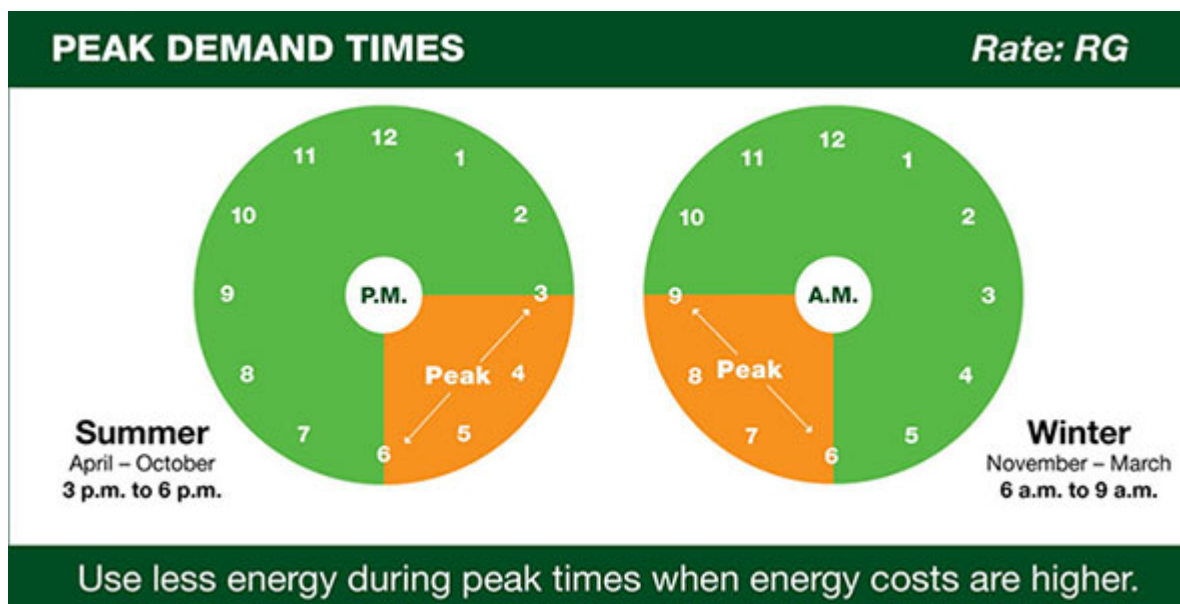
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bahler,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Chief Customer Officer
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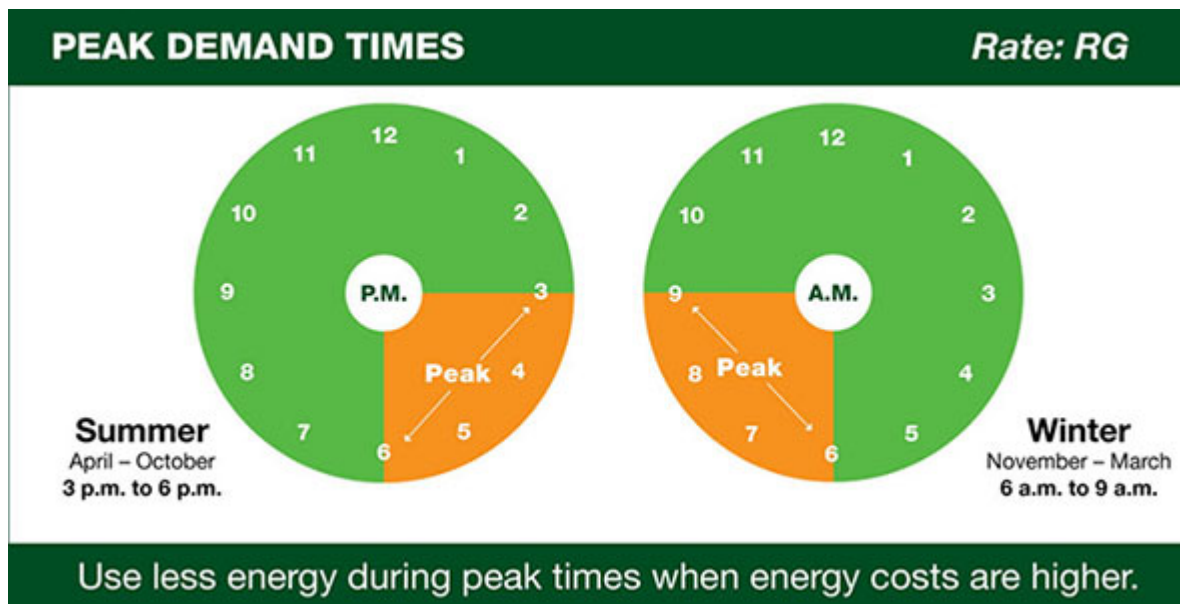
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Calfee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Basty,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Joe	Last Name:	Wanovich
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000000397

Date Submitted:	8/22/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

My wife and I are in our mid-eighties and we are not interested in your confusing proposal based on when people need or don't need heat or A.C. We are conservative in our approach to heating and cooling our home and don't want or need an entity such as yours grouping us into what you think is best for us, or for that matter ,what is best for the country as a whole. If you want to save energy or make more money, suggest you start looking from within.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Wanovich,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:

PEAK DEMAND TIMES

Rate: RG



Use less energy during peak times when energy costs are higher.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

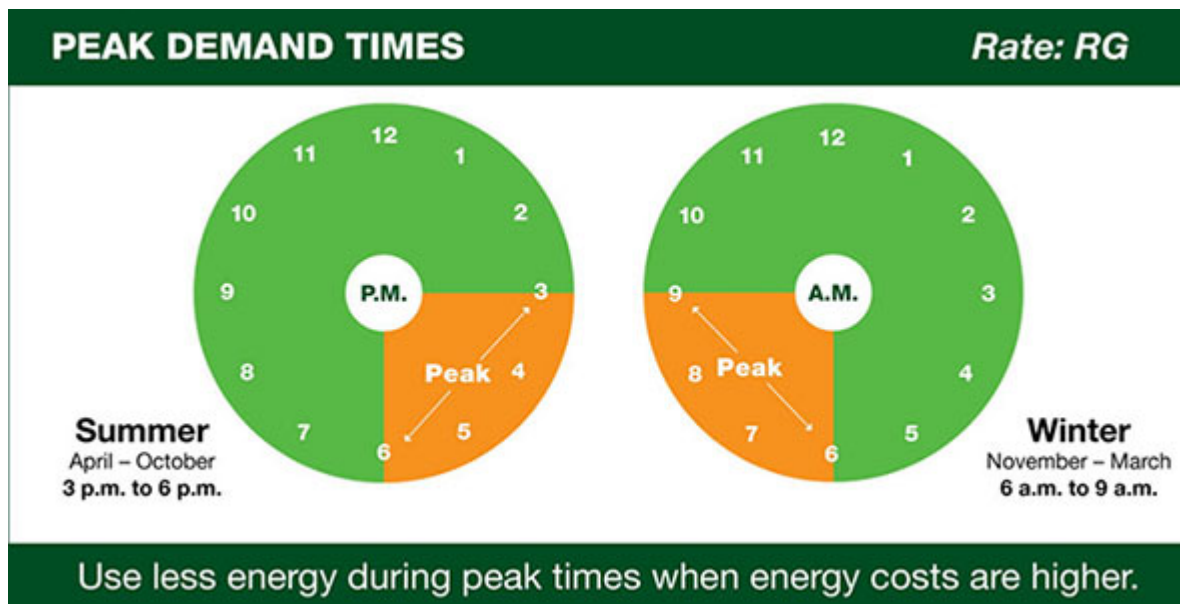
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Welker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We had our first public meeting for this rate study in Moncks Corner on August 26th. The remaining list of meetings can be found in the link below and are open for all Santee Cooper customers to attend and voice their concerns. santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/get-involved/.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast

and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

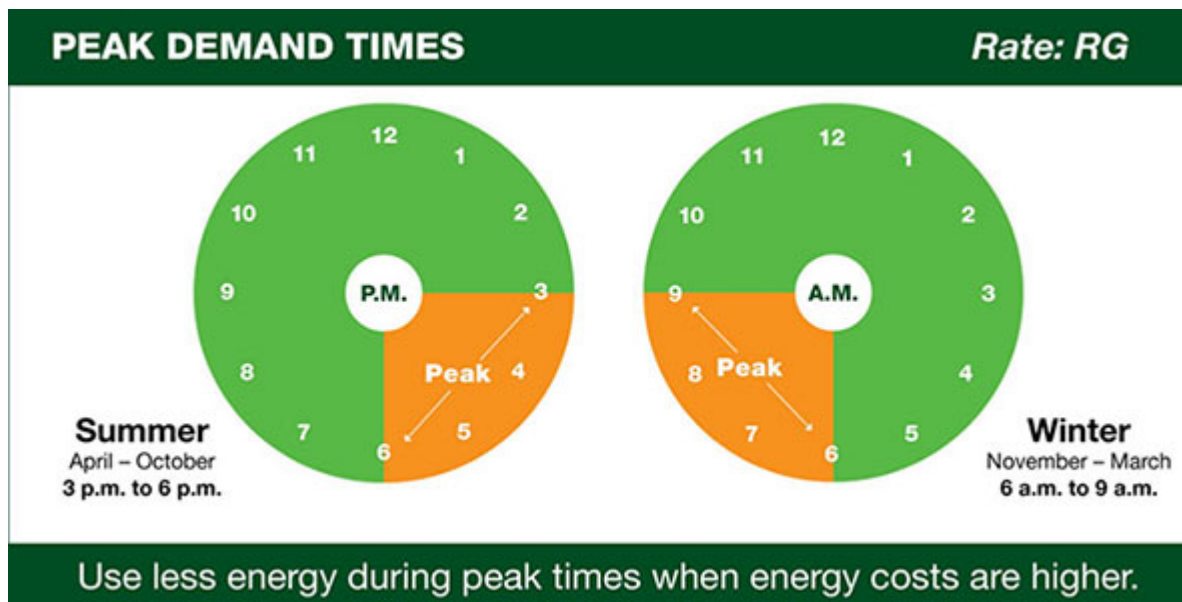
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Simmons,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: David

Last Name: Baldwin

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000439

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please don't include me in this new rate plan. David M Baldwin

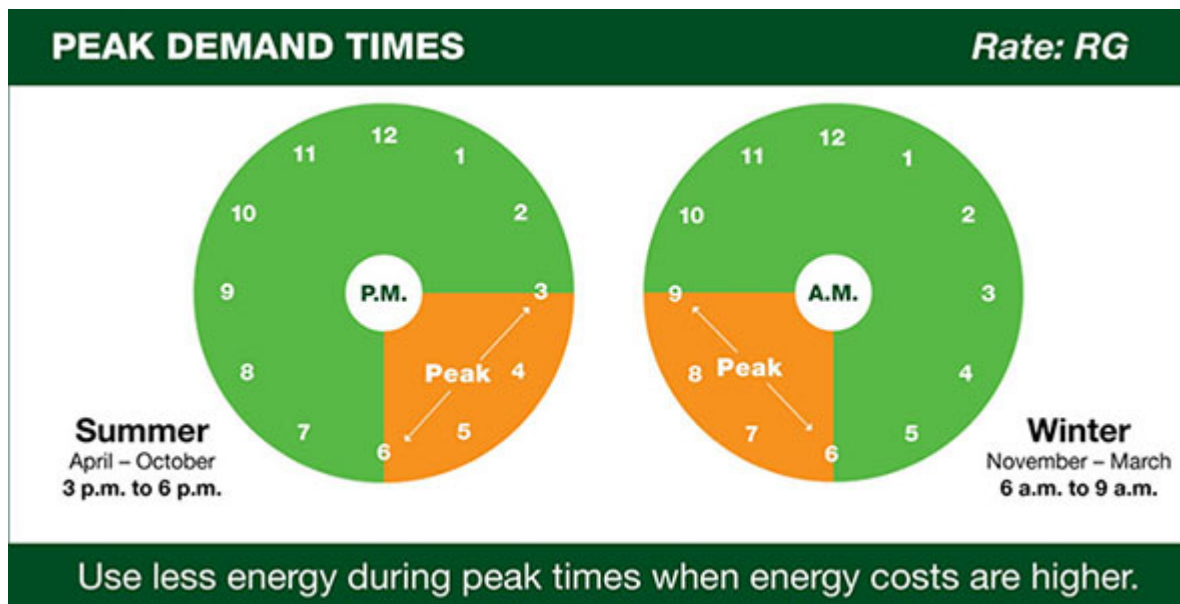
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Baldwin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

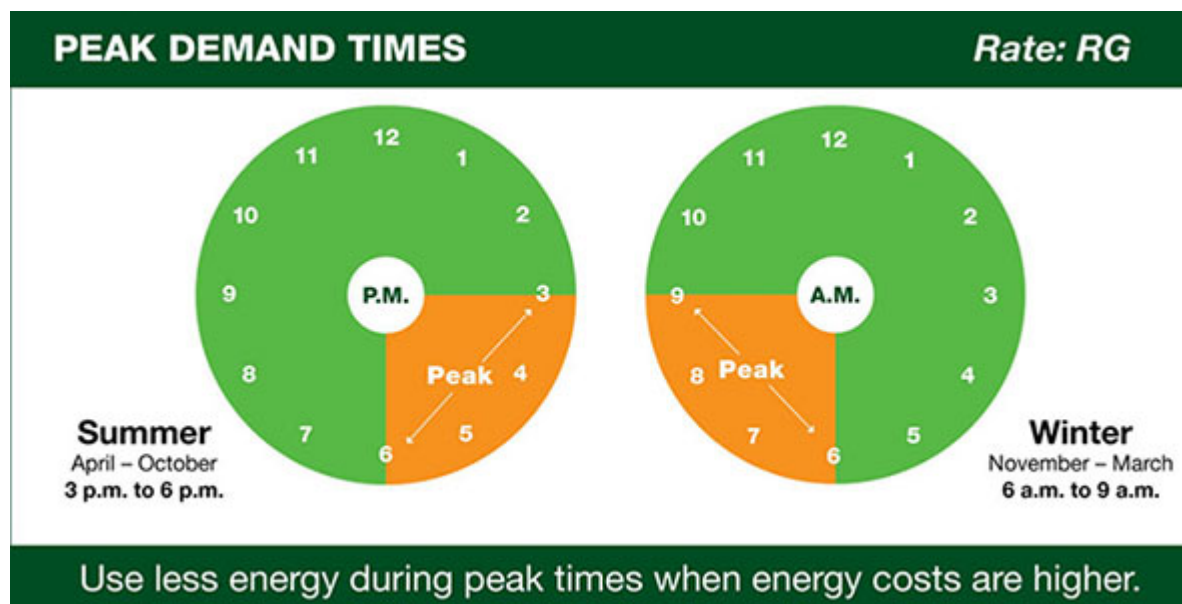
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Ammon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

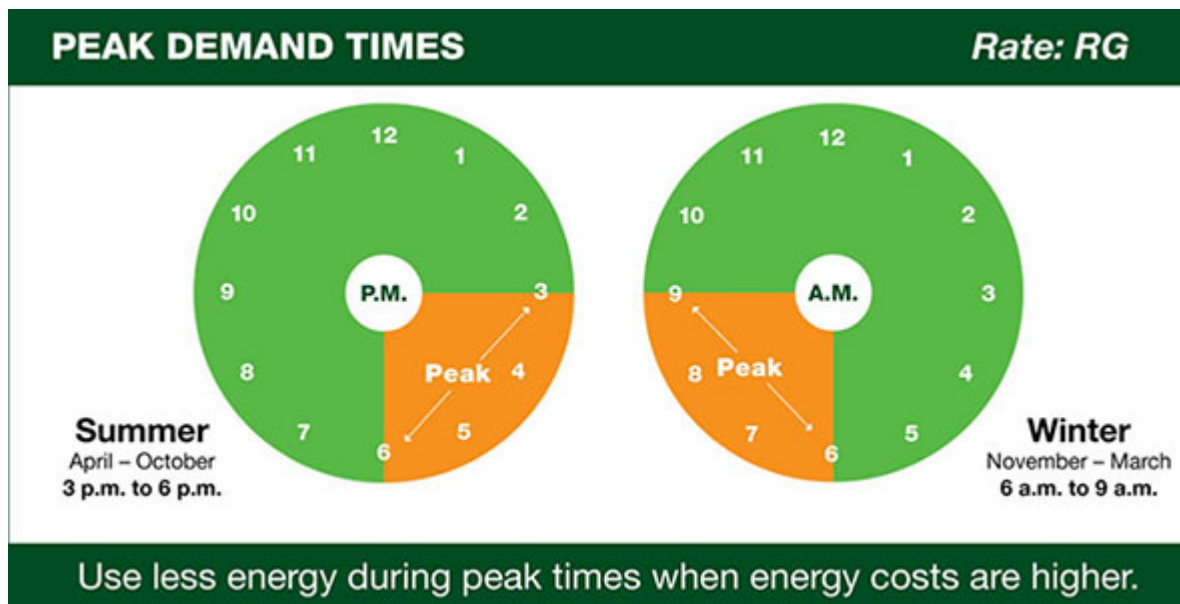
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Dear Mr. Mcgeary,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

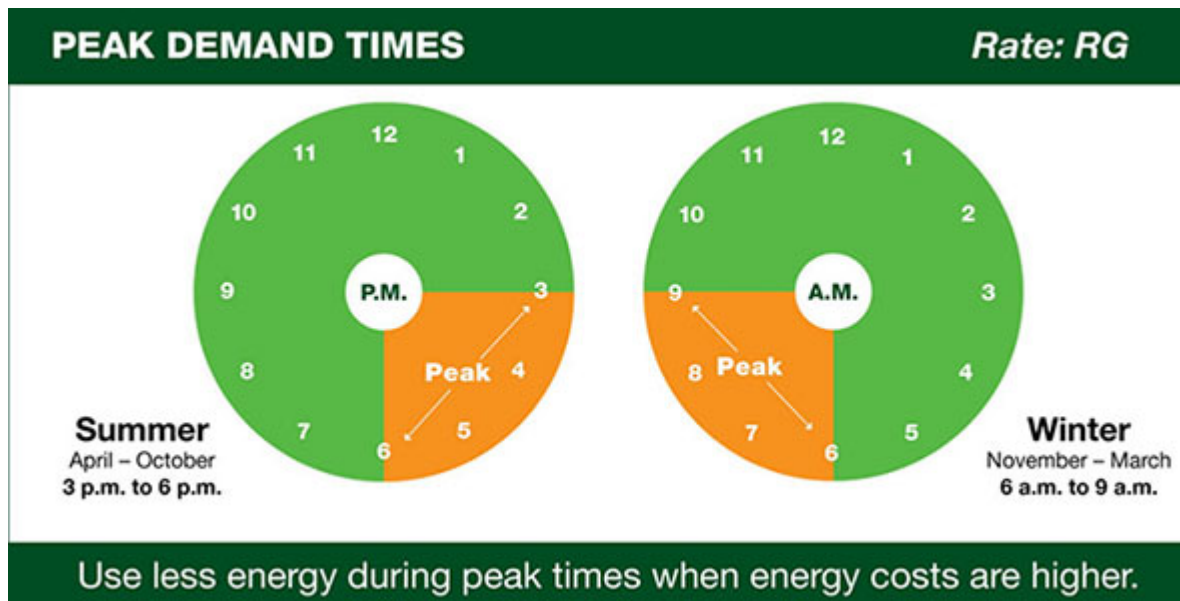


Dear Ms. Reed,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

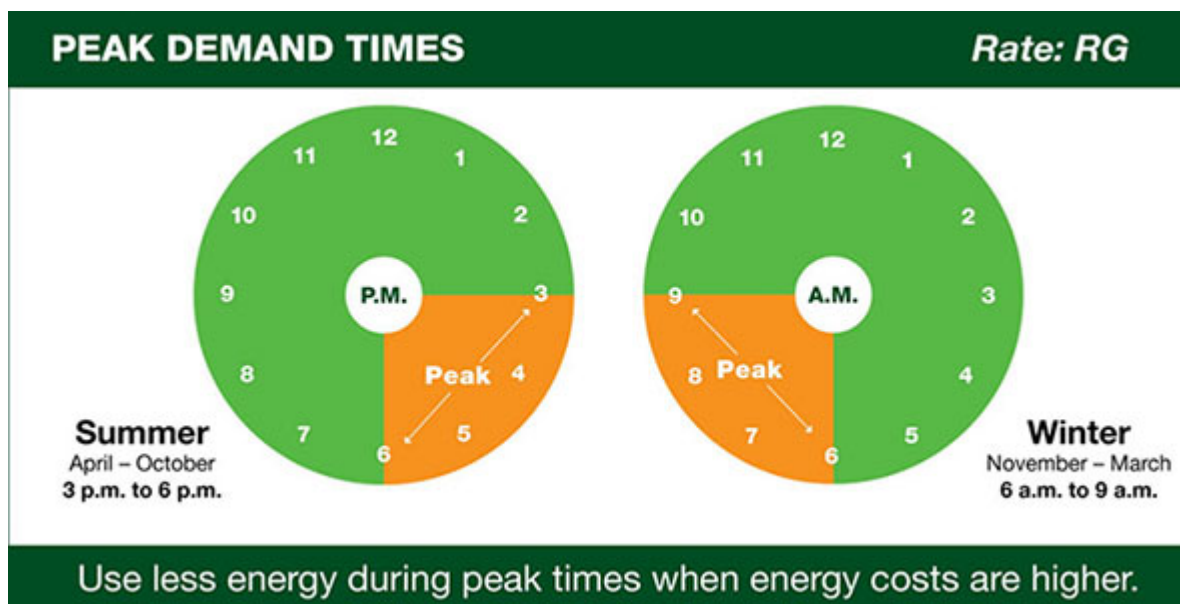
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Terry Hannon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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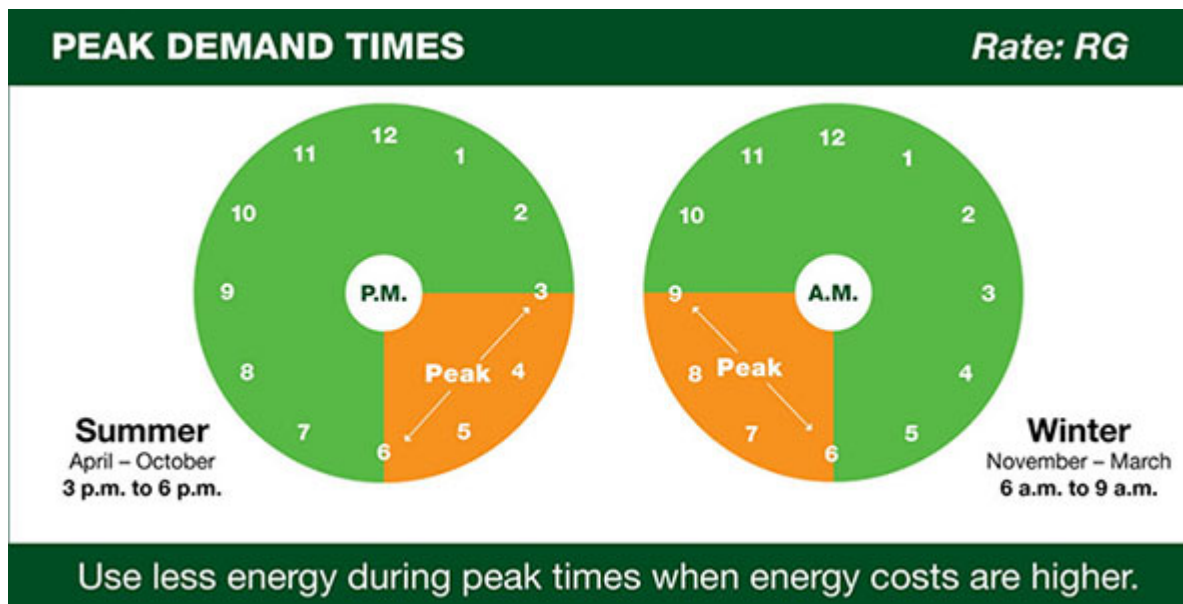
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Komoroski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Sharon **Last Name:** Roscoe
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000445

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Good morning , As a disabled senior citizen, I am opposed to the proposed rate changes to my electric service. I think it will be a huge inconvenience to not be able to turn up my heat on winter mornings without worrying about increased fees. Please reconsider. Sharon Roscoe

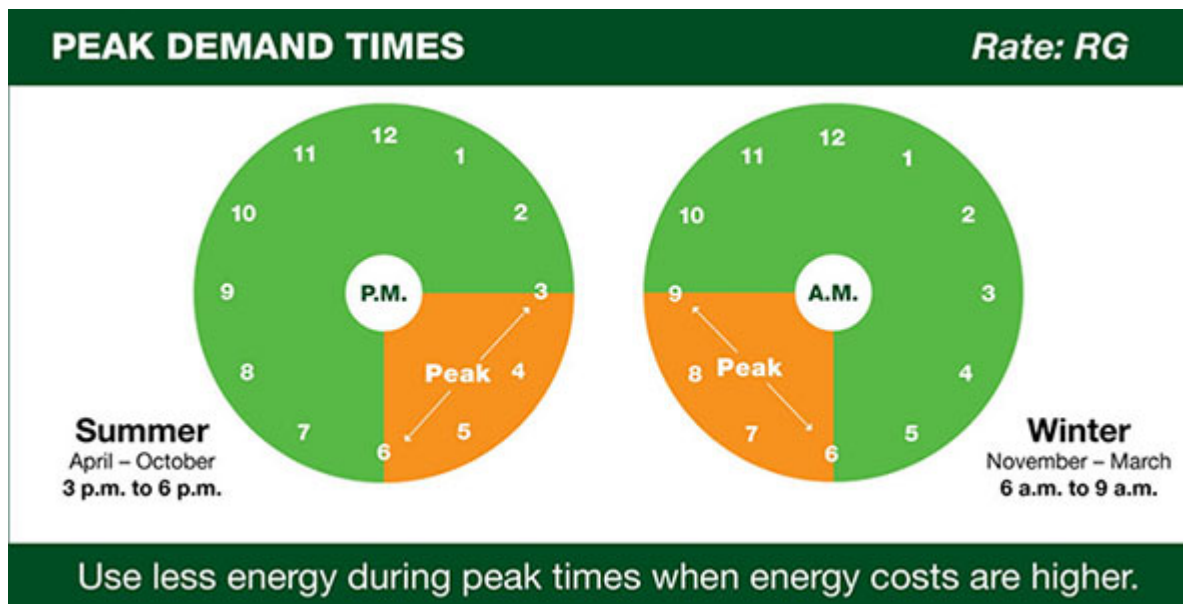
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Dear Ms. Roscoe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Tom

Last Name: Miller

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000446

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please do not go to this nre 3 rate system. Impossible to know a budget. Not fair to your senior systems. Tom Miller **[REDACTED]**

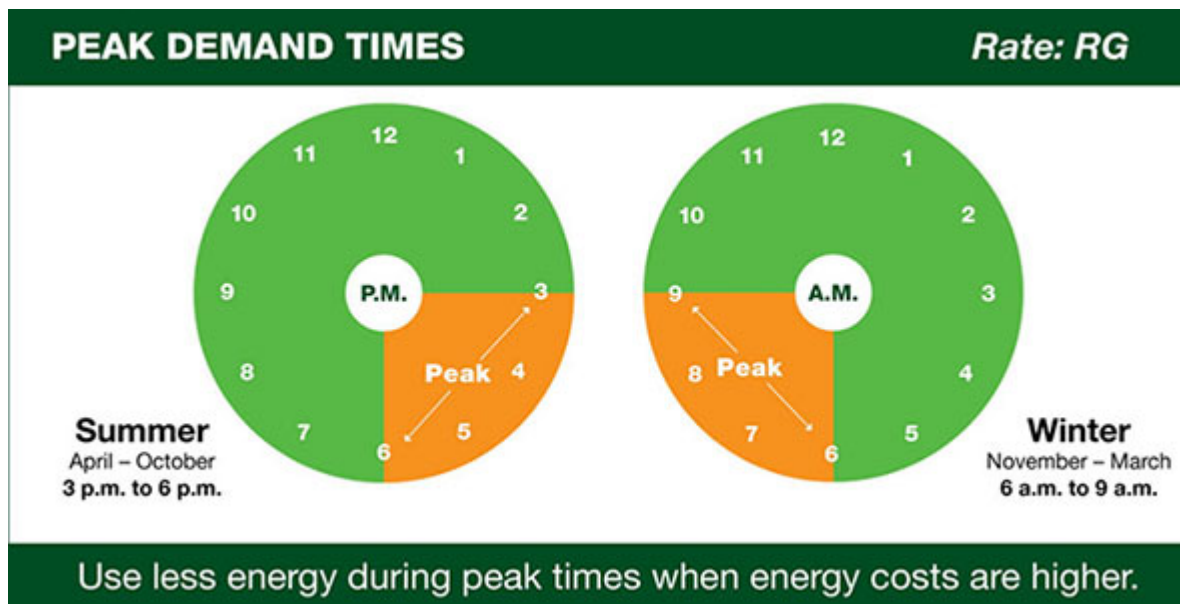
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Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Ms. Barbato,

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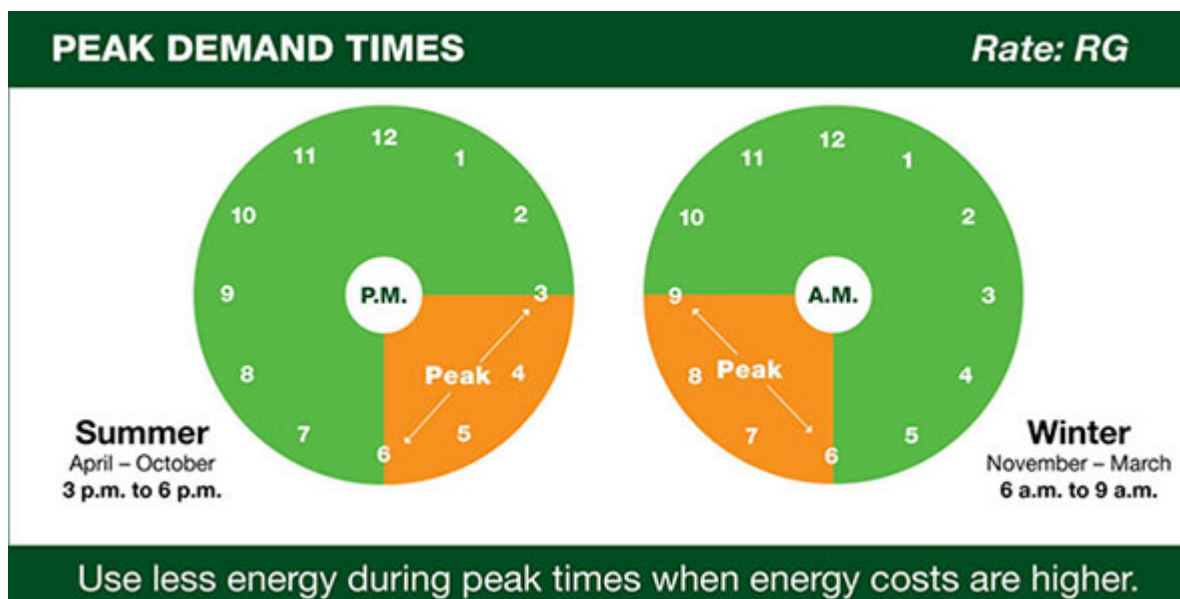
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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Dear Mr. Van Ek,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: James

Last Name: Judge

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000449

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

The new rate changes is not fair

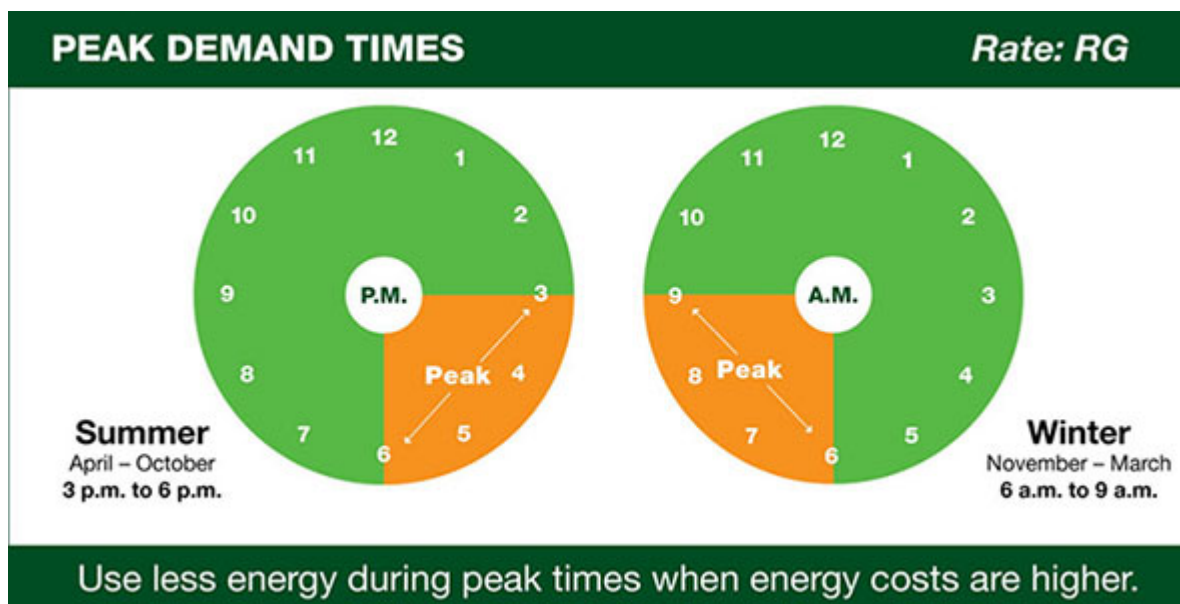
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Judge,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Christina

Last Name: Griggs

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000450

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I'm not interested in this and participating in it.

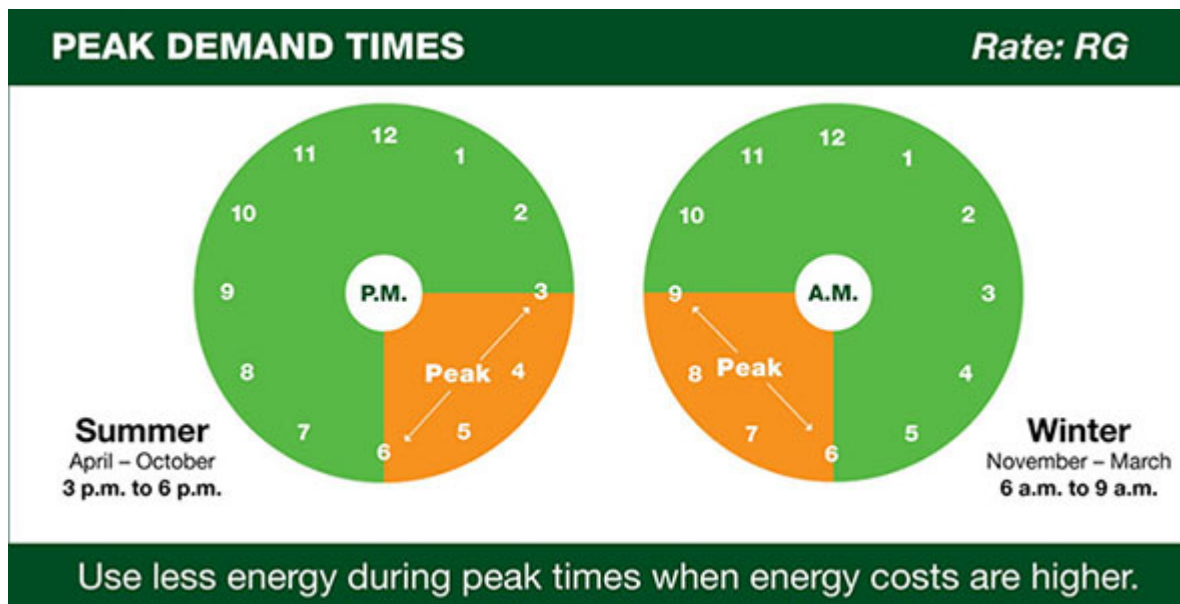
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Dear Ms. Griggs,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: mikew17327 **Last Name:** W
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000451

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We are not interested in this new onerous rate structure!

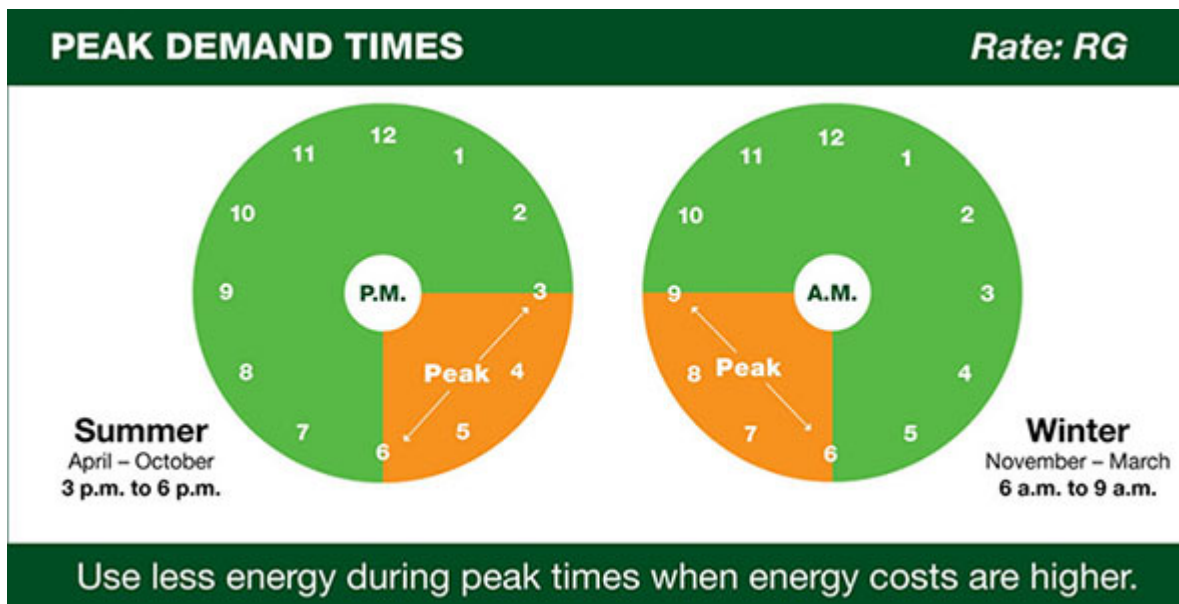
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Hello,

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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: tomegan34 **Last Name:** tomegan34
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000452

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Not interested in this proposal

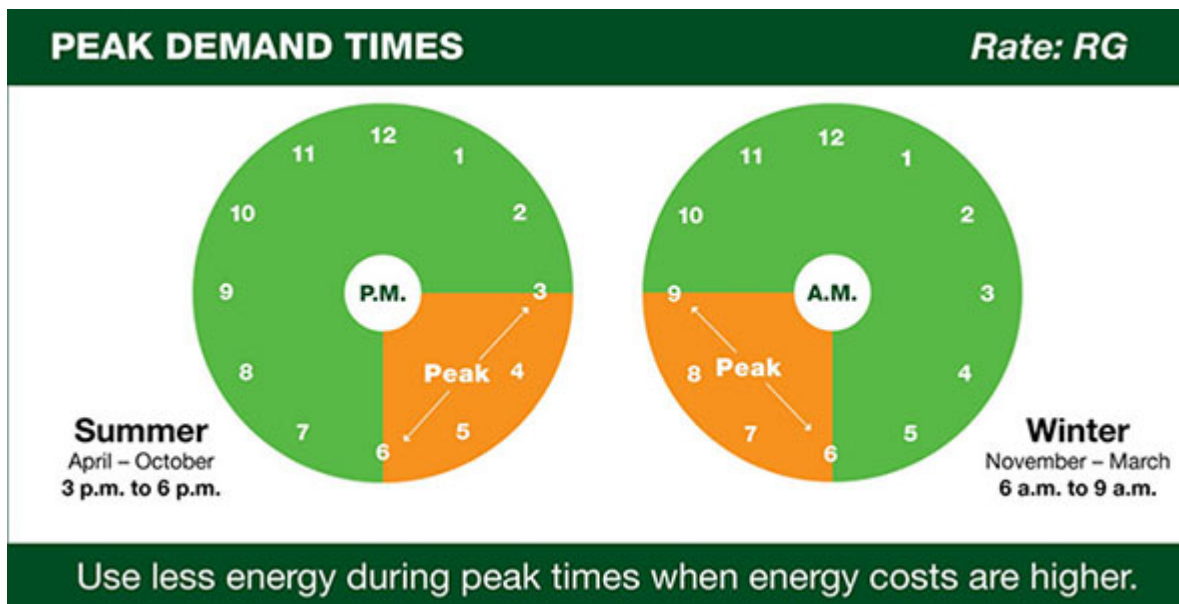
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Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: George

Last Name: Graham

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000453

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in this failed rate making adjustment plan.

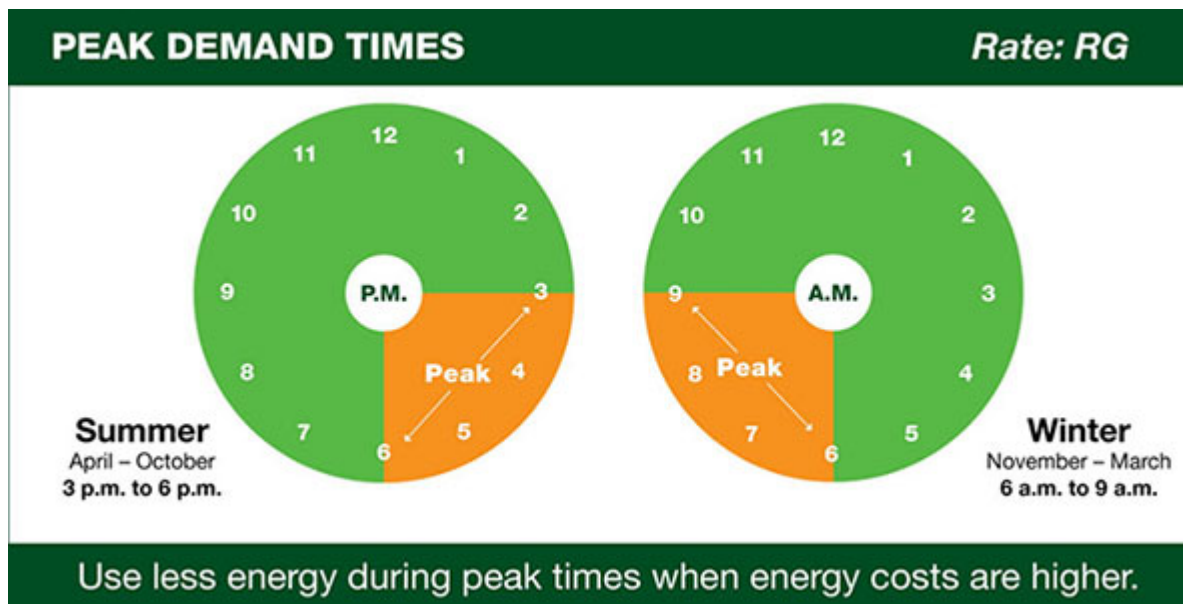
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Tom

Last Name: Munson

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000454

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Our energy costs are getting exponentially more expensive, please do not institute this rate adjustment. Tom munson

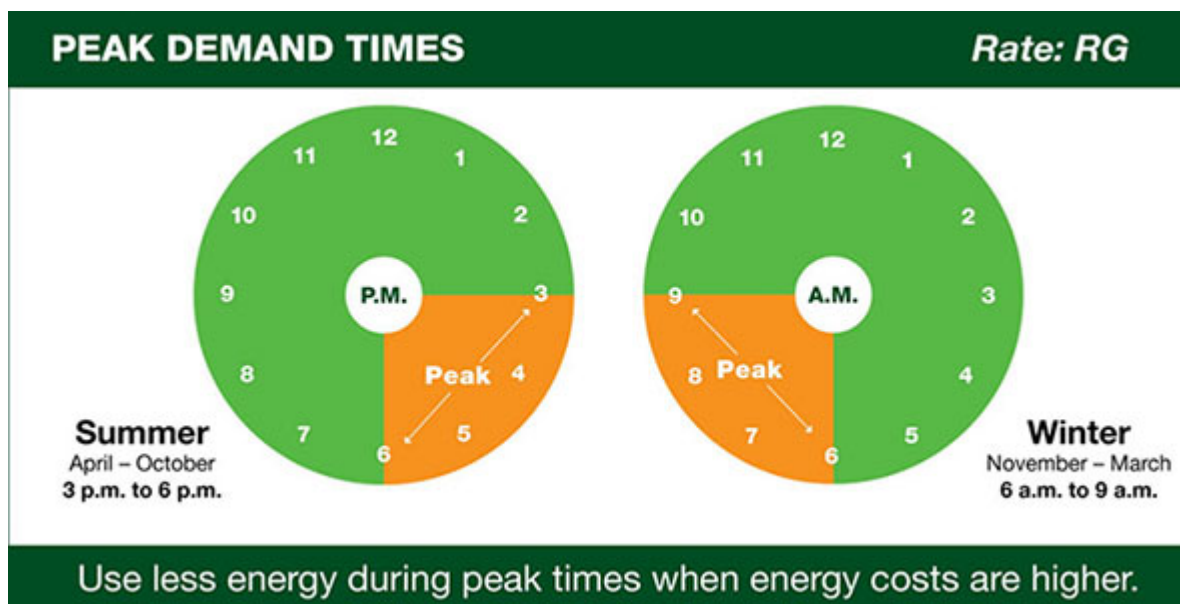
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Munson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Shama	Last Name:	Johnson
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000455

Date Submitted:	8/22/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Consider all the people whose lives depend on the electricity all day or work hours don't fit in to the plan. Also people of age that have difficulty with remembering when to use and not to use electricity even with a notice on the refrigerator giving the hours.

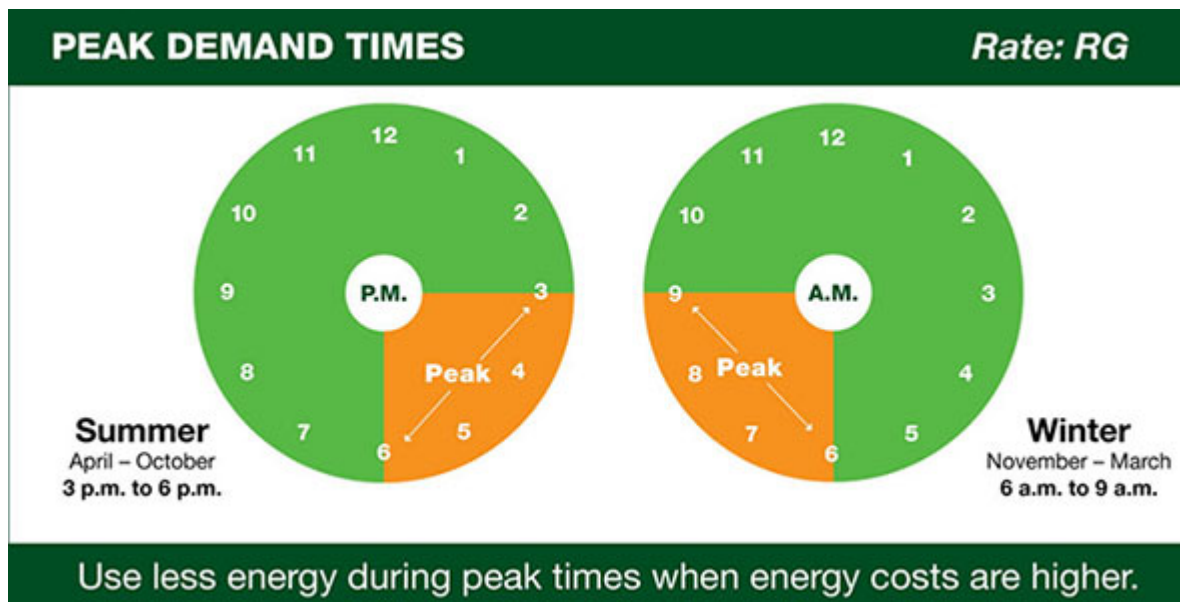
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Johnson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Landis	Last Name:	Turner
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000456

Date Submitted:	8/22/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making equipment.

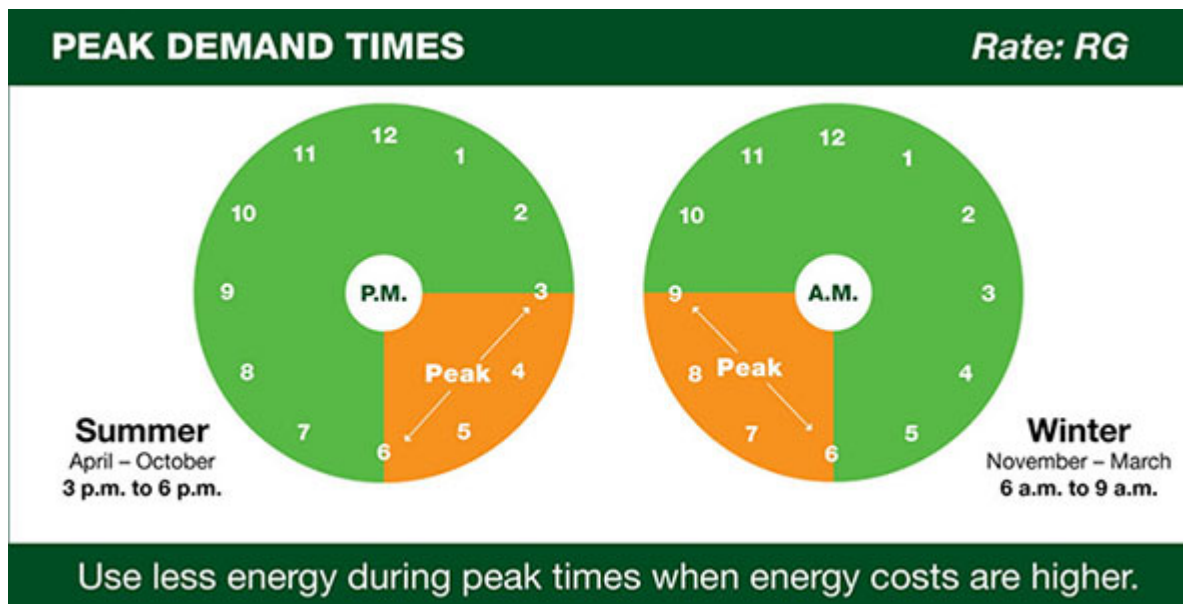
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Turner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

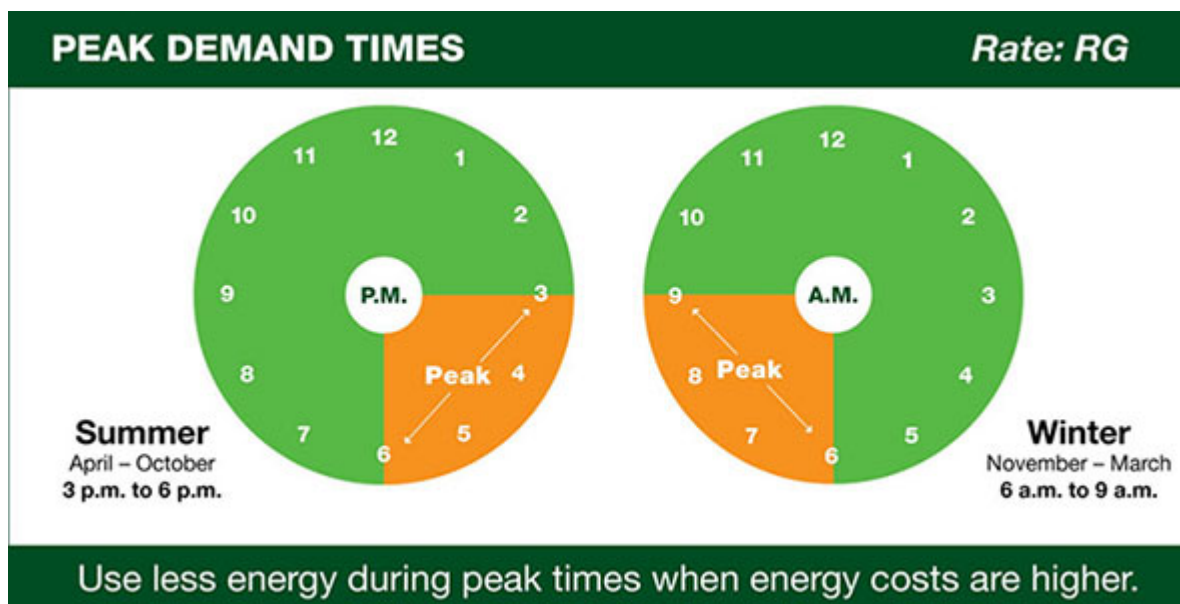
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Neuhart,

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Vicky Budreau
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Santee Cooper

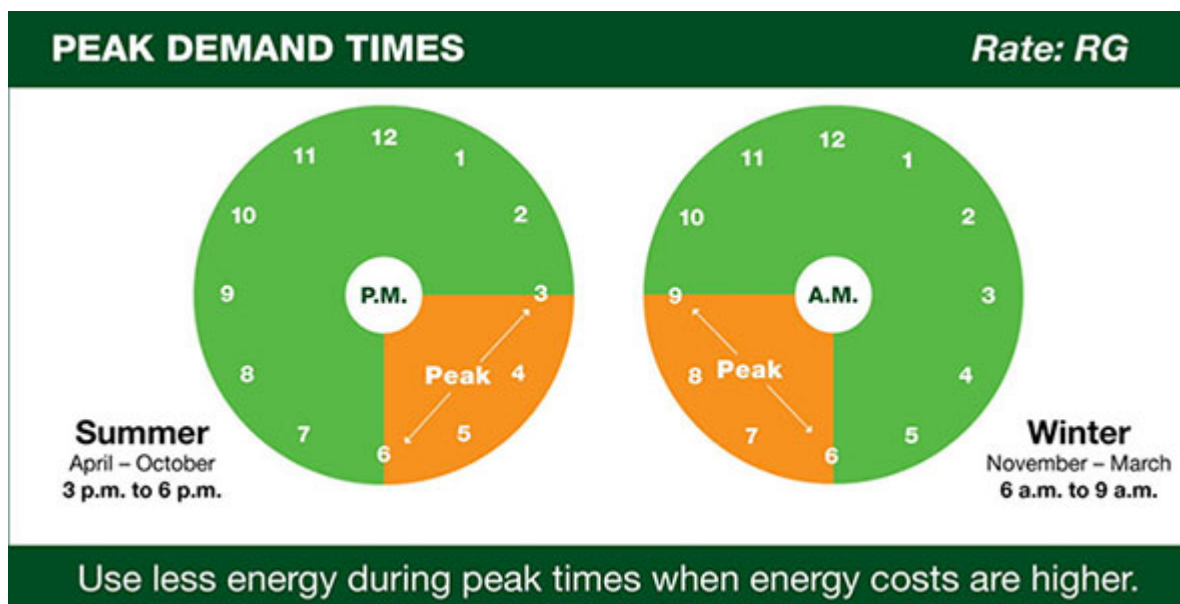
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Giamattei,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Judy

Last Name: Wood

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000459

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

To: Santee Cooper I do NOT want to participate or receive a rate adjustment to my electric bill during high usage times. I need medical equipment all day long. Judy Wood

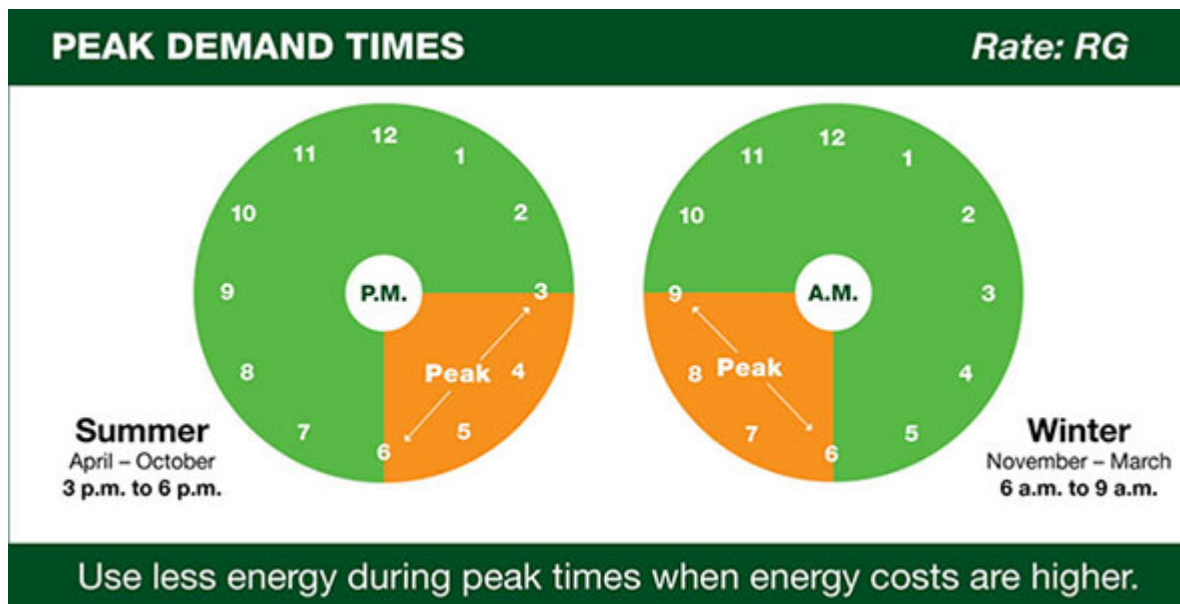
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wood,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Alan

Last Name: Olsen

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000460

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Standard rates as is only. Do not consider additional rate increases. Alan Olsen
President/Owner AOK Consultants Inc.

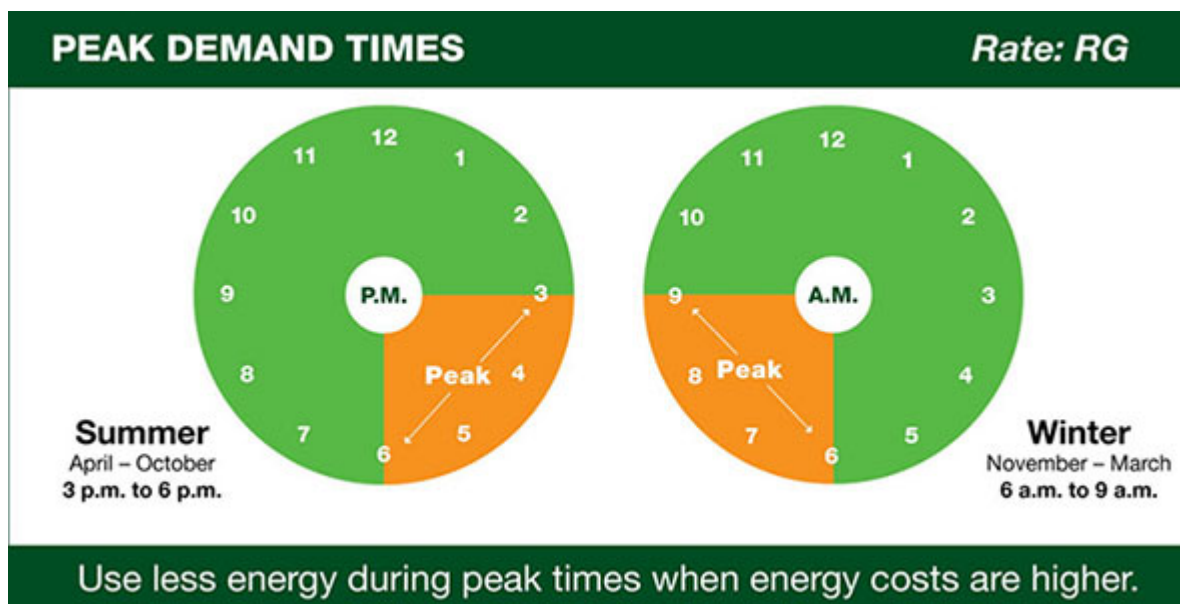
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Olsen,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Tommy

Last Name: Broome

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000461

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We reject this form of rates as we can barely survive now. Please consider THE People! and not more profits! Thank You Tommy Broome

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

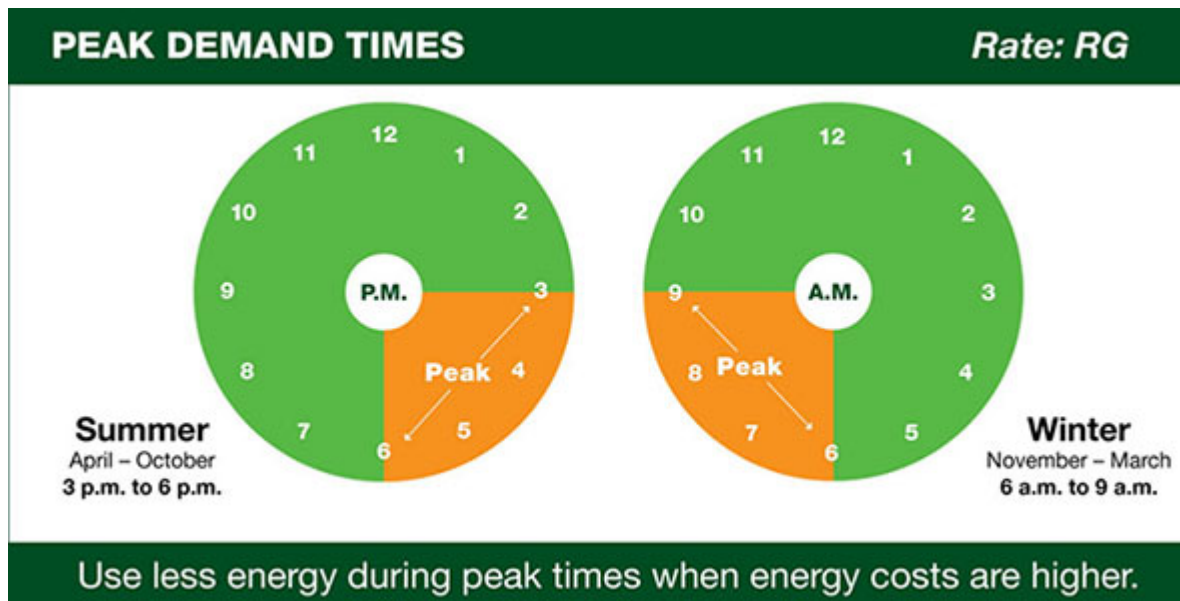


Dear Mr. Broome,

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Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

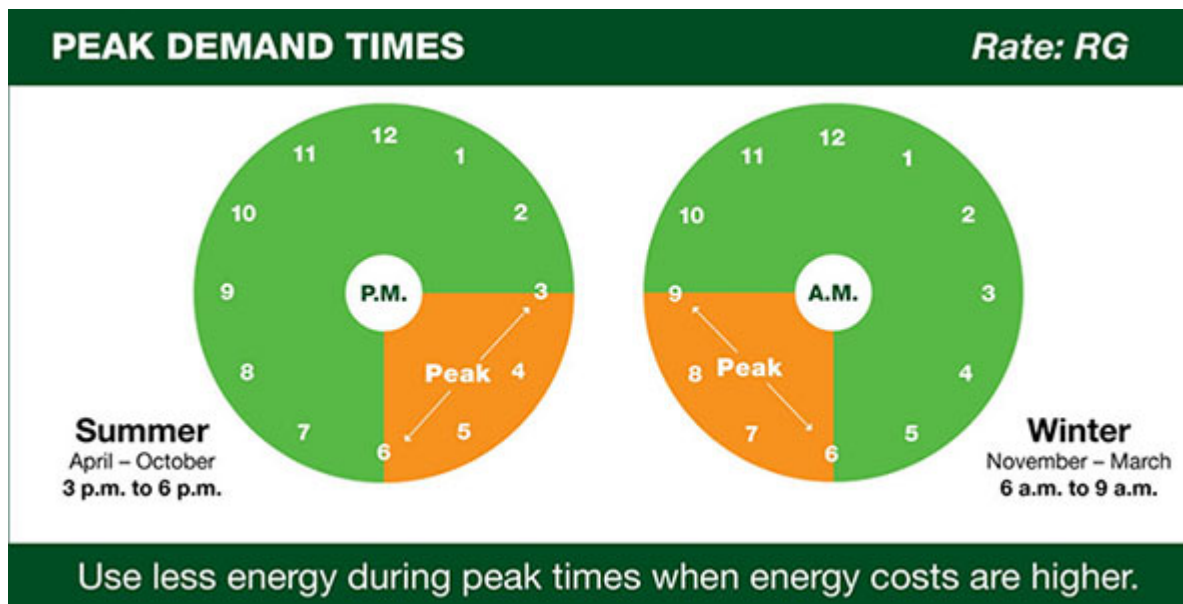
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Dear Ms. McMahon,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: George

Last Name: Lau

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000463

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested in this new billing rate

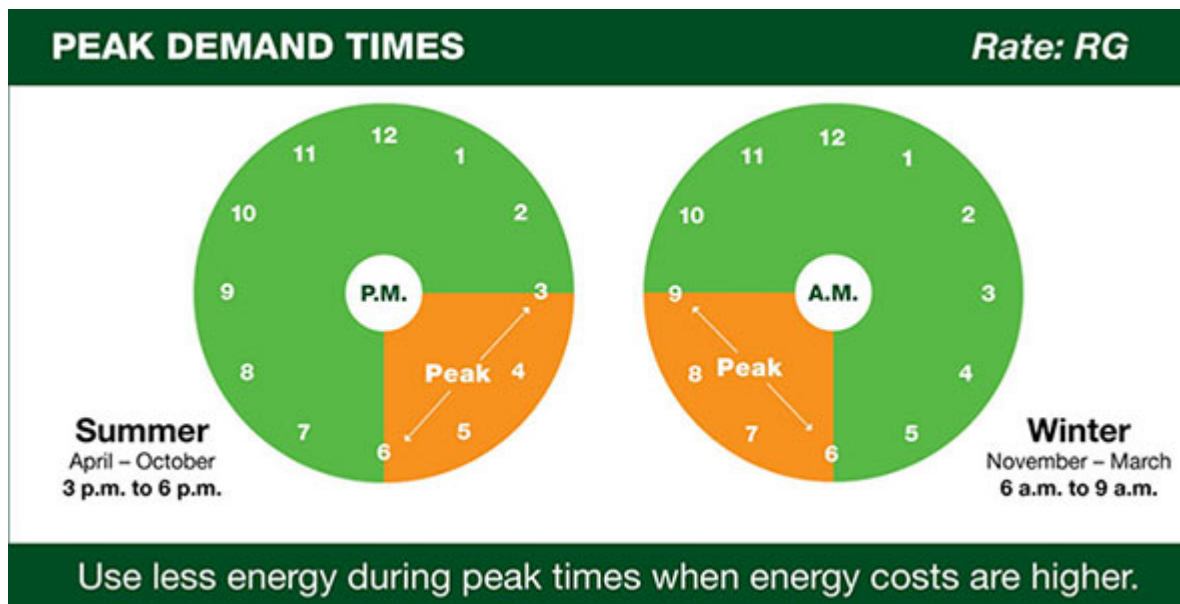
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Lau,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Joan

Last Name: Tese

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000464

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Email adjustment I firmly oppose your new rate adjustments. Have no control in an apartment complex. Please consider this for all those in my situation. On Social Security fixed income only. Have mercy

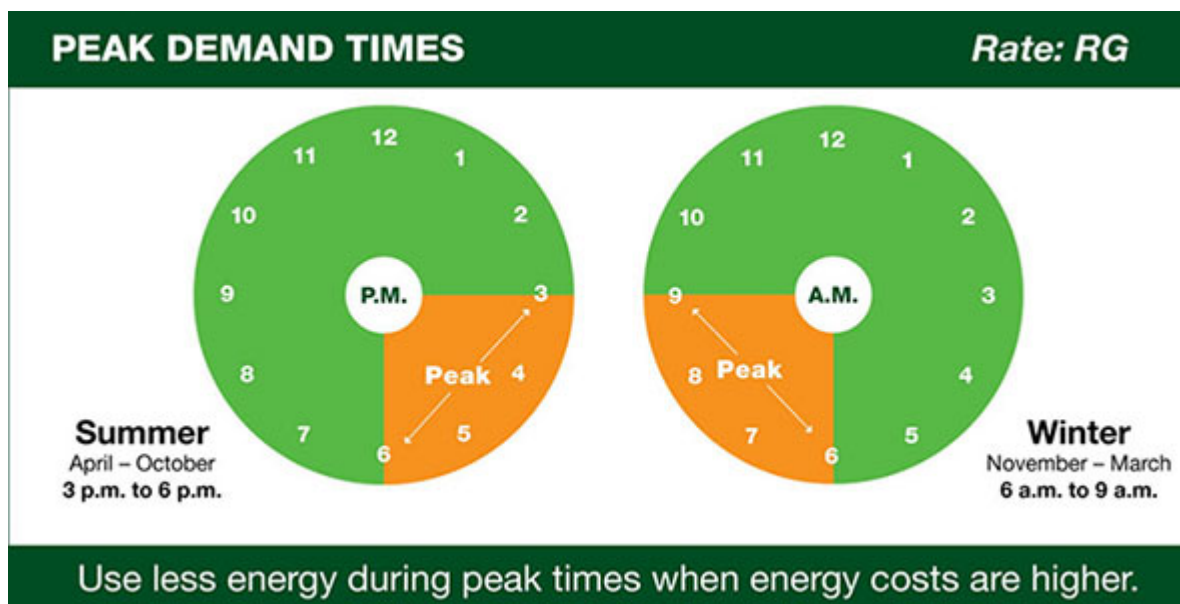
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Tese,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Penny

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000465

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in this fail rate experiment.

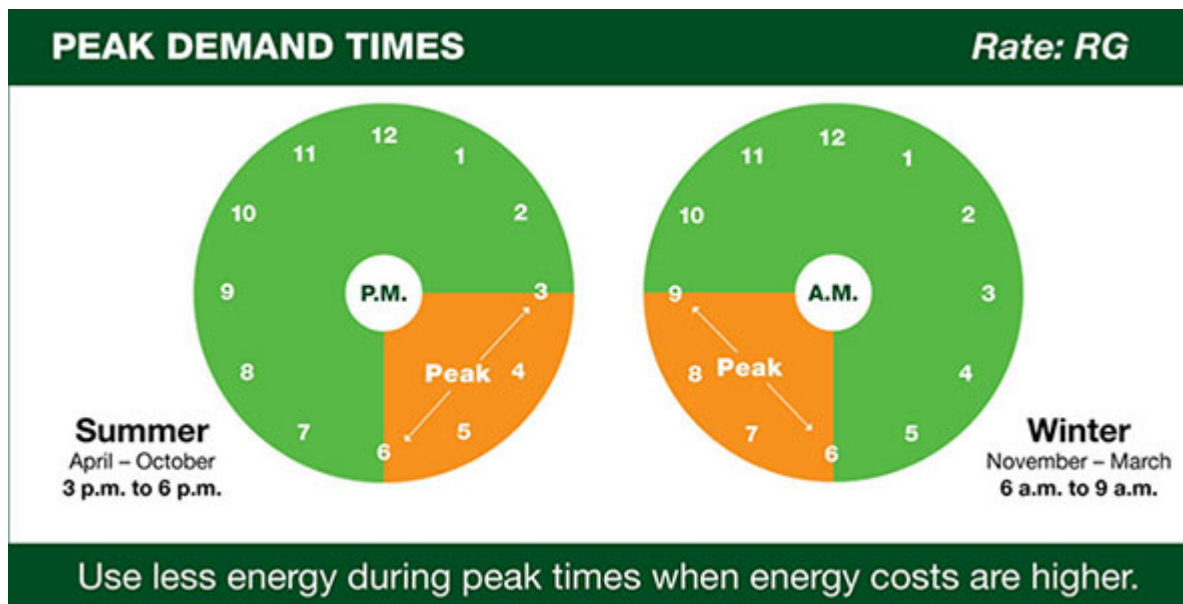
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Penny,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Janice

Last Name: Helms

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000466

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am opposed to your new rating structure that is under review at this time for increase in prices during peak times. People depend on the energy you provide and it should come at a fair and reasonable price. Thank you for this consideration for the multitudes of people this will affect.

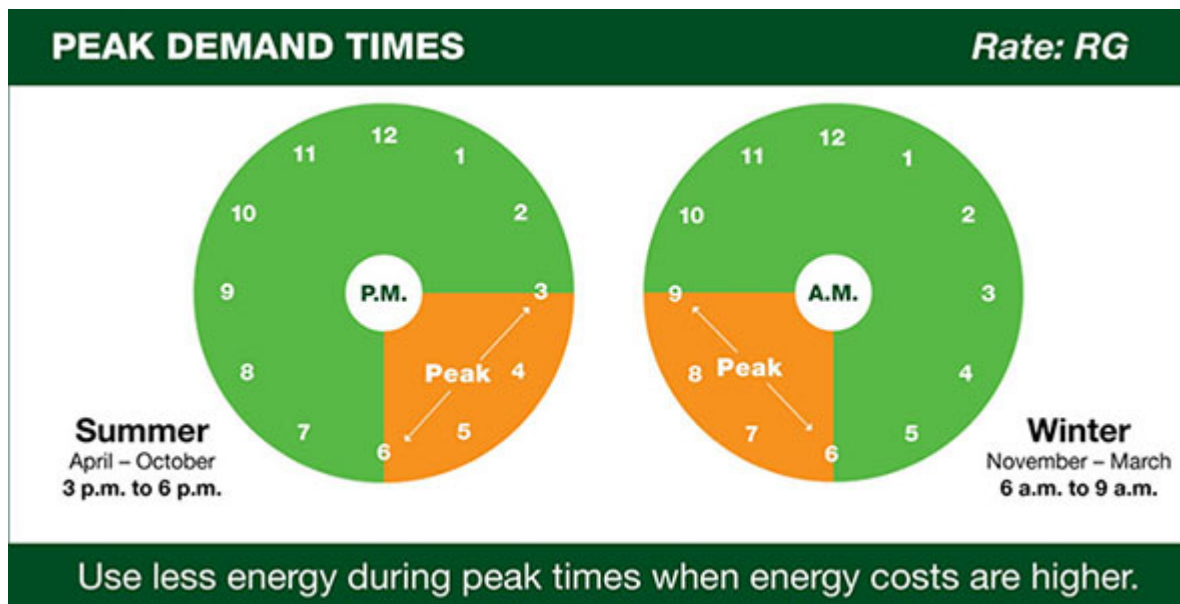
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Helms,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jackie

Last Name: Blakey

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000467

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please DO NOT do what you are planning for April on 2025. You have always been a fair company unlike some of the others so please stay that way. Think about those of us that are on fixed incomes. I'm thanking you in advance.

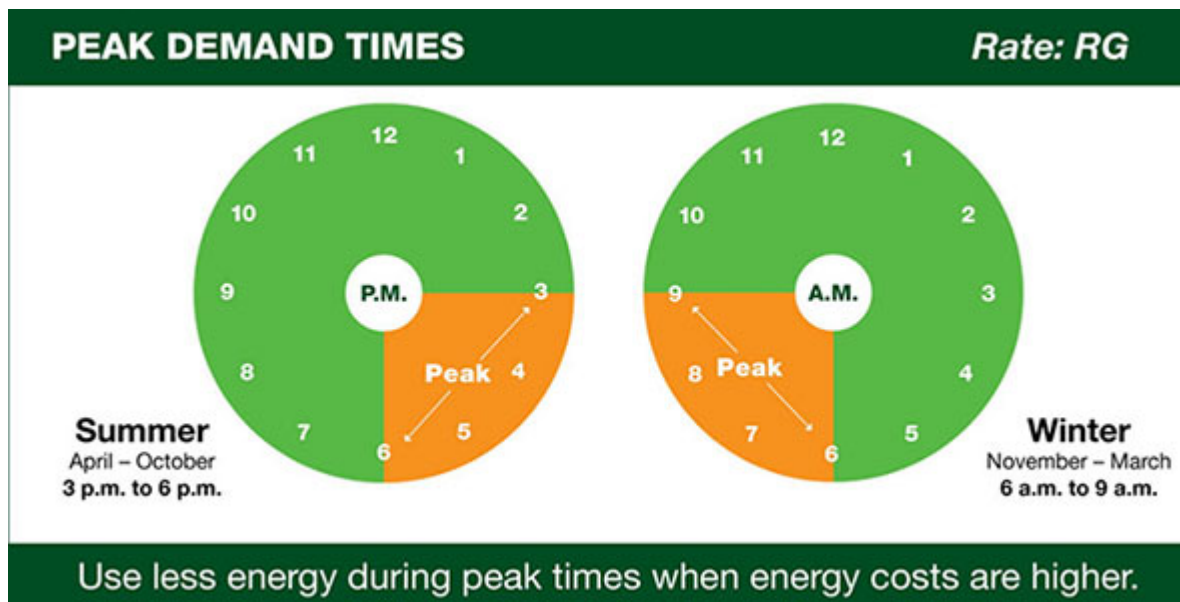
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Blakey,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kenneth **Last Name:** Warner
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000468

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Not interested in rate change

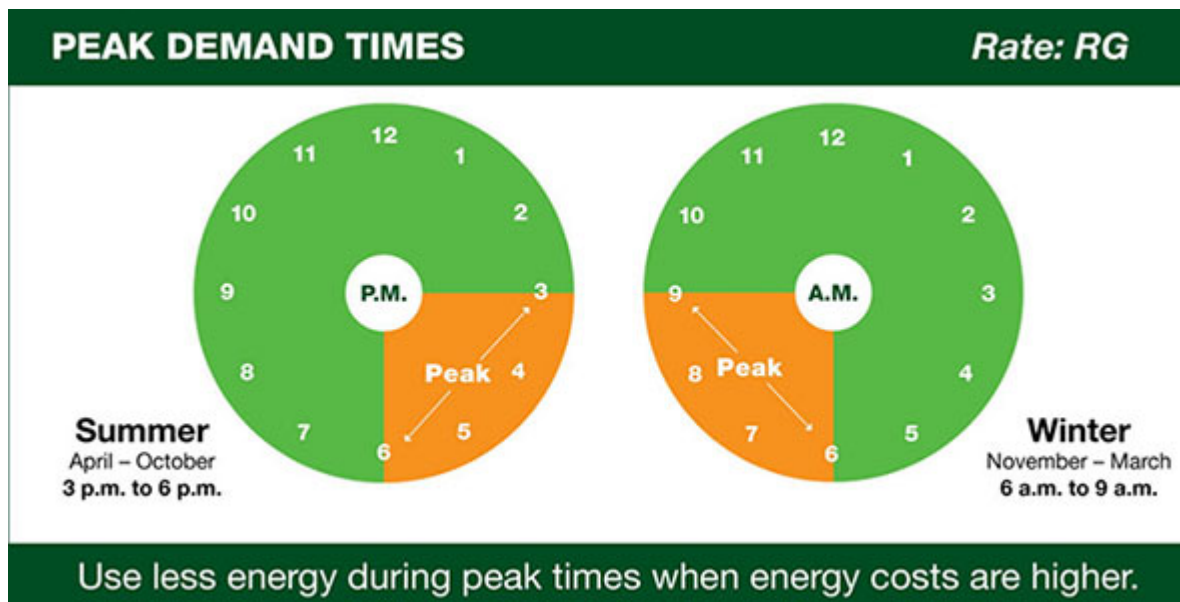
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Warner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

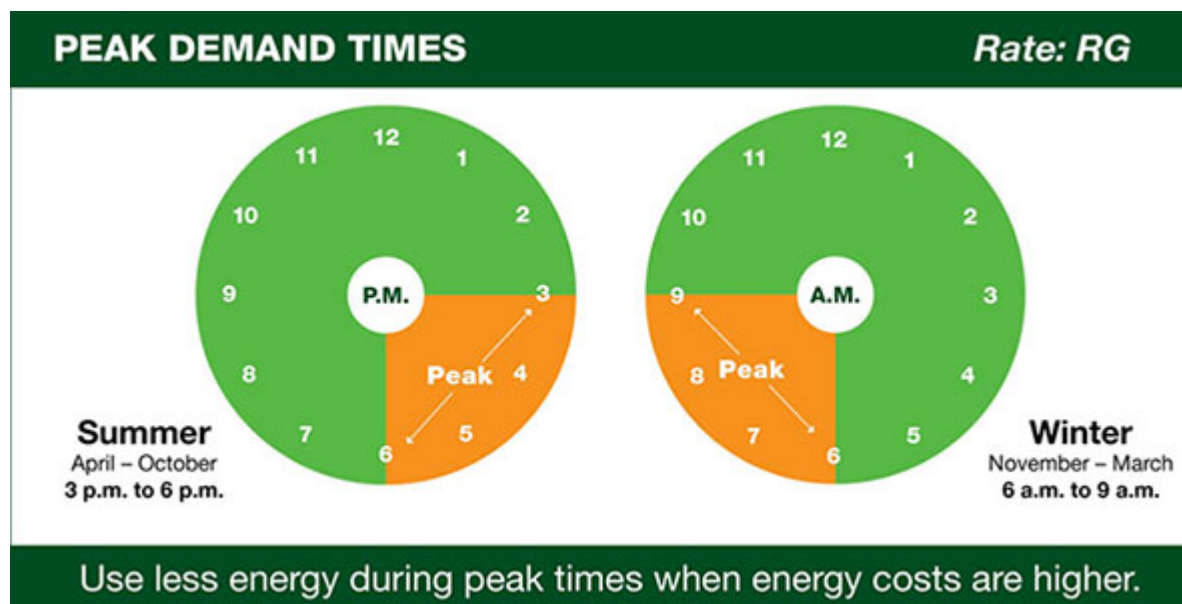
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hickman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Beatrice **Last Name:** Reinbachs
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000470

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

As a customer of Santee Cooper I oppose adding a new charge to my utility bill. The new demand charge ("summer and winter energy charge") where I would pay more for the peak amount of electricity used in any hour in the month during a daily three-hour time window is confusing and could be easily abused. I won't know what the charge is until I get my bill. When you add up the rate charges and an increase in the customer charge my bill would be too confusing and difficult to understand. I strongly object to this change.

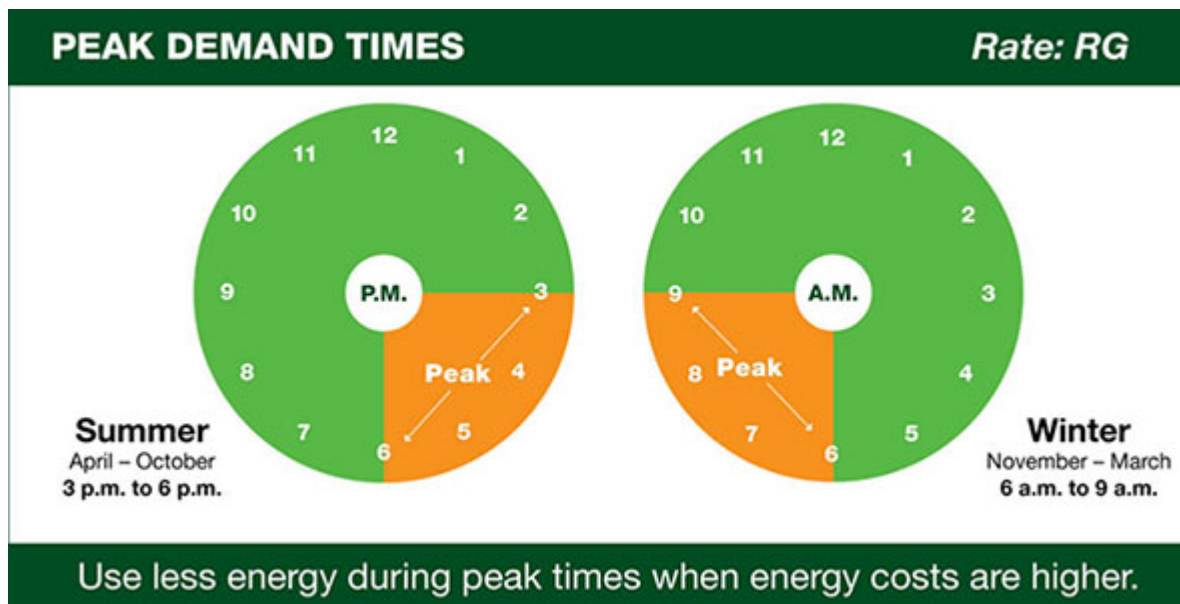
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Reinbachs,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Terry

Last Name: Mort

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000471

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

No Thank you! Few utilities use this onerous way of billing residential customers for this very reason. And you won't know what the charge is until you get your bill. When you add up these two rate charges and an increase in the customer charge, the average customer could see an 8.7% increase for residential electric customers beginning in April 2025. Excerpt from AARP. Terry Mort Santee Cooper Customer

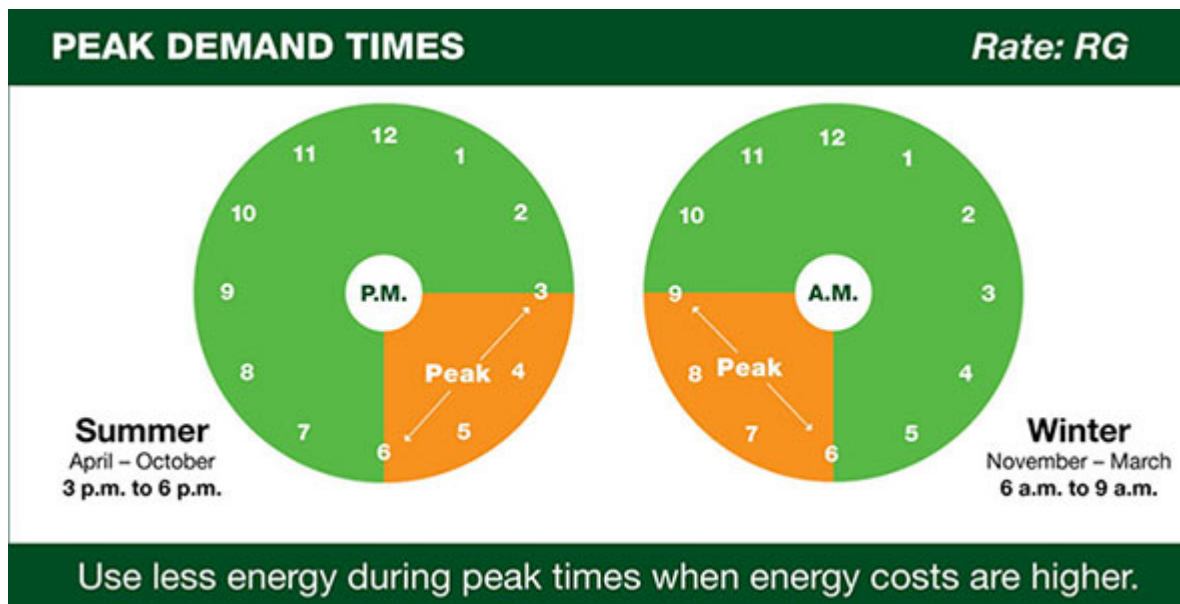
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mort,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

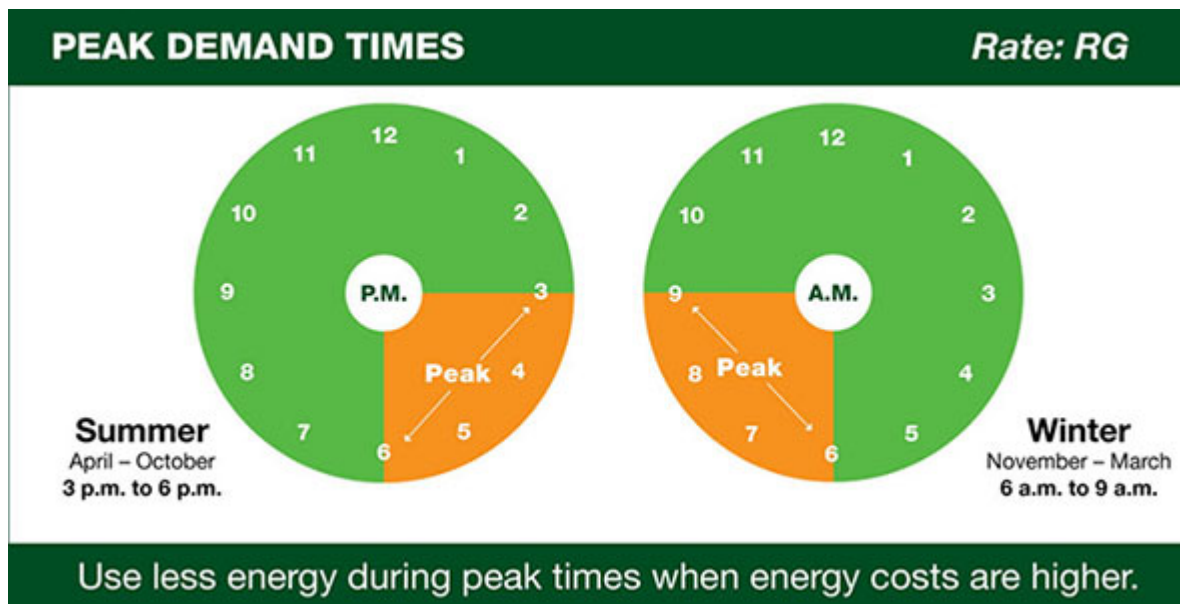
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Thomas,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Scott

Last Name: Steuerman

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000473

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

What is this a smoke and mirrors game. You need to have better business practices.

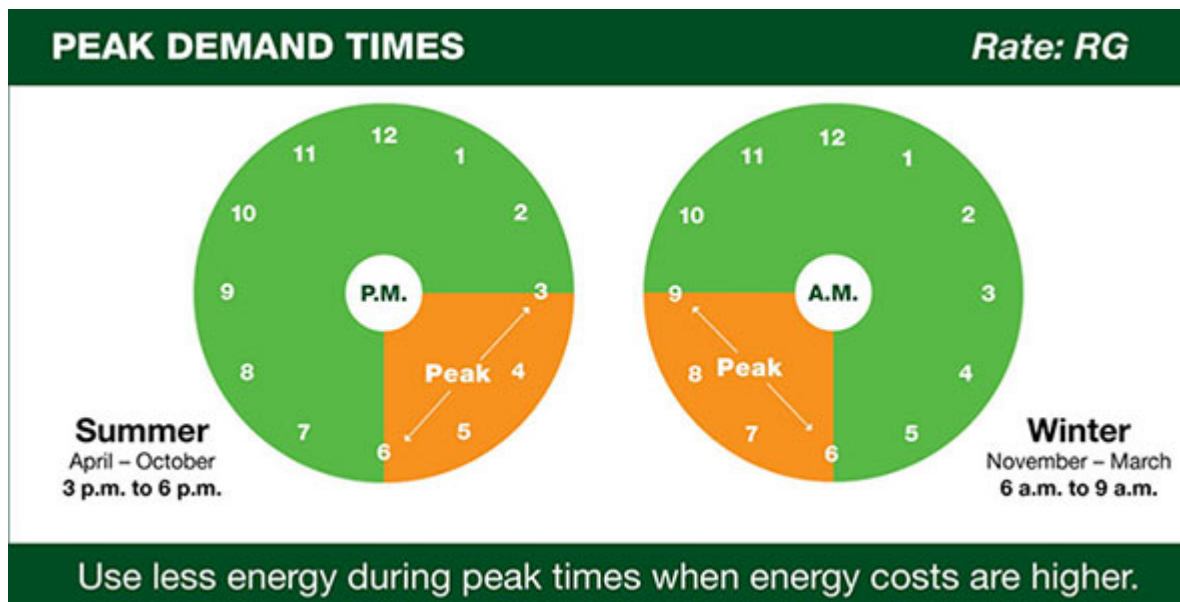
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Steuerman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Laura

Last Name: Voigt

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000474

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Santee Cooper, I am not at all interested in participating in this crappy rate structure program. This has been tried numerous times in the past and never with positive results. You should be ashamed of yourself trying to pass this off as not a rate increase. Lying to your customers is not a very good business practice. I am truly insulted that you think I'm that stupid that I don't realize what you are doing !! THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE !!

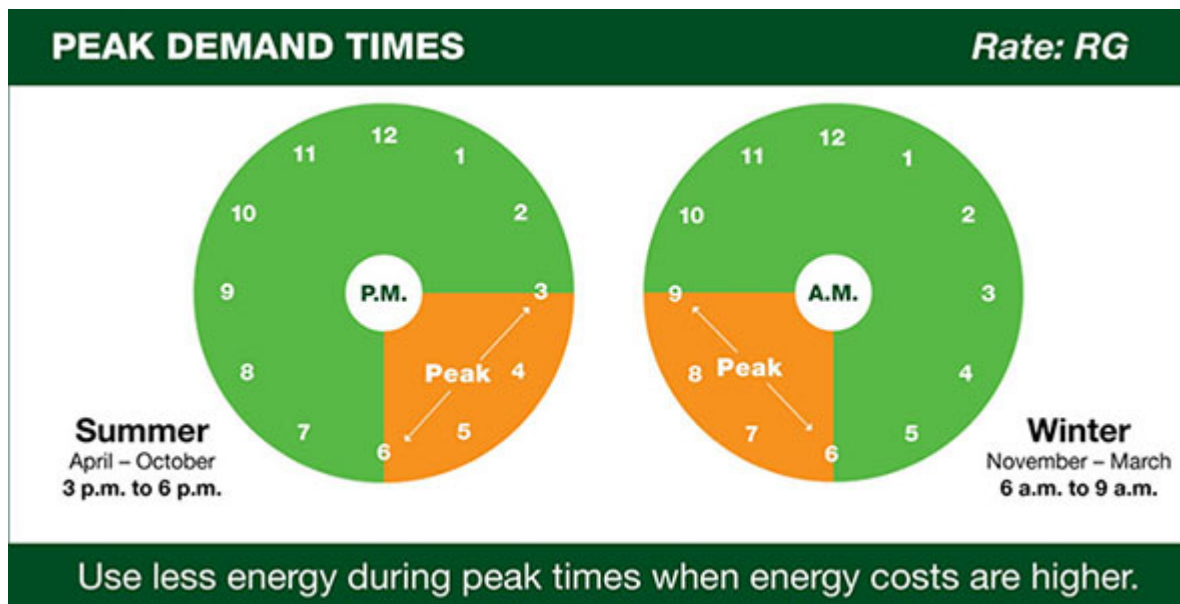
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Voigt,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Eddie

Last Name: Rickevicius

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000475

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

As a South Carolina resident and Santee Cooper I strongly reject the rate adjustment proposed by Santee Cooper

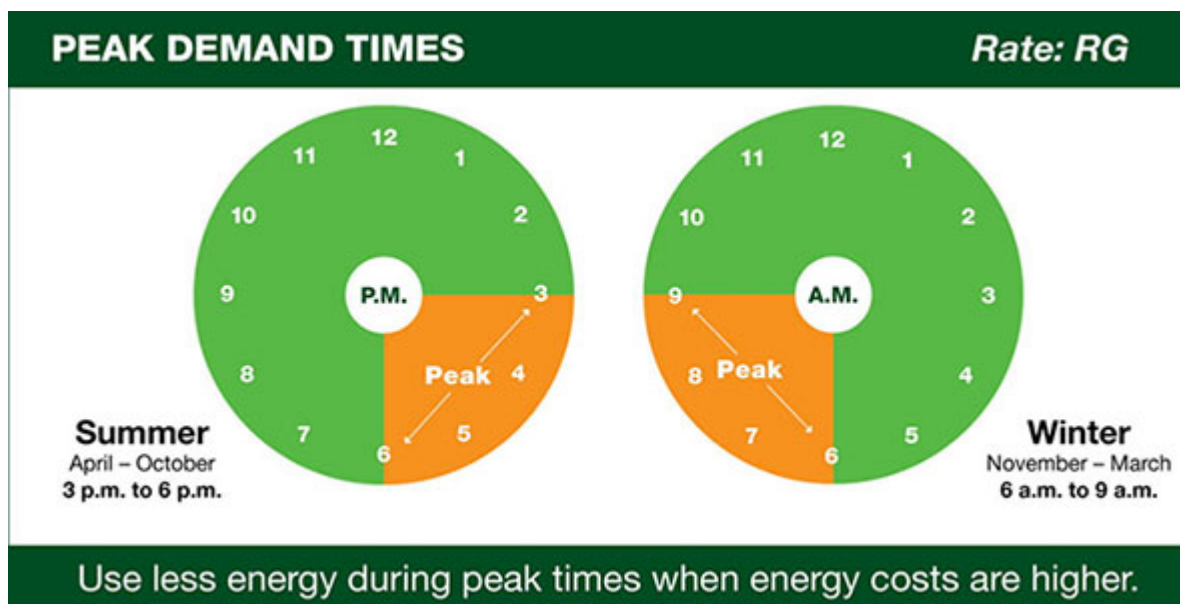
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Rickevicius,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Steve

Last Name: Simolari

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000476

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

This type of rate change is difficult for most customers. Please reconsider the rate increase. Regards, Steve Simolari

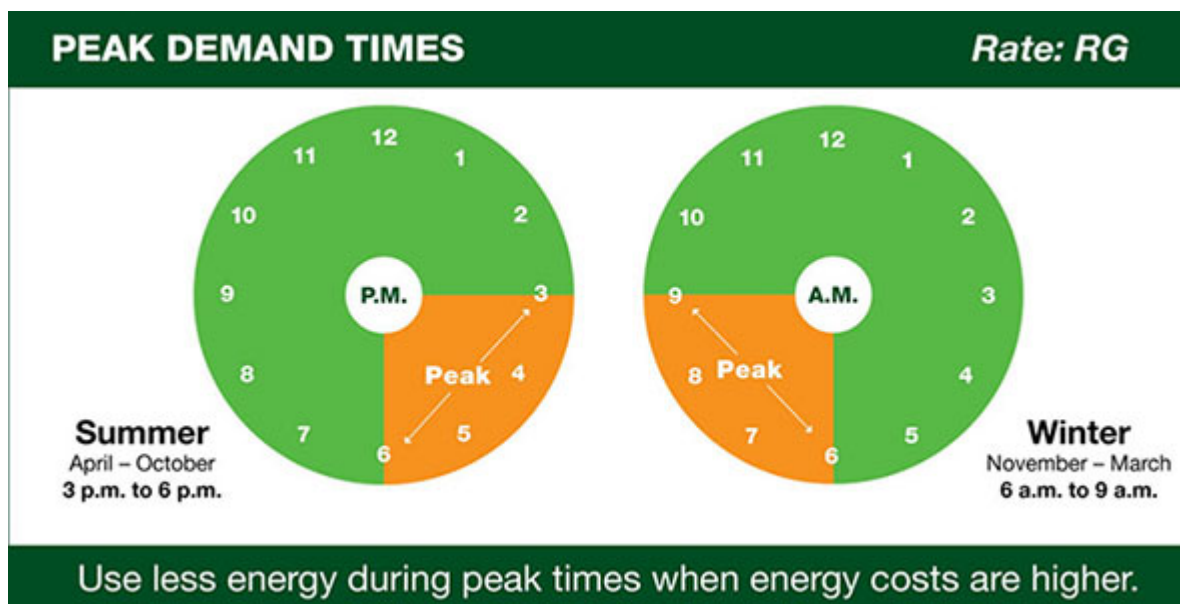
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Simolari,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Elizabeth **Last Name:** Fresh
Organization:
City: North Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29582

SC Reference # : SC0000000477

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper, Please don't implement the proposed rate adjustment. I strongly oppose the three-part rate structure which will increase the energy rates during certain summer and winter hours. Energy rates are already high and an approximately 8.7% increase would not be affordable especially during the current economy climate. It's hard enough to afford basic living expenses. This proposed increase could cause a lot of problems for your customers. I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment. Kindest regards, Elizabeth Fresh
[REDACTED]

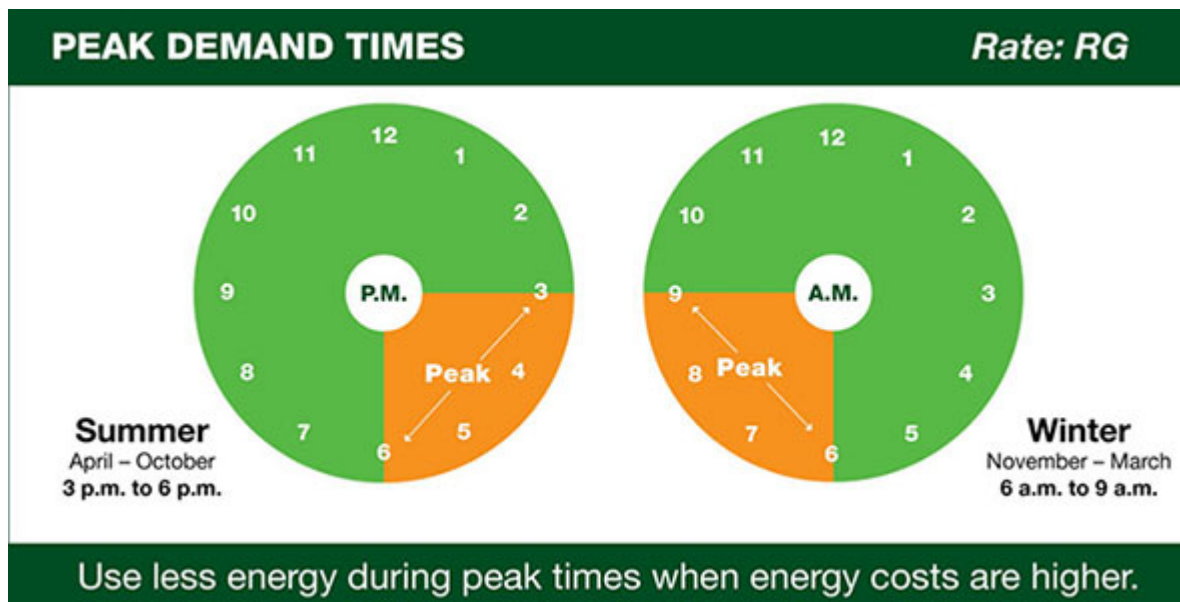
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Fresh,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Lynne	Last Name:	Rogers
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC0000000478

Date Submitted:	8/22/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I would like to oppose the upcoming rate adjustment for "peak" hours. This would be a terribly confusing system and impossible to manage utility bills. Lynne Rogers
[REDACTED]

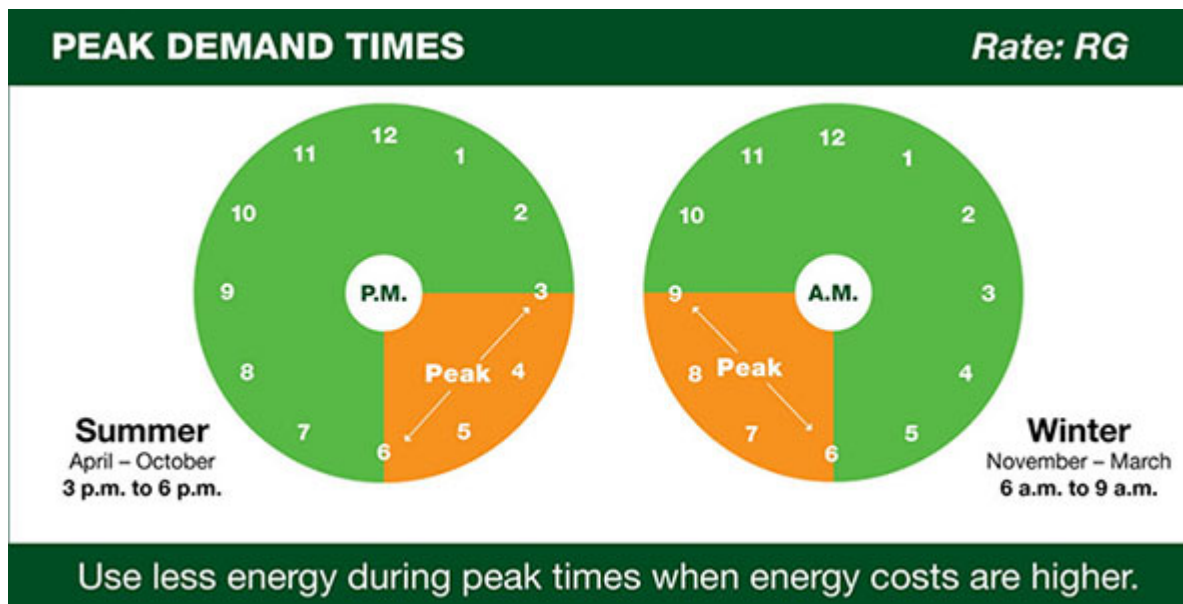
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Rogers,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ken

Last Name: Meyer

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000479

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I believe this proposed rate hike is not what I wanted when I moved into the community that you serve. My only solution is to move out of your area of service.
Ken Meyer

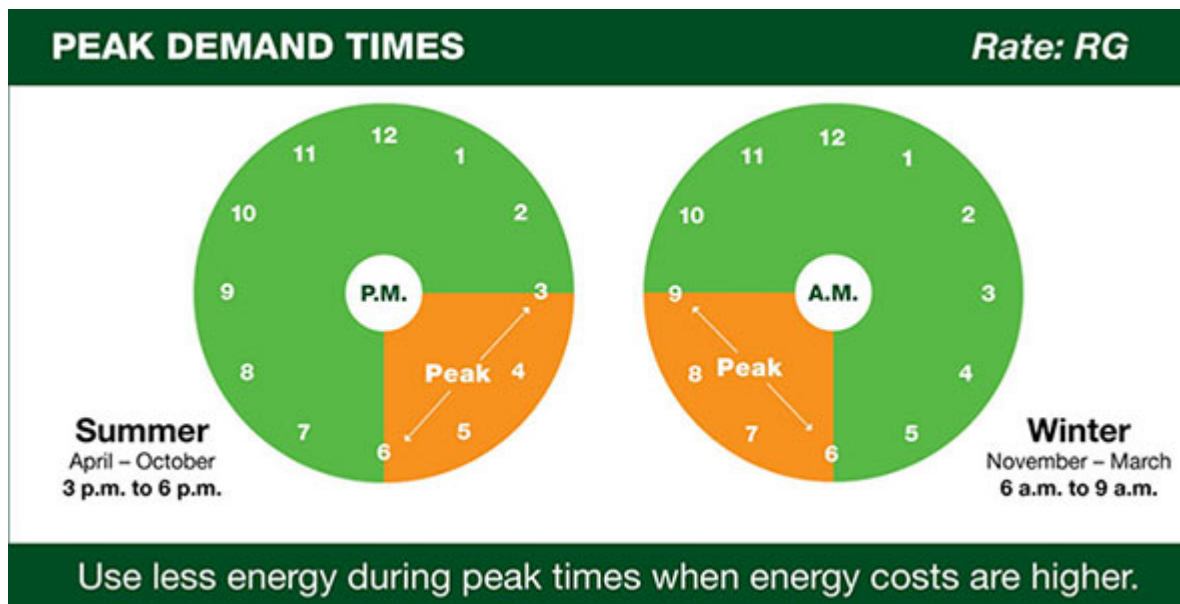
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Meyer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Zauner

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000480

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I can barely cover my electric bill now. I don't want to participate.

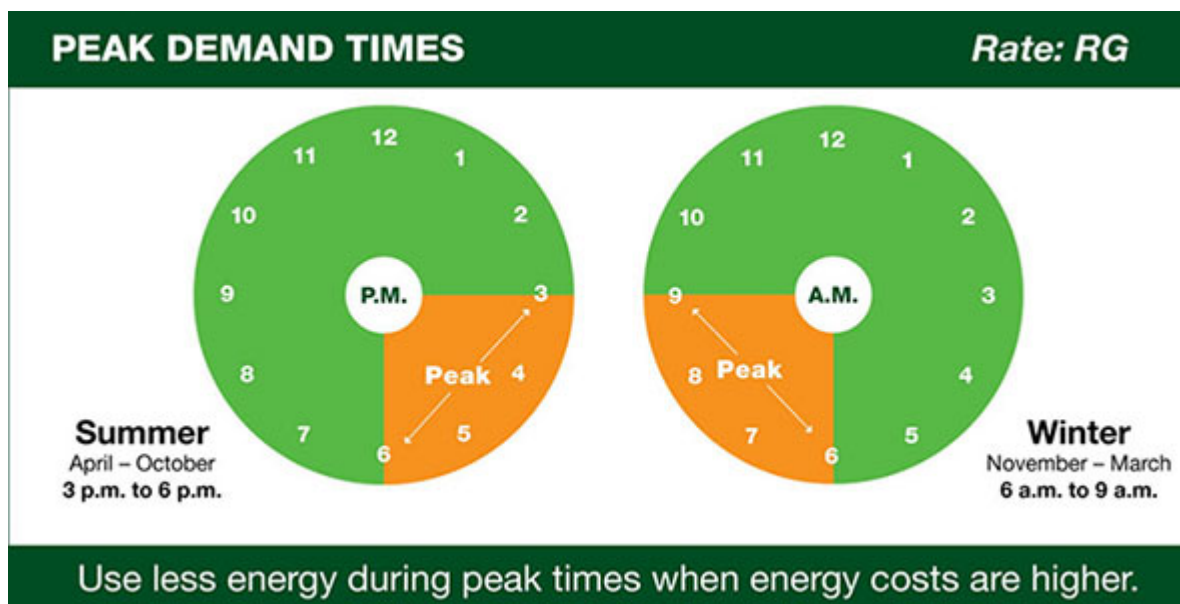
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Zauner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Sam

Last Name: NO LAST NAME

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000481

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I don't agree with your proposed special charge.

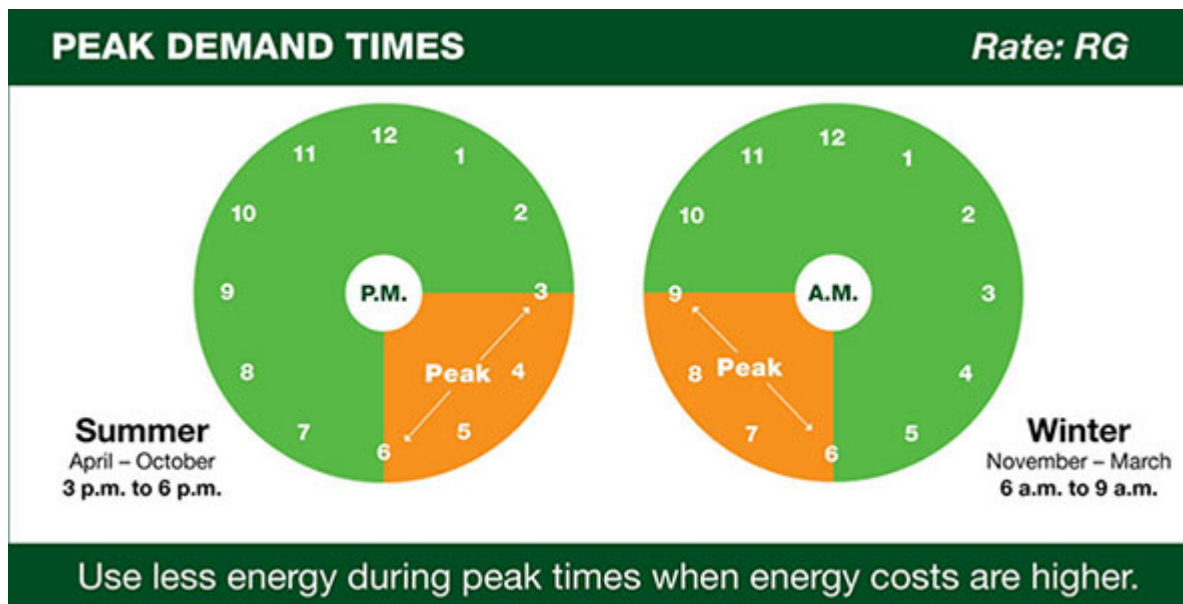
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Sam,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kathy

Last Name: Bell

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000482

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please do not increase rates as seniors live on fixed income! Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Kathy Bell

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Debra

Last Name: Wilden

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000483

Date Submitted: 8/22/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I have always felt Santee Cooper was an excellent power company, until now. As a Registered Nurse I know of many people who need life-saving medical equipment at home to run 24/7. They do not have the option of turning off this equipment during "peak" times. My husband uses CPAP every day. He has severe sleep apnea. Why should he alter his sleep-wake cycle to accommodate the peak hours. This is an unfair and prejudicial action on the part of Santee Cooper. Please reconsider your plan. Surely there are better ways for your company to make money! Sincerely,
Debra Wilden, BSN, RN, CCRN, PHRN

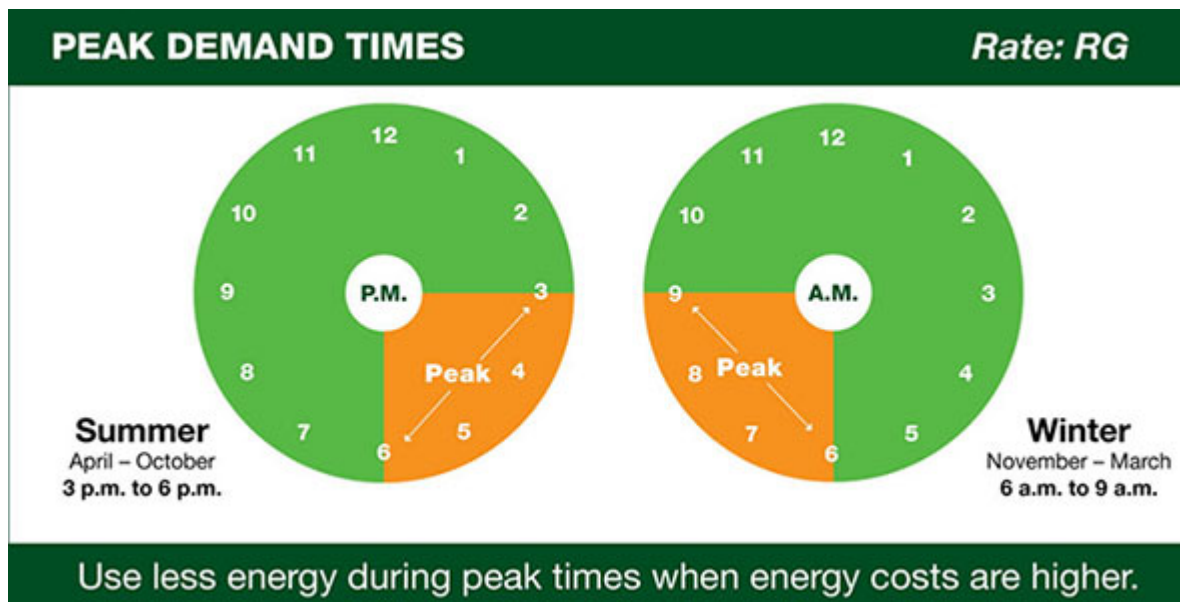
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wilden,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dan

Last Name: Davis

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000487

Date Submitted: 8/23/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Good morning, As a senior on a fixed income I have to budget my utility bills to ensure everything is covered. With the growing costs of just about everything, the rate increase/structure you are proposing will affect the financial hardships felt by many in the senior community. Many seniors can not endure the high temperatures/humidity of summer. They already pay for their electrical usage and your plan will only increase their burden. Please reconsider putting this plan in place. Thanks, James Davis

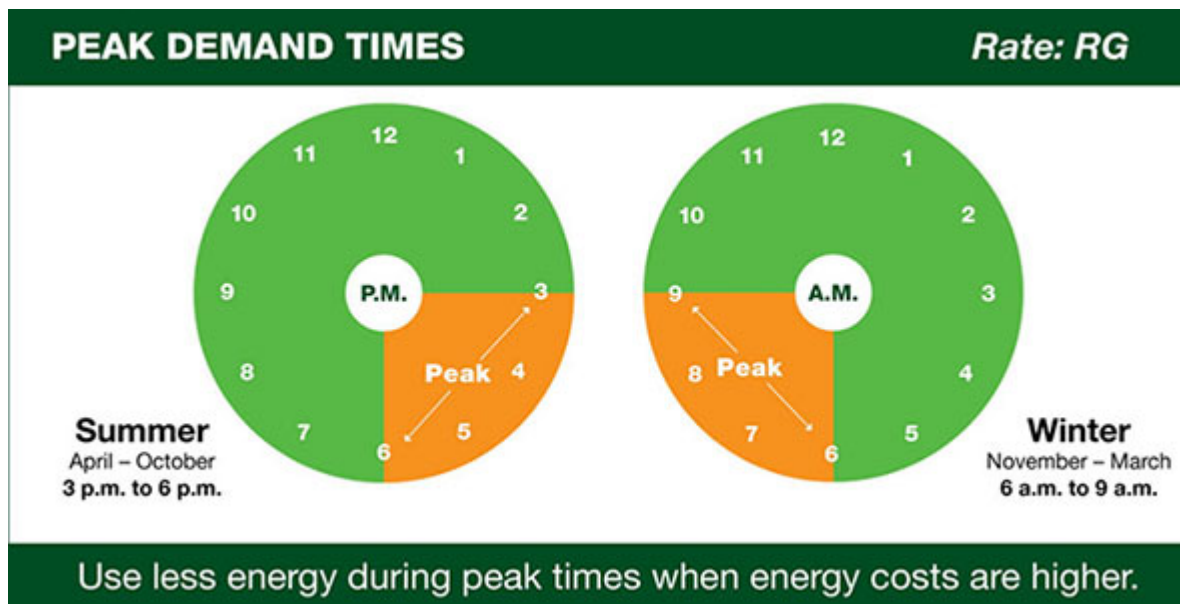
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

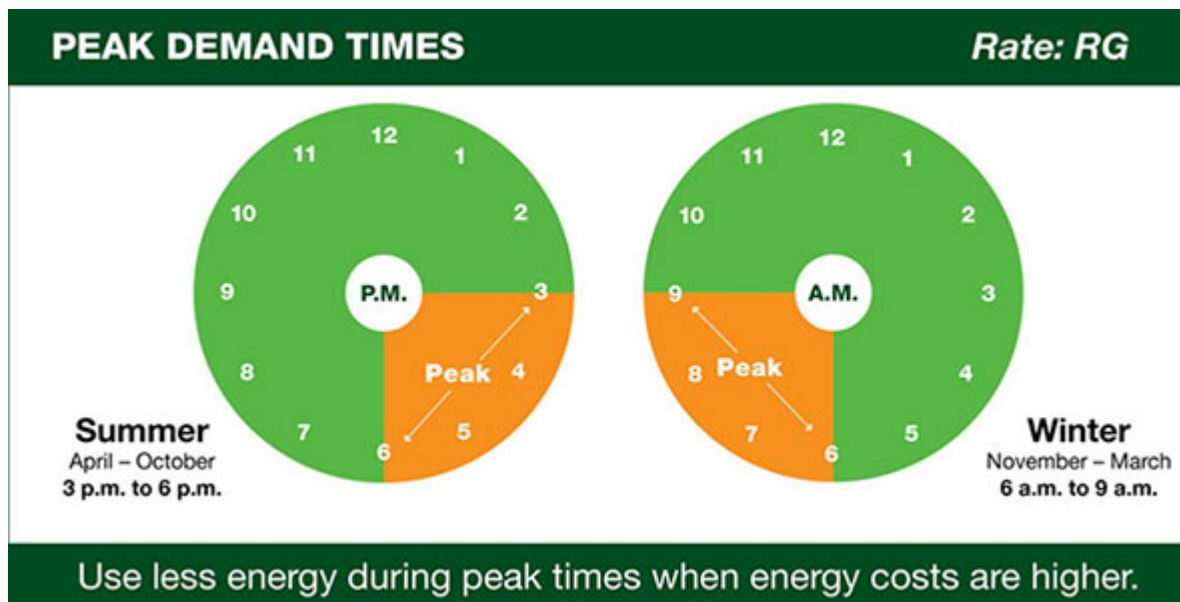
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bertoti,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Celeste

Last Name: Harmon

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000489

Date Submitted: 8/23/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested in paying more for electricity! Please don't put this tier system in place. Thank you, Celeste

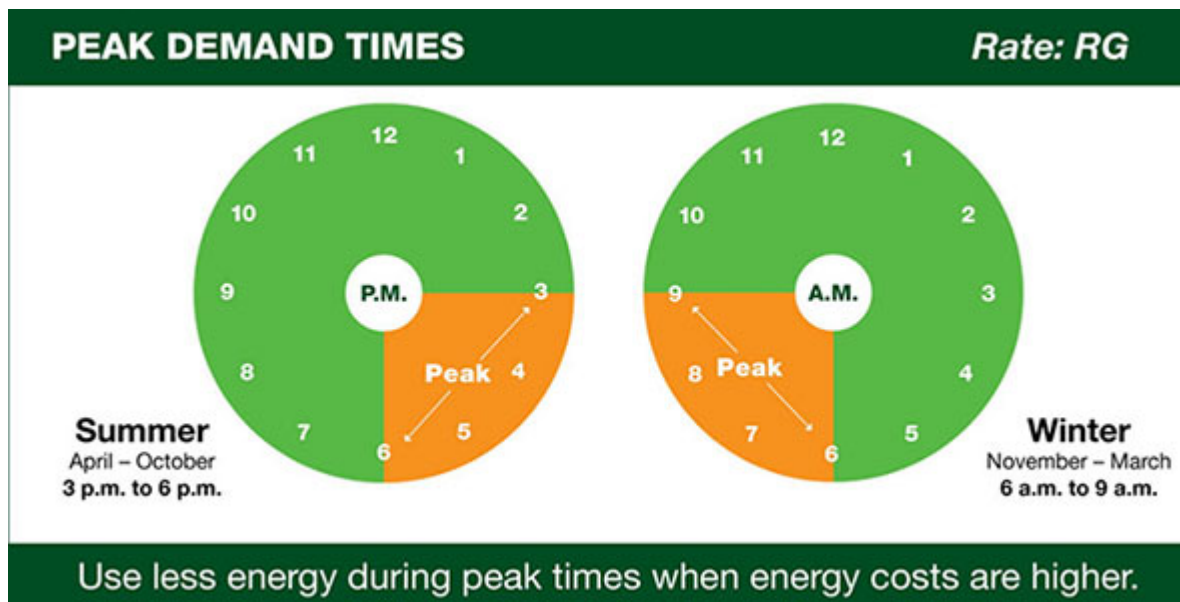
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Harmon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lawrence **Last Name:** Kniep
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000490

Date Submitted: 8/23/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

HI, I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment Regards,
Lawrence Kniep

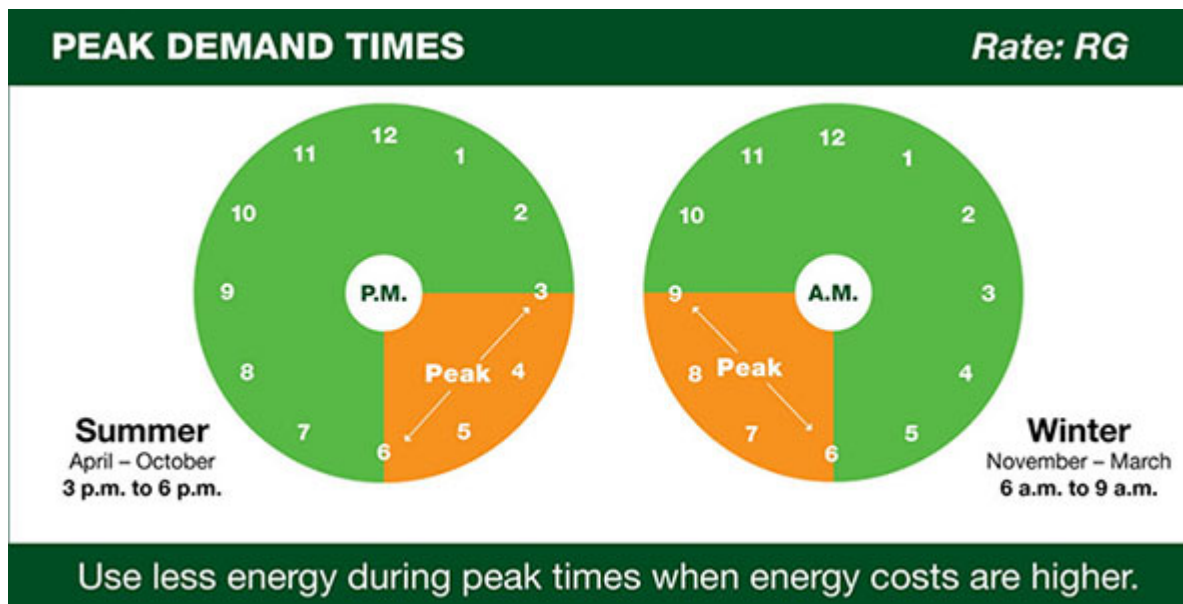
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Kniep,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rebecca

Last Name: Odell

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000491

Date Submitted: 8/23/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

It will never work....

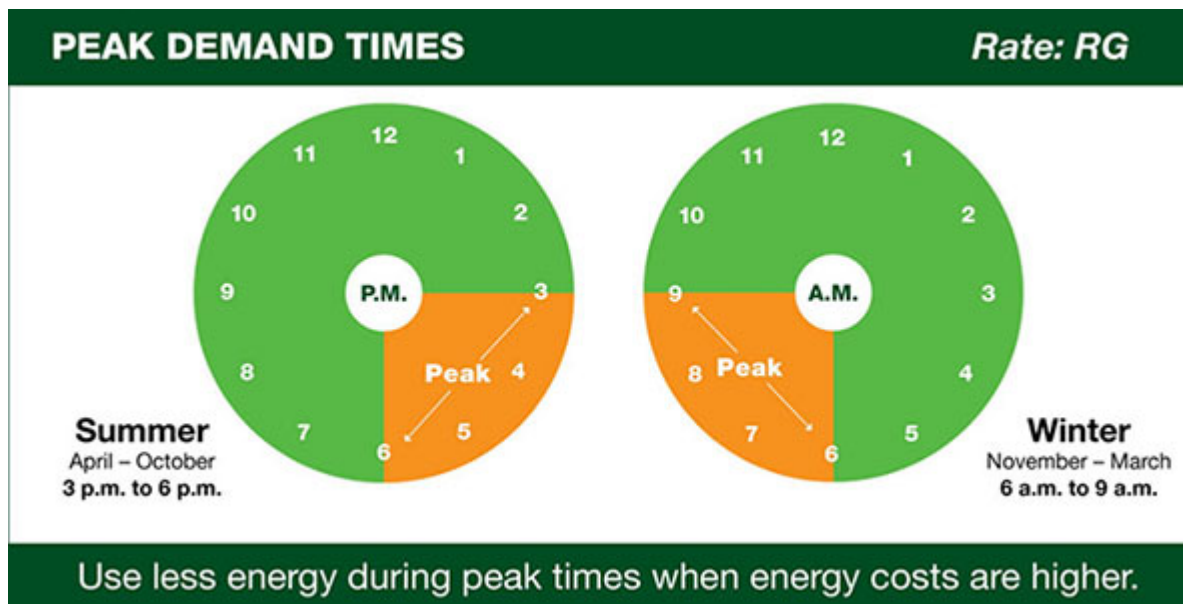
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Odell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information**First Name:** Mrs.**Last Name:** Peterson**Organization:****City:****Customer Type:** Residential**State / Zip:****SC Reference # : SC0000000493****Date Submitted:** 8/24/2024**Origin:** email**Comment:**

Santee Cooper I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment. I strongly oppose this confusing overly complicated onerous new three-part rate proposal, we need fair and transparent prices. That is the honest thing that we should expect living here. Mrs. Peterson

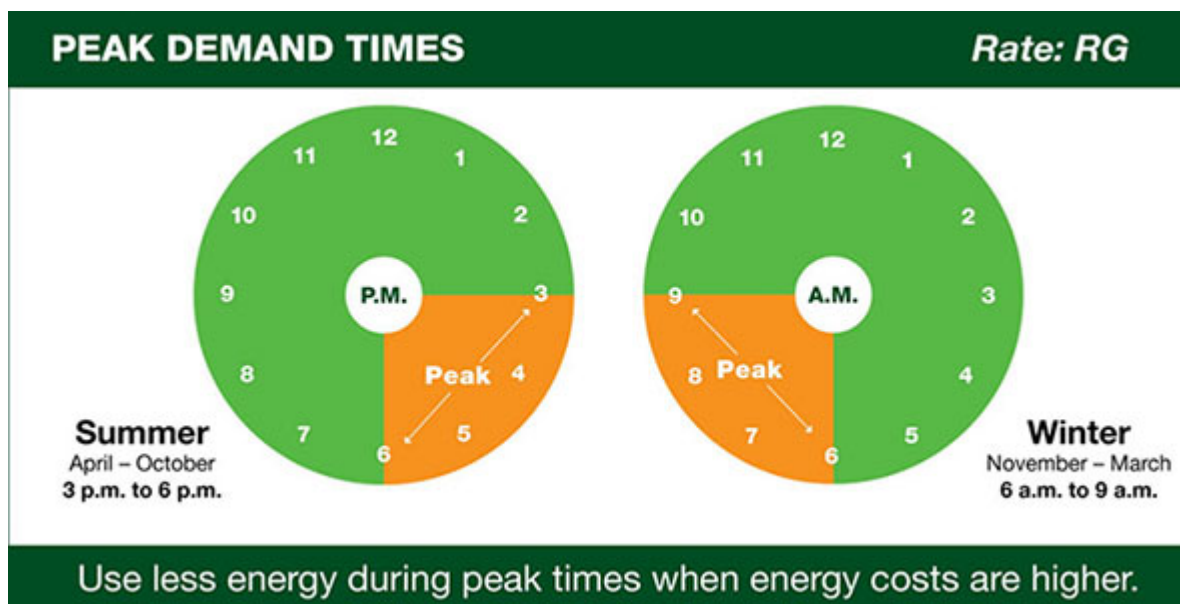
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Dear Ms. Peterson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

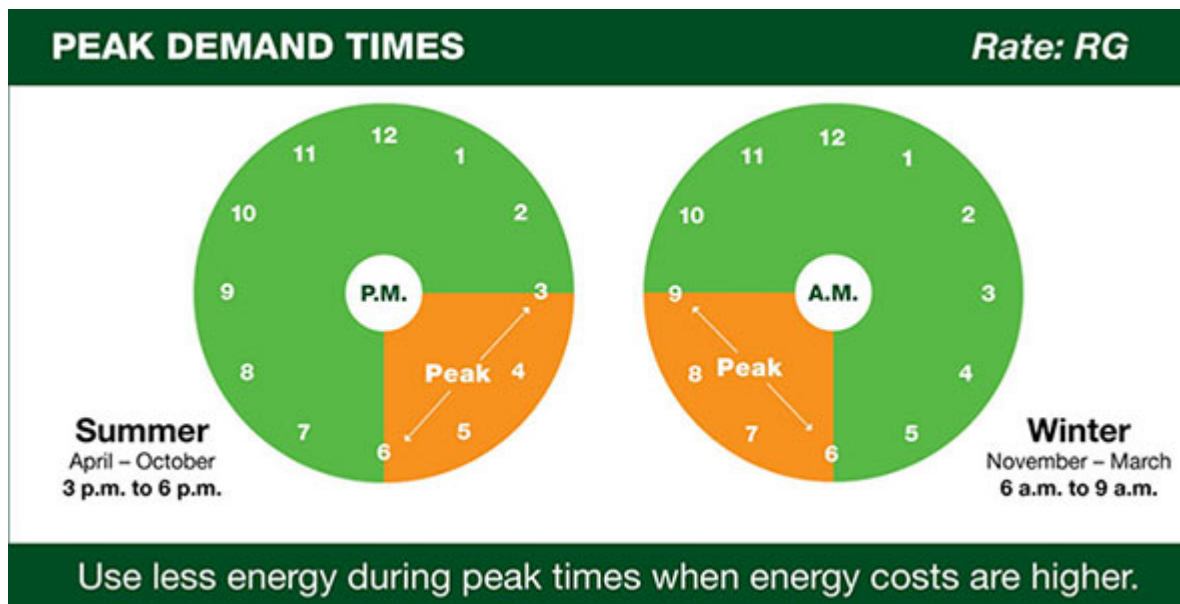
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Yates,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Suzanne **Last Name:** Foley
Organization:
City: Pawleys Island, **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29585

SC Reference # : SC0000000495

Date Submitted: 8/24/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am against and not interested in participating in the new customer and energy charge as well as the proposed new demand charge. Suzanne Rassiga Foley
[REDACTED]

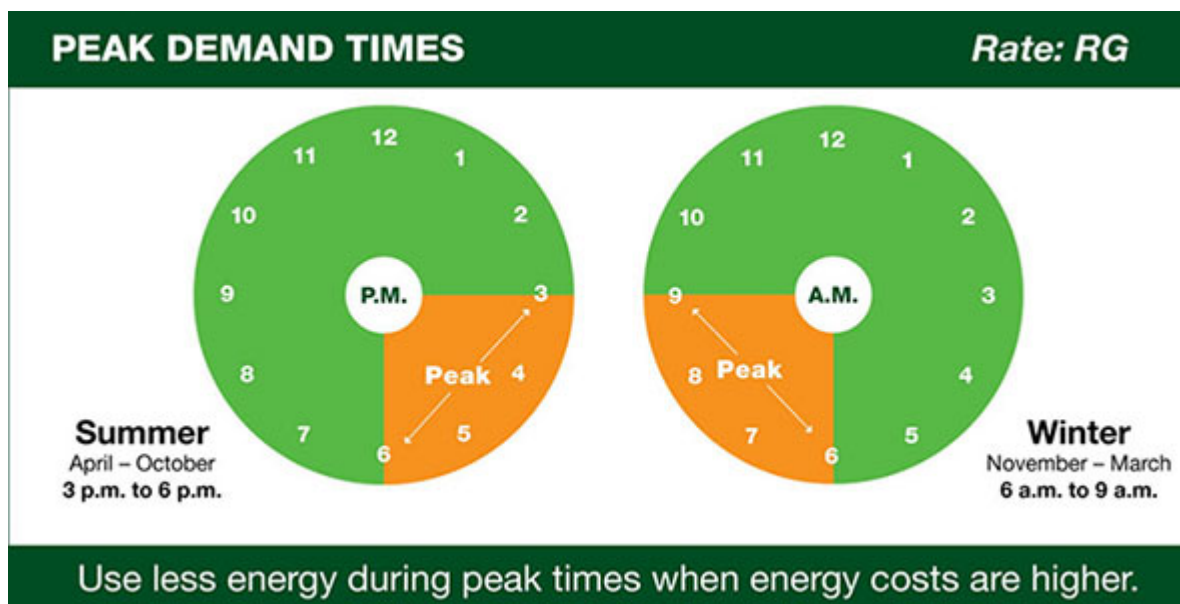
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Foley,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Larry	Last Name:	Jones
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000496

Date Submitted:	8/24/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I, being an 85-year-old widower, living in a 400 sq. Ft. Studio apartment would suggest being considered for perhaps a more limited or reduced category of the potential new rate structured increase for 2025. I have a 55 Gal. Water heater, a stack washer/dryer, a 21 cu. ft. Refrigerator, No elec. Range, but do have a cabinet anchored microwave, and finally, central H/A with the thermostat at 79 deg. In summer & 72 deg. in winter. Could there, or would there be, any consideration for developing a different rate category for customers that fits within my explanation above. I understand the need to balance profit margins, in order to flourish and survive, and have the ability to develop future advanced equipment & technology. Just wanted to express my thoughts for people like me, from the Dinasauro Age. Best Regards, L Jones (Myrtle Beach)

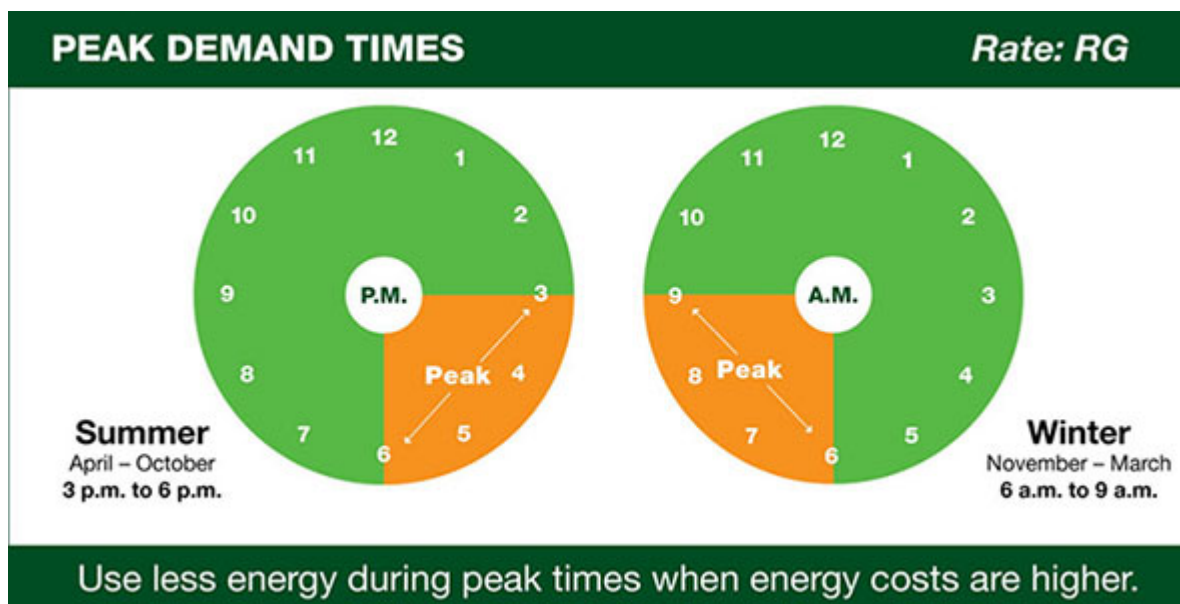
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Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Marlene and William **Last Name:** Johnson
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000497

Date Submitted: 8/24/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I do not want to participate in this confusing failed rate experiment. Thank you,
Marlene and William V Johnson

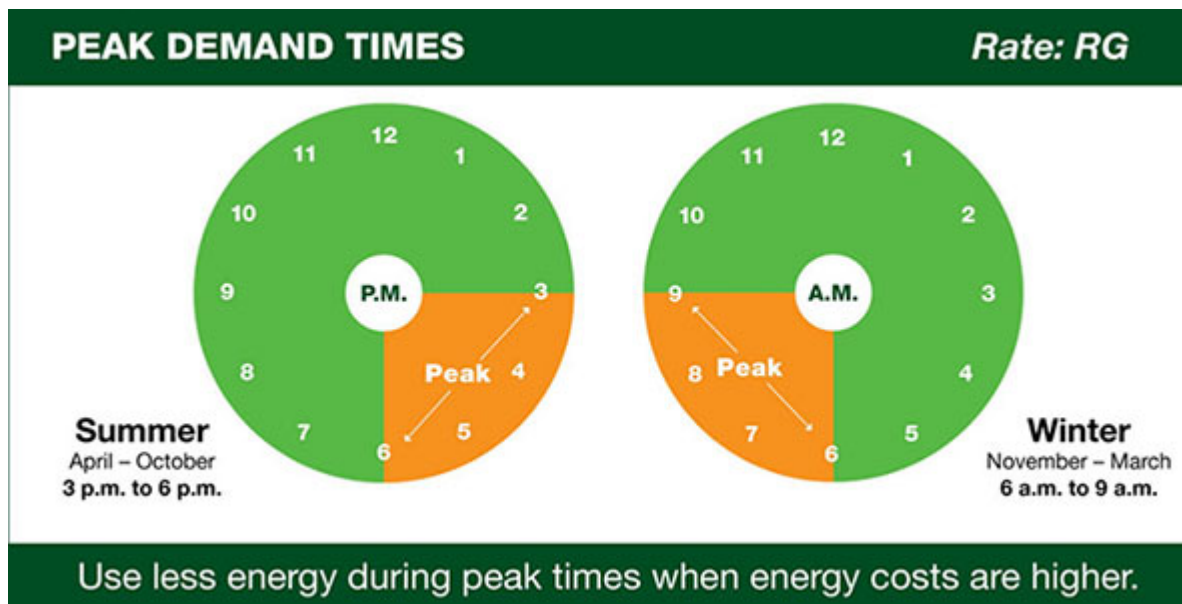
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Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johnson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Danny

Last Name: Cox

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000501

Date Submitted: 8/24/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Don't think it's needed, it's getting harder to stretch our limited monthly income as it is for us older folks. If your going to increase rates increase them maybe 4% max and leave this surge rate on the back burner.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cox,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

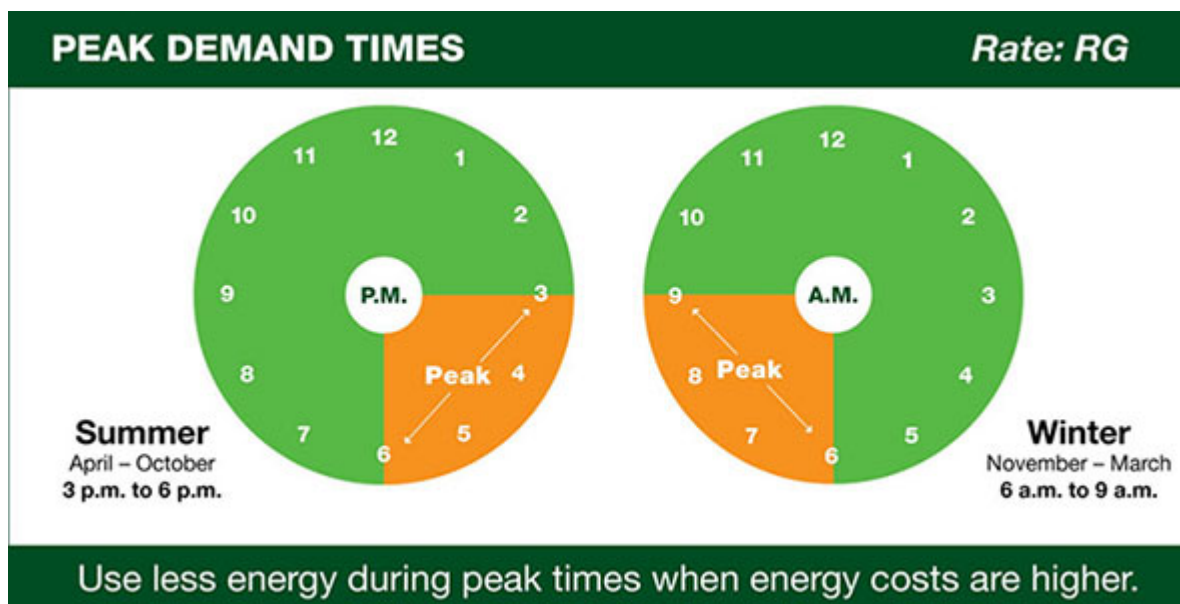
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Dear Ms. Jasmine,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

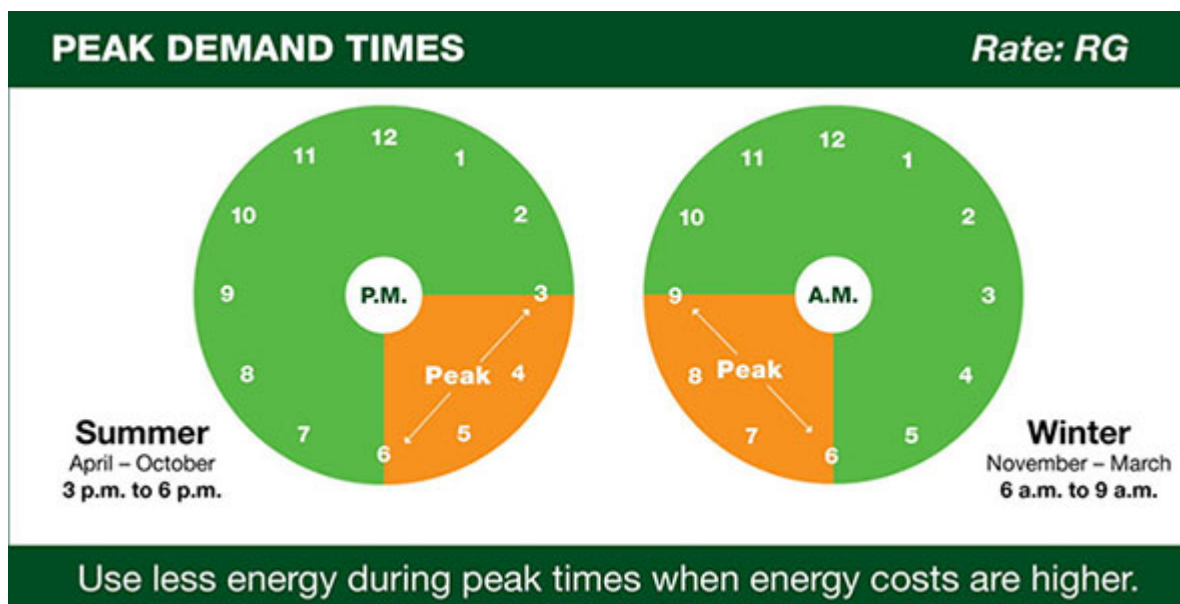
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Queen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Donna

Last Name: Stewart

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000500

Date Submitted: 8/25/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

You! Santee Cooper look like shisters by creating a system to increase rates in such sleazy manner.

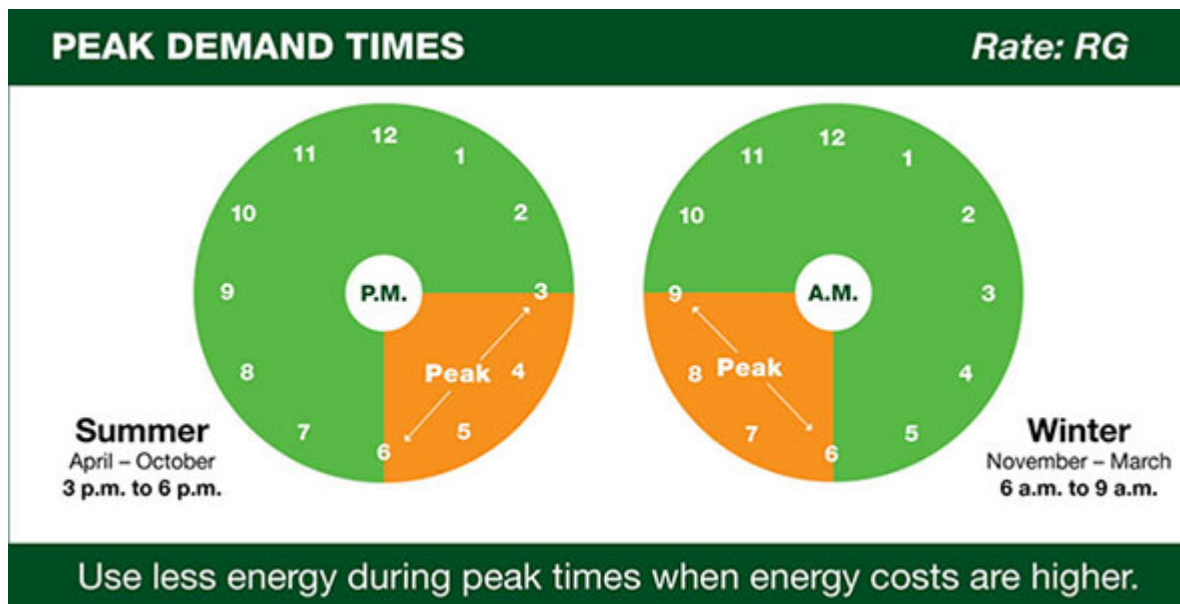
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Stewart,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lee

Last Name: Gallowe

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000507

Date Submitted: 8/26/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

It seems as customers, we are bearing the burden of our government's approval of over development. Infrastructure and resources are being strapped and current customers are paying the price. The proposed structure is intentionally confusing. I strongly disagree with the new billing structure. Be kind, be brave and love unconditionally.

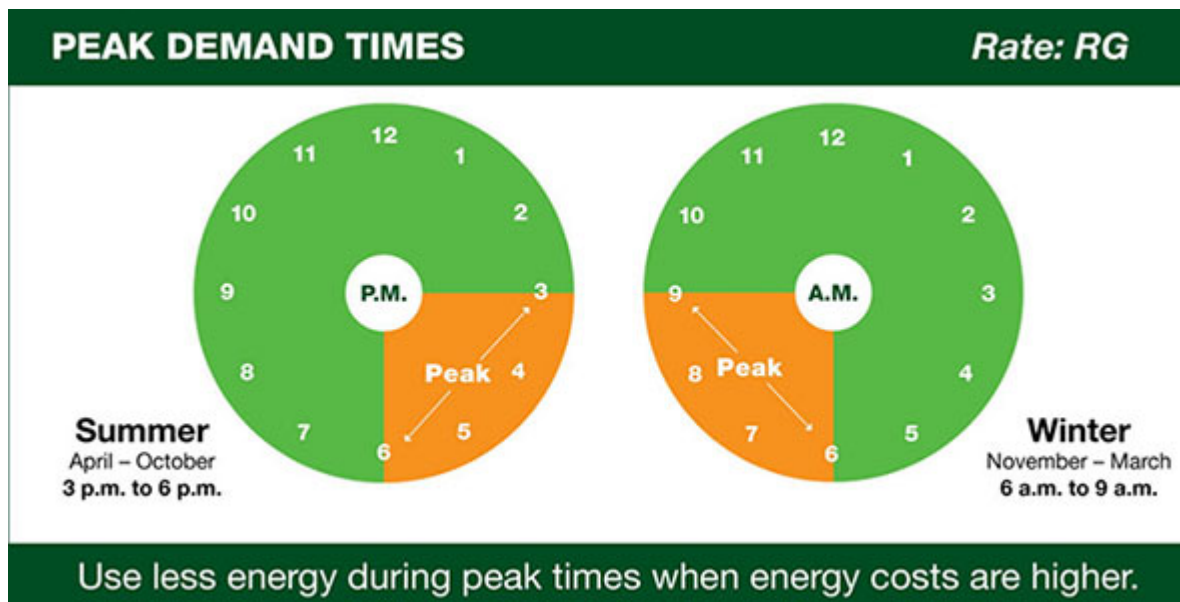
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Gallowe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Thomas

Last Name: Camberdella

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000502

Date Submitted: 8/26/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Can you please explain the proposed rate increase concerning power usage during peak hours. I live in sorry county in Murrells Inlet in the Stonegate development of prince creek I do not understand how this will be computed

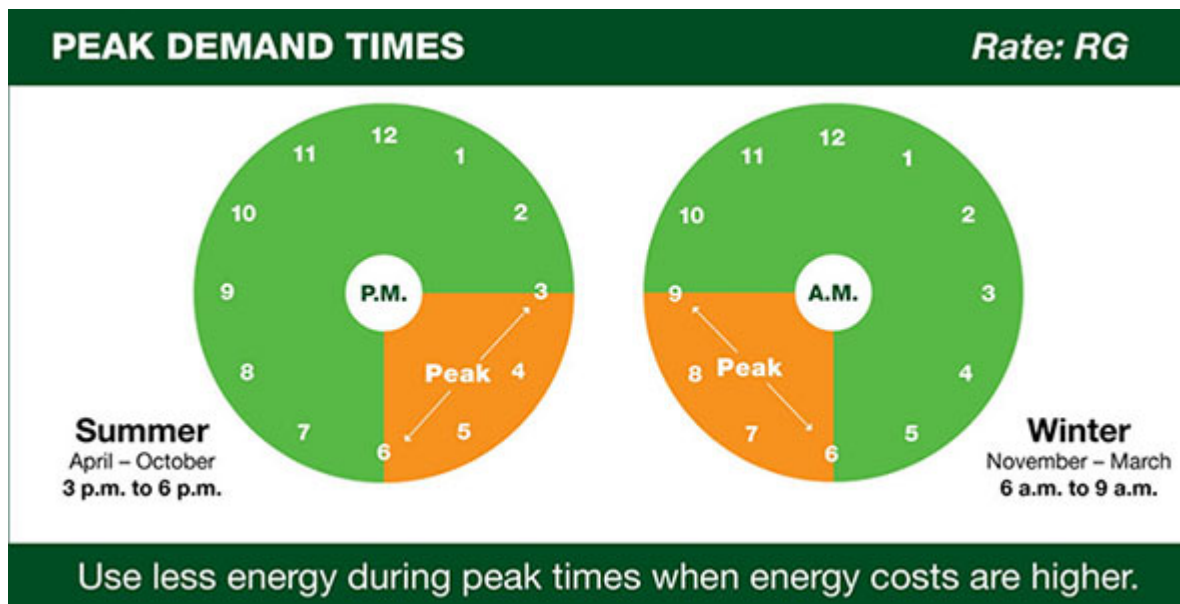
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Dear Mr. Camberdella,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Moreover, in each month, the hour with the highest electric usage during the peak window will be selected and multiplied by the demand rate (\$10.03 per kW). So, if the highest usage hour used 3 kW then a \$30.09 demand charge will be applied to your bill for that month.

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you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Santee Cooper

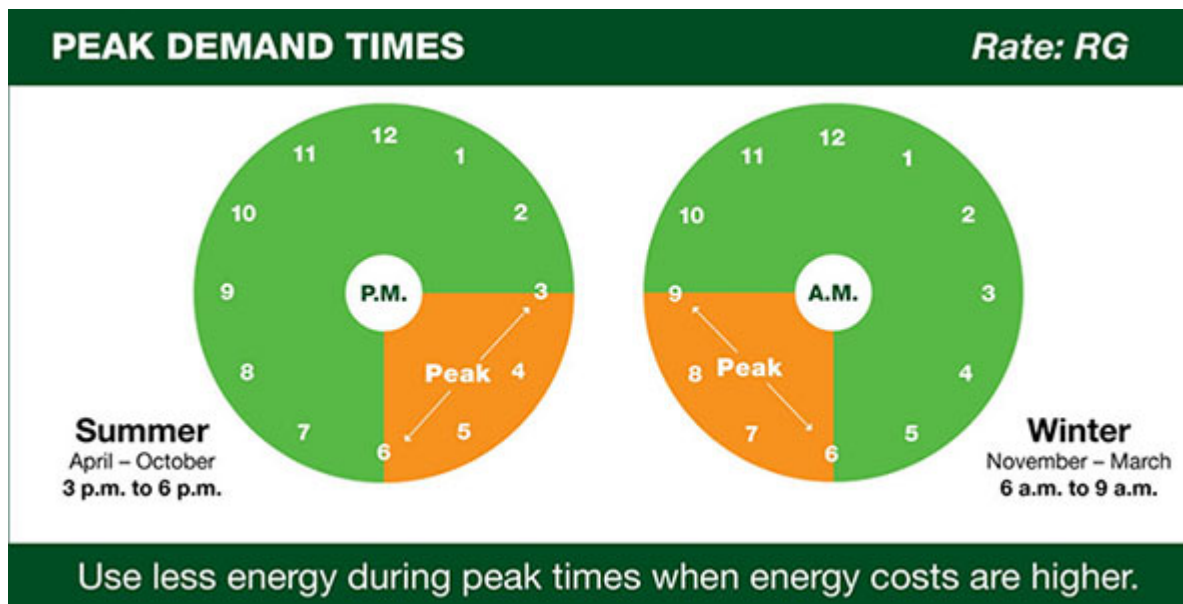
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Morrisette,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ryan	Last Name:	Blake
Organization:			
City:	Moncks Corner	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29461		

SC Reference # : SC0000000504

Date Submitted:	8/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I am strongly opposed to the rate increase. The company has provided no change in my services why should my rates be increased.

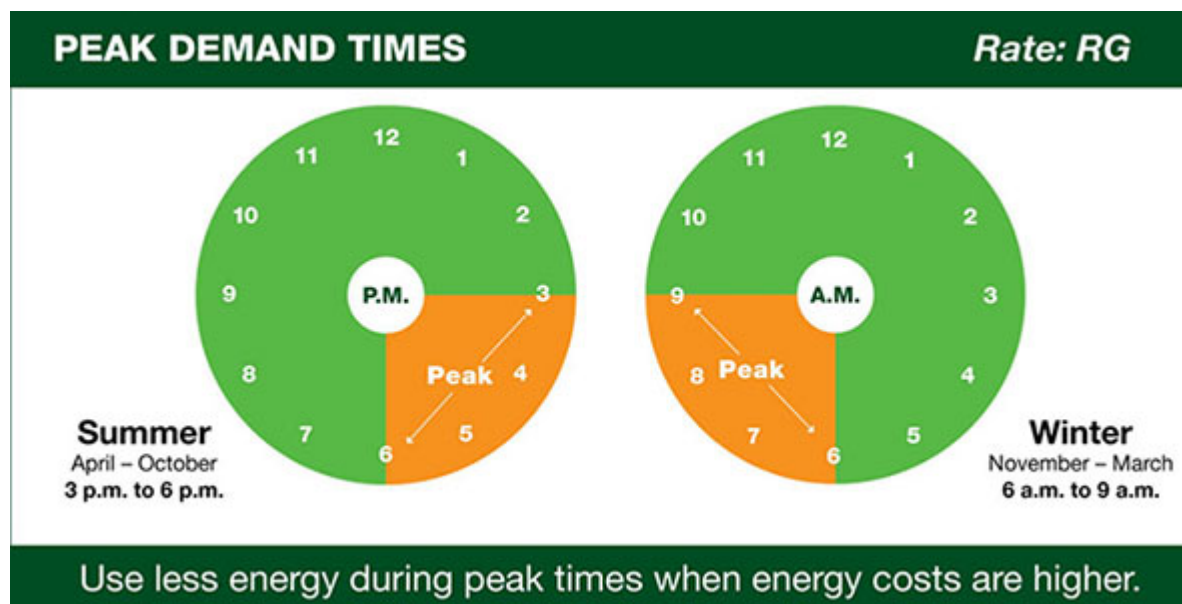
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Blake,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Tyler	Last Name:	Rissell
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc	29527	

SC Reference # : SC0000000505

Date Submitted:	8/26/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Do not increase rates. You will lose a lot of customers because of the increase. No one can afford the new rates.

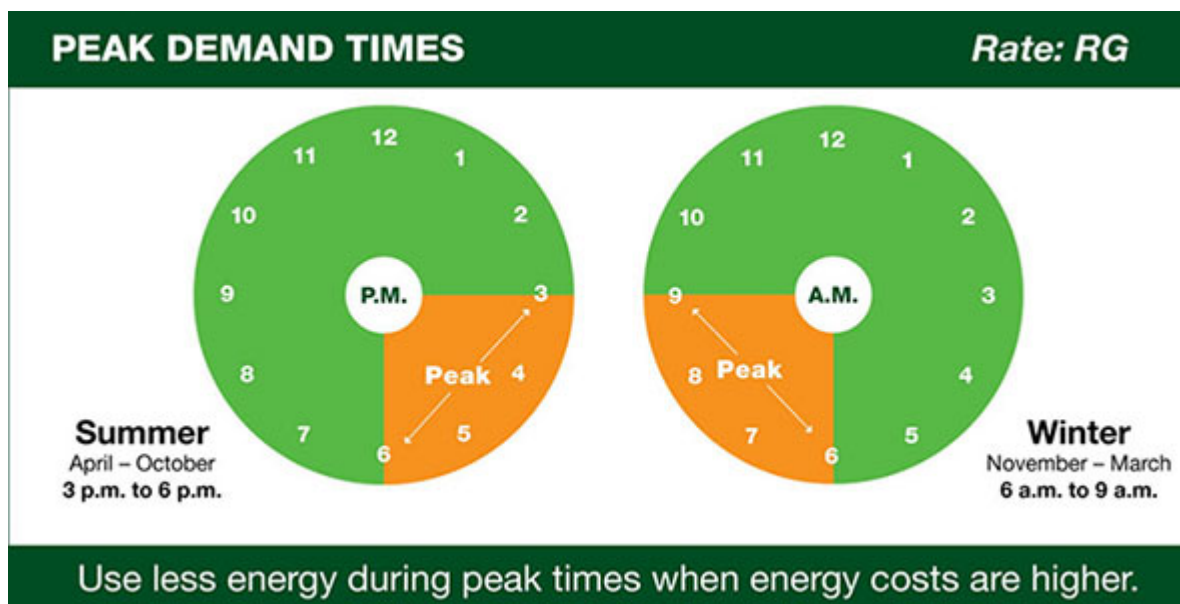
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Rissell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Christine	Last Name:	Zayac
Organization:			
City:	Murrell's Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000000506

Date Submitted:	8/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I strongly oppose energy rates being raised during summer peak hours. It is most inconvenient to ask a family to not feed young school children until after 6 p.m when they need to prepare to attend day care and/or school the following day. Also, my husband is diabetic and needs to stay on an eating schedule to avoid medical issues. Not everyone wants to eat a slow cooker meal every single day in order to maintain their family needs. I have an electric stove so would that rate increase also be affected if I use that as well? or is it just oven? I have no problems with washing machine and dishwasher hours, but asking me to change my dinner time is totally unacceptable. Please reconsider.

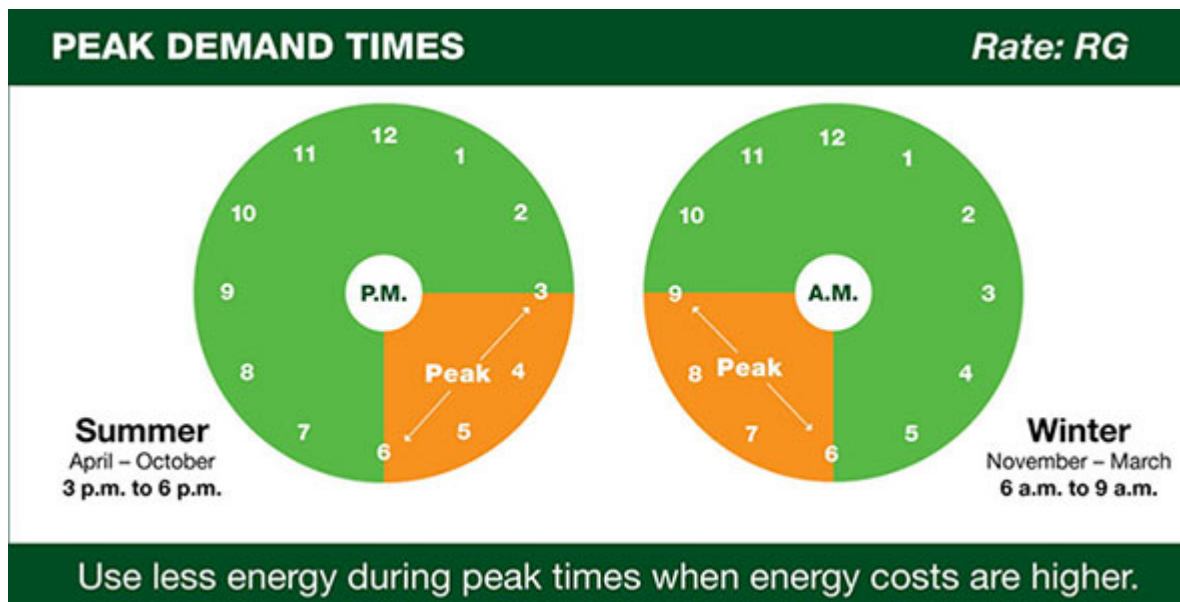
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Zayac,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

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Dear Ms. Schultz,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mckenzie	Last Name:	Cole
Organization:			
City:	Moncks corner	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc 29461		

SC Reference # : SC000000509

Date Submitted:	8/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Due to the cost of living steady increasing and pay is not increasing with it, I don't think its reasonable to increase to rate for electricity. Thank you'!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Cole,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Anthony	Last Name:	Phillips
Organization:			
City:	Moncks Corner	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29461		

SC Reference # : SC0000000510

Date Submitted:	8/27/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I understand that operating costs are climbing, and that rate hikes may be needed. From my understanding, there will be ways to minimize costs by simply adjusting when to use power hungry items. Though undesired, I can understand. I do however feel that this is a bad time to implement a hike. Without going into a bunch of economic indicators of the future, and certainly of the present, a lot of people are struggling. With potential to struggle more in the coming year. If the multi-million dollar power company can hold off for a bit and sacrifice some profit margins, they may be able to help thousands of families from sacrificing basic necessities. Families that don't have any margins to spare. Perhaps still allow for cheaper rates when not using electricity at peak times. Give the people an opportunity to help themselves. On a similar topic, I believe the solar program needs re-worked. This company appears to care about their amazing energy saving initiatives, and meeting carbon footprint targets, but then penalizes solar usage. I currently have a 3 kwh system producing 2.4 kwh at peak. This is expected. Not a problem. The problem is that I'm automatically charged \$13.83 if I send even one watt back into the system. So, if I try to practice energy saving tactics and just happen to send some excess power back, I'm charged for it. Sure, I'm paid a little for it, but I'm charged far more than I'm paid back. How am I being penalized for being energy efficient? This goes completely against your preached initiatives. I am currently being incentivized to use more energy with the current structure. The re-work should charge that \$13.83 if electricity usage goes negative for the entire month. Not if it goes negative for 5 minutes on a Tuesday afternoon. Attached is my most recent bill should anyone reading this want to see what I'm talking about. To sum up... It's not time to hike rates. People are hurting. More than media is telling you. If you need to cut energy costs, and also advertise smaller carbon footprint, implement better incentives to save electricity. Incentives like using power during off peak hours, and a solar program that doesn't cost the user for saving power.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Phillips,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017. Additionally, Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save

energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

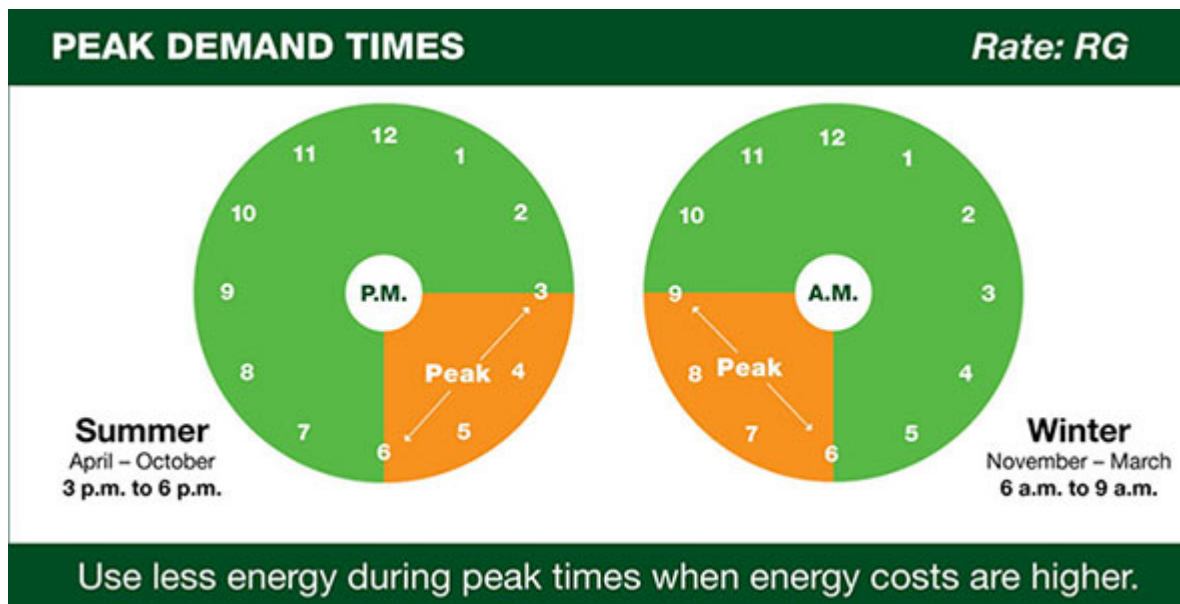
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Dear Ms. Grissam,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jim

Last Name: Payne

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000512

Date Submitted: 8/27/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Bad idea! Jim

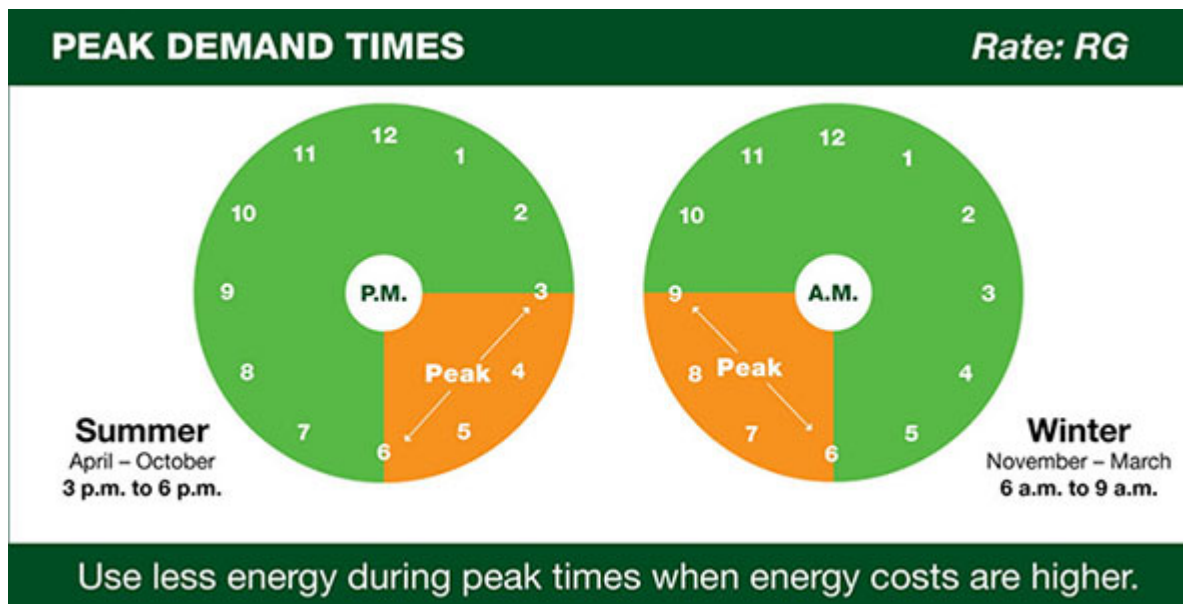
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Payne,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Gary

Last Name: Leonard

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000513

Date Submitted: 8/27/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am against this type of rate. You try to figure out what to do and how much it would be for your bill!!!!

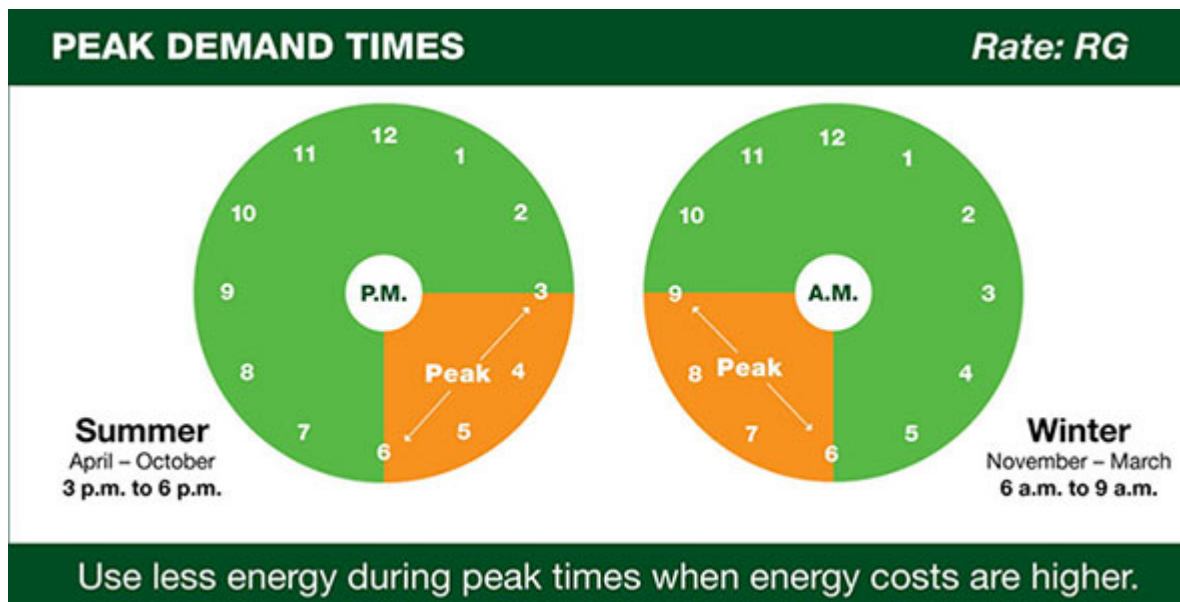
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Leonard,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Howard	Last Name:	Germroth
Organization:			
City:	Moncks Corner	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29461		

SC Reference # : SC000000515

Date Submitted:	8/28/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Why such a high rate increase for residential? With the tens of thousands of new customers you've gained over the last ten years surely that equates to higher revenue and profits. It appears you're giving the residential group all ten years at once. Unfair! Can I see a report of your growth in customers, revenue, and profit over the last ten years? Is this an attempt to have us pay for the failed Nuclear Plant? We haven't forgotten. Why didn't you raise rates any during the last ten years? That doesn't appear to be a very good business practice! I seem to remember an increase of some sort. Didn't you have one? Maybe you didn't call it a rate increase but something else. If you feel 8.7% is justified and fair to residential customers then phase it in over the next ten years at .87% per year.

Dear Mr. Germroth,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

We understand your concerns about the increase, but budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017. Santee Cooper's most recent financial information can be found at www.santecooper.com/about/investors.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John

Last Name: Friestad

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000516

Date Submitted: 8/29/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not a fan of this proposal.

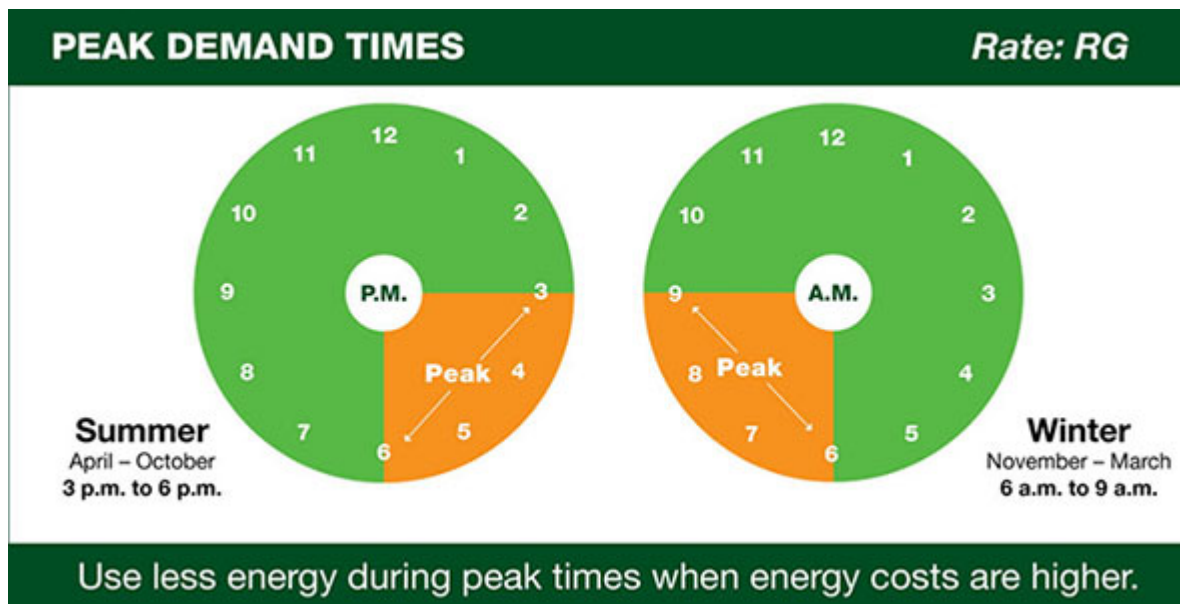
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Friestad,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Robert	Last Name:	Carter
Organization:	0005104898566		
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC0000000521

Date Submitted:	8/31/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

I understand that rates have to be raised because of inflation, but what I don't understand is the significant increase to residential customers. I am on a fixed income and try and follow all subjections to keep my monthly bill consistent. I really concerned the with such large increase I won't be able to maintain my monthly bill. Are there any programs you will offer to help in these situations.

Dear Mr. Carter,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

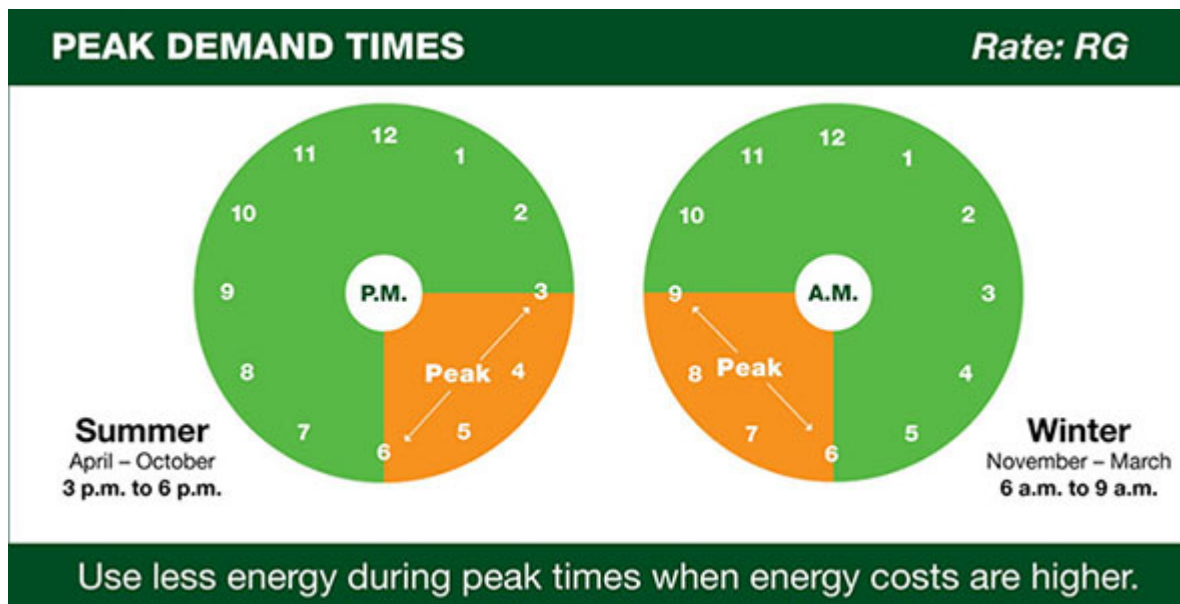
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Raymond,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Stephen

Last Name: Hager

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000528

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

The higher charges for certain hours is totally ridiculous!

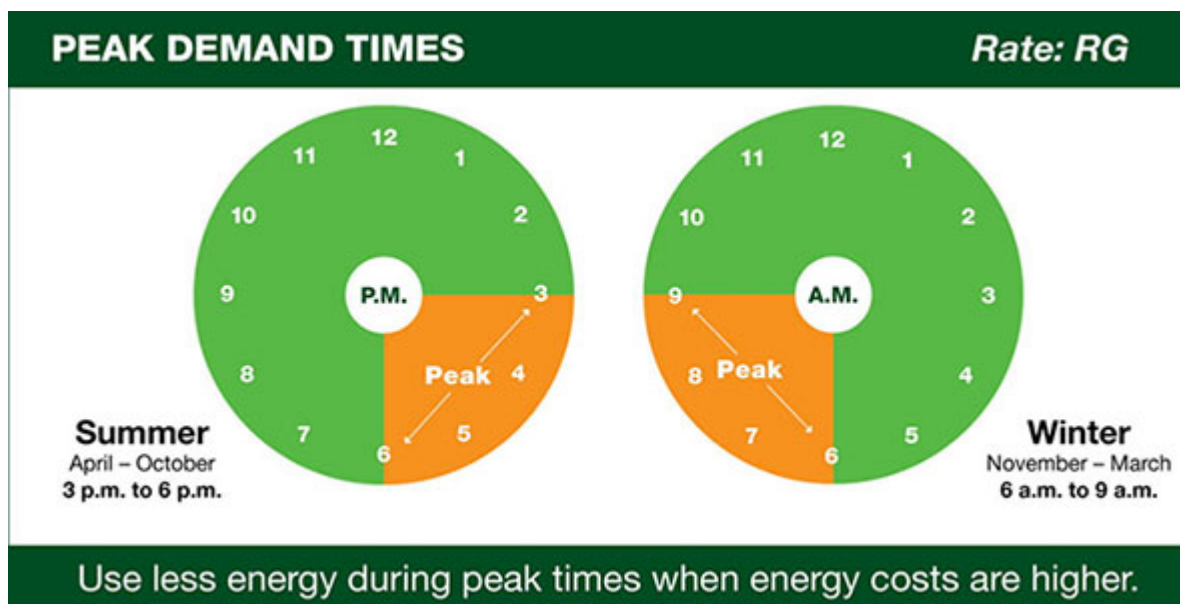
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hager,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kathy

Last Name: Dukes

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000529

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Just no .. you want us to pay for green energy when your stockholders get richer? B
S

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Dear Ms. Dukes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: David

Last Name: Williams

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000530

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I oppose the peak hours rate charge.

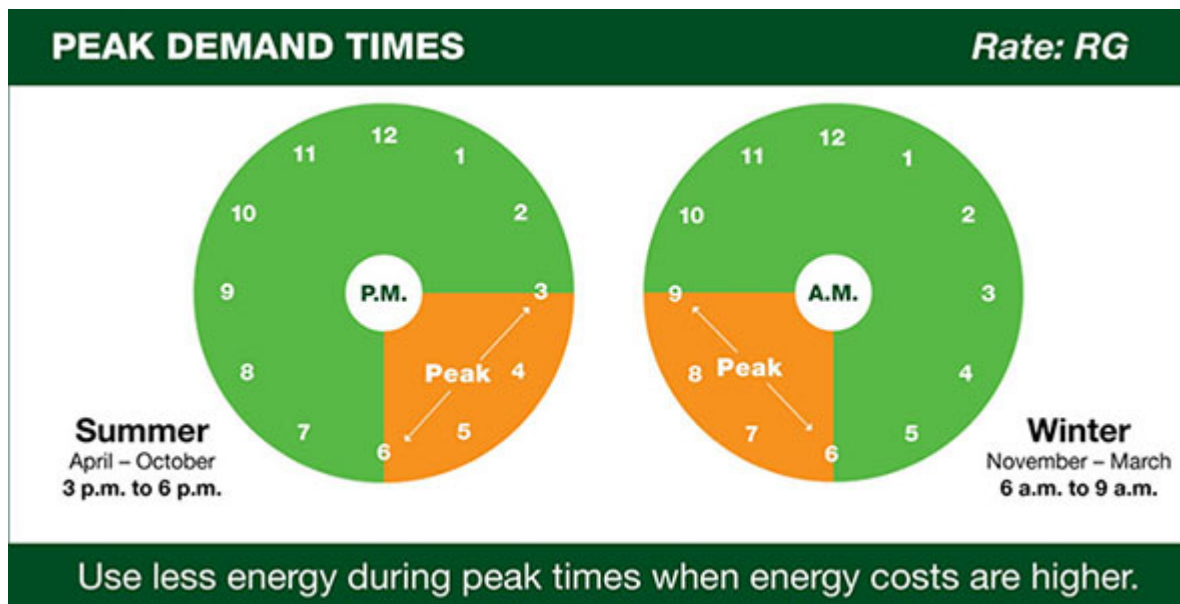
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Williams,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jack

Last Name: NO LAST NAME

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000531

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am opposed to your new rate plan

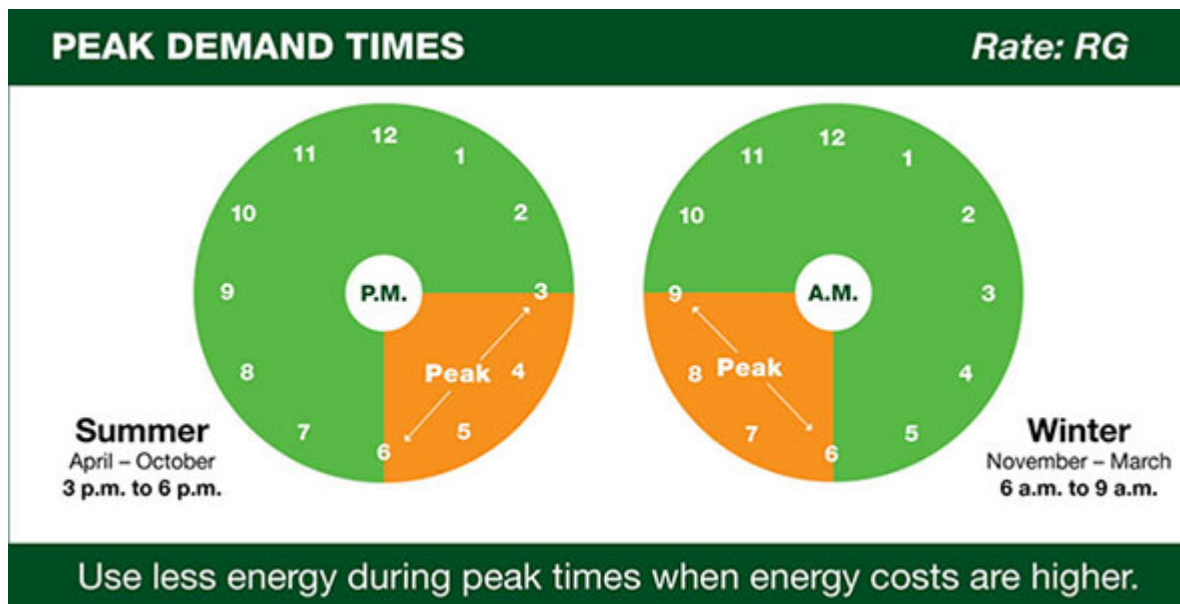
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Jack,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

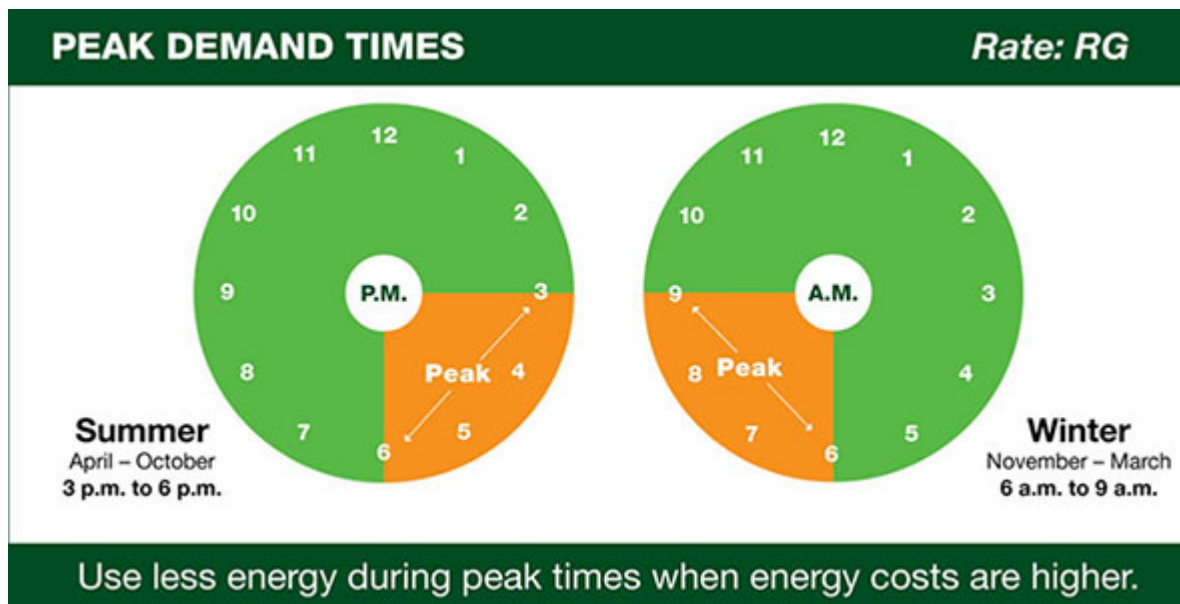
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. FitzMaurice,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

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Dear Mr. Mata,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs. If you would like more detail regarding the rate study, it can be found at www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Joe

Last Name: Calise

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000728

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

BLANK EMAIL

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for South Carolina**



Dear Mr. Calise,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ron-Kay

Last Name: Wooten

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000533

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We are not in favor of the new peak rate system. Tillman R. and Kay R. Wooten

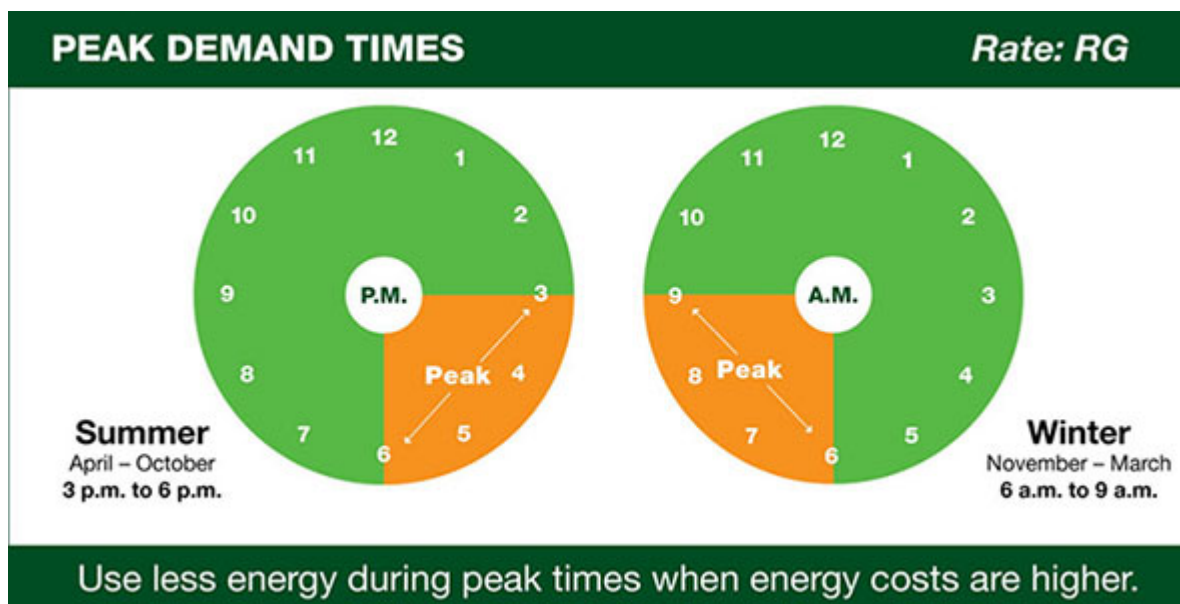
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wooten,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

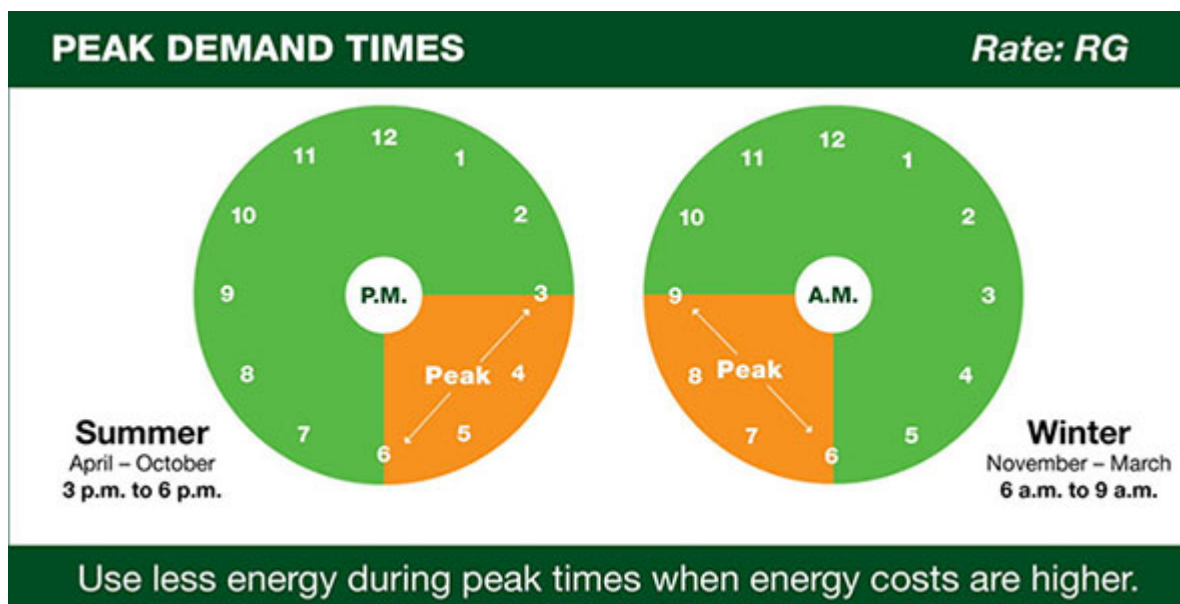
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Worters,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Stacy

Last Name: Katz

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000535

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

No

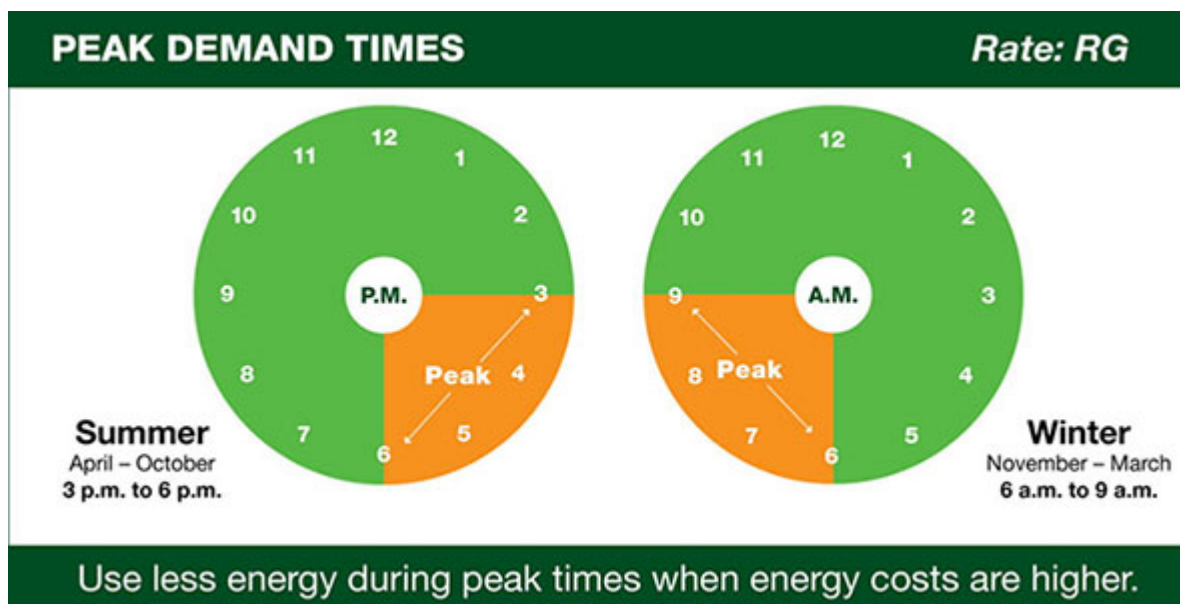
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Katz,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ascanio

Last Name: Grimaldi

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000536

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in participating in your proposed rate plan based on time of day.
Thank you

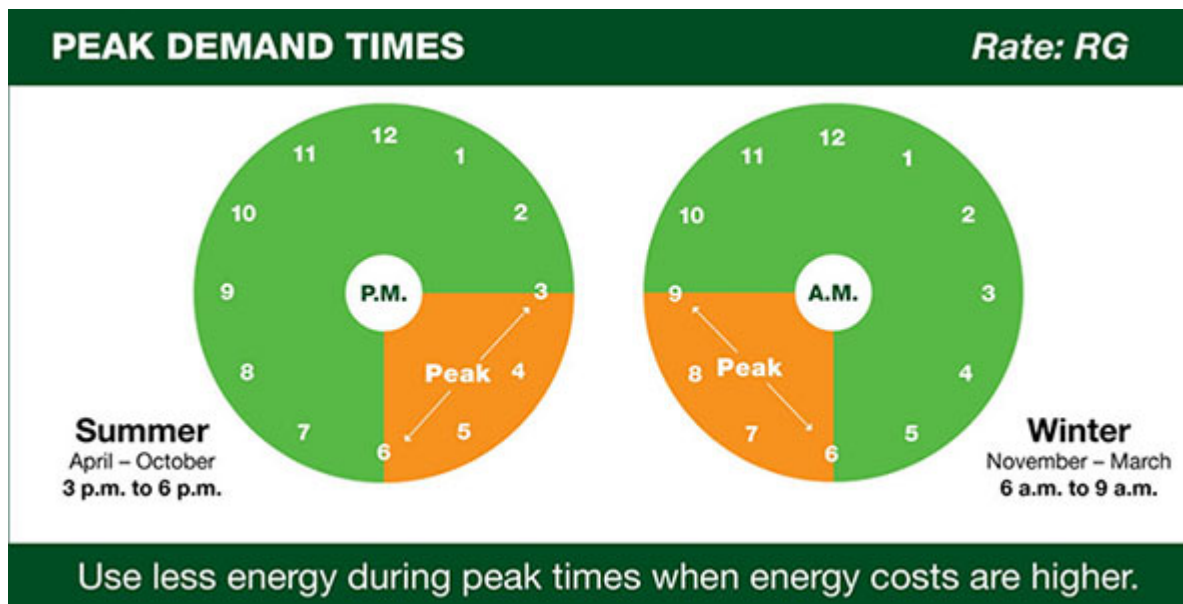
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Grimaldi,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Annmarie

Last Name: Siwik

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000538

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested in this failed rate experiment! Per AARP - you are ripping us off!!!

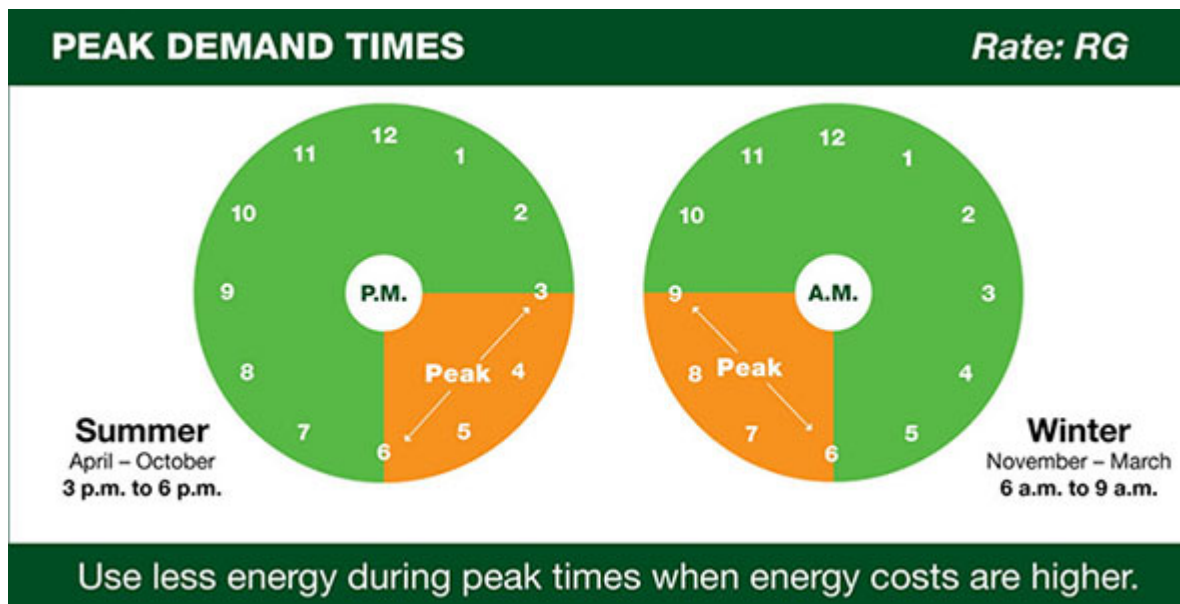
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Siwik,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lori

Last Name: Carpino

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000539

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested

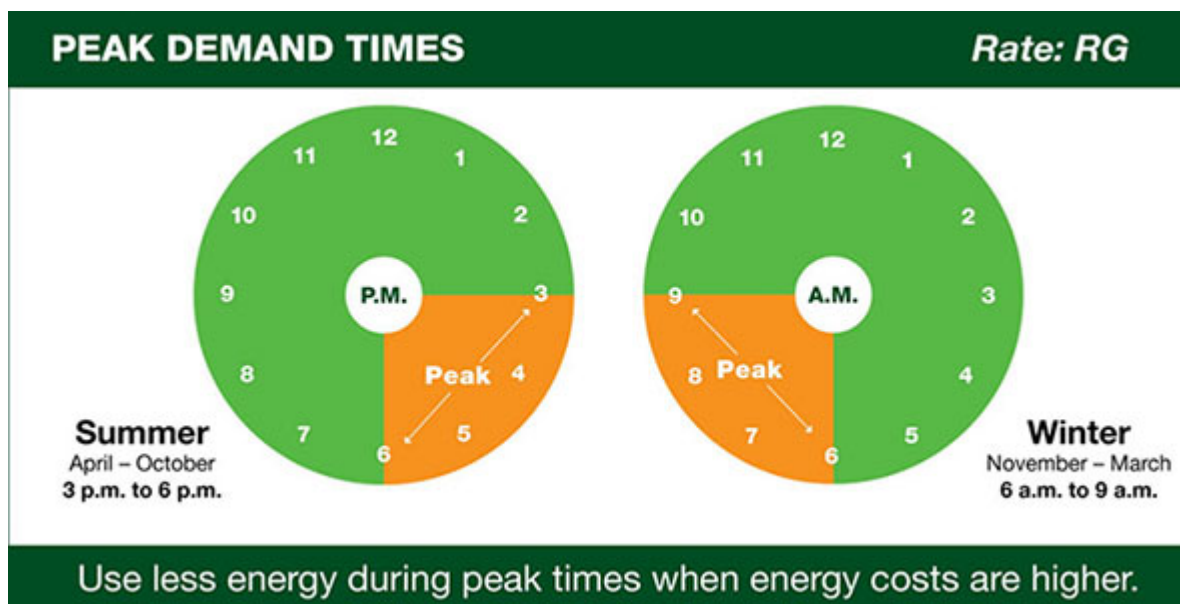
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Carpino,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kevin

Last Name: Mcgeary

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000540

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

WTH?

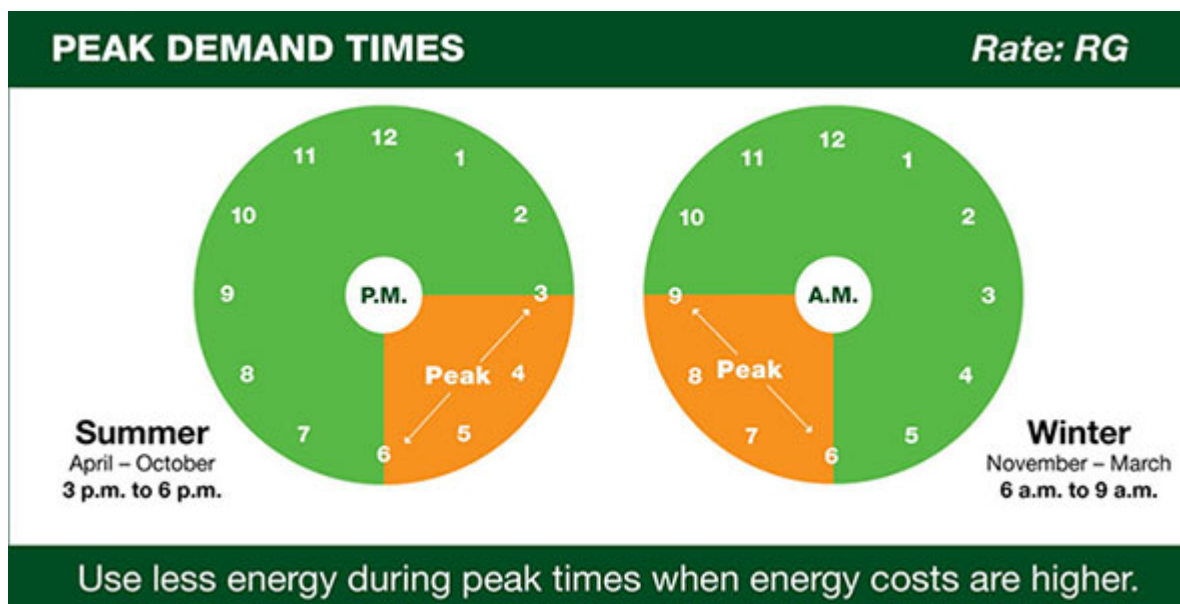
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mcgeary,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: NO FIRST NAME **Last Name:** NO LAST NAME
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000541

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

This is very confusing, do you get charged daily during the peak hours so it would be an excess charge times how ever many days in the month or is a one time charge for the month. Is it a 3 hour excess charge daily if you're running ac, electric stove, dryer, dishwasher etc. for that 3 hr period. You need to break down the charge in a way that the consumer can actually understand. Your explanation is very general and misleading... or is that the intention? I am extremely confused about this as many of your customers are as well. What is the salary of your CEO . We live on Social Security and pension and are still struggling....

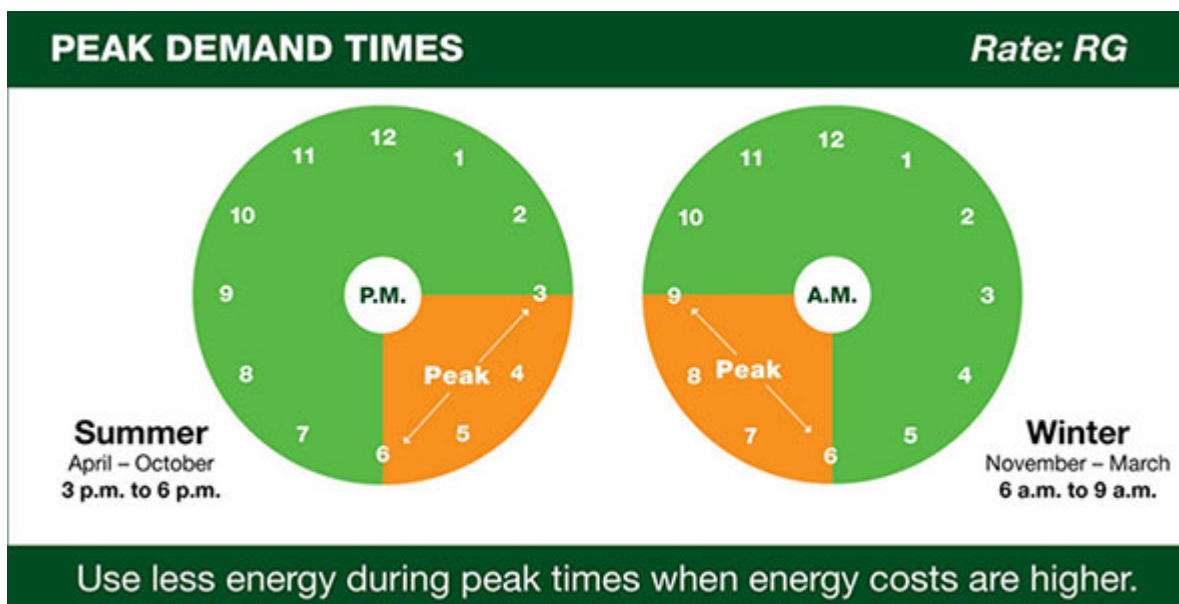
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Hello,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers. In regard to our executive salaries, we do benchmark all salaries, including our executive compensation, and target the median for our peer group of similar utilities or from general industry,

depending on the position.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John

Last Name: Friestad

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000542

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I'm not interested in this new billing rate adjustment.

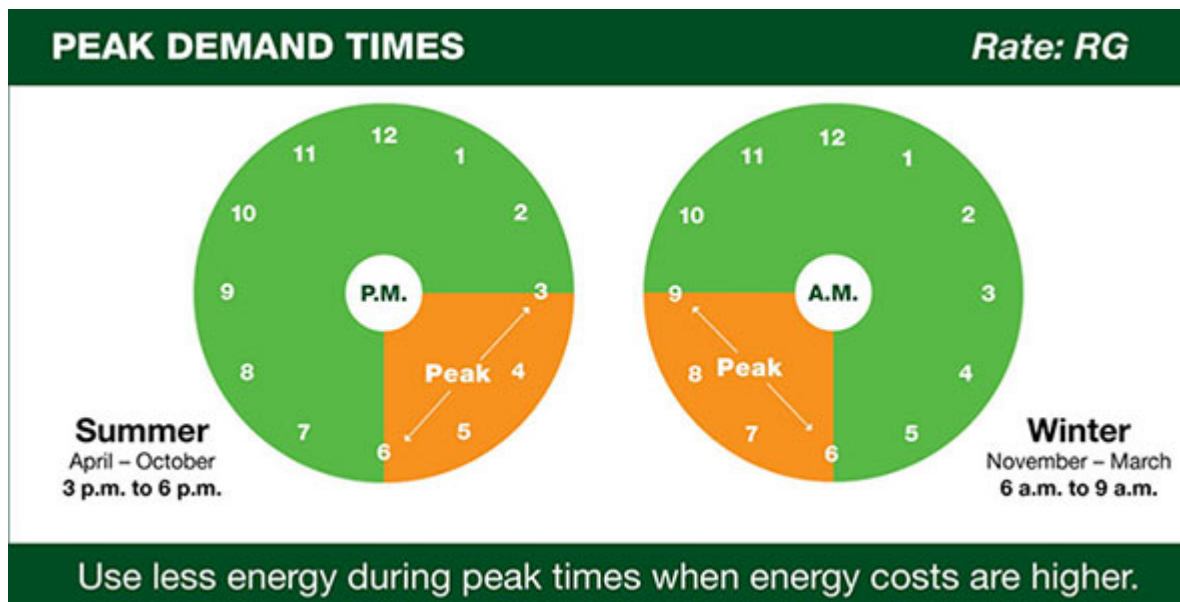
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Friestad,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jennifer

Last Name: Kellner

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000543

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

This new peak hours thing is ridiculous! Hurting people and only benefiting the company. How do you opt out? Do you want people living in cold and darkness? --
Kind Regards, Jennifer Kellner

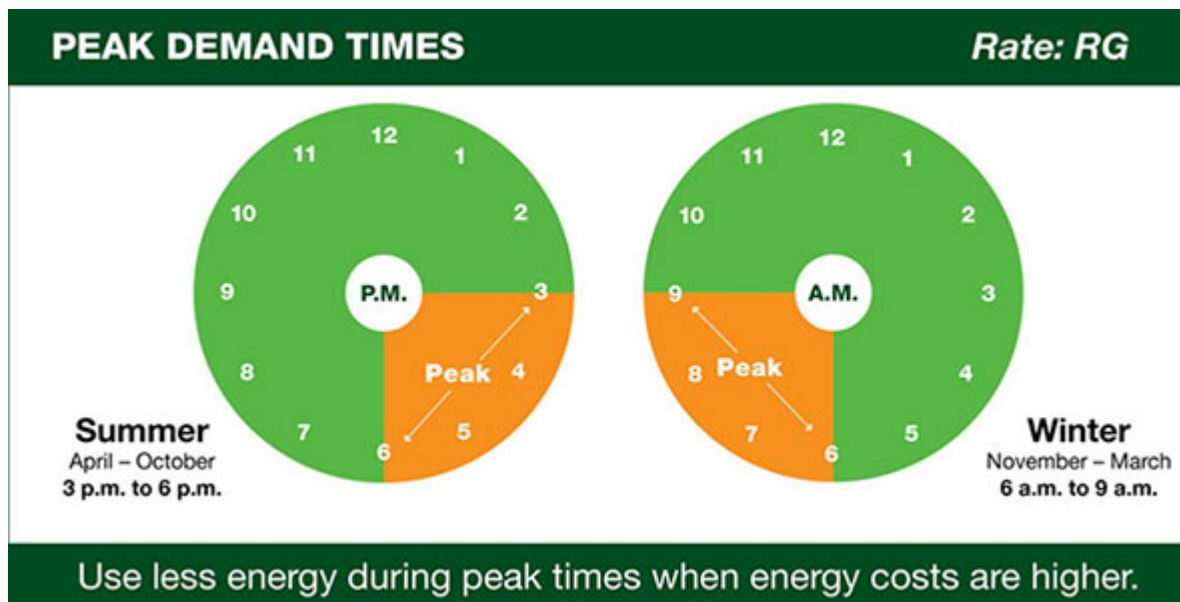
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Kellner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Janet

Last Name: Johnson

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000544

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

No thank you

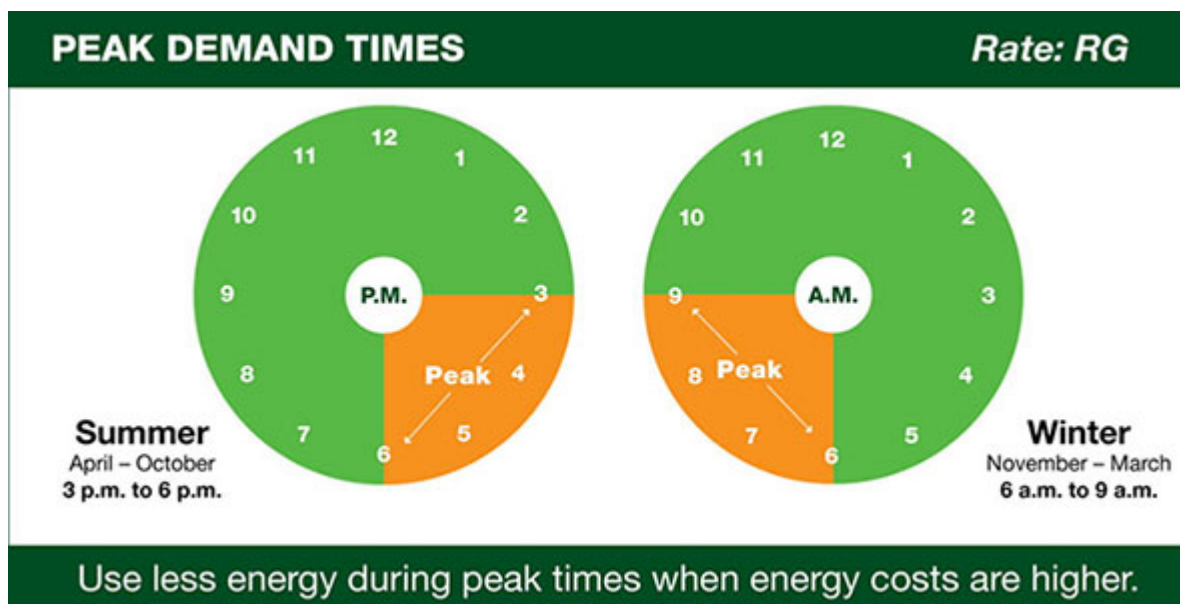
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Johnson,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

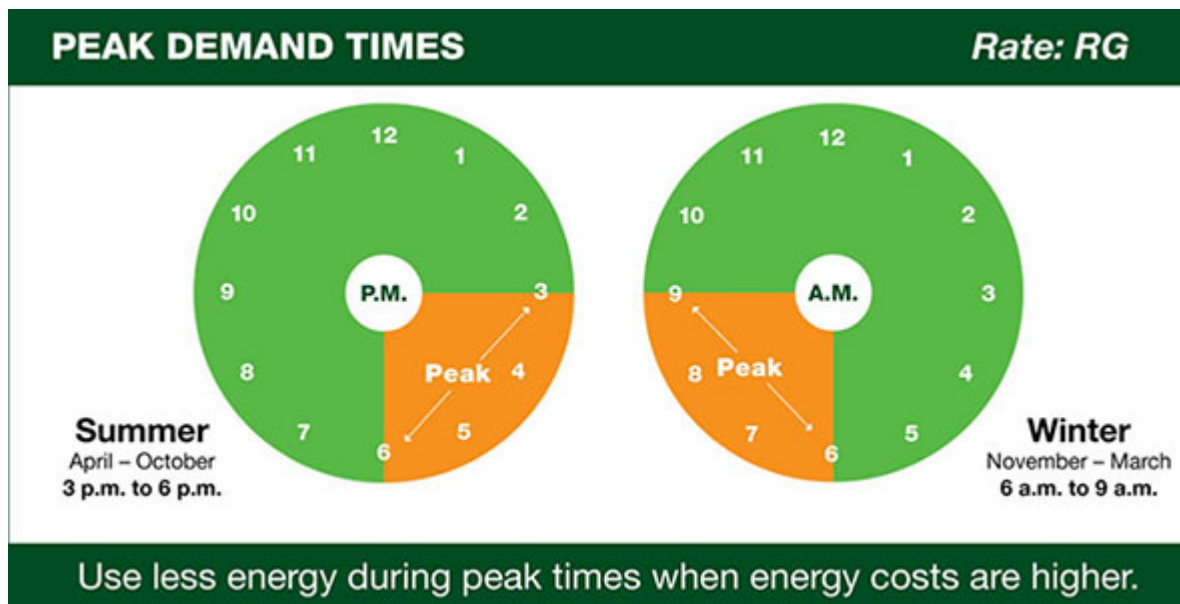
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bohon,

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Santee Cooper

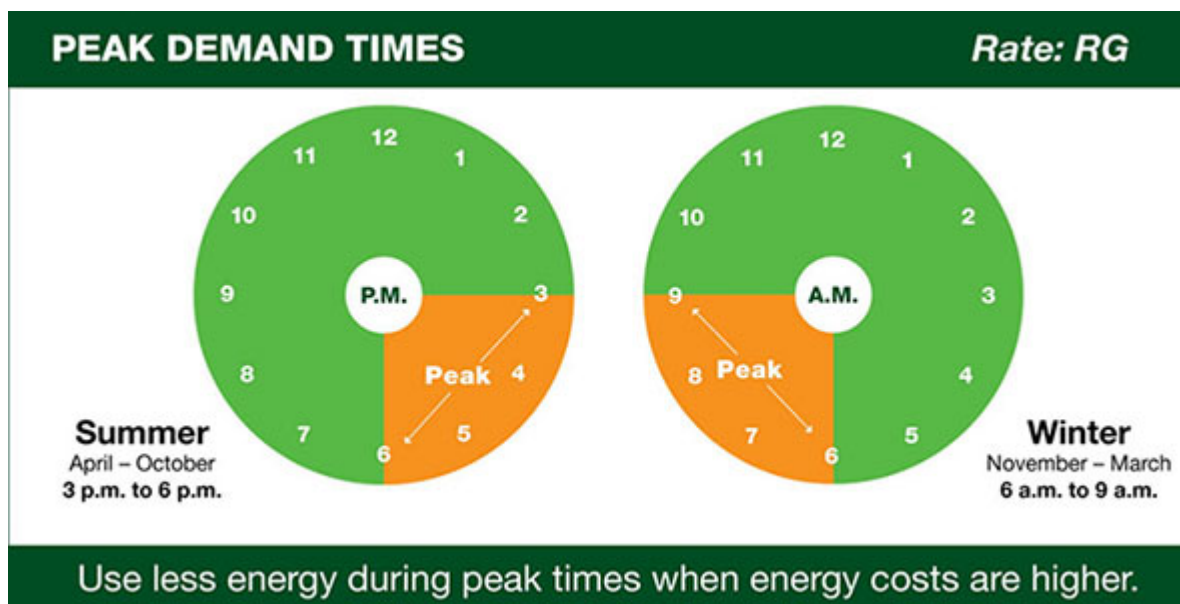
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Ellis,

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

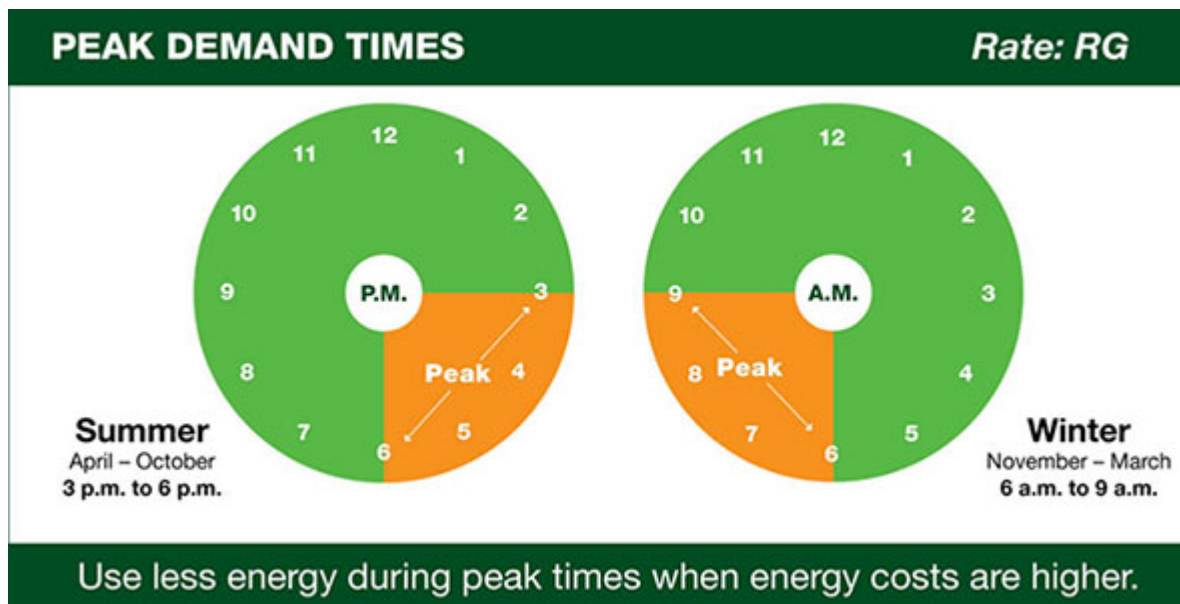
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Dear Ms. Demharter,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Linda

Last Name: Wagstaff

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000548

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not happy!!

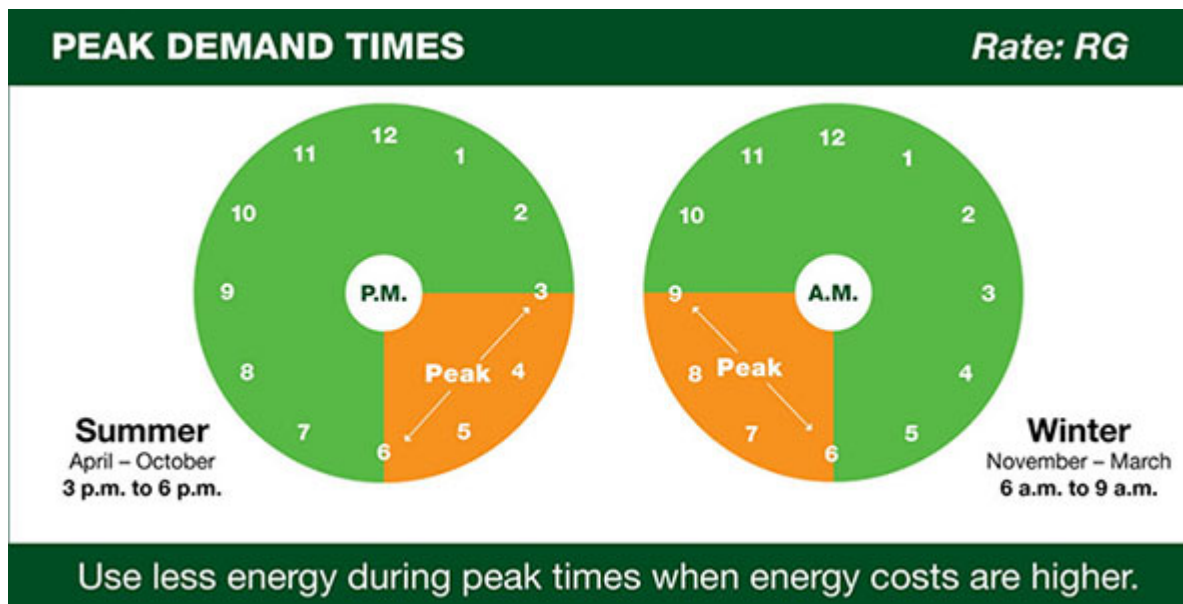
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Dear Ms. Wagstaff,

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

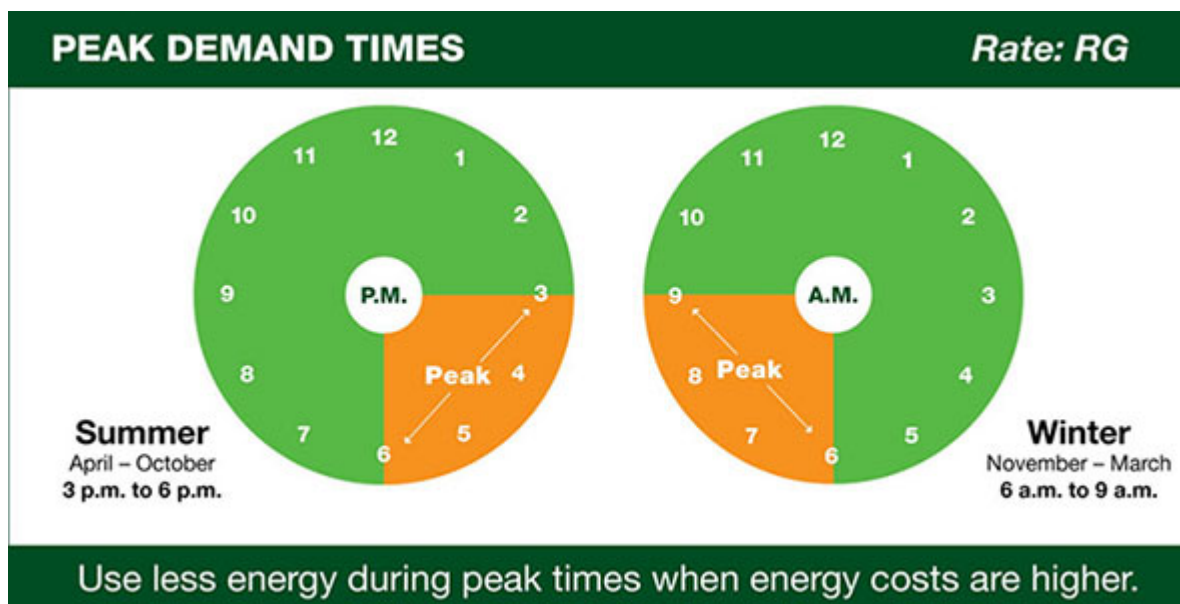
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Maccariella,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Brenda

Last Name: Owen

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000550

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Feel double charge is unfair and can't be avoided at times you have chosen. Why 2 charges and increase of over 8% for your experiment to your customers????

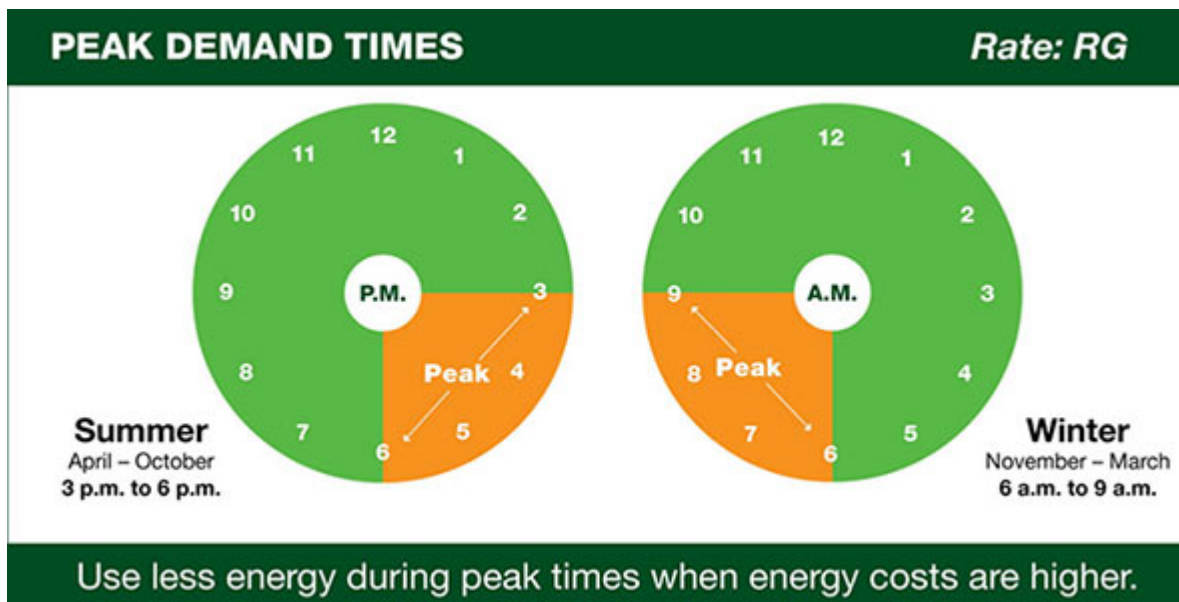
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Owen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Michael	Last Name:	Kachaylo
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC0000000551

Date Submitted:	9/5/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I am not interested in participating in the three part billing plan. Michael Kachaylo Jr

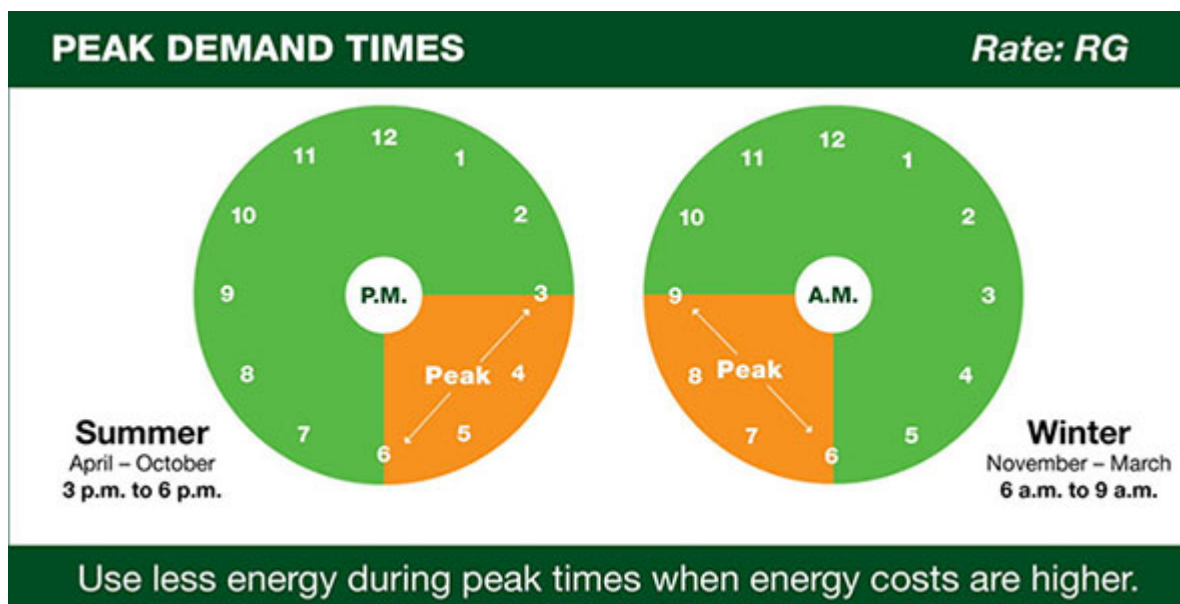
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Dear Mr. Kachaylo,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rick

Last Name: Esslinger

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000552

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We are not interested in your new rate plans and do not want to participate

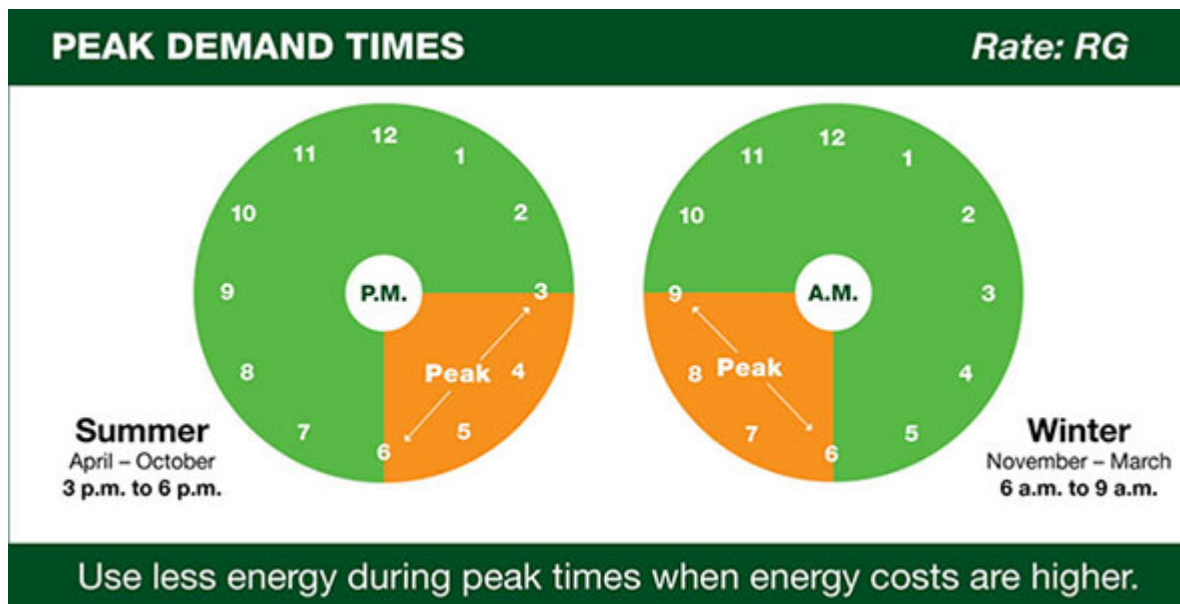
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Esslinger,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: James

Last Name: Leonard

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000553

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I DO NOT want this 3 tiered rate structure to become reality. It is too confusing for the homeowner. To be charged an unknown, exorbitant fee for an unknown time period each month is a terrible business practice for your company. If it becomes reality, I, along with many other customers will cease to be a Santee Cooper customer. Sincerely, J.A.L Conway, SC

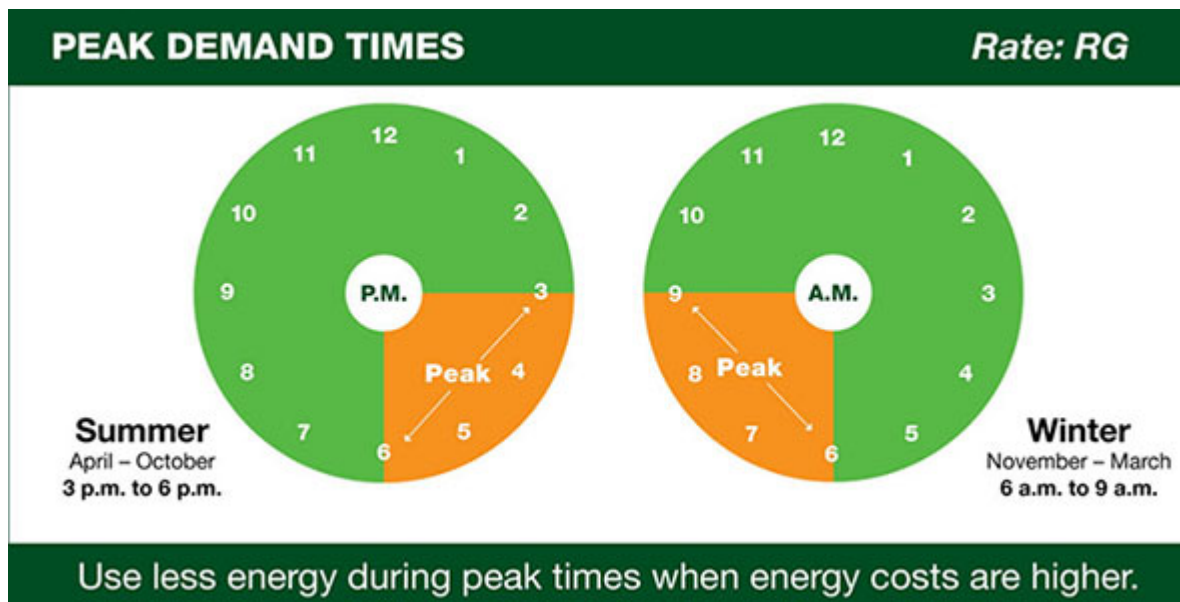
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Leonard,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Keeling Jr,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Joni

Last Name: Evans

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000555

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

It's bad enough cable has you by the balls, but now you want to dictate when I use my electric. Not everyone has the same schedule and some household have many family members. STOP this ridiculous change.

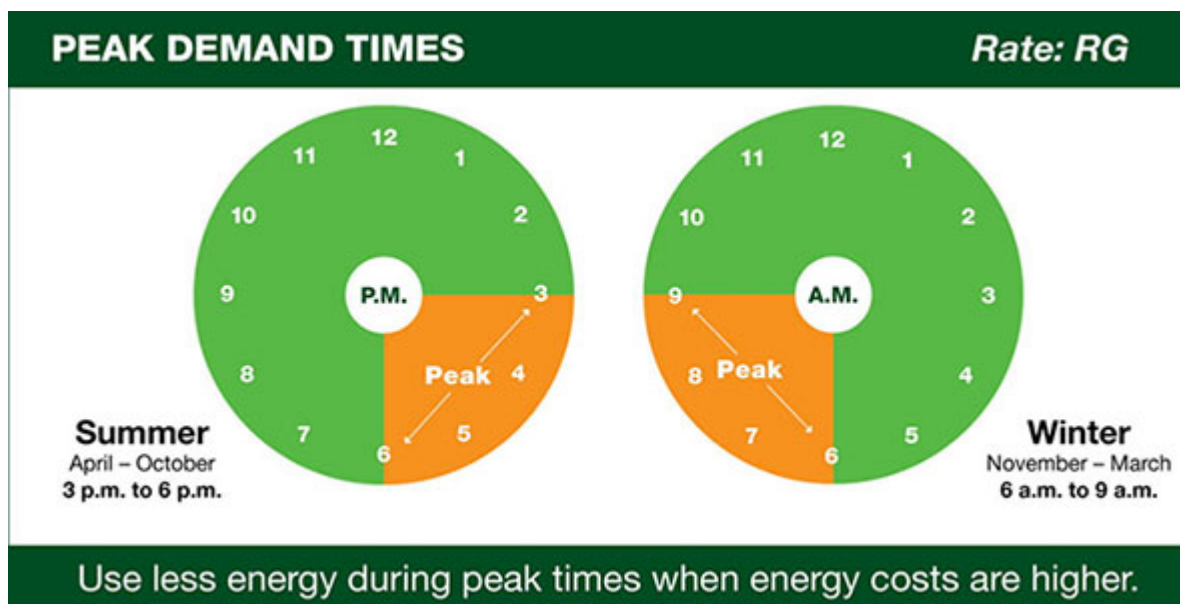
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Evans,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Wanda

Last Name: Reeves

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000556

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

How can you tell us when we can use our electricity . We get up to go to work in the AM and we come home to fix our dinner in the afternoon. We sure aren't making enough money to keep up with all the increase of everything.

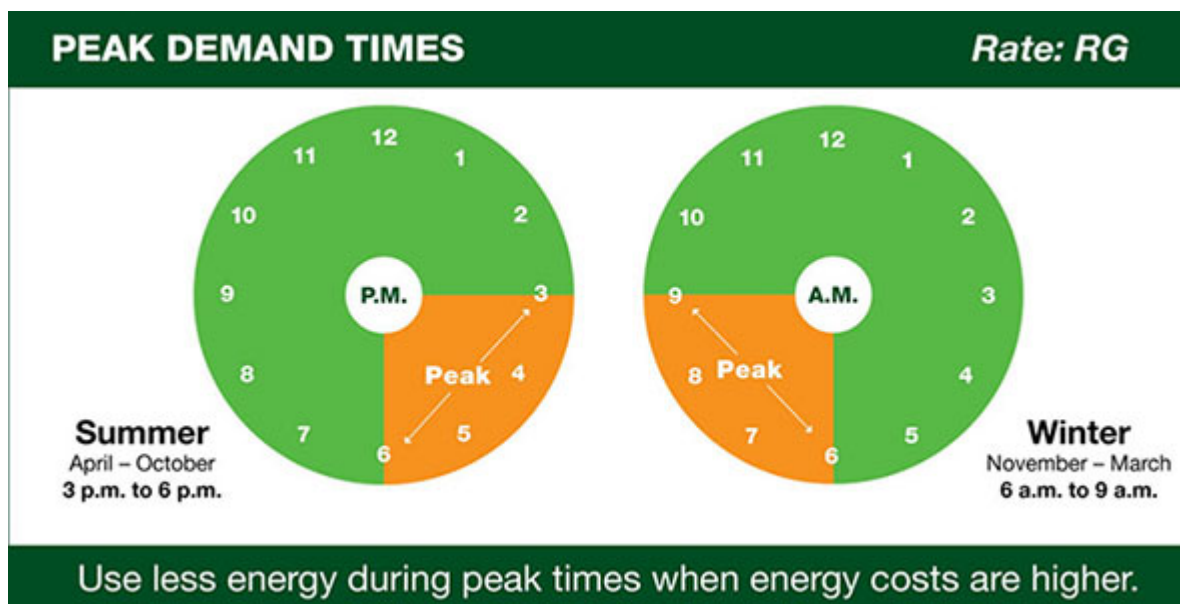
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Reeves,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

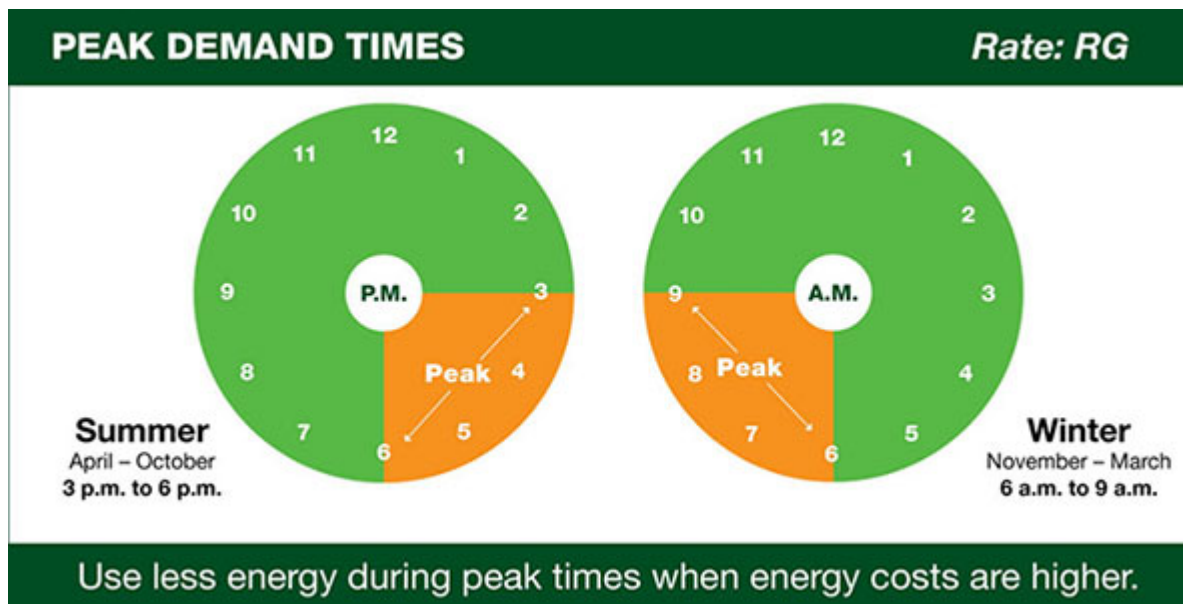
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Ward,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dan

Last Name: Zukowski

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000558

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am a customer of Santee Cooper and am strongly against your new suggested rate program. Why do I have to watch what time I have my electrical equipment on especially during the hottest and coldest hours of the day during the summer and winter days. Set a standard rate for all consumption. I will be looking for a new electric company if this new rate goes into affect. Daniel Zukowski

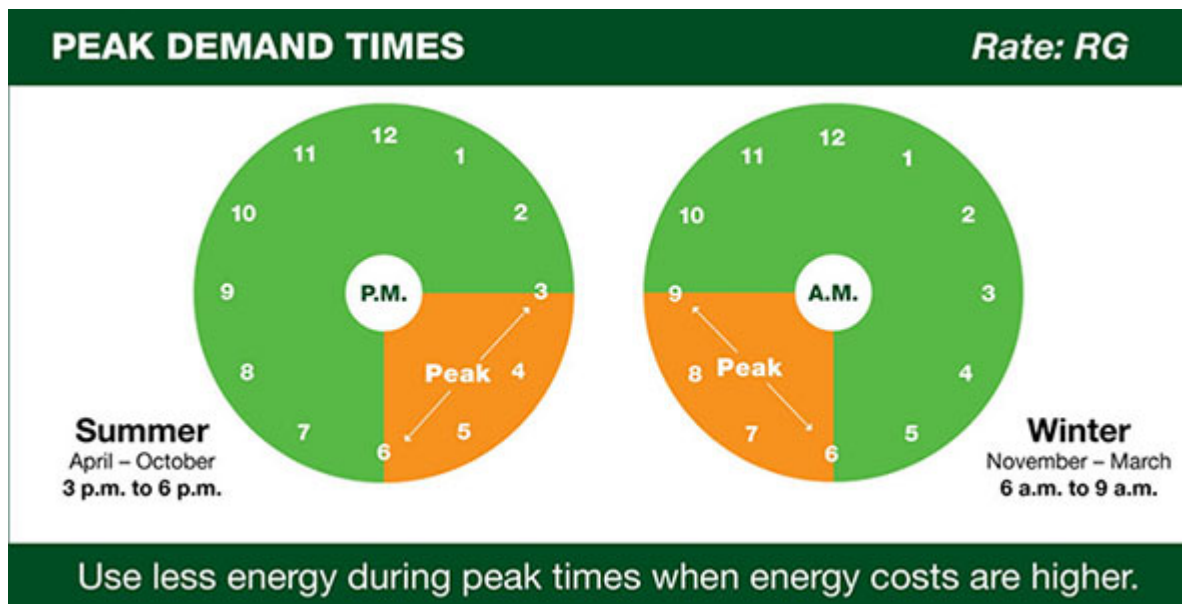
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Zukowski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jean

Last Name: Scanlon

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000559

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please reconsider the three -part rate proposal. I don't like surprise bills and it is not transparent and is confusing. Thank you.

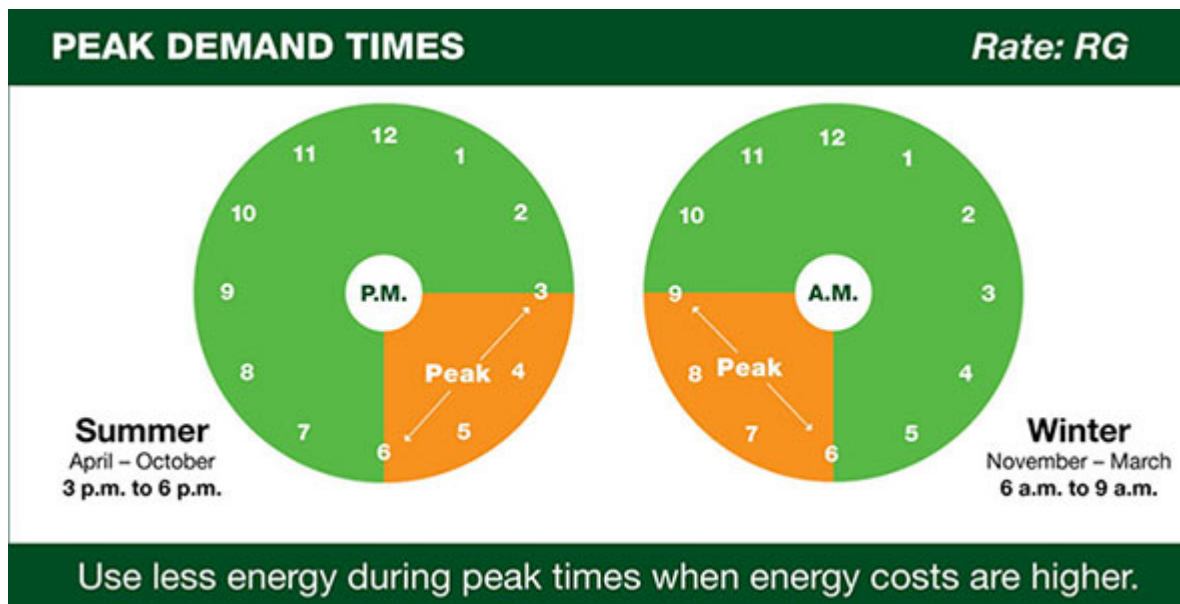
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Scanlon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Krupke,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

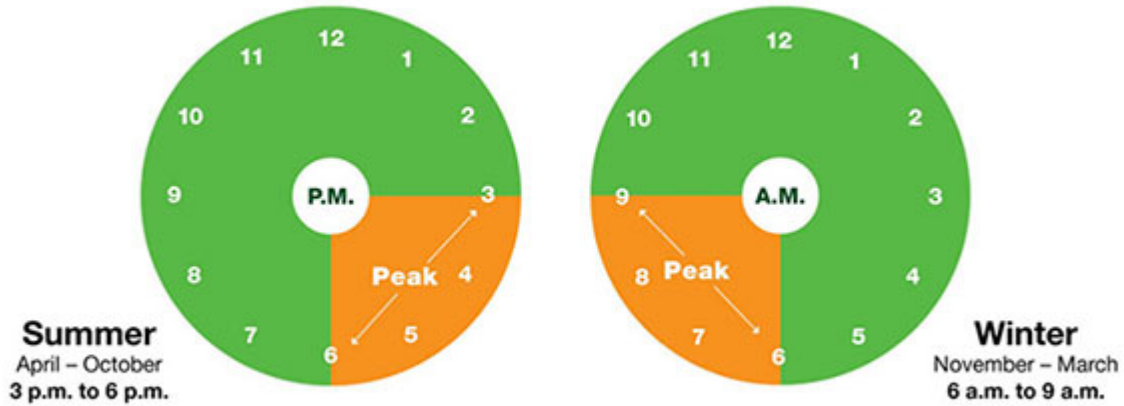
Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:

PEAK DEMAND TIMES

Rate: RG



Use less energy during peak times when energy costs are higher.

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Santee Cooper

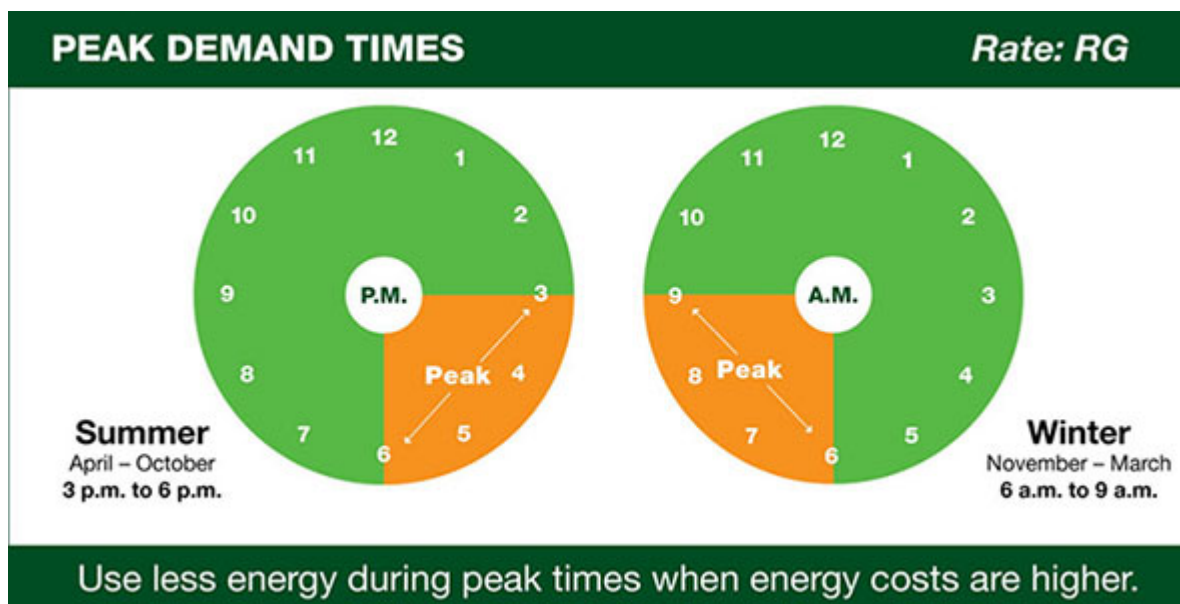
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Noble,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

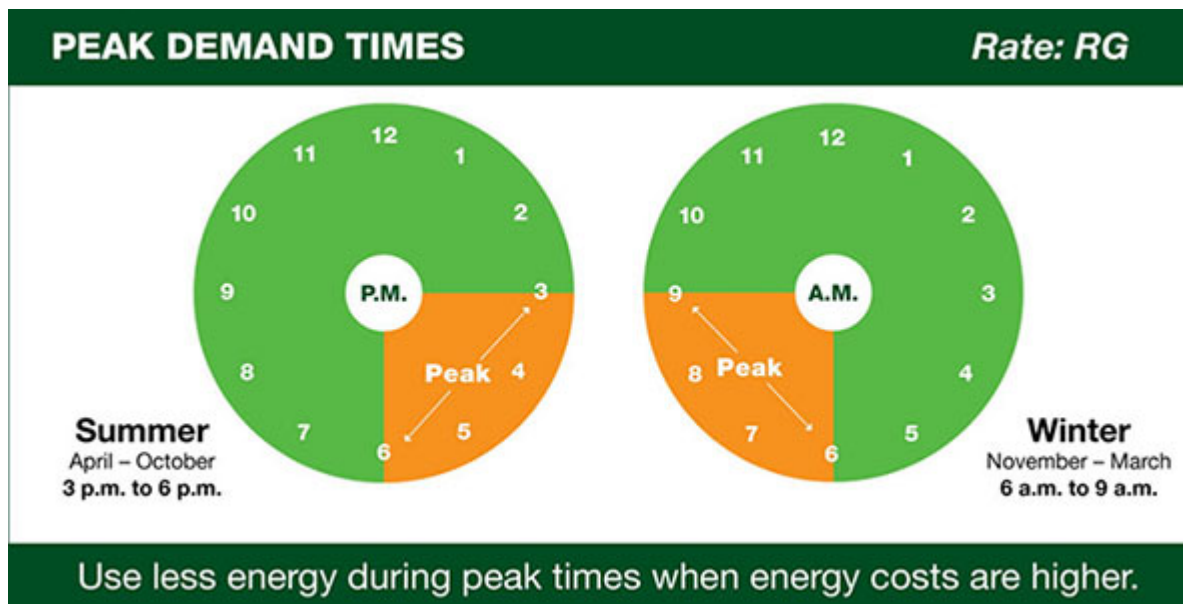
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Lashley,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Shelia

Last Name: Dugosh

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000563

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

As a long term customer of Santee Cooper, I am absolutely against demand rates, or any utility rate increase for that matter. American Families can barely pay their household expenses in this economy. As consumers, we need transparency as well as stable and fair prices. Thank you, Shelia Dugosh

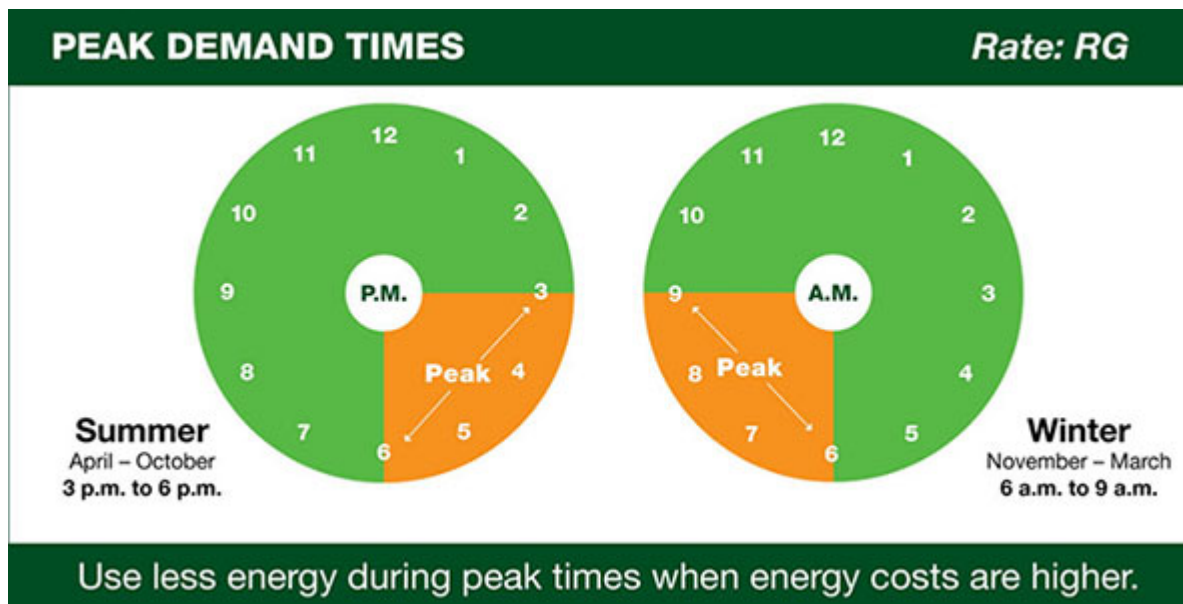
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Dugosh,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Nelson

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000564

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

No This is very confusing and it appears to be an crappy way for you to earn more money.

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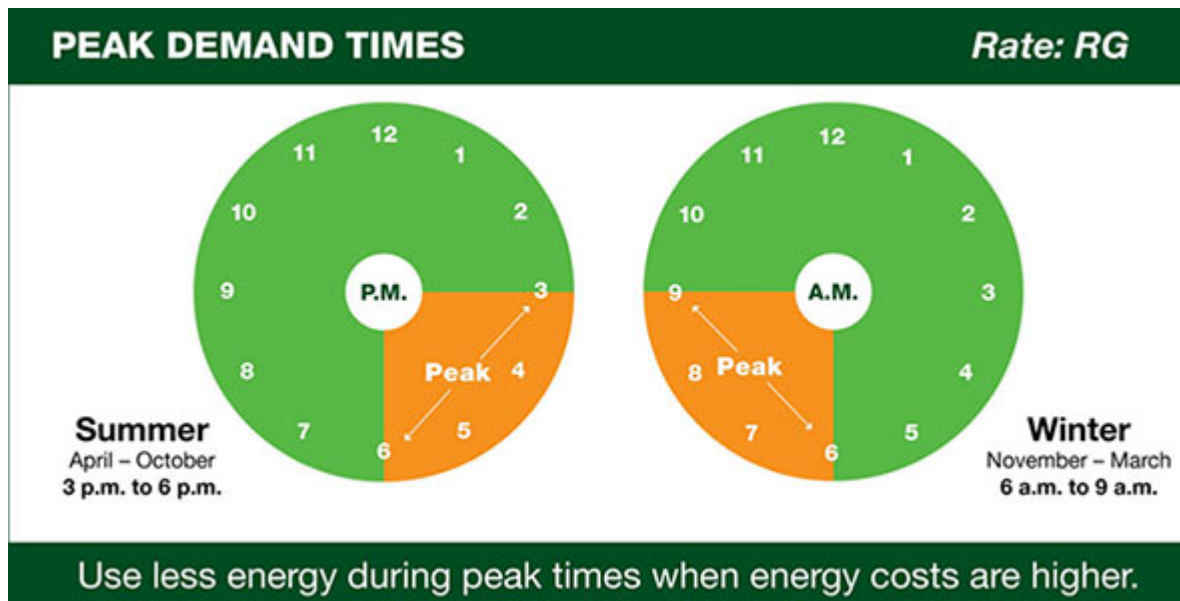


Dear Ms. Nelson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Tammy

Last Name: Wojcik

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000565

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We are opposed to this new rate increase.

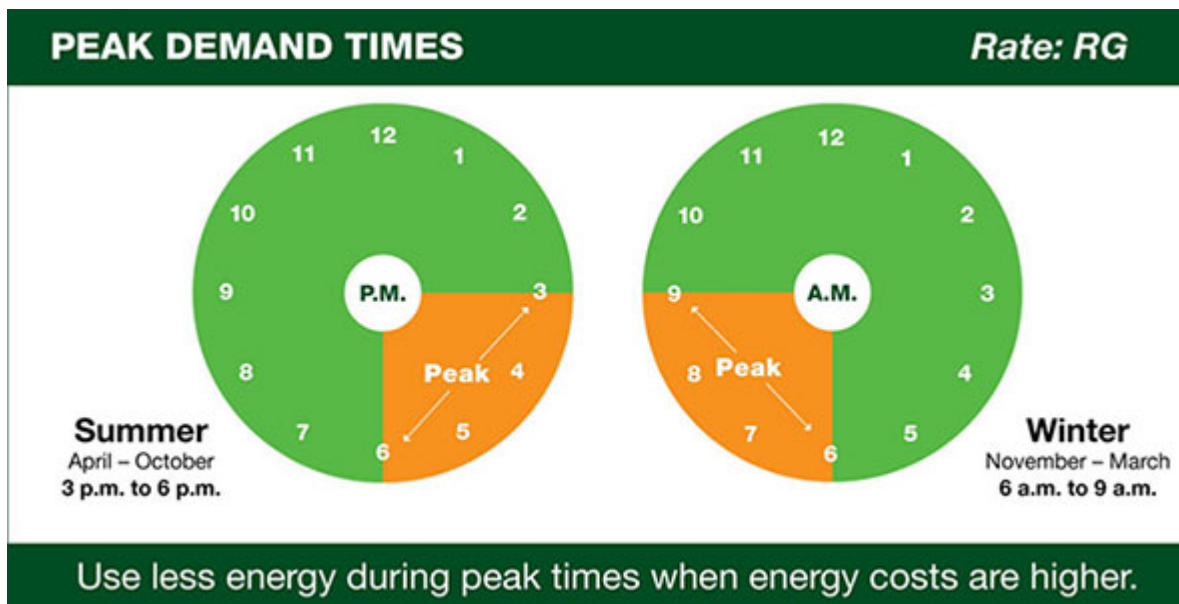
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wojcik,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

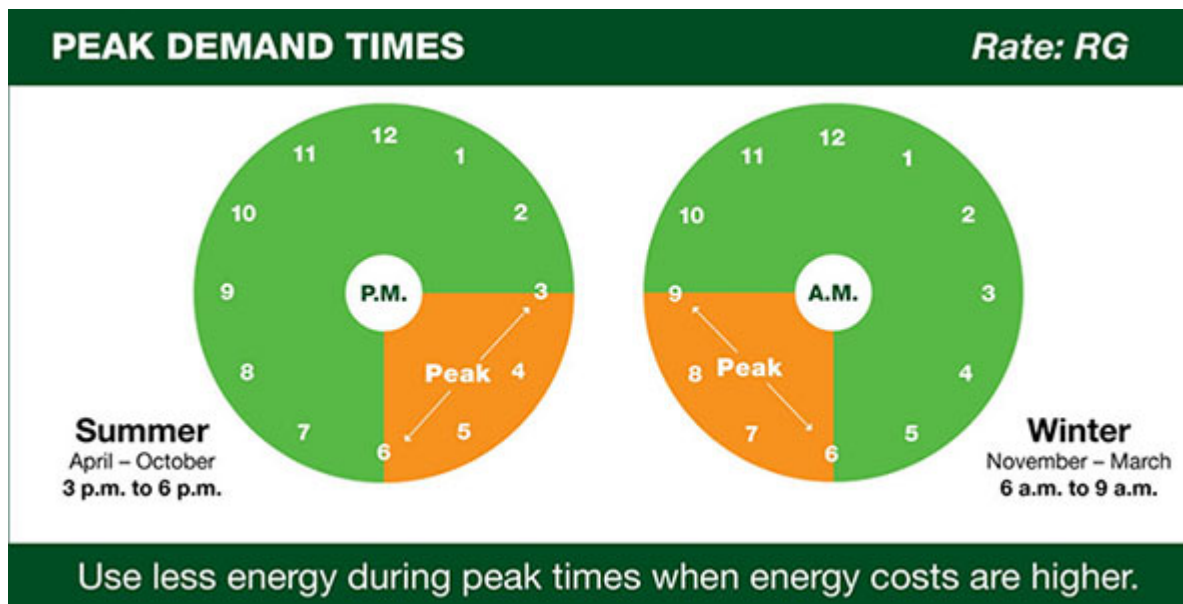
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Merritt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

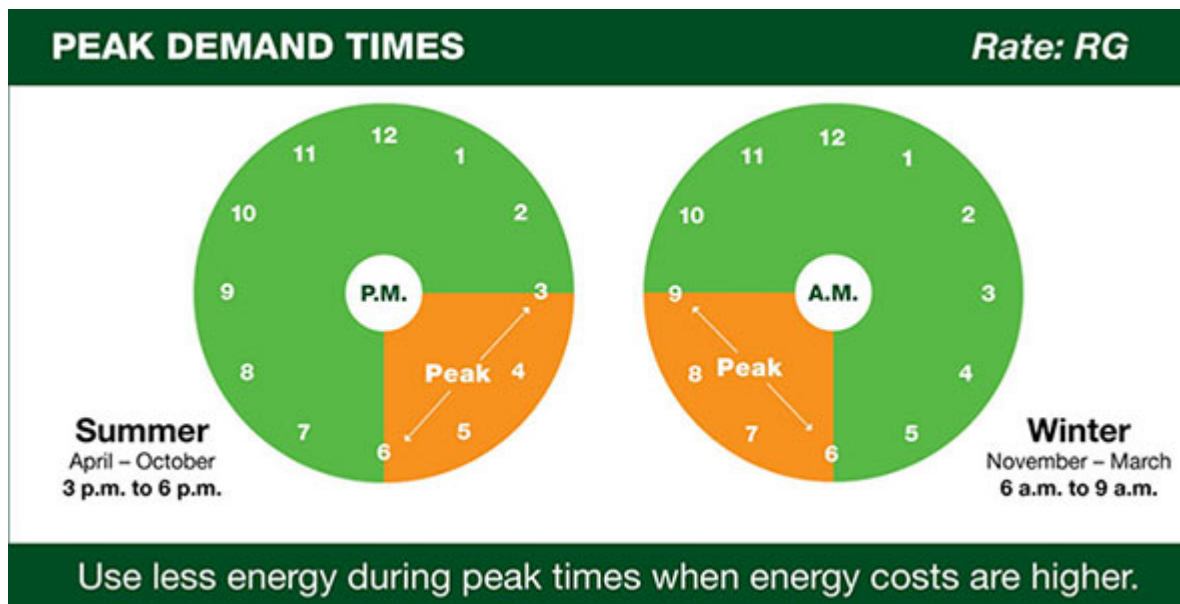
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Dear Ms. Ryan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Noah

Last Name: NO LAST NAME

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000568

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I'm not interested in this 3 part failed charge rate you are planning on using. It's an unfair way to make local residents pay a ridiculous amount of money. Do better for your year round customers!

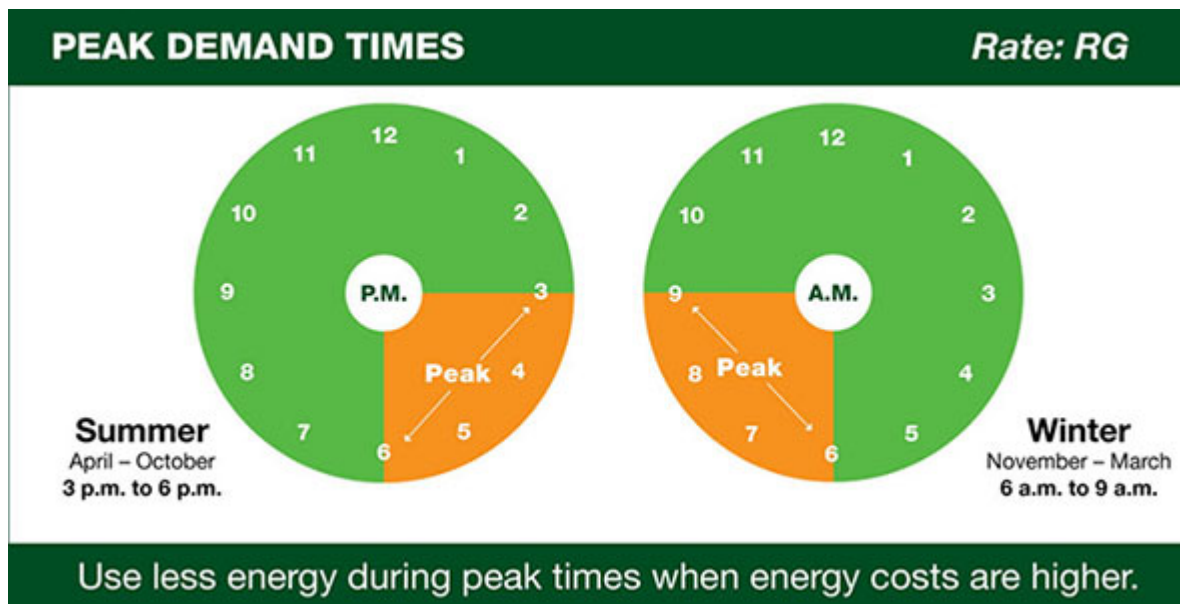
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Dear Noah,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Judy

Last Name: Forster

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000525

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in this adjustment garbage. We pay enough for everything as it is!!!

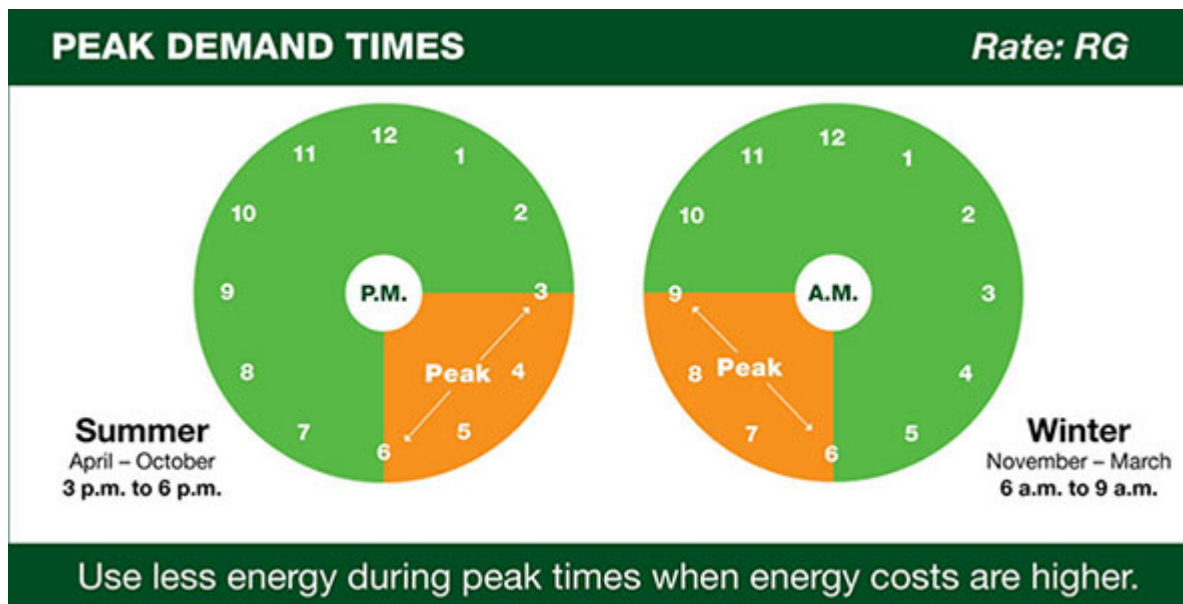
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Forster,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

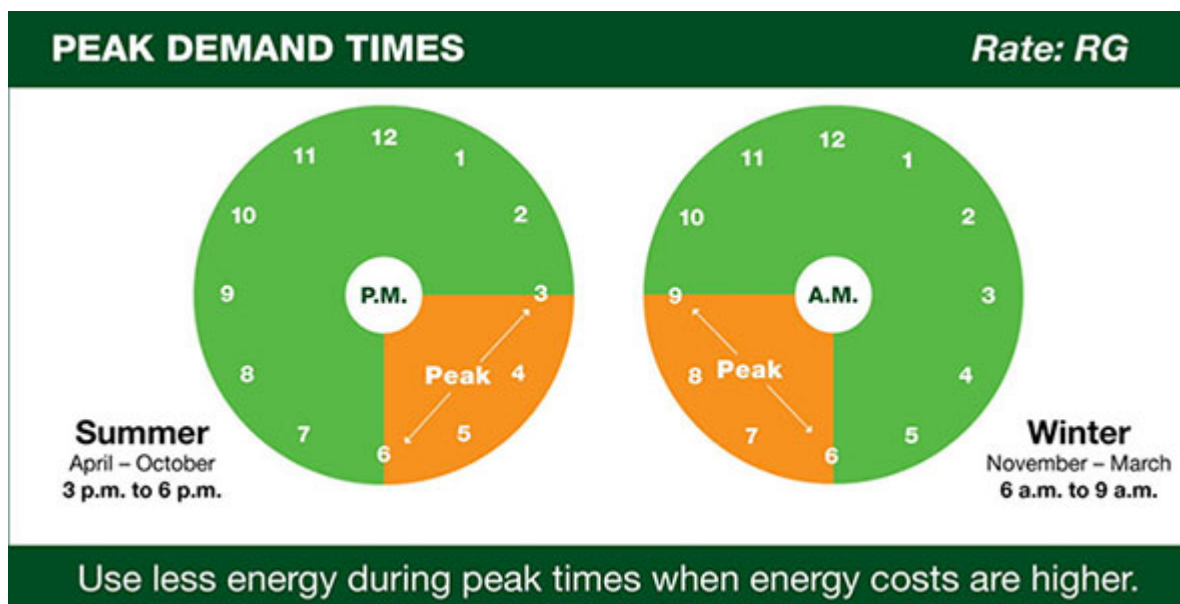
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Dear Ms. Hickman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Linda

Last Name: Bigelow

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000570

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

To whom it may concern: I find this rate hike unjust and unfair. When is enough enough? This will hurt many, many customers. It is complicated as well. Stop worrying about your shareholders ,worry about the hard working people that have enough to worry about.

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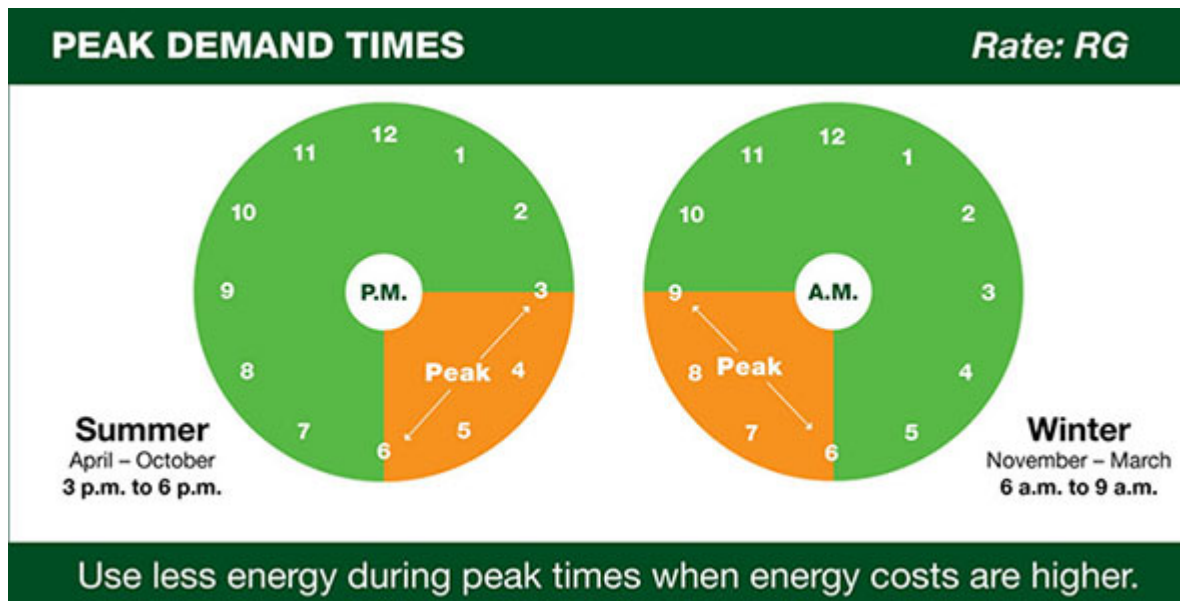


Dear Ms. Bigelow,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kash

Last Name: Bell

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000571

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Hello, As a customer in good standing with Santee Cooper for 6+ years, I find this new rate plan that is proposed is confusing and a cash grab and doesn't make sense. We are already paying for a failed nuclear plant from years and years ago. I strongly disagree with this rate change and think it should not go into effect. Thanks, Kash Bell

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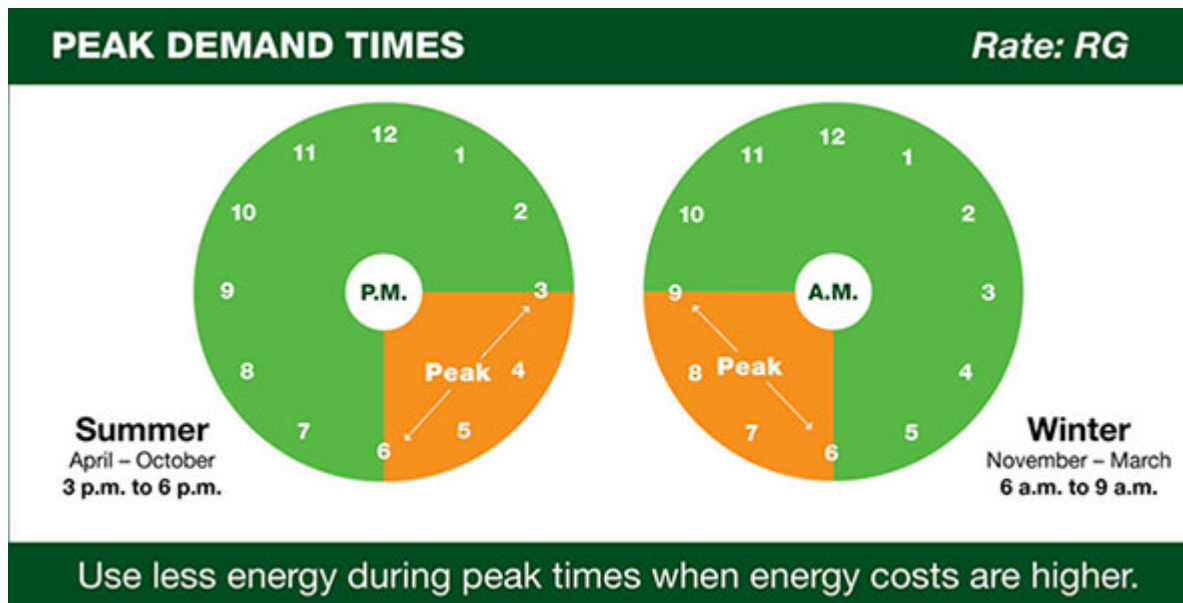


Dear Mr. Bell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Elaine

Last Name: Cesare

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000572

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment. We need fair pricing for all.

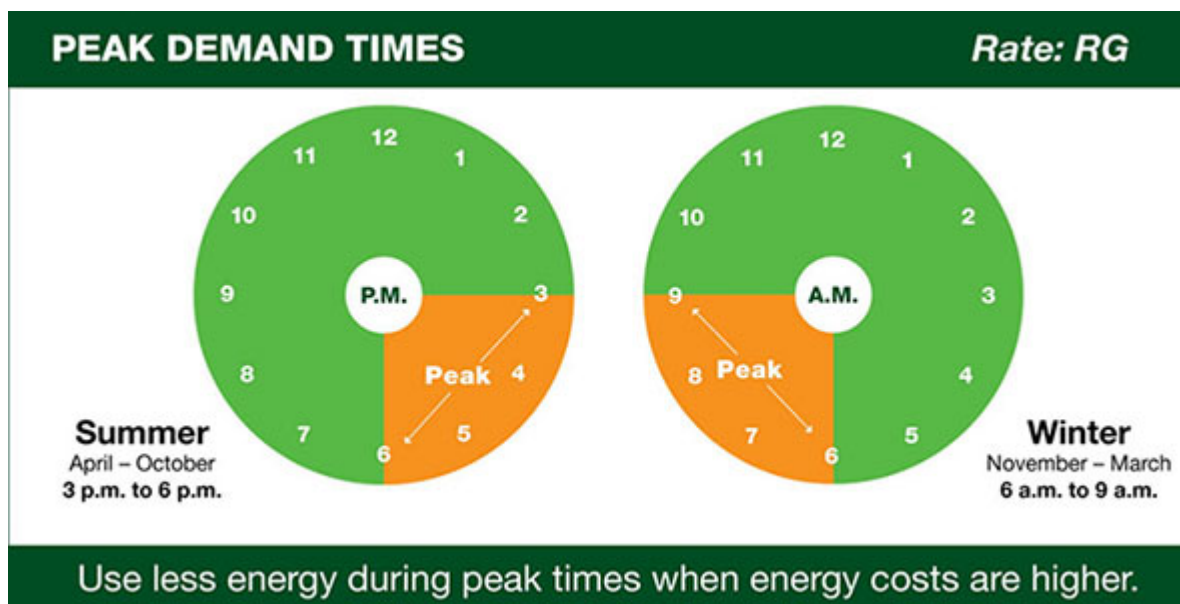
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Cesare,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Cheryl **Last Name:** Wood
Organization:
City: Little River **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip: SC 29566

SC Reference # : SC0000000573

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am not interested in this proposal For this failed rate program. Don't rip off your loyal customers!!! Cheryl Wood **[REDACTED]** Little River SC. 29566

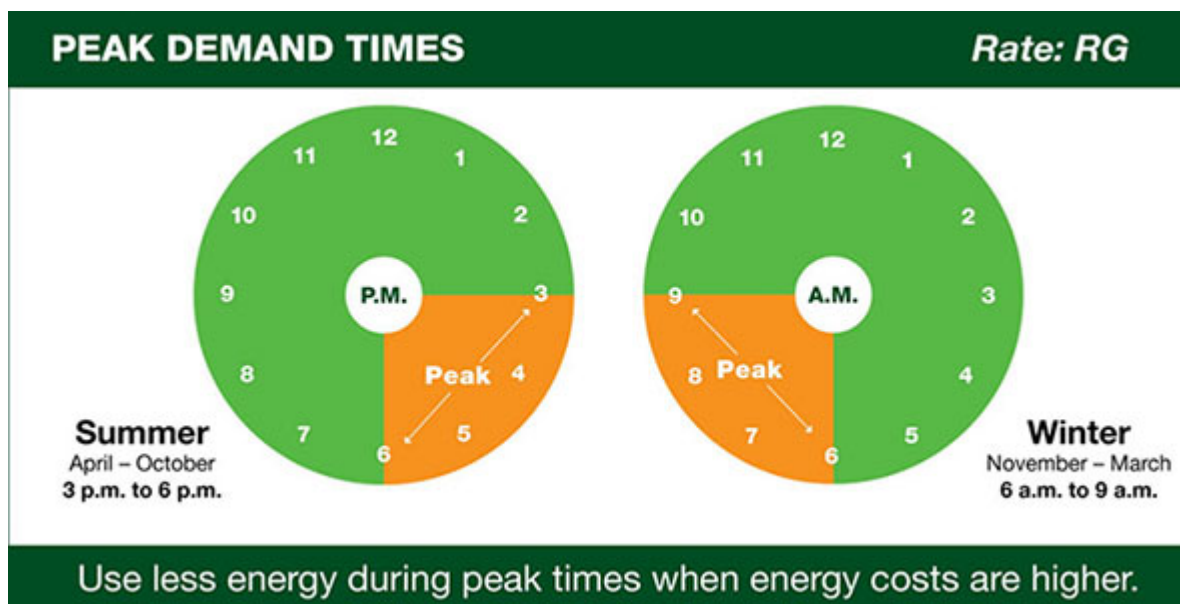
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wood,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jim

Last Name: Llewellyn

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000574

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I object to and am not interested in participating in the proposed peak rate billing scheme. We can be cognizant of using less electricity during high demand parts of the day but some electricity usage is essential. Jim Llewellyn [REDACTED] N North Myrtle Beach, SC

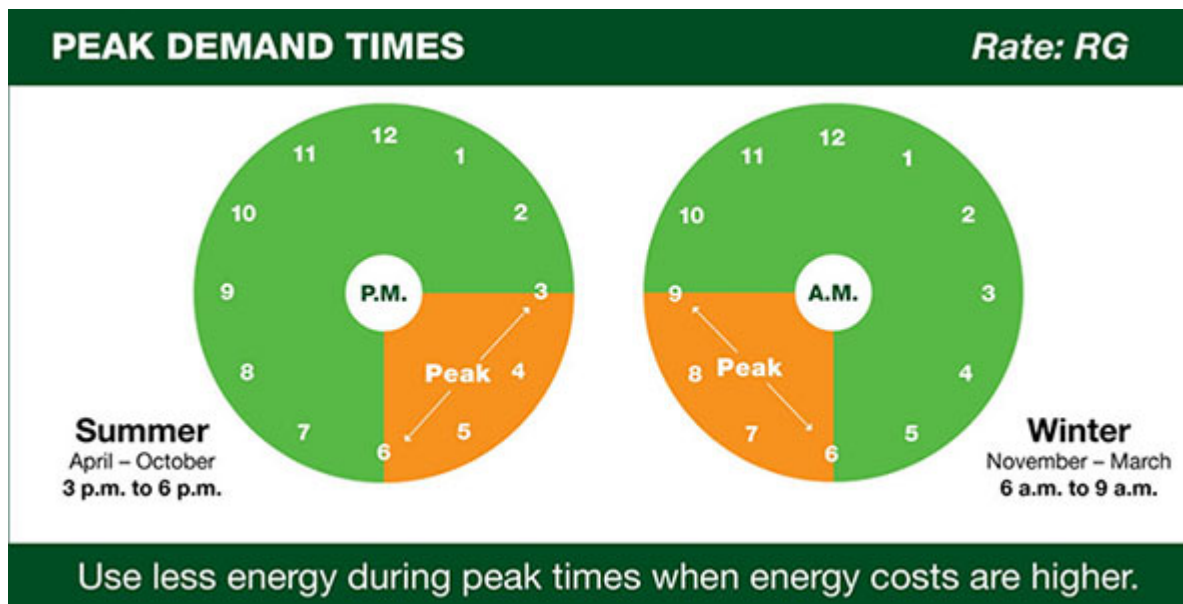
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Dear Mr. Llewellyn,

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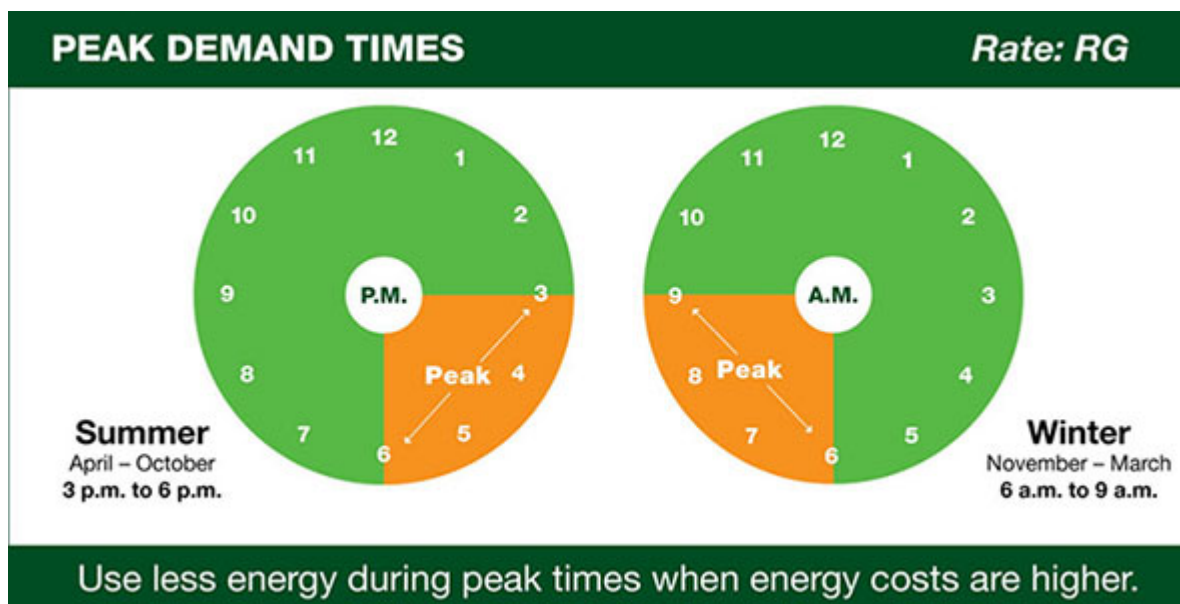
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Dear Ms. Copeland,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Barbara

Last Name: Thaxton

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000576

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Don't want to participate in increased charges during peak periods as proposed.

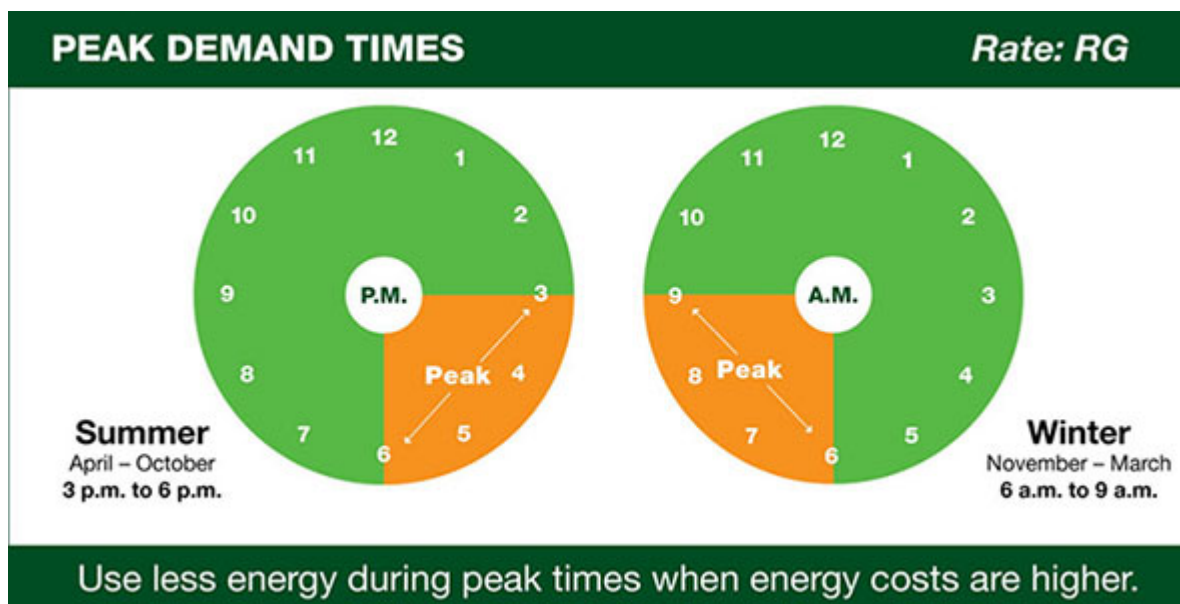
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Thaxton,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

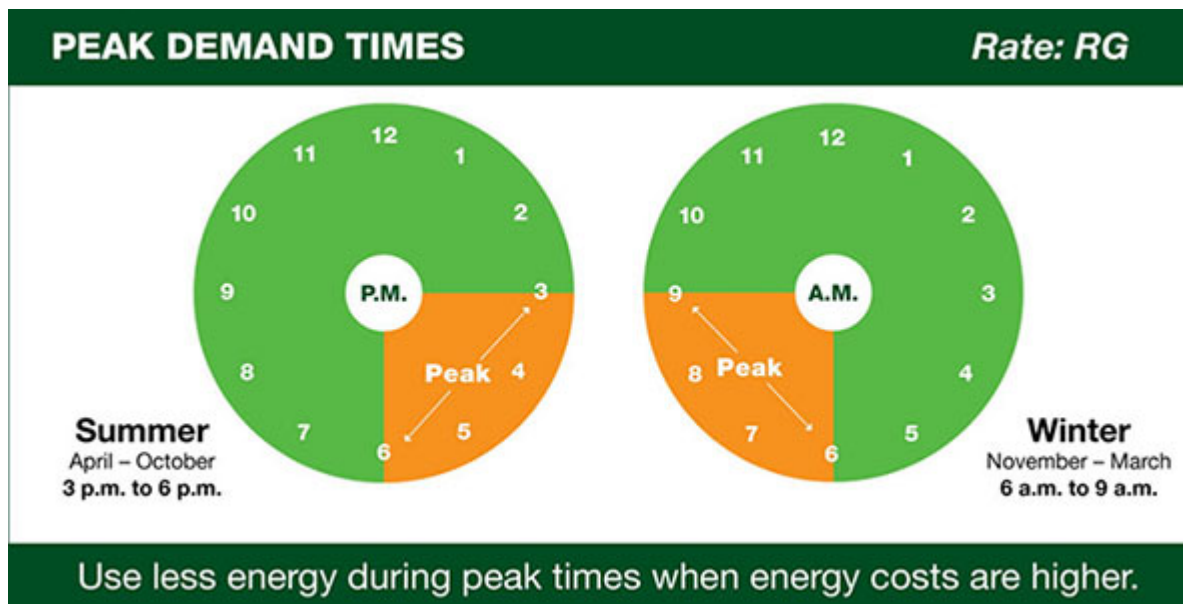
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Copeland,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

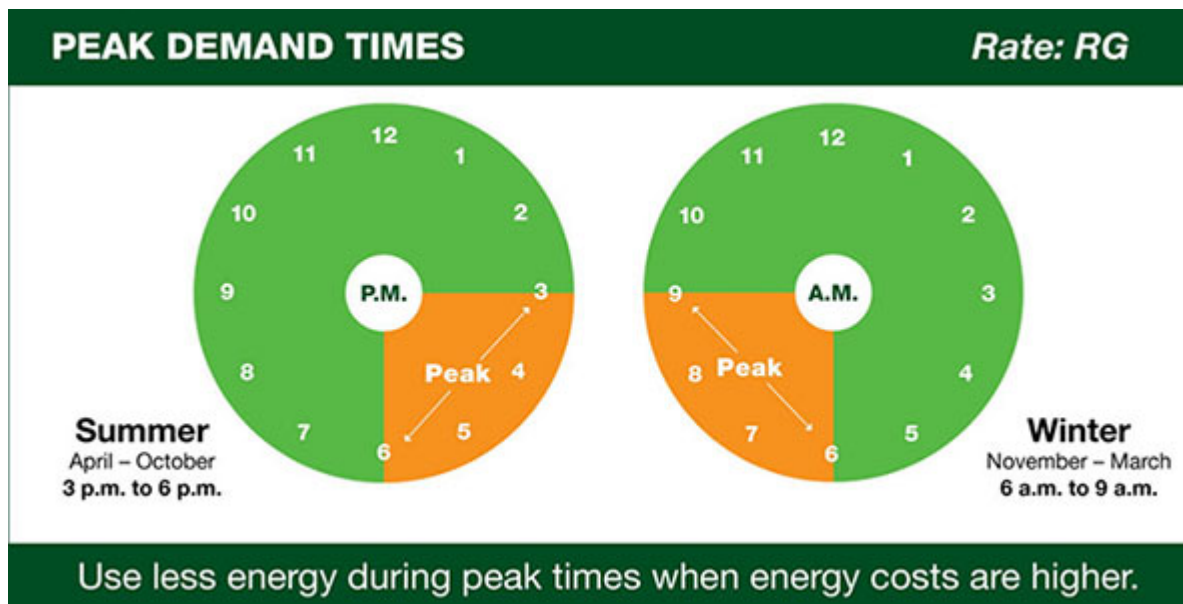
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Willis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Marie

Last Name: D'Angelo

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000579

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We're opting out of your three-part rate plan. This is a failed experiment. Drop it!!
Marie D'Angelo

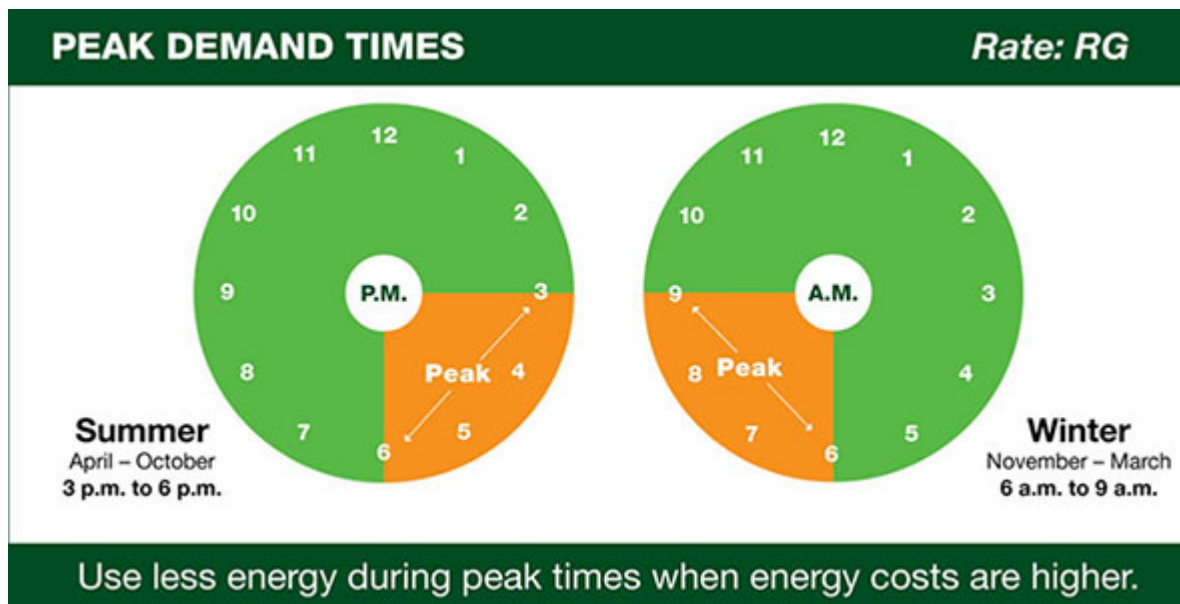
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mrs. D'Angelo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Gayle

Last Name: Amato

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000580

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

The majority of people are barely getting by now with the increases in everything. I feel that you are taking advantage of us as we do not have another electric company to go to for our electricity.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Amato,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

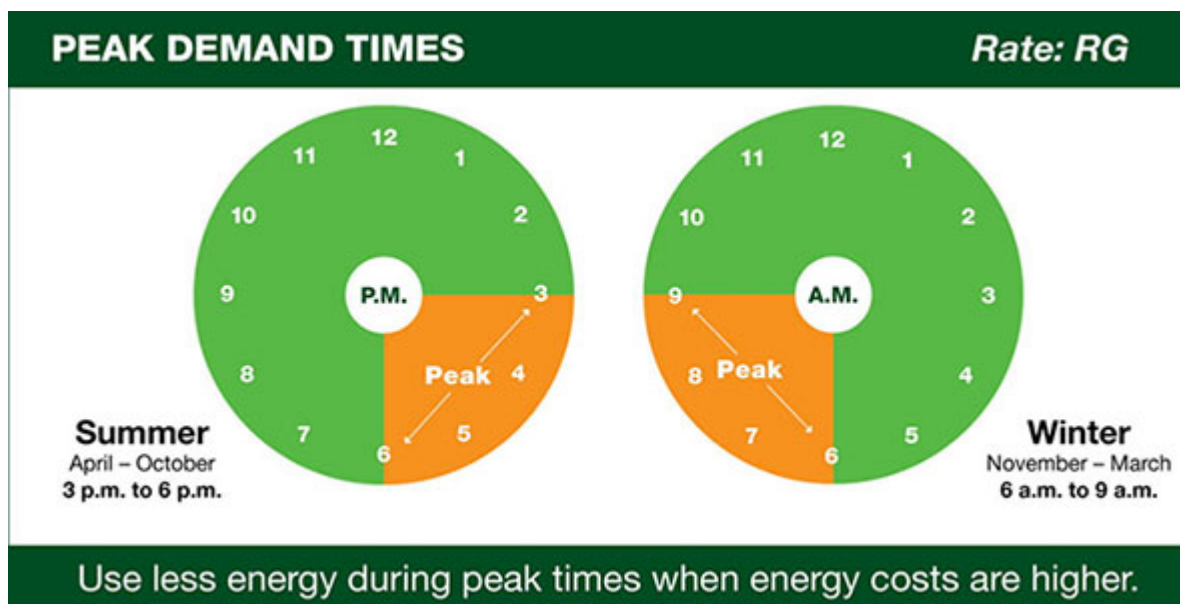
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. McMahon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Brenda

Last Name: Bertles

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000582

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I, Brenda Bertles , am not interested in participating in this failed rate adjustment program. I want to know ahead of time what I am going to pay and what I am being billed for. I have an adult child whom requires total assistance and her whole room is electrically powered equipped, required to sustain her life and wellbeing! Please provide a quality source of power at reasonable prices without hidden costs.
Sincerely, Brenda Bertles

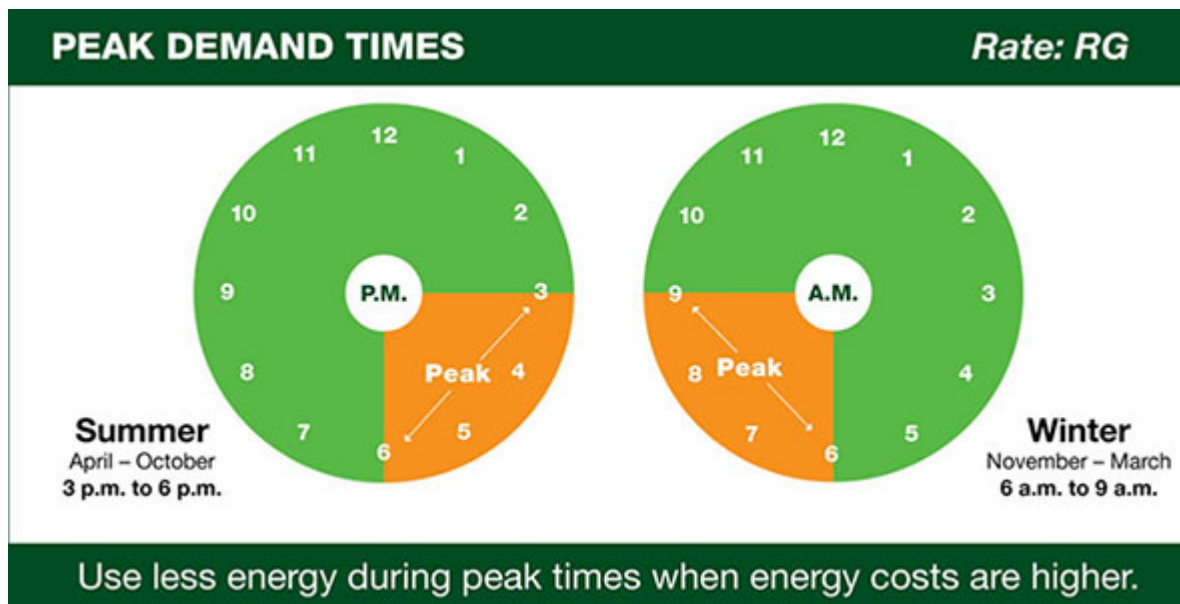
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mrs. Bertles,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Helen

Last Name: Galdieri

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000583

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

To whom it may concern: We live in Horry County & are customers of Santee Cooper. We are very opposed to this new rate adjustment. Utility bills are already high enough & we are retired. How do you expect people to lower their air conditioners during the summer months in Myrtle Beach or customers who have medical devices that have to run constantly. This is a very bad idea! Sincerely, John & Helen Spinazzola

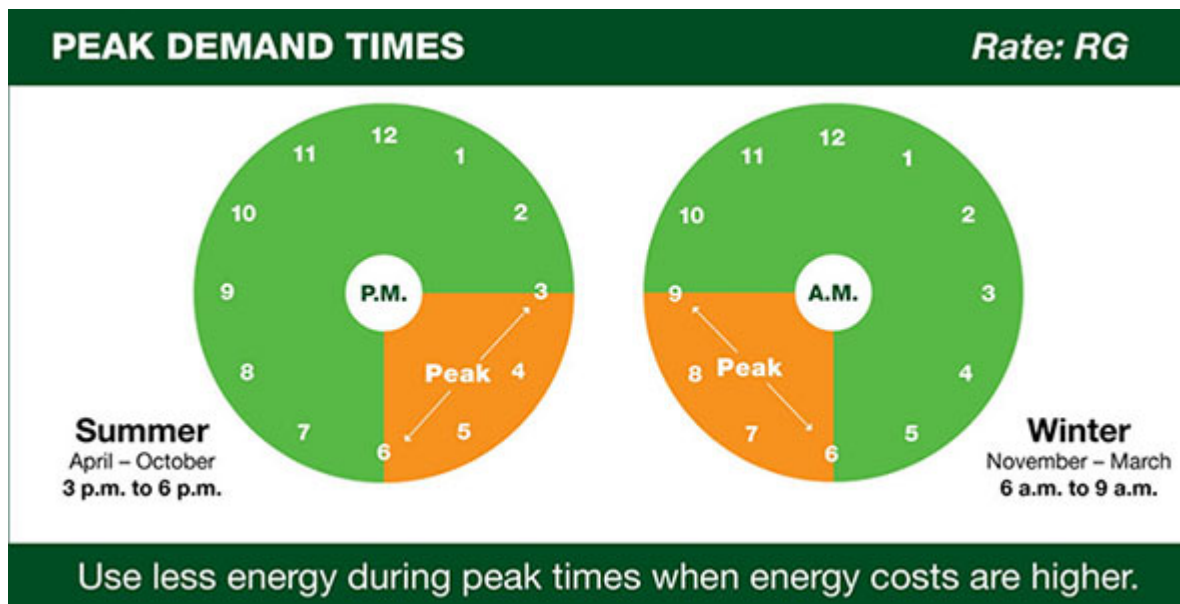
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Galdieri,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Collins

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000584

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We are not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment. Neither are 11 other families I have spoken to. We will be making our feelings known at your meeting and with the South Carolina Office of Regulatory. Robert Collins

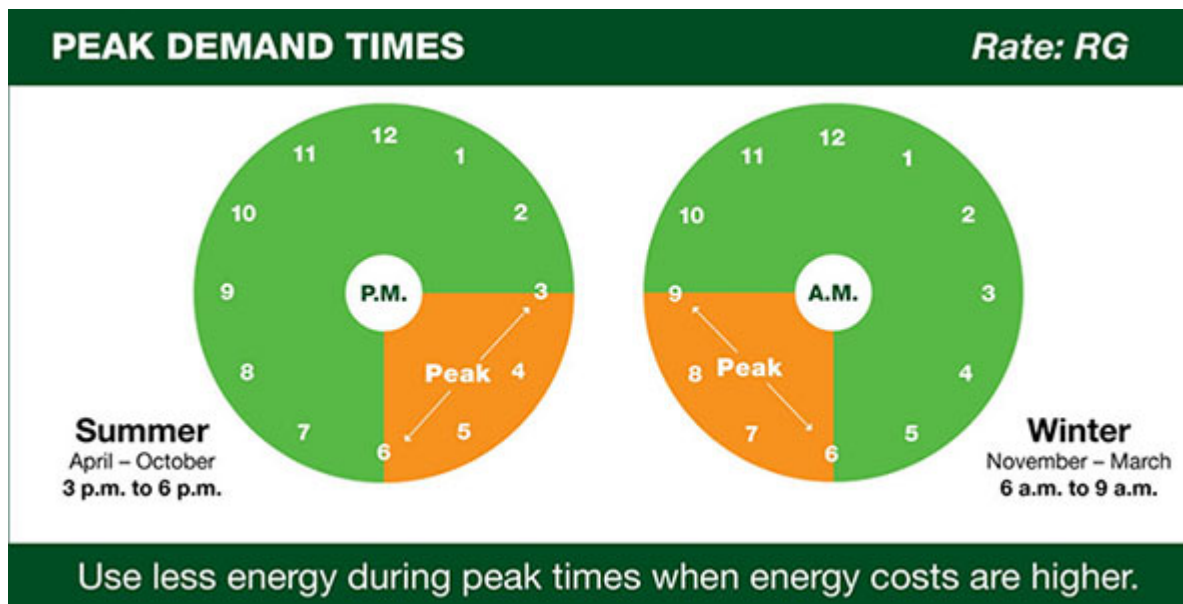
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Collins,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Marlea

Last Name: Adams

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000585

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in your rate change!!! I have too many medical problems to try and deal with those times. Turning off my air in the summer or heat in the winter? Are you crazy???

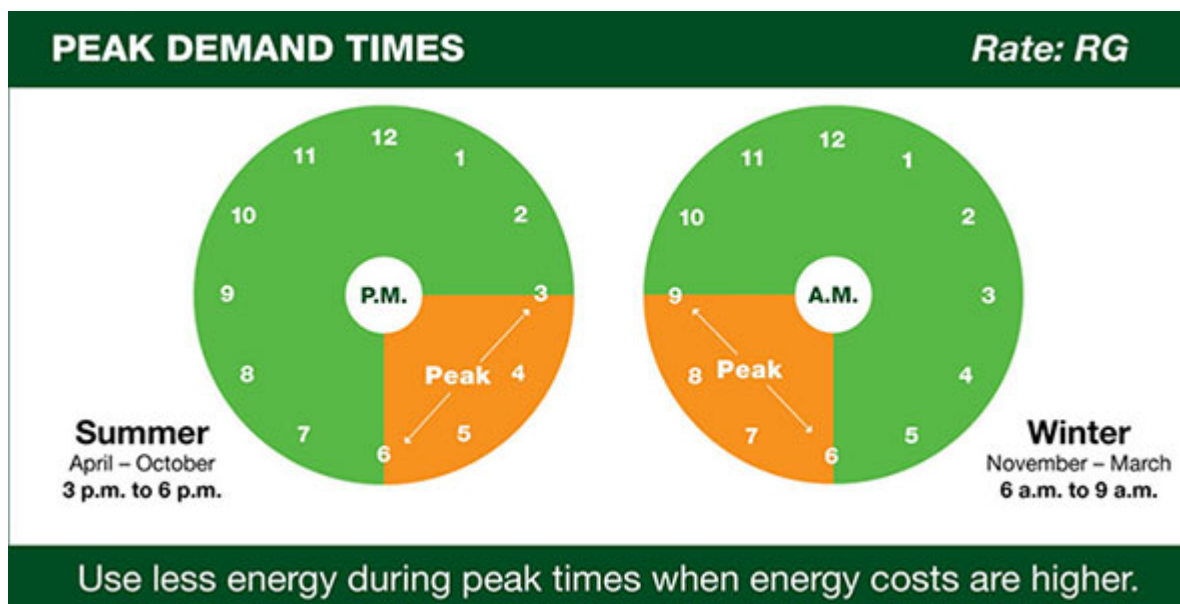
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Adams,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Sala

Last Name: Chapman

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000586

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not a good idea. Don't do it.

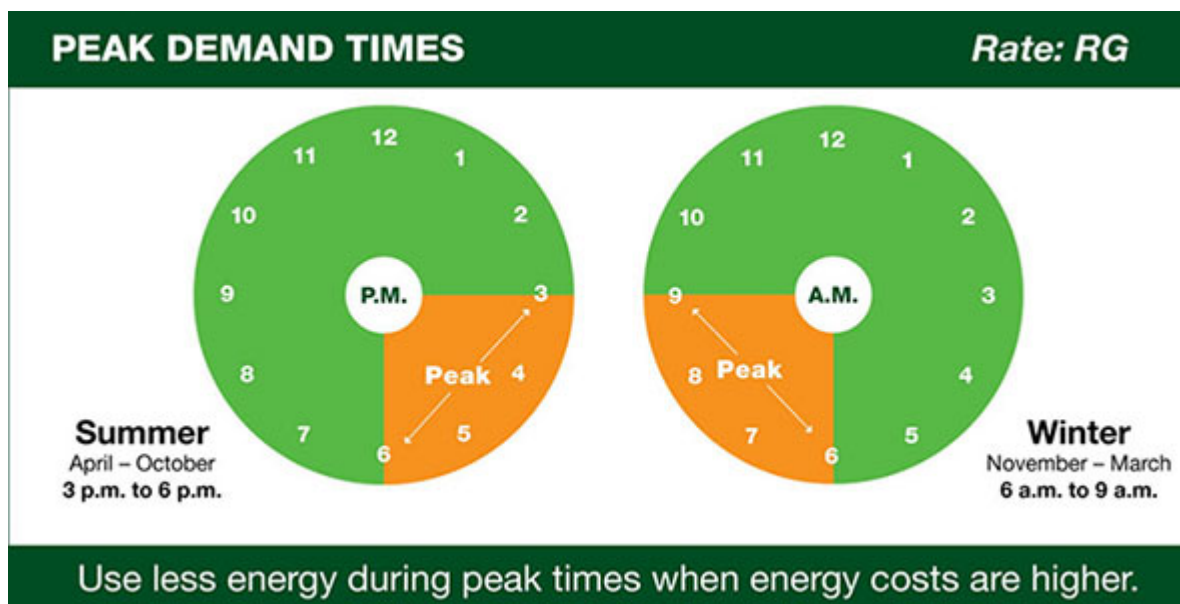
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Chapman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Esposito

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000588

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Santee Cooper, I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment. Sincerely, Mary J Esposito

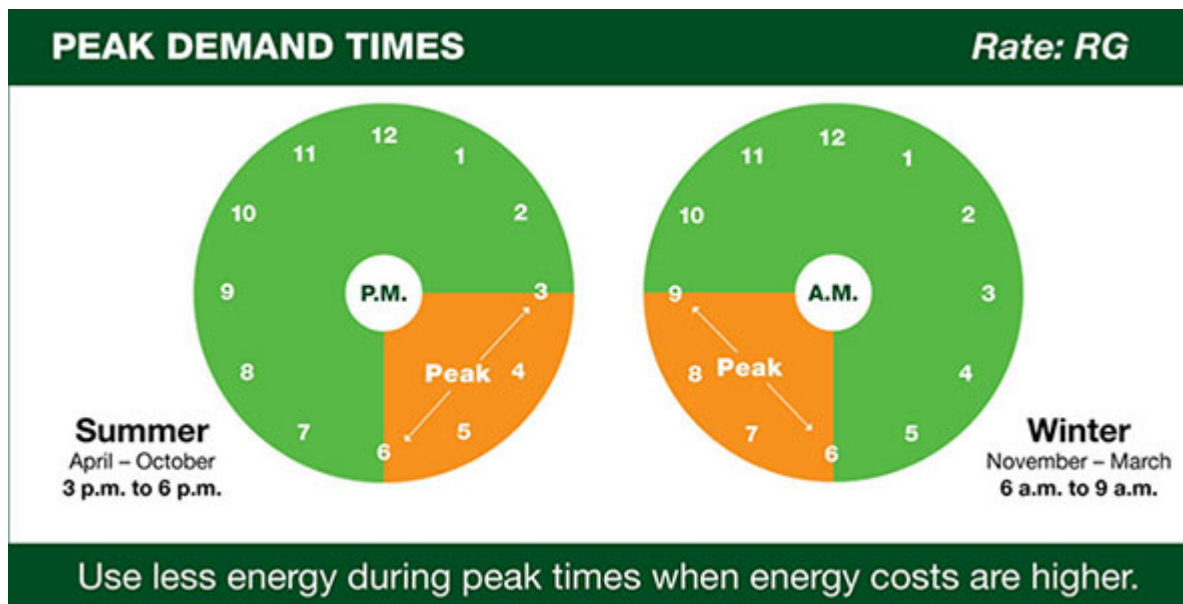
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Esposito,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Garrison

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000590

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I have been reading about the proposed rate change program. I have read two different articles and I am confused about what hours are peak hours, non-peak hours and super non-peak hours for summer and winter. What will the rates be for Saturdays and Sundays and the holidays. Thank you Mary Garrison

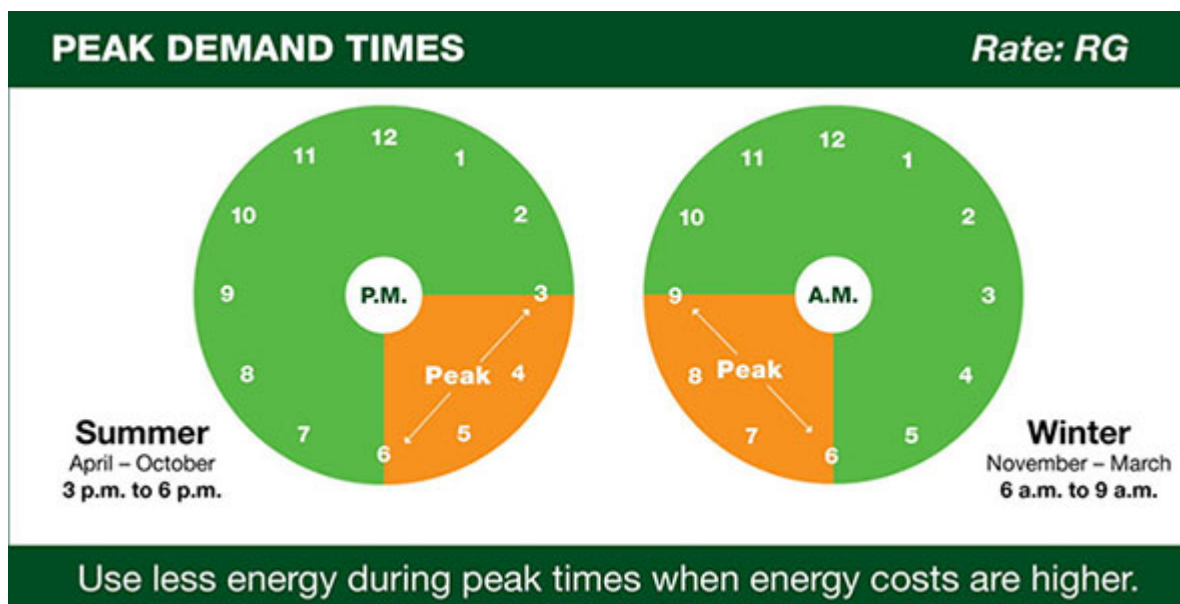
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Dear Ms. Garrison,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

The proposed rate and peak hour windows remain the same for weekdays, weekends and holidays.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save

energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Leslee

Last Name: Feldstein

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000591

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am NOT interested in participating in this failed three part sneaky rake hike

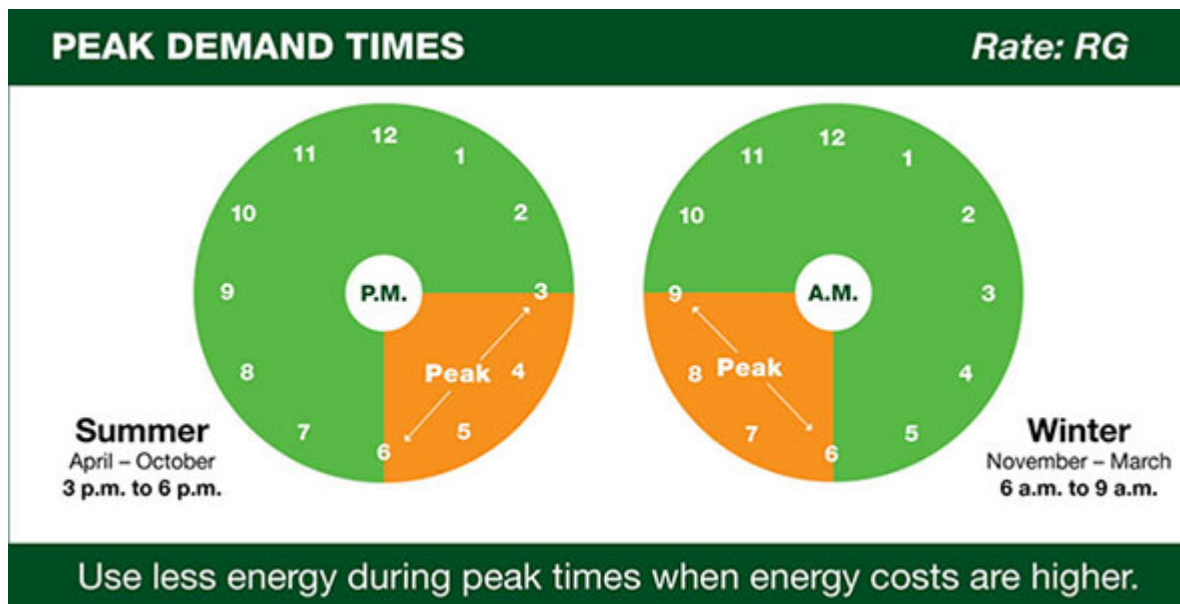
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Feldstein,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Scheriff,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:

PEAK DEMAND TIMES

Rate: RG



Use less energy during peak times when energy costs are higher.

By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Michael

Last Name: Patten

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000595

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I don't have any interest in participating in your rate hike this year or next year. My electricity bills are exorbitant right now without any increases. Please reconsider this matter and let me know. Please and thank you.

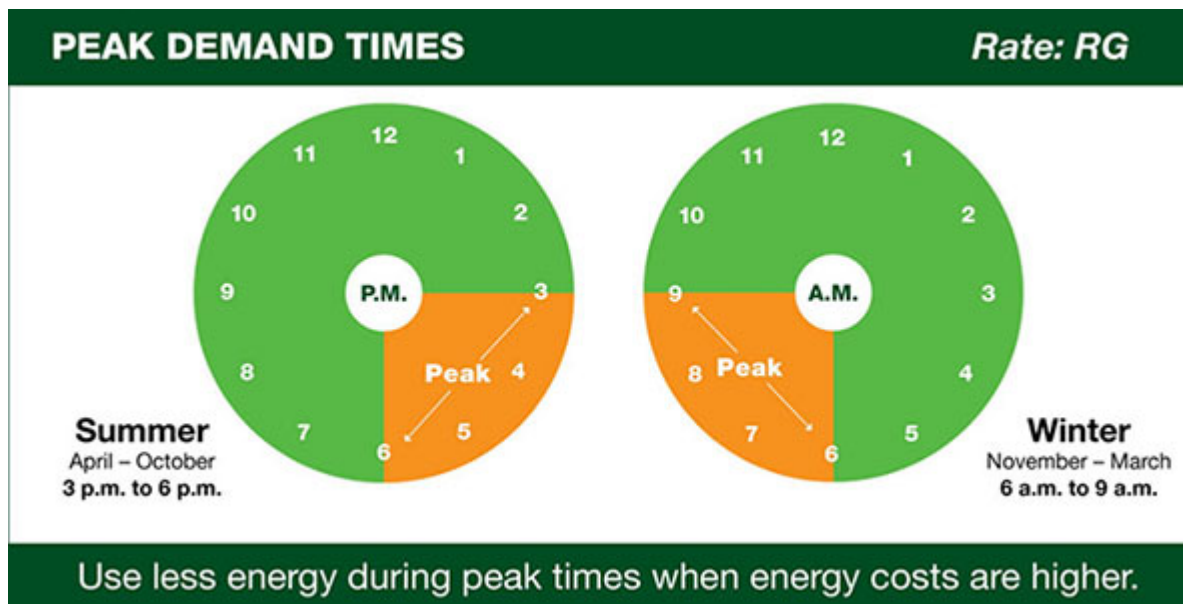
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Patten,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kellie and Larinza **Last Name:** Willard
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000596

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Not I interested!!!!

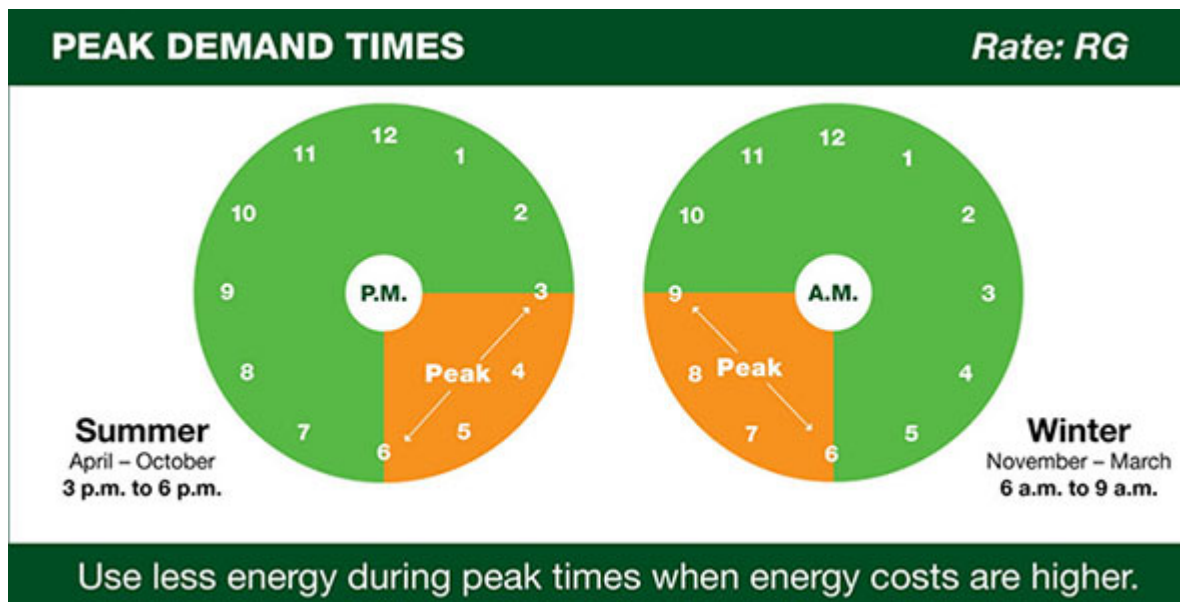
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Willard,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Greg

Last Name: Davis

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000597

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I'm against this 3 rate system. Greg Davis

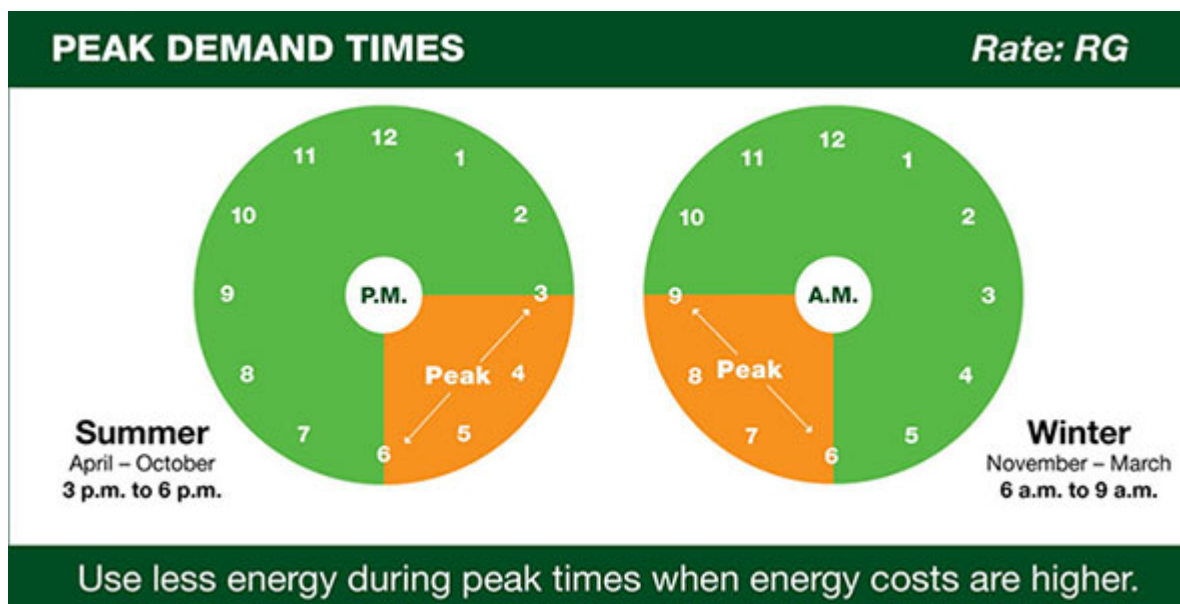
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

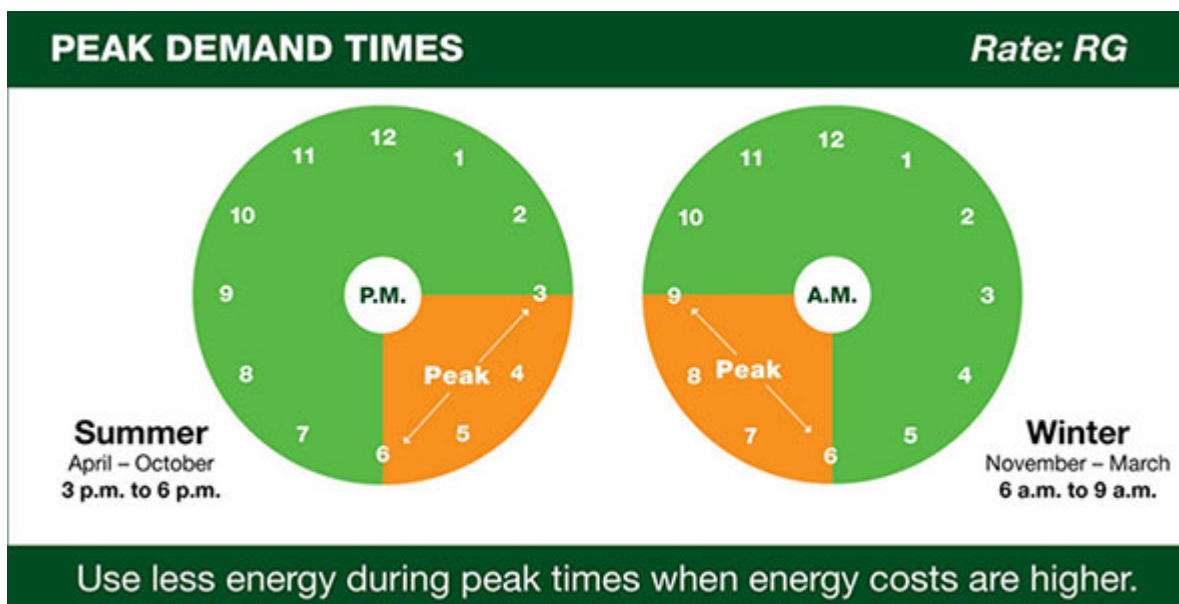
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Maggie,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Don

Last Name: Weaver

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000600

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in participating in your demand charge rate program. I am a senior citizen am confused with this rate structure. Please do not include me in this program.

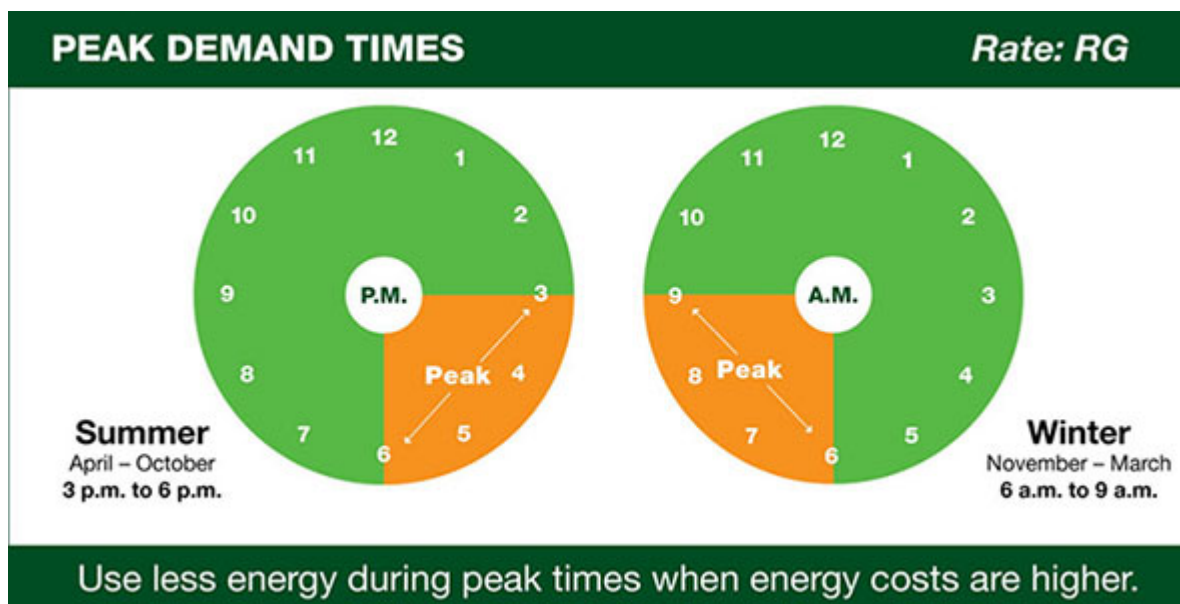
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Weaver,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

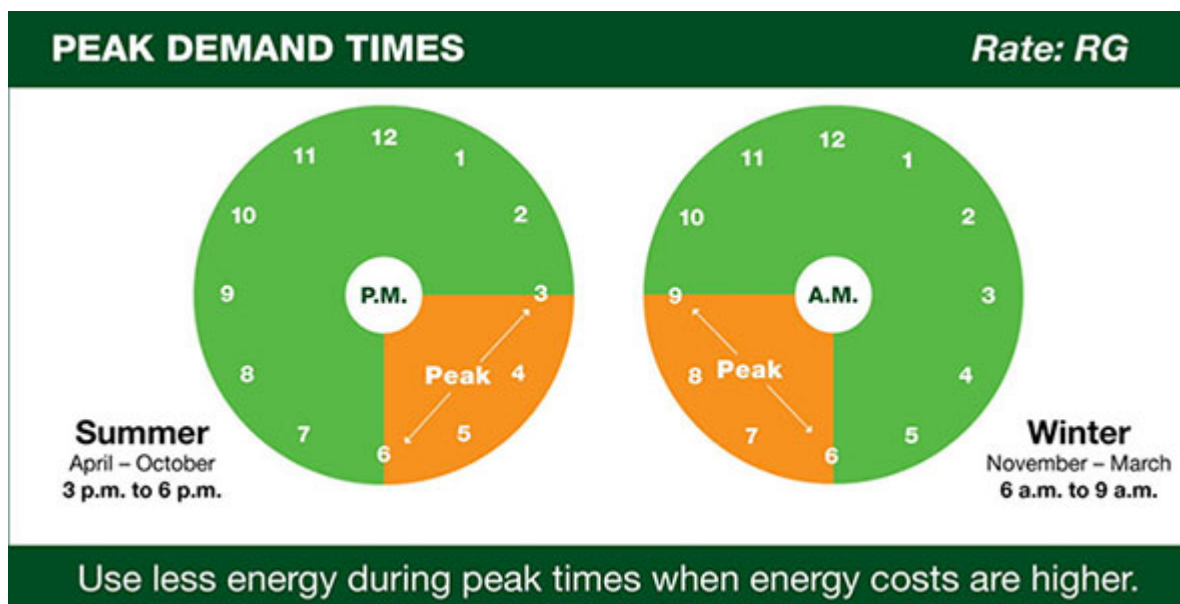
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Abshire,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: NO FIRST NAME **Last Name:** NO LAST NAME
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000603

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment

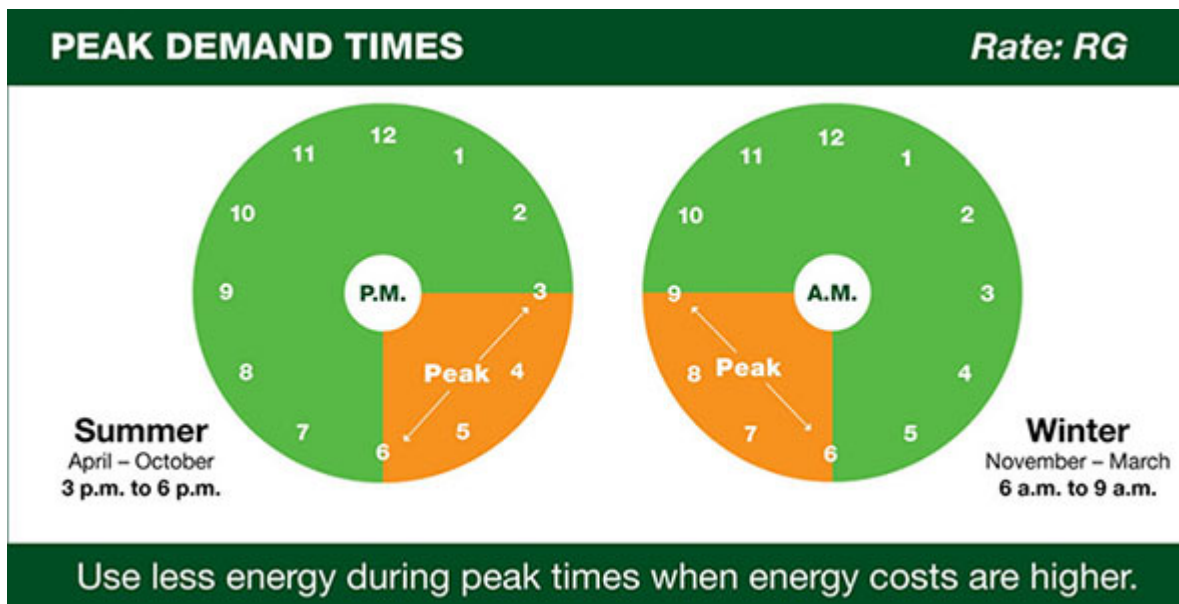
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Hello,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

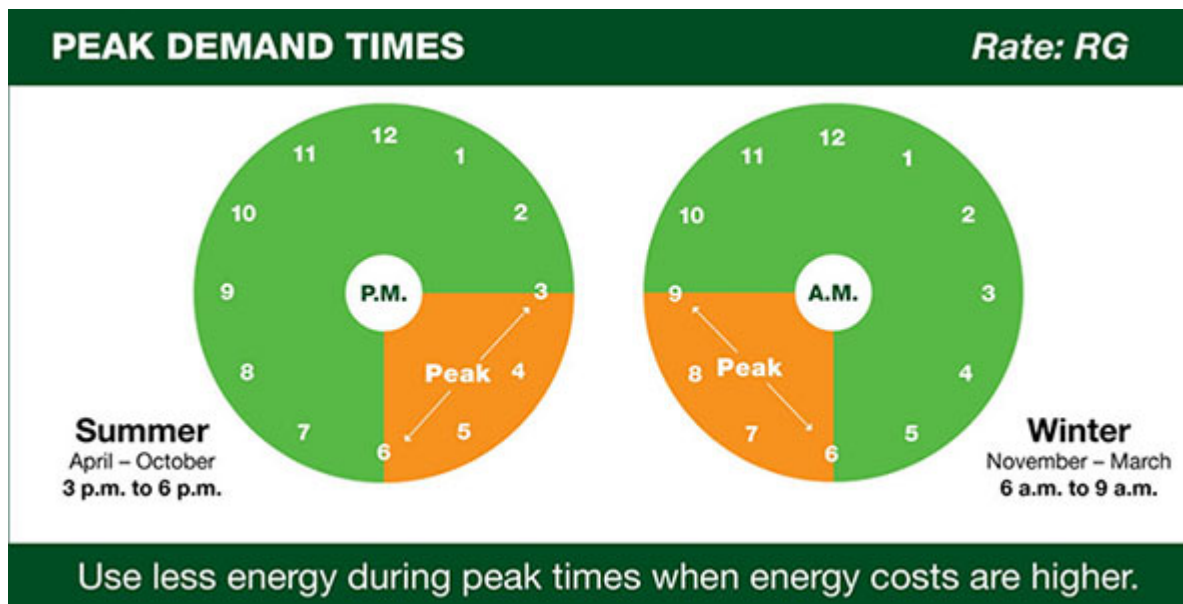
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Figurelle,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Faye

Last Name: Kearney

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000605

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

i am not interested in participating in the rate making experiment that your company is proposing

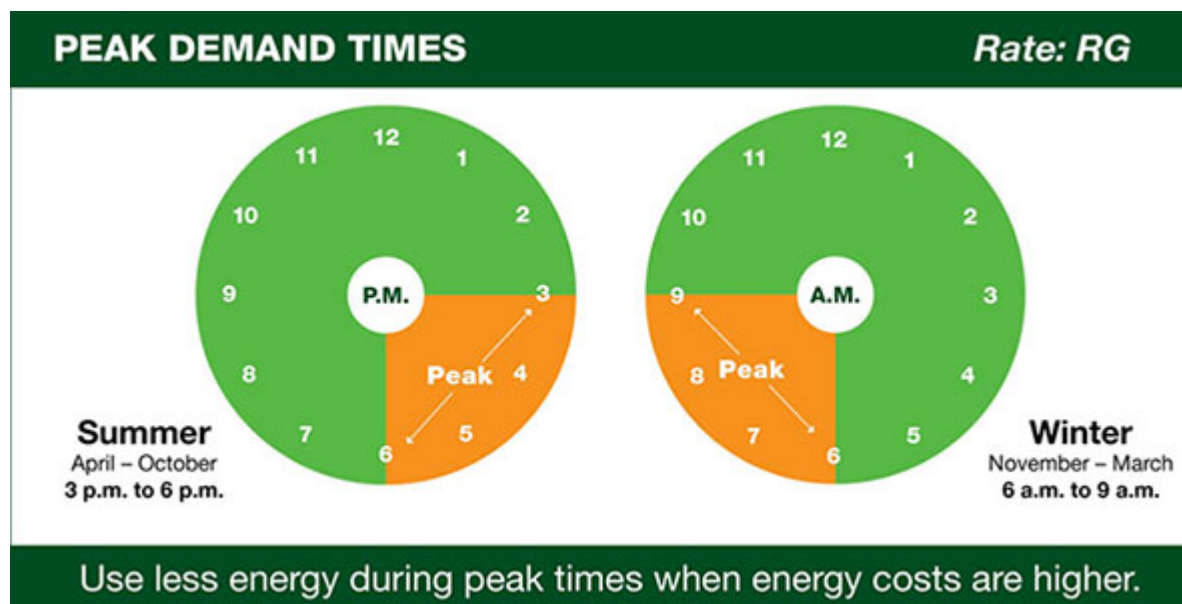
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Kearney,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

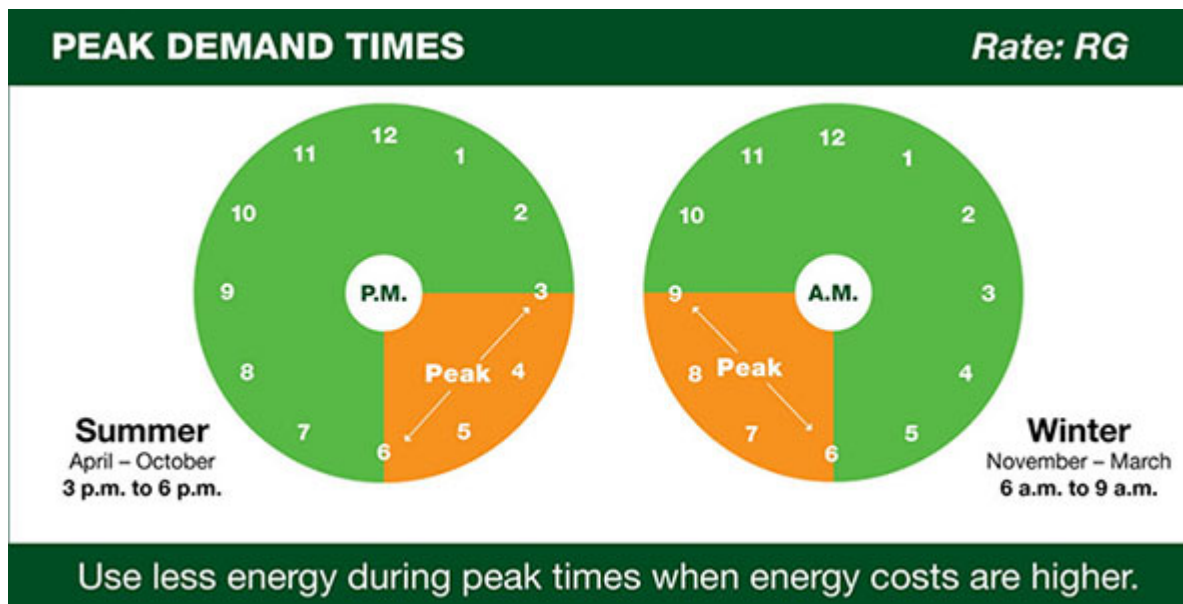
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. McGovern,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

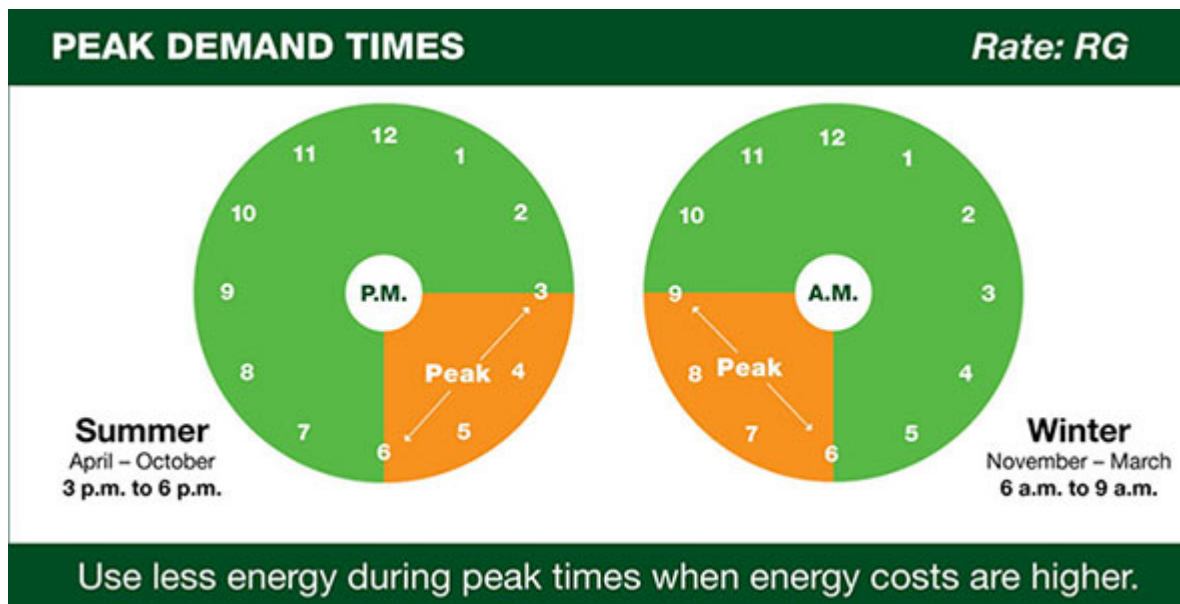
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Alexander,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: James

Last Name: Horne

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000608

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please reconsider this petty money grab! There is no reason other than greed to do this!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Horne,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: NO FIRST NAME **Last Name:** NO LAST NAME
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000609

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Stop This form of billing.

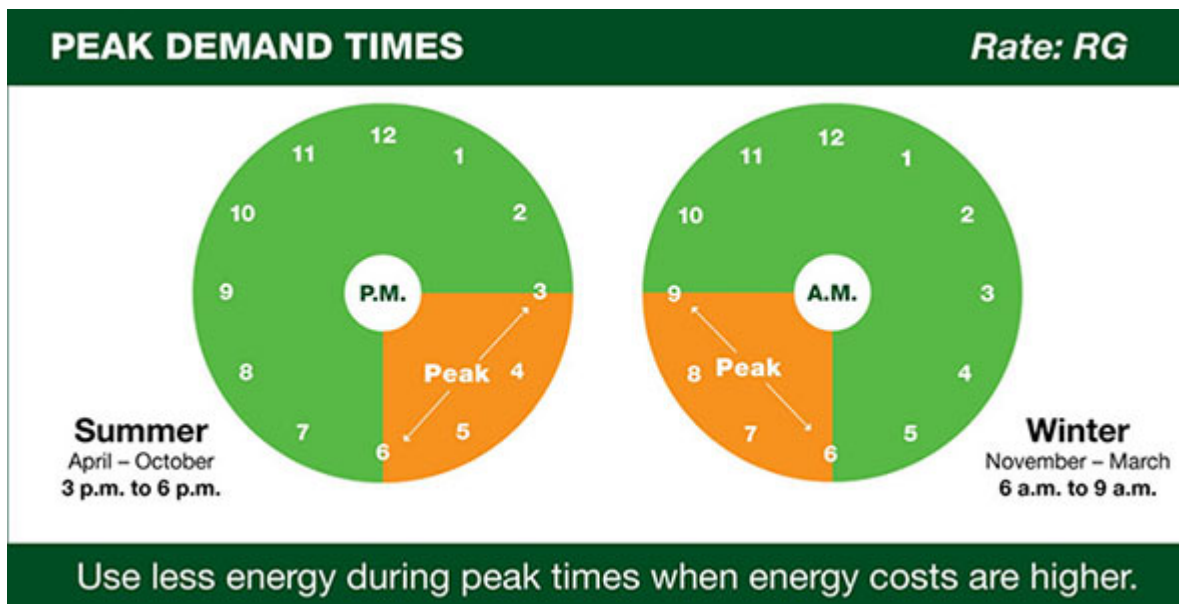
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Bob

Last Name: Nannetti

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000610

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Don't go to 3 teir rate!

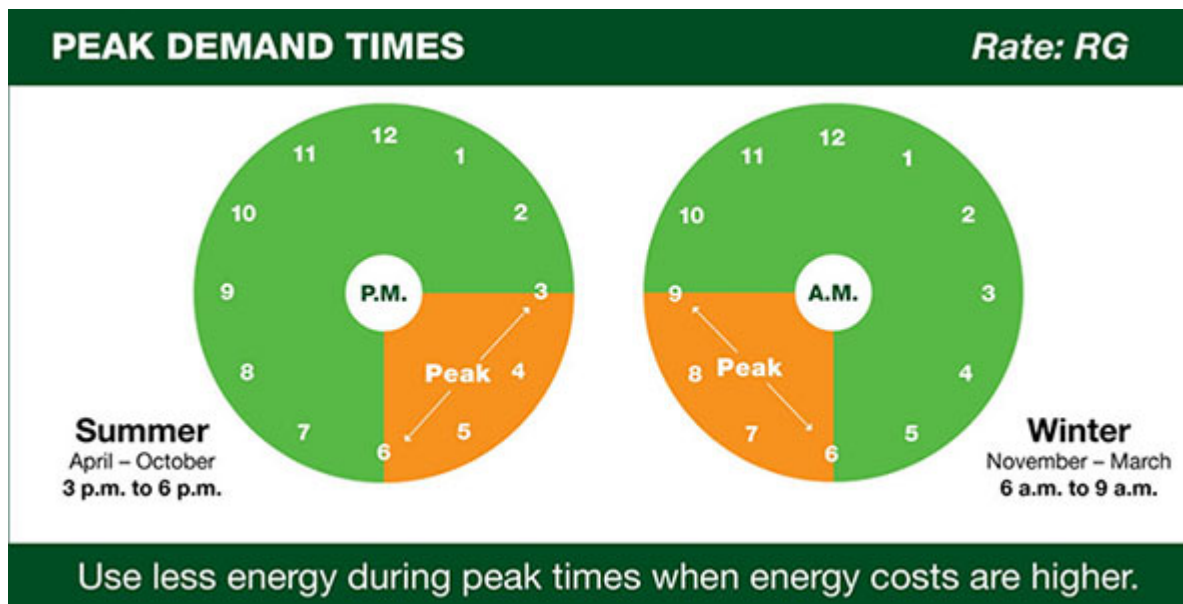
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Nannetti,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

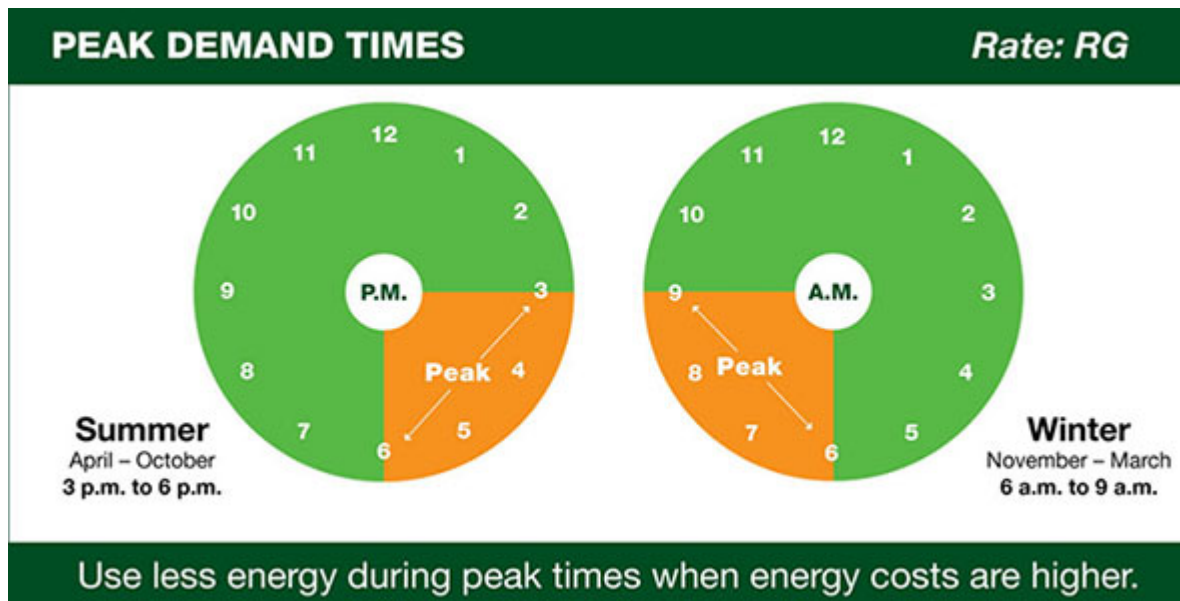


Dear Ms. Hall,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Len & Marcia **Last Name:** Pawloski
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29572

SC Reference # : SC000000763

Date Submitted: 9/5/2024 **Origin:** mail

Comment:

[TRANSCRIBED BELOW; ORIGINAL LETTER FOLLOWS]

Dear Santee Cooper: We are writing about your proposed adjustment(s) to retail customer electric rates. What we know about your new proposed electric rates is from the article we read June 14 2024 in Myrtle Beach Herald newspaper "Santee Cooper rates may change in 2025. What to Know about the proposal", enclosed. Also, today we spoke with Santee Cooper's Mr. Parker Diedrich about our 2 options for the proposed Rate Adjustments. We appreciate his expertise & helpful kindness, thank you. If, given there are no other better rate options available to us (Residential), then please, we request the option whereby the Peak Demand Window is 3 hours long 3-6 pm summer, and 3 hours long 6-9 am winter. We believe we understand our Peak Demand Costs for any given month is determined by the single highest kilowatt hour of electric usage during the month long, daily 3 hour window; then that single highest Demand number, representing one hour, becomes the arithmetic factor which is multiplied x \$10.03 to determine that month's total Peak Charge costs for Demand electric. Finally, all other rate costs for Santee Cooper electric is 7 cents/KwH. Sincerely, Glen & Marci Pawloski **[REDACTED]**N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29572 cc: Parker Diedrich

Santee Cooper
H G Division Office
305A Gardner Lacy Road
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

September 5, 2024

Dear Santee Cooper:

We are writing about your proposed adjustment(s) to retail customer electric rates. What we know about your new proposed electric rates is from the article we read June 14 2024 in Myrtle Beach Herald newspaper "Santee Cooper rates may change in 2025. What to Know about the proposal", enclosed.

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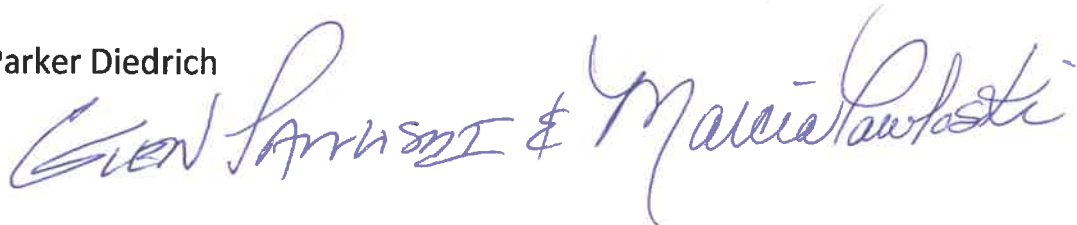
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Finally, all other rate costs for Santee Cooper electric is 7 cents/KwH.

Sincerely,

Glen & Marcia Pawloski

cc: Parker Diedrich

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glen & Marcia Pawloski". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name of the signatories.

Santee Cooper rates may change in 2025. What to know about the proposal

BY S.T. CARDINAL
TOMMY.CARDINAL@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Santee Cooper, the state-owned utility company whose coverage area includes most of the Myrtle Beach area and inland, looks poised to change its rates in 2025. The proposed rate adjustment would result in an average increase of 8.7% for retail customers, the utility said. The increase is needed due to the utility's need to invest in its electric system and make "significant system updates required by new regulations."

"Santee Cooper has low electric prices and highly reliable electric service, and that will not change because of these recommendations," said President and CEO Jimmy Staton in the release. "But we need to invest in our system to ensure we continue to power a reliable and sustainable future for all of our customers. We also need to make investments to meet new environmental regulations at generating stations. Unfortunately, inflation has increased 25% since we last raised rates, and new power lines and transformers cost a lot more today."

The decision comes after a nearly year-long rate study, which began last June "to address an anticipated revenue shortfall" beginning in 2025," according to Santee Cooper. The current rate for residential general service is \$0.12 per kilowatt hour from June to September and \$0.10/kwh during the rest of the year, according to the Santee Cooper website. Customers also pay a base rate of \$19.50 per month. To compare to other South Carolina

power company rates during the summer, Dominion Energy charges \$0.12/kwh for the first 800kwh and \$0.14/kwh after. They charge a lower base charge than Santee Cooper, \$9.50. Duke Energy also has a lower base charge, \$11.78, and charges \$0.14/kwh during the summer. Rates mentioned in this article have been rounded to the nearest cent.

The proposal, which Santee Cooper's board of directors will not vote on until December, includes a substantial structural change. The base rate will only increase by \$0.50 to \$20, but the big change deals with peak hours. While residential customers would be charged about 40% less per kilowatt hour most of the day (\$0.7/kwh), there would be a \$10.03/kwh charge for energy used during peak hours (early in the morning during winter and late afternoons in the summer). The timeframe for the peak charge is 3-6 p.m. in the summer and 6-9 a.m. in the winter.

"This new rate structure gives customers the ability to actually lower their bills, depending on current and future energy consumption habits," Staton said. "If a family starts dinner at 5 p.m. every summer afternoon by turning on an oven that takes 5 kilowatts of electricity, they add \$50 to their monthly demand charge. But if that family waits until 6 p.m. to turn the oven on every day, or uses a slow-cooker that takes much less electricity, they save that \$50. If they adjust when they use the dishwasher or other high-end appliances, they save even more." The proposal does away with the different per-kilowatt-hour charge for summer

and winter usage, charging \$.07/kwh year-round except for during peak hours. Customers may be given the option to opt out of the demand charge by enrolling in the "time-of-use rate," according to the Santee Cooper website. Under this structure, a customer would be charged \$0.31/kwh from 5-9 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. and \$0.07/kwh at all other times. There would still be a base rate of \$20 per month.

Santee Cooper's electric rates were last changed in 2017 and have been frozen since 2020, a requirement of a judgment from the Cook lawsuit which was brought against the utility following the failed VC Summer Nuclear plant expansion. The judgment required that rates not be raised until 2025.

Staton explained in a February interview with MyHorryNews how Santee Cooper balances its responsibility of providing low-cost energy to its customers while operating as a sustainable business.

"First of all, because we are a public power company, we don't have the need to earn a return on equity. Unlike a Dominion or a Duke, as they make investments, they need to borrow money to fund those investments and they take some of it from the market. So they've got equity investors. They need to make sure they pay those investors for those dollars as well," Staton said. "We don't have that."

We go out, generally we borrow money in order to be able to fund the infrastructure that we have to build. So, our costs are generally lower than what you would see from an investor-owned utility.

"All the viability we need is we need to be able to recover our costs. During the last four years of the Cook settlement, we have not been at a position to fully recover our costs. The cost for fuel has been higher than what the frozen rates were. But all I need to be able to do is recover our costs, so that's what we would be seeking as we look at this rate change is how much have our costs gone up. The good news for us is we've also experienced a lot of growth, so our throughput has gone up as well. So that should have a mitigating effect on the size of the increase."

Santee Cooper public records state the utility expects a \$39.7 million revenue deficit in 2025 if the rates remained unchanged. The proposed rate changes, the document states, would offset that potential loss.

Public comment for the proposal will be accepted through Oct. 8 and can be submitted online, by email, mail or at upcoming public meetings on Aug. 26, Sept. 17, Sept. 24 or Oct. 8.

For more information on how to submit feedback visit santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/get-involved/.

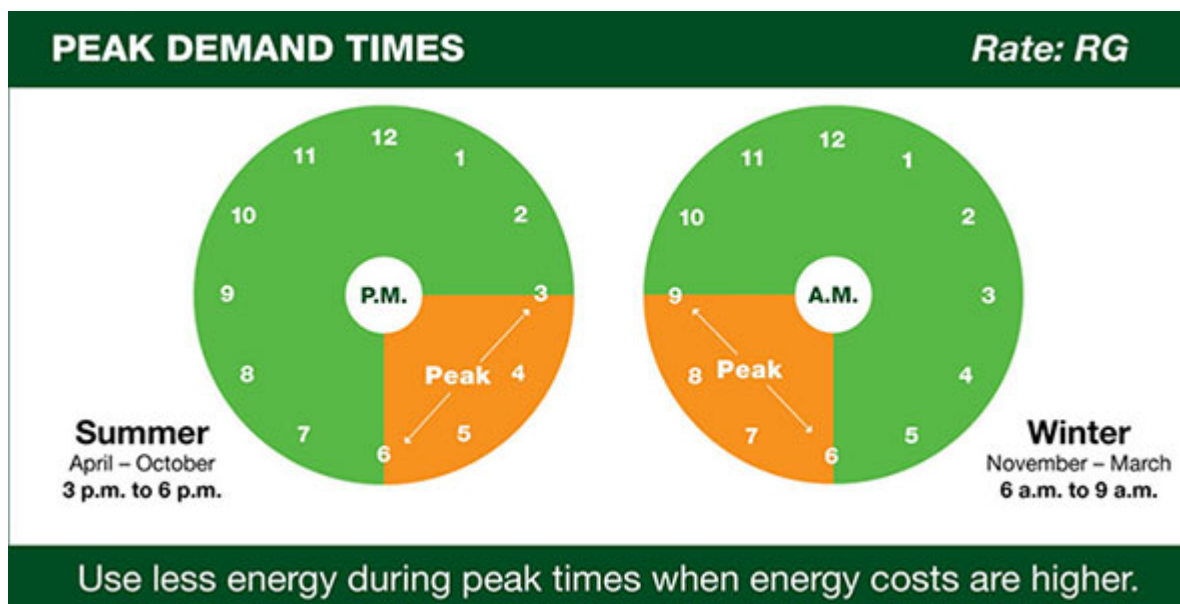
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pawloski,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Davis

Last Name: Cooke

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000725

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

BLANK EMAIL

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Mr. Cooke,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Frank

Last Name: Sailes

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000726

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

BLANK EMAIL

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Sailes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Adrienne

Last Name: Finn

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000727

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

BLANK EMAIL

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Ms. Finn,

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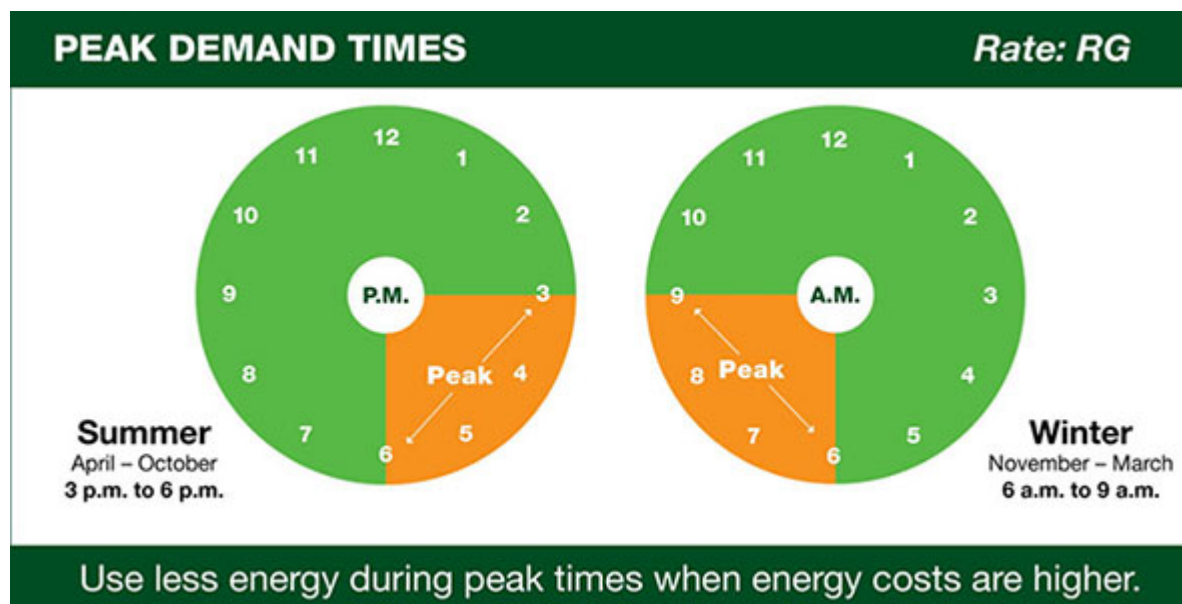
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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John

Last Name: Friestad

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000663

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I'm not interested in this new rate adjustment. John Friestad

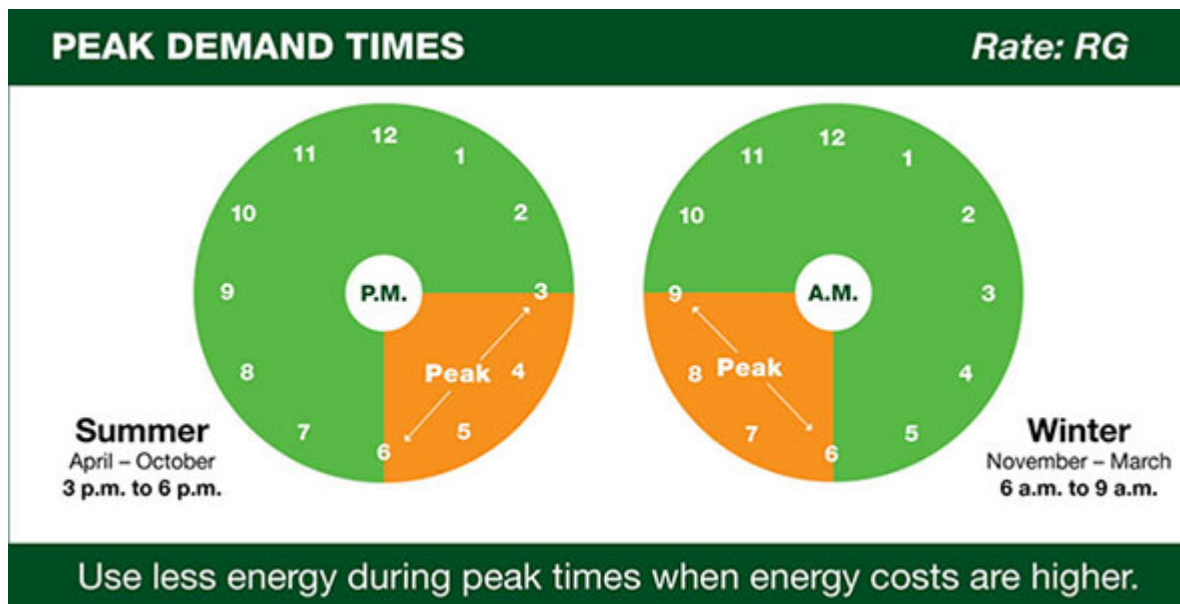
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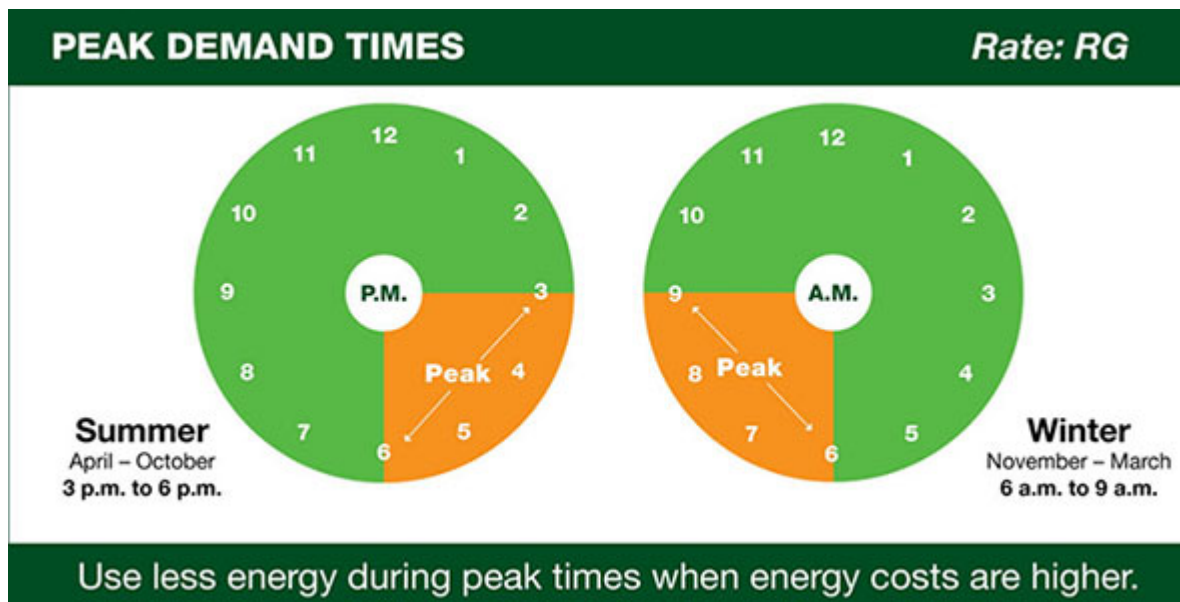
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Dear Mr. Mattocks,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

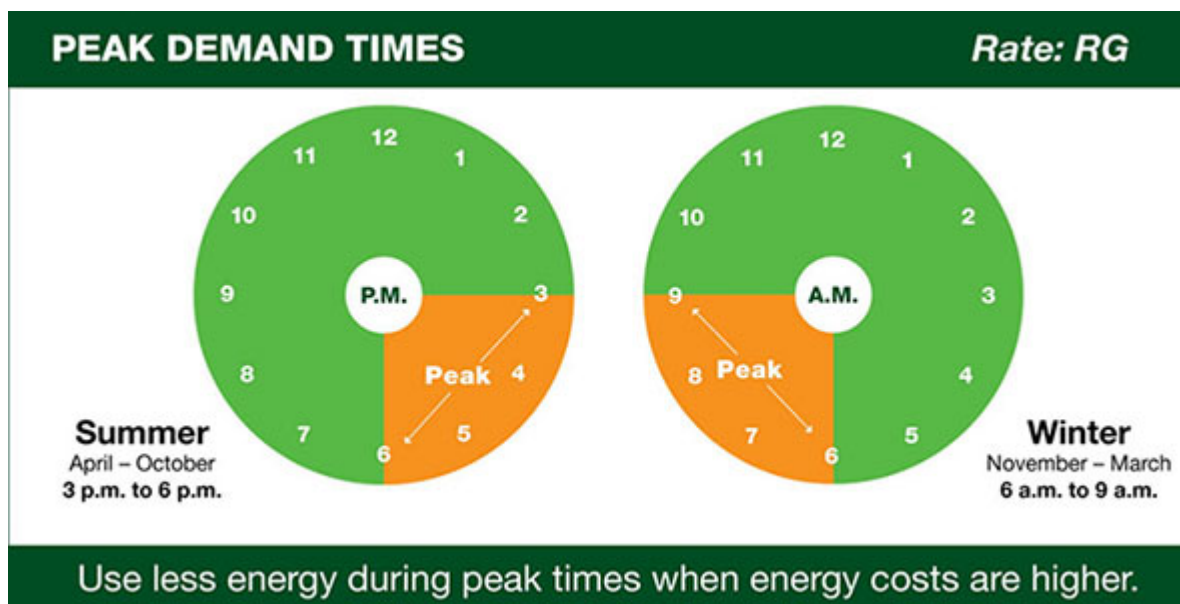
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bertoti,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Amy

Last Name: W

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000666

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I don't agree with the rate adjustment. On one hand, the solar share program tells customers using the energy during the peak time will generate more KWs, but in the meantime, we will be paying premium for it. So, there is a catch right there. It's wrong!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Amy,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Our distributed generation rider is structured to ensure that residential customers with their own generation pay for their fair share of fixed costs associated with their continued access to and use of our generating units and power lines when they need Santee Cooper to provide them with electricity – such as any time the sun isn't shining. Our existing distributed generation rider achieved this by assessing residential customers a monthly \$2.00 metering charge, and a monthly standby charge \$4.40 per kilowatt of installed generating capacity. The proposed move to a demand based rate for residential customers has reduced the need for this structure. As a result, our new distributed generation rider proposes to eliminate the existing metering and standby charges and replace them with a flat \$10.00 per month customer charge.

Additionally, our proposed distributed generation rider is structured to credit customers for excess power we purchase from them. Any power that a customer generates in excess of their own usage and sends back to Santee Cooper, we will purchase at a rate equivalent to our projected cost of producing that electricity ourselves.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Linda	Last Name:	Jones
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000667

Date Submitted:	9/6/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Please be advised that I do not wish to participate in this new rate proposal. I am a senior on a fixed income and cannot afford an 8.7% increase in my electric bill. I have never paid a demand charge by any electric company in the past and do not want to start now. This is just another example of corporate greed.

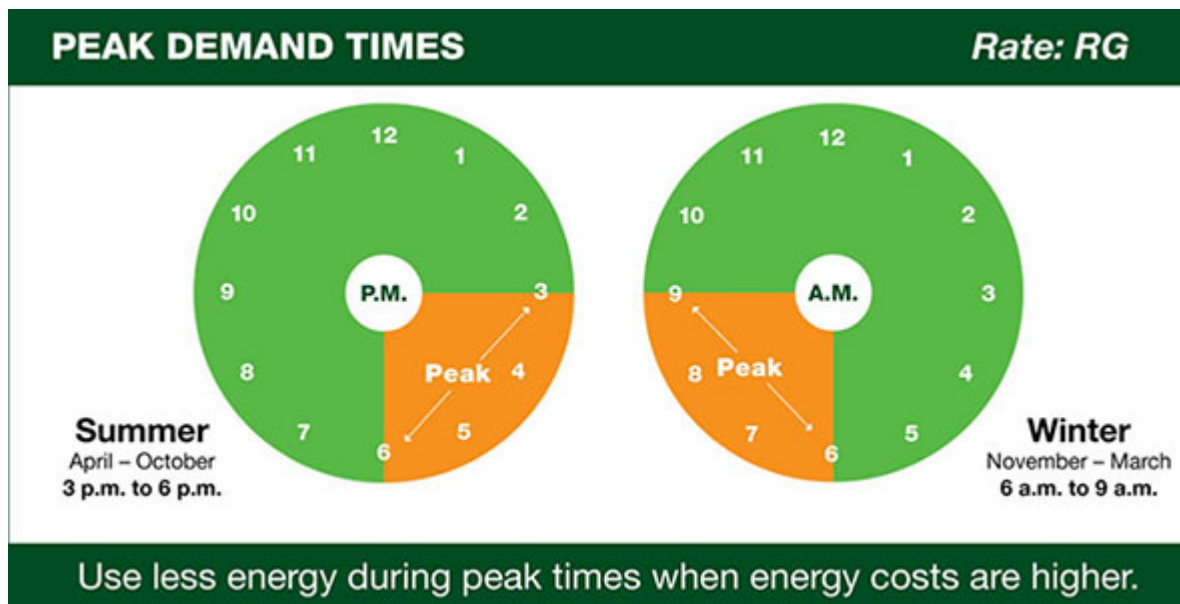
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help

you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	John	Last Name:	Buczacki
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000668

Date Submitted:	9/6/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Dear Sir or Miss, As a Senior Citizen and Veteran my wife and I are concerned about the proposed Santee-Cooper electricity three-part rate structure. This proposed rate structure will lead to confusion as to which window we're in and may find us chasing us not able to turn on and off appliances in our home. What happens if we can't turn off our air conditioning in the summer or it is needed for any medical equipment to continuously run? This confusing and overly complicated onerous new three-part rate proposal is not beneficial to Senior Citizens and Veterans especially those who have health issues. Sincerely, John and Beverly Buczacki Myrtle Beach Resident -- John (Buz) Buczacki

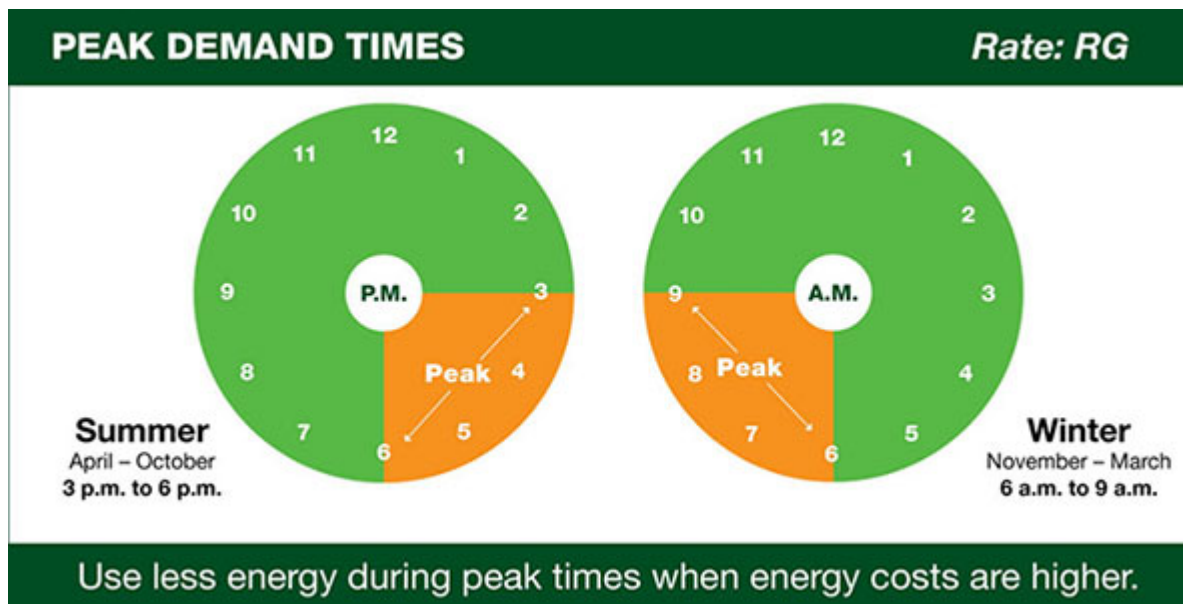
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Buczacki,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

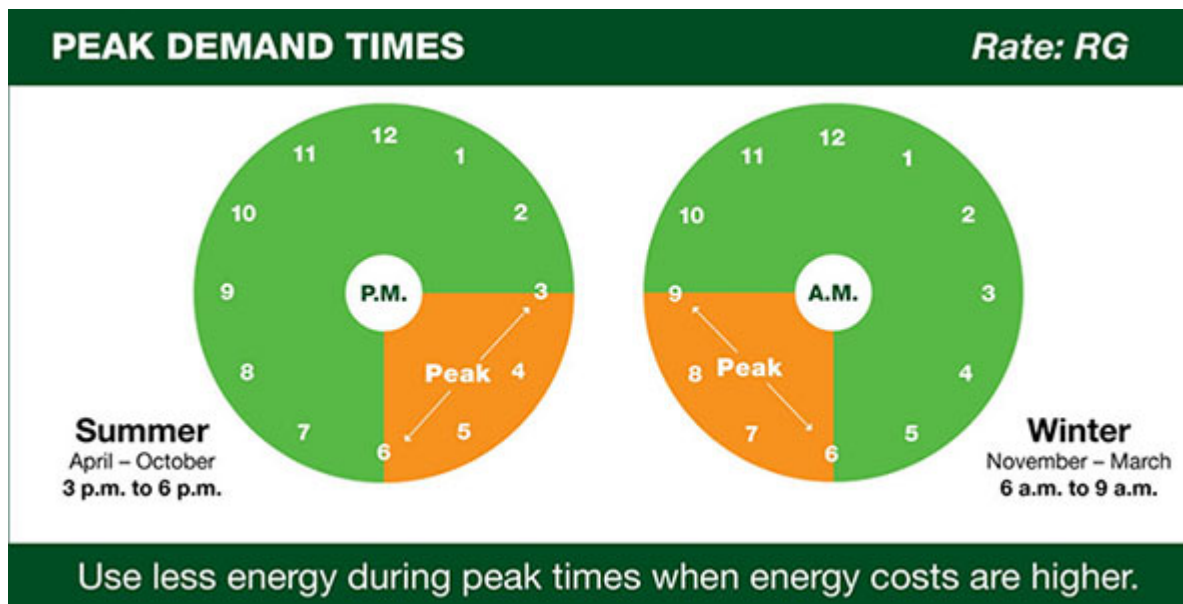
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Blackmon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information**First Name:** Nora**Last Name:** Perron-Jones**Organization:****City:****Customer Type:** Other**State / Zip:****SC Reference # : SC0000000670****Date Submitted:** 9/6/2024**Origin:** email**Comment:**

Please please please do not implement any rate change or three rate differential. We need access to energy and power on a consistent basis. There is no reason to put your aging population at risk. ~Nora Perron-Jones

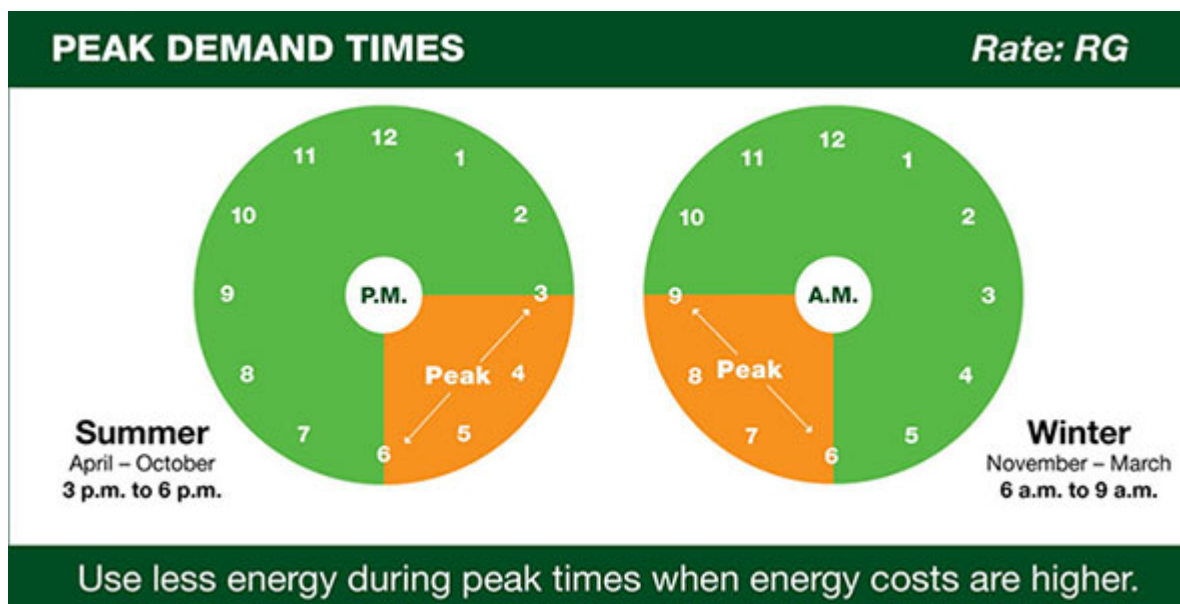
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Perron-Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Laura

Last Name: Terwilliger

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000671

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in this rate change.

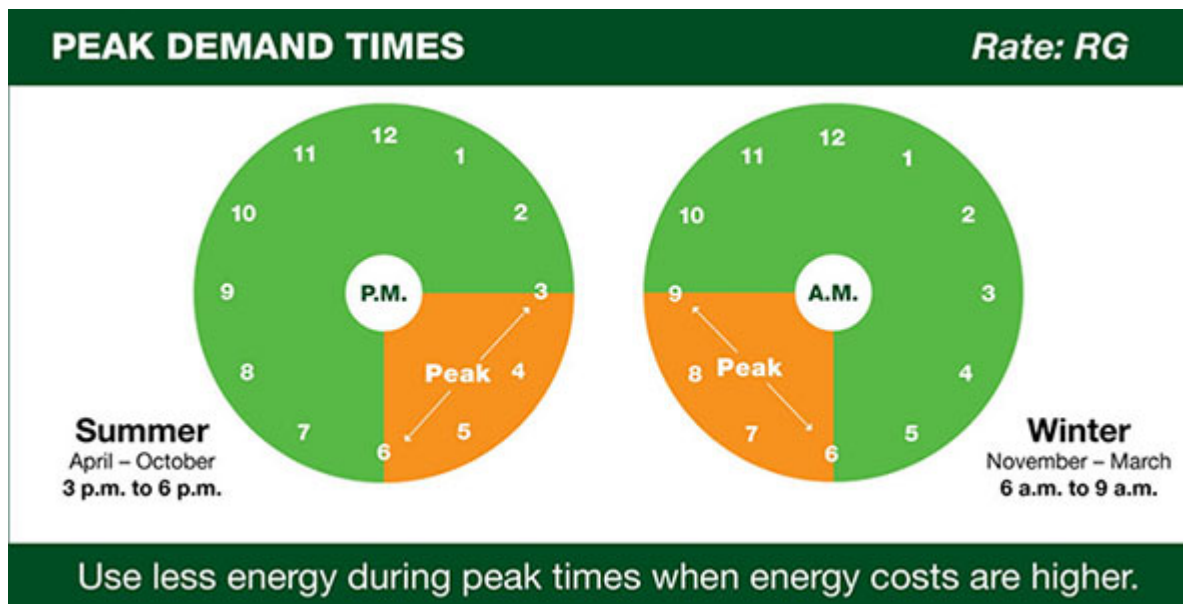
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Terwilliger,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

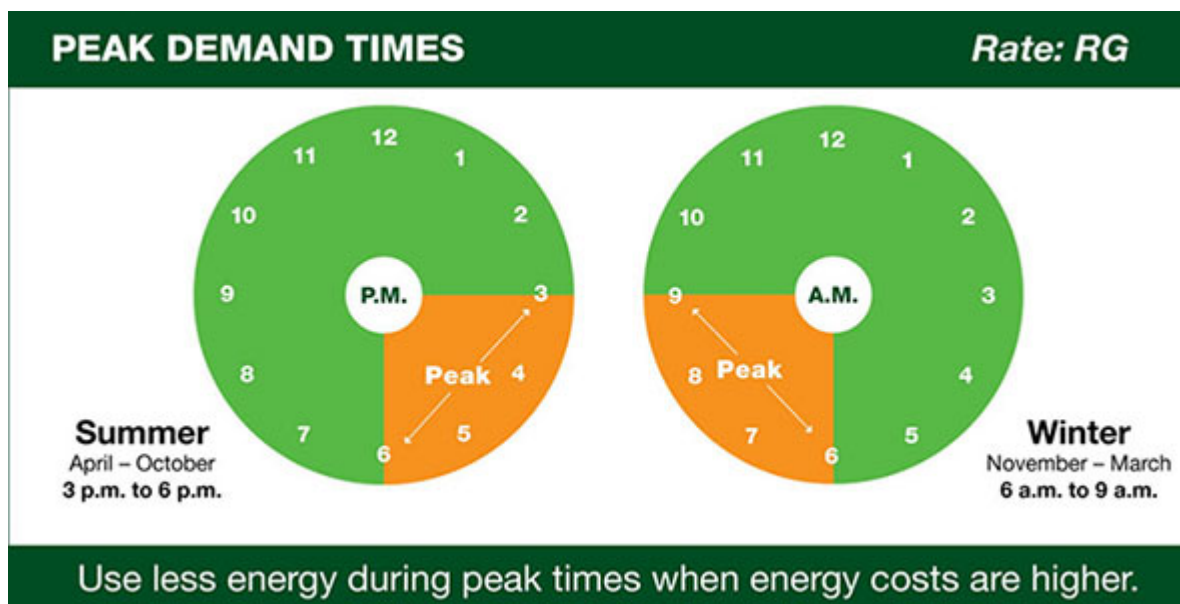
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Siegel,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

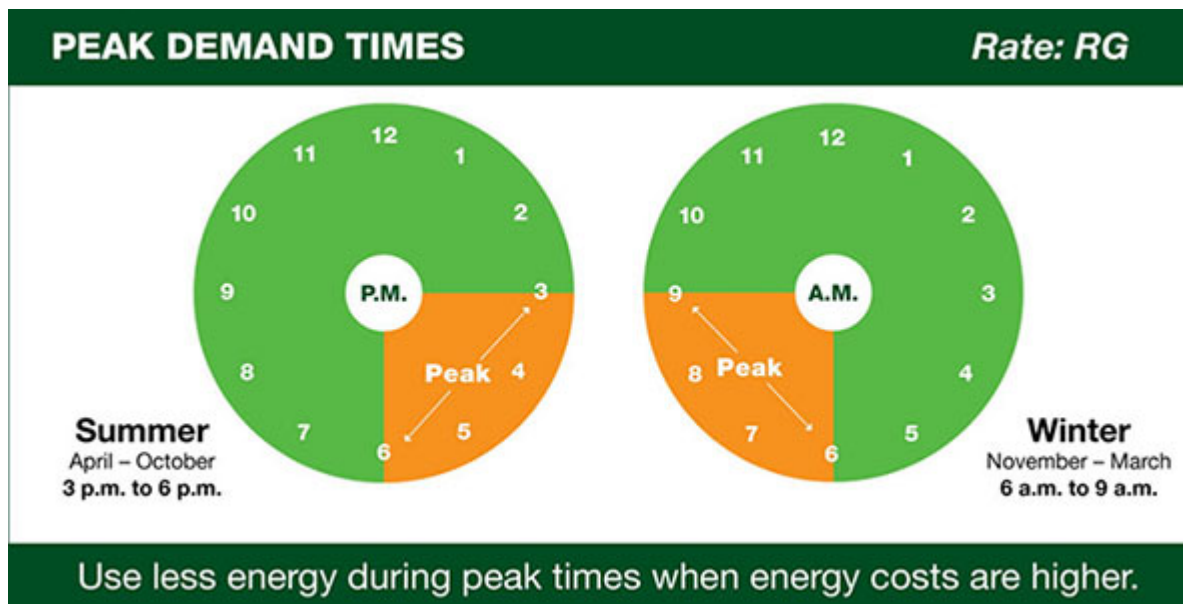
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hollander,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

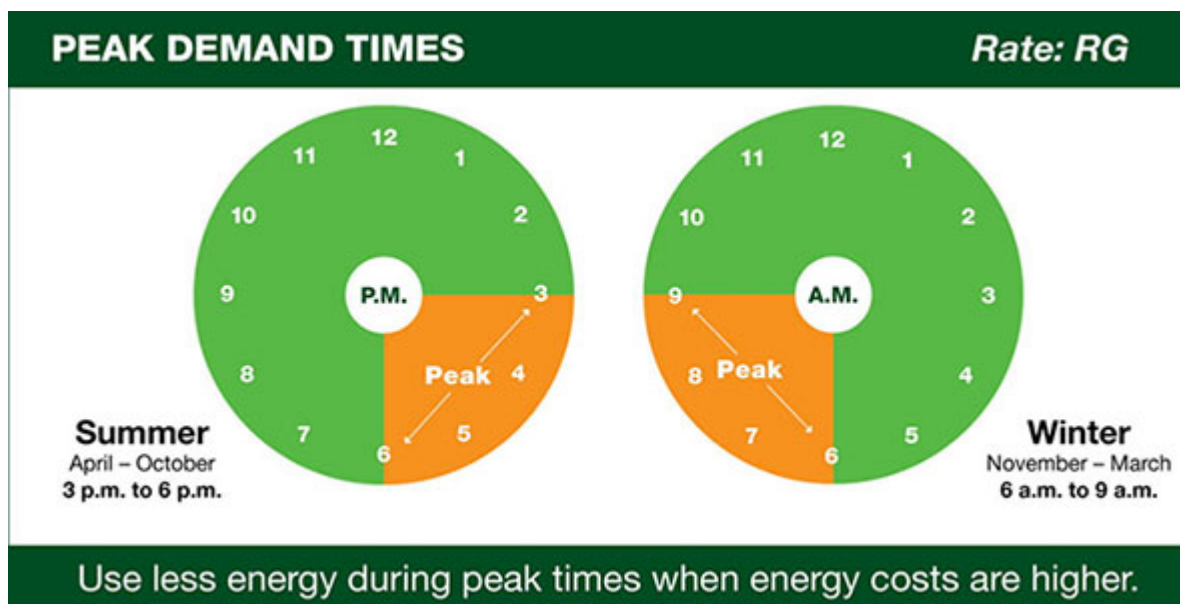
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Shepherd,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Bill

Last Name: Carner

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000675

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Strongley opposed

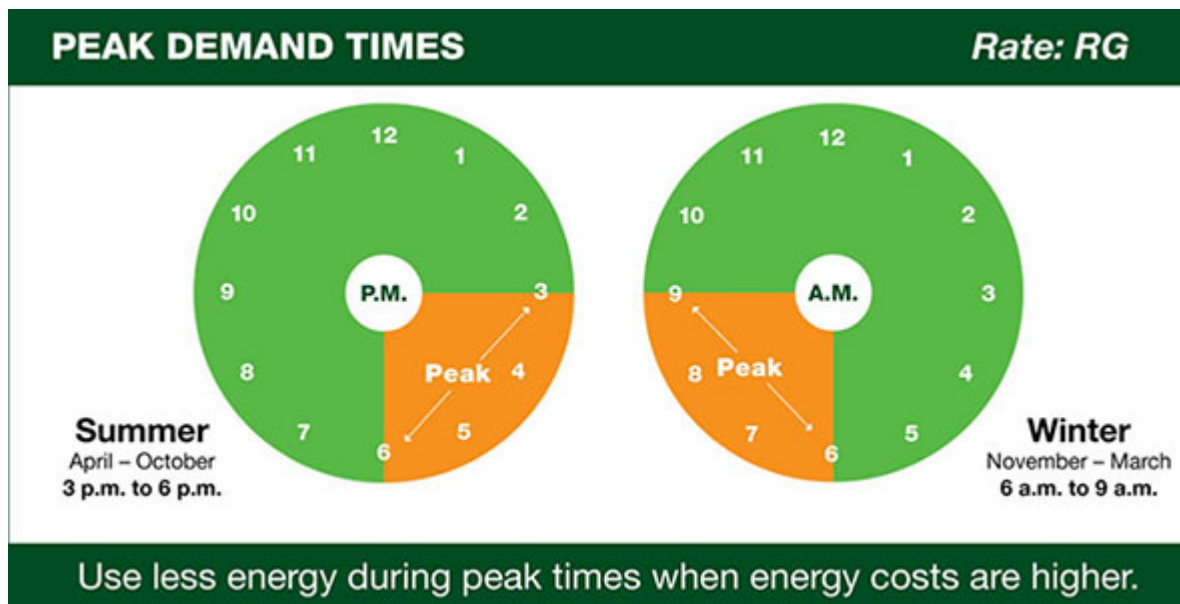
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Carner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: James

Last Name: Grapes

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000676

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

New Surprise Charge Could be Coming to Santee Cooper Customer Bills. Are you nuts? This adjustment should NOT be considered at all, any of it!!! We SENIORS are having enough trouble keeping our nose above water in our present economy.

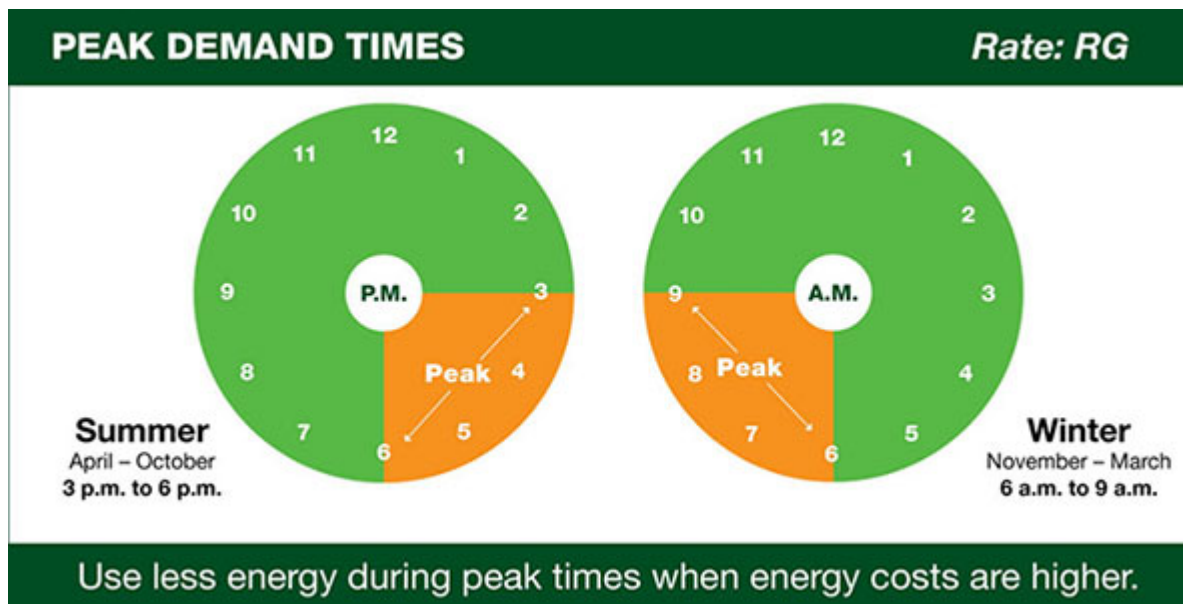
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Grapes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lauren and Michael **Last Name:** Mineri
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29577

SC Reference # : SC000000677

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Hello We are not interested in this !!! Santee Cooper wants to add a new surprise charge to your utility bill. In addition to the customer and energy charge, the utility wants to add a new demand charge where you pay more for the peak amount of electricity used in any hour in the month during a daily three-hour time window. Peak demand charge hours would be 3-6 p.m. in summer months and 6-9 a.m. in winter months. Confused? You should be. Few utilities use this onerous way of billing residential customers for this very reason. And you won't know what the charge is until you get your bill. When you add up these two rate charges and an increase in the customer charge, the average customer could see an 8.7% increase for residential electric customers beginning in April 2025. Definitely not!! Lauren & Michael Mineri

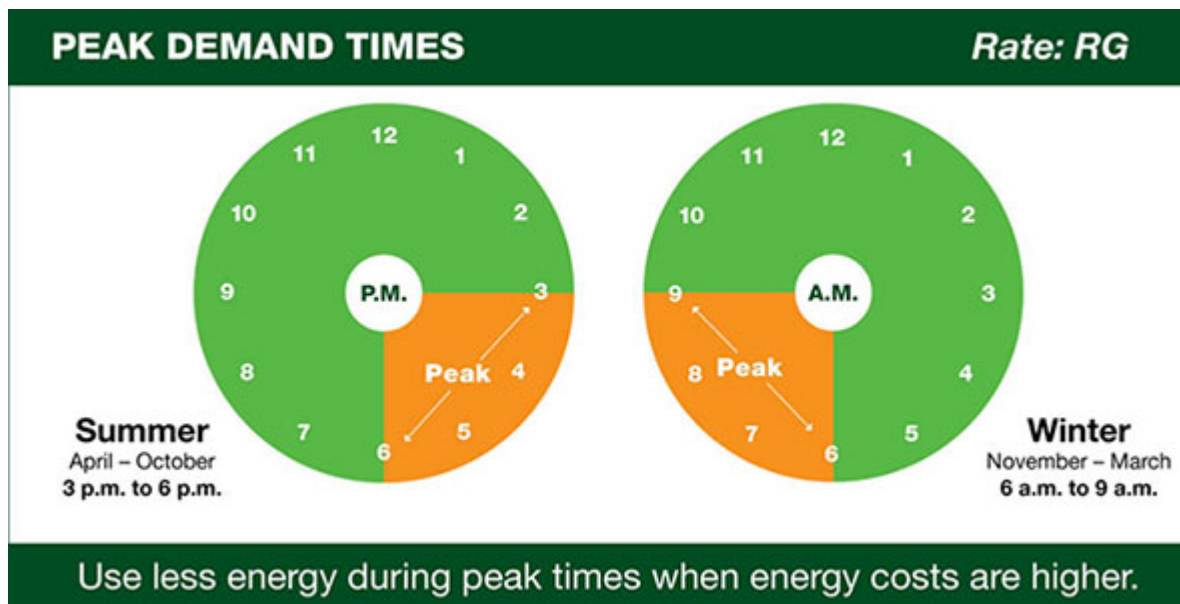
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mineri,

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By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

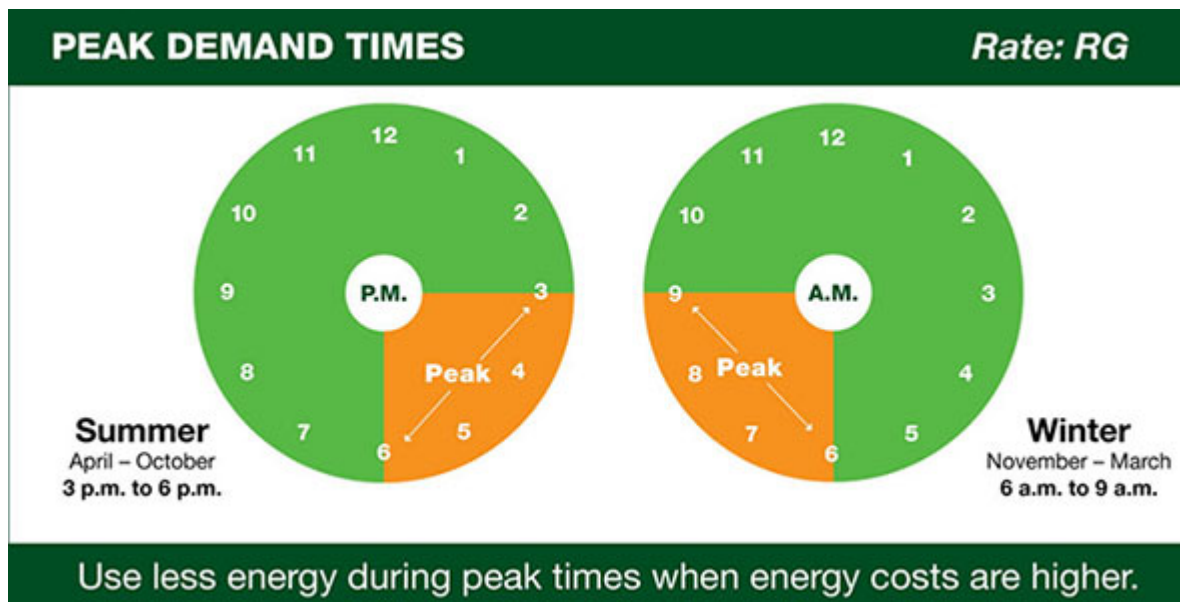
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Svoboda,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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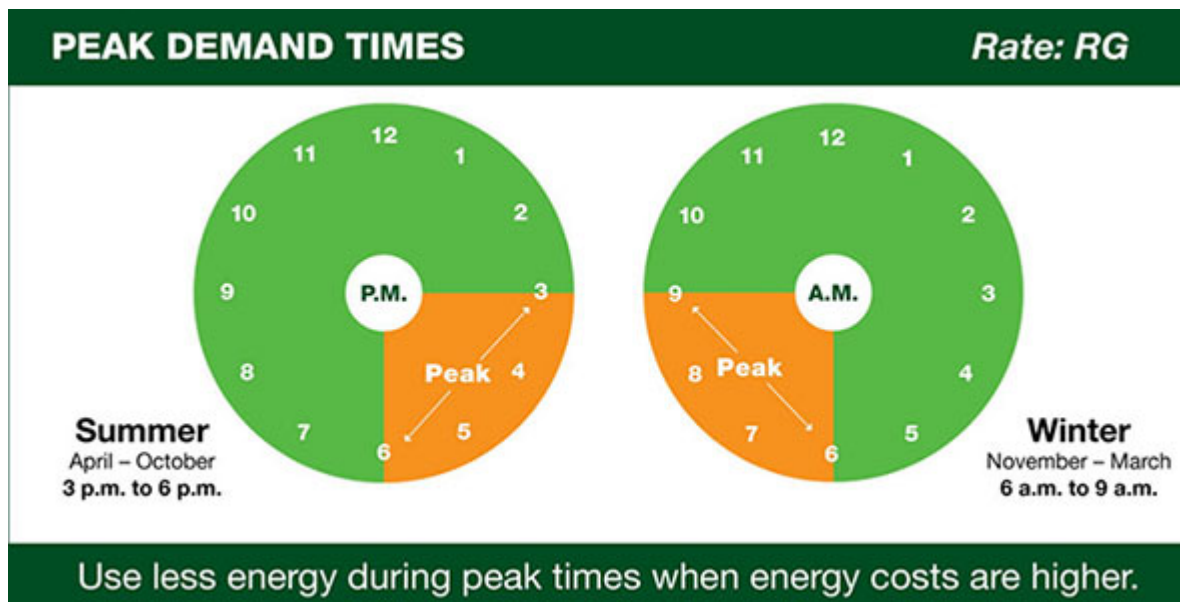
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Dear Mr. Lamond,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jimmy

Last Name: Johnson

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000680

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Do not do it!

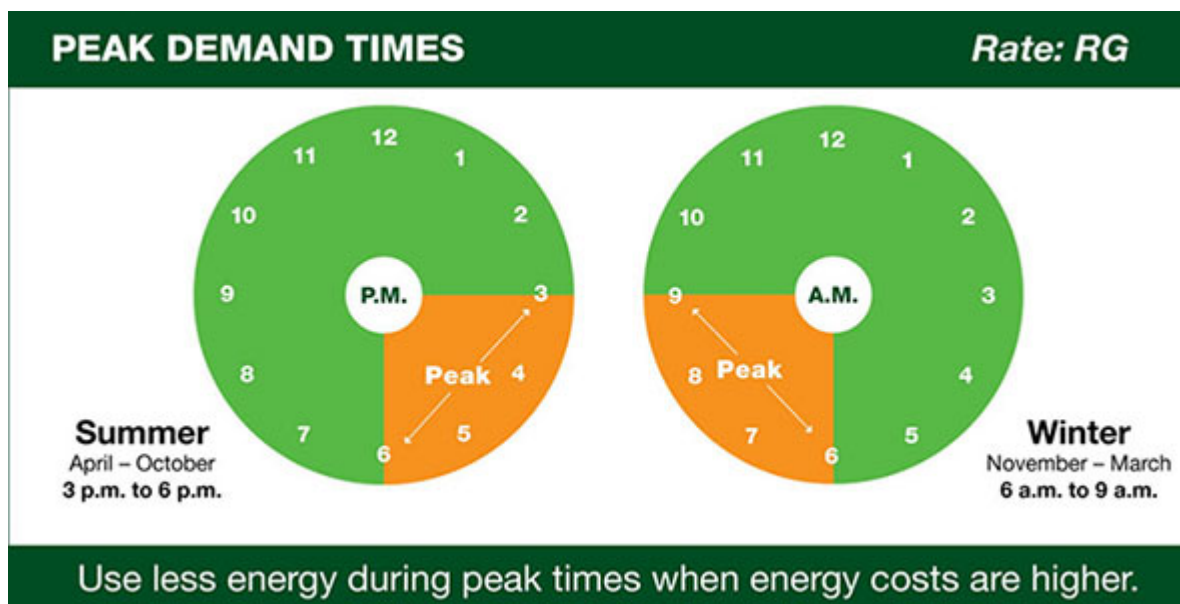
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Johnson,

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

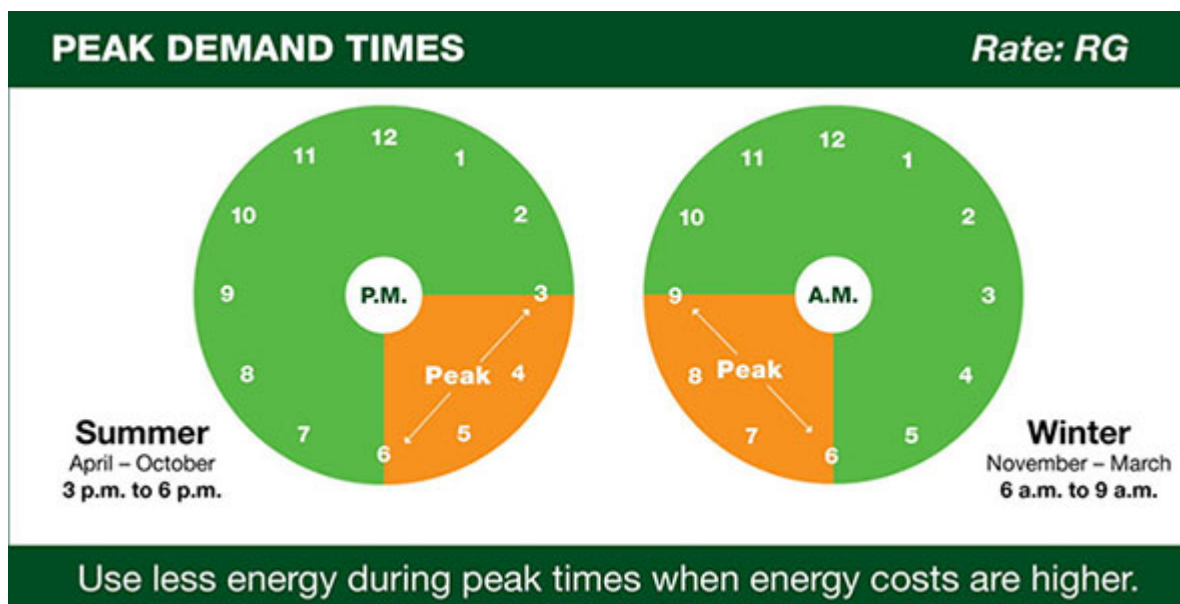
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Harrington,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

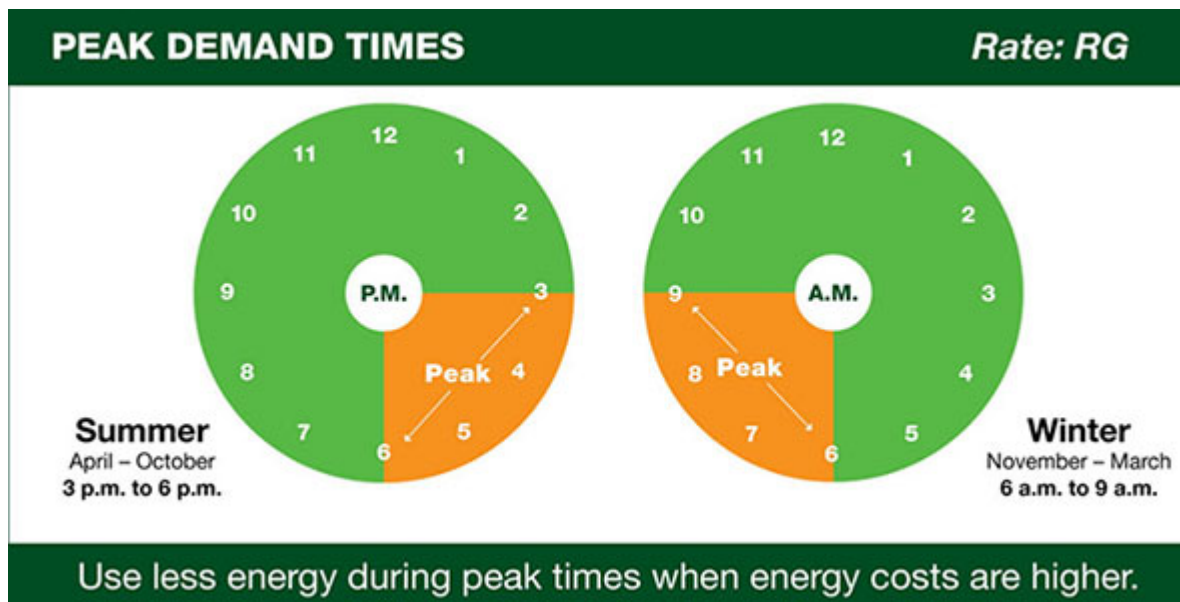
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Dear Ms. Ostrom,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Jennings,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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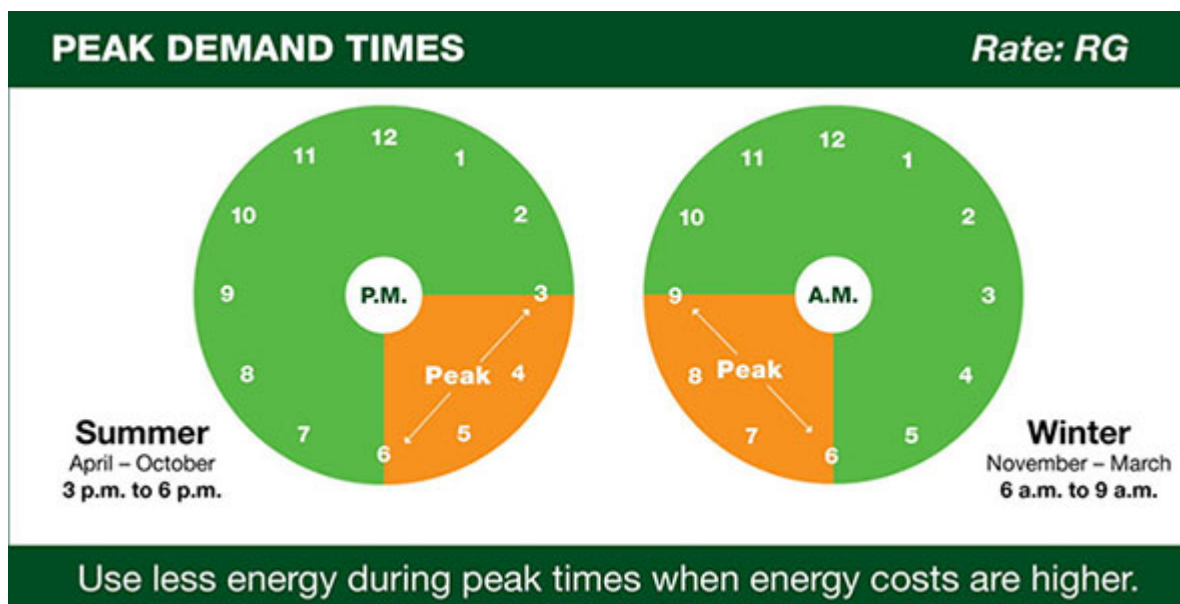
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Stancil,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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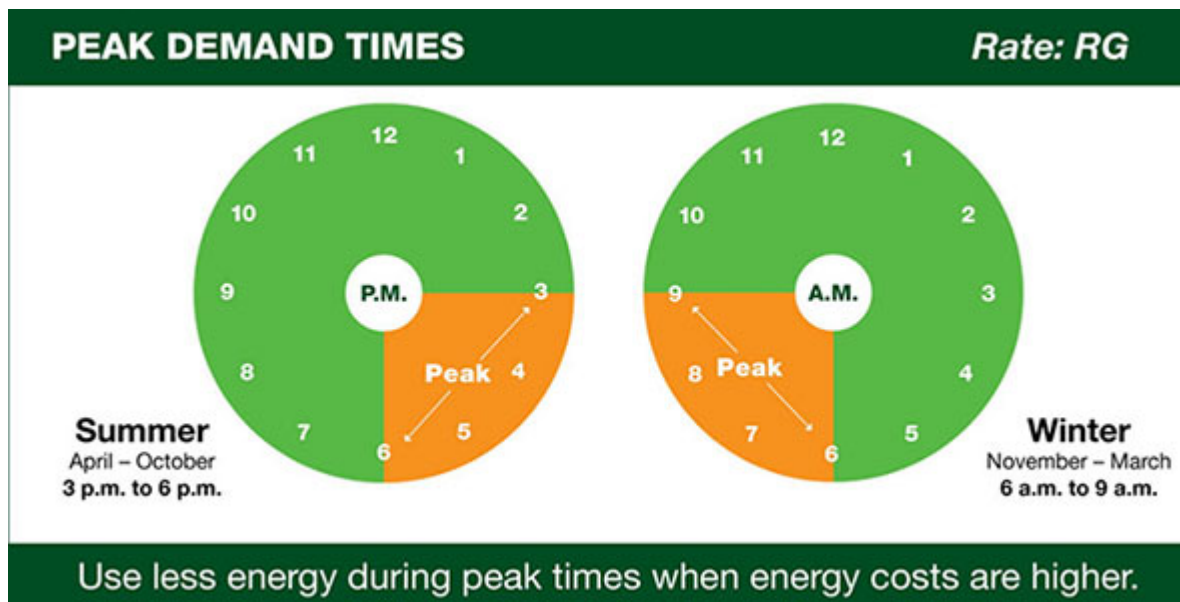
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Welch,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rebecca

Last Name: Odell

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000686

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Are you guys CRAZY?????

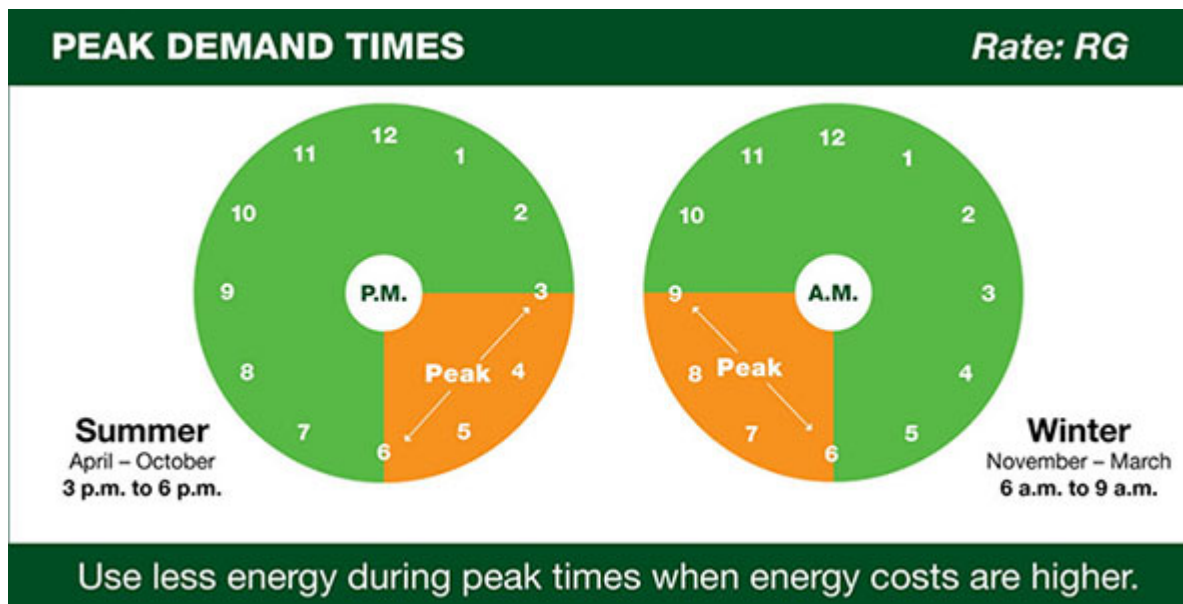
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Odell,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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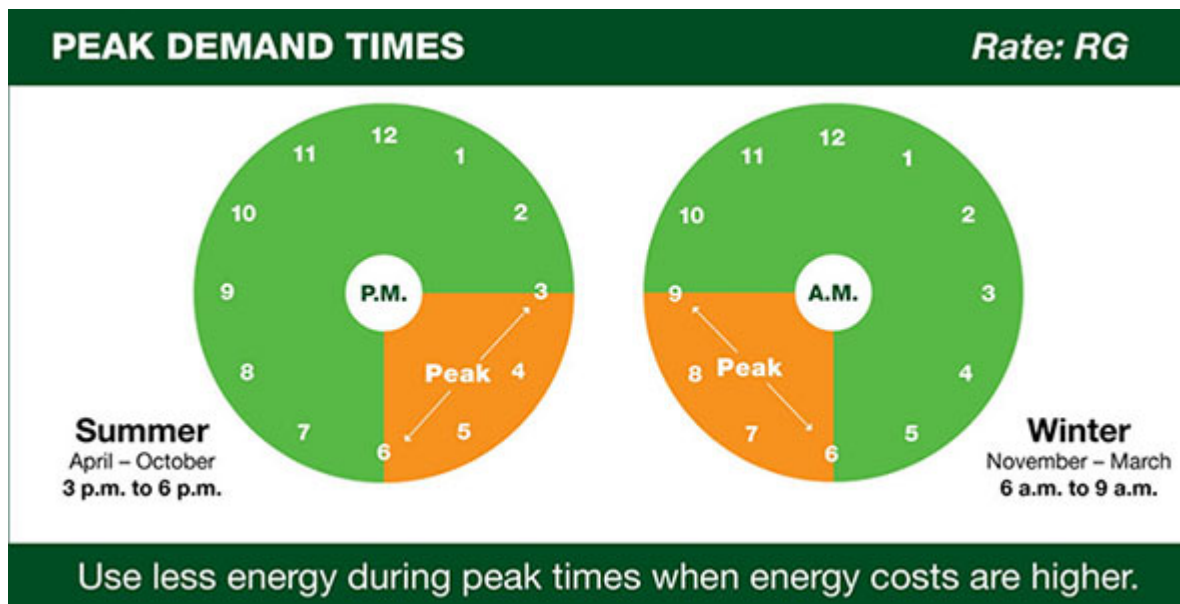
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Grimsley,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Tammy

Last Name: Barker

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000688

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We are not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment.. The Barkers

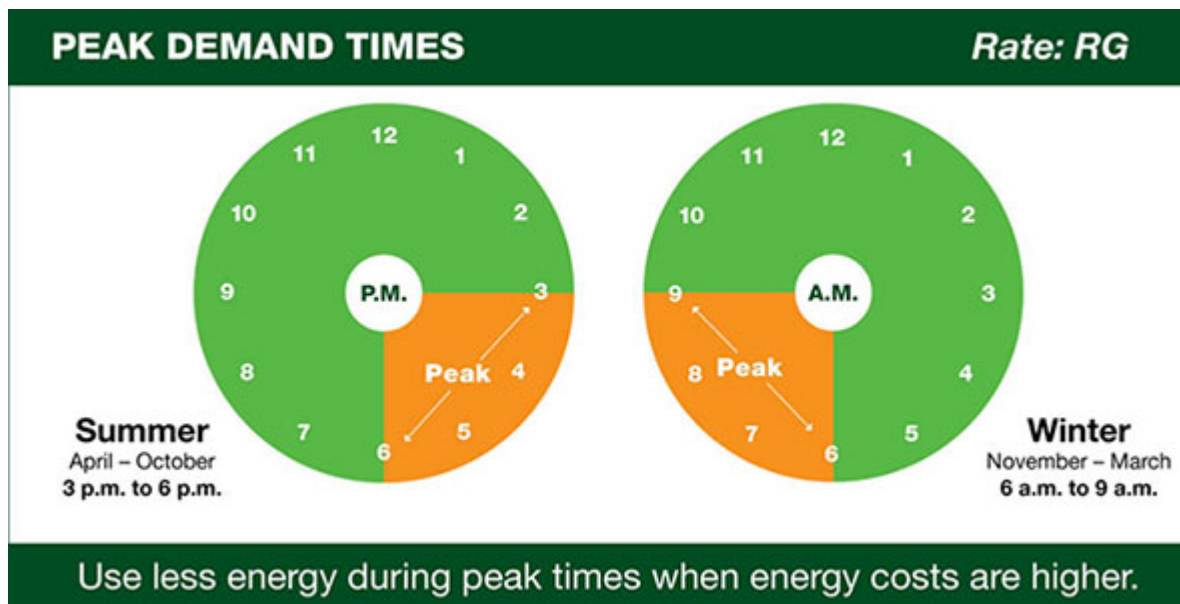
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Barker,

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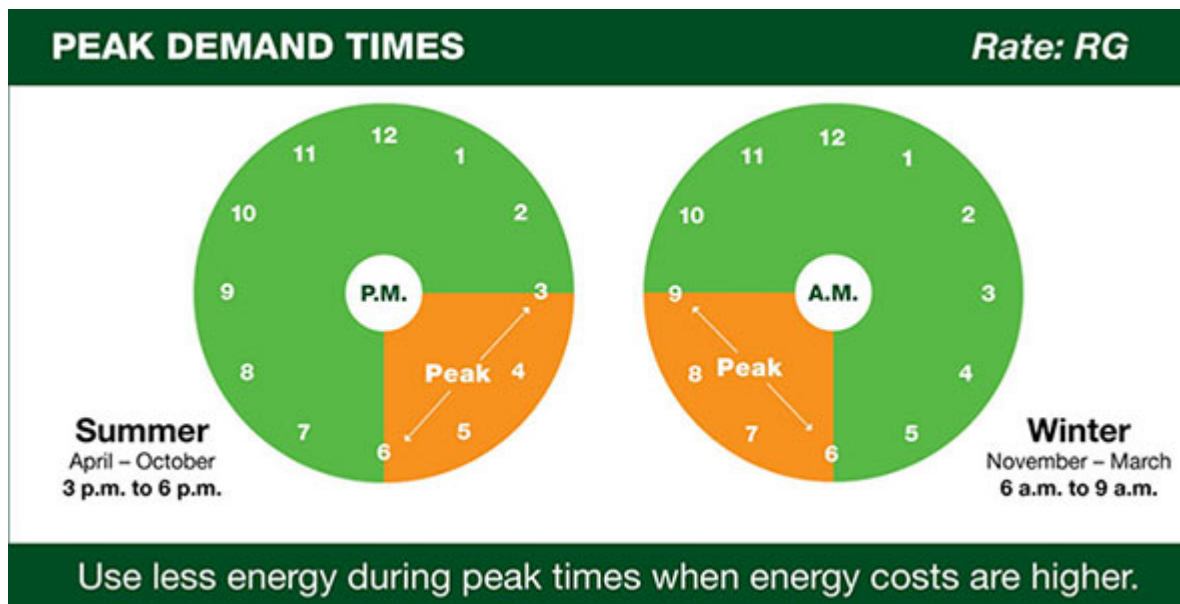
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Dear Ms. Burgess,

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Santee Cooper

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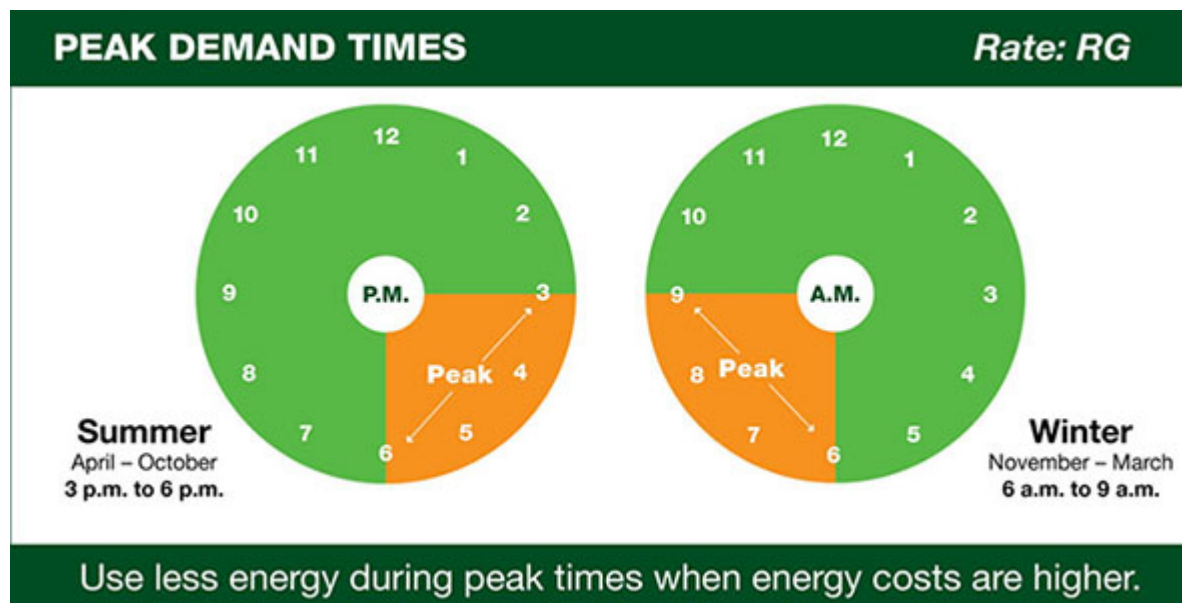


Dear Ms. Hayes,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ted

Last Name: Tompkins

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000691

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I don't agree with your anticipated change to compute my rate!!

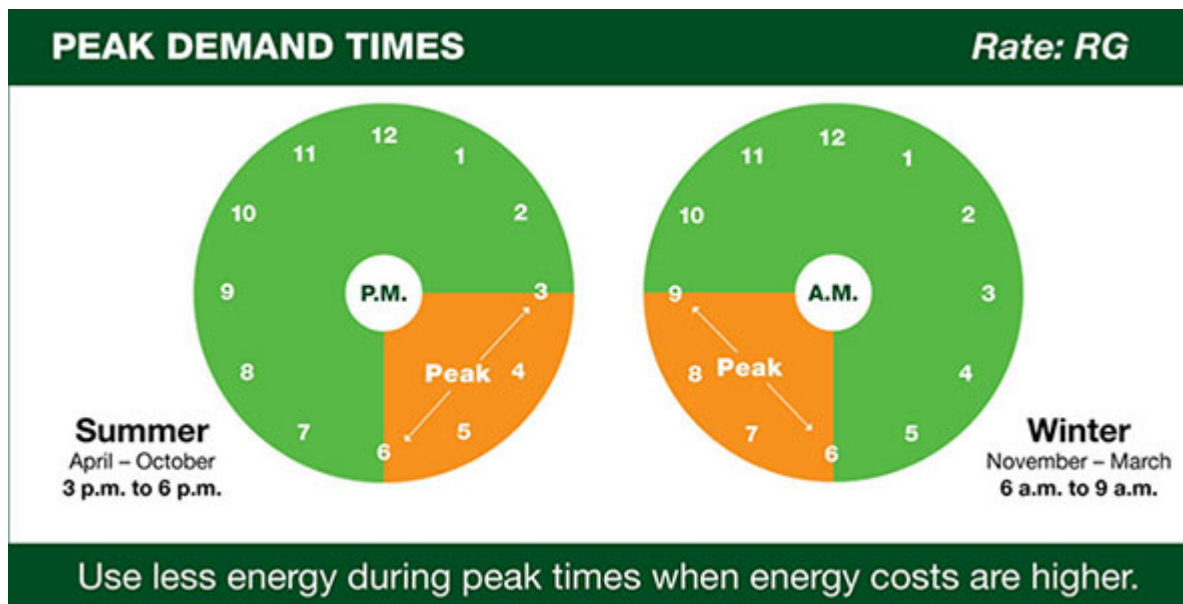
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Tompkins,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jason

Last Name: Dyer

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000692

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

i am a member and i don't understand anything about the 3 way system you want to change to. i have read the notice you sent out and i have been trying to use the time system your talking about. we were paying .12 a khw but recently the summer rate is .13 a khw . so how much more are you going up if we don't want the new system. i am going to have to say no to the change lorna howell. myrtle beach

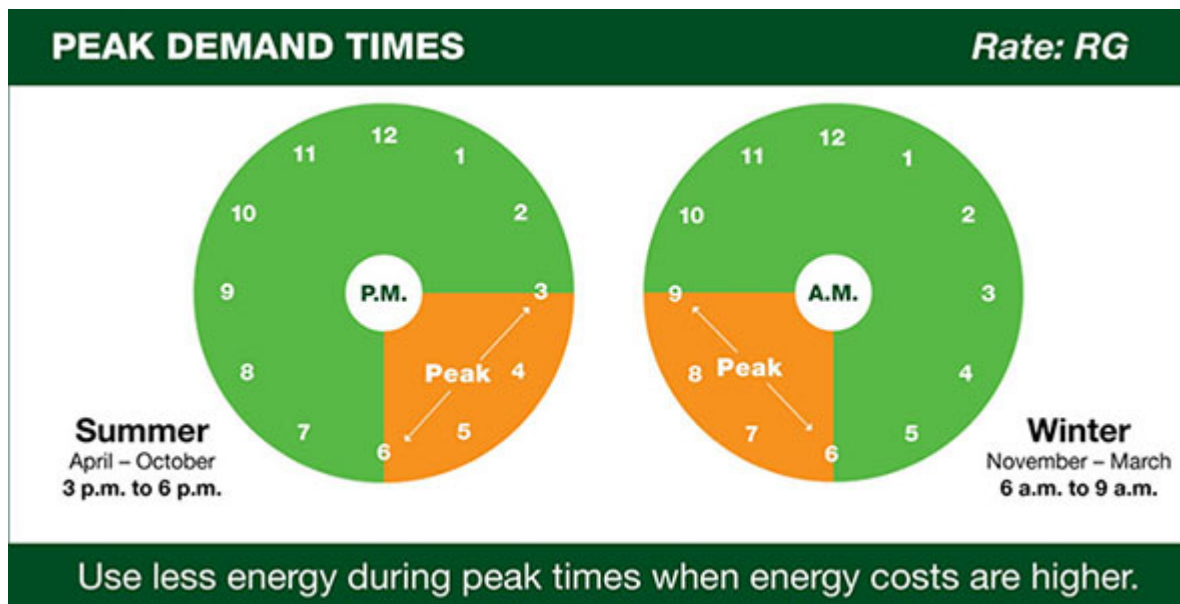
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Dyer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Sherry	Last Name:	Blasdel
Organization:			
City:	Conway	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29526	

SC Reference # : SC0000000693

Date Submitted:	9/6/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I do NOT agree with you billing more for electricity used during certain times of the day. This is very confusing and Is hard for we Senior Citizens to be able to track. I find this to be very confusing and think that a flat rate is much easier to keep track.

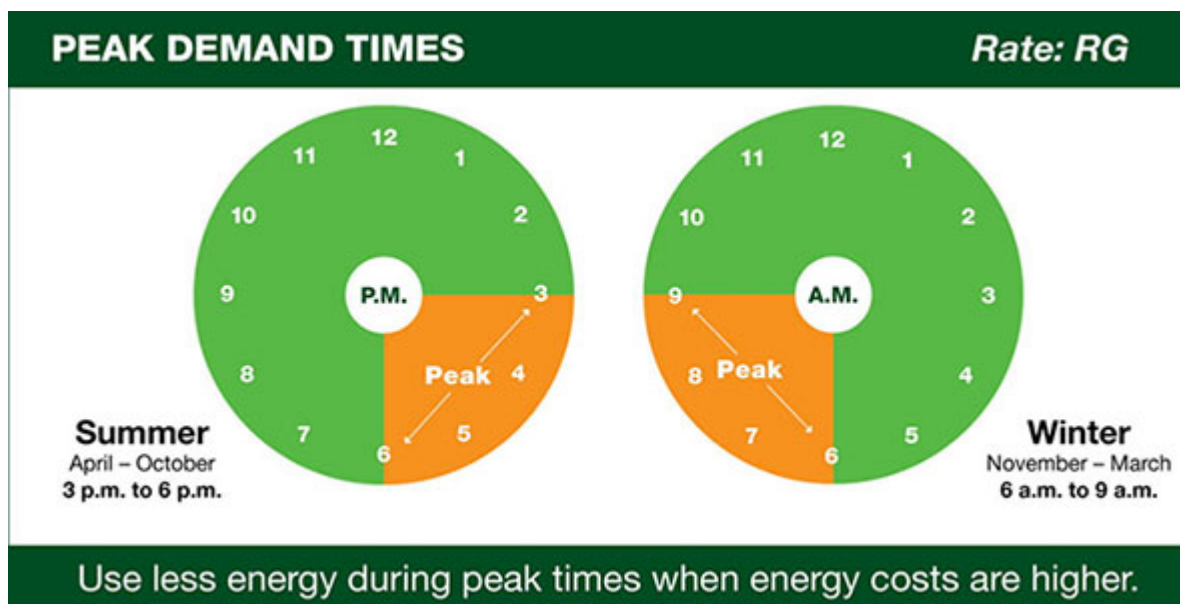
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Blasdel,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

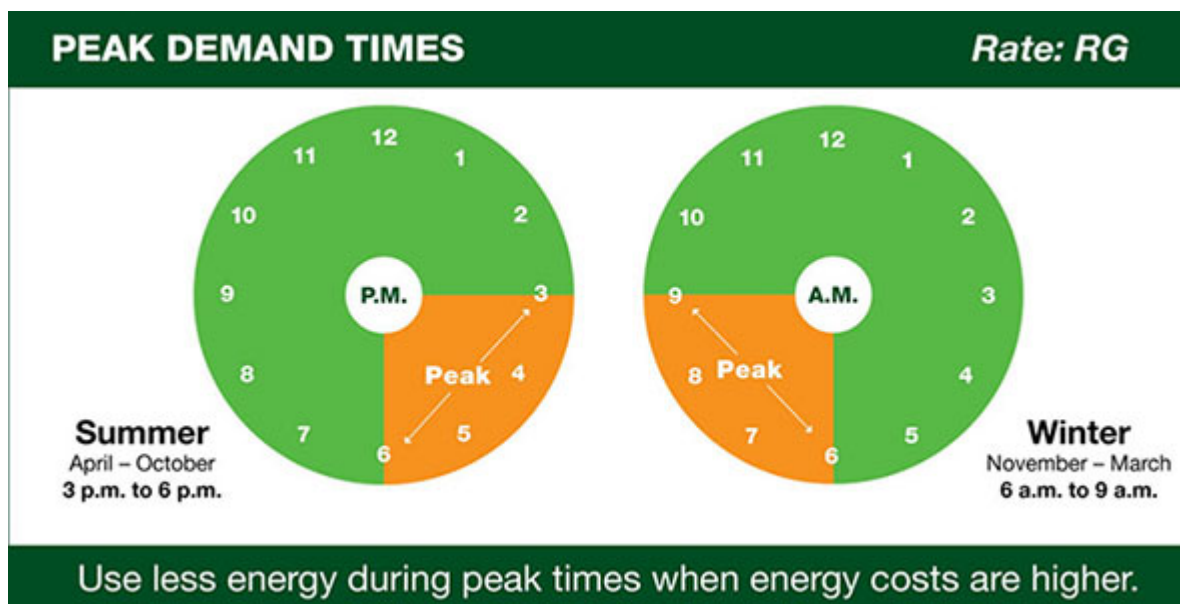
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Whinnery,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Justin

Last Name: Kikani

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000695

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I just became a Santee cooper customer. I want to write in that I strongly oppose the use of a tiered rate structure. I don't want to chase the clock, I want straightforward billing so I can plan my finances accordingly. Again I strongly oppose any changes to the rate structure that are being proposed.

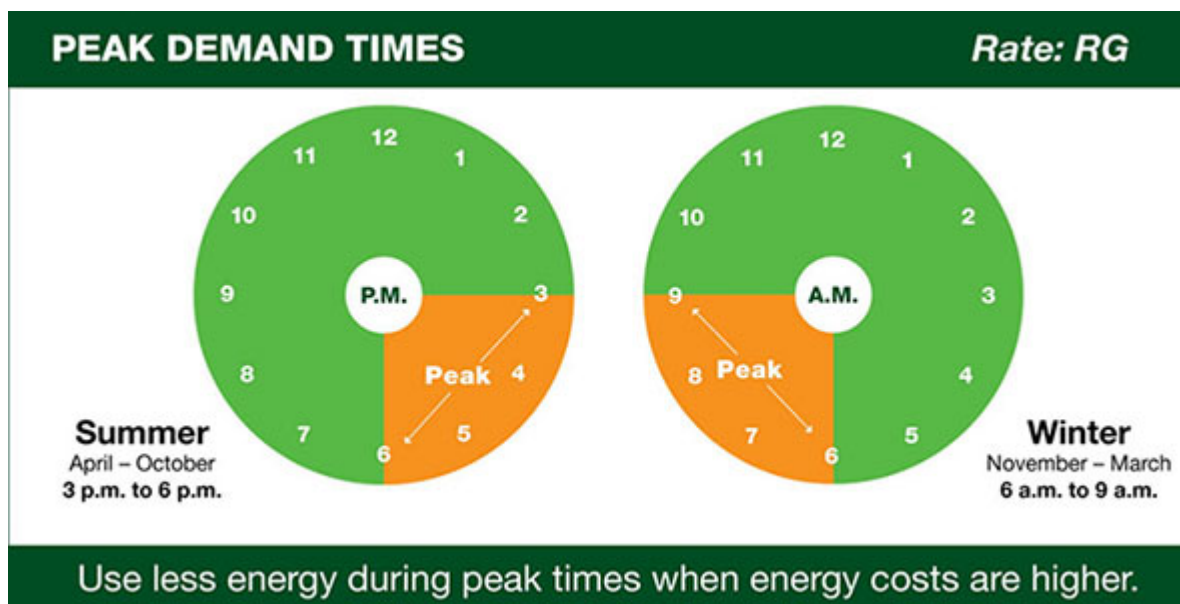
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Kikani,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

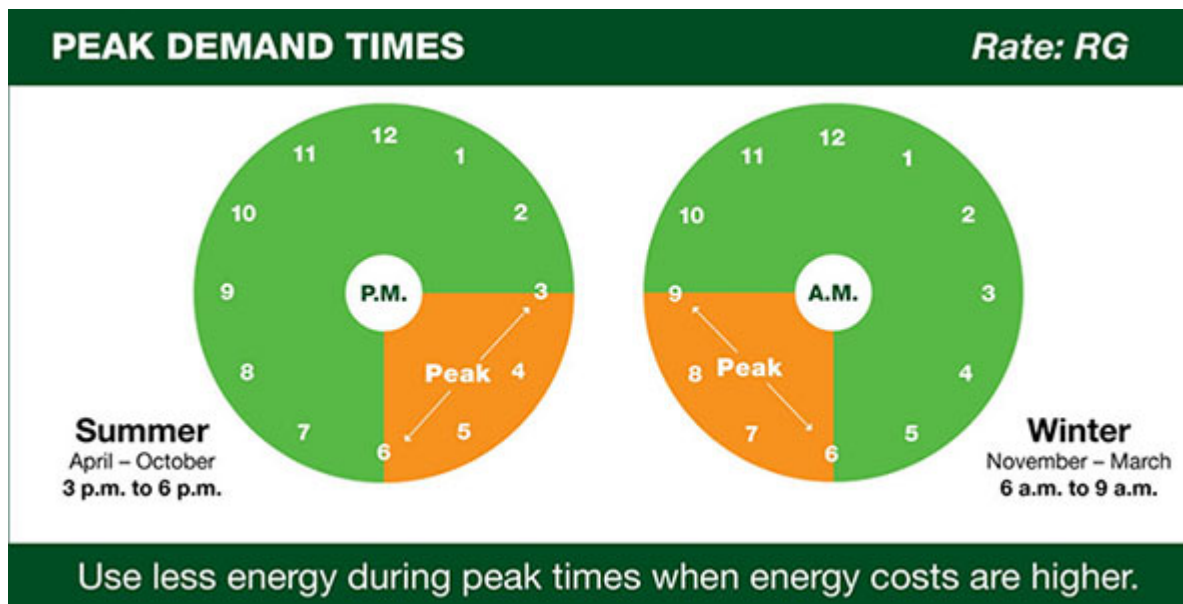
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Blanchard,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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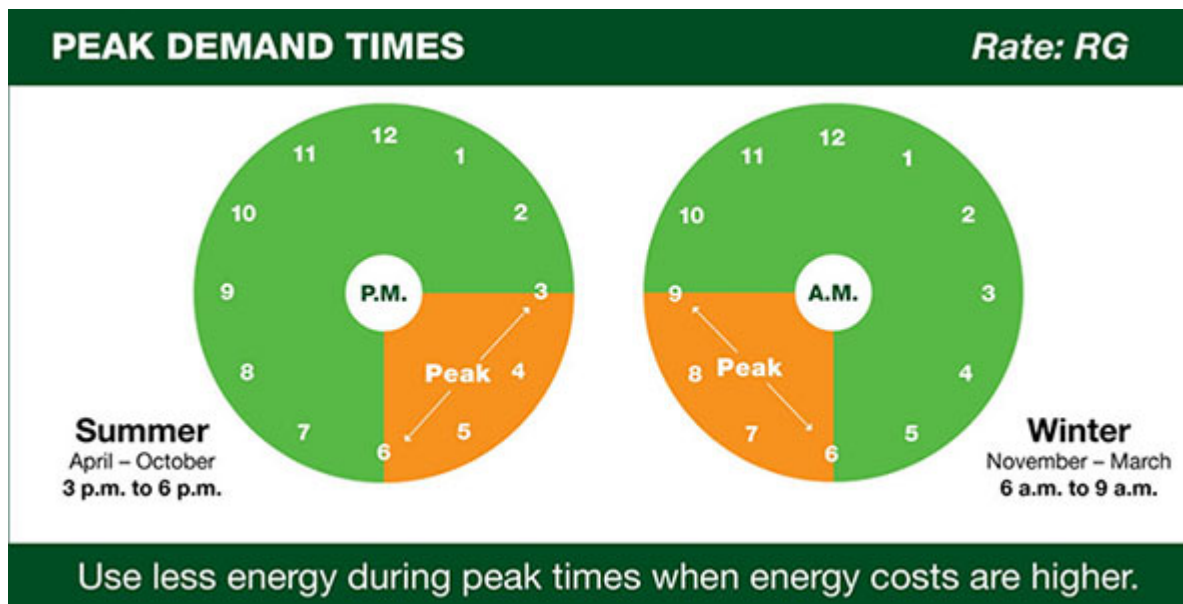
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Bachleda,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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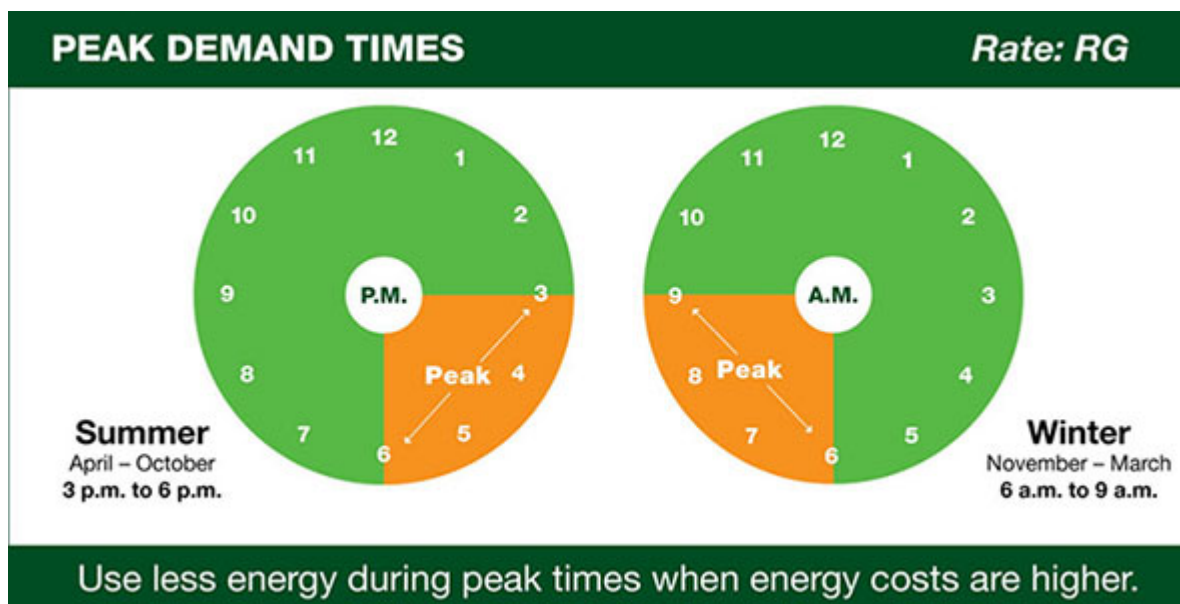
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Dear Ms. Krupke,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
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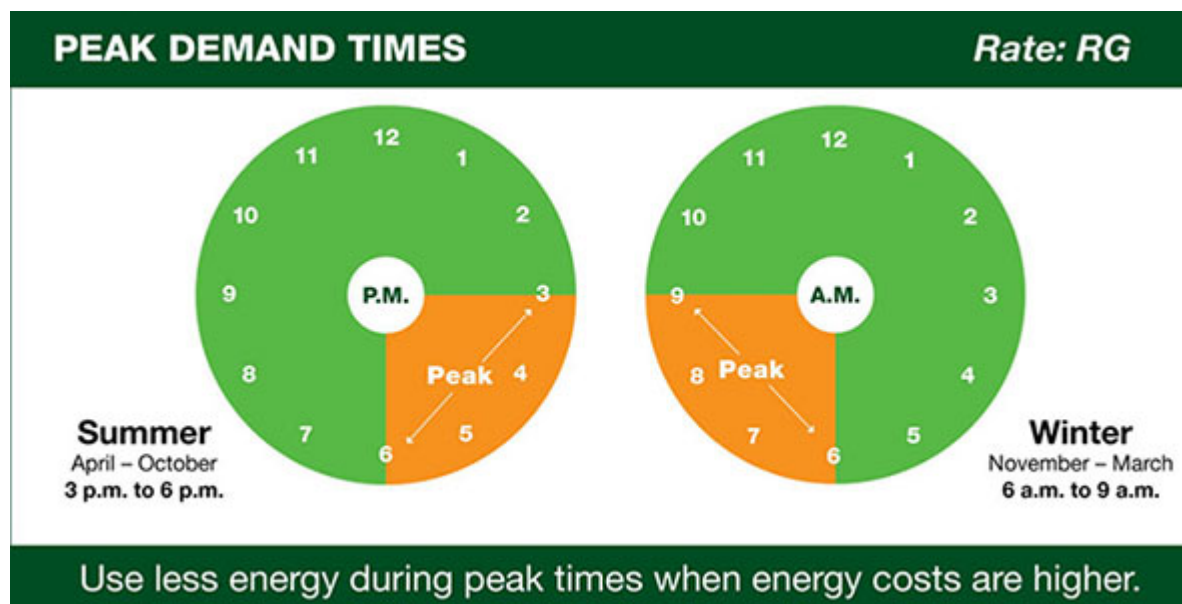
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mckenzie,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017,

moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Scott	Last Name:	Welsh
Organization:			
City:	Longs	Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:	SC	29568	

SC Reference # : SC0000000612

Date Submitted:	9/6/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I do not want to be a part of your three tier rate plan now or in the future. I respectfully request you abide by my wish. Sincerely, Scott Welsh

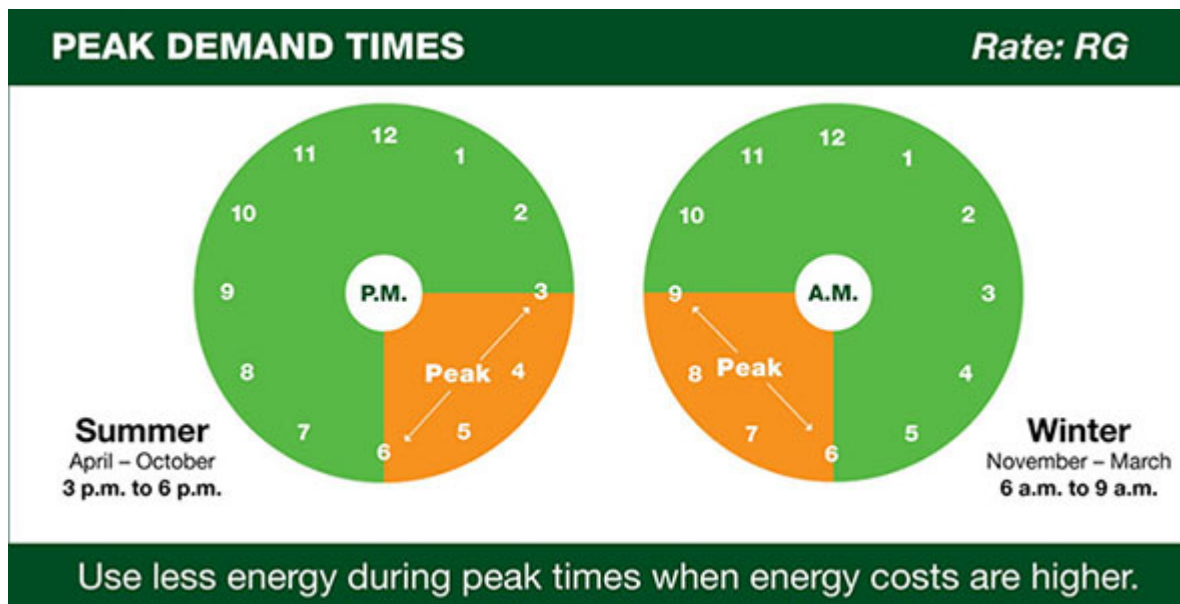
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Dear Mr. Welsh,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John

Last Name: NO LAST NAME

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000613

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

To it may concern, I'm not interested in this new electric rate structure adjustment that you want to start in April of 2025.

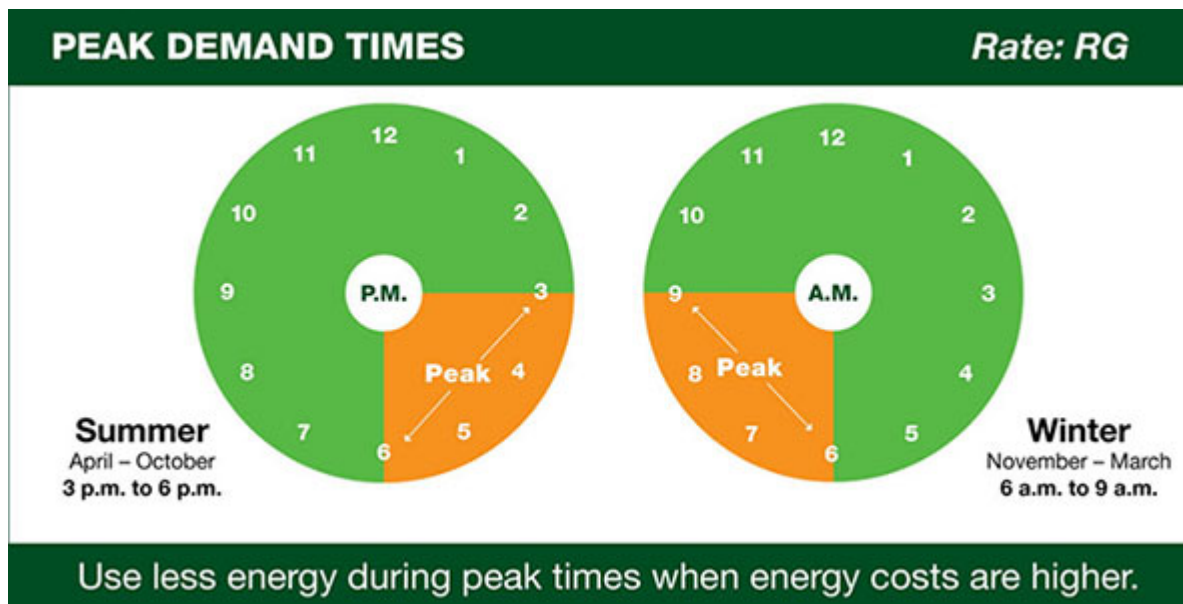
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Dear John,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

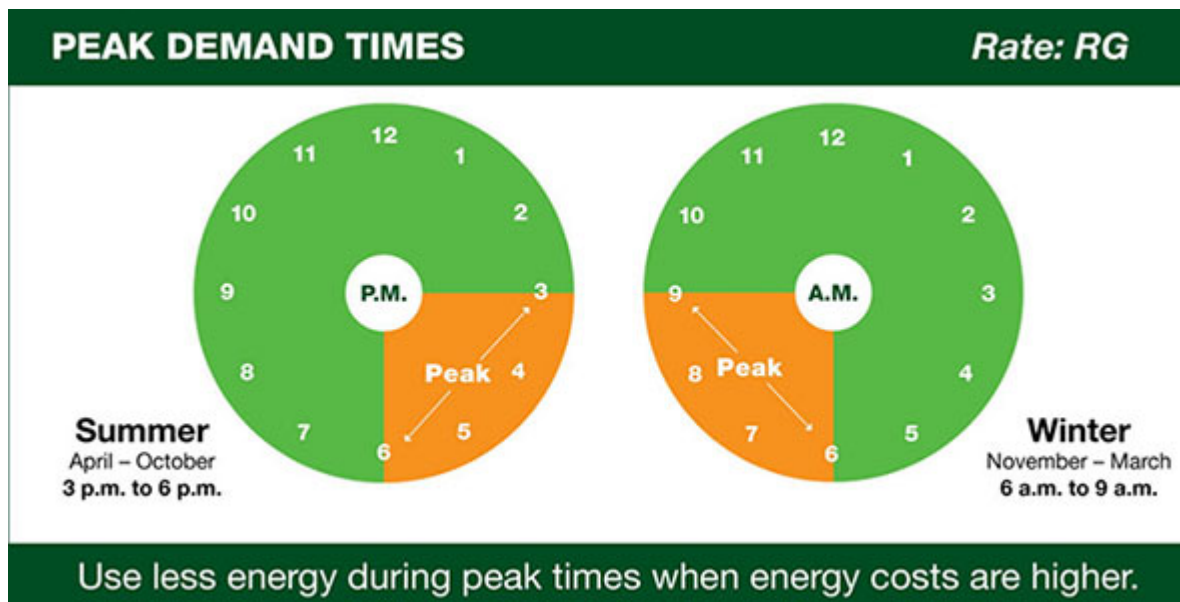
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Dear Dr. Brna,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Solomon

Last Name: Simmons

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000615

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I'm not interested in new rates charged

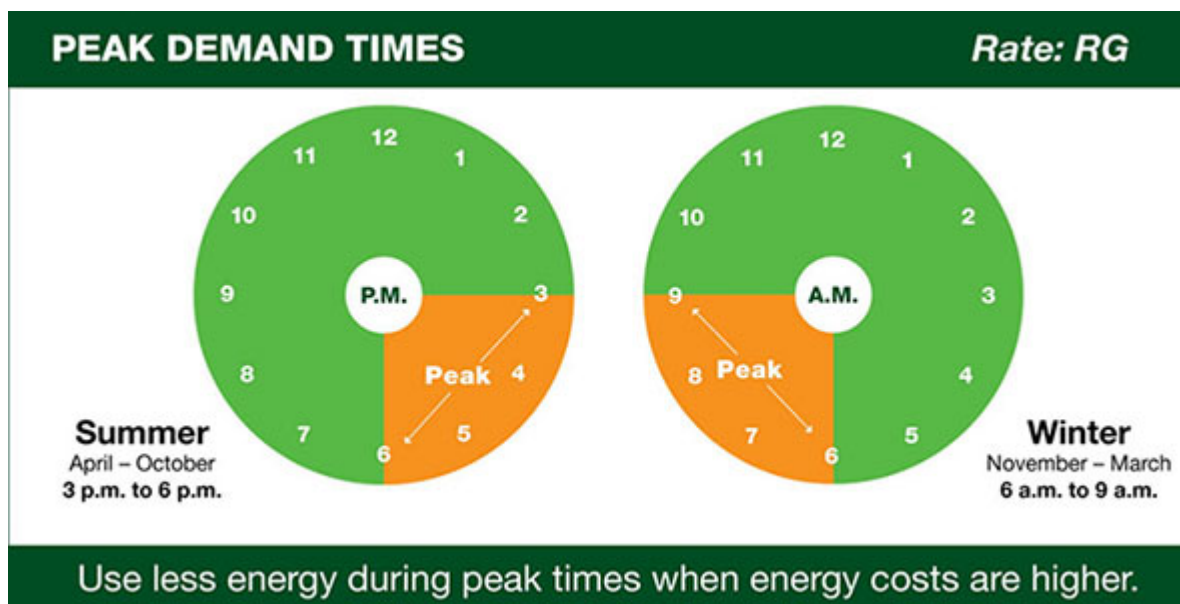
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Dear Mr. Simmons,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Bruce and Michelle **Last Name:** Morgan
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000616

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper Decision-Makers, We understand that you are considering going to a new 3-part billing that will charge higher rates during peak times in summer and winter. We strongly oppose this system due to the fact that we live on Social Security Disability Income and our income is fixed. Therefore, any rate increases on your part will negatively impact us greatly. Please reconsider this plan, for the sake of your long-time, loyal customers. Thank you for your time in reading this and consideration. Most sincerely, Bruce and Michelle Morgan

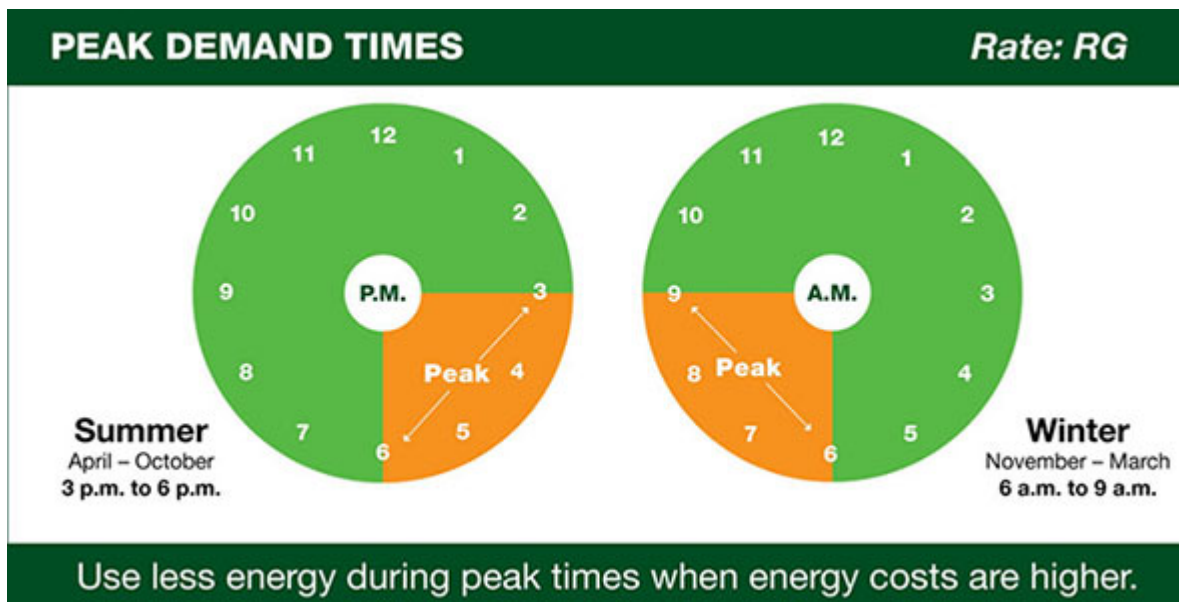
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Morgan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

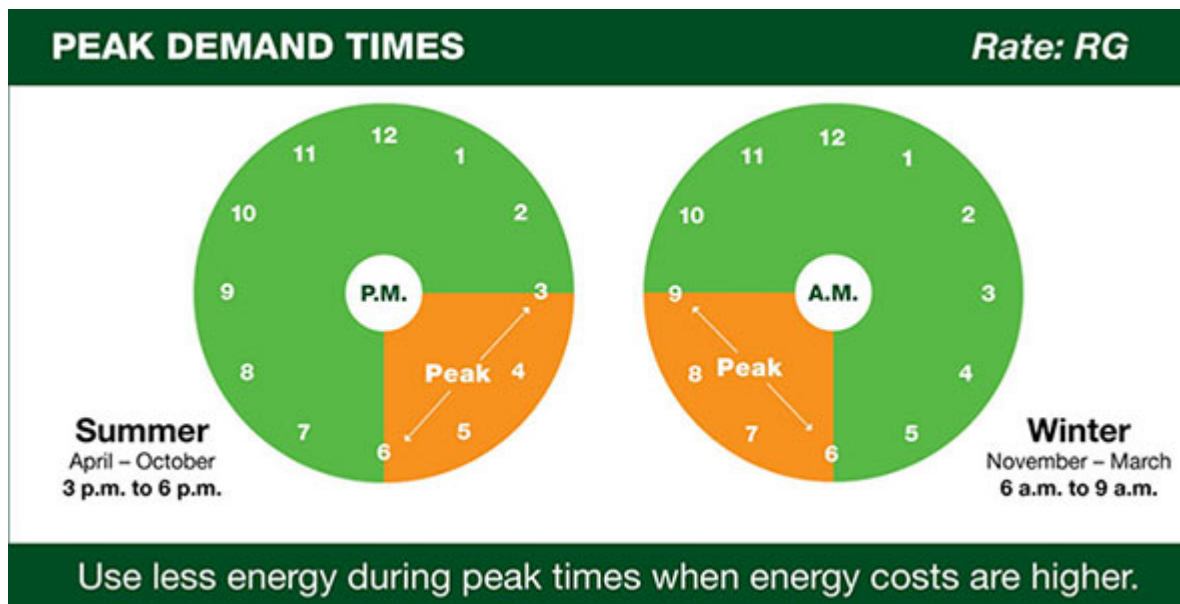
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Bussell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dona

Last Name: Lee

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000618

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Santee Cooper, I do not support your new rate system. Dona Lee RE/MAX Southern Shores

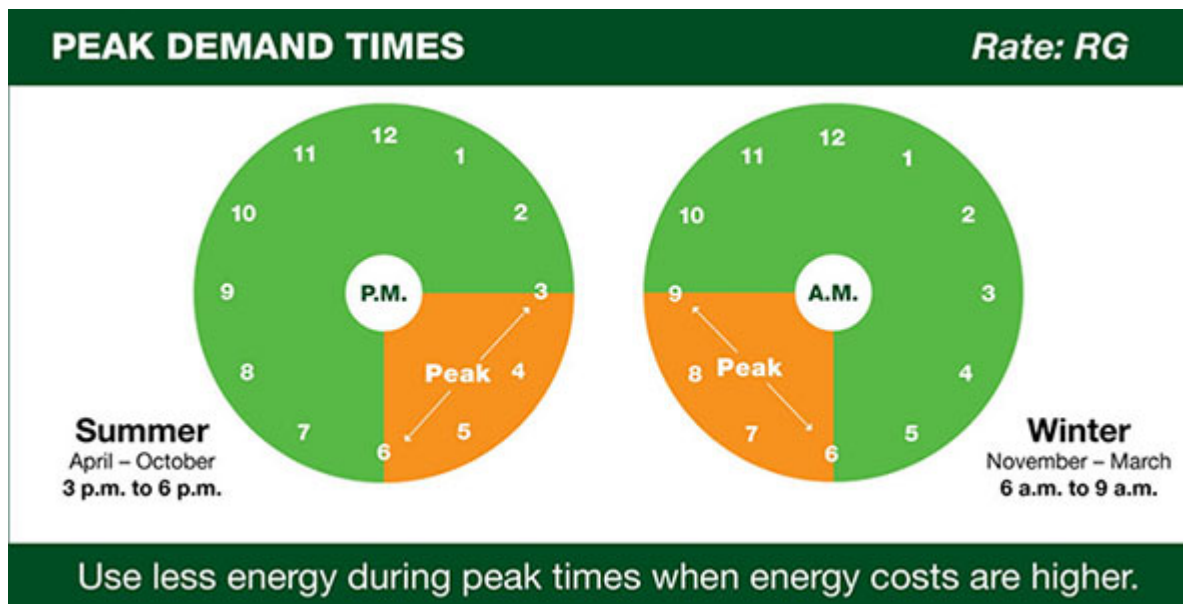
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Lee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Thomas

Last Name: Hall

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000619

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Dear Reader: I am not interested in participating in your new rate pricing system. My name is Thomas Price Hall. My address is **[REDACTED]** Myrtle Beach, SC; 29579-5152. I wish to continue on the present system. Thank you, Thomas Hall

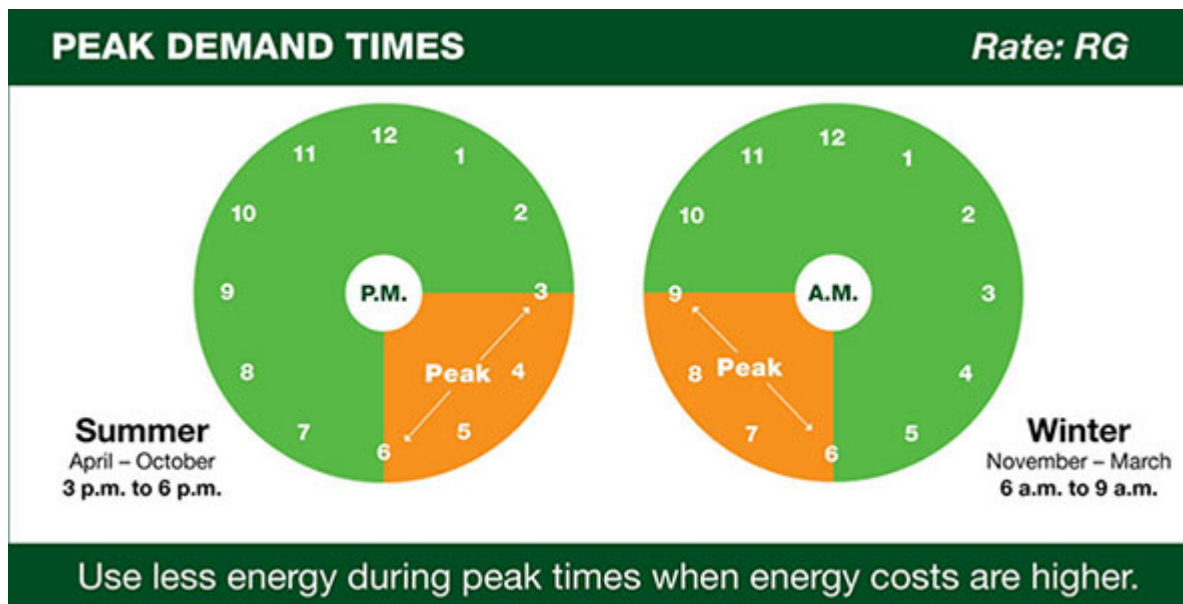
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hall,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: William

Last Name: Haws

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000620

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I do not want you to put into effect this surcharge you are proposing to make retired homeowners pay for this increase you have businesses that run equipment 24 hours a day seven days a week increase their usage rates. Leave us little guys alone. Thank you William Haws

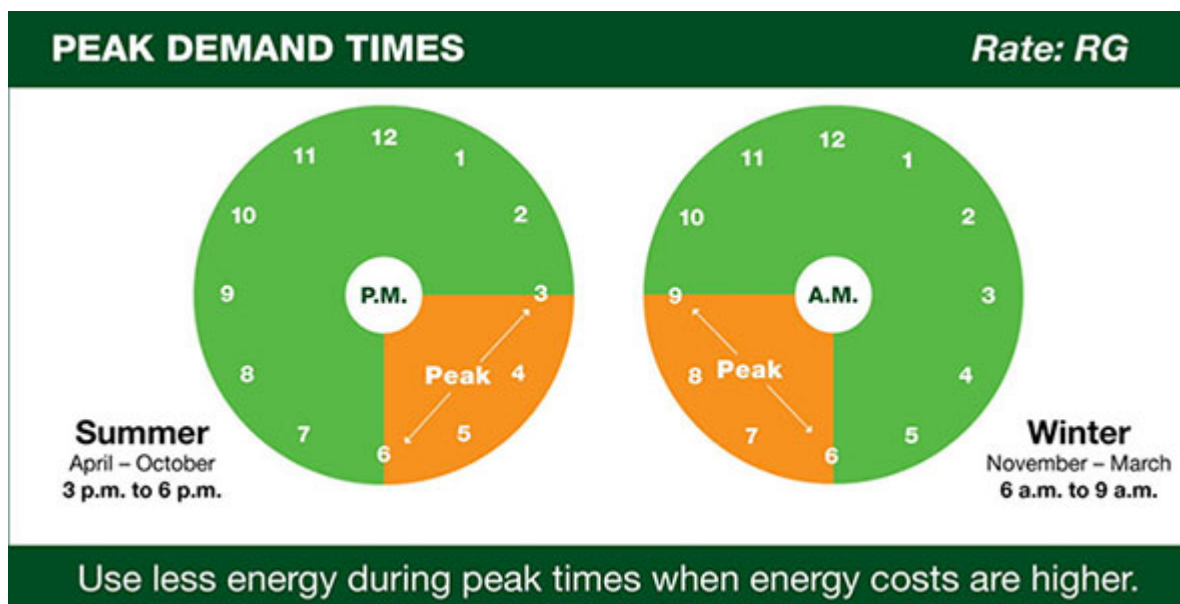
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Haws,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dori

Last Name: Blackledge

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000621

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am concerned about you charging for service. If this happens I will change my service to someone else.

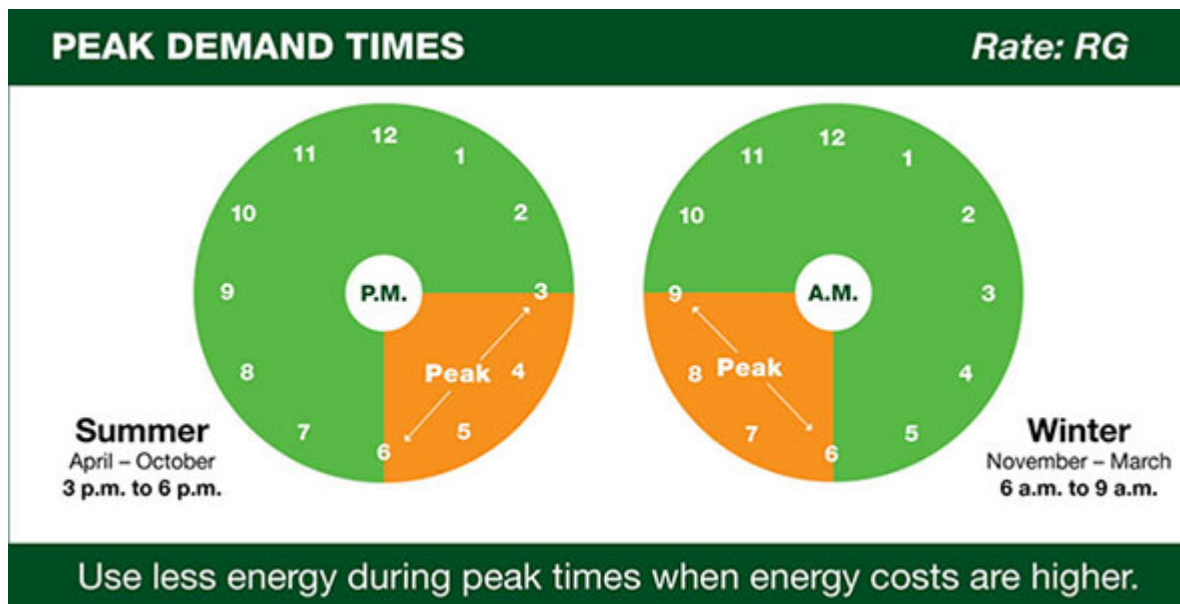
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Blackledge,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dave

Last Name: Potter

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000622

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment Dave Potter

[REDACTED]

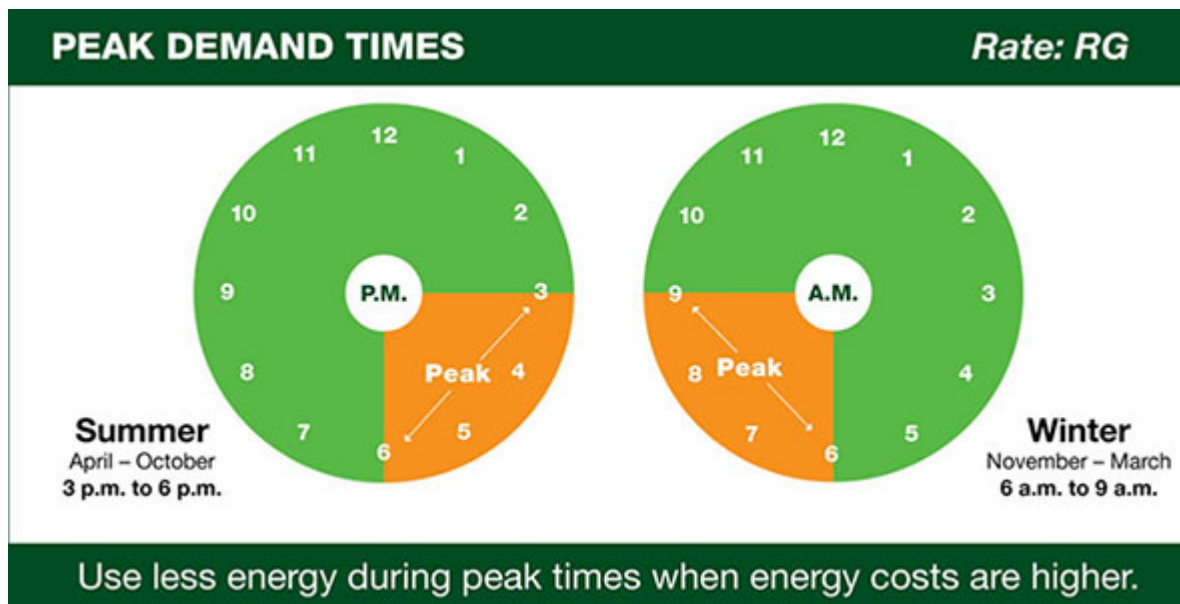
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Potter,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

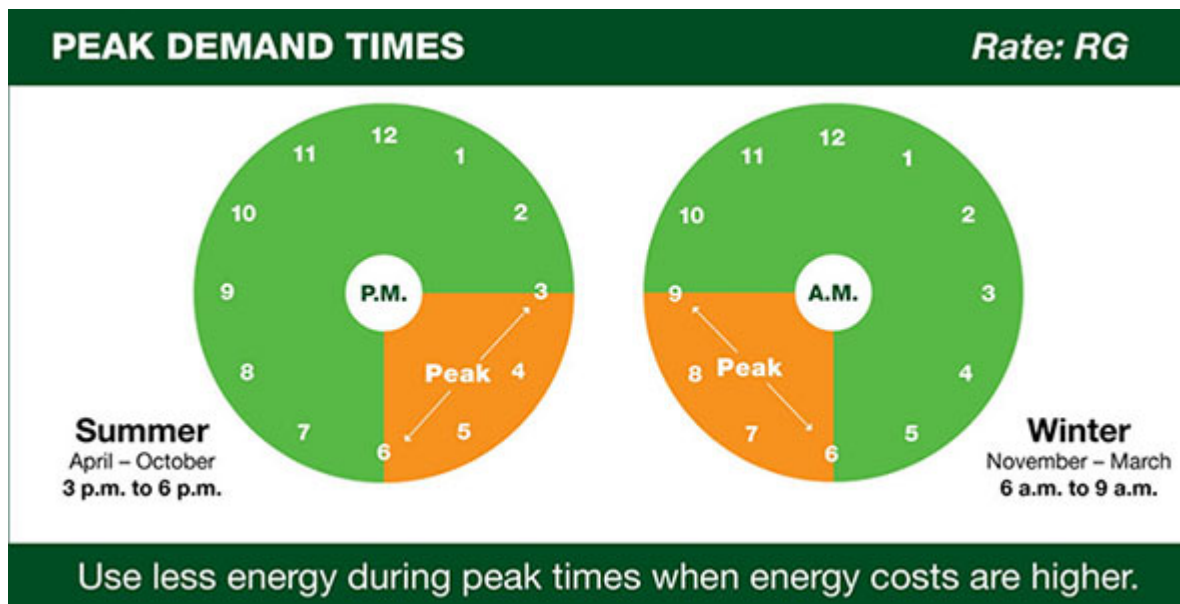
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Heal,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Stewart and Clarice **Last Name:** Sharp
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000624

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Stop. Confusing practice and unfair to consumers. If you have a desire to limit consumption during peak hours, communicate that and look for customer cooperation. Your britches are much too small for your presumed power and authority. Need for new leadership at your company!!! Stewart and Clarice Sharp

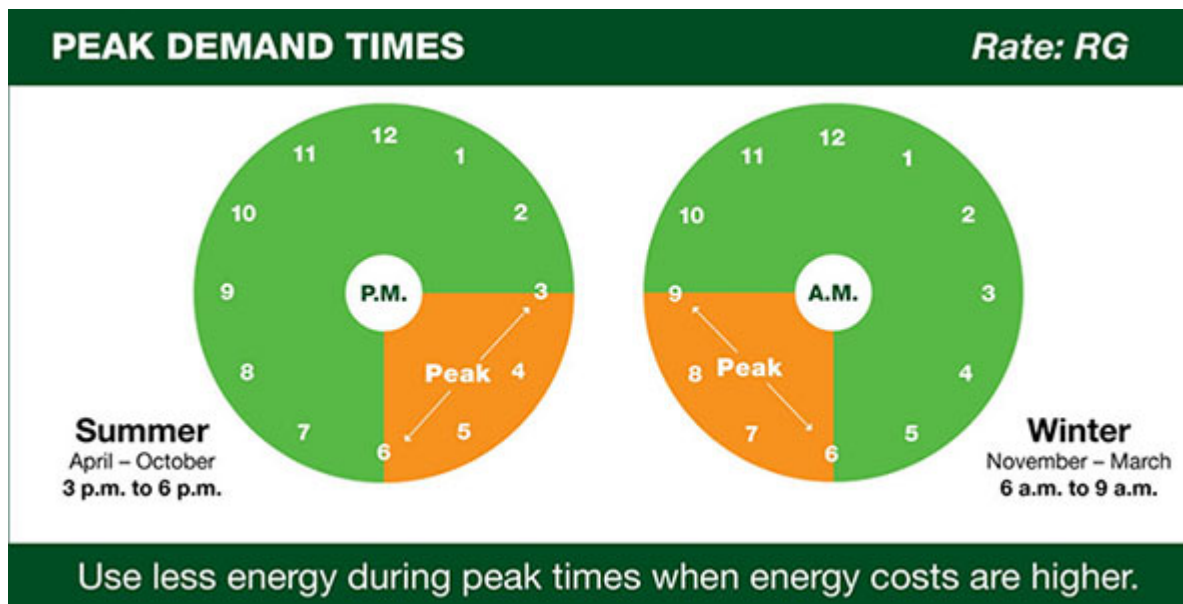
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sharp,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Eddie and Dianne **Last Name:** Mark
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000625

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

As residents of Horry County, we are not interested in this new rate structure. Eddie and Dianne Mark

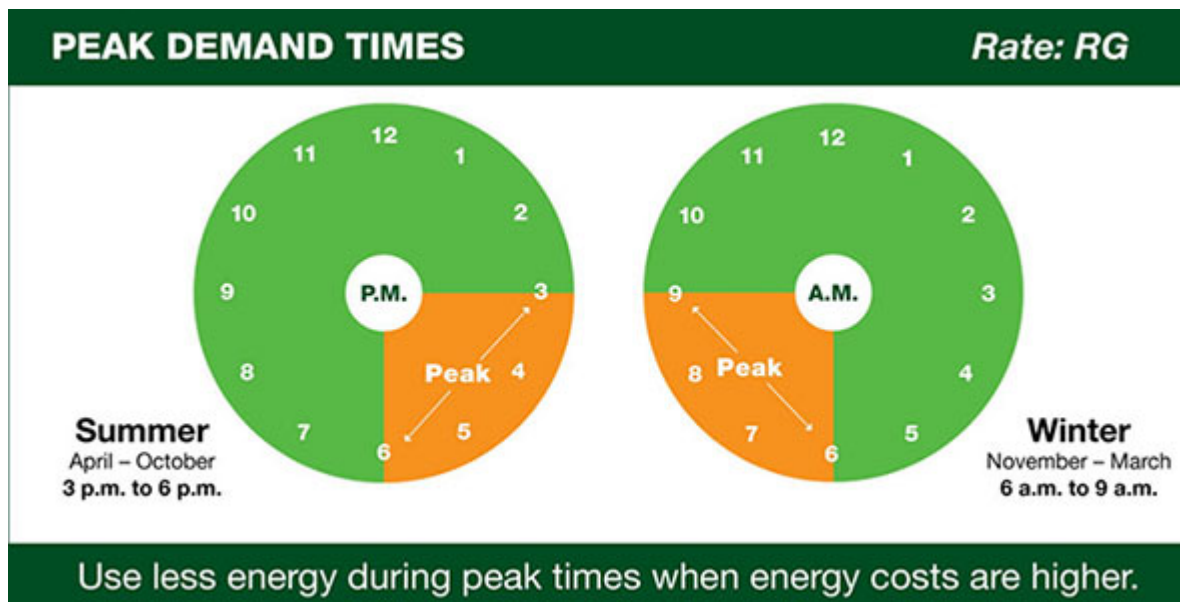
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mark,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
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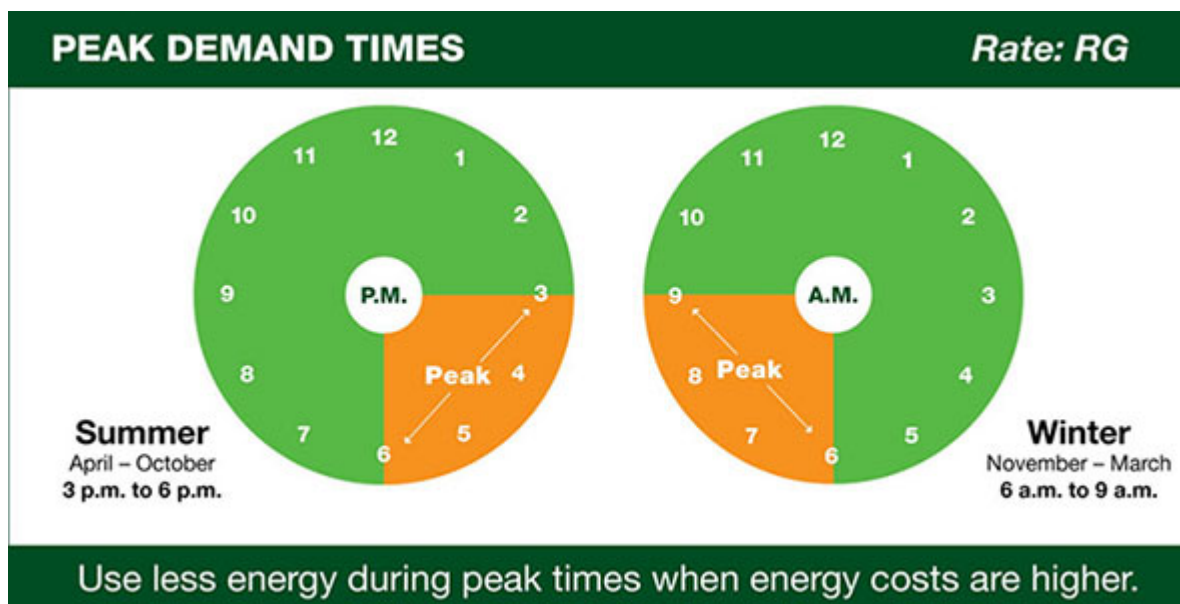
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Dear Ms. Altman,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Daniel	Last Name:	Gariglio
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29572		

SC Reference # : SC0000000627

Date Submitted:	9/6/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I am against a new rate charge for demand use. It is just a money grabbing scam.

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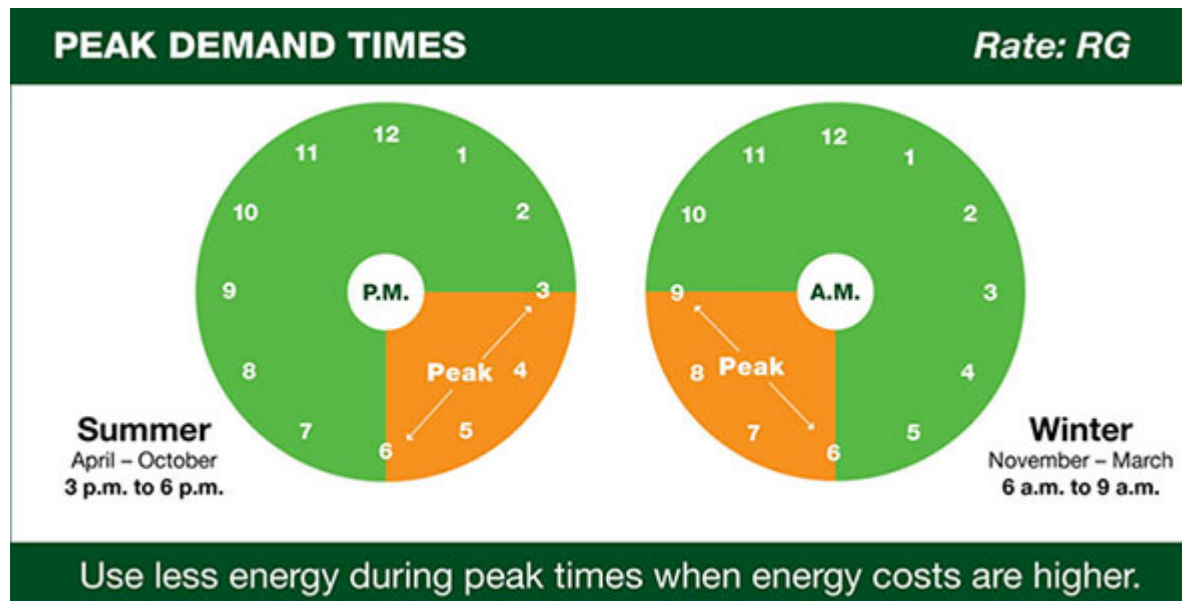


Dear Mr. Gariglio,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Terrie

Last Name: Sangid

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000628

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am a senior citizen on a fixed income, and can barely afford groceries and medication. I am adamantly opposed to a new "Demand Charge", as it is confusing to me, and frankly, I cannot afford paying out more money to just exist.

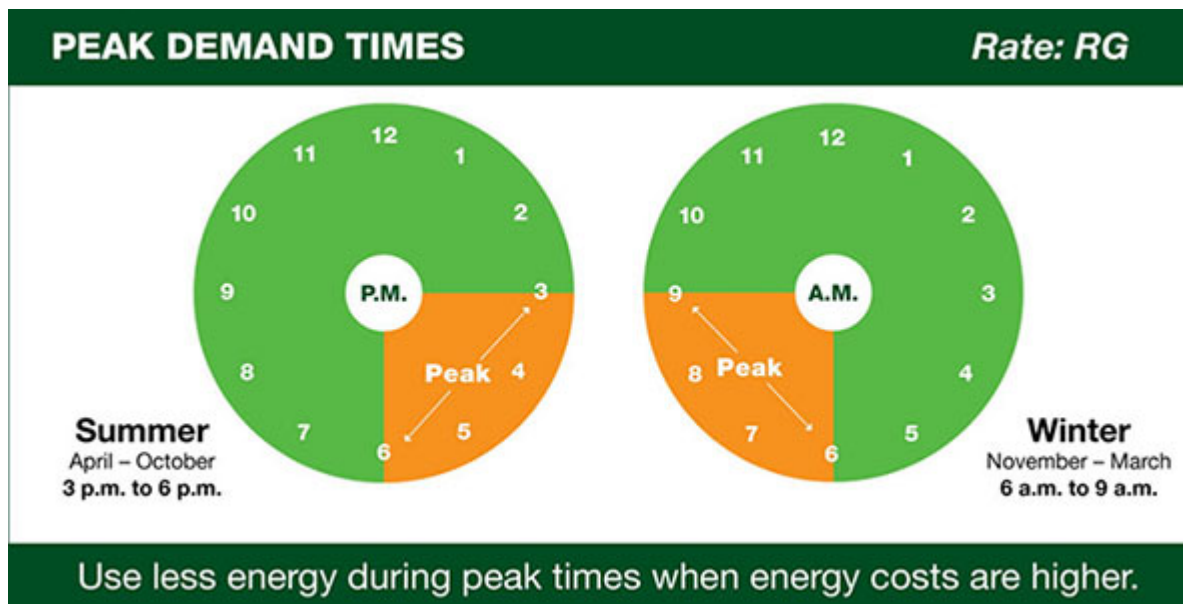
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Sangid,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Marilyn

Last Name: Everett

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000629

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am senior on a fixed income and oppose this rate change. Thank you

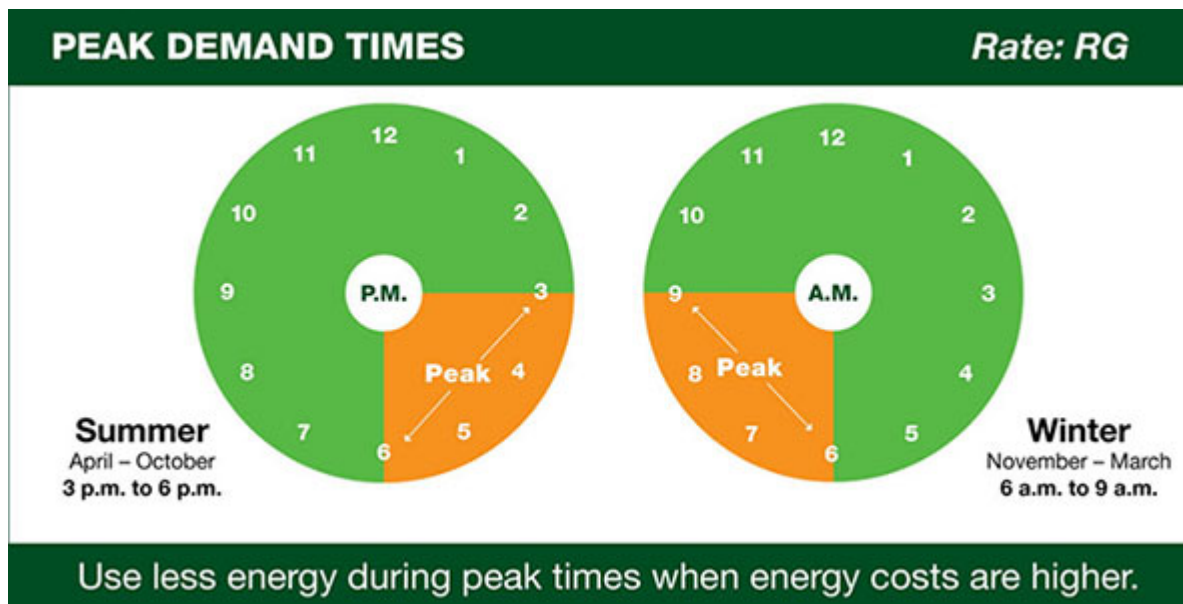
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Everett,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Howard

Last Name: Galligan

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000630

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

No to the new rate change plan

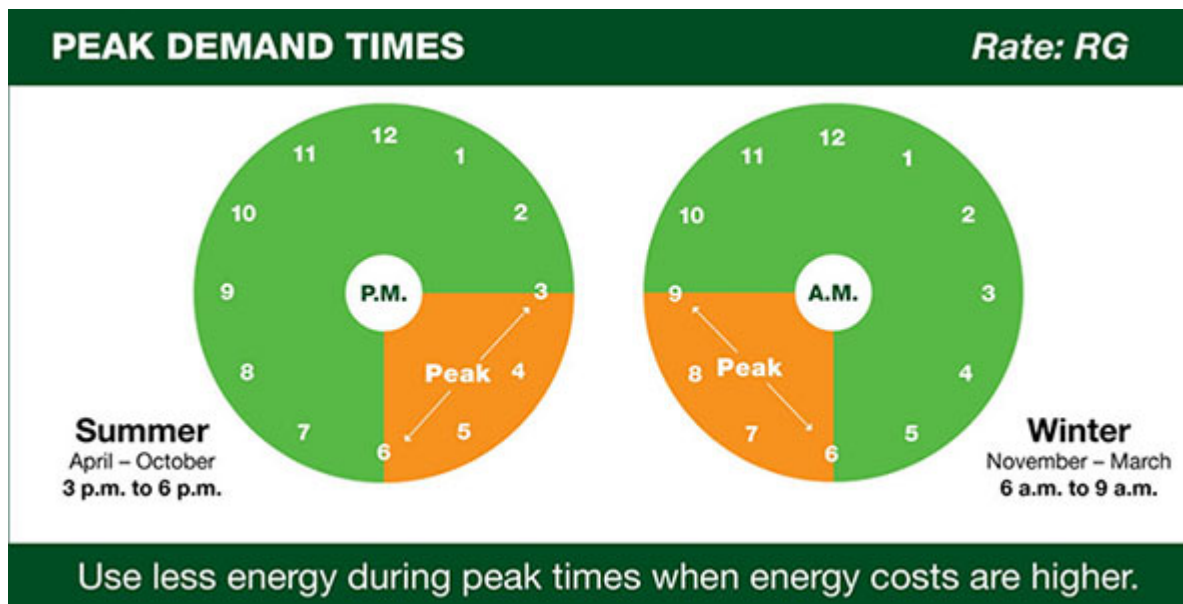
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Galligan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rich

Last Name: Killmeyer

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000631

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Stop the new demand charge that is being planned and discuss. Keep the rates simple and easy to understand.

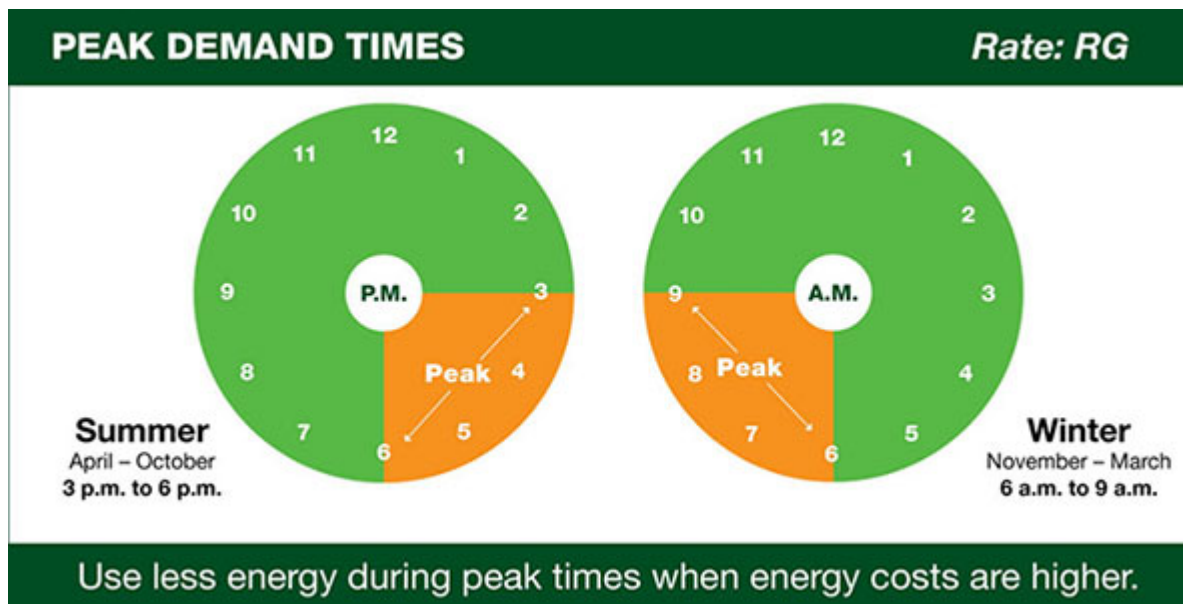
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Killmeyer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Barbara	Last Name:	Janes
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000632

Date Submitted:	9/6/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

To Whom It May Concern I strongly disagree with your possible three tiered rate program. Absolutely ridiculous that you nickel and dime us. We have no alternative energy company. Air conditioning in the summer months is a necessity in SC. Especially with people who have certain medical conditions. How about considering the public over lining your on pocket. Prices are out of control currently. No excuses. You are becoming just another greedy supplier Barbara Janes

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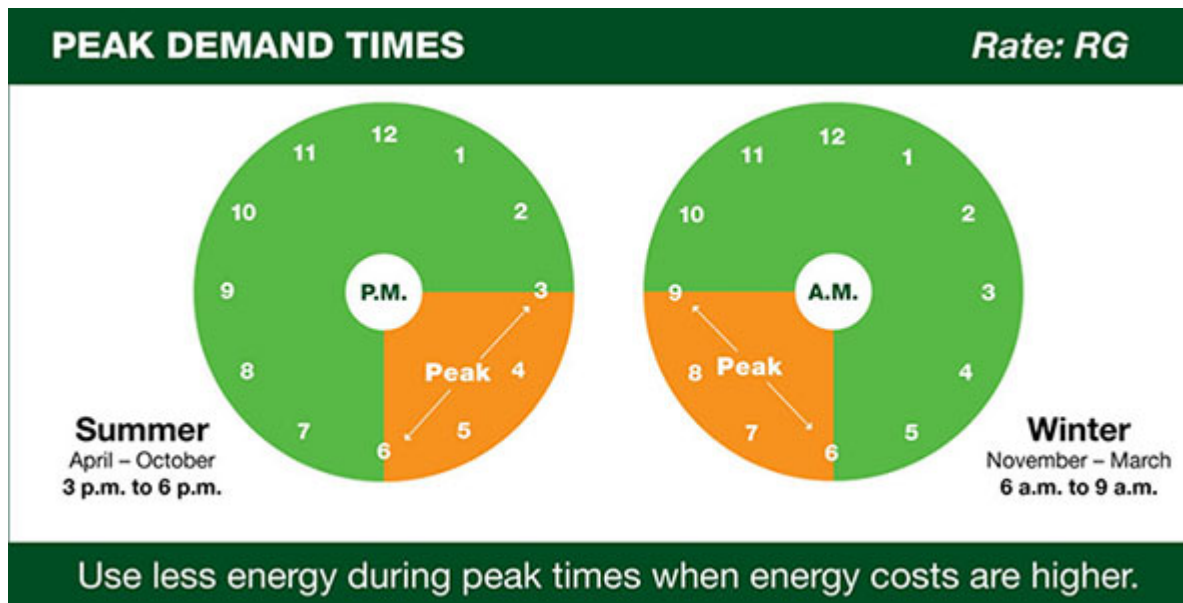


Dear Ms. Janes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Vince

Last Name: Montsinger

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000633

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We're 80 year olds on a fixed income, with multiple health issues. Your proposed three-tier rate plan will certainly affect our quality of life. Don't do it!

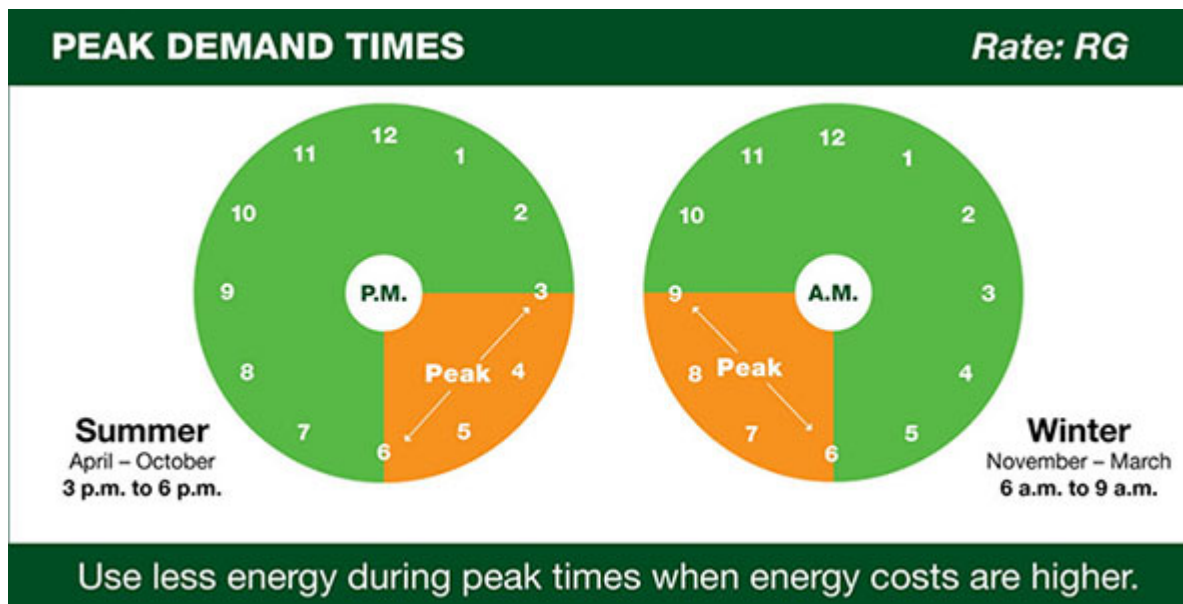
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Montsinger,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Lyman

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000634

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

This is Ridicules and not only unfair but a Danger to customers with health issues

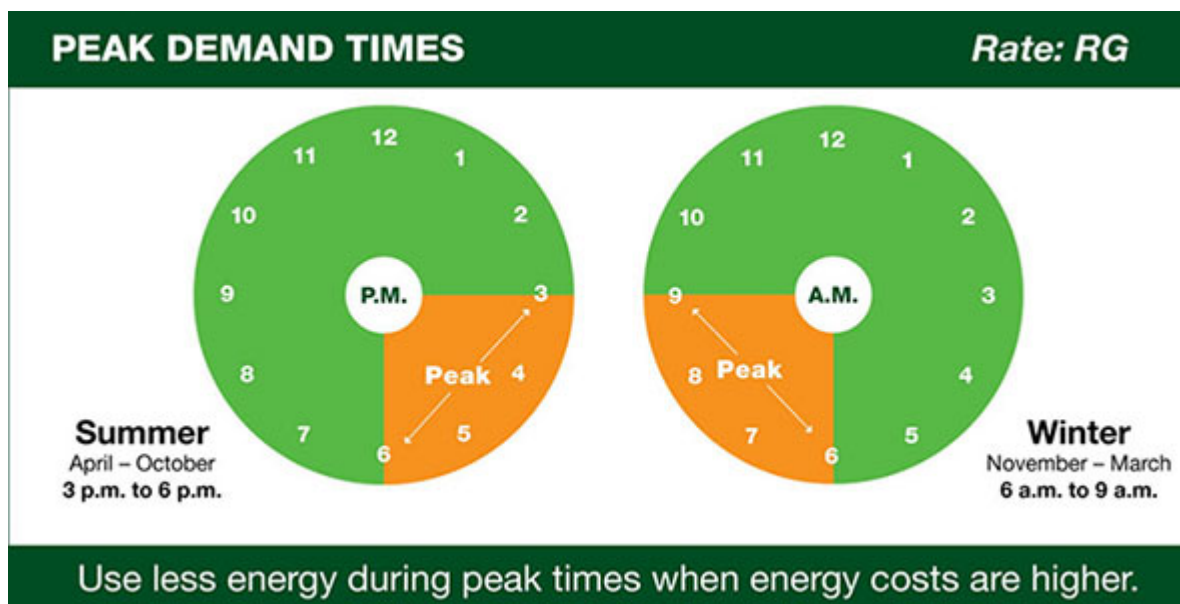
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Lyman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rebecca

Last Name: Wells

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000635

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not in support of the Santee Cooper experiment. This experiment is flawed with potential issues, especially for those who have no control over these costs.

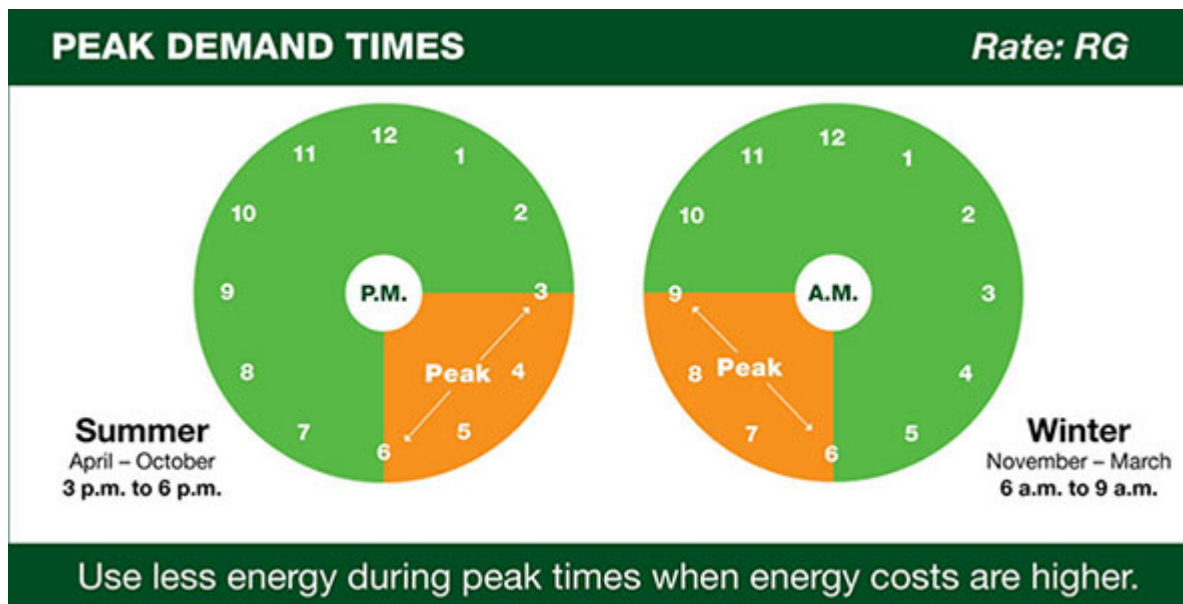
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Wells,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Leslie

Last Name: Kerr

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000636

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

This is outrageous and should be rejected by Santee Cooper customers in SC.

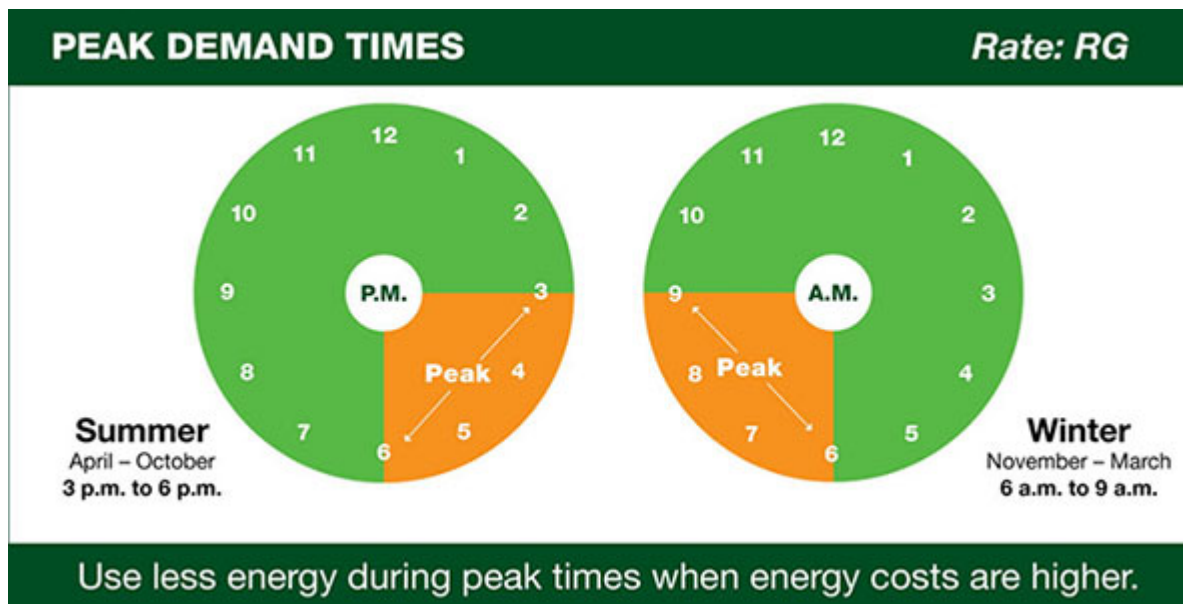
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Kerr,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mark

Last Name: Damico

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000637

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested please don't change are rate hard to pay bill now. Mark D'Amico

[REDACTED]

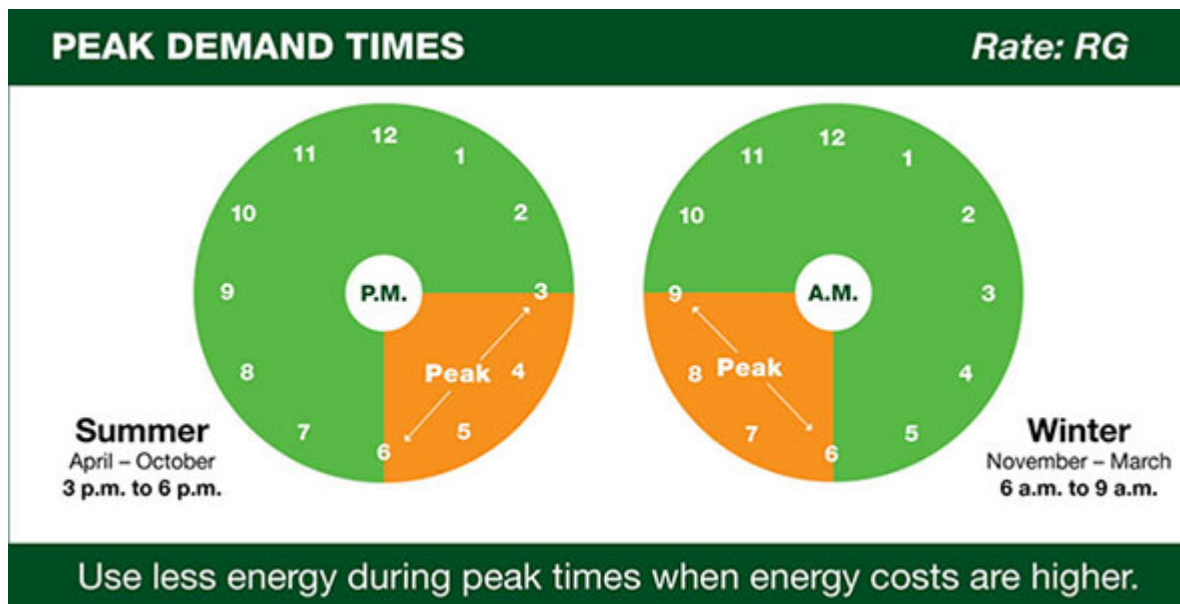
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Damico,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Richard

Last Name: Stolz

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000638

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Don't screw with rates

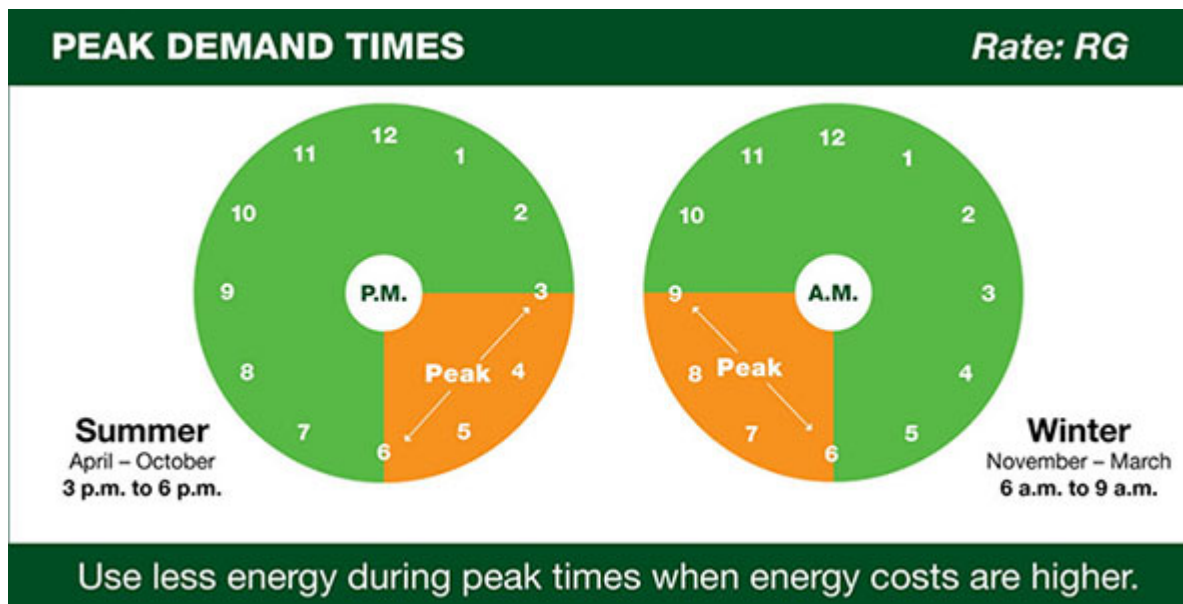
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Stolz,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Paul

Last Name: Lieck

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000639

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Opposed to the new rate increase proposal, i.e. the increased rate at different times of day during different times of the year. Very onerous. Thank you, Paul Lieck

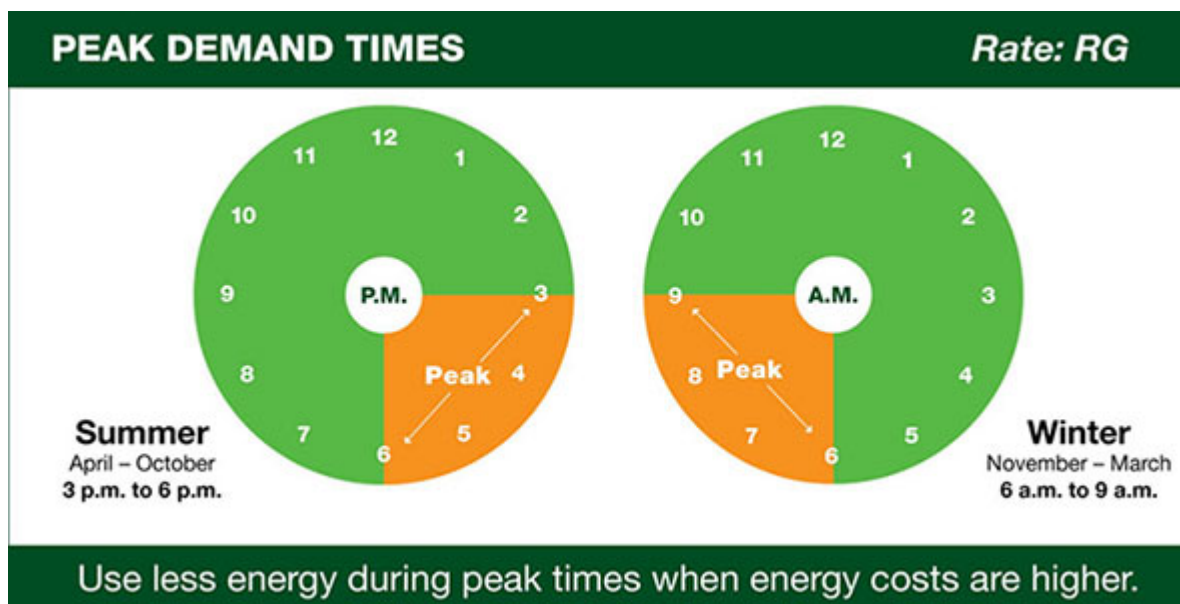
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Dear Mr. Lieck,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Fred

Last Name: Bross

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000640

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I strongly protest your rate adjustment policy and demand that you cancel it immediately.

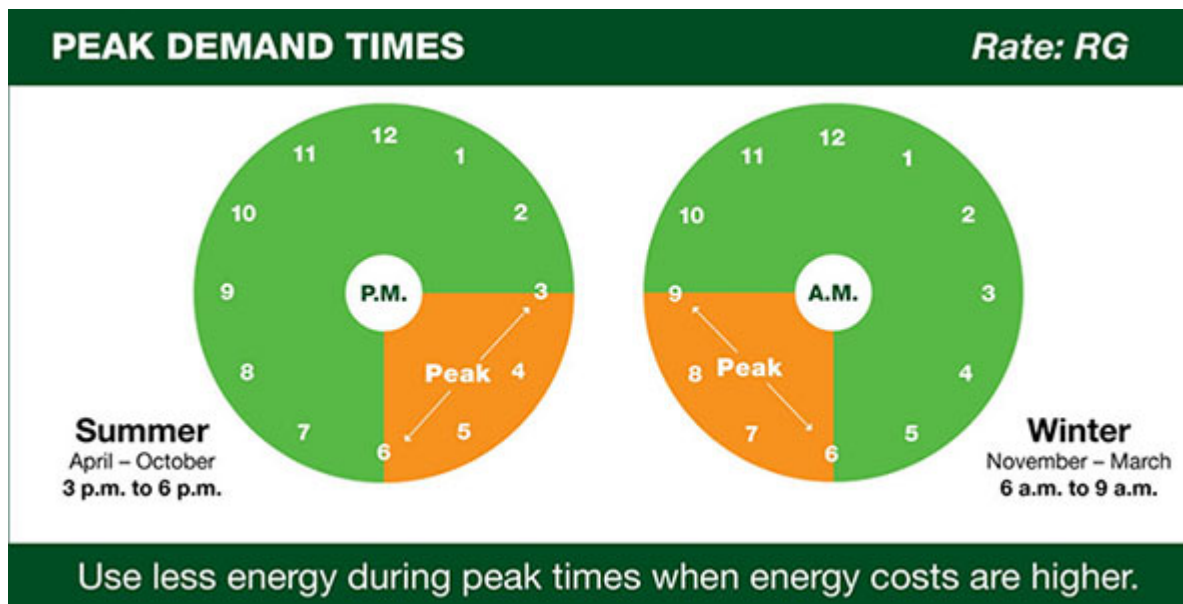
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Dear Mr. Bross,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ray

Last Name: Dilicchio

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000641

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in being a part of this experiment. My bills are higher then I can afford at it is, with a set income of SS. Being 84 yrs old, my wife & I need the A/C in the summer and Heat in the winter at these peak hours. Sincerely, Ray Dilicchio

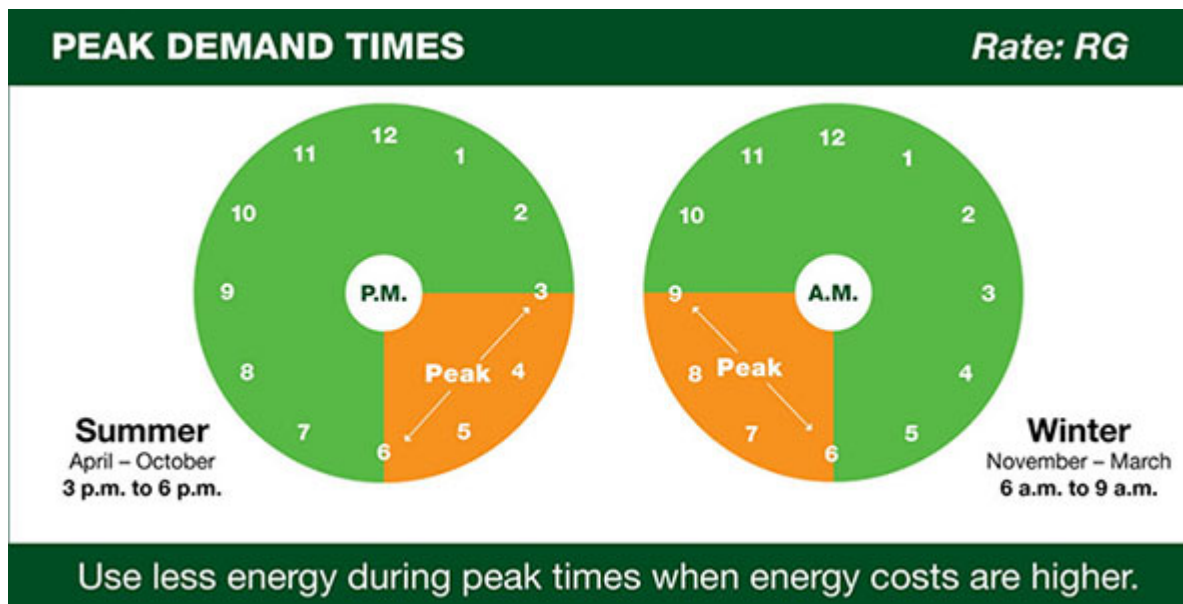
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Dilicchio,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Tracy

Last Name: Ross

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000642

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment. Tracy Ross

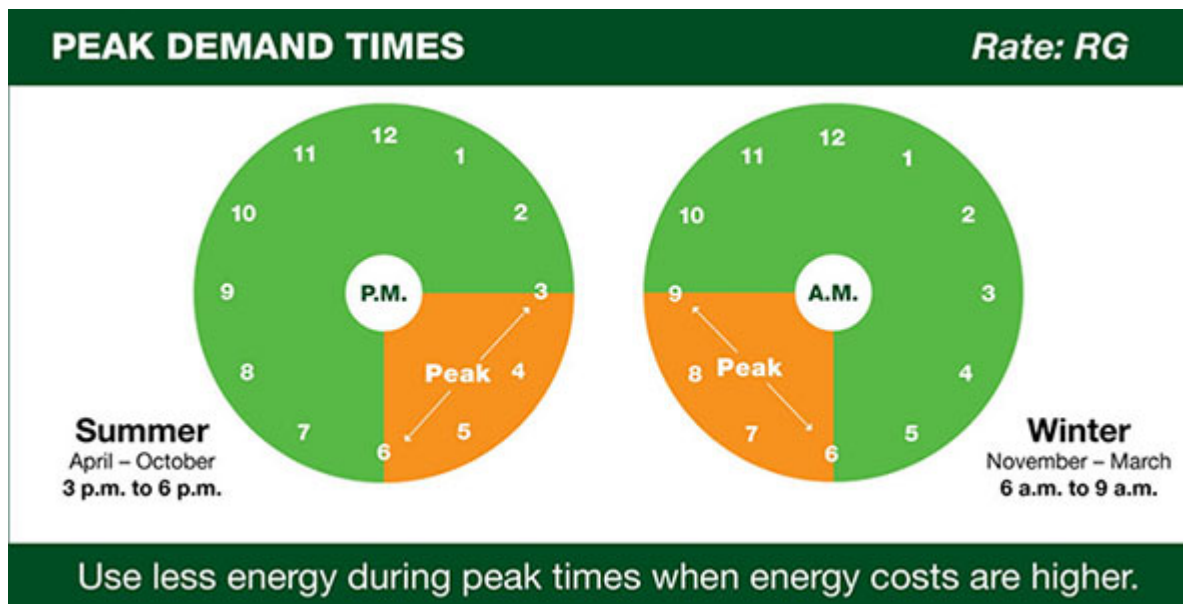
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Ross,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Maggie

Last Name: Arlotta

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000643

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

No....No....No.....ridiculous plan! Maggie

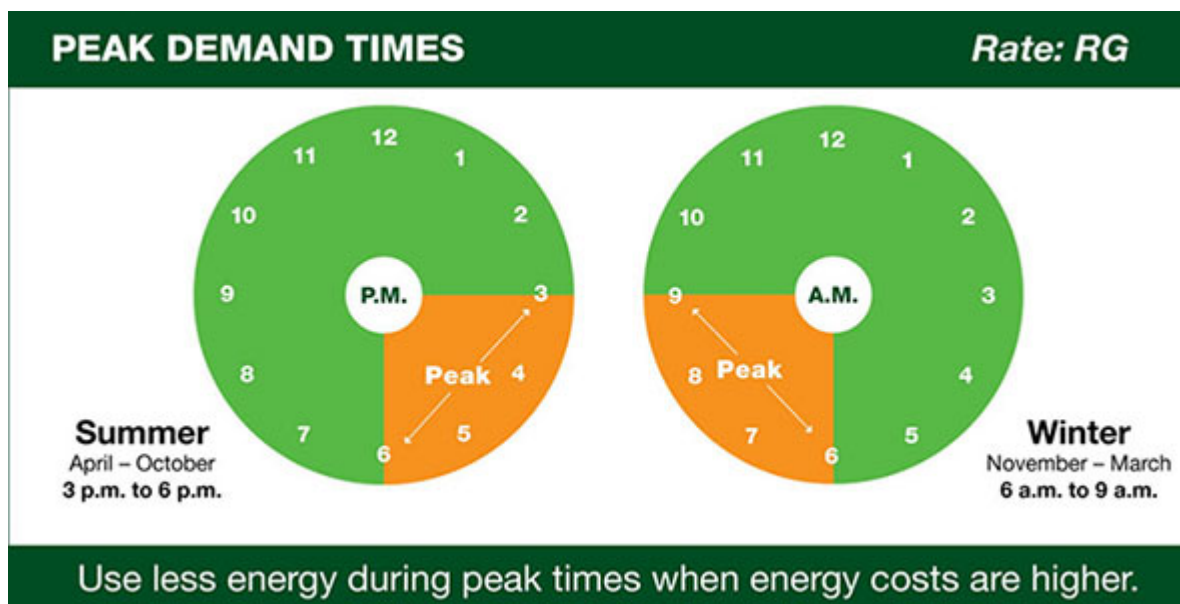
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Arlotta,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

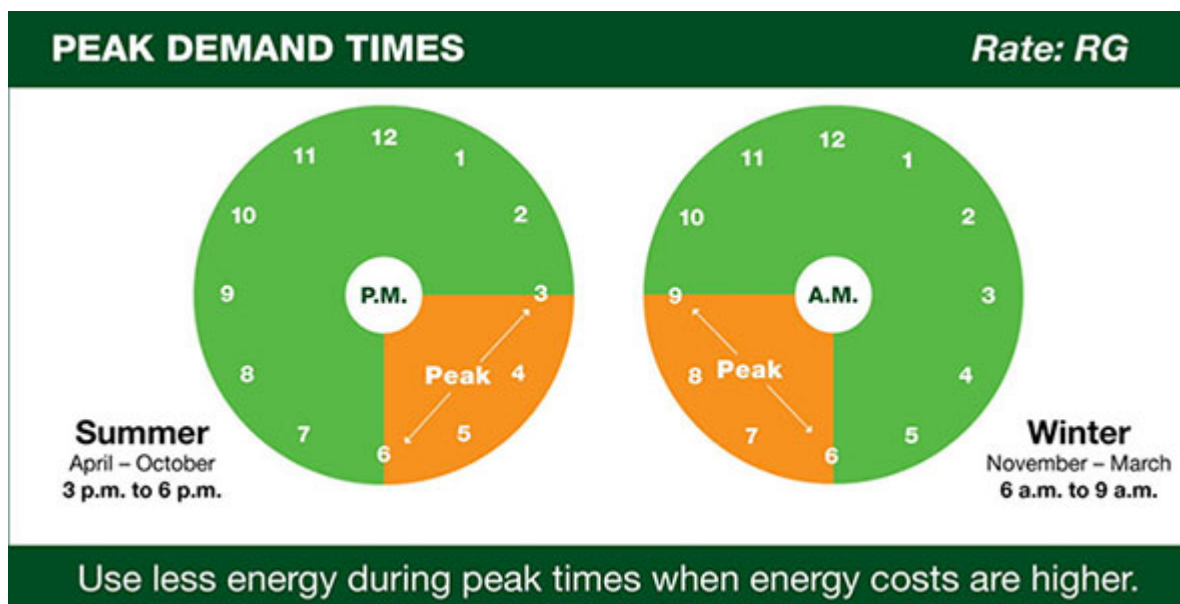
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Dear Ms. Deck,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

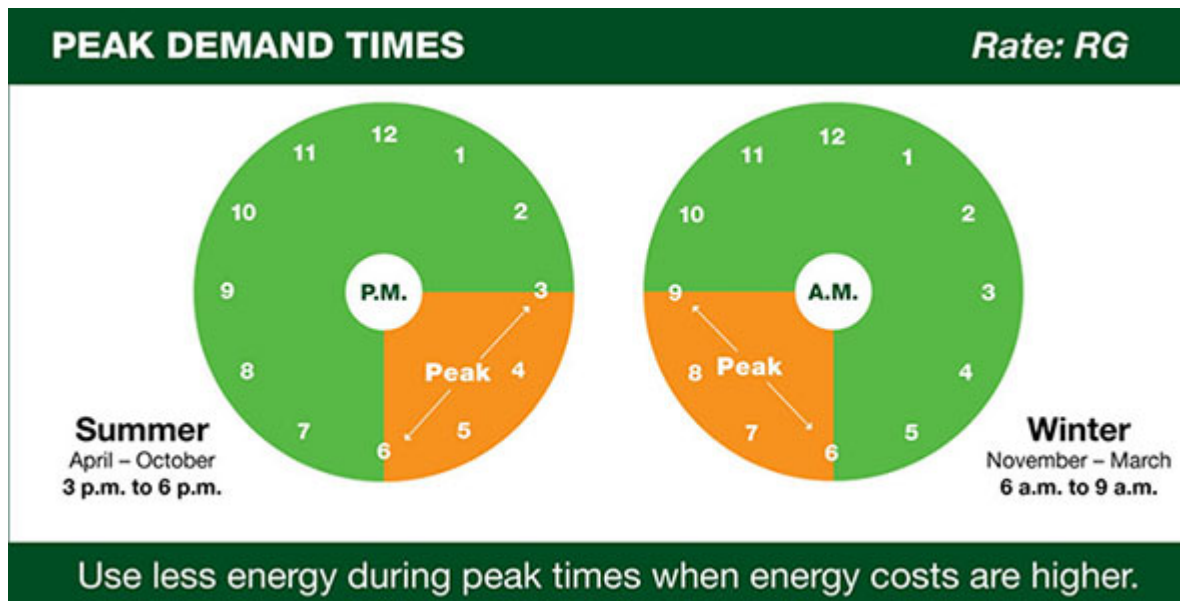


Dear Ms. Finnegan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dave

Last Name: Mackie

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000646

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am against the tiered rate structure that you are proposing for Horry county, SC. Please do not go through with it as in today's 24 x 7 world, it isn't fair to give lower rates to some and higher to others. It's not only un American but biased. Dave Mackie

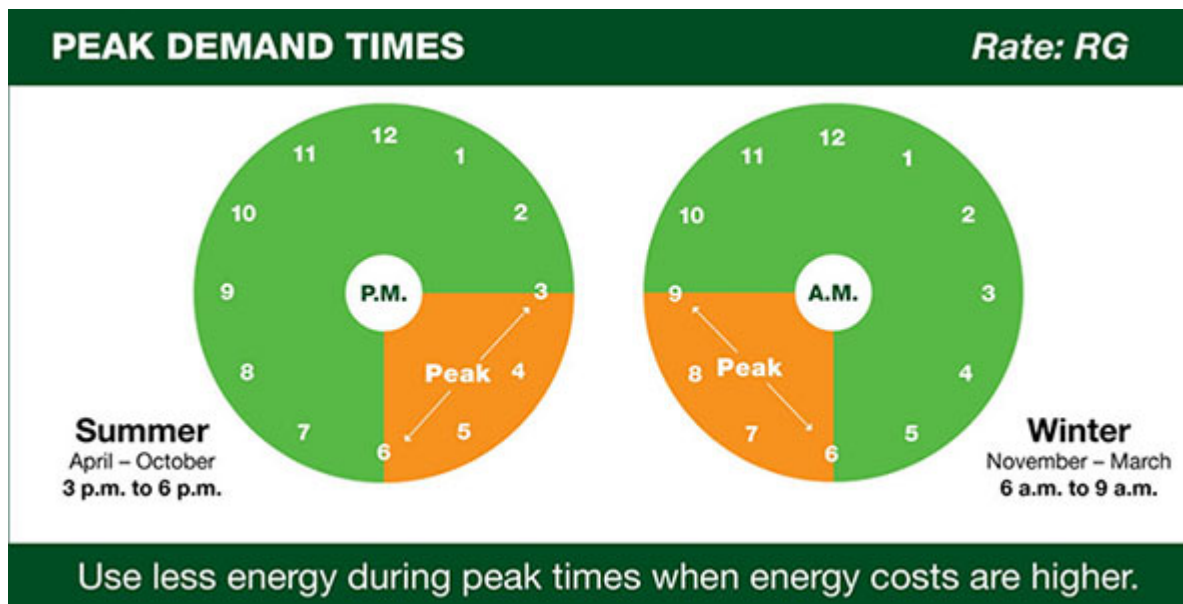
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mackie,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

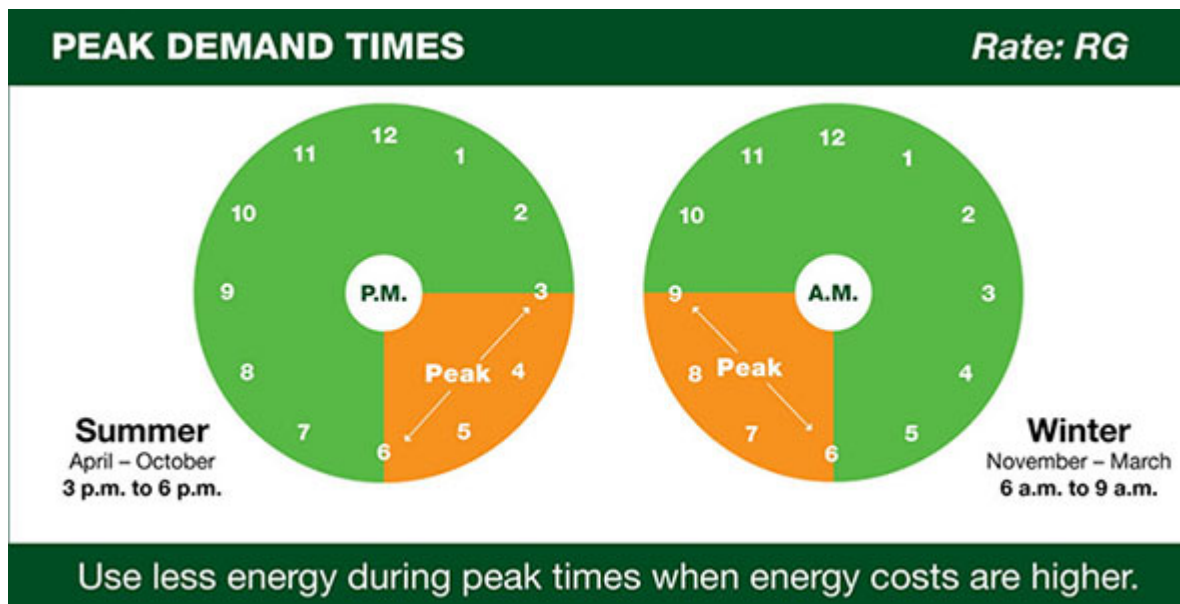
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cargain,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

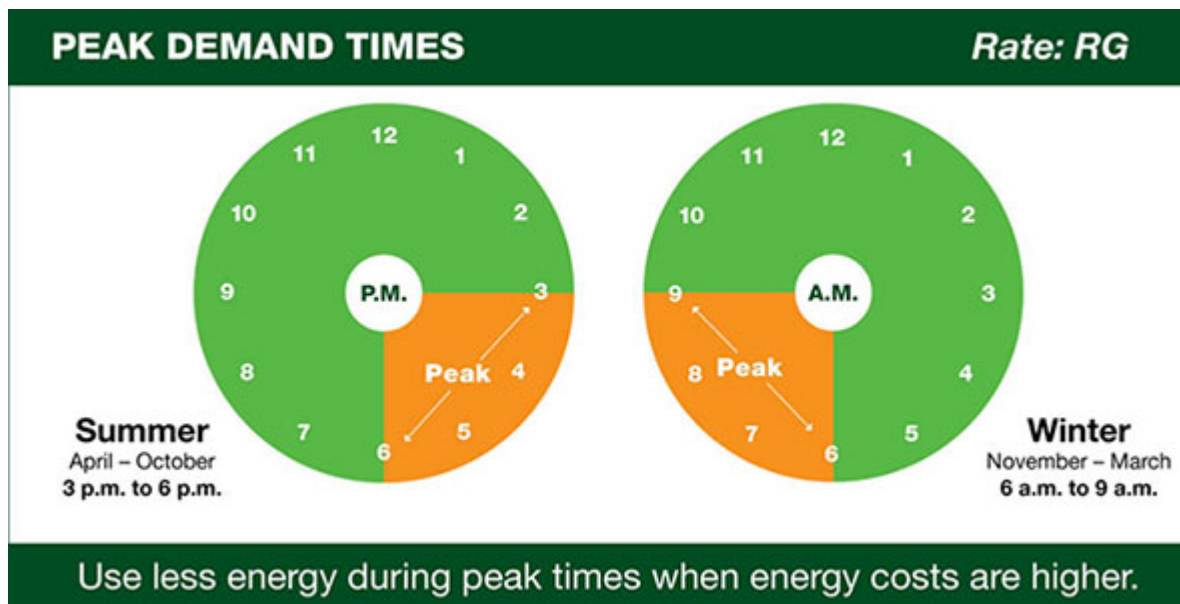
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Mazzanti,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Cambas,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Sue and Don **Last Name:** Loucks
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000650

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We oppose your rate increase resulting in an 8% plus to our current electric bill. We are on a fixed income and do not get any increases meeting your adjustment. Please consider us elderly when thinking of raising your rates. Sincerely ... Sue and Don Loucks

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Loucks,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ronald and Susan **Last Name:** Stanton
Organization:
City: Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29572

SC Reference # : SC0000000651

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We are NOT interested in participating in this new failed rate experiment as we have medically necessary electric machines 24-7 in our household and this would cause a great financial hardship. Ronald & Susan Stanton Meter Number: **[REDACTED]**

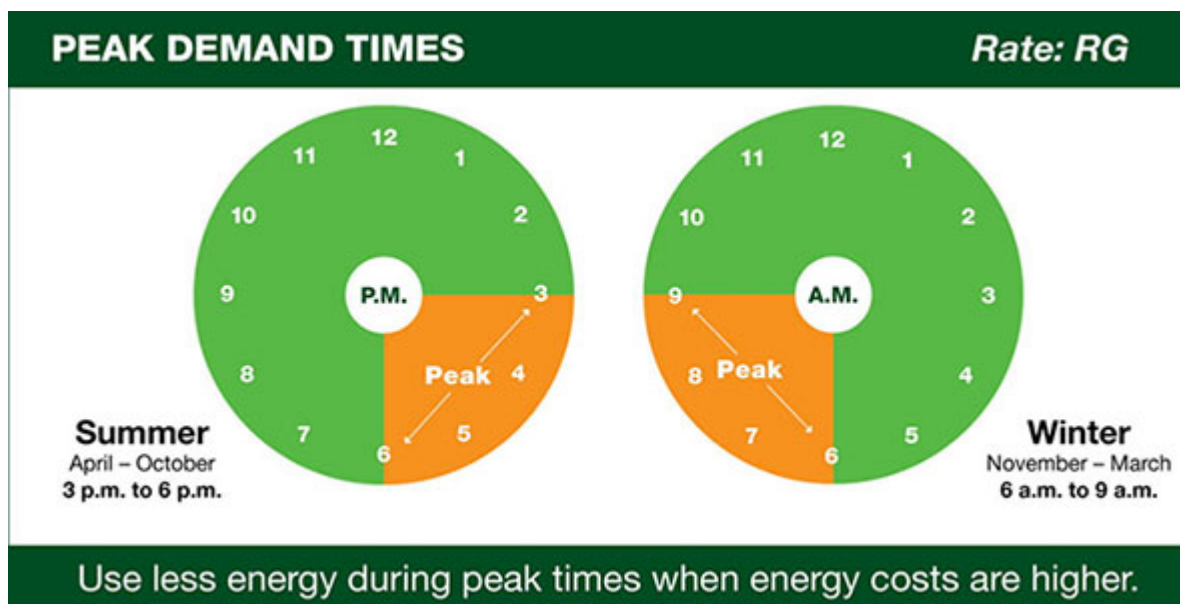
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Stanton,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lawrence **Last Name:** Kniep
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000652

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment.

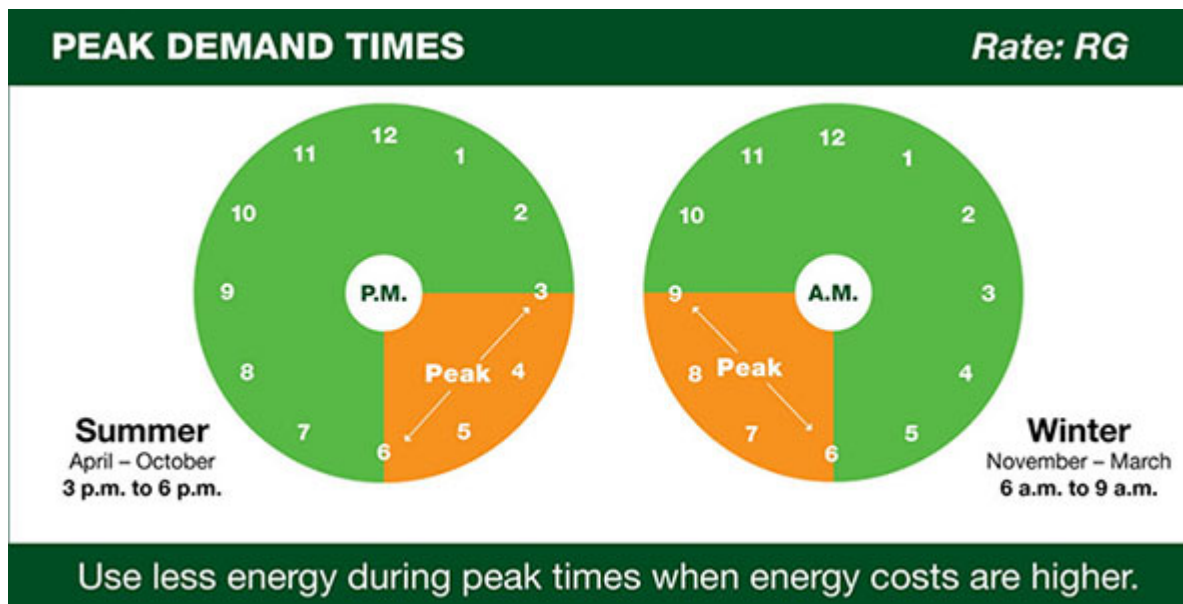
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Kniep,

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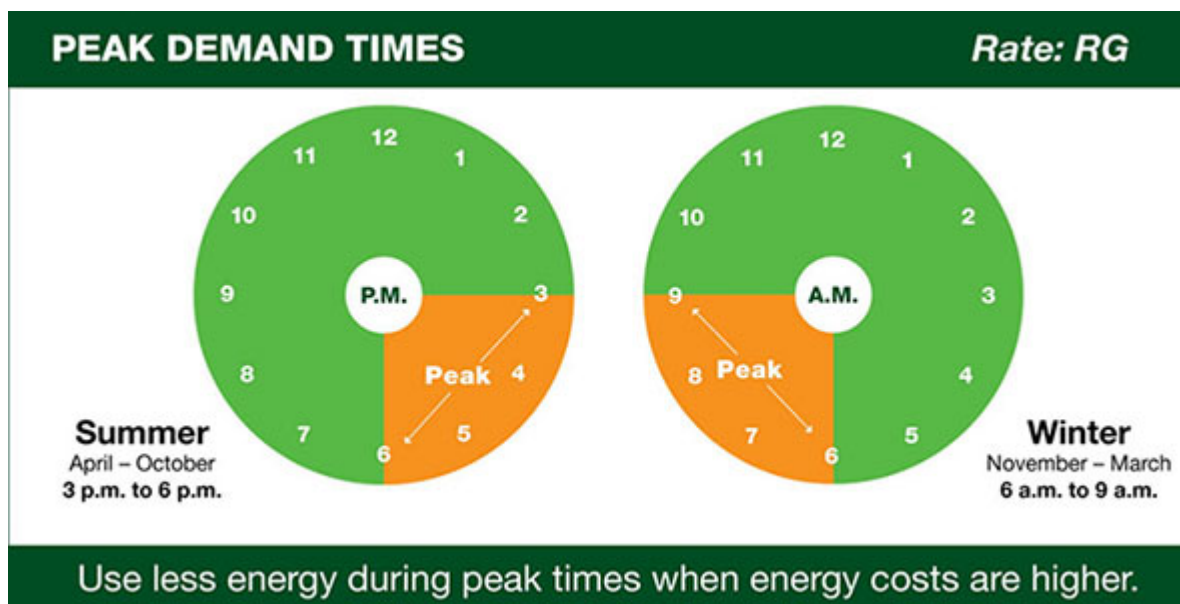
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Dear Mr. Comer,

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By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

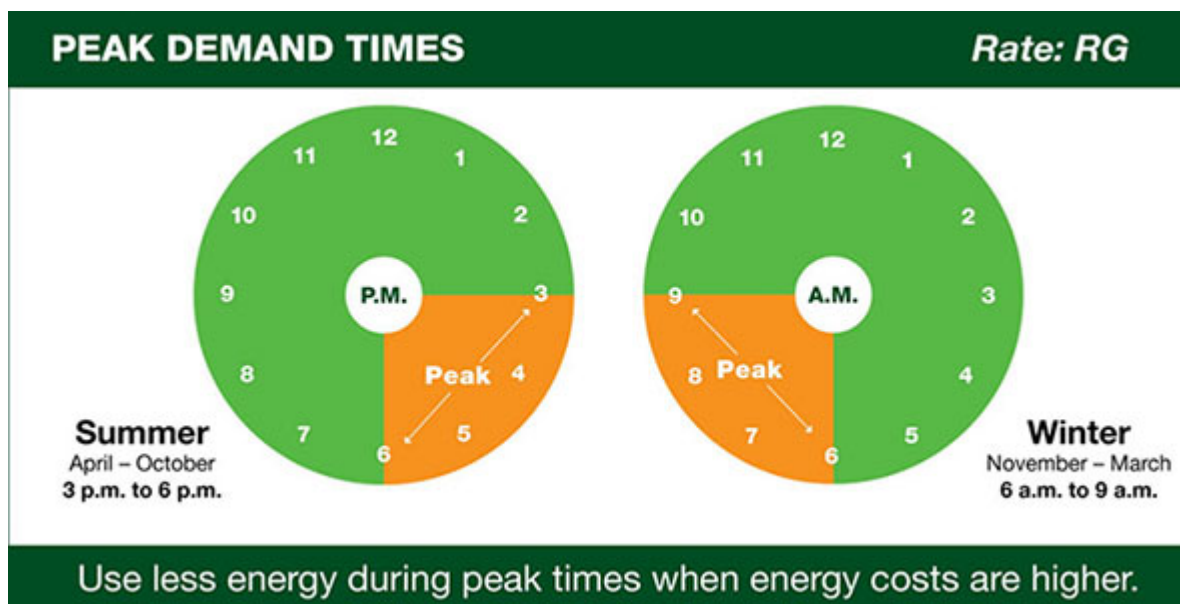
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Penna,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Toni **Last Name:** Motiarty
Organization:
City: North Myrtle Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29582

SC Reference # : SC0000000655

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I am a senior citizen and do all I can to conserve energy by regulating my thermostat etc. I also work another job in my retirement. My bill is the lowest its been for a good while now and I have it under control. Increasing my bill by 8.7% is ludicrous especially with the increase in neighborhoods all over this area. There are tons of new people who will also be paying into Santee Cooper. I DO NOT SEE A NEED FOR AN INCREASE! Respectfully, Toni Higgins Motiarty
[REDACTED]

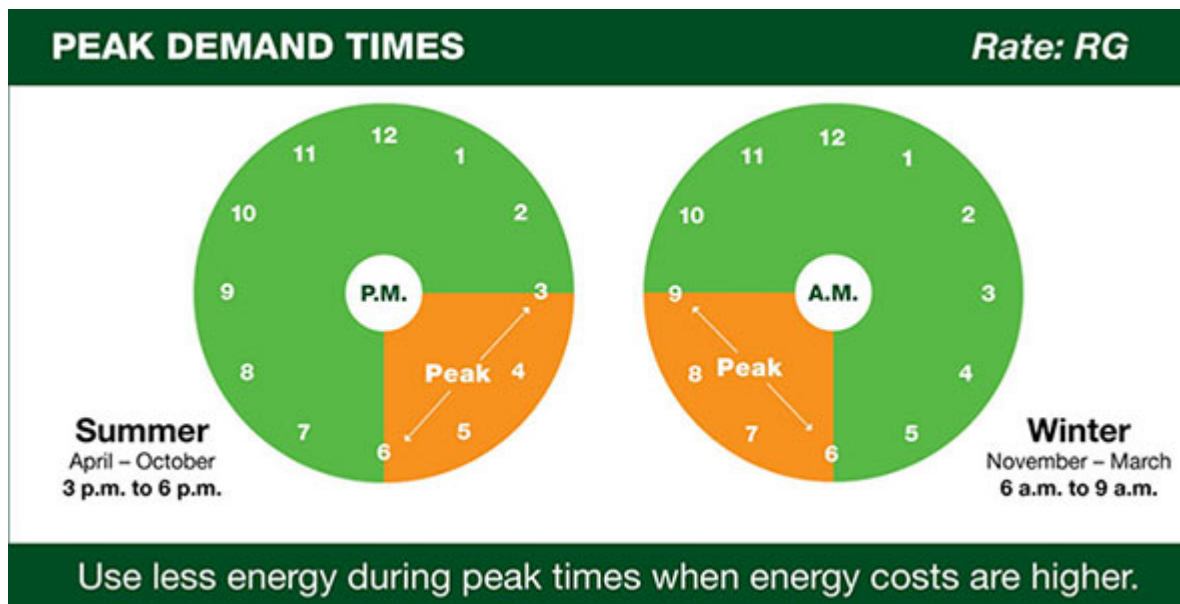
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Motiarty,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Alice

Last Name: Gibson

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000656

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Not interested in your three part rate proposal.

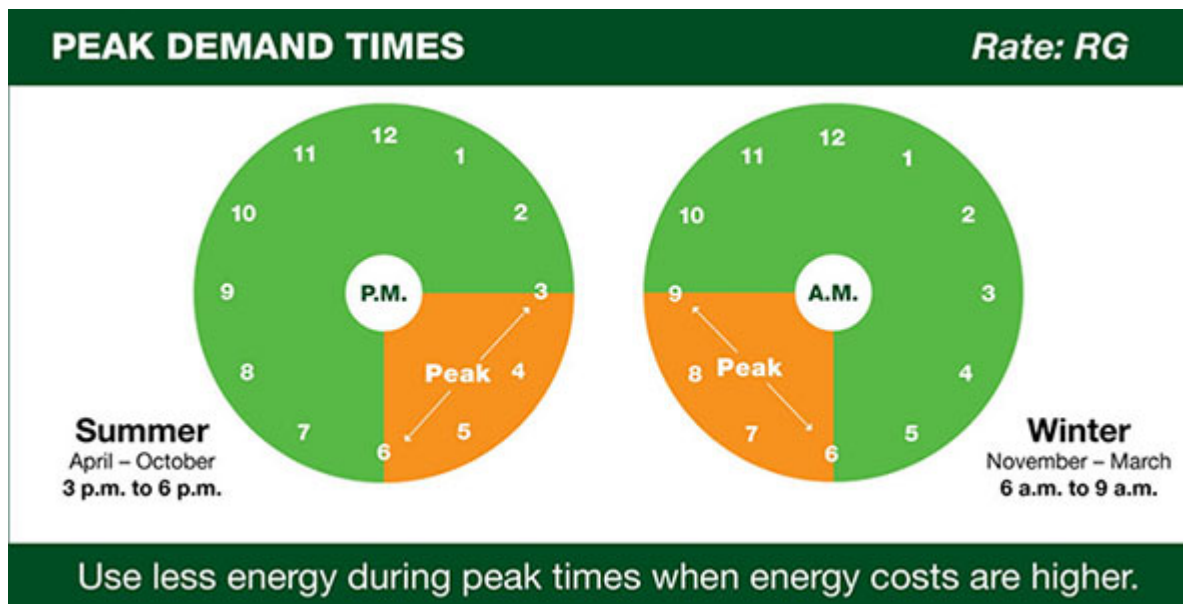
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Gibson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Karstetter,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:

PEAK DEMAND TIMES

Rate: RG



Use less energy during peak times when energy costs are higher.

By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: NO FIRST NAME **Last Name:** NO LAST NAME
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000658

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We do not want this Peak Demand Rate Adjustment added to our bills.

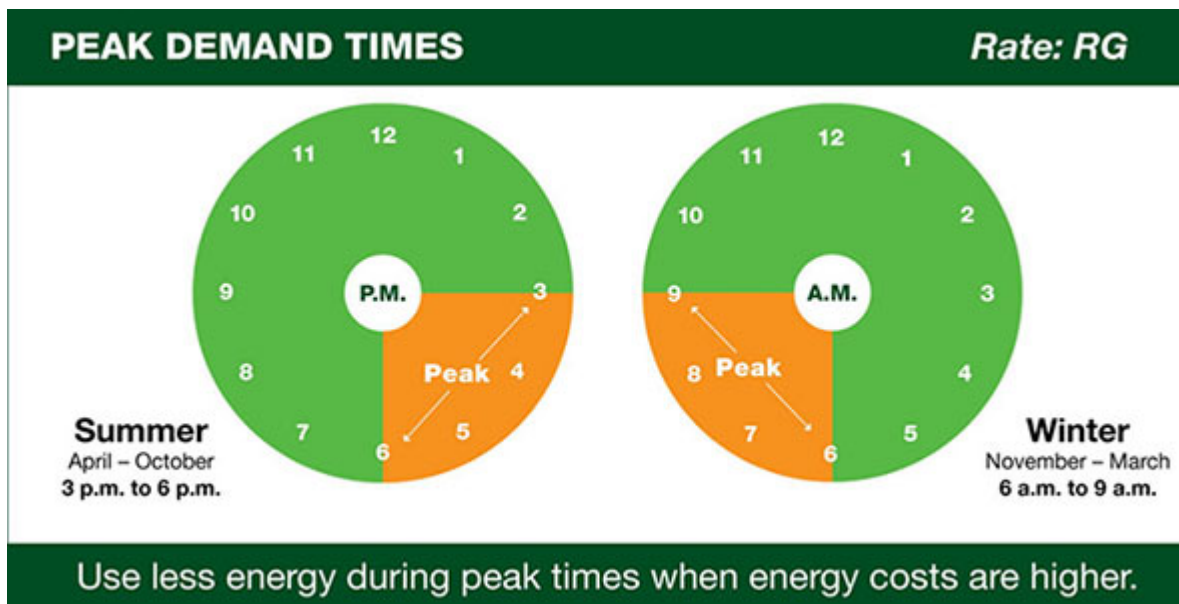
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Hello,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Paula

Last Name: Haas

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000659

Date Submitted: 9/6/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not interested in the proposed rate/billing structure.

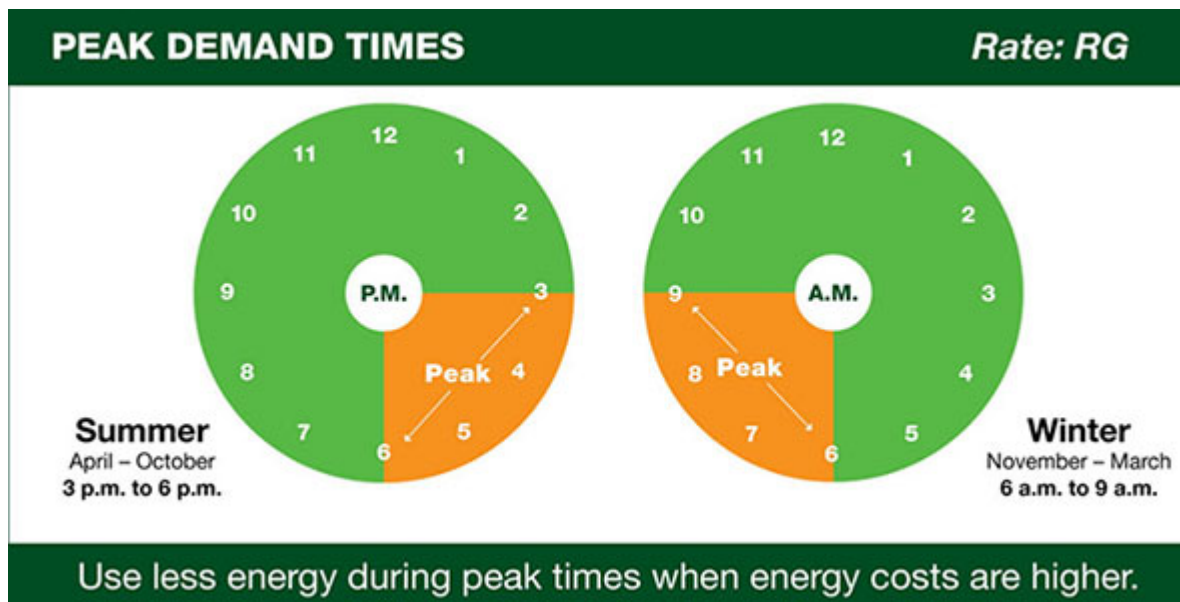
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Dear Ms. Haas,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

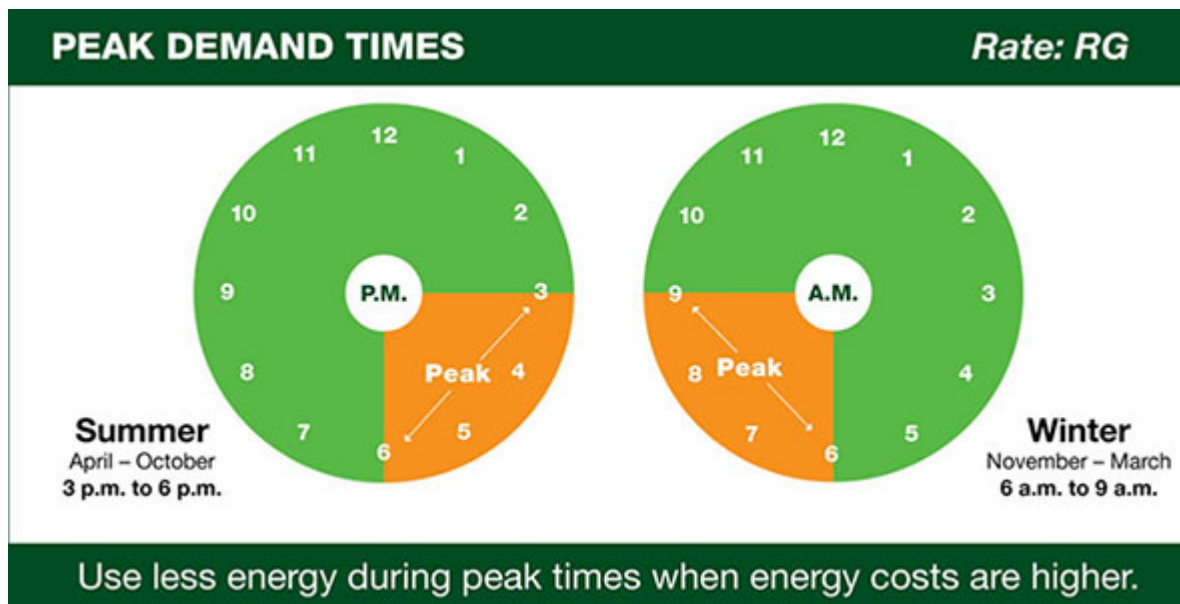
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Dear Mr. OBrien,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Hughes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

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Chief Customer Officer
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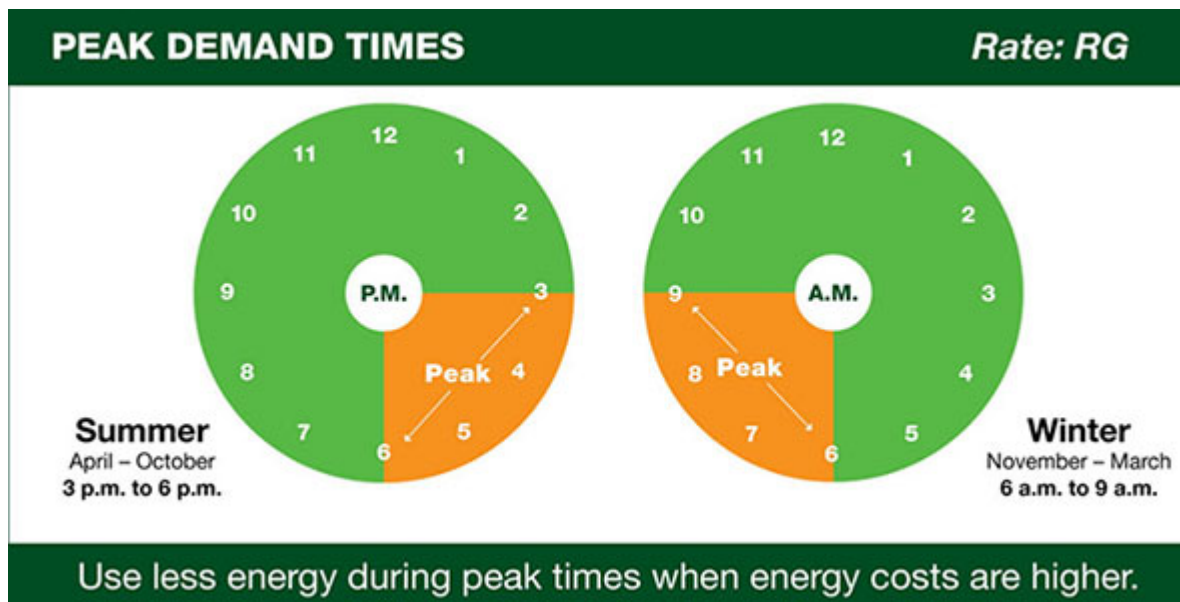
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Dear Mr. Calder,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Andrea

Last Name: Arel

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000700

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

What the heck! People are struggling to make ends meet. It's appalling that huge corporations have no morals or concerns for anyone other than the money they will generate. How awful. Greed is a sin.

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Dear Ms. Arel,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jim

Last Name: Gill

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000701

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I received an email from an advocacy group stating that you are planning a rate adjustment based upon peak usage hours. Questions: -when was your last rate increase and what was the percent increase? -why not keep it simple and just raise rates across the board? -does Santee Cooper need to buy electricity during the peak hours which are proposed? Since most people will not change their required electric usage during these time periods, I assume you're attempting to offset your cost of purchasing energy during these peak times?? Jim Gill

Dear Mr. Gill,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper's last rate increase was in 2017 (2.1%). The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

Santee Cooper may purchase from, sell to, or exchange with other bulk electric suppliers additional capacity and energy in order to maximize the efficient use of generating resources, reduce operating costs and increase operating revenues.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Angela	Last Name:	Sheffer
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000000702

Date Submitted:	9/7/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

NO NO NO Santee Cooper! I am a senior working from home full time and always use more electricity during these hours because of my work schedule. Just like millions of other residents. Is this just another way for you to make money as if rates aren't high enough for those of us living on a fixed income? How about this, increase those living in a home that is 3,000 square feet + ? Chances are living in a house this size, which they chose to do so, they can afford an increase. They are using triple the amount of electricity than I do! Angela Sheffer

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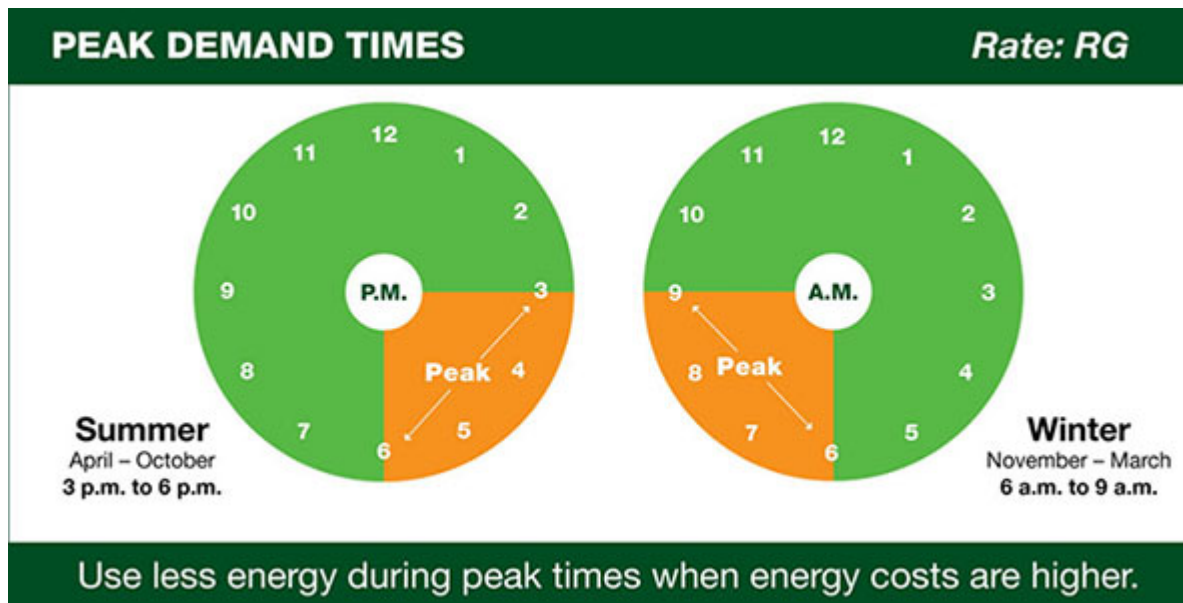


Dear Ms. Sheffer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jeanine

Last Name: Gresis

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000703

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

This rate adjustment is unfair and not transparent. We are opposed to this.

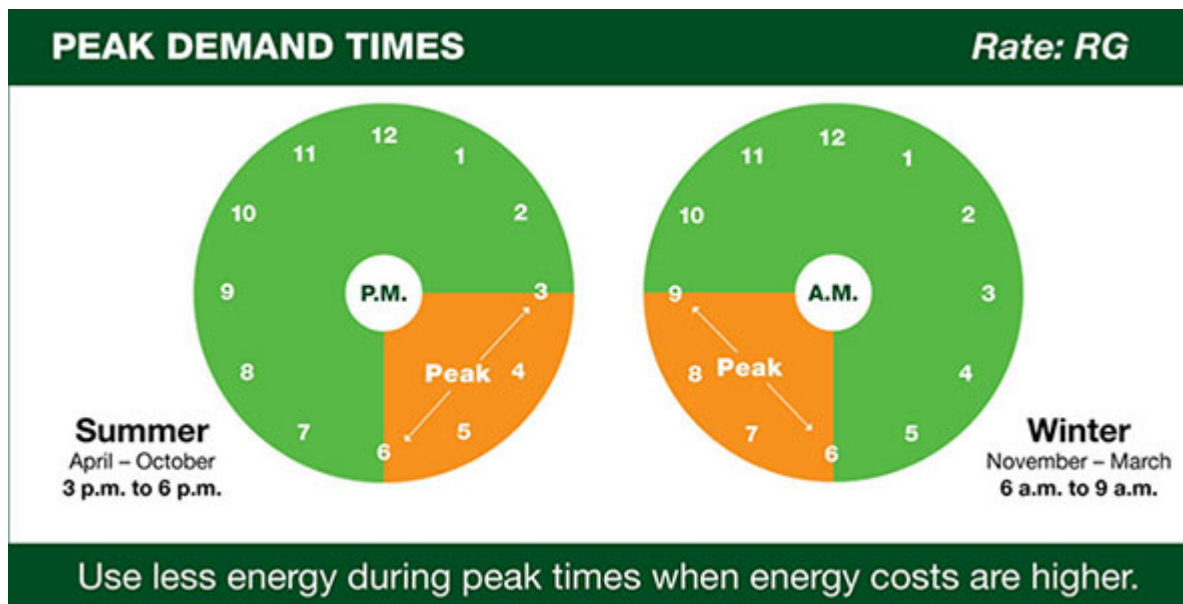
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Gresis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: NO FIRST NAME **Last Name:** NO LAST NAME
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000704

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Why would you ever try to confuse your dedicated customers? Especially seniors on FIXED INCOMES! Playing "Electric Bill Roulette" is dangerous to your ALL YOUR PAYING CUSTOMERS and harmful to the health of those who will be trying to adjust their HVAC systems in order to lower their monthly bills! Yes, I am a Sandee-Cooper Paying Customer

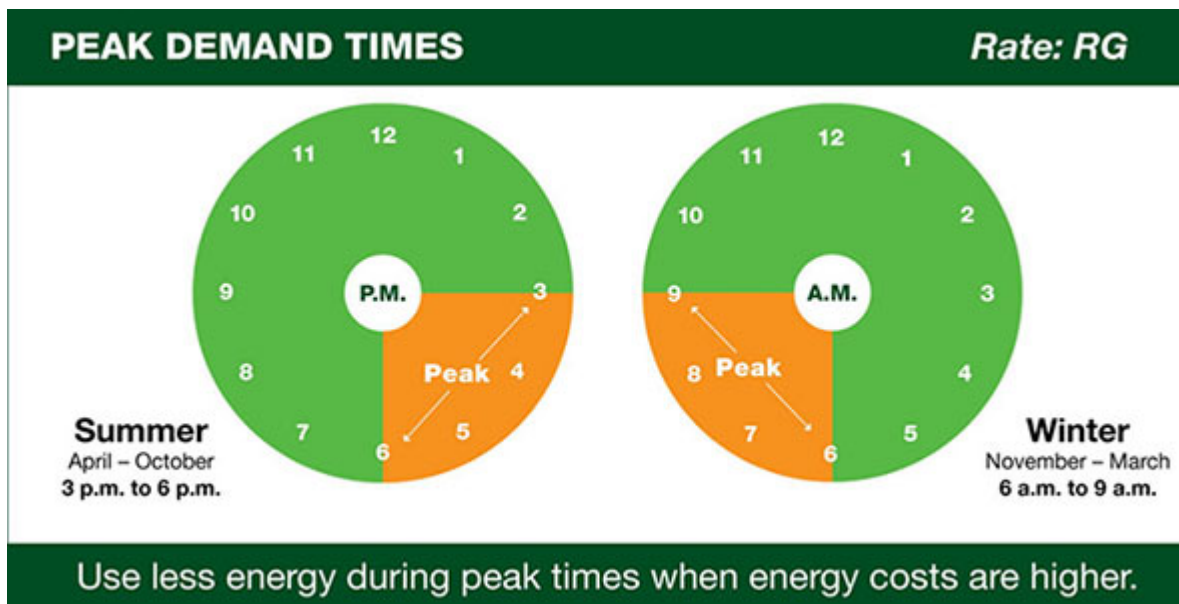
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Hello,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Ursula

Last Name: Herz

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000705

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Hi, I do not use AC I am not at home in the summer during peak hours This is an. Undeserved. Financial Burden on my 1100.-\$ social security income. Sincerely Ursula Herz

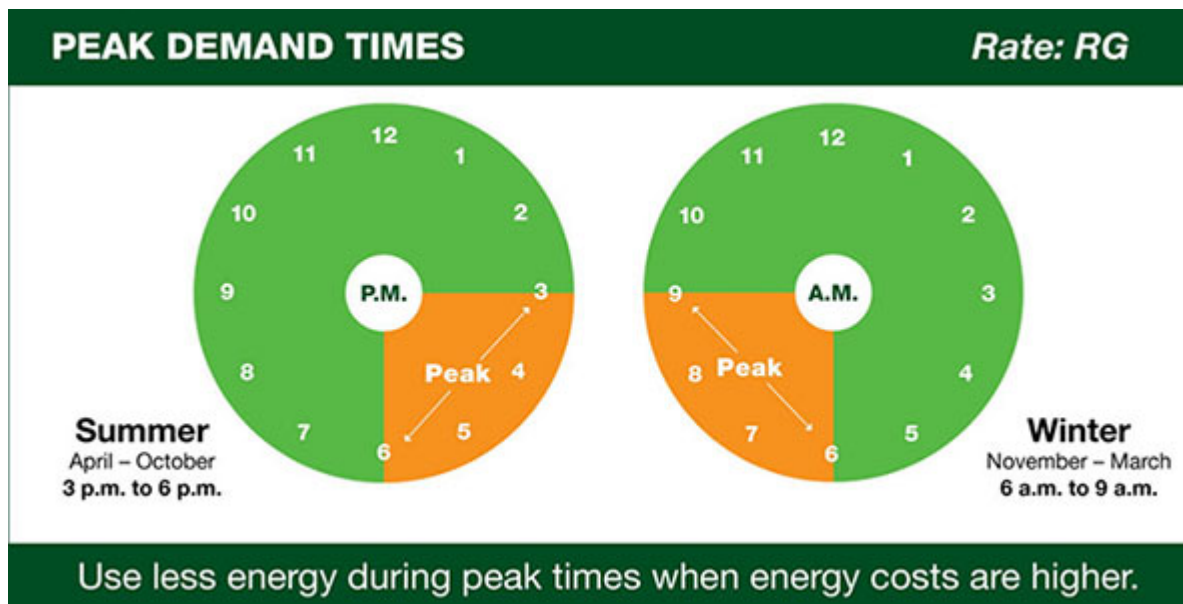
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Herz,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Thomasine **Last Name:** Young
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000706

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We do not want the new adjusted rate schedule you are proposing. Please stick to a flat rate for all times of the day and night. Thank you, Thomasine Young

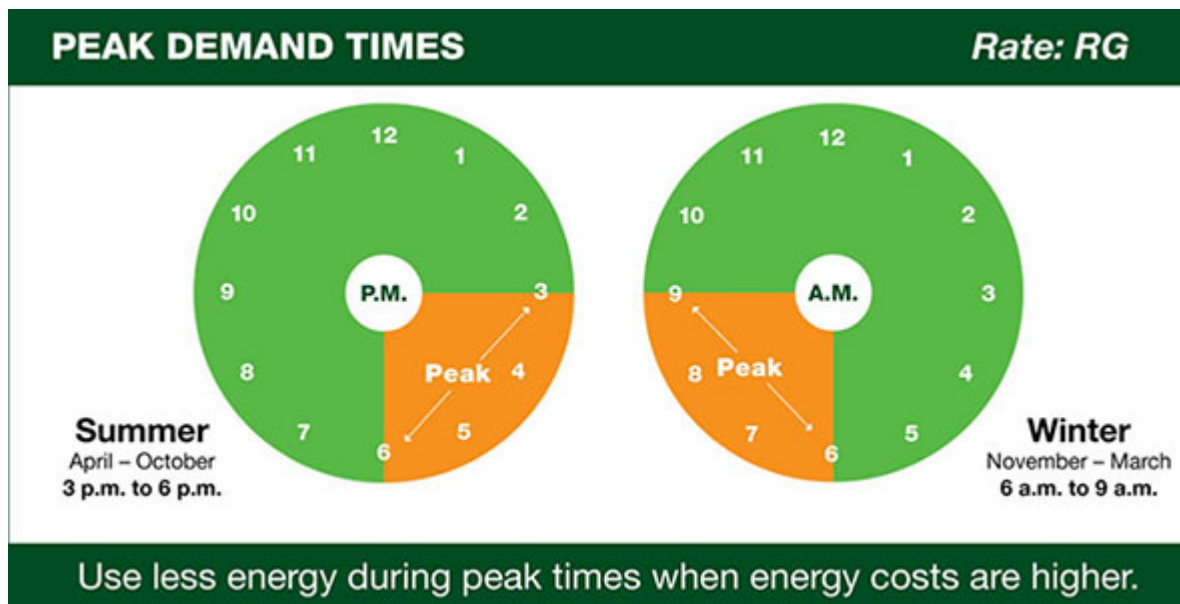
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Young,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Wayne

Last Name: Stancil

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000707

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I do not support the high rate increase with the pending surge rates. Wayne Stancil

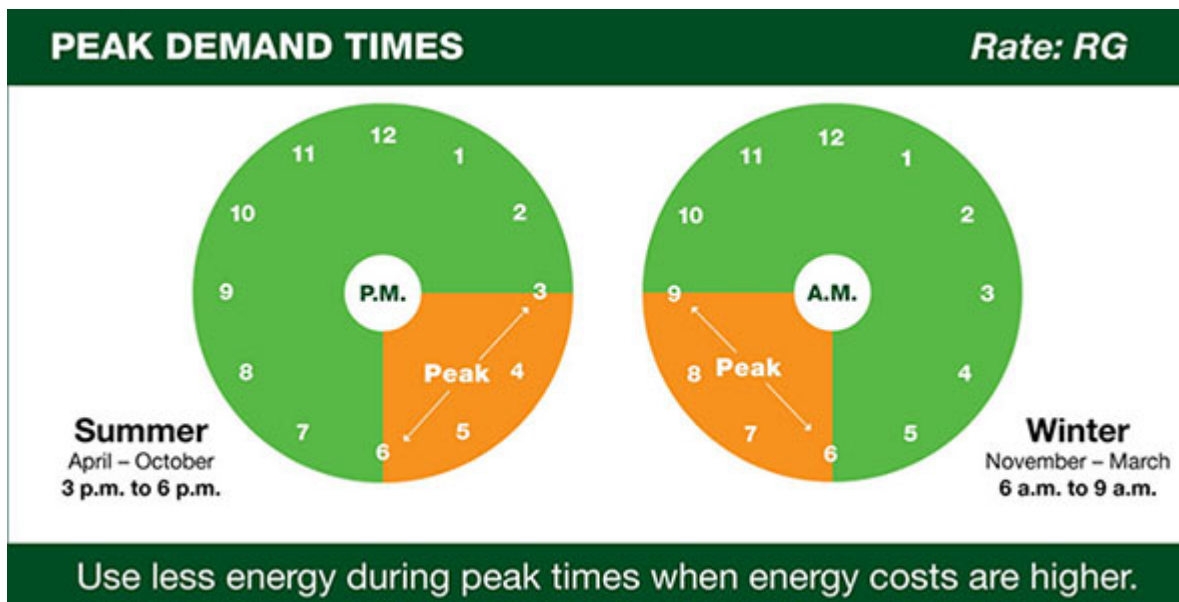
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Stancil,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Christine

Last Name: McCabe

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000708

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Hello, I am not interested in participating in this new rate!

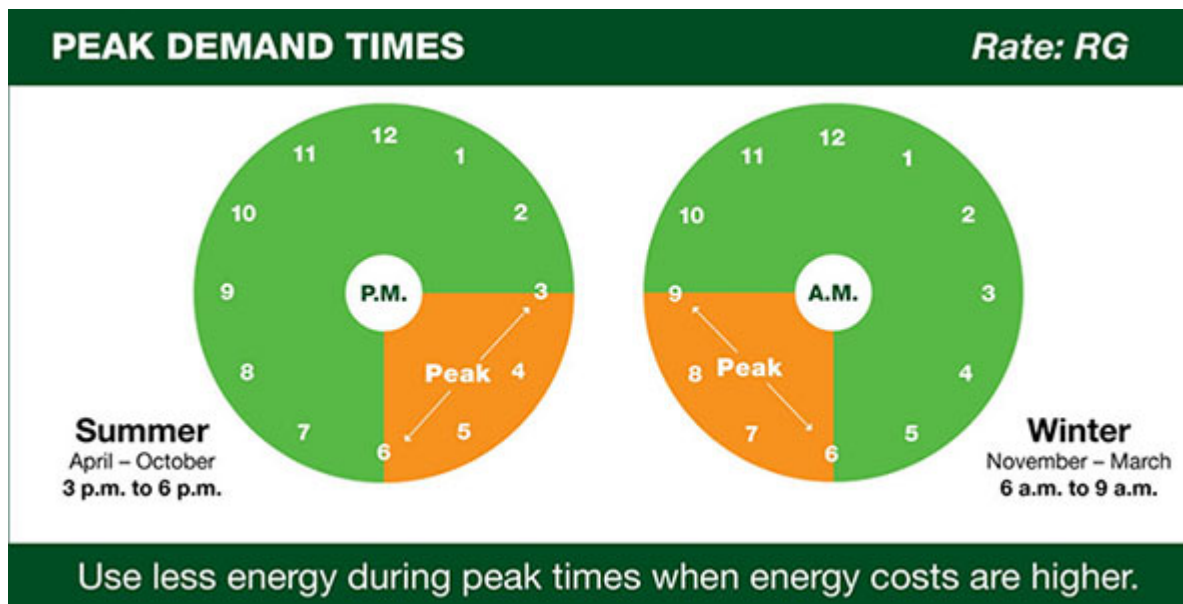
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. McCabe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Faircloth,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Barbara	Last Name:	McCann
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000710

Date Submitted:	9/7/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

As a Santee Cooper customer, be advised I am NOT interested in participating in the new rate experiment, failed or otherwise.

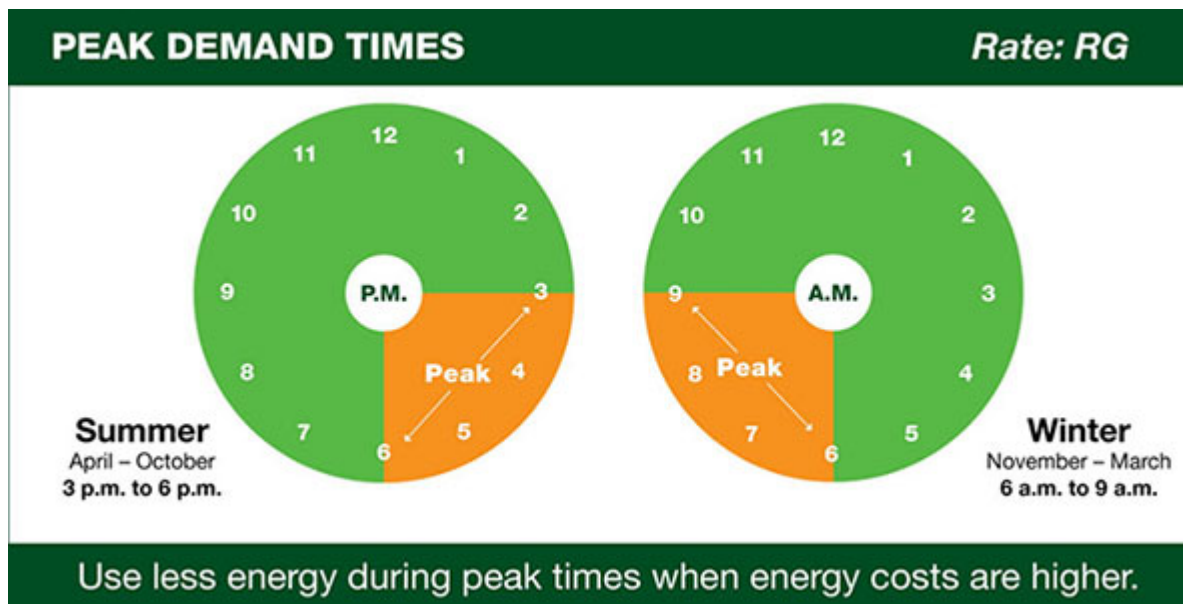
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. McCann,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Rollis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

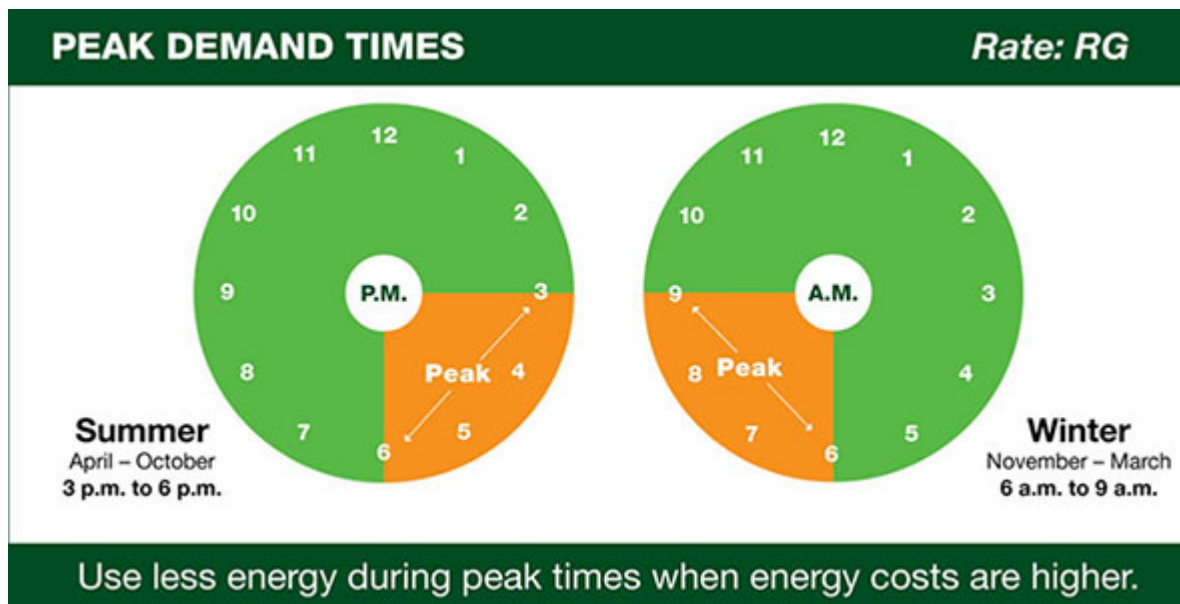
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Siuda,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Barbara	Last Name:	Baranowski
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000712

Date Submitted:	9/7/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Definitely NOT interested.

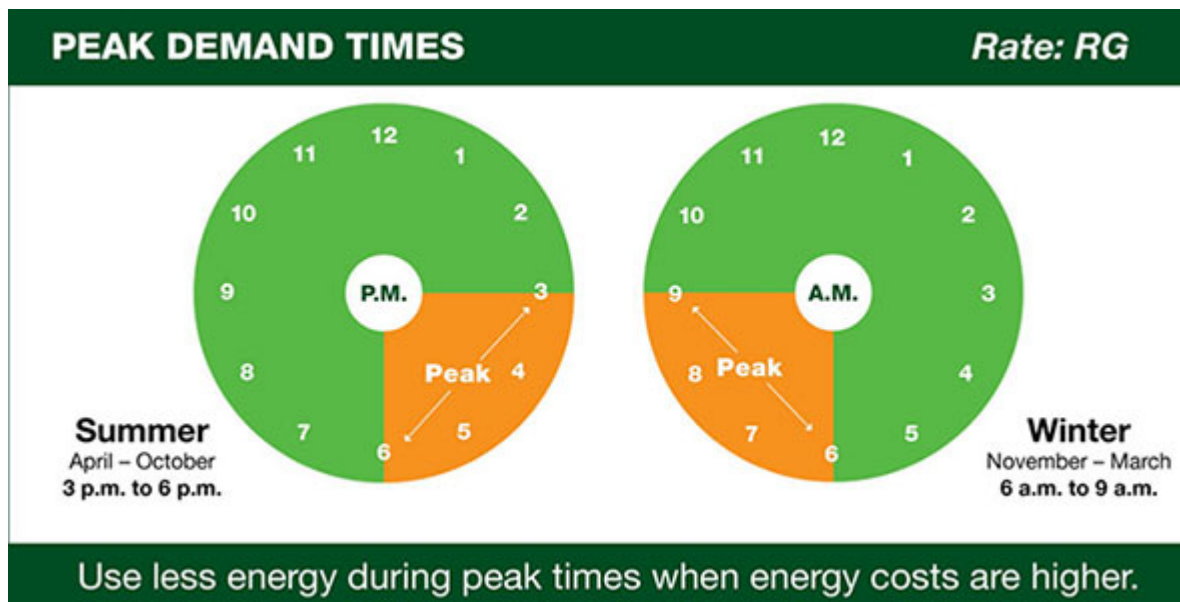
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Dear Ms. Baranowski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Dana	Last Name:	Goodwin
Organization:		Customer Type:	Other
City:			
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000713

Date Submitted:	9/7/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Are you kidding me? Raising rates and taxing people at the worst possible time? Shutting out the public with closed-door clandestine meetings is the first thing that makes me vote DEMOCRATIC. Don't be surprised in future elections.

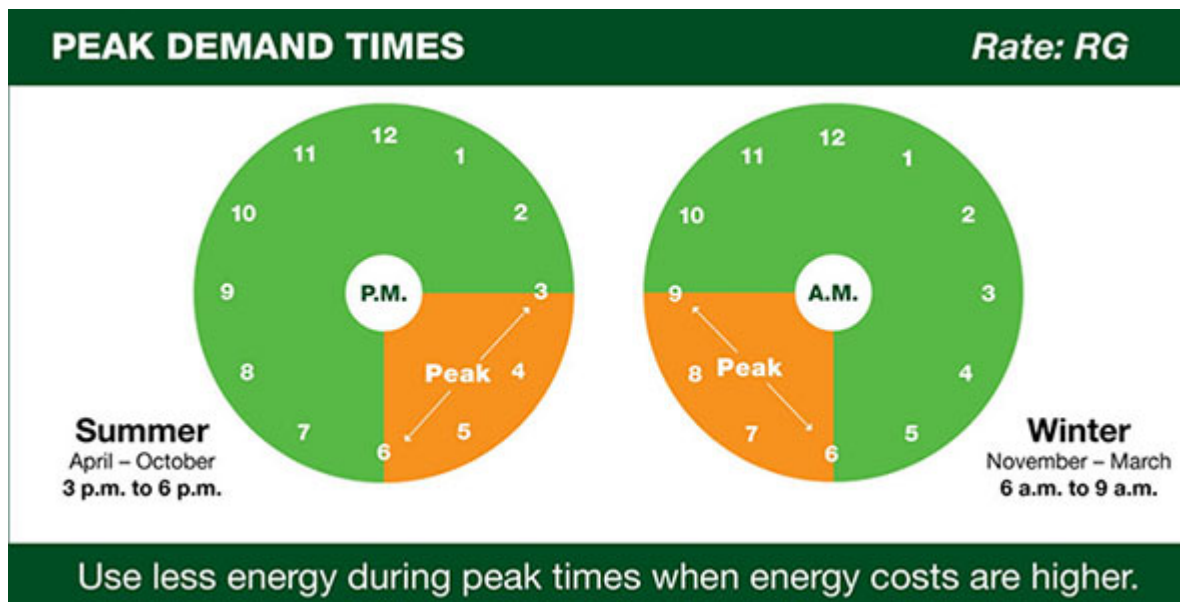
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Goodwin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Hager **Last Name:** Mcmillen
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000714

Date Submitted: 9/7/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I have several issues regarding this type of rate increase 1. What is going to be the baseline for each of your customers during the time frame that you are proposing? Example: I want documentation showing my usage for the past couple years for each month during these specific times so I can monitor my usage 2 Has there been any consideration about your customers who go to work and school who may be doing laundry, showers , dinner time, medical equipment that must be used etc? 3. Is your Procurement Department document bidding to save your company money before you pass these rates to the consumer? I would bet you can see additional saving 4. With inflation so high how are your customers going to handle these increase in there rates. I personally feel your timing for this increase is a very bad decision.Try a small rate increase for every hour of usage . 5. If this program has any flaws you may have some serious class action suits down the road. 6. Is this proposal set in stone for every year ? 7. Is there something that can be placed on our meters that can help reduce our usage during these specific times ? This program seems to be very confusing. Those of us that are sending email I would hope we receive some correspondence back from Santee Cooper? Regards H Mcmillen

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Mcmillen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:

PEAK DEMAND TIMES

Rate: RG



Use less energy during peak times when energy costs are higher.

By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We will have one of our Energy Advisors reach out to you to address your specific situation.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

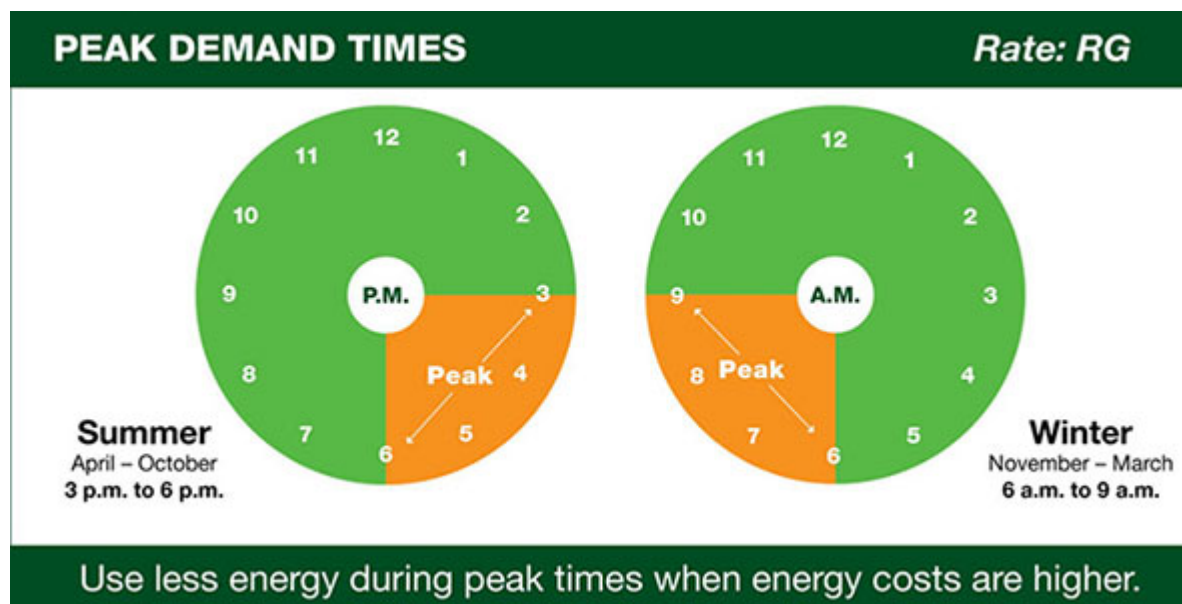
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Dexter,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Patrick

Last Name: Couzzo

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000729

Date Submitted: 9/8/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

BLANK EMAIL

**Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future
for South Carolina**



Dear Mr. Couzzo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria N. Budreau'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: George

Last Name: Graham

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000716

Date Submitted: 9/8/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I am not in favor of your new rate raising scheme . Please do not change the current rate system.

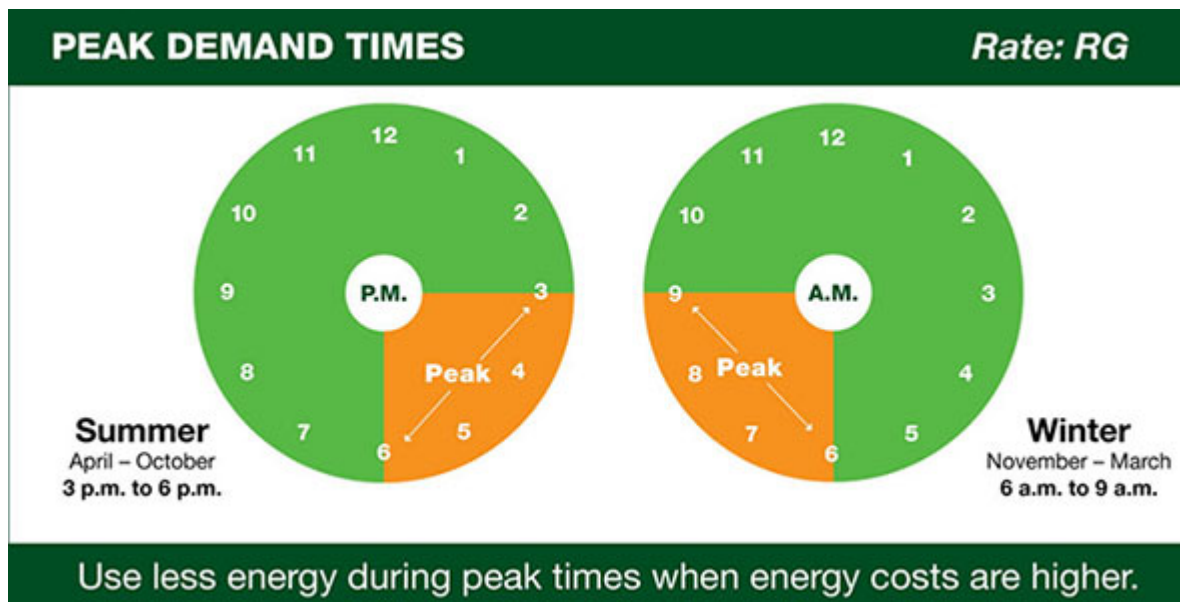
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

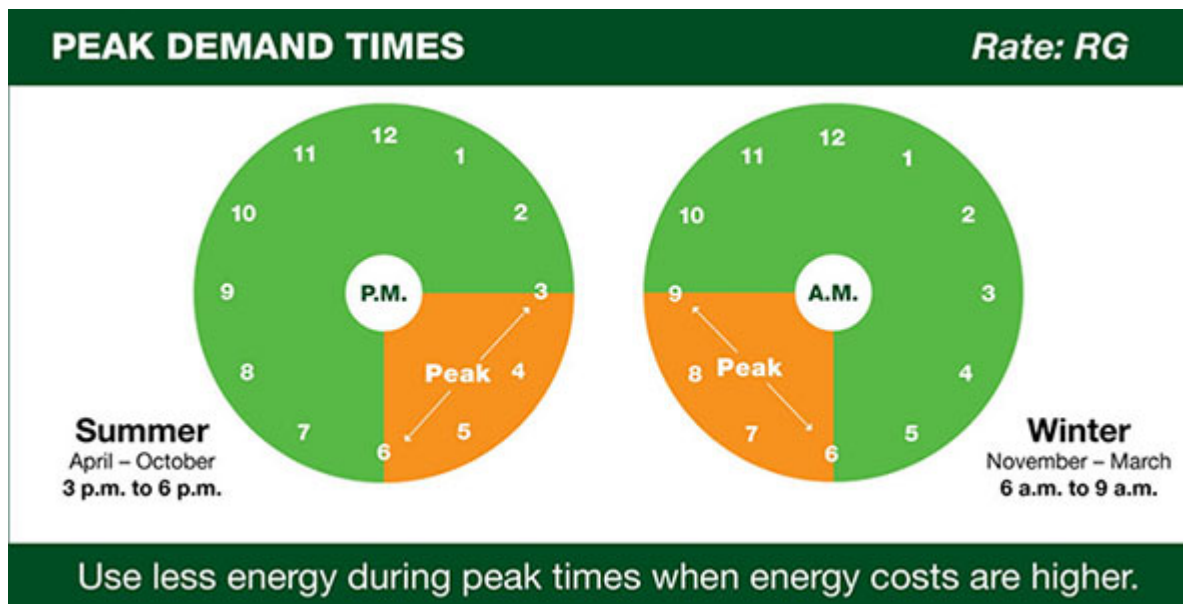
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Ragaini,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lissette and Scott **Last Name:** Luster
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000718

Date Submitted: 9/8/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Good afternoon, We are not interested in participating in this failed peak rate making experiment. Regards, Lissette & Scott Luster **[REDACTED]**

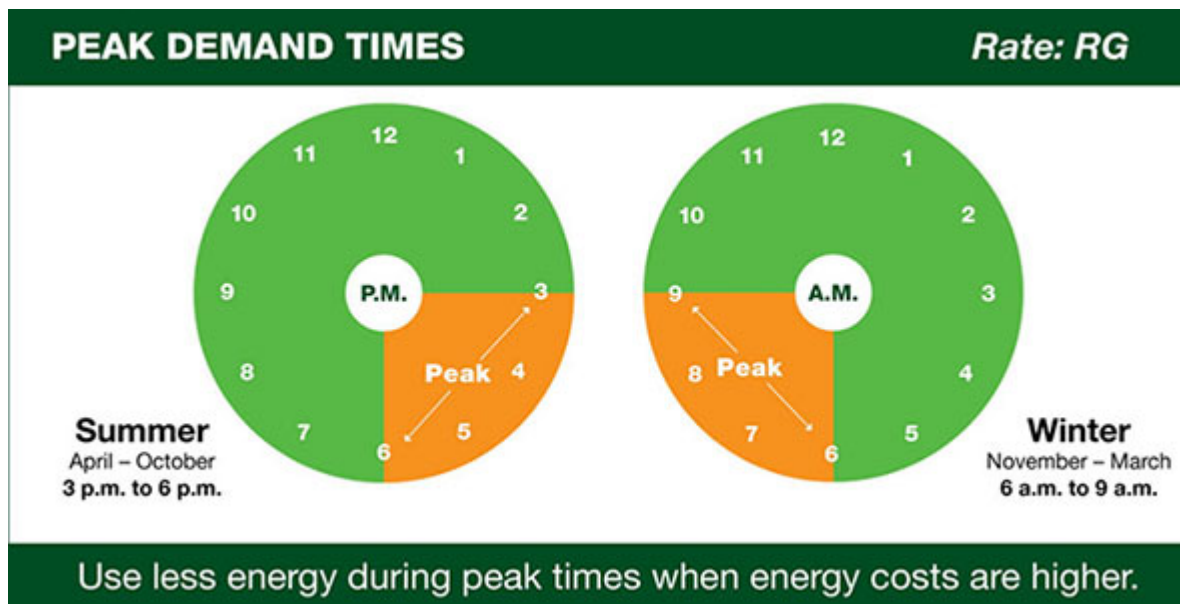
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Luster,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jen

Last Name: Andersch

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000719

Date Submitted: 9/8/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

I was alerted by AARP about your intention to add a new demand charge where customers pay more for the peak amount of electricity used in any hour in the month during a daily three-hour time window. This will be confusing and I oppose this change. Fluctuating rates are impossible to budget for. And I understand that this type of program normally results in higher bills. Thank you for reading. Customer Jennifer Andersch

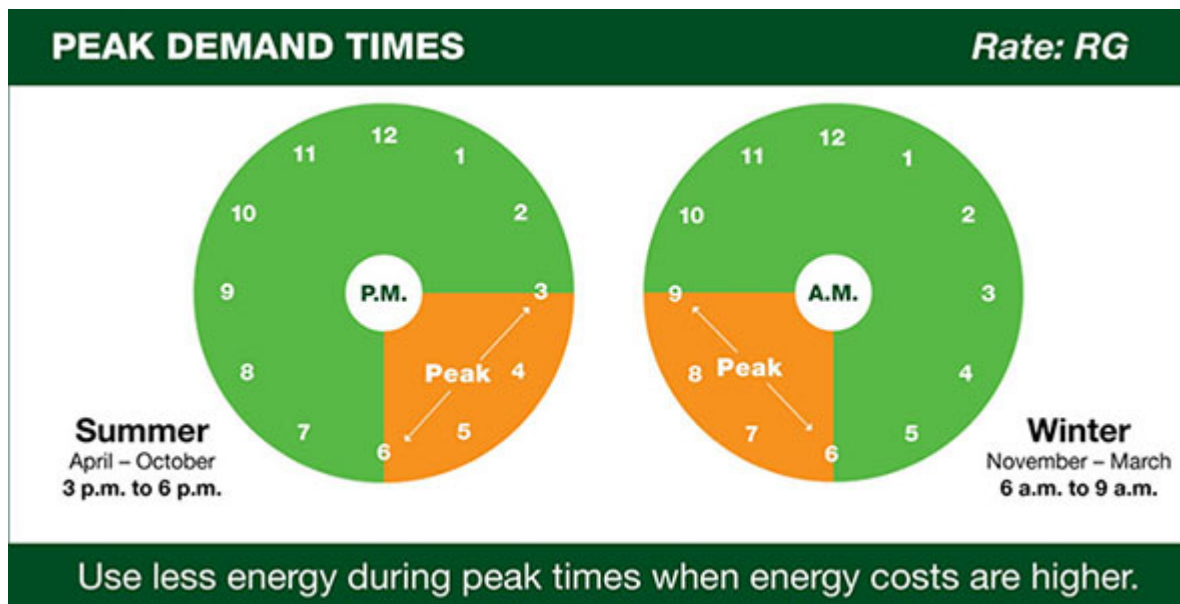
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Andersch,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Christine

Last Name: Barber

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000720

Date Submitted: 9/8/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We oppose the new rate structure.

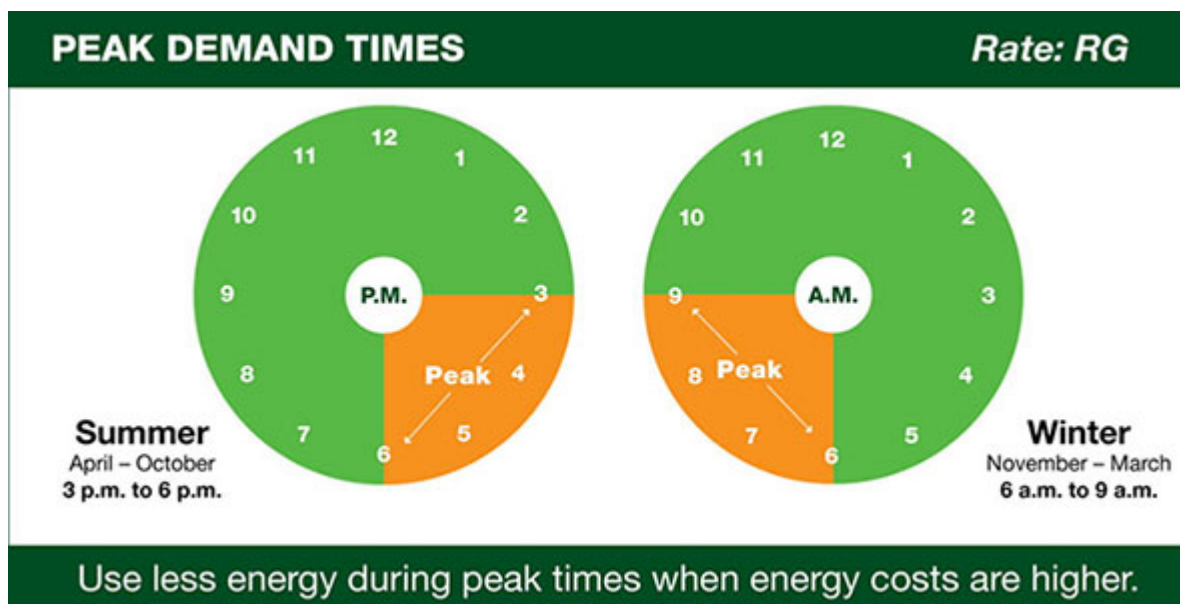
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Barber,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Carole

Last Name: Roberts

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Other

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000721

Date Submitted: 9/8/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

Please do not move forward with this 3 part rate proposal. I already have your Smart Rewards Program. Or will I be excluded from this proposed 3 part rate proposal?
Carole Roberts

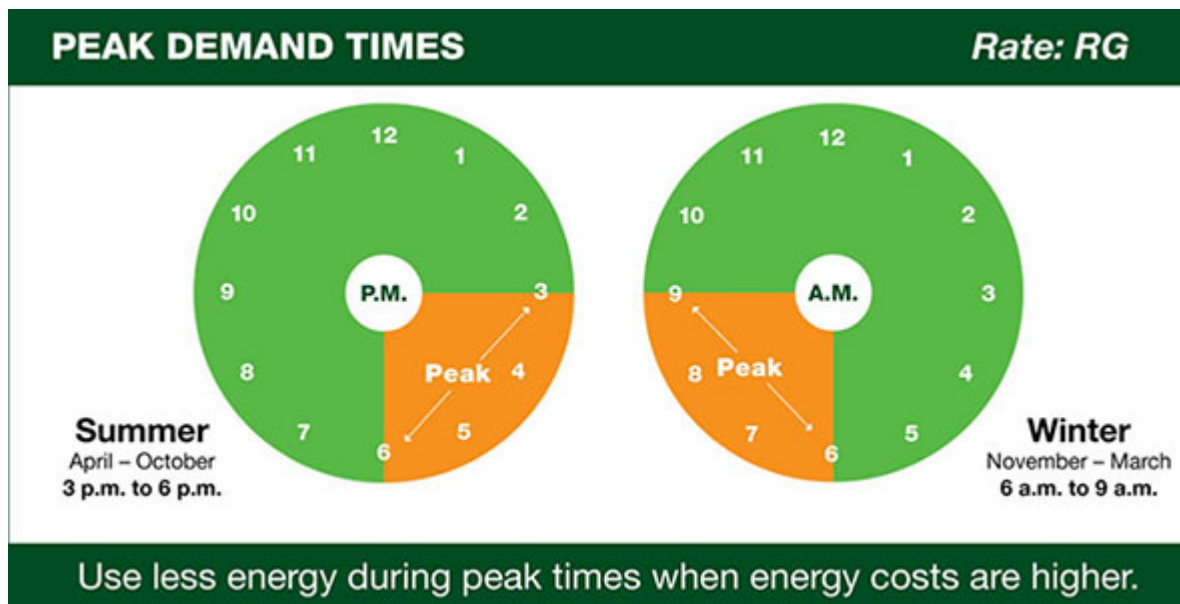
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Roberts,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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The proposed change will apply to all customers currently on the existing RG-17 residential rate.

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energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

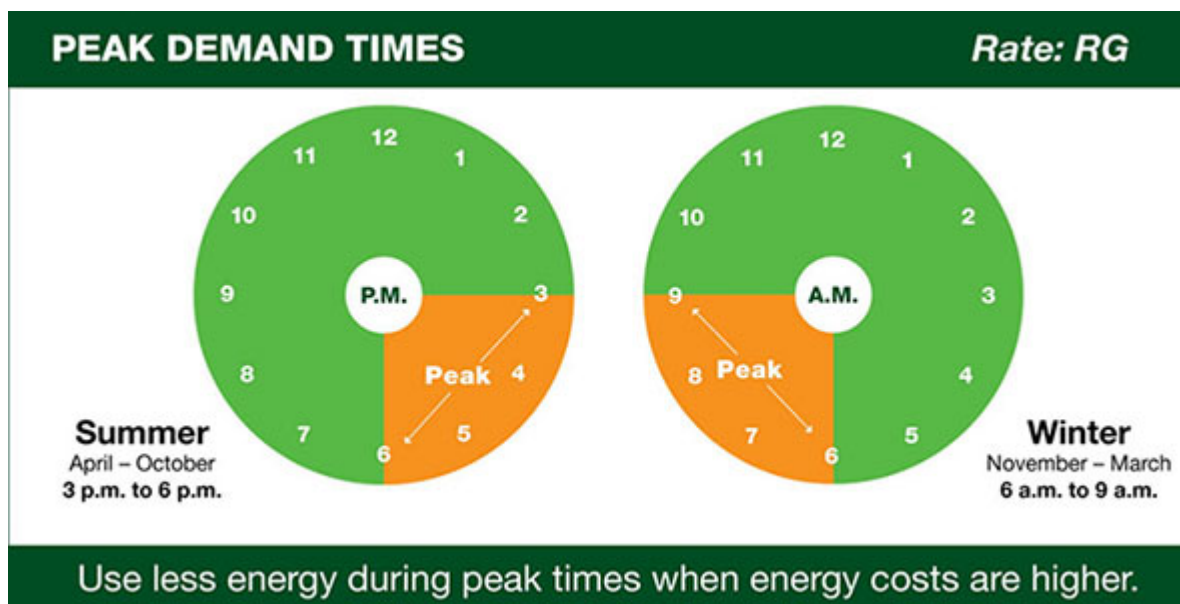
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Prince,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

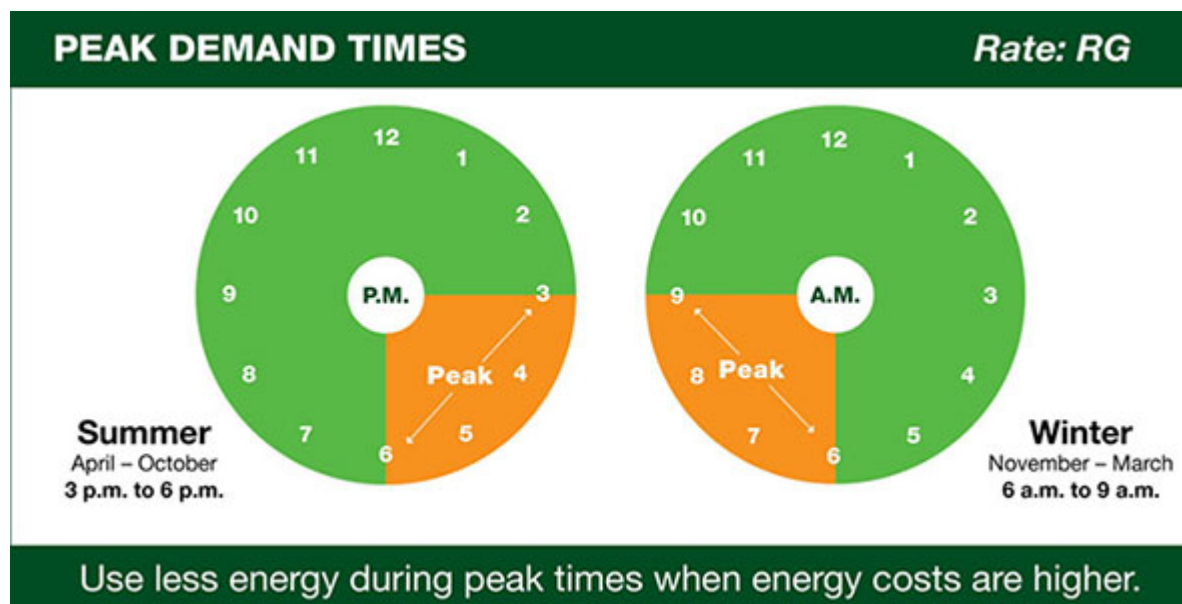
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Dulhagen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: NO FIRST NAME **Last Name:** NO LAST NAME
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000730

Date Submitted: 9/9/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

BLANK EMAIL

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Hello,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Alice	Last Name:	Sanders
Organization:			
City:		Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000731

Date Submitted:	9/9/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I do not agree with this rate evaluation. I can see the possibility for commercial rental property such as hotels but residential should not be included! There is a large retirement community that live on a limited monthly budget. This is not fair to them! This rating is totally unfair!

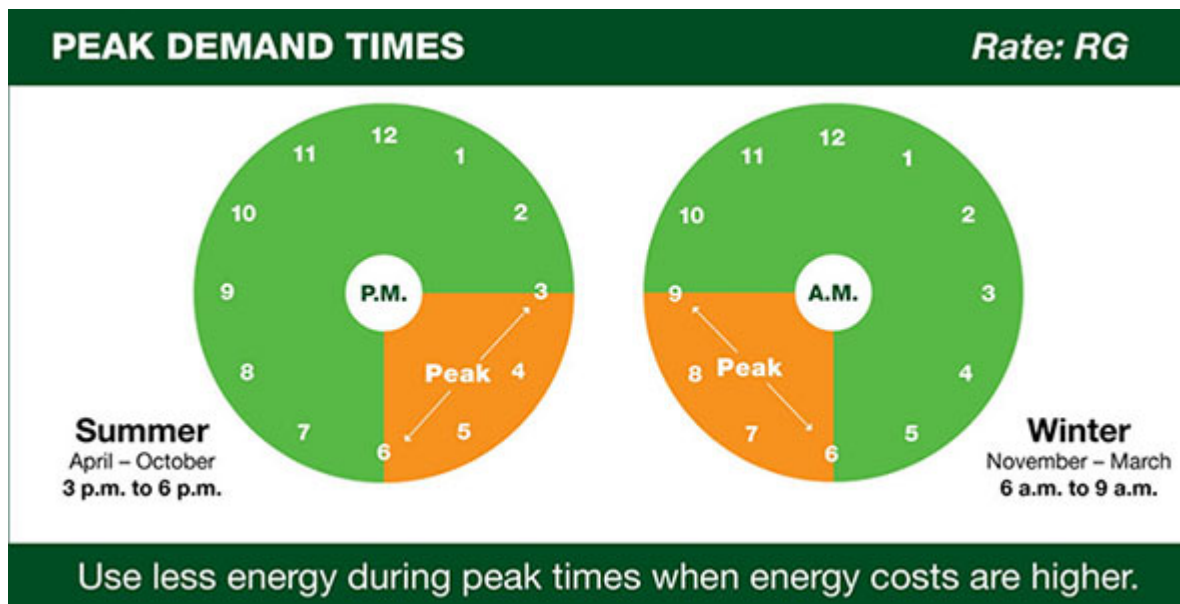
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Sanders,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Susana	Last Name:	Castillo
Organization:			
City:	Little River	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC	29566	

SC Reference # : SC000000732

Date Submitted:	9/9/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

The proposed rate charges are confusing and ridiculous. I don't understand what's the point of penalizing us by imposing automatic peak hours. The new rate would mainly castigate those who are struggling to make ends meet. In my opinion, the current bill works, why fix it? Thank you, Susana Castillo Little River, SC 29566

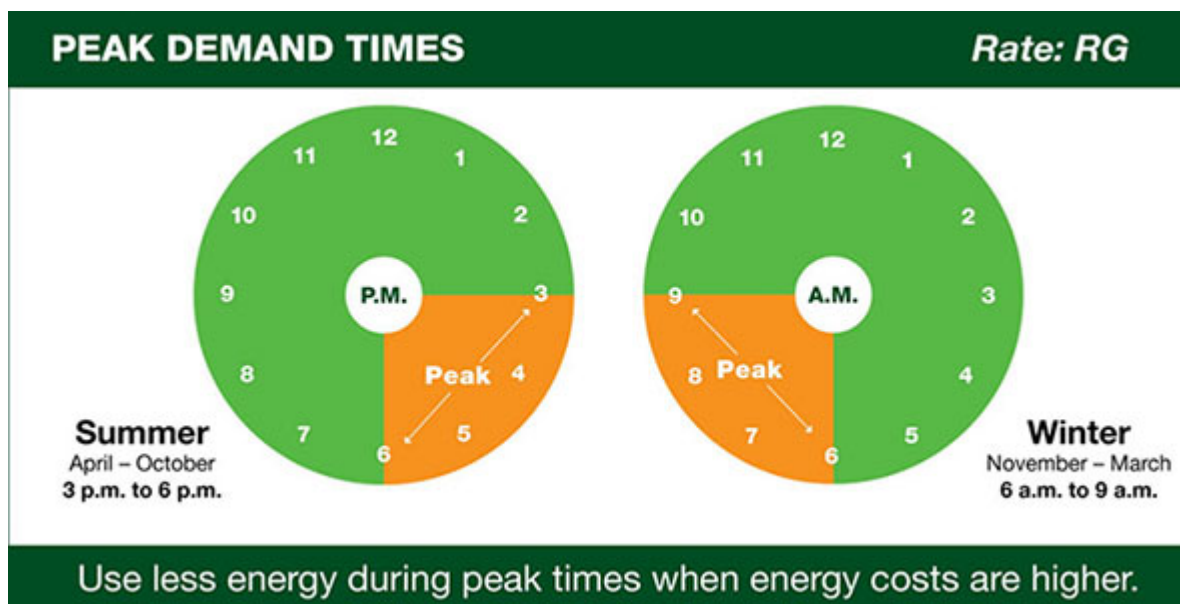
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Castillo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Anita and Lou

Last Name: Brooks

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000733

Date Submitted: 9/9/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We do not want to partake in the 3 part rate increases. Anita and Lou Brooks

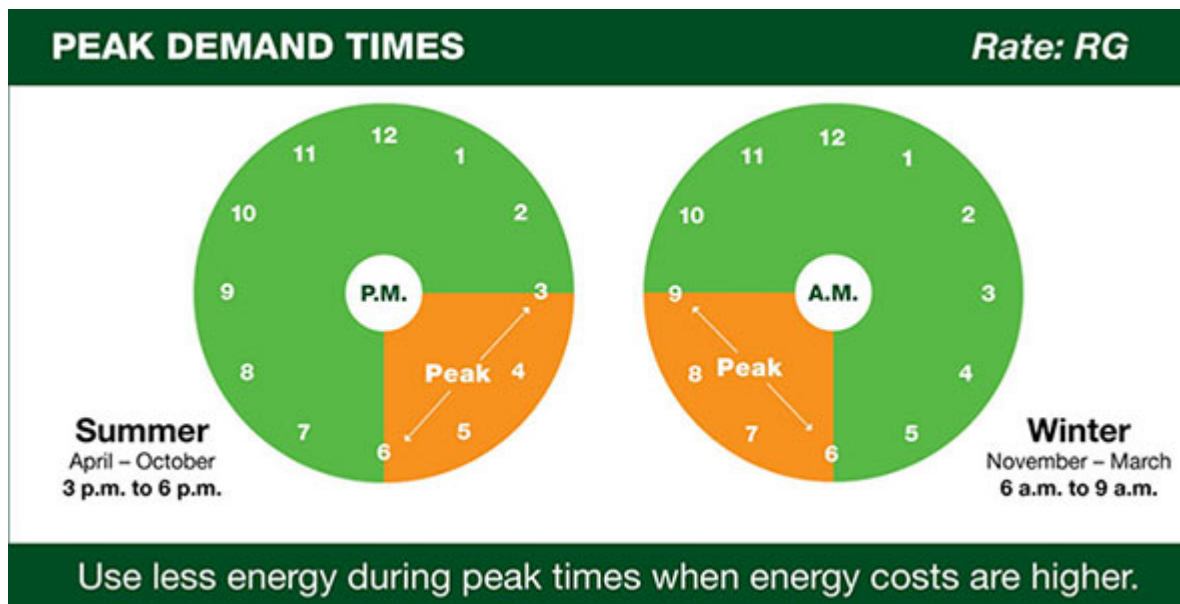
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brooks,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Denise **Last Name:** Murphy
Organization:
City: Little River **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC 29566

SC Reference # : SC000000734

Date Submitted: 9/9/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Mr. Jimmy Staton, I understand your company, Santee Cooper, wants to add a new charge to my utility bill. In addition to the customer and energy charge where I'll pay more for the peak amount of electricity used in any hour in the month during a daily three-hour time window. Am I right to understand that peak demand charge hours would be 3-6 p.m. in summer months and 6-9 a.m. in winter months? Also, am I right to understand that I won't know what the charge is until I get my bill?. If these are true statements, I find this quite predatory and onerous. I await your reply.
Denise Murphy **[REDACTED]**

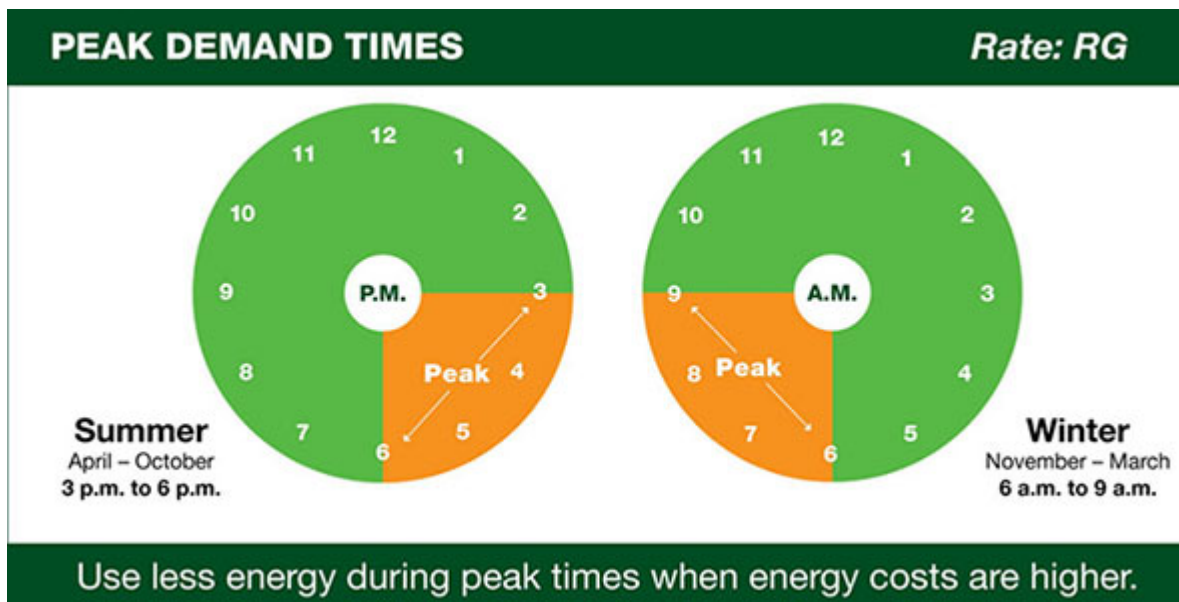
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Murphy,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lou

Last Name: Brooks

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000735

Date Submitted: 9/9/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

We do not want

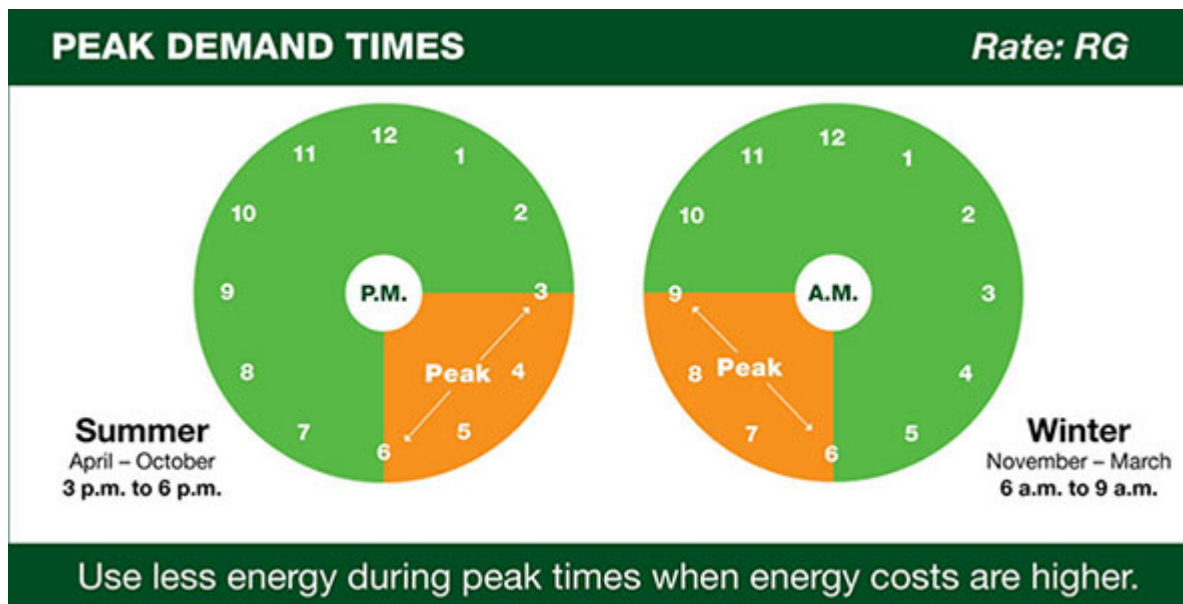
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Brooks,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Barbara	Last Name:	MacKinnon
Organization:			
City:	North Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582		

SC Reference # : SC000000736

Date Submitted:	9/9/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Gentlemen: I have been a residential customer since 2003. From a generation/environmental point of view, I understand the proposal to increase rates substantially during peak hours, but please consider also the human costs. 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. is when the world gets ready for work and school. This is not a time-frame that can be changed in today's world. That means everyone takes cold showers? And eats a cold breakfast? Somehow that seems to be an unreasonable scenario. And for the family who is living paycheck to paycheck, stretching to pay for a hot shower in the morning is a severe hardship. The 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. restriction means no one can start dinner until after 6:00. This is not a reasonable scenario in many families with young children. It also means dinner and laundry all have to be crowded into the 6:00 until bedtime hours, which does not allow for good family time for our children. You've already heard from the AARP about the dangers for seniors whose medical devices require electricity. This is the kind of plan that looks good to the engineers and managers sitting in their offices, but once you look at the actual effect on people and family life, the fault lines show. Please reconsider this proposal.
Regards, Barbara MacKinnon

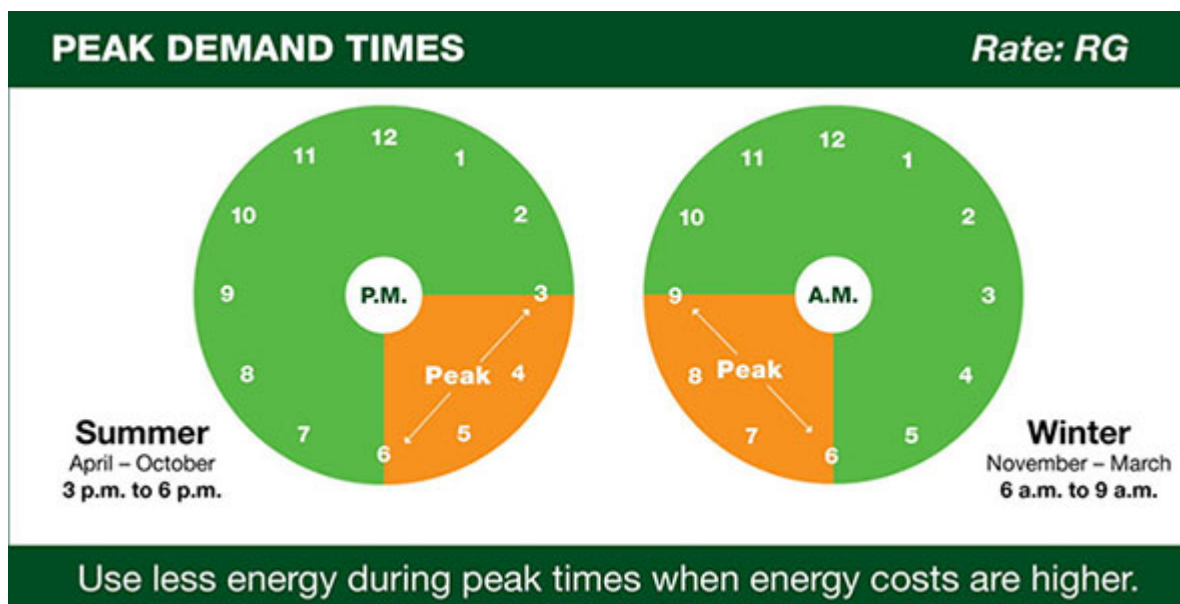
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. MacKinnon,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

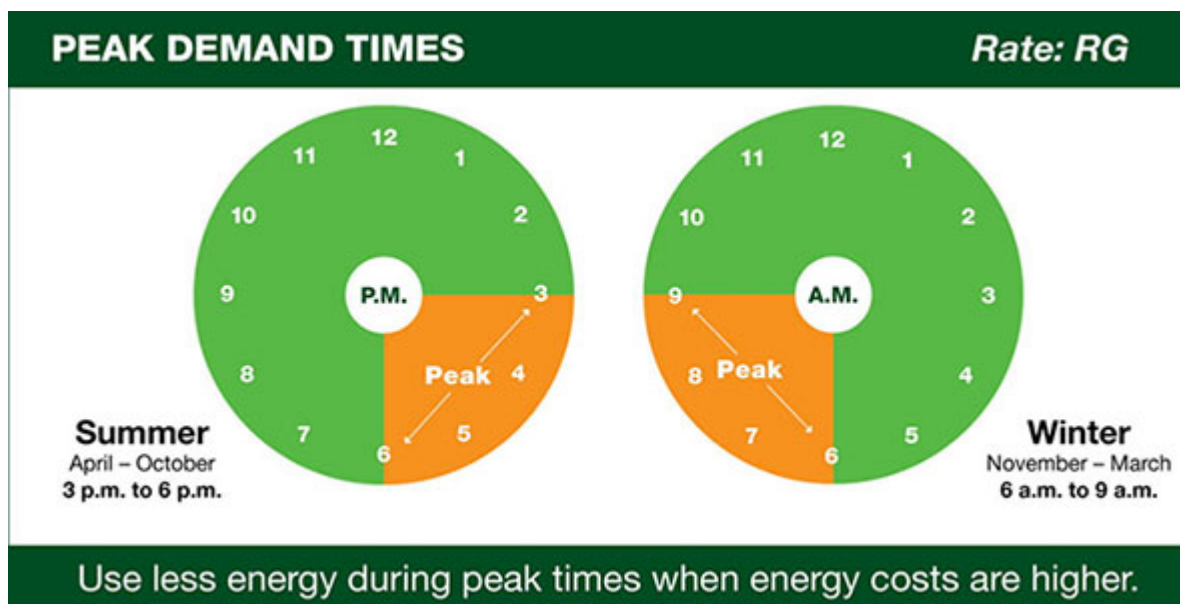
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Nance,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mike Last Name: Rallings
Organization:
City: Customer Type: Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000739

Date Submitted: 9/10/2024 Origin: email

Comment:

Santee Cooper, I am contacting you with concerns about your proposed new rate structure. I own a second home in Garden City at 441 Bay Drive, account #1792740456. The home is for personal use only and we utilize it 90-100 days per year with around 60% of those being weekend days. When not there the thermostat is set at 55 degrees Winter and 85 degrees Summer, and the water heater is turned off. Per the "calculate your bill" feature included in the announcement my average bill increases 46% (see table below) for billing periods July 2023 through June 2024, which is significantly higher than the 8.7% average residential increase stated in the announcement. This increase is due to the resultant demand charge averaging half of the total bill. The demand charge averages 62% of the bill if the customer charge is excluded. Decreasing my demand to near zero during the peak periods would be required to limit my bill to the stated average increase, which is unreasonable to expect of any customer.
July 2023 -June 2024 Total kWh Peak kW Existing Rate Proposed Rate Rate Difference % Increase Average 507 5.5 \$75.01 \$109.45 \$34.45 46%
As a retired 40-year electric utility employee, I am very familiar with demand rate structures and have seen similar rates implemented by several South Carolina Cooperatives. In every case, customers with low energy usage are more severely affected by demand charges. The Grand Strand has many part time residents and other similar low average energy users which will be unfairly and disproportionately impacted by this rate structure. To achieve a 46% increase without a demand charge, the effective energy charge would have to increase to 17.6 cents per kilowatt hour (see table below).
July 2023 -June 2024 Total kWh Energy .12 Energy .14 Energy .16 Energy .176 Energy .18 Energy .20 Average 507 \$80.89 \$91.04 \$101.19 \$109.31 \$111.34 \$121.48 % increase 8% 21% 35% 46% 48% 62%
As I do not believe your Board, the SC public Service Commission, or our State Representatives would support such a drastic increase to any customer, I plan to speak at one of the public meetings and the Board attended meeting. I strongly recommend an alternative rate schedule for lower energy usage customers be offered in contrast to the proposed option. Please contact me if you have questions and otherwise, I hope to hear from you prior to the public meetings if you have other rate options available.
Regards, Mike Rallings, PE [REDACTED]

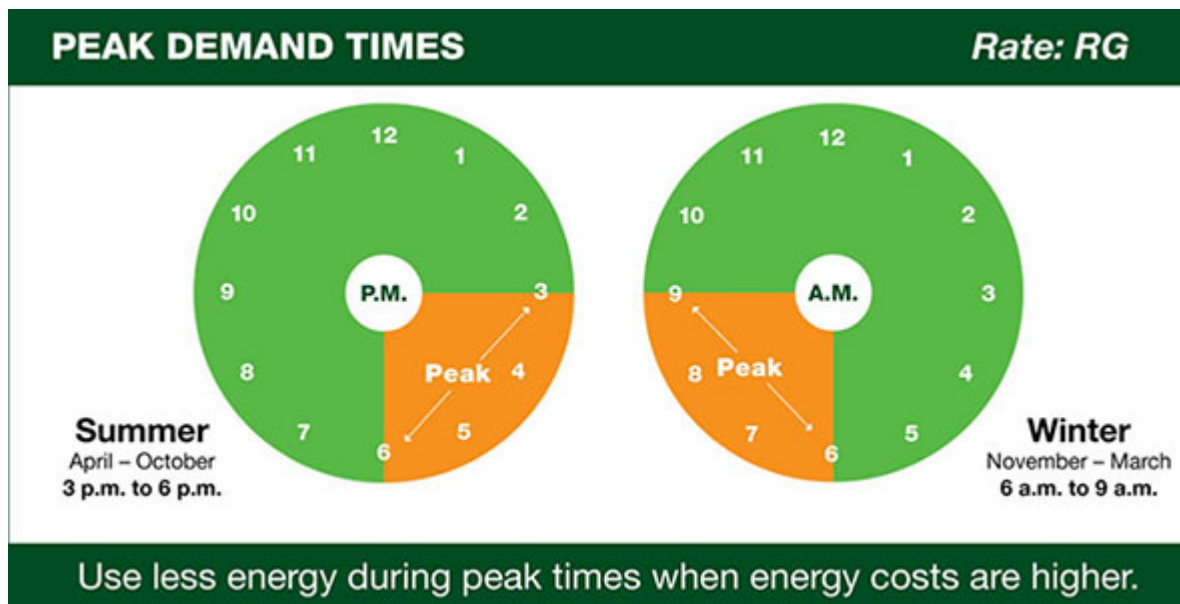
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Rallings,

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Sue **Last Name:** Fehr
Organization:
City: Surfside Beach **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip: SC

SC Reference # : SC000000740

Date Submitted: 9/10/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am strongly opposed to this new rate system. I cannot understand this concept of demand on peak. When is that single hour during the peak period each month? I used your calculation tool and it showed my bill would increase about \$20. I take pride in the fact that I utilize off peak as much as possible. I can't see myself doing laundry at 2am. I keep my summer thermostat at 78 and winter at 68. My electric bill is at least half of my neighbors. My average bill is \$60/month over 2023 and so far over the 9 months of 2024, \$70/month has been average. This average should drop because my Oct, Nov & Dec bills avg \$50. Come up with a better solution. Sue Fehr

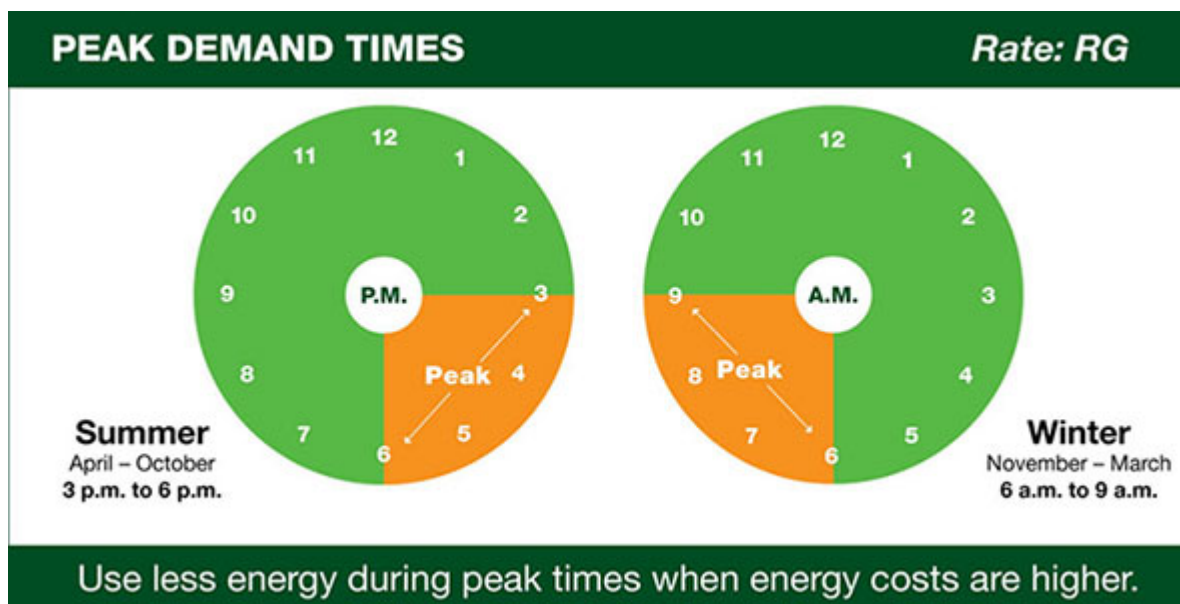
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Fehr,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Michael **Last Name:** Taylor
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000741

Date Submitted: 9/10/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We do not want your confusing rate adjustment billing. We have medical equipment that must run for a disabled person. Are you going to gouge us with this now?

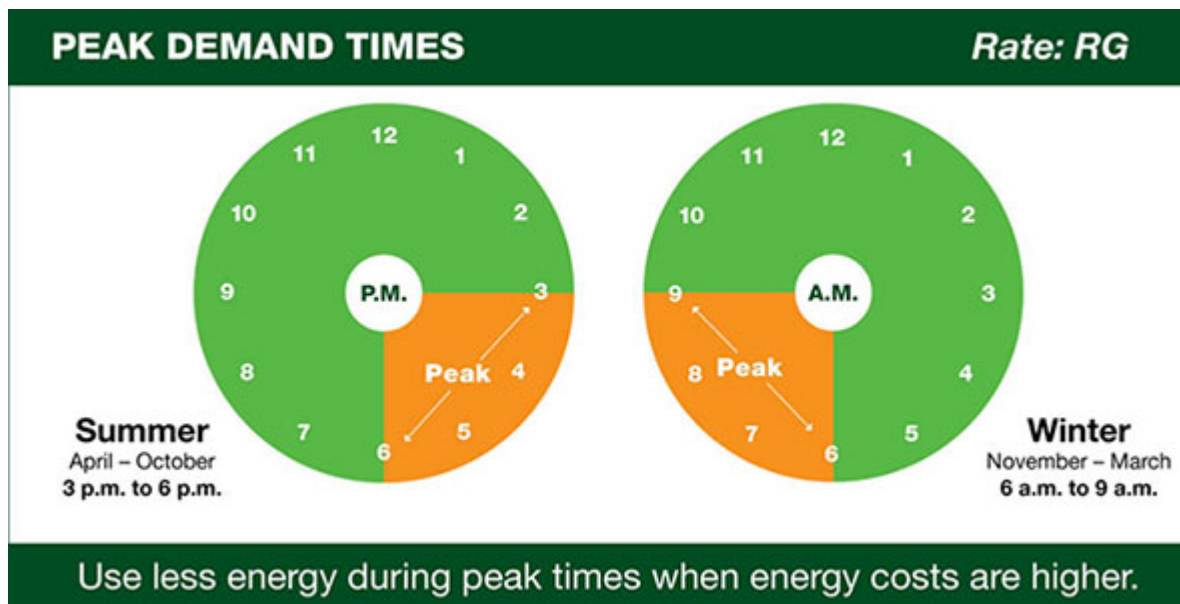
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Taylor,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Terry	Last Name:	Bowling
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29572-8194		

SC Reference # : SC0000000742

Date Submitted:	9/11/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Since being made aware of the peak load times in this proposal in the past month, I have already made adjustments to my usage patterns. I believe the demand charge being added to the residential rates will result in large surprise bill increases for many of your customers, including those that are attempting to conserve. I suggest that instead of using only one peak hour during the month for the demand charge calculation that you use the average of the 10 peak hours during the billing period, or even the average of all peak hours during the billing period for calculating the demand charge. A residential customer can attempt to conserve energy during the month, yet one slip-up during a month can result in a significant energy demand charge. One slip-up is not indicative of someone taxing the grid and may result in a significant increase to their bill. Using an average over the month will focus the demand charge on those individuals that are consistently using power during the peak periods. Thank you.

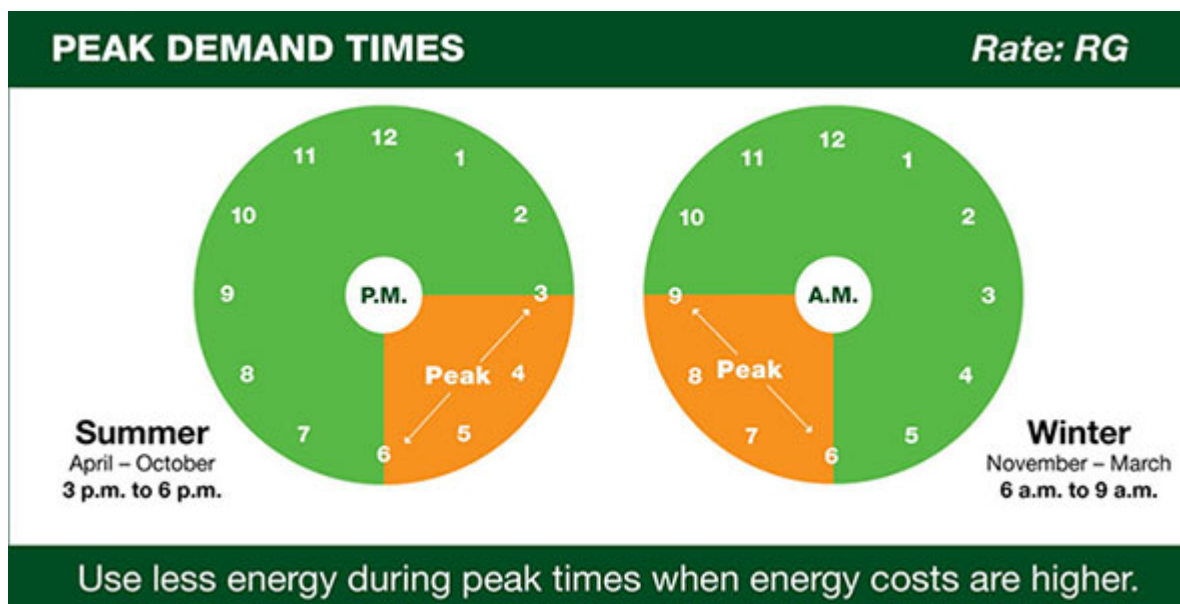
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Dear Mr. Bowling,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Drayton	Last Name:	Lipscomb
Organization:			
City:	Murrell's Inlet	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC000000744

Date Submitted:	9/11/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

I am Opposed to your new three-part rate proposal. Drayton Lipscomb

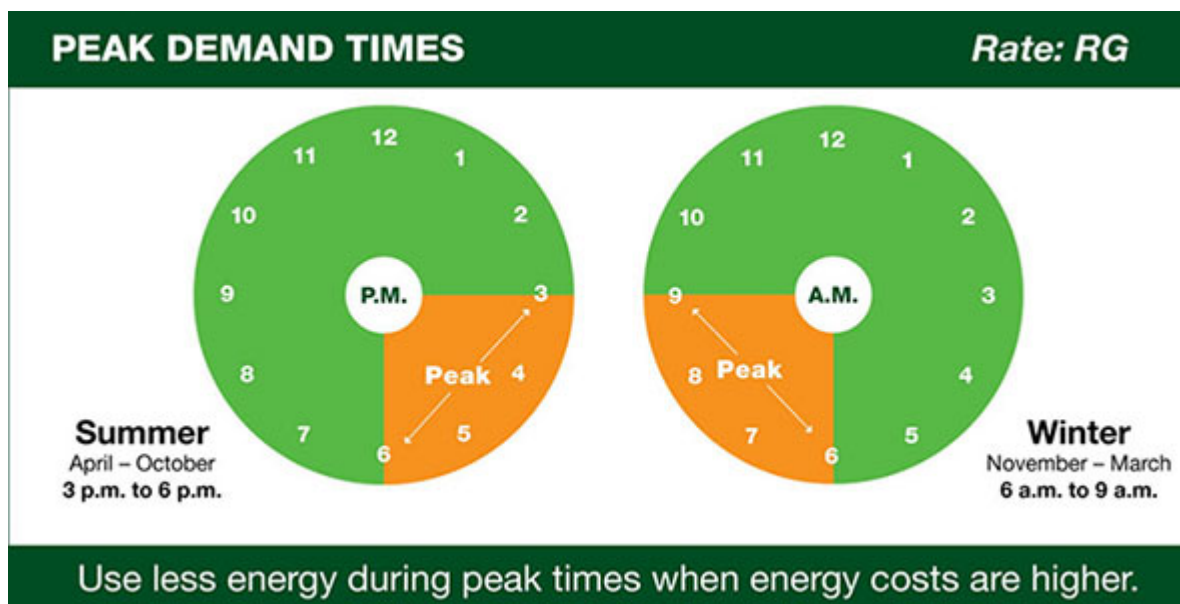
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Dear Mr. Lipscomb,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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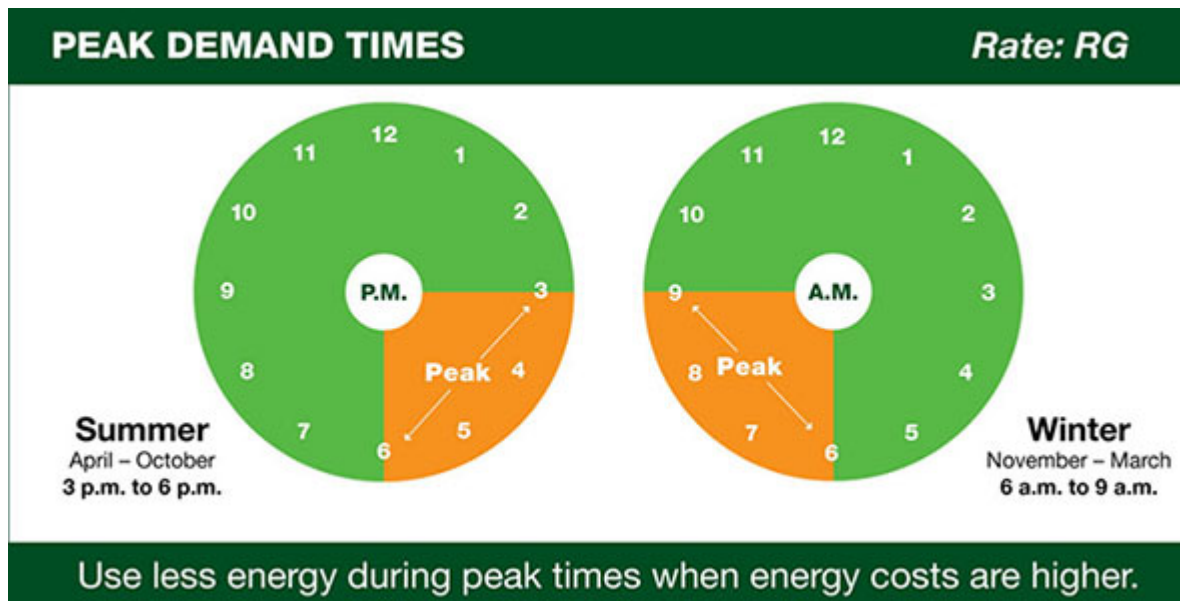


Dear Ms. Million,

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Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help

you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

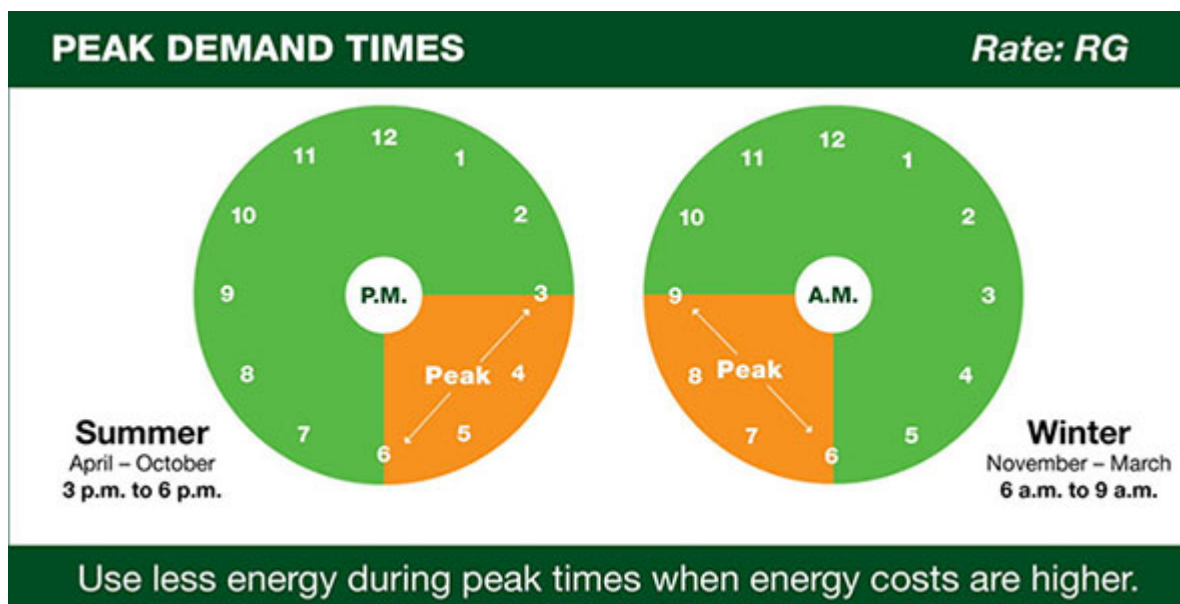
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Budzisz,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

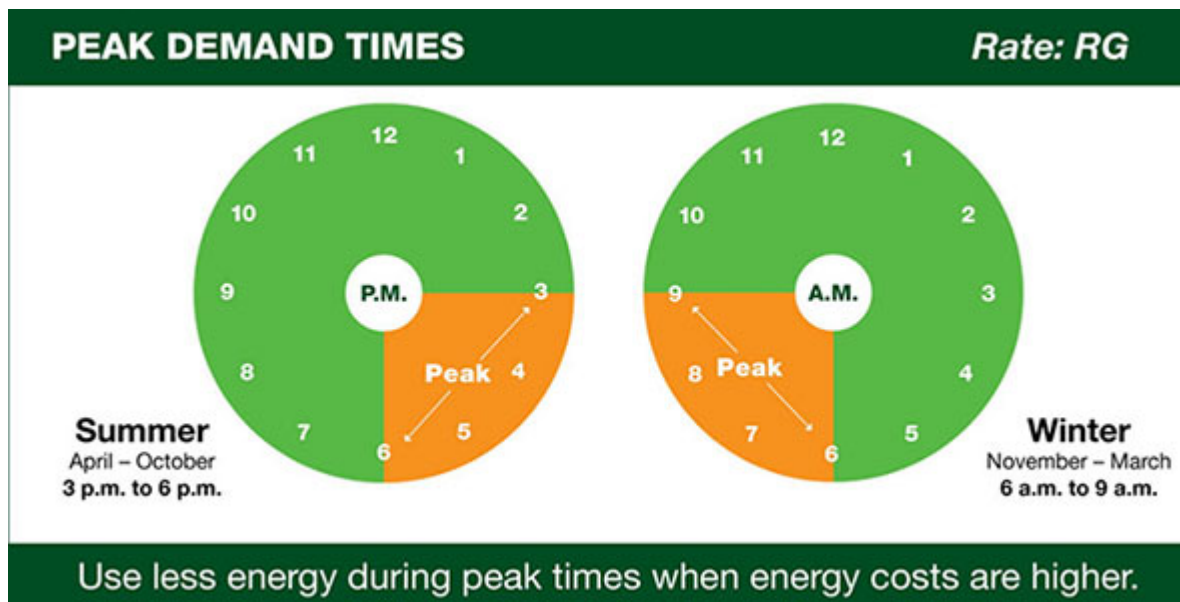
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Couvreur,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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As to your specific questions, your interpretation of the application of the proposed demand charge is correct. The proposed demand charge would apply every month, with the summer peak demand period of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. applying to the months of April through October and the winter peak demand period of 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. applying to the months of November through March.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Keull,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper understands that many of our customers are in challenging financial situations and we take seriously our responsibility to keep costs as low as we can for customers. We have continued to look for efficiencies and cuts in our own budgets. We made a \$30 million reduction in non-fuel operations and maintenance costs and a \$70 million reduction in capital costs in 2022, and are projected to save \$765 million from debt restructuring in 2023. Additionally, we have reduced our headcount via attrition since 2017, moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

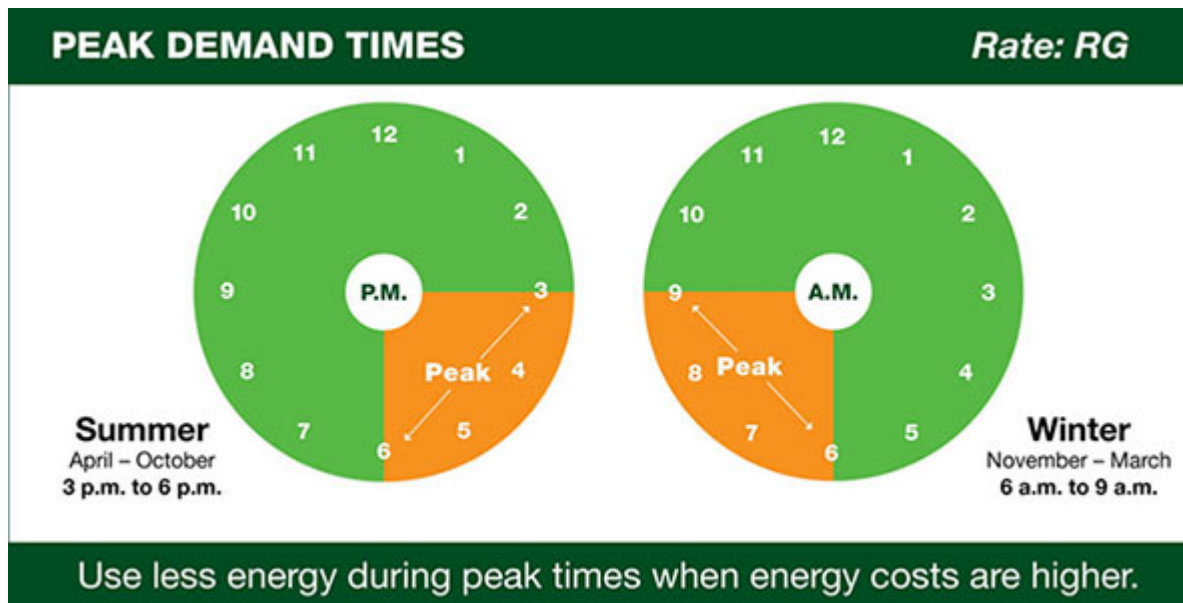


Dear Mr. Hernandez,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Maryellen **Last Name:** Covais
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000750

Date Submitted: 9/12/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am a loyal customer who always pays my bills on time. I am not interested in participating in this failed rate making experiment. I am in opposition to this practice. Customers need fair and transparent prices. Thank you, Maryellen Covais

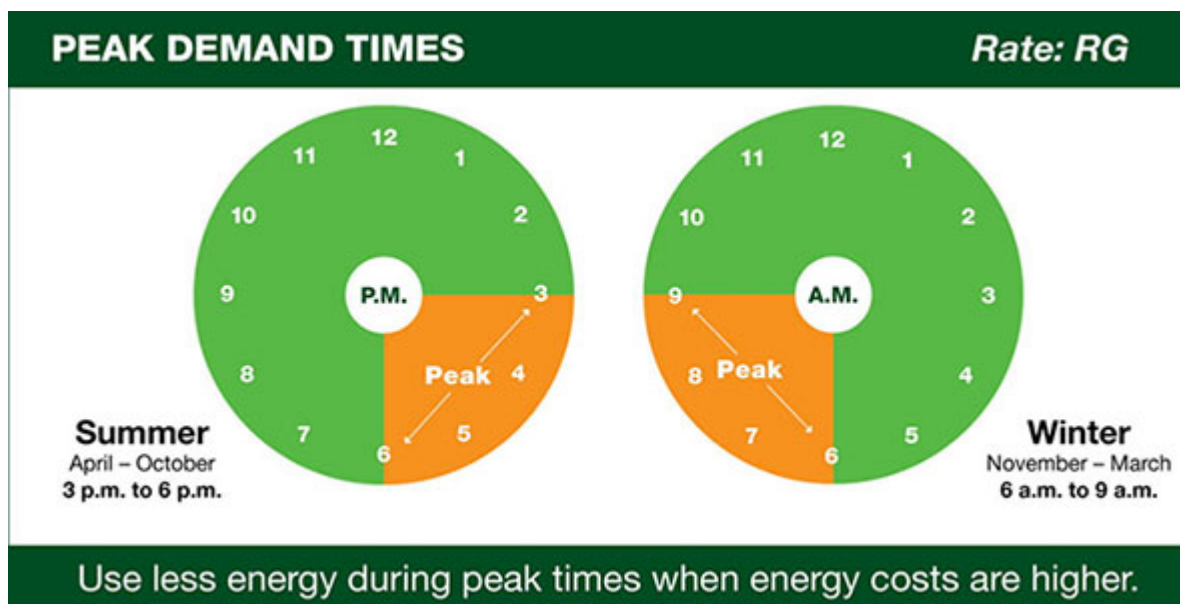
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Covais,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	David	Last Name:	Bodle
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29572		

SC Reference # : SC000000751

Date Submitted:	9/12/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

With the concerns stated by the Coastal Conservation League and AARP-South Carolina, I too have become concerned about the proposed rate increase. I am 77 years old, living alone on a fixed Social Security income. I am frugal living on a very tight budget. I appreciate your need for a rate increase, but something as significant as you propose is catastrophic for seniors and those in the community with limited earning potential. It is my hope that you will read this message and reconsider the proposed rates that are on the table. Thank you.

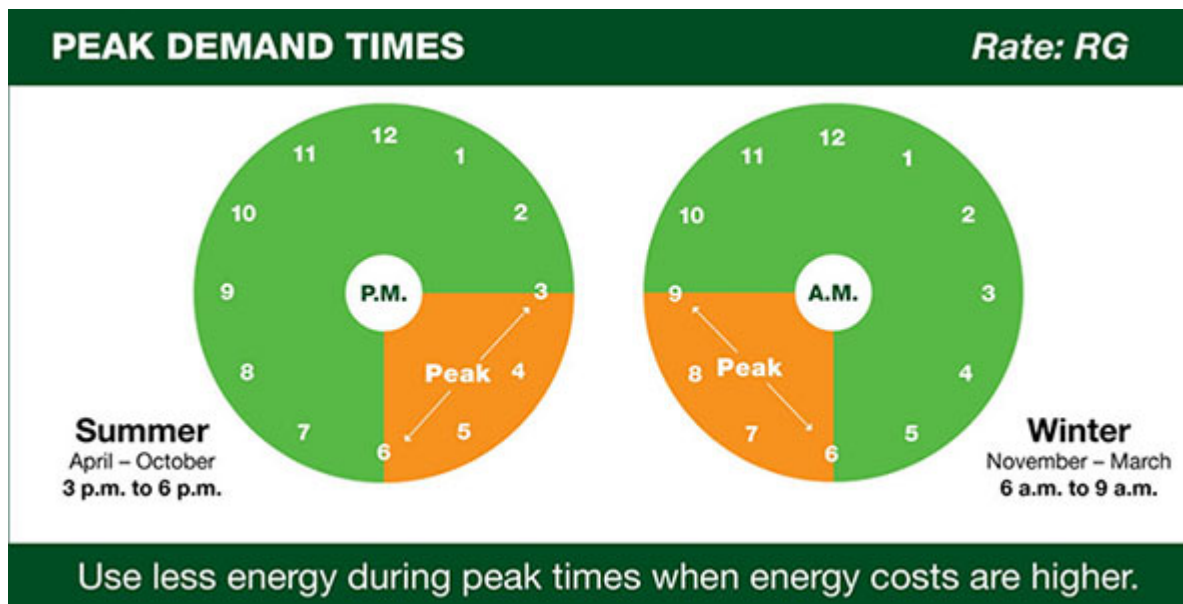
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Bodle,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Charles	Last Name:	Golden
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC0000000752

Date Submitted:	9/12/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

The demand charge that is being proposed is an extraordinarily bad concept and idea and is just another rate increase which provides even lesser incentive to conserve (if that is the purpose of a demand charge) than simply having an across the board rate increase. If I know I am going to have this additional charge which is arbitrarily levied based on some high hour out of 720 hours a month, it seems impossible to predict when this is and in any case there will always be a high hour to be charged on. How are we going to figure this out and in how many months will we have events that move this high hour around. Bad idea and counter productive.

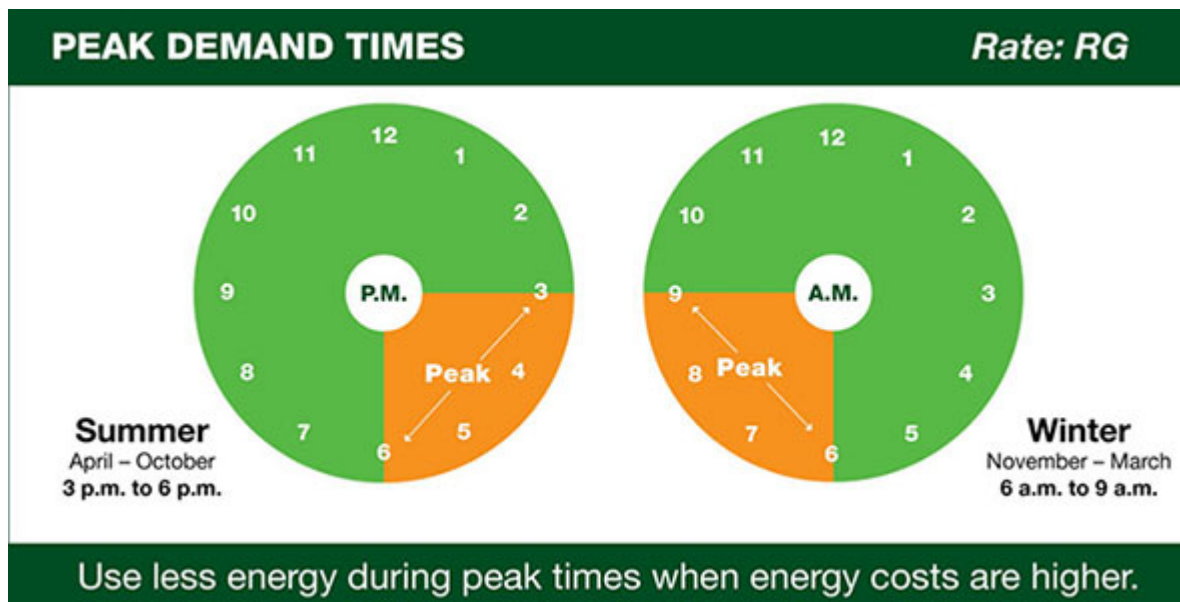
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. Golden,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Dawn

Last Name: McGhee

Organization:

City:

Customer Type: Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000759

Date Submitted: 9/13/2024

Origin: email

Comment:

No "surprise charges" should be part of a billing process. Do you know how much of this state is filled with retirees and people living below the national poverty level? People are struggling to buy groceries and you want to implement surge charging in a southern state? All while your CEO pockets \$1.4 million. Don't be a shining example of corporate greed. Sincerely, Dawnita McGhee A customer—for now

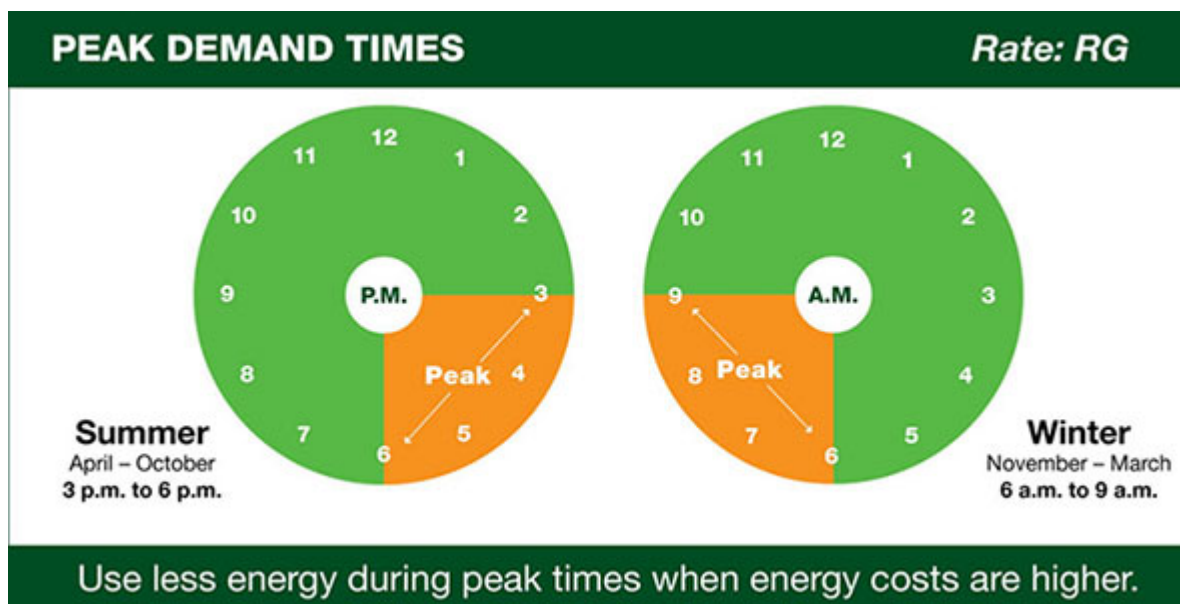
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Dear Dawn McGhee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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moving from 1,745 full-time employees to 1,578 at the end of 2023. Those cost reductions and debt restructuring are just three of many actions that have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable for the last seven years.

Even with these efforts, Santee Cooper's costs continue to increase due to inflation, increased costs associated with environmental compliance and regional transmission constraints. The costs of producing, transmitting and distributing reliable and sustainable electricity have increased significantly over the last seven years, and in order to provide you the service you deserve and require we must adjust our rates to meet our costs.

We understand your concerns about working within a budget. Budget cuts and debt restructuring have allowed Santee Cooper to keep rates stable since 2017.

Santee Cooper is a public power utility owned by the state of South Carolina. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit, and our rates are based on the cost to serve its customers. In regard to our executive salaries, we do benchmark all salaries, including our executive compensation, and target the median for our peer group of similar utilities or from general industry, depending on the position.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mark	Last Name:	DuPuis
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC000000753

Date Submitted:	9/13/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

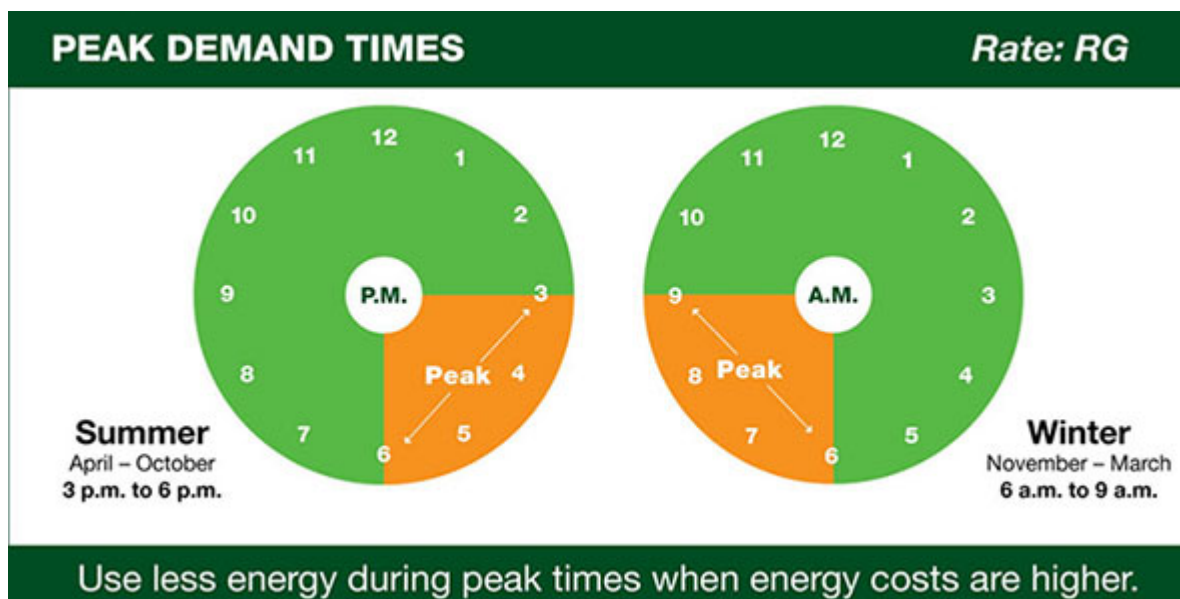
I strongly object to the proposed rate increases. These unfairly target residential customers over commercial customers. Due to the continued mismanagement, Santee Cooper wants its years of mistakes to be offloaded to its customers. The new "demand charge" is just a backdoor way to gouge residential customers.

Dear Mr. DuPuis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

The rate increase percentages for each class are primarily driven by that class's share of total electric system costs. The determinations of cost shares by class are generally made using industry standard methodologies based on how a customer class uses the system, such as how the peak usage for each class contributes to the total system peak usage of electricity. This process is commonly called cost allocation. The direct result of these cost allocations showed that the residential class was responsible for a higher portion of system costs than past studies had shown and was significantly under-recovering those costs under the previous rate structure. Since current data indicates that the residential class is responsible for a higher portion of system allocated costs, residential customers are also subsequently responsible for a higher portion of the total rate adjustment; that is why the proposed residential rate increase percentage is higher than those of the other customer classes.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Keith	Last Name:	Hegedus
Organization:			
City:	Surfside Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC000000754

Date Submitted:	9/13/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper, We are not interested in participating in the three-part rate proposal. Sincerely, Keith Hegedus

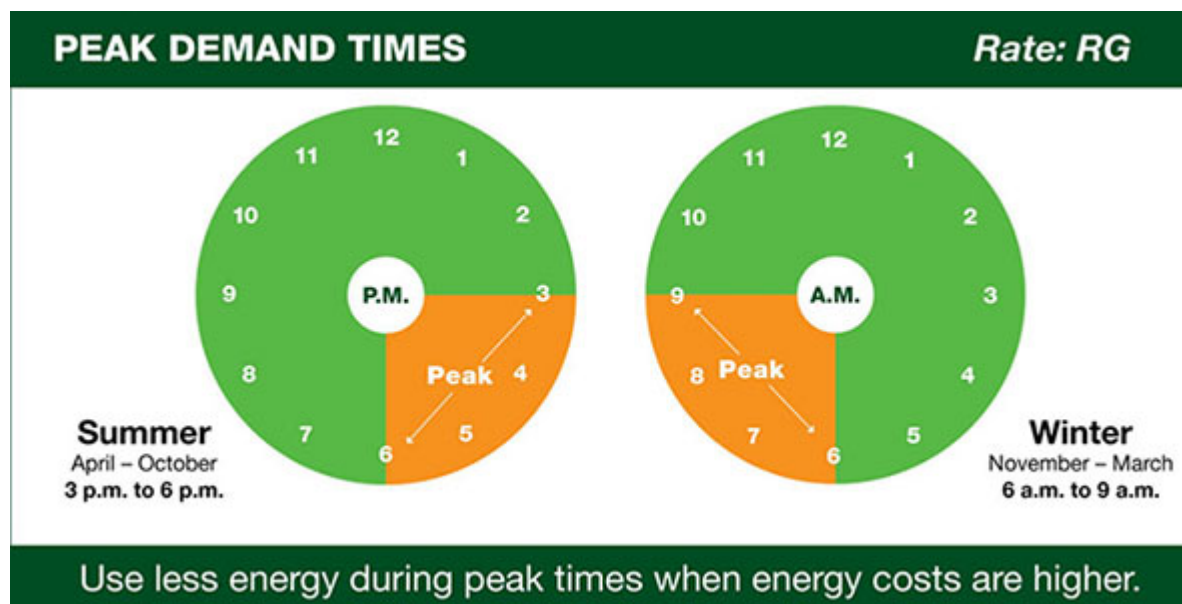
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Dear Mr. Hegedus,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Charlotte and Lewis **Last Name:** Houghtaling
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:** Other
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC000000755

Date Submitted: 9/13/2024 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I do not agree with your proposed rate adjustment. This is not fair to your customers. Please reconsider this policy. Thank you. Charlotte and Lewis Houghtaling

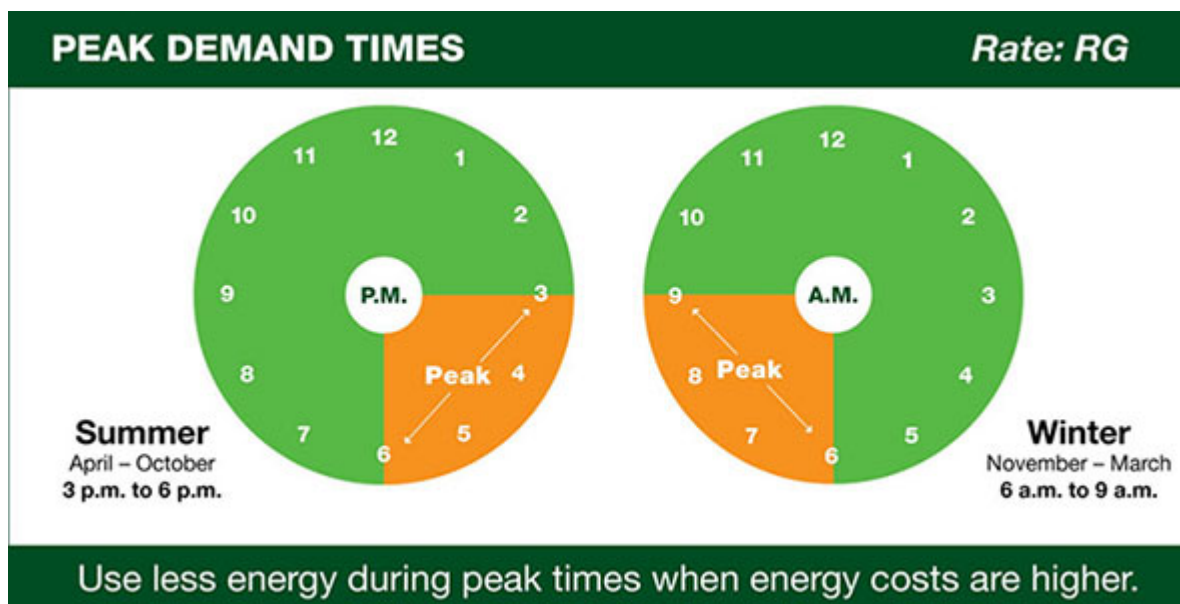
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Houghtaling,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



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Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Samantha	Last Name:	Kumaran
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City:	Myrtle Beach	Customer Type:	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC000000758

Date Submitted:	9/13/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper Board, Please see attached reports and comments.



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Advanced Quantitative Models and Customized Risk Solutions

September 13, 2024

Santee Cooper Headquarters
One Riverwood Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Re: Cost of Service Study and Proposed Base Rate Increase

Dear Santee Cooper Board Members,

My name is Samantha Kumaran, and I am a Santee Cooper customer in Myrtle Beach. My account number is [REDACTED]. My Meter Number: [REDACTED].

As a residential customer, I am deeply concerned about Santee Cooper's proposed base rate increase, which would go into effect in March 2025. First and foremost the projected impact to the residential class is significantly higher than projected 8.7% and instead should be reported as 14.45%-21.56%. In addition, a residential demand-charge is not consistent with the rate charges used in other states, and has widely been rejected as inequitable and they require this charge be "optional", allowing customers the ability to opt-out.

In reviewing the cost of service study and proposed rate increase, I have drawn on my experience as a consultant. I have spent over twenty years in the energy risk management and consulting business and also run a boutique consulting firm called Timetrics Risk. (www.timetricsrisk.com). I also have earned a summa cum laude, first-class honors Masters and Bachelors in Applied Math and Theoretical Physics from Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK. Ms. Kumaran has also passed her Series 3 and is a registered Commodities Trading Advisor, specifically focused on energy and oil. I have also been appointed on the Leadership Council of the National Small Business Association.



During my extensive energy risk background, I have spent several years as the Chief Risk Officer of Niagara Mohawk Energy Marketing, LLC in upstate New York. My energy consulting experience has included a breadth of clients in the energy consulting sector. Timetrics' clients have included governmental entities, and Fortune 100 companies including Duke Energy, Niagara Mohawk Energy Marketing, Blue Rock Energy, Louis Dreyfus, Bristol Myers Squibb, Tyko International, Credit Suisse First Boston, Nomura Securities, Fuji Securities, Giro Credit and JP Morgan. In 2018, we were awarded a Top 10 as an Enterprise Energy Risk Management service company by CIO. I have nearly twenty-five years' experience in the energy and utilities sector.

Accordingly, my business Timetrics has also submitted a report that fully analyzes the proposed rate increase which is attached to this report. For the reasons included in the attached report, I oppose the proposed rate structure for an on-peak demand charge. Not only is the predicted rate increase substantial (14.45% - 21.56%), I believe it also contradicts the principles of gradualism to the residential customer class. It could also lead to an inflationary shock and does not adequately address the Winter/Summer peak and does not appear to mitigate the system-wide peak risk to the Utility. I urge the Board to reconsider the proposal from the outset.

It is with my consent that the Timetrics Report be made available publicly to assist in the Board's decisions and I also ask that it be shared with interested parties

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha S. Kumaran

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/encl: Timetrics Risk Report – Santee Cooper Rate Increase 2024



TIMETRICS RISK

Prepared by Samantha S. Kumaran

COMMENTS
TO SANTEE
COOPER
RATE
PROPOSAL
2024



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A – INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This independent energy report opposes the implementation of a mandatory residential demand charge in its current form. While a reasonable and modest rate increase may be needed to cover costs, the current form, requires a substantial and aggressive change in the rate structure to the residential class. It does not appear to fairly allocate the costs across the system, and the analysis below shows that the RG Class can expect their bills to increase – not by the 8.7% advertised – but instead by an expected range of 14.45% - 21.56% on an annualized basis. This discrepancy between what is advertised and what the residential customer may in fact end up paying would exacerbate significant and noteworthy “inflation-shock” experienced by thousands of hard-working residential families in the area. The actual expected impact of the rate increase is not as advertised. Average residential customers would be faced with expected increases of close to 18%, which would substantially impact their cost of living and violate the fundamental ratemaking principle of gradualism (see Section B).

Table 1 - Comparison of Expected Rate Increase for Residential Customers

RateBucket RG Customers	Monthly Bill Inc. Expected	Monthly Increase Inc. 25% 1Q	% Ann Rate Inc. Exp	% Ann Rate Inc. 25% 1Q
750	\$12.92	\$19.34	14.09%	21.09%
1000	\$16.72	\$24.95	14.45%	21.56%
2000	\$33.34	\$50.40	15.73%	23.78%

In addition, this report shows that many state regulators across the U.S. have rejected and refused to implement demand charges (see Section C) because it has



been shown to unfairly allocate system costs among participants and charges can hurt low-income families most of all, who have the least ability to pay higher bills or to invest in energy-saving equipment. The vast majority of electric utilities have made demand-charge pricing voluntary, and the proposed rate structure is one that has been frequently rejected by public service commissions.¹ Thus, in many states, demand-charge pricing has been “optional only” – requiring residents the ability to participate only voluntarily.

The substantial research conducted from multiple credible organizations (See Section C.IV) is that demand-charge rates unfairly allocate system costs and increases bills for low-use customers, including the vast majority of low-income customers, who are paying a fixed fee every month beyond what it costs their utility to serve them. This type of rate plan is likely to therefore harm customers with the least ability to manage their power bills or pay higher amounts under this complex rate structures.

One of the key principles of electricity pricing is consumer understanding and acceptance. In several states, other commissions have not approved this type of rate plan for residential consumers, for this reason alone. Research in other states shows consumers do not understand and do not want a demand fee – which is largely why it is not widely adopted.

The demand charge proposed by Santee Cooper also appears to have been assessed with “too broad a brush-stroke” and would be applied regardless of the average usage or good behavior of the customer. For instance, there is no benefit from mitigation efforts on a cumulative basis, and the proposal fails to separate winter and summer peak-demand, and may also be unlikely to coincide with the

¹ E.g. Georgia and New York



electric grid's peaking period. As such, these demand fees unfairly allocate system costs and do not mitigate overall risk of the system.

Demand charge rate plans also work counter-intuitively in that they may in fact reduce incentives for consumers to invest in energy efficiency or renewable energy. Since using less electricity overall will **not** significantly lower customers' bills (See example in C.II infra – how the customer is in fact penalized for mandatory use) – and since the Utility bill includes a large fixed monthly fee that the customer cannot usually avoid - there is no incentive to invest in energy efficiency appliances. The “penalty” fee is applied regardless. There is insufficient “reward” in the system for good behavior.

For this reason, majority of other states use a demand-charge on an “optional basis” and participation is voluntary.

In Section D, this report discusses the sizable impact of the expected rate increase of 14.45%-21.56% would also cause a significant “inflation spike” to residents and the economy of the Myrtle Beach region as a whole. This suggests that residential customers who have already felt the pain of 24.96% aggregate inflation as a whole since 2017, would be further penalized to incur a one-time inflation shock of close to 14.45%-21.56%. This is not consistent with the principles of gradualism – and may defeat the purpose of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-31- 710 – which includes mitigating inflationary shocks to residents. Given the national focus on reducing inflation to 2% the proposal could cause economic harm in other areas of the Myrtle Beach economy. It could also harm the region to compete nationally and also cause other ripple effects.

In Section E, this report argues that Santee Cooper should do more to distinguish between winter and summer peak loads and adopt more of an averaging method across several distinct peaks from which to assess the customer's contribution to the system. By not adequately separating the seasonality, or winter/summer contingency peaks the actual charge quantified is also not equitable



or a fair cost to be applied across all months. There is also insufficient transparency on whether this rate structure also actually reduces overall system risk to the utility.

In Section F, the report discusses a need for more transparency provided by the utility in the customer bills. It is also recommended Santee Cooper provide in its online residential portal a side-by-side bill comparison showing the last year 12 month rates for the residential customer and disclose to the customer the forecasted impact with identical residential usage on the next year's 12 month rates, so each residential customer can accurately quantify the monthly increase – which may show for example a \$25/month increase, with certain months spiking to an increase of \$100/month. Without this granularity, I believe there is insufficient information for residential customers to properly understand or equitably participate in the rate hearing process as the aggregate averages provided above may be (and are already) misleading to the actual forecasted increase.

There also does not appear to be any active or sufficient educational programs to the residential customer which should be mandated in any rate change mandate – such as training programs, information flyers being mailed to customers, telephone support on how it would impact the individual residents bill, opt-in or opt-out programs, or email blasts educating the public about the programs which would better help the customer fully understand the impacts of the new charges.

Section G discusses that the rate proposal does not also appear to properly achieve the seven factors mandated under requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-31- 710. *First*, it falls short of its Mission – which is to limit price increases to less than inflation. As demonstrated above, residential customers are expected to see an one-time inflation shock (given the skew negative distribution) an annualized number of between 14.65% - 21.65%. This is an *expected* number and without extreme scenarios. Given that publicly released inflation measures are typically released as **annual** data, the rate proposal is misleading as the 8.7% announced do not reflect an **annualized** number, and this does not properly reflect the skew



and the distribution of mode and mean. Based on the annualized projection, residential customers in Horry County could see an inflationary electricity rate increase of 14.65%-21.56% which far exceeds inflation and thus defeats the intent of the legislative bill.

And finally in Section H, the report suggests proposed alternatives that the Santee Cooper may wish to consider that would more “gradually” effectuate a rate increase and one that allows customers to opt-out of the demand-charge. If the Utilities’ goal is to achieve an 8.7% annual increase, then the alternatives suggested could still achieve this goal, without affecting the residential class with increased volatility and unfair burdens to residential customers who should not have to modify their behaviors in a manner that is impractical. In conclusion, many states have refused to adopt a demand charge for the residential base of customers. Several external analysis reports also support this conclusion and that in its current form, the rate structure proposed is unfair and could cause material hardship to many hard-working families and residents of Horry County. The Board should seriously consider the alternative path set forward by other states, and make any such demand charge program voluntary and optional and consider other peak load reduction rebates to incentivize customers to reduce their load.

In conclusion, I believe the analysis does not support the current “mandatory” demand-charge proposed rate structure, such a structure on the residential class should be “voluntary” and other substantial revisions are needed to make it fair and equitable to the RG class.

Thank you.



B – AVERAGE RATE INCREASE TO RESIDENTIAL CLASS IS UNDERSTATED

One of the first and most important areas of concerns in the documentation provided by Santee Cooper is that it implies that the “average” rate increase to residential customers (the “RG” class) will only be 8.7%. (See Page 1)

Source: 1 Page Summary, Santee Cooper

Table 2 - Promotional Material from Santee Cooper 1 pager

Description	Current	Proposed 2025	% Inc.
Residential General Service (RG)			
Customer Charge	\$19.50	\$20.00	8.7%
Demand Charge	N/A	\$10.03	
Summer Energy Charge	\$0.1197	\$0.0684	
Winter Energy Charge	\$0.997	\$0.0684	

The data supporting the rate increase is also provided in Appendix A for the residential class (“RG) is provided on Appendix A Page 4. However, nowhere in Appendix A does it reflect an 8.7% increase.

Appendix A, Page 4 divides the data into three example load usages of 750kWh, 1000kWh and 2000kWh a month. The only data points provided are for the 10%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 90% percentiles. As a result, the ability to extrapolate to a full distribution curve across the customer class is limited. For example, the complete



tails are missing. It would also be helpful if the Utility provided a standard deviation of each data set.

Specifically analyzing the 1000kWh usage data set of the RG class, which is approximately the average use across the class - Santee Cooper's own data shows that the annualized rate increase would be closer to 12.6%. (Using the 50% median usage with load factor of 27%). The following example is from a 1000kWh - RG class – example residential customer.

Table 3 - Promotional Material from Santee Cooper 1 pager

See e.g. Appendix A – Page 4

Usage (kWh)	Load Factor ⁽¹⁾	On-Peak Demand (kW)	Current Rate		Proposed 2025		Difference		
			Amount (\$)	Unit Cost (Cents/kWh)	Amount (\$)	Unit Cost (Cents/kWh)	Amount (\$)	Unit Cost (Cents/kWh)	Percent (%)
1,000	18%	7.5	116	11.57	154	15.40	38	3.83	33.1%
	22%	6.2	116	11.57	141	14.09	25	2.52	21.8%
	27%	5.2	116	11.57	130	13.03	15	1.46	12.6%
	32%	4.3	116	11.57	122	12.21	6	0.64	5.5%
	37%	3.7	116	11.57	116	11.58	0	0.01	0.1%

The footnote states that the 18%, 22%, 27%, 32% and 37% load factors correspond to the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentile of the RG rate class respectively.

Drilling down into the actual distribution, the data shows that the RG-1000kWh is **negatively skewed** – meaning that it is more likely for customers to experience demand-charges between 5.2kW and 6.2 kW.

Since the data released only covers certain finite distribution points, an approximation can be made to the skew and kurtosis using Kelly's skewness and kurtosis from the 10% and 90% markers.



The formula for Kelly's skewness is given by:

$$\text{Kelly's Skewness} = \frac{P_{90} + P_{10} - 2P_{50}}{P_{90} - P_{10}}$$

Kelly's skewness equation. Image by Author

Where:

- *P90* is the 90th percentile.
- *P10* is the 10th percentile.
- *P50* is the median (50th percentile).

Preliminary Analysis of Load Distribution for the RG 1000kWh

Table 4 – Approximate Skewness and Mean of RG Load at 1000kWh

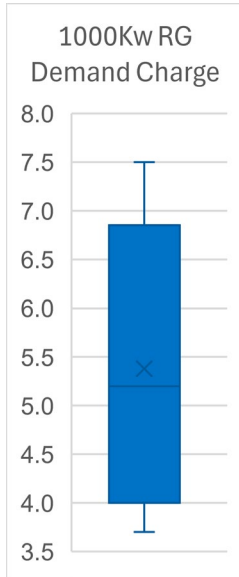
Percentile	Value
0.1	7.5
0.25	6.2
0.5	5.2
0.75	4.3
0.9	3.7

Table 5– Approximate Skewness and Mean of RG Load at 1000kWh

Distribution of RG Load (1000Kwh)	
Kelly's Skewness 90	-0.21
Kelly's Kurtosis	0.5
Mean	5.38
Median	5.2



Table 6 – Approximate Box-Whisker Plot Showing Skew Distribution to Higher OPD Demand Charge for Customers on the 1000Kw Level



A box and whiskers plot of the likely demand charge also shows negative skew to where residential customers are more likely to experience a peak demand between 5.2kW and 6.2KW.

The negative skew of -0.21 also shows the distribution cannot be approximated as a normal distribution and the most likely demand charges to be incurred by the RG 1000kW class is most likely to be higher than 5.2kW.

All the distributions of the RG Sector, at 750kWh, 1000kWh and 2000kWh sectors similarly show negative skewed distributions.

Table 7 – Published Data from Santee Cooper Pg.1 on Impact to Energy Bill

> Note the difference in the bills as the on-peak demand changes

Rate	On-Peak Demand (kW)	Average Monthly Energy (kWh)	Average Monthly Bill	2025 Avg. Monthly Increase
Monthly Bill <i>Current</i>	N/A	1,000	\$115.69	-
Monthly Bill <i>Proposed</i>	5.1 kW 4.3 kW	1,000 1,000	\$125.98 \$119.35	\$10.29 \$3.66

Using the 1000kWh residential group as an example, based on the likely outcomes, and the Appendix A charge, it appears that Santee Coopers Page 1 summary may also be misleading to the residential group that the impact of the “proposed monthly bill” is only at 5.1kW and 4.3kW. (Note: the 5.1kW appears to be an error or typo and discrepancy from the actual report which uses 5.2kW)



However, the independent analysis shows that the customers are most likely to be exposed to and experience a \$14.92-\$24.95 monthly bill increase which corresponds to a 14.45% - 21.56% annualized rate increase – which is far in excess of inflation.

Table 8 – Impact to 1000kWh Residential Bill

Rate	Demand (kw)	Monthly Energy (kwh)	Monthly Bill (kwh)	Monthly Increase	% Rate Increase
Monthly Bill (Current)	N/A	1,000	\$115.72		
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	5.2 Kw (50% percentile - median)	1,000	\$130.64	\$14.92	12.89%
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	5.38 Kw (50% percentile - mean)	1,000	\$132.44	\$16.72	14.45%
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	6.1Kw (25% percentile) based on skew is more likely impact)	1,000	\$140.67	\$24.95	21.56%

Hence for the 1000kW RG class sector, given the clear negative skew, the more likely impact to the residential class customer energy bill is at the 5.38Kw to 6.1Kw level. This shows that the marketing materials, public literature and advertising related to the rate increase that only portrays 5.1Kw and 4.3Kw (see above) is misleading to the residential customer. On a median and more likely level of rate impact to the 1000Kw customer is much higher and should be 5.38kW to 6.1kW.

Applying this analysis to all the RG class sectors, all the distributions are negatively skewed, and customers in each bracket are more likely to experience far higher



public literature that is being published on Santee Coopers website. The approximate negative skew of each of the kWh buckets ranges from -0.21 to -0.25.

Table 9 – Comparison of RG Load Distributions

Percentile of RG Load	750KwH	1000KwH	2000KwH
10% Percentile	5.6	7.5	15.1
25% Percentile	4.7	6.2	12.5
50% Percentile	3.9	5.2	10.3
75% Percentile	3.3	4.3	8.7
90% Percentile	2.8	3.7	7.4

Here again, the preliminary analysis on the data releases strongly supports a negative skew and mean outcome that is higher than those portrayed on the Santee Cooper, Page 1, Summary of Rate Increase portrays to the customers.

Table 10 – Comparison of Statistics of Mean and Skewness of RG Class

Distribution of RG Load	750KwH	1000KwH	2000KwH
Kelly's Skewness 90	-0.21	-0.21	-0.25
Kelly's Kurtosis	0.5	0.5	0.49
Mean	4.06	5.38	10.8
Median	3.9	5.2	10.3

Therefore, continuing the analysis for each bracket of Residential Customer (RG), it would be important to take note, that the average residential customer would reasonably expect an increase for each sector ranging from 14.45% - 21.56%.



Table 11 – Expected Impact to 750 kWh Residential Bill

Rate for 750kWh RG Customers	Demand (kw)	Monthly Energy (kwh)	Monthly Bill (kwh)	Monthly Increase	% Ann Rate Increase
Monthly Bill (Current)	N/A	750	\$91.67		
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	3.9 Kw (50% percentile - median)	750	\$102.98	\$11.31	12.34%
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	4.06 Kw (50% percentile - mean)	750	\$104.58	\$12.92	14.09%
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	4.7Kw (25% percentile) based on skew is more likely impact)	750	\$111.00	\$19.34	21.09%

Table 12 – Expected Impact to 2000 kWh Residential Bill

Rate for 2000kWh RG Customers	Demand (kw)	Monthly Energy (kwh)	Monthly Bill (kwh)	Monthly Increase	% Ann Rate Increase
Monthly Bill (Current)	N/A	2,000	\$211.94		
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	10.3 Kw (50% percentile - median)	2,000	\$240.27	\$28.33	13.37%
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	10.8 Kw (50% percentile - mean)	2,000	\$245.28	\$33.34	15.73%
Monthly Bill (Proposed)	12.5Kw (25% percentile) based on skew is more likely impact)	2,000	\$262.34	\$50.40	23.78%



In all cases, the expected annualized impact to the RG Class residential energy bill is substantially higher than the 8.7% numbers promoted by the utility. Since one of the missions of the proposed increase is to manage the increase in line with inflation (See Section D infra), and the inflation numbers are also published on an annualized basis it does not appear to be fully transparent that all residential customers in this class would in fact see a sizable increase to their energy bill. Most of this increase may be “mandatory” in terms of them meeting their heating/cooling needs. The following table summarizes the expected and reasonable annualized residential impact to the RG Class on both the median, mode as well as likely skew to the upside of the demand charge.

Each of the residential brackets is analyzed in detail for the comparison of the expected bill increase. This is summarized below as the inflationary impact of the each proposed rate increase.

Table 13 – Comparison Across Residential Customers of Annual Increase

RateBucket RG Customers	Monthly Bill Inc. Expected	Monthly Increase Inc. 25% 1Q	% Ann Rate Inc. Exp	% Ann Rate Inc. 25% 1Q
750	\$12.92	\$19.34	14.09%	21.09%
1000	\$16.72	\$24.95	14.45%	21.56%
2000	\$33.34	\$50.40	15.73%	23.78%

Accordingly, as a key point in the rate proposal, the average expected increase to the residential customer is significant and in the current literature is misleading. On an annualized basis, the proposed structure would cause residential customers to experience a far higher bill impact. Based on the above analysis the report



calculates a 14.45% - 21.56% ² projected rate increase to the 1000kWh class of RG customers which is the more likely impact to the customer. This is far more concerning to the residential customer than the advertised 8.7% and should be carefully monitored and reviewed by the Board.

II – APPLIANCE TABLE DOES NOT SEPARATE OPTIONAL APPLIANCES

There is also a concern that the “appliance” chart also included on the Santee Cooper Pg.1 does not include several mandatory appliances, such as refrigerators, or expensive Air-Conditioners, for which residential customers should not be expected to turn-off. The exclusion of these “mandatory” appliances also appears to mislead the customers (residents) that they have pure control or optionality to turn off appliances during the designated Peak-Load times.

On Page 2 of the Santee Cooper summary sheet refers to specific appliances.

² The S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff found that some customers could experience an increase from anywhere between 0% -36% bill increases on average throughout the year. This range considers all extremes of the distribution. Timetrics stands behind the expected average increase of 14.45%-21.56% based on the publicly released data in Appendix A – Pg. 4 for the 1000kWh data set which is still far higher than the published 8.7% and impacts the median totality of the rate class,



Common Appliances and Sample Demands

Heat Pump	4.5 kW
Water Heater	3 kW
Clothes Dryer	5 kW
Dishwasher	1.5 kW
Oven	3 kW

Notably omitted from this chart is the refrigeration defrosting cycle, as well as air-conditioning units that majority of the residential customers use. The KW usage of an A/C vastly depends on the outside humidity. Some A/C's run at 1KW per ton which can be as high as 3-5 KW per hour on very warm and humid days and about half of that during milder days.

One suggestion in the report is that Santee Cooper separate out the analysis for “mandatory devices” such as A/C's, Heat Pumps, Water Heaters, Refridgerators which residents must use for their health and safety – from those which are “optional devices”.

The analysis to impose fixed demand surcharges for mandatory appliances and devices which residents need to use for the health and safety is different from the resident's ability to turn off “optional devices” such as dishwashers and clothes dryers. The notion that residential customers are being penalized for their basic day-to-day living needs such as running hot water and keeping the required heating and cooling at acceptable levels of residential safety is not an behavior that can be changed.

Hence residents should be made fully aware of what their “mandatory” surcharge is compared to their “optional” surcharge – where they have control over the appliances being run and it won't jeopardize their living comfort. For instance, a



program that assumes residents must turn off their A/C's³ when it is 104 degrees and humid (as climate change events exacerbate) is not a reasonable or expected behavior modification.

Hence as explained below in Section C, demand charges are usually not forced upon residential customers, as they cannot fairly expect customers to shut off appliances which they need for their safety, well-being and security.

³ For window AC units which are inefficient, it should be noted that low-income customers tend to rely on them more and Santee Cooper should provide programs that help them improve their home efficiency and utilize more efficient technologies like heat pumps.



C – DEMAND CHARGES HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY MANY OTHER STATES

I – Demand Charges Do Not Fairly Allocate System Charges.

There has been substantial publicly available research that shows that at least four major concerns with the Demand-Charge Utilities model, and it has been widely rejected by many states.

- Studies have shown that the demand charge rate plan tends to increase bills for low-use customers. See C.IV – research sources below. The substantial research conducted from multiple credible organizations that demand-charge rates unfairly allocate system costs and increases bills for low-use customers, including the vast majority of low-income customers, who are paying a fixed fee every month beyond what it costs their utility to serve them. This type of rate plan is likely to therefore harm customers with the least ability to manage their power bills or pay higher amounts under this complex rate structures. It could also lead to increased defaults, late-payment and dangerous situations where customers are disconnected. This could also put the health and safety of vulnerable residents at risk.
- Since the demand charge is a fee comprised of dollars per kilowatt (kW) of electricity consumed multiplied by the customer's highest kW usage in a one-hour period during the billing month. This is often viewed as too complicated for people to understand and manage. One of the key principles of electricity pricing is consumer understanding and acceptance. In several states, other commissions have **not approved** this type of rate plan for residential consumers, for this reason alone. Research in other states shows consumers do not understand and do not want a demand fee.



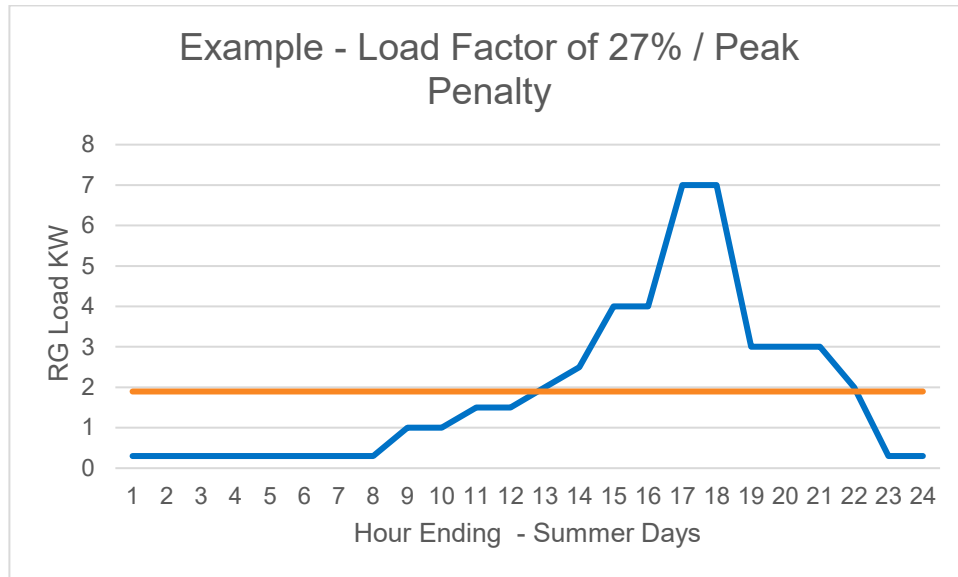
- The demand charge proposed by Santee Cooper also appears to have been assessed with “too broad of a brush-stroke”. It would be applied regardless of the average usage of the customer, fails to separate Winter and Summer peak demand, and may also be unlikely to coincide with the electric grid’s peaking period. As such, these demand fees unfairly allocate system costs and do not mitigate overall risk of the system.
- Demand charge rate plans also work counter-intuitively in that they may in fact reduce incentives for consumers to invest in energy efficiency or renewable energy. Since using less electricity overall will **not** significantly lower customers’ bills (See example in C.II infra – how the customer is in fact penalized for mandatory use) – and since the Utility bill includes a large fixed monthly fee that the customer cannot usually avoid - there is no incentive to invest in energy efficiency appliance. The “penalty” fee is applied regardless. There is insufficient “reward” in the system for good behavior.

II – Examples of How the Residential Class Will Not Be Incentived but Punished

The concept of a demand charge – especially as advertised as being calculated based on usage choices customers can reasonably control, in many cases, is misleading. A customer cannot fully control when they use electricity, such as when a refrigerator’s defrost cycle comes on or when the A/C turns on while cooking with their electric range. This is why demand charges have been widely rejected by other states, and instead included as being a opt-in choice only. Basic sustenance needs (such as heating, hot water and food) are non-negotiable. While some utility communications may suggest that families should just cook dinner an hour later, in many instances that simply may not be practical or possible without unacceptable disruptions to people’s lives – for instance, with after school sports. Children cannot go hungry because the utility does not want to make it affordable for them to turn the oven on until after 6:30 PM. In addition, as more and more people are working



from home or in this area could be retired seniors, it would be difficult and impractical to avoid using air conditioning, heat pumps or other appliances during the hottest or coldest parts of the day. These types of behavioral modifications may not be reasonable or practical.



The above table suggests a load factor of the average (50%) median customer at 1000kW is 27% - suggesting a pointed load distribution. Since the application of load factor is critical to fairly allocating the system costs, more emphasis should be placed on lowering average load factors.

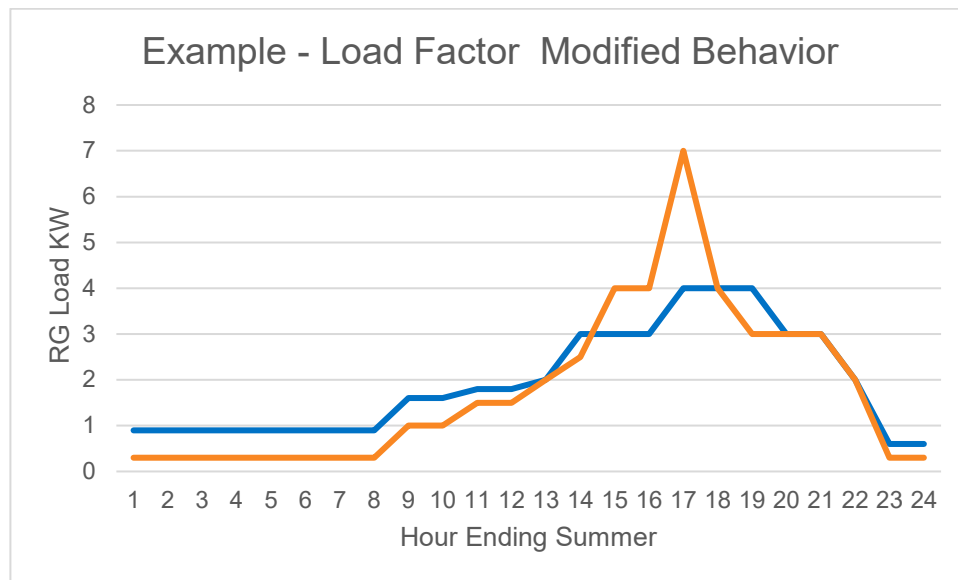
However, the data provided in Santee Cooper's rate study has insufficient granularity between the summer and winter load factors – for allocating system costs more fairly to the actual usage or for better aligning rates with cost of service and providing equitable incentives for customers to adjust their behavior in ways that can help to reduce system costs.

Here are a few examples of relatable life experiences for residents in the area that could result in inequitable impacts to their power bills.



(A) Mom With Kids Going To Sports Practice

The following example shows how the single “on-peak” model may harm residential customers and penalize them from one inadvertent mistake rather than rewarding good behaviors. If a family conscientiously saves energy and tries to modify behavior during 3pm-6pm during the entire month of June - but on just one day, son Johnny, rushing to baseball practice needs to throw his clothes in the dryer and eat a hotdog. On just one day the family would wipe out their entire month of “good behavior” and be penalized for the entire month with a full demand charge because of one child’s accidental use of the dryer.



In this example, even though for 29 days out of the 30 days month, the family had a peak demand of 4kW and carefully modified its behavior - in just one accidental use of an extra appliance to peak of 7kW it could drive an entire additional \$30 penalty in that month. This would not be a proportional, is also would concern and disincentive residents and certainly would not reward or take into consideration the good behavior during the remaining days of the month.



For example, using the real-time electric data, if Johnny uses the microwave and dryer once on June 1st at the beginning of the month, and the family already knows they have now incurred the monthly surcharge – there is no further incentive to modify behavior for the remainder of the month. Hence it does not incentivize further remedial actions. They simply now could just run all their appliances up to 7kW and there is no benefit to modifying behavior. This does not achieve Santee Cooper’s objectives and works against both the residents and the utility. It also appears to be unfair and inequitable.

(B) Family Member Gets Sick

Another example of how the demand-charge pricing hurts families, is that if on an occasion a family member gets sick and needs to stay home. In these cases, proper cooling and heating is critical for recovery, as well as access to running hot water, or being able to heat up some soup or take other medications on time. In these instances, again even if the family had conserved energy diligently throughout the month, just one incidence of having to run a load, or turn on a stove, due to being sick would penalize them unfairly – sometimes upwards of \$50-\$100 for the month just for having to stay home. These seem like draconian measures where families have to be concerned about their health and well-being.

(C) College Kids or Family Enjoying a Party

Another example is in recreational activities such as on July 4, weekend or on other summer weekend days. In an instance where out of town families are visiting, or college students are simply enjoying a beach weekend, if by accident after enjoying themselves during a summer weekend, they turn on their appliances it discourages recreational activities during holidays such as July 4.

For example is a family has a fourth of July gathering, with out of town family, and they are running an HVAC, oven/stove, water hearing and they throw some



towels in the dryer after a visit to the beach, this could be an example where they inadvertently hit the peak, and cannot enjoy a traditional summer holiday of July 4th without being worried about whether they can have a barbecue or go to the pool. This sort of disincentivizing is the antithesis of the opposite of the goals of the program to allow residents to enjoy their lives without being watched by the utility.

In fact best practices suggests that other states including New York markets specifically exclude holidays (such as July 4) and weekends in the measurement of summer peak. (see Section E.IV *infra*). No analysis was provided, for instance to separate weekends from weekdays. In addition, a calculation of when the peak occurs with a weather overlay should also be reflective of residential needs to live life and their “average” and “usual” system demand – not an isolated event.

(D) Winter Peaks – Hot Water, Toasted Waffles and Hot Breakfasts!

The impact of using several appliances for breakfast every morning, which typically coincides with the winter peak hours of 6am-9am is not a practical imposition on the residential community – especially with families and children. Eating a nutritious breakfast, especially in the cold winters, and kids making waffles, sausages and pancakes all should not come with an additional “peak-demand” burden on families that if done outside of a cold-weather snap can penalize their entire rates. Essentially, in order to practically keep utility rates down families would have to eat breakfast at 5.30am. This is again impractical. Since school starts at 8am this Winter Peak Demand does not appear a reasonable option for families. Based on an approximate 6kW – 10kW peak use during morning hours, residents may see an increase of \$100/month during winter months of January and February which could also substantially burden families. The pricing would start to resemble city pricing – especially during school days where it is expected that families will take showers and eat breakfast in the early mornings. This is another reason why the proposal appears unfair as it does not adequately



separate out the winter on-peak demand-charge and restrict such charge to for instance extreme weather or contingency peak loads. Using a “blunt” flat price provides little transparency to the residents who would find it hard it not impossible to modify their behavior during the mornings.

(E) Work From Home Community Would Be Significantly Impacted

After Covid more and more people are working from home. Many people in the Santee Cooper service territory enjoy remote working from home and a large percentage of the residential community are retirees who also are at home. This is one of the reasons perhaps why the population has grown in the Myrtle Beach region. These residents would also be adversely affected and prejudiced during the day — being billed at higher (peak) price per kWh. The work-from-home community has little choice in not running material appliances such as their air-conditioning at 2pm. Hence the fee is a mandatory surcharge. Therefore, this entire sector of the residential customers, including retirees who also spend significant time at home, would also very likely be facing a large surcharge simply for meeting their usual heating/cooling responsibility. Given that many states have not implemented demand charges for this very reason, it could also put this region at a disadvantage in choice of relocation.

III - GOOD BEHAVIOR SHOULD BE REWARDED BUT PUNISHED.

The objective of new charge should be that Residents are “rewarded” for good behavior in reducing load profiles. Instead, the proposed Demand Charge takes no consideration of a customer’s good behavior and instead sets up a “punishment only” system of credits. Residential Customers should therefore not be “punished” for accumulated good behavior.



The Utility may wish to compare its “rate-incentives” to those of good driving behaviors. As with car insurance and “snapshot” devices that track a users’ driving habits – the driver isn’t penalized for just one event. Instead, it is averaged over the month and a driver is allowed a certain number of incidents (such as hard braking or fast accelerations) a month before an insurance-penalty kicks in, Here the demand charge is too severe. Just one event, or one accidental use of a dryer, or appliance or stove can cause a substantial (\$50-\$100 monthly penalty).

Further it does not incentivize use of energy efficiency and other appliances because the mandatory usage during hot AC periods from 3pm-6pm will remain unchanged. Customers will have no incentive to adopt new behaviors. Other states have solved this problem, by among other things, allowing customers to “opt-out” of the demand charge and pay a regular residential rate. (See also example F.III Alternative). And in many states the “Demand-Charge” is optional. Therefore, only if residents truly feel they can take advantage of the option to reduce power, should the be able to choose that service.

The proposal should also consider other modifications

- Reduce peak usage through common and effective consumer programs like demand response, peak time rebates, or time of use rate plans;
- Demand charges upstream of the customer connection, if any, should apply only to the customer’s contribution to system coincident peak demand;
- Compute any demand charges on a multi- hour basis to avoid bill volatility.
- One recommendation is that the demand-charge pricing is an “opt-in” program only and should be voluntary along with other incentive reducing programs such as peak-time rebates.
- Implementing a demand response for residential customers (with text messages and email alerts) during Extreme Weather and Climate Risk



events – would also be a more effective way of modifying behavior to reduce system peak load on the Grid.

The current proposal also ignores the substantial hardship likelihood to health and survival. With too high an energy bill impact, it could result in a foreseeable risk and real likelihood (that should not be ignored) of customer default. It is likely that the demand charge *will* result in higher electric bills, increasing energy burden and putting struggling families at increased risk of disconnection. This could also cause health and safety risks for a vulnerable population. The current proposal does not address at all how it intends to compensate for an increased likelihood of defaults that could leave residents without power during extreme cold weather and heat, when they cannot afford this 14.45%-21.56% energy price increase.

IV – DEMAND CHARGE SHOULD BE VOLUNTARY

In most states, demand charges for residential customers are not permitted or are **voluntary only**. Accordingly the proposal should allow customers to opt-out of the program, or have other incentives for them to shift their peak load. Other research opposing Demand Charges and why other states have not implemented them can be found here

- The Regulatory Assistance Project
[Demand Charges: What Are They Good For?](#)
- The Regulatory Assistance Project
[Use Great Caution in Design of Residential Demand Charges](#)
- Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative



[Rate Design: What Do Consumers Want and Need](#)

- Acadia Center

[Charge Without a Cause](#)

Synapse Energy

[Caught in a Fix](#)



D - INFLATIONARY IMPACTS WOULD PENALIZE THE STATE

I – THE CPI-U SOURCE OF INFLATION DATA IS MISLEADING TO ECONOMIC IMPACT TO RESIDENTS

Santee Cooper also explains on Page 1 of its report that to justify the rate increase, “is that since 2017, there has been over 25% inflation” – presumably in South Carolina.⁴ . Based on the analysis below, it does not appear the impacts of the “inflation shock” to residents and the state have been adequately analyzed as residents in Horry County – in

Inflation is already high priority for residents.⁵ The success and growth of the South Carolina economy, residential purchasing power must also be balanced with the needs of the Utility. Under the current proposal which far exceed inflation, residents would be significantly affected by a steep” inflation jump (directly impacting their household **expected** living expenses on an annual basis of approximately 14.45%-21.56%) – which could significantly drive up their inflationary cost of living.

Therefore, it is objectionable that the rate increase as written should not be implemented in its current form, because it would cause a deprecating “inflation shock” to residents – far greater than the US average inflation. The forecasted raise in energy costs in one single year of 14.45%-21.56% will **far exceed** the pocket of average residents, and could slow the local economy, reduce GDP and will harm the state overall.

⁴ Source: Santee Cooper 1-page Summary, Page 1

⁵ Source: <https://www.fool.com/the-ascent/research/financial-priorities-2024-election/>



This is also at a time when the Federal Reserve is hoping to reduce overall inflation, and reach a target 2% target.⁶ The GDP and average income of hard-working families and residents of South Carolina, cannot suddenly (in April 2025) afford a massive 14.45%-21.56% inflation shock to their day-to-day living expenses.

II – INSUFFICIENT TRANSPARENCY IN THE INFLATION IMPACT TO SOUTH CAROLINA

First, Santee Cooper should further clarify and provide *more transparency* on what the source is of the Utility inflation data is, how they arrive at the aggregate 25% inflation data form 2017-2024, - especially as relates to local inflation measures - and how it translates to the economic well-being and inflation concerns of residents, to absorb another 14.45%-21.56% inflation shock. Publicly available data on the CPI-U -which is the Urban measure of inflation, and includes food and energy,

Source: <https://data.bls.gov/pdq/SurveyOutputServlet>

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

Original Data Value

Series Id:	CUUR0300SA0,CUUS0300SA0
Not Seasonally Adjusted	
Series Title:	All items in South urban, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted
Area:	South
Item:	All items

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/feds-williams-inflation-target-critical-achieving-stable-prices-2024-05-04/>



Base Period: 1982-84=100

Years: 2014 to 2024

Year	Annual	CPI-U%
2014	230.552	
2015	230.147	-0.18%
2016	232.692	1.11%
2017	237.456	2.05%
2018	242.737	2.22%
2019	246.265	1.45%
2020	248.639	0.96%
2021	261.259	5.08%
2022	283.666	8.58%
2023	296.422	4.50%
2024**	303.969	3.39%
**Half year		
TOTAL 2017-2023		24.84%

**The above data is however not reflective of rural customers, or the specific geographic region of Horry County and is an entire South Urban data set. Specifically, CPI-U which is a basis of measuring inflation data, usually “includes” both food and energy. This would be misleading, if “energy” is included – yet a second inflationary shock of 14.45%-21.56% would be not in keeping with the mission under § 58-31- 710 to protect residents from further inflation shocks.



However the publicly available data set, suggests that residential customers have already *also* suffered an approximate 24.84% inflationary impact to their cost of living expenses, including food, gasoline, rent, and basic living expenses. Therefore, it would be unfair to expect hard working residents, families and retirees to pay this kind of huge energy inflation expense, in one shock – while also having also paid a 24.84% approximate inflation cost since 2017 in their ordinary costs.

Since the first and primary reason on Page 1 of their Rate Increase is that the Utility rate increase based on the fact there has been “25% inflation” – it is also concerning that this number is misleading and not an accurate representation of the real impact of inflation or inflationary shock to resident.

III – INFLATION SHOCK ANALYSIS IS INCOMPLETE TO SUPPORT THE RATE INCREASE

There is also a concern that the use of the 25% number – could be misleading to consumers and residents. It implies that only Santee Cooper has borne the brunt of a 25% inflationary increase since 2017-2024 and that without raising rates – somehow this has caused rising costs that outpace their revenue.

However, the analysis is incomplete and does not in itself justify the increase – as South Carolina residents – even while rates were frozen – have *also* suffered and borne the burden of 25% inflation during the same time period. Therefore, the contribution of frozen-rates has not alleviated the pain of inflation from hard-working residents of the state. The 25% “pinch” has been felt by all.

Therefore, this rate-increase adds a further “inflationary shock” to residents – which is being transferred to customers – that may not be able to afford it and that far exceeds the national average.

In short, South Carolian residents have *also* already suffered from a 25% inflationary rise in costs, that they *also* have incurred since the 2017-2024 – even



while rates were frozen. The CPI-U numbers regionally do not reduce for energy costs, and all residents have borne the costs of increased food, housing and gasoline.

Therefore, adding another 14.45%-21.56% of energy costs on April 2025 would be an “inflation shock” that both would not be fair to the economy, and may have a destabilizing effect on the local economy.

IV – Analysis on Inflationary Impact to Myrtle Beach / Regional Employment and Growth

The current rate proposal does not appear to have properly analyzed or balanced with the potential negative impact to employment growth and GDP growth which has been successfully managed since 2017. As a direct consequence of lower energy costs, and a residentially favored market, Horry County has experienced substantial growth over the last 4-5 years. Adding an “inflation-shock” to the GDP and economy may have a reversal in that uptrend which could hurt the economy as a whole.



Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC Economy at a Glance:

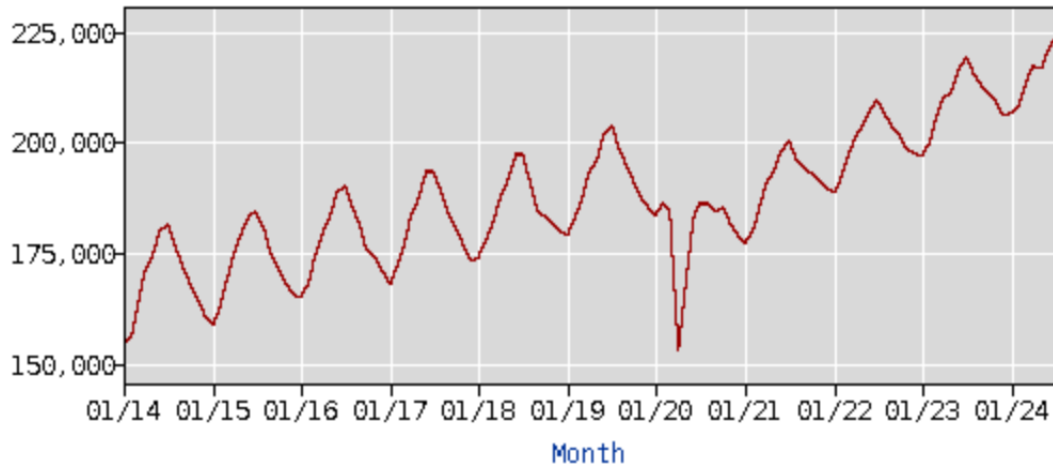
Data Series	Back Data	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Labor Force Data							
Civilian Labor Force ⁽¹⁾		217.8	223.0	224.8	225.2	231.4	235.0
Employment ⁽¹⁾		207.7	213.8	217.3	216.5	220.4	223.6
Unemployment ⁽¹⁾		10.1	9.2	7.5	8.7	11.0	11.4
Unemployment Rate ⁽²⁾		4.6	4.1	3.3	3.9	4.8	4.8
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment							
Total Nonfarm ⁽³⁾		192.1	196.6	200.0	201.6	205.5	207.1
12-month % change		4.5	4.4	4.4	3.7	3.6	4.0
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities ⁽³⁾		42.9	43.4	43.8	44.0	44.4	44.6
12-month % change		5.7	5.6	5.3	4.8	3.5	2.5
Leisure and Hospitality ⁽³⁾		42.9	46.0	48.8	49.2	52.4	54.8
12-month % change		4.6	4.3	4.7	2.5	3.6	5.8
Government ⁽³⁾		25.9	26.2	26.1	26.2	25.8	24.5
12-month % change		2.0	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.1
Footnotes (1) Number of persons, in thousands, not seasonally adjusted. (2) In percent, not seasonally adjusted. (3) Number of jobs, in thousands, not seasonally adjusted. See About the data . Preliminary							

Source: https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LAUMT453482000000003?amp%253bdata_tool=XGtable&output_view=data&include_graphs=true

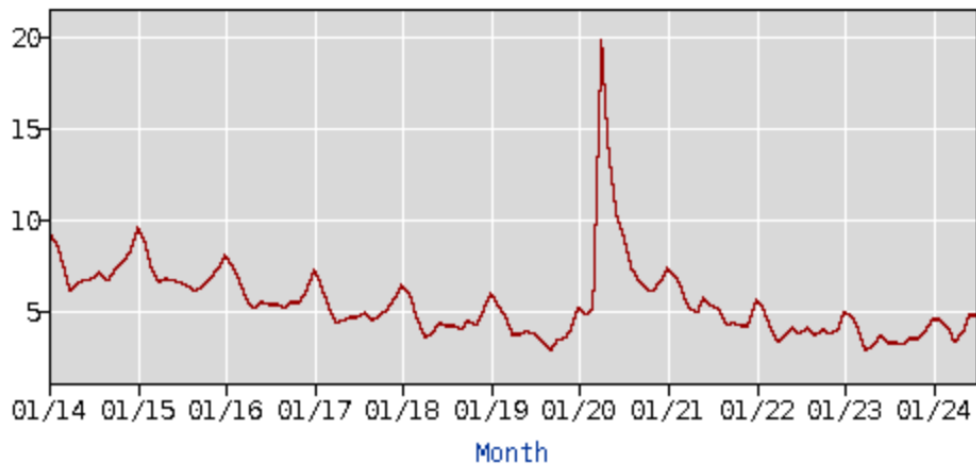
The Board may also wish to commission a further study on the potential impact to GDP and economic growth (as well as wages, employment, and economic health) if energy costs “spike” by over 21.56% and the cost of living becomes a deterrent to overall health, growth and well-being of the economy if it drove up unemployment or deterred the expansion of the economy. The public data sources show this region performing extremely well under the lower energy costs with steady growth of employment growth and wage increases – reducing unemployment.



employment



unemployment rate



For example, the following negative statewide impacts could be felt, as residents feel the economic pain of an above average “inflation” energy bill.



- Lower GDP and productivity (Less Personal Consumption)
- Slower economic growth
- Fewer jobs – cutting costs
- Recessionary impacts
- Health impacts (as residents may not afford the price increase)
- Deterrent to increased

The analysis to the RG class and residential customers, does not address the risks associated with the “inflation shock” or potential contraction of the economy, and hardship on local residents, stores, wages and employment if residents cannot afford such a higher-rate shock and 14.45%-21-56% average energy bill increased.

Myrtle Beach has also experienced the largest influx and growth of residential customers since 2020 and until 2024⁷. The load forecasts have also incorporated a “growth” in residential base. It is also not clear or transparent enough from the Utilities’ data how it has modelled the distinction of residential customer “growth” – and the changes in forecasting load as a result of the pandemic and influx of residents – to costs being recovered. These increased number of customers also contribute to increased revenue for the electricity company.

More analysis should be done to determine if these energy changes could adversely impact the load growth forecast. If recessionary factors set in, this would then undermine the overall economy in the local region – and could cause a reduction in load growth – which is a risk to the long-term planning model. It appears that load growth forecasting risks are also not adequately disclosed.

⁷ <https://www.southcarolinapublicradio.org/sc-news/2023-08-22/myrtle-beach-named-nations-fastest-growing-city-again>



A preliminary review suggests that the Utility has used a flat 0.2% growth forecast per month for the residential class (averaged at 2% a year).⁸ Those estimates may not be sustainable – nor predictable, and a rate shock of this magnitude may have an adverse effect to the economy in shrinking load forecast growth. This would then not achieve the desired objectives to cover the cost of service and also drive up inflation and reduce the overall GDP.

⁸ See Appendix C Page 32 – monthly growth assumes a flat 0.2% growth



E – PROPOSAL MAY NOT ADDRESS SANTEE COOPER’S LOAD PROFILE RISKS

The current “expected” penalty to residential customers at 1000kWh level shows that the analysis could substantially penalize local residential customers with an expected 14.45%-21.56% inflation shock, and which is much significantly higher than the advertised 8.7% rate increase. In addition, as explained above, the rate proposal as it exists right now, may not address the coincident peak or stress impact on the grid as a whole. This may become more important as climate risk and weather anomaly events persist.

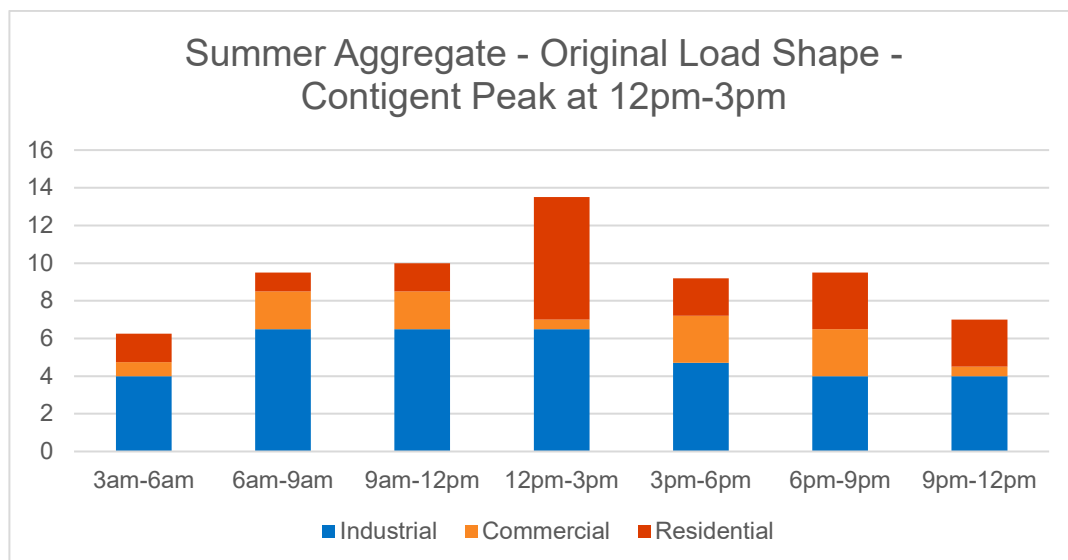
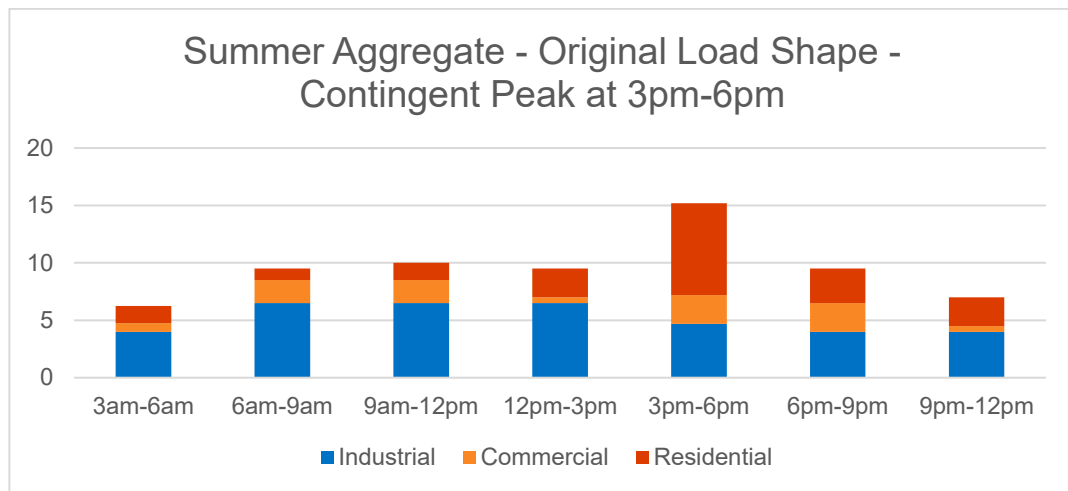
I – COINCIDENT PEAK RISK MAY NOT BE ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED

One of key purposes of altering customer’s behavior is to reduce overall demand on the Santee Cooper system during the “coincident peak”.⁹ However, the proposed rate structure to residential customers, may not be granular enough, to address the system stress during the “hottest summer” months and the “coldest winter” months. It also does not address the Coincidental Peak. The current rate proposal for residential customers may have insufficient transparency on which hourly periods within the months and which retail class of contributions to load (e.g. between residential, commercial and industrial) contribute to the system coincidental peak in each hourly band of each month.

⁹ See also <https://www.energyby5.com/coincidental-peaks-should-peak-your-interest>



The on-peak demand model that Santee Cooper proposes for residential customers, therefore may not adequately address the real concerns of reducing demand or changing behavior during the actual “coincident” summer aggregate demand peak. For example, if the customer does change its behavior – and shifts 75% of its load to the earlier time bucket of 12pm-3pm, it still has not mitigated risk to overall electric grid – or cured stress on the system overall.





Based on the above example, Santee Cooper’s rate proposal does not publish sufficient granular information to address the risks of shifting the hourly peak. Additionally, this would impact the fairness of the rate structure and whether the calculation is equitable to residential customers (or industrial or commercial customers). Without this transparency the RG class may be unfairly penalized for periods of time that the system is not in stress. There also does not appear to be sufficient analysis and transparency in the risks and costs to the reliability of the grid in simply shifting the load to other time-buckets.

II – SUMMER AND WINTER SYSTEM PEAKS TO BE SEPARATED FOR THE CUSTOMER

Second, a significant limitation in the rate proposal is that Santee Cooper does not differentiate between the Summer System Peak and Winter System Peak. Residential customers should be entitled to know this difference especially if they are to modify their day-to-day living behaviors. For instance, the current proposal does not provide sufficient data on the contribution to their energy bills that would occur during the coldest months of January and February. Here the expectation that customers can eliminate heat pumps or hot water during a cold streak - when lives and health would be compromised – is not a reasonable expectation. Therefore, the demand charges in January for example – with a “coldest winter on record” scenario - should guide residential customers to what they could reasonably be expected to pay. Based on the growing “winter peaking” in the region – the ability to offset load in the morning hours is also unlikely.

Hence the lack of separation of the Winter Peak does not properly address the incentives and I believe is not a correct application of the increase. A fairer demand charge should be separated by concerns in winter and summer peak and the appropriate charge for residents.

In addition, a “flat” on-demand charge does not differentiate for seasonality or shoulder months. The pricing does not equitably distribute the price, nor does it



accurately reflect either the real stress on the system – which could leave South Carolinian residents vulnerable or being expected to modify behaviors that are simply not reasonable. The pricing scheme does not address the inability to turn off heating and hot water or alter customer behaviors when the electricity is needed the most. Scenarios to expect residents to freeze to avoid paying a surcharge are impractical. Thus, much of these demand charges are fixed and not equitably distributed among the class of customers. (The peak offenders pay the same as others).

III - WINTER PEAKING CONCERNS

The model for Winter Peaking is also not separated. The stress on the system due to extreme cold weather during peak morning hours when children go to school, and people are eating breakfast is also not fairly considered. For instance, it is not reasonable to portray this rate structure as “optional” usage or savings – when families need to feed their children breakfast between 6am-9am, and most residents take hot showers. It is a basic need of sustenance and living to have food and hot water as residents. Therefore, the proposed rate structure almost certainly implies that in all cases, residents will pay the median penalty (as they have little discretion over their use of hot water and food) in winter months.

IV. ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS IN HOW TO MEASURE THE ACTUAL PEAK FOR CUSTOMERS.

The rate proposal also does not appear to be in line with a fairer way in which to address how the averaging of the peak across a broad and diverse range of customer usage is measured. Several states assess a separate “capacity charge” which would more equitably allow a rate proposal of this nature to be assessed. Accordingly residential customers may wish to also consider how other states have



managed coincident peaks and capacity charges. This is especially true as this proposal must also consider the growing likely of “extreme weather” and system stress – due to climate change.

New York (NY-ISO) and New England (NE-ISO)

1CP, for the one peak hour. The math for New York is simple and calculated as each meter’s total kWh used during the one hour of the grid’s maximum demand. The requirements applied to the determination of which hour is the final maximum hour are the following:

- The hour must take place in July or August
- The hour must be on a non-holiday weekday (not July 4th and not a weekend)

Once the maximum hour is determined, the 1CP is determined by finding that meter’s actual usage in that same hour and grossing it up by two factors, one to account for transmission and distribution line losses of the system and the other for forecasted modeling error.

PJM (IL, OH, PA, NJ, MD, DE, DC): 5CP

PJM uses a much broader selection in that it uses each electricity account’s capacity obligation but takes the five highest hours from the five highest peak days across the entire ISO and averages those hourly consumption values together to get what is referred to there as the Peak Load Contribution (PLC). PJM is also a summer peaking region, meaning historical peaks have all taken place during the summer months. Here however it appears that Santee Coopers peaking distribution is in the Winter. Therefore, the distinctions between winter peaking (and the charge to residents) is most fairly assessed by a much more detailed analysis – and transparency – between the separate Winter and Summer Peaks. In addition, using a 4-5 point peaking average – and addressing the customer usage over several points during the month would far more fairly create the incentives to manage



behavior – that than implement an “all-out” penalty – with a fixed flat demand charge – for even one accidental use.

Texas Models 4 Coincidental Peaks (4CP model)

In the state of Texas, which has also been exposed to substantial extremes in weather due to climate change, to more fairly allocate the usage across the summer months, it uses a 4 Coincidental Peak (“4CP”) model, that takes into account each of the four summer months, June, July, August and September separately, and the stress on the system in each of those months. Instead of doing the process for the one maximum hour, the calculation is done four distinct times, once for each of the four summer months from June through September.

Similarly residential peak “on-demand” charges could also follow a similar “averaging” model – across a broader range of usage – which would help Santee Cooper also determine a more general stress on the system. Using the examples above, a customer’s artificially modified behavior, may also not be reflective of the real risks and real contingency peak risk throughout an entire season – especially as extreme weather risks increase.

In addition, a methodology that uses 4CP’s or some other averaging, would more fairly calculate the demand penalty (if any) that was to be passed through to residents – including providing residential customers more transparency, on how that load profile (and system stress) applies throughout each of the months.

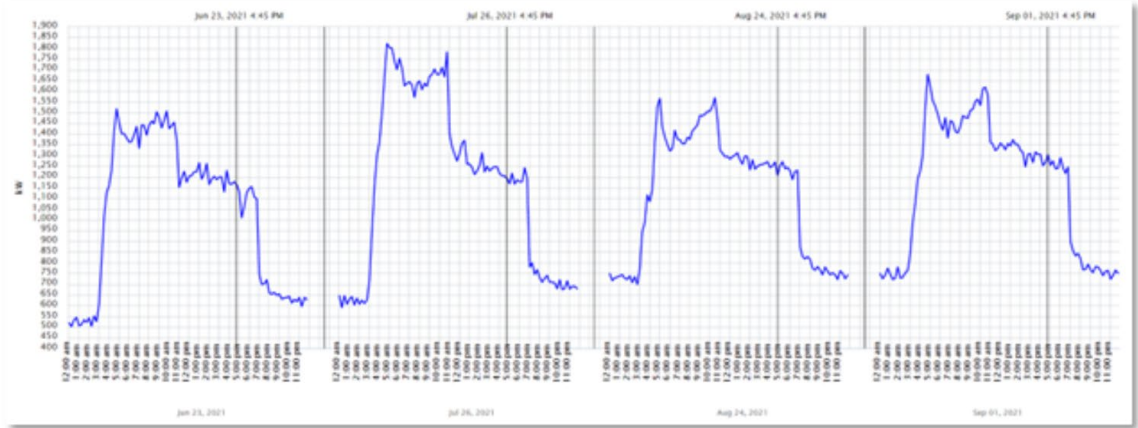


Figure 1: Peak Demand Interval Day and Times for June to September from 5

Given the fluctuations in load, the trends of climate change, there is a concern that the current proposal has insufficient transparency to residential customers, especially if Santee Cooper is requiring residential customers to make substantial (and even draconian) changes to their lifestyles and alter day-to-day behaviors such as waiting to eat dinner at 6.30pm instead of 5.30pm, and turn off their basic heating and hot water between 6am-9am, or even skipping a healthy cooked breakfast before school, because a parent does not want to run the microwave between 6am-9am. These measures are not equitable to residents who could put their basic living, heaters, hot water at risk.

In any case, a potentially fairer way to allocate the demand charge would be to separate the Winter On-Demand Charge from the Summer On-Demand Charge so that customers could better manage their genuine “optional” behaviors as opposed to their “mandatory” behaviors such as needing heat, hot water and food. The proposed rates therefore assume that all appliances that are being run are vanity items. This does not create a proper distinction in the appliances the customer can choose to run (such as dishwashers, dryers, microwaves) and essential items – such as heating/cooling and hot water.



Other concerns in the existing proposal are whether shifting the peak from 3pm-6pm – may result in additional or unplanned peaks in other hours such as 12pm-3pm as loads shift. For instance, if residential customers now all run their ovens, dryers at 2pm (to avoid the current peak-demand window) and it could create a new spike that could coincide with heavy industrial and commercial use. This may not alleviate pressure on the grid at all or impact the system wide load factor management. Without more transparency in the load profile split with other classes of customers, on an hourly basis, this may not even achieve the higher-level goals of mitigating peak-system demand risk – and instead could result in a system where there is not a uniform system of measure when and where the peak occurs as customers (and industrials) change their behavior. Combining this with changing customer usage (such as charging EV cars) – or due to climate change – this exercise could result in no benefit to Santee Cooper or the residential customers – in that the system demand peak simply moved to 2pm or 2.45pm or 6.15pm instead. Hence it has not achieved the states goals of what should be “increasing load factor” and not just shifting the peak from 3.15pm to 2.45pm which does not reduce the overall capacity strain on the system.

Therefore, the proposal does not provide sufficient granularity in the actual “coincidental” peak-load across each hourly interval, and it also does not show how the desired change in behaviors is expected to flatten the load-shape, or reduce overall stress on the grid. In addition, while the Santee Cooper residential bills online, provide customers with a “weather overlay” to their utility bill - so they can translate how their energy usage maps to the temperature/humidity outside, - the proposed rate increase, also does not adequately adjust for weather overlay. As stated infra, having a peaking demand charge that more correctly reflects the outside conditions would also better allow for grid management.



V - RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS WOULD BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY DURING “EXTREME WEATHER”.

One suggestion is that Santee Cooper send out “IC4” – similar to Demand Response warnings to help customers during times they know the entire generation system is going to be stressed. For example, all residential customers will understand that while it is 95 degrees (and with climate change possible even of 104 degrees) and extreme humidity in the middle of July or August or when there is a cold snap with temperature below “freezing” - and “system peak events” are occurring, requiring behavioral modification during those stressed system capacity points – such as requiring residents to turn off “optional” – appliances – such as washers, dryers and dishwashers – to reduce system load are reasonable requests. I am sure residential customers would gladly modify their behavior during these times. Accordingly, “Extreme-Weather” system peak demand charges that correlate directly to weather or climate events may be one alternative solution that residential customers could more fairly incorporate.

Likewise, if residents know and understand they are coming into an extreme “freezing snap” for a few days in December, January, and February, and there is to be a “winter system peak” demand charge for using power during those specific periods of system stress, it is understandable that residential customers should be penalized (say with a \$20 Climate-Risk Surcharge) for unnecessarily turning on their dryers, microwaves, ovens, and toasters – when there is a specific climate event. Those constraints or exigent “Demand-Charges” would be understood. I am confident that residential customers would comply with and understand a system-wide demand penalty during extreme weather events – perhaps to be set as temperature related.

However, a 365-day a year implied penalty that residents may pay an additional \$50 if they dry their clothes or heat up waffles in their microwaves on at



8am for breakfast -regardless of the weather – or families must delay dinner until 6.30pm instead 5.30pm – even though Johnny has to get to baseball practice at 6pm - could have unreasonable and inequitable burdens on families and residents who simply want to meet their day-to-day commitments without (on a daily basis being paranoid or concerned they will get a \$100 Utility surcharge because on a one-time basis. As explained above, if they accidentally cooked dinner at 5pm because they had to get to an event – this leads to an unfair penalty to residents. These penalties appear to be inequitable and the basis of their calculation not reasonable – especially given the large and growing population of families with children.

While it is understood that Santee Cooper has to manage peak load on the system and the intent is to encourage residential customers to modify behaviors – doing so in a manner that is “terrifying” or “dangerous” to where kids understand they have to go after school classes without dinner – because their mom has to pay another \$100 to the utility are the type of unreasonable effects – and intended consequences of this draconian type of “year-round” – one time charge. The charges should be far more granular (e.g. Summer and Winter, exclude should months, and also utilize several coincident peaks, and also average the customer’s good behavior during the entire month).

The current proposal leaves residents and families on “egg-shells” that a Johnny accidentally heated up a noodle soup or threw his clothes in the dryer to get to sports at 4pm – and the family now has been hit a huge peak charge (over the cost of inflation) which could cost them \$50-\$100 a month. These are substantial life-style changes that would materially and adversely impact the lives of families.

I believe residential customers do want to be responsible. But they don’t want to be petrified on a year-round basis of making one mistake. There is also no incentives for rewarding good behavior. These proposals are also are not in keeping



with the ideal of “gradualism” and it is not reasonable to incur significant inflationary costs to hard working families. As discussed, this could also trigger other recessionary and inflationary issues that would impact a large diverse group of customers. If Santee Cooper has access to smart grid data, more detail could be supplied on the residential use of “optional devices” – such as running the dryer, or dishwasher versus “mandatory devices” such as keeping the heating on when it is below freezing outside. ¹⁰

It would not be equitable to penalize residential customers for their basic living needs of sustenance which is basic heating, hot water and food – regardless of the time of day. That’s why a fairer proposal that addresses residential needs and for example averages over the entire month or strips out “extreme weather” would more likely meet a balance between the goals of modifying load shape but also allowing customers to live comfortably.

F – TRANSPARENCY AND EDUCATION OF CUSTOMERS

The current proposal also may not provide sufficient transparency or analysis to the broad residential class load. The residential group of approximately 181,000 customers is a broad range of customers with vastly different usage across time buckets throughout the day.

¹⁰ Santee Cooper has offered the option for customers to request data. However it is noted that most customers may not have had ample notice to request data prior to the due date for written comments.



I – Santee Cooper Portal Should Provide Residential Analysis

As a first instance, the residential portal of the Santee Cooper portal should provide more transparency and analysis to each residential customer on how the proposed rate change would directly affect their individualized bill. With the level of detail that the Utility is able to provide on its portal to each residential customer it should be fairly straightforward for the residential portal to include a calculation specific to each customer's residential bill on how the proposed rate change would alter the customer's rates for the prior year 2023-2024. With that analysis, including transparently indicating when their peak occurred (on a monthly basis) and what the monthly surcharge would have been is critical to achieving equity, transparency and fairness. This would also allow customers, to more fairly contribute comments to this rate hearing process, as they would be able to pinpoint and accurately determine if these are behaviors and modifications they can reasonably make – or if they are going to be over-charged a surcharge for their ordinary usage of refrigerators, A/C and water heaters. Hence there is insufficient transparency at this stage on what the true impact and modification to the residents can achieve.

To achieve this goal the Utility could therefore run a side-by-side bill comparison on last year 12 month rates and disclose to the customer the forecast impact with identical residential usage on the next year's 12 month rates, so the customer can accurately quantify the monthly increase – which may show for example a \$25/month increase, with certain months spiking to an increase of \$100/month. Without this granularity, I believe there is insufficient information for residential customers to properly understand or equitably participate in the rate hearing process as the aggregate averages provided above may be (and are already) misleading to the actual forecasted increase. The calculations above show the expected increase to be 14.45%-21.56% annually and not the 8.7% advertised.



II – Education of the Customer

There also does not appear to be any active or sufficient educational programs to the residential customer which should be mandated in any rate change mandate – such as training programs, information flyers being mailed to customers, telephone support on how it would impact the individual residents bill, opt-in or opt-out programs, or email blasts educating the public about the programs which would better help the customer fully understand the impacts of the new charges.

In many states, a lack of customer awareness and education was another reason that Demand Charges were not implemented by the state. Many customers do not even fully understand the charges or what that means to them on an daily basis and may thus fall into a trap of simply being faced with higher Utility bills.

The Utility could also be mandated to mail out to customers “stickers” or “energy appliance stickers” that allow residents to affix to their appliances such as their washer/dryer or dishwasher that states in color –

“WARNING! - DO NOT RUN BETWEEN 3PM-6PM” or “6AM-9AM”.

The Utility providing these visual aids and colorful stockers to attach to critical appliances would also help in the education of customers, and their ability to make meaningful decisions. It does not appear that the current proposal adequately addresses education, training and knowledge transfer to the Customers, which would again likely result in pain and significant bill increases that they were not aware of. As part of any substantial rate change program, these initiatives should be mandatory and authorized at Santee Cooper’s at their own expense.



G – WHETHER THE RATE PROPOSAL COMPIES WITH §58-31-710

The proposal does not also appear to properly achieve the seven factors mandated under requirements of S.C. Code Ann. § 58-31- 710, where the BOD adopted the following Pricing Principles:

- Mission: Limit price increases to less than inflation.

As demonstrated above residential customers are expected to see a one-time inflation shock (given the skew negative distribution) of an annualized number of between 14.45% - 21.65%). This is the expected number and without extreme scenarios. Given that publicly released inflation measures are typically annual the rate proposal is misleading at the 8.7% announced¹¹ as this is not an annualized number and does not properly reflect the skew and the distribution of mode and mean. Further it does not fairly educate the customer on the real impact to their monthly forecasts and expenses. Based on the annualized projection, residential customers in Horry County could see an inflationary rate increase of 14.45%-21.65% which far exceeds inflation and thus defeats the intent of the legislative bill. This does not achieve the mission under §58-31-710

- Equity: Allocate costs to specific customer classes in a reasonable, equitable and defensible manner.

¹¹ It appears this number may only attribute to 10 months of the year. However in meeting the §58-31-710 objectives of limiting price increases to less than inflation, an annualized number must be used in the comparison.



For the reasons above, and as especially outlined in Section C, the proposed rate increase does not distribute the system costs evenly, and residential rates in an equitable, reasonable or defensible manner. Families with children, elderly residents, and several other majority classes of residential customers would face significant penalties for one-time mistakes. The studies in C.IV infra show that demand charges unfairly penalize low-income residents and do not equitably share system costs among the residential class. Hence demand charges are normally not implemented as mandatory but instead are “voluntary”. This suggests again that §58-31-710 has not been met.

- Efficiency: Design prices so that conservation savings are shared with the customers.

As also explained in Section C, the current proposal does not incentivize customers fairly but could in fact *disincentivize* residential customers. There are insufficient rewards for “good behavior” and it appears to be a punishment-only system (e.g. where a customer has mitigated savings for the entire month yet makes one mis-step) and does not lead to fair conservation charges being shared with customers. This suggests again that §58-31-710 has not been met.

- Adequacy: Provide sufficient revenue to preserve the financial integrity of Santee Cooper.

As also discussed above, since the analysis does not take into consideration any of the System Load Peaks, does not separate Winter and Summer load forecasts, and does not analyze the contribution of the various load classes to a shift in peak demand to other buckets such as 12pm-3pm, there is insufficient analysis to show that the integrity of the system has been met. Also as shown in the proposed examples in Section H, there are several alternative methods for Santee Cooper to meet its increased costs – including more gradual rate structures, that balance the Utilities needs with the residential customers needs. These alternatives do not appear to have compared or analyzed.



- Notice: Ensure customer notice and engagement in rate proceedings.

Because there is insufficient transparency in some of the data and load forecasting curves (and insufficient time for customers to request the data prior to written comments being due) – the analysis may not be properly commented on, the engagement of customers – may be limited. This report suggests several areas, including the forecasted actual impact to residential bills of 14.45%-21.56% being significantly underestimated by the Utility. Hence the customer notice and involvement in the proceedings may not be effective unless they have further information.

- Protection: Allow reasonable relief mechanisms for financially distressed customers.

The proposal also does not appear to have discussed, the likelihood of a substantial increase in customer defaults, especially by a vulnerable elderly population or low-income families who may not be able to afford this substantial 14.45%-21.65% inflationary increase to their energy bill and therefore are at significant risk of being disconnected from the system and losing power all together. The rate proposal does not address additional relief mechanisms for customers to opt-out, or for instance 90 day or 120-day relief plans before disconnection. This suggests again that §58-31-710 has not been met.

- Transparency: Require openness in annual review of compliance with Pricing Principles

As explained above there are several key areas where the data source does not have sufficient transparency or information to properly analyze the breakdown of system costs, or the actual hourly strain on the system, separated by Winter and Summer demand peaks. Without this granularity the proposal is inherently unfair as it cannot lead to a full range of comments. Section C clearly outlines that majority of the states have rejected a mandatory Demand Charge program and



instead required it to be “voluntary” or an “opt-in”. It would also be helpful if residential customers are provided a direct comparison report on their electricity portal to compare the 2023-2024 rates on their exact electricity usage so they can see exactly what the proposed rates would do to their specific load usage.



H – THREE ALTERNATIVE PRICING PROPOSALS

In conclusion, the proposal rate increase by Santee Cooper appears to be representing to residential customers, that they would see an **annual** rate increase of 8.7% for 2025. Under the current proposal and load usage the actual annual rate increase that residential customers would feel is expected to be 14.45%-21.56%. Assuming however Santee Cooper only needed to achieve that target, I believe it could be done in a more equitable way.

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Residential General Service (RG)		**SC
Customer Charge	\$19.50	\$20.00
Summer Energy Charge	\$0.11970	N/A
Winter Energy Charge	\$0.00997	N/A
Seasonal W.A. Charge	\$0.10637	N/A
Base Energy Charge	N/A	0.0683
On Peak Demand Charge	N/A	\$10.03
CP4 Charge		
Mean_Peak_Demand**after Skew (kw)		5.38
Median (50%) Peak Demand (kw)		5.20
Likely (25%) First Quartile Demand (Kw)		6.20
Expected 1000Kwh Bill	\$115.72	\$132.44
Monthly Bill Increase		\$16.72
Annualized Rate Increase (Mean) (5.38Kw)		14.45%
Likely (25%) First Quartile Ann Rate Increase (6.2Kw)		21.56%



I – ALTERNATIVE 1

As a first matter, even with a back of the envelope calculation, the On Peak Demand (“OPD”) charge portion should be **reduced to at least \$8.05** in order for the Utility to achieve an annualized 8.7% rate increase that still exceeds inflation. Reducing the OPD charge to \$8.05 with a 1000kWh customer at 50% at the mean of the distribution, brings in line the expectation that the customer will only experience an 8.7% increase (and not a 14.45%-21.56% increase which is too high)

II - ALTERNATIVE II

Second, the proposed on peak demand charge is without sufficient granularity to address the real system peak-risk, seasonality between Summer and Winter, and seasonality also does not allow for an appropriate deterrent/incentive basis to change customer behavior and mitigate peak system-demand

Prior to implementation more transparency in the load-factors and the system peak usage could be considered and Santee Cooper could adopt a model closer to CP4 average points are used or that residential customers should be incentivized to reduce load when the system is stressed. One suggestion could be that there is a two-tier OPD system.

For example, a two-tier OPD model could be used

- (a) Base OPD - \$5.00 for all shoulder months
- (b) CP4 (4 Peak Averages) - \$10.00 where the generation system is stressed.

This allows residential customers to modify their behavior correlated to system demand peaks - for example during extreme weather events and climate change. I would believe that residential customers *would* want to modify their behavior when



there are climate events or weather risks to the grid. This also on a more gradual basis implements a demand-charge and influences responsible behavior.

I would also urge Santee Cooper to release publicly the monthly hourly system generation load shapes, separating Summer and Winter, and preferably each month, and showing more accurately the contribution of load between each class, on an hourly basis.

Without this transparency it is not equitable that the “residential” class should incur an 8.7% annual increase when the commercial and industrial classes are only 4.7% and 5.1% and the “variability” of that load shape across four-five average peaks may not have not been fairly analyzed. For instance, that analysis may show that the Industrial class may be required to pay a higher on peak demand-charge and portion residential customers OPD reduced. (e.g. switching the 8.7% with the 4.7%). Hence there is insufficient transparency – especially given climate change and load forecast growth – for the current rate proposal to be determined for equity and fairness.

III – ALTERNATIVE III

A third alternative, Santee Cooper may wish to consider is a more *gradual* implement the notion of OPD demand charges, and to run a trial period of 12 months so that customers can see the impact to their bills and how it would result in modification of their behavior. This can still be achieved by also meeting the Utilities’ desired annualized rate increase of 8.7% for the residential class to cover increased costs.

The current rate proposal includes large “new” structural changes. *First*, for the first time the Utility wants to include an entire new “class” of rate-structure which is the on-peak demand charge – which residential customers are not used to and have no direct experience with. As explained above it is also significantly misleading



that residential customers would only experience an 8.7% rate increase, when in reality the actual expected annual energy increase is expected to be 14.45%-21.56%.

To support the goal of gradualism, another alternative could be to maintain the \$0.1036 Seasonal W.A. baseline charge that residential customers are a customer to and instead have an on-peak demand charge at \$1.50/Kw. (Please note this is arguing inuendo as it is recommended that demand-charges are made voluntary and customers should have the ability to opt-out). If there is still to be a dramatic sudden change to the rate structure – and a fixed tariff for peak demand on the grid - another proposal would be to more gradually introduce the demand charge so that customers can see more clearly what their usage reduction would be – and also to reduce their own volatility in bill payments.

Based on an average RG customer of 1000/kWh a month, this would still achieve the Utilities' objectives of about a 7.6%-8.67% rate increase – but provide much less variability and volatility to the customers. This also supports the balance between gradualism (of introducing a brand-new rate structure) and maintaining the need to cover increased costs. This would also reduce the inflation shock which was discussed above.



	Rate	Rate	I	II	III
Residential General Service (RG)		**SC			
Customer Charge	\$19.50	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Summer Energy Charge	\$0.11970	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Winter Energy Charge	\$0.00997	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seasonal W.A. Charge	\$0.10637	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.10637
Base Energy Charge	N/A	0.0683	0.0683	0.0683	N/A
On Peak Demand Charge	N/A	\$10.03	\$8.50	\$5.00	\$1.50
CP4 Charge				\$20.00	
Mean_Peak_Demand**after Skew (kw)		5.20			
Median (50%) Peak Demand (kw)		5.38			
Likely (25%) First Quartile Demand (Kw)		6.20			
Expected 1000Kwh Bill	\$115.72	\$132.44	\$124.21	N/A	\$124.52
Monthly Bill Increase		\$16.72	\$8.49		\$8.80
Annualized Rate Increase (Mean) (5.38Kw)		14.45%	7.34%	N/A	7.60%
Likely (25%) First Quartile Ann Rate Increase (6.2Kw)		21.56%	13.36%		8.67%

The above table shows that there are several alternatives and viable options on how the demand-charge is calculated and those alternatives (such as using a



CP4 average of the “peak”, separating the Winter and Summer on-peak charges, adding an “Extreme Weather or CP4 charge” could all be reviewed.

The above table shows that to achieve the desired 8.7% advertised “annual” inflation increase, the on-peak demand charge should not exceed \$8.50. Further, the same target could be achieved by maintaining the original rate structure, and simply adding a more reasonable \$1.50 demand charge.

Another alternative is that Santee Cooper could defer the implementation of the on-peak demand portion of the energy rate charge until each residential customer has a transparent record of its monthly peak over the last two years (where available). In addition, as the region expands, another goal would be to expand to an hourly pricing model, that more fairly reflects the load profiles of each customer— closer to the RTO’s and ISO’s that electrical usage is charged hourly based on the time of use.

On-Peak Charges – while important to be measured – should not serve as the metric to penalize residents who need electricity for their sustenance and living. Energy security should not be compromised and the proposal in its current form does not appear to have considered more reasonable, balanced and gradual alternatives. I strongly oppose residential customers at a flat \$10.03 as it would lead to an expected inflation to residents (above the already high inflation) of a 14.65%-21.65% energy increase. Several of the other alternative should be explored such as summer and winter demand charges, and averaging the customer peaks so that accidental errors are not combined.

Short of eliminating the entire demand-charge and making it a voluntary charge only, at the very least this number should be reduced to \$8.50 and/or the original base seasonal W.A. pricing of \$10.637 continue with \$1.50/hr a demand charge that would still achieve the Utilities objectives of meeting its costs of services



but at the same time, balance the customers' needs of gradual increases and reduced volatility.

Finally other states have rejected demand charges as a whole to the residential class of customers. It should be seriously considered to make these charges as opt-in only and give residential customers the choice to voluntarily participate but offer other rate incentives instead – such as peak demand reduction savings. This would keep the state's energy pricing closer to alignment with those in other states of the U.S. and other public service commissions who have consistently rejected demand charges for the residential class of customers.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly urge Santee Cooper to not adopt the residential class ("RG") propose rate structure in its current form

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha S. Kumaran (my resume and other credentials attached to this report



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SENIOR RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Chief Risk Officer / Senior Risk Advisory / Vice President of Risk Management

Over 20 years extensive Energy and Financial Risk Management consulting experience reporting at a C-level, in the US and Canadian Markets, combining strong quantitative background with executive level communication skills. Experience covers Fortune 500 companies, large and small utilities, government owned and regulatory matters, as well as pharmaceutical companies with energy purchasing requirements. Proven track record of delivering financial results, mitigating risks and advancing solutions to help client's generating revenue. Strong communication skills, able to effectively liaise across all areas of an organization, with exceptional oral and presentation skills. Able to influence and direct Senior Management on all aspects of Financial Planning, Risk Capital, Risk Control, Policy and Procedures and Risk Measurement. Adept in all aspects of financial engineering and risk quantification of derivatives, hedging, commodities and energy and providing risk solutions for Crude Oil, Heating Oil, Electricity, Gas, Coal, Wind, Hydro-Electric, Storage Options, Transmission, ISO's and FTRs, Retail load, Demand-side Management, Contract Structuring with broad experience in the Midstream Gas sector, fractionation and new energy risks such as wind, solar, and geothermal.

Success stories, include developing successful energy and financial risk mitigation strategies to commodities and trading companies with annual revenues exceeding \$2BN and providing extensive risk advisory on complex derivatives, structured deals and physical energy assets. Extensive government, regulatory, legislation, policy and audit experience. Successful in implementing overall risk solutions and all aspects of Commodities Enterprise-Wide Risk Management, Market Risk, Volumetric Risk, Credit Risk, and Operational Risk.

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, TRINITY COLLEGE, Cambridge, UK

First Class, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Arts in Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, *summa cum laude*

Affiliations: Professional Risk Managers International Association (PRMIA) Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP)

Core competencies include:

- Developer of advanced math solutions to provide "non-traditional" risks calculations on complex structured transactions, trading, options, and volumetric risks.
- Forte in Risk Management of Derivatives and Commodities Hedging and Arbitrage
- Expert in all aspects of quantitative EWRM, Market and Volumetric Risk, RaRoC and Risk Capital Planning, Financial Planning and Forecasting
- Front-Middle-Back Office integration.
- Diverse Quantitative and IT background.
- Strong Executive level communication – able to translate complex concepts to C-Level
- Exceptional Project Management & Leadership for managing teams.
- Competent Presentation & Writing skills and communication skills for Government and Regulatory compliance
- Liaising with Traders, Management and Business Unit
- Risk Policy and Procedures

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1993 – 2024 (Present) SENIOR ENERGY RISK CONSULTANT – TIMETRICS – COMMODITIES RISK ADVISORY

CEO and Owner of an active boutique Risk Software and Consulting Firm called Timetrics. Senior Risk Consultant on an executive level, advising clients on oil, electricity, gas and commodities risk management implementation. Project considerations included validation of Monte Carlo and other option related techniques for physical assets, detailed quantifications of Market, Volumetric, Credit and Operational Risk across full energy portfolios, validation on trading book structures for risk aggregation, implementation of pricing data and feeds, localized applications to Crude Oil, Heating Oil, FTR's, ISOs, general Enterprise Wide Risk Advisory. Devised advanced derivative strategies for hedging oil and stress test modules designed for risk management of integrated commodities Hedge funds including cattle, wheat, grains, oil as well as RAROC approach to Hedge funds book. Advisor on energy efficiency and technologies software.

Select Clients:

- Northland Energy, New Hampshire
- Duke Energy, Denver, CO
- Spectron Oil - Connecticut
- Bristol Myers Squibb
- Tyko International

...continued...

Professional Experience Continued

- Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg, CA
- Blue Rock Energy, Syracuse NY
- FEA – Berkeley, CA
- UMS Group Advisory
- Niagara Mohawk Syracuse, NY
- Risk Advisory - Calgary, Canada
- Louis Dreyfus, Wilton, CT
- Reuters, New York
- AIG - Connecticut

COMMODITIES TRADING ADVISOR / CTA CPO START-UP - 2016 – Present

NEFERTITI RISK CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC – New York, NY

CEO and Owner of various commodities and equities hedge funds, for the launch of various Commodities Options Trading Funds called STORM™. STORM is a proprietary set of options trading algorithms that seeks to arbitrage high returns on options of commodities futures on Crude Oil, S&P and gold during short time frames. Ms. Kumaran also holds the FINRA Series 3 since 2017 and registered member of the National Futures Association (NFA) as Commodities Trading Advisor, CTA. Founder of a start-up Nefertiti Risk Capital Management, LLC. Also launched several equities funds, ICE, GLACIER and VELOCIRAPTOR

SENIOR ENERGY RISK CONSULTANT / HEATING OIL TRADER - 2011 - 2015

NORTHLAND ENERGY TRADING – Manchester, NH (Worked from NY)

Reported directly to CEO. Designed, executed, and successfully built proprietary trading and commodities hedging risk software system (STORM™) to manage a custom book of heating oil physical portfolio with advanced and custom design of several thousand heating oil options. Improved client revenues by over 300% annually by implementing trading derivative strategy. Managed all aspects of ERM in heating oil hedges. Directly responsible for trading and executing real-time heating oil derivatives strategy, with live interfaces to commodities markets, to assist client's growth in comprehensive hedging strategy, with significant upside return to Client.

SENIOR ENERGY RISK ADVISOR - 2004 - 2010

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD / MANITOBA HYDRO, Winnipeg, Canada – Government – (Worked from NY)

Reported directly to CFO, CEO and Regulators. Provided extensive risk advisory to Executive Committees in the hydro-electric Canadian markets, advising on all aspects of Export Market and Volumetric Risk in complex hydro-generation system, gas options, wind energy, reservoir-storage, unique transmission risks, variable Retail load and long term contracts. Responsible for detailed quantifications of EaR (Earnings at Risk, Volumetric, Market and Operational Risk) on all aspects of complex hydro-electric system integrating a system wide portfolio of lakes, reservoirs, options in water storage, rivers and physical assets, along with accurate integration to MISO, and US export commitments. Successfully mitigated more than \$0.5BN dollars of risk annually by defining innovative risk mitigation techniques on storage reservoir operations. Extensive Regulatory and Government experience in drought, energy policy and communications. Managed risk computations on portfolio with annual revenues over \$2BN in advanced quantifications of detailed weather risk modules to consider exposures to climate change, precipitation, ice build up, snow-melt, and other "Weather" impacts.

MIDSTREAM GAS ENERGY – SENIOR RISK ADVISOR, 2003-2004

DUKE ENERGY FIELD SERVICES, Denver, Colorado – Worked from New York, NY

Senior Level Risk Management (ERM) advisor in actively growing midstream gas sector (GPM and NGLs) - specifically in the exploration of new gas wellheads as well as the fractionation process. Directed and oversaw the implementation of customized and unique Volumetric Risk modules (with special considerations of Quality Risk), Market Risk and Operational Risk which included consideration of variable supply, wellhead decline, must-run wells and crude-oil hedges to offset gas liquid prices. Pioneered state-of-the-art option modules and plant fractionation models, which were able to ascertain the optimal blend of NGL extraction, and proved millions of dollars of upside to their existing plant operations. Provided substantial upside and value-add to their existing commercial operations and enhanced efficiencies in assessment of Keep-Whole, POI, and POP contracts. Provided advanced concepts of mitigating risk and enhancing return/reward spectrum in the structuring of contractual arrangements between Producer and Processor and ultimately enhanced shareholder value in their field operations.

CHIEF RISK OFFICER (CRO), 1996-2002

NIAGARA MOHAWK ENERGY, Syracuse, New York

Directly reported to the CFO. Developed and directed all aspects of enterprise-wide energy risk department EWRM for active trading floor covering Market, Credit, and Operational Risks. Directly responsible to Senior Management for all aspects of Risk Management

Professional Experience Continued

including trading violations, policy and procedures and daily P&L exposure. Directed and managed all aspect of the Enterprise Wide Risk Management function in power and gas in the NorthEast. Assumed day-to-day responsibilities for working with traders, evaluating, monitoring and reporting the ongoing positions and risk exposure in all aspects of market risk, VaR reports, credit exposure and Daily P&L changes. Generated and reviewed all risk exposure management reports and advised of the amount of exposure faced by in the course of its business activities. Set up Middle Office department internally and hired, trained and supervised junior risk analysts and programmers. Communicated through all levels of the organization and Audit Control, the valuation and risk assessment of current portfolios. Liaised with Traders to advise on Risk Exposure on specific trades, new business initiatives, resolved conflicts and implemented necessary expansions to Policy Limits and Procedure Controls. Managed and directly responsible for all internal ERM Software and Risk Systems, and designed enhanced Reporting procedures to Exposure Management Committee.

2000- 2002 ENERGY RISK MANAGEMENT - CORPORATE PROCUREMENT (PHARMACEUTICALS)

Senior Energy Risk Strategy Advisor on evaluating RFPS for Fortune 500 companies and evaluating long term energy procurement contracts for supply of gas and electricity supplying 18 facilities nationwide and \$BN of commodity purchases in newly deregulated markets. Considerations include long term (10 year+) supply contracts, embedded optionality, site expansion and regionalized pricing, and all related risk and valuation considerations for optimizing corporate procurement. Liaised directly with site managers, individual suppliers and energy sourcing team and lead presentations to site managers and energy sourcing teams to select and short list suppliers for the commodity RFP process. Procurements exceeded \$65MM annually.

Select Clients:

- UMS Group, NJ
- Bristol Myers Squibb Corporation, NJ
- Tyco International

1992-1996 FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR – MARKET RISK MANAGEMENT (FINANCIAL SERVICES)

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Organizations in every industry deal with the challenge of risk quantification, however, those in the energy trading industry face even higher risks, owing to the complex—often bespoke—profiles of non-traditional physical assets, which include volumetric and climate risks, renewable energy and variable supply risks, exploration risks, which all need to be integrated with highly volatile market risks. This increased risk should mandate an increased investment in high-end, analytical tools, that not only provide robust market risk calculations, but also tackle the framework of non-traditional risks, for example in integrating volumetric risk, climate forecasting, and asset-based risks associated with exploration, drilling, and life cycles of generation.

Samantha Kumaran, who has earned a first class honors in Applied Mathematics, from Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK, is the founder and owner of Timetrics Risk, a boutique risk analytics solutions company, which provides advanced analytical solutions to address the challenges of enterprise risk management in the commodities and energy trading industry. “We solve problems in uncharted, non-traditional markets—which have high mathematical



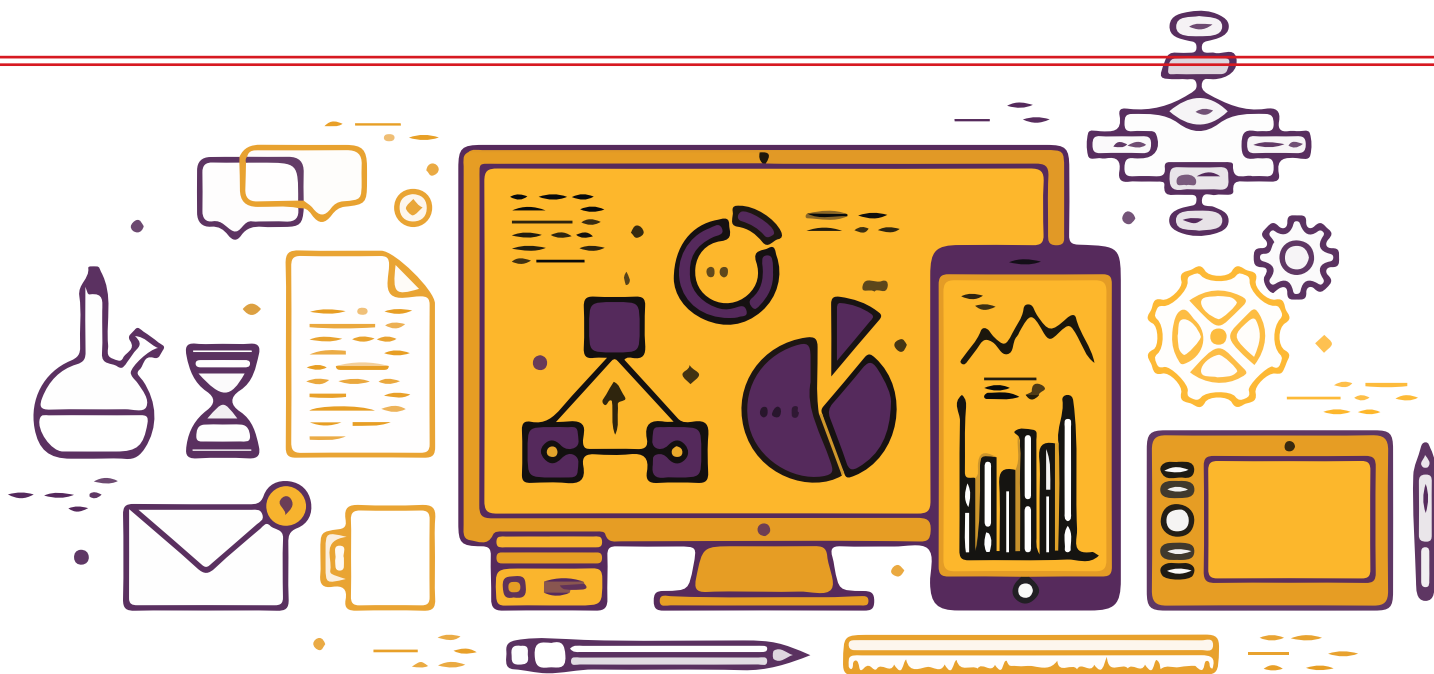
Samantha Kumaran

complexities—and other areas of risk that aren’t easily quantifiable,” begins Samantha, President of Timetrics Risk.

Ms. Kumaran founded Timetrics Risk, a minority woman owned business, in 1993. For twenty five years, its’ client base has spanned investment banks, Fortune 500 companies, large and small utilities, government owned entities, and deregulated energy players.

Timetrics is also a leader in the commodities derivative market, developing a solution called Timetrics Z-Live™ that supersedes many platforms, in its advanced mathematical ability to handle large portfolios of exchange-traded commodity derivatives, with real-time intraday CME compliance, providing a competitive edge in the intraday market risk for Futures Clearing Merchants (FCMs’). Timetrics also has successfully pioneered analytic solutions, in the bespoke risk management of electricity transmission contracts such as FTR’s and TCC’s, where market risk calculations are more unique in time series distribution, liquidity and auctions in the secondary markets.

Timetrics analytical engines are IT neutral and modular based and can interface with existing software platforms. Moreover, the modular-based solutions offer a greater degree of flexibility and compatibility that can be interfaced with



any bigger system, seamlessly and effortlessly.

With innovation in its DNA, Timetrics is continuously developing new solutions to challenge the status-quo in advancing new risk measures that go beyond VaR, and pioneering risk management methodologies in that tackle non-traditional, complex, and hard-to-

(on contractual provisions, or whether to drill or not drill), fractionation, and liquidity in the deregulated natural gas markets. The impact was several millions of dollars upside to the client, in improving operations.

With a focus on improving client's returns, and to determine/master risks in non-traditional areas, Timetrics

of infrastructure planning can be in the billions of dollars.

Additionally, the boutique, advanced analytical solution provider has an agile approach to quickly understand the needs of their clients and builds solutions accordingly. At the core, what differentiates Timetrics, is their ability to build customized solutions based on client needs, and its focus to use risk management to improve shareholder value. Timetrics business model has an emphasis on creativity and innovation at the forefront, a focus on research and development, and the provider always has something new in the analytical engine pipeline.

Samantha concludes, "Timetrics' vision is to integrate risk management into the thought-process and the spinal cord of the company's organizational planning to help create financial value and better optimize and use risk capital, to allocate risk capital cost to business to improve a client's revenue. We are becoming quite competitive in the US with our derivatives trading and so we are looking at expanding the usage of our derivatives risk management capabilities and expand in the positioning of the marketplace. We foresee a massive potential to tap into the Middle East oil markets, and developing infrastructure markets." **EC**



We solve problems in uncharted, non-traditional and derivatives market—which have high mathematical complexities—and other areas of risk that aren't easily quantifiable



quantify energy risk problems.

Timetrics' solutions can be better understood through their offerings to a natural gas and oil exploration client, a Fortune 100 company, who had a complicated physical asset portfolio, of several thousand gas wells, pipelines, and contractual obligations spread over a large region in the southwest U.S. Timetrics pioneered a one-of-a-kind, customized Risk Adjusted Return on Capital ("RaRoC") solution tailored to the client's gas exploration business which took into consideration, wellhead decline, quality of gas, real optionality

owns the trademark for a risk solution Infrastructure-at-Risk™, which calculates risks based on asset planning and system planning for infrastructure across roads, railways, generation assets and integrated systems. Examples of how Infrastructure-at-Risk™ carves a niche in the market place, is it can assist in governmental and energy planning from a quantified risk perspective, such as consideration of asset life cycle, natural disaster protections, hedging, system planning, flooding, backup generation and impacts to generation and utilities distribution. Deployment

Timetrics Risk - Select Past and Present Clients



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Samantha S. Kumaran
212-431-5098 (o) / 917-636-1364 (c)
media@timetricrisk.com

Local Business Owner Samantha Siva Kumaran Named to NSBA Leadership Council

Carolina Forest, SC– Samantha Siva Kumaran, CEO of Timetrics Risk and CEO of Nefertiti Holding Corporation, formed in New York, now in Myrtle Beach, SC, was recently named to the National Small Business Association (NSBA) Leadership Council. NSBA is the nation’s oldest small-business advocacy organization, and operates on a staunchly nonpartisan basis. Ms. Kumaran is a recognized leader in the small-business community, joins the NSBA Leadership Council alongside other small-business advocates from across the country as they work to promote the interests of small business to policymakers in Washington, D.C.

“As a small-business owner, I see daily the importance of being involved and active when it comes to laws and regulation,” stated Ms. Kumaran. “Joining NSBA’s Leadership Council will enable me to take our collective small-business message to the people that need to hear it most: Congress.”

Ms. Kumaran has been a seasoned entrepreneur for 30 years in New York City. Her risk advisory and software company Timetrics has serviced Fortune 100 companies including Duke Energy, Niagara Mohawk Energy Marketing, Blue Rock Energy, Louis Dreyfus, Bristol Myers Squibb, Tyko International, Credit Suisse First Boston, Nomura Securities, Fuji Securities, Giro Credit and JP Morgan. In 2018, she was awarded a Top 10 as a Enterprise Risk Management service company by CIO.

For several years she developed an independent record company called Genie Entertainment, which also garnered Top 30 airplay in smooth jazz, and distribution through major label deals with Warner Electric Atlantic, including negotiating individual deals in many countries, including South Korea, Japan and Europe. Her albums have been recorded with grammy winning artists and producers including David Benoit and Richard Elliot.

Ms. Kumaran has earned a first class honors Masters and Bachelors in Applied Math and Theoretical Physics, summa cum laude from Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK. She has provided extensive risk advisory and developed successful energy and financial risk mitigation strategies to corporations and governments with annual revenues exceeding \$2BN and provided advisory on complex derivative and structured assets in today’s highly volatile and expanding deregulated markets. Most recently in 2016 she formed Nefertiti Funds – a group of companies focused on capital appreciation and returns on investment, using derivatives and forecasting algorithms. She maintains a keen eye on regulatory and compliance issues and the access to markets for small businesses.

She is passionate about policy and public advocacy and has been a keynote speaker on issues surrounding changing East-West relations, and the role of risk management in Governments and infrastructure. As a minority woman business owner, she works with a small team of analysts. In her spare-time she maintains an avid interest in independent film advancing global unity and spiritual awareness.

Ms. Kumaran joined the NSBA Leadership Council as part of her efforts to tackle the many critical issues facing small business, including tax reform, regulatory restraint, health care costs and how access to capital will impact small business. The NSBA Leadership Council is focused on providing valuable networking between small-business advocates from across the country while ensuring small business a seat at the table as Congress and regulators take up key small-business proposals.

“I am proud to have Ms. Kumaran as part of our Leadership Council,” stated NSBA President and CEO Todd McCracken. “She came to us highly recommended and I look forward our coordinated efforts for years to come.”

Please click here to learn more about www.timeticsrisk.com and www.nefertitifunds.com

For more on the NSBA Leadership Council, please visit www.nsba.biz

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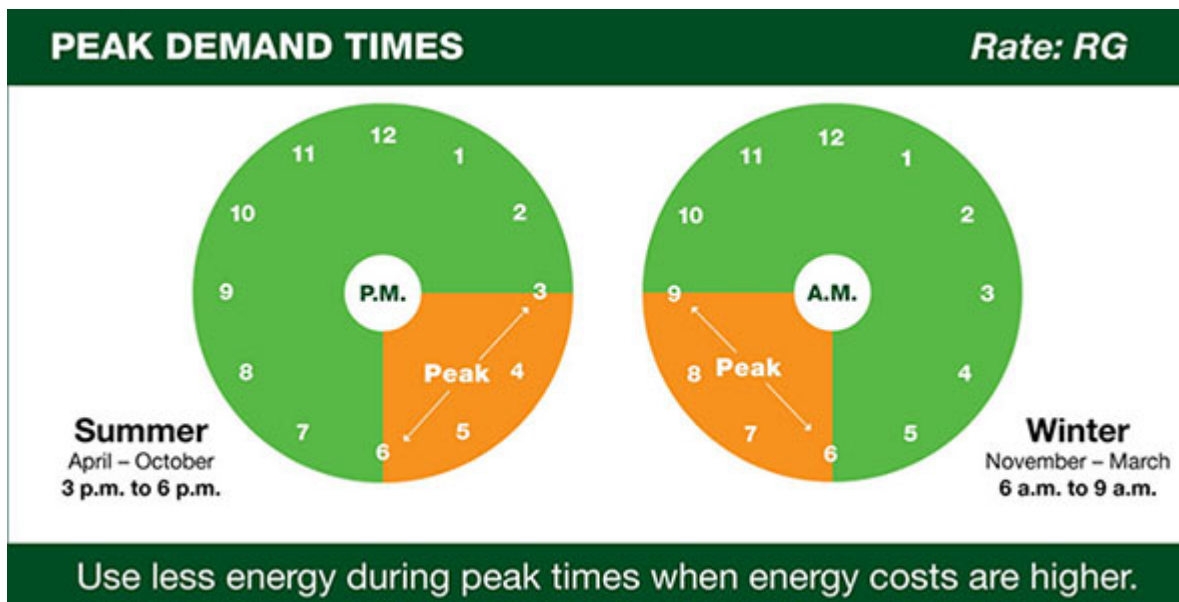
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Kumaran,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jeffry	Last Name:	Pollock
Organization:	J Pollock Inc		
City:		Customer Type:	Industrial
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC000000768

Date Submitted:	9/13/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

Rates Team: Enclosed are the Industrial Customer Group's Comments on the 2024 Rate Study. Two version of the Comments are being provided: (1) Confidential – for circulation to individuals who have signed appropriate nondisclosure agreements and (2) Public Disclosure – for circulation to the public. Please direct any inquiries about either our findings and recommendations to me. On behalf of J. Pollock, and the ICG, we appreciate the Team's time and effort in responding to our Information Requests and are looking forward to your questions. Regards, Jeff

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY



***Santee Cooper 2024 Electric System
Cost of Service and Rate Design Study***

REDACTED PUBLIC VERSION

Comments

On Behalf of

Industrial Customer Group

September 13, 2024



J. POLLOCK
INCORPORATED

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
4CP	Four Coincident Peak
12CP	Twelve Coincident Peak
CCOSS	Class Cost-of-Service Study
CIFR	Construction Improvement Fund Requirement
Cook RA	Cook Exception Regulatory Asset
DCR-25	Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause
DSC-25	Demand Sales Adjustment
FAC-25	Fuel Adjustment Clause
ICG	Industrial Customer Group
kW / kWh	Kilowatt(s) / Kilowatt-Hour(s)
J. Pollock	J. Pollock, Incorporated
L-25	Firm Service
L-25-I	Interruptible Service
L-25-EP	Economy Power
L-25-EP-O	Economy Power Optional
L-25-DRB	Demand Response Buy-Back
MW	Megawatt(s)
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OATT	Open Access Transmission Tariff
ORS	Office of Regulatory Staff
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

J. Pollock Incorporated (J. Pollock) hereby submits these Comments to Santee Cooper on behalf of the Industrial Customer Group (ICG). The ICG asked **J. Pollock** to review the 2024 rate proposal, focusing on the impacts to industrial customers and provide recommendations and Comments to Santee Cooper. The principle author, Jeffrey Pollock, reviewed the Santee Cooper Rate Study Report,¹ Appendices A, B, and C,² the Supplement to the Report,³ the Class Cost-of-Service Study workbook,⁴ and Santee Cooper's Responses to Information Requests provided to **J. Pollock** and to the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS). Thus, these Comments represent Mr. Pollock's professional opinion. Individual ICG members may also submit comments addressing their unique issues and concerns.

Mr. Pollock's CV is provided in **Appendix A**. His 50-year practice includes involvement in Santee Cooper matters for over a decade.

The ICG and **J. Pollock** appreciate the time and effort devoted to compiling both the Report and the responses to ICG's information requests.

Key Findings

The following are the key findings of Mr. Pollock's review:

1. The proposed rates would result in a \$53.5 million (6.7%) annualized rate increase to retail customers, not the \$39.7 million increase as stated in the Report.
2. For Industrial customers, the proposed retail base rate increase, while not insignificant, is potentially the smallest of the upcoming Industrial rate increases. The rate impacts resulting from unfreezing the Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) on January 1, 2025, and recovery of the Cook Exception Regulatory Asset (Cook RA) could be more impactful.

¹ 2024 Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Design Study prepared for South Carolina Public Service Authority by NewGen Strategies and Solutions, hereinafter referred to as the "Report."

² Appendix-A Bill Comparisons; Appendix-B Rate Schedules; Technical Appendix C: Final Santee Cooper Electric COS Study.

³ 2024 Request for Adjustment to Rate Schedules and Tariffs (May 24, 2024).

⁴ As provided in Supplemental response to ICG Information Request 1(b) on August 30, 2024.

All three rate increases combined can be expected to result in a large overall rate increase for Santee Cooper's Industrial customers.

3. Despite the size of the Cook RA and its potential impact on future rates, there is no established process for conducting a formal review, including soliciting customer input, other than Comments on the proposed recovery mechanism: Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause (DCR-25). Customer review and input is essential to determine how long the deferred costs should be amortized to avoid further unnecessary rate shock and to ensure that the costs are appropriately allocated and recovered from retail customers.
4. A major driver of the proposed retail base rate increase is a 12% per year increase in non-fuel operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses.
5. Santee Cooper's proposed allocation of the retail base rate increase is based on a class cost-of-service study (CCOSS) that over allocates approximately \$3.3 million of costs to Industrial customers.
6. The different On-Peak Demand and On-Peak Energy hours applicable to Rate L-25 complicate efforts by Industrial customers to effectively manage their load. Further, the proposed On-Peak hours do not correlate well either with periods of either high demand or high energy costs.
7. The proposed Interruptible Service (L-25-I) Demand Charge is too high and does not fully recognize the value of interruptible service.
8. The proposed increases to the Economy Power (L-25-EP) and Economy Power Optional (L-25-EP-O) Reservation Charges (*i.e.*, 79% and 33.6%, respectively) are excessive and do not reflect cost causation – specifically the non-firm nature of these rates – or recognize the significant price risks to which EP and EP-O customers are exposed.
9. The events that trigger additional Off-Peak Demand hours in L-25, Economic Curtailments under L-25-I, and additional On-Peak hours under L-25-EPO, which expose Industrial customers to significantly higher costs, are not sufficiently transparent to assess whether Santee Cooper's deployments are both prudent and reasonable.
10. Despite contributing significantly to the recovery of generation and transmission fixed costs (which is further enhanced by the ratchet provision in L-25-I), interruptible customers do not receive any allocation of the Interruptible Non-Class sales that are credited through the Demand Sales Adjustment Clause (DSC-25).
11. The proposal to adopt DCR-25 is premature because there are too many unknowns surrounding both the amount and nature of the Cook RA and the other costs to be recovered from retail customers, and the proposed allocation and recovery of these costs through a kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge has not been shown to be fair and reasonable.

12. Although the FAC appropriately limits the recovery of purchased power expenses to the “actual identifiable net energy expenses associated with solar and/or wind energy purchases...” this may not prevent recovery of demand or capital-related costs if a power purchase agreement (PPA) with a third-party owned solar and/or wind resource is priced on a kWh basis (without a designated capacity or demand charge).

Recommendations

The following are the ICG’s recommendations based on the above key findings and Mr. Pollock’s analysis:

1. The impact of the proposed retail rate increase should measure the change in revenues on an annualized basis; that is, the 2025 revenues should assume that the proposed rates were in effect for the entire twelve months.
2. The Board needs to more closely scrutinize the very large increases in non-fuel O&M expenses incurred since 2022 and projected for 2025.
3. The CCOSS should be modified as follows:
 - a. Transmission plant and related expenses should be allocated the same as production plant costs, the Four Coincident Peak (4CP) method because the same peak demands that drive the need for additional generation capacity also drive the need to invest in additional transmission facilities.
 - b. Consistent with the practices of other electric utilities in South Carolina, sales expense not directly assigned to specific customer classes should be allocated based on the number of customers in each class.
2. With respect to Rate L-25:
 - a. The On-Peak Demand periods should coincide with the On-Peak Energy periods.
 - b. On-Peak (Demand and Energy) hours should be limited to the summer and winter peak months (e.g., June, July, and August; January, February, and December).
3. The Interruptible Credit should reflect the avoided cost of delivered capacity. Thus, in addition to recognizing avoided capacity, the Interruptible Credit should also include the further benefits to Santee Cooper of avoiding additional reserve capacity and the associated transmission losses. This would result in setting an Interruptible Credit of \$12.88 per kilowatt (kW).
4. To avoid diminishing the value of interruptible service, the Demand Charge in the L-25-I rate schedule should reflect the full value of the Interruptible Credit, net of the applicable base DSC-25 adjustment.
5. The demand ratchet that applies to L-25-I should be reduced.
6. The proposed increases in the EP and EP-O Reservation Charges should be moderated to better reflect cost causation, while also avoiding rate shock.

7. The event triggers used to call additional Off-Peak Demand hours, Economic Curtailments, and additional On-Peak hours in the L-25, L-25-I, and L-25-EP-O rate schedules, respectively, should reflect more specific and objective system operating conditions and cost parameters.
8. Revise the DSC to apportion a share of Interruptible Non-Class Sales to Interruptible customers.
9. DCR-25 should not be implemented prior to conducting further review to allow customer input about the period in which the deferred costs should be recovered, the appropriate allocation of the Cook RA costs, and how the costs should be recovered from each applicable Industrial rate schedule.
10. FAC-25 should explicitly exclude purchased power expenses from third-party owned solar and/or wind resources because the vast majority of the costs of solar and/or wind resources are fixed. At a minimum, FAC-25 should be modified to remove the capacity-related portion of the purchased power expense from any third-party owned solar and/or wind resources.

INTRODUCTION

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these Comments to Santee Cooper's management and the Board. ICG members continue to enjoy a very strong and collaborative relationship with Santee Cooper and appreciate that Santee Cooper Staff has proactively solicited customer feedback on the Rate Study. Although the Rate Study is responsive to many of our issues and concerns, we do not agree with every proposal or recommendation. Accordingly, we hope that these Comments will be received as both positive and constructive. We look forward to your consideration and feedback on our Comments and recommendations.

The Industrial Customer Group

ICG members are large industrial direct-serve customers of Santee Cooper. The Industrial class accounts for almost a quarter of the energy sales by Santee Cooper. Santee Cooper's industrial customers employ thousands of full-time employees and pay millions of dollars in taxes to State and local governments. Thus, industrial customers make significant economic contributions to the South Carolina and local economies.

Electricity can be a significant operating cost for industrial customers. Further, such customers face ever-growing domestic and foreign competition. Thus, higher electricity rates will make their operations in Santee Cooper's service territory less competitive. Excessive rate changes could also have an adverse effect on their operations which would, in turn, adversely affect the South Carolina and local economies. Accordingly, industrial customers, including the ICG members, have a strong interest in the outcome of the 2024 Rate Study and subsequent events that will place significant upward pressure on rates.

Issues Addressed

These Comments address:

- The impact of the proposed retail rate increase;
- The factors causing significant upward rate pressure in addition to the 2024 rate increase;
- The allocation of Santee Cooper's proposed cost of service among the various retail customer classes;
- The design of the Industrial rates;
- The proposed Cook RA cost recovery mechanism (DCR-25); and
- Proposed revisions to FAC-25.

The fact that these Comments do not address all of the issues presented in the 2024 Rate Study should not be interpreted as an endorsement of Santee Cooper's proposals or recommendations on the issues not addressed.

Acknowledgment

As discussed in these Comments, we submitted several Information Requests to aid in our understanding and analysis of the Rate Study after the Report was published. We appreciate the time and effort of the Santee Cooper Rates Team in responding to these requests.

REVENUE REQUIREMENT

The proposed retail rate increase is only one of several drivers that could result in significant increases for Santee Cooper's retail customers and, in particular, Industrial customers. Thus, we first provide an overview to provide context for the proposed retail rate increase before identifying our specific concerns with the proposed increase.

Overview

The proposed rate increase is based on budgeted 2025 sales. During this period, the proposed rates are estimated to produce \$2,181 million in overall system revenues comprised of \$1,337 million of wholesale revenues and \$844 million of retail revenues. However, the proposed 2025 retail revenues are understated because the proposed retail rates were not applied in both January and February 2025. Thus, the proposed \$39.7 million increase reflects only ten months of revenues at the higher rates.

To provide a proper assessment of the rate impacts, the 2025 revenues at proposed rates should be restated as if the proposed retail rates had been in effect for the entire twelve months. Restating the proposed 2025 annual revenues in this manner, it becomes clear that the proposed retail rates will produce, on an annual basis, \$53.5 million more retail revenue than the corresponding 2025 revenues at present rates. Thus, although the new retail rates will produce \$39.7 million in additional revenues in 2025, the annualized retail revenue increase would be \$53.5 million.

However, the proposed retail revenue increase is only one factor that will place significant upward pressure on rates. Before the retail rate increase becomes effective in April 2025, the FAC will be unfrozen. The unfrozen FAC Charges will appear on the bills received in January 2025. Santee Cooper projects that the average 2025 FAC Charge will be -0.663¢

per kWh. Given that the frozen FAC in 2024 is -1.275¢ per kWh,⁵ when the FAC is unfrozen, it will increase retail revenues by over \$64 million in 2025.⁶

The third and final step will involve the recovery of the Cook RA. At the end of calendar year 2023, Santee Cooper recorded \$625 million in Cook RAs. This was \$266 million higher than the corresponding amounts recorded in 2022. Assuming that the deferred costs accumulate at only 50% of the 2023 deferrals, it would increase the regulatory asset by an additional \$133 million. Further, based on the proposed DCR-25, Santee Cooper is proposing not to recover just the deferred costs, it would also recover the associated Construction Improvement Fund Requirement (CIFR) and additional accrued interest. The CIFR on \$758 million could increase the Cook RA recovery to \$842 million. If 40% of the regulatory asset is allocated to retail customers, it would increase retail rates by an additional \$42 million per year, assuming an eight-year amortization.⁷ Thus, both the amount and the period over which the Cook RA are recovered could have an even larger impact than the proposed retail rate increase.

We support a utility that is both capable of providing reliable service and is financially healthy. However, electricity service must also be affordable. The significant rate increases from (1) the proposed retail base rate increase, (2) unfreezing the FAC and, (3) recovery of the Cook RA would make Santee Cooper's rates much less affordable for its existing customers. This could jeopardize the health and well-being of the South Carolina and local economies.

⁵ Estimated.

⁶ 2025 Retail Sales subject to the FAC (10,476,889 MWh) x 0.612¢ [-0.663¢ - (-1.275¢)].

⁷ We recommend a significantly longer amortization period to mitigate rate impacts, but the actual amortization period that will be adopted is unknown at this time.

Retail Revenue Requirement

The Report provided little insight into identifying the specific cost drivers for the proposed retail rate increase. Although detailed accounting and usage information was included in Technical Appendix C, the version of Appendix C provided to **J. Pollock** was limited to EXCEL worksheets without any formulas revealing how specific amounts were derived. The absence of a fully working model complicated our analysis of the Rate Study.

Accordingly, **J. Pollock** submitted several Information Requests. The Responses to these requests included a few working EXCEL models (including the retail CCROSS), a PDF of the 2025 budget, and references to various lengthy documents that required significant time and effort to find the specific information that was requested.⁸ Many responses were deemed confidential.⁹ Several requests were unanswered because the information was deemed proprietary and Santee Cooper stated that it is not required to disclose proprietary information.¹⁰ The constraints limiting full disclosure of vital information restricted our ability to conduct a more thorough and complete analysis in the allotted time frame.

However, based on the review of the available information, we have determined that a primary cost driver for the proposed retail rate increase is the increase in electric non-fuel O&M expense. Table 1 summarizes the past and projected non-fuel electric O&M expenses.

⁸ In response to ICG's August 20, 2024 Information Request, a corrected version of Appendix C was provided to **J. Pollock** on September 12, 2024. Like the original version, no formulas were provided, only data. Hence, despite the many Information Requests, **J. Pollock** was unable to complete a full audit of Appendix C.

⁹ Any confidential information referenced in these Comments has been redacted. A separate confidential version of the ICG Comments is also provided.

¹⁰ Responses to ICG Information Requests 1, 3, 4.

Table 1 Non-Fuel Electric Operations and Maintenance Expense¹¹	
Year	Amount (\$000)
2022	\$400,072
2023	\$493,585
2024 Budget	
2025 Test Year	\$562,824
CAGR	12.0%

As Table 1 demonstrates, the 2025 non-fuel electric O&M expense is projected to be \$562.8 million. This is a nearly \$163 million increase since calendar year 2022. In other words, based on its current budget, non-fuel electric O&M expense will have increased by 12% per year, on average, since calendar year 2022. Therefore, we recommend that the Board closely scrutinize Santee Cooper’s revenue requirement, including the causes for the 12% per year increase in non-fuel electric O&M expense.

¹¹ 2023 Annual Report; Functional Unbundling Workpaper (Confidential); Report, Table ES-1.

RETAIL COST ALLOCATION

The proposed allocation of the retail revenue increase was based on a CCOSS conducted by Santee Cooper. A CCOSS is an analysis that determines each customer class's responsibility for the costs incurred by Santee Cooper. Thus, it determines whether the revenues a class generates covers the class's cost of service. A CCOSS separates the utility's total costs into portions incurred on behalf of the various customer groups or classes. Most of the utility's costs are incurred to jointly serve many customers. Therefore, the CCOSS provides a mechanism for allocating the utility's costs to customer classes in a reasonable way based on cost causation. For purposes of rate design and revenue allocation, customers are grouped into homogenous classes according to their usage patterns and service characteristics. A more in-depth discussion of the procedures and key principles underlying a CCOSS is provided in **Appendix B** of these Comments.

Based on the discussion of the CCOSS in the Report and a review of the working model, with two notable exceptions – the allocation of transmission plant and related expenses and the allocation of sales expense – Santee Cooper's retail CCOSS comports with general industry practice and closely reflects cost causation.

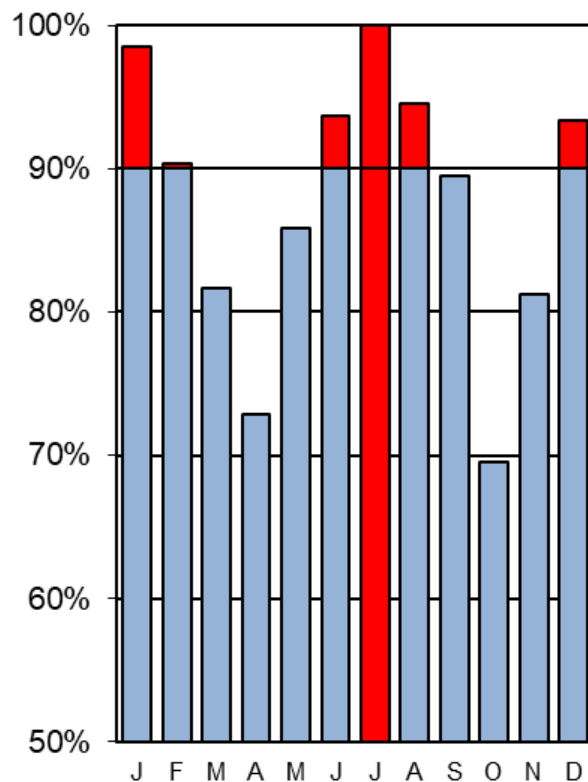
Allocation of Transmission Cost

In the CCOSS, transmission plant and related expenses were allocated based on each customer class's firm demand that occurs coincident with Santee Cooper's twelve-monthly system peaks. This methodology is referred to as Twelve Coincident Peak (12CP). The stated reason for using 12CP to allocate transmission costs is to provide consistency with its

FERC regulated Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT).¹² However, the FERC OATT does not apply to retail customers — it applies to wholesale customers because FERC regulates *only* wholesale transmission. Thus, Santee Cooper is not obligated to use a FERC-preferred allocation method in a retail CCOSS.

The 12CP method is also not consistent with the reality that the Santee Cooper system experiences its peak demand for electricity in the summer and winter months. These characteristics are summarized in Figure 1 for the period August 2020 through June 2024.

Figure 1



¹² Report at 4-5.

Figure 1 measures Santee Cooper's monthly peak demands expressed as a percentage of the annual system peak. The solid red bar denotes when Santee Cooper experienced its annual system peak. The blue and red bars measure when the monthly peak demands are 90% or higher of the annual system peak.

As Figure 1 demonstrates, Santee Cooper experienced its annual system peak in July but also experienced secondary peaks in the months January, June, August, and December. In other words, Santee Cooper's peak demands regularly occurred during the summer and winter periods. The system peak demands in the spring and fall months are consistently much lower than the corresponding summer and winter peak demands.

If 12CP was a reasonable cost allocation method, the peaks in all months would be fairly close to the system peak — all of the bars in Figure 1 would be red to some degree. As can be seen, the bars which contain red are limited to the summer and winter months. Because it gives equal weight to all months, 12CP also ignores the fact that transmission plant has much less load-carrying capability during the summer months.

Based on our analysis of Santee Cooper's system load characteristics and recognizing the lower capability of the transmission system during the summer months, it is clear that 12CP does not reflect cost causation. Further, Santee Cooper concedes that 12CP is not consistent with cost causation because it uses a 4CP method to allocate production plant. In applying the 4CP method, Santee Cooper measures each class's contribution to the system peaks in the months January, February, July, and August. In other words, the driver for production plant is the expected peak demands in the two highest summer months and two highest winter months.¹³ Although, arguably, the 4CP method could be modified to replace

¹³ However, Figure 1 demonstrates that the two highest winter system demands actually occur in January and December.

February with December, it would still be a much better method of allocating transmission plant than 12CP.

Therefore, we recommend that Santee Cooper allocate transmission plant using the same 4CP method that is used to allocate production plant.

Sales Expense

Sales expenses include:

- [REDACTED];
- [REDACTED];
- [REDACTED];
- [REDACTED]; and
- [REDACTED].¹⁴

According to the Report, sales expenses that were not directly assigned to a particular customer class were allocated on kWh sales. However, the Report does not provide any basis supporting a kWh allocation.

The categories of sales expenses listed above that Santee Cooper is proposing to allocate on a kWh basis are not caused by kwh sales. Further, it is highly unlikely the Industrial customers, either directly or indirectly, benefit from [REDACTED].

Further, no other electric utility in South Carolina (or anywhere in the U.S.) uses a kWh allocator for sales expenses. For example, in their most recent rate cases before the South Carolina Public Service Commission, Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy Carolinas allocated sales expenses (other than for energy efficiency) on the number of customers. Dominion Electric South Carolina did not allocate any sales expenses to retail customer classes.

¹⁴ Response to ICG Information Request 2, Question 15.

Therefore, consistent with cost causation and the practices of other South Carolina utilities, sales expenses that are not directly assignable to a specific retail customer class should be allocated based on the number of customers.

Table 2 shows the CCOSS results as proposed by Santee Cooper and as revised per our recommendations.

Table 2 Retail Class Cost-of-Service Study (\$000)		
Rate Class	Proposed	Revised
Residential	\$266,508	\$270,511
Commercial	\$188,875	\$188,111
Lighting	\$16,541	\$16,577
Firm Industrial	\$160,909	\$157,635

INDUSTRIAL RATE DESIGN

Industrial customers in general, and ICG members in particular, take service under a variety of different rate schedules. The proposed Industrial rates include:



- Firm Service: Rate Schedule L-25;
- Interruptible Service: Rate Schedule L-25-I;
- Economy Power: Rate Schedule L-25-EP;
- Economy Power Optional: Rate Schedule L-25-EP-O;
- Demand Response Buy-Back: Rate Schedule L-25-DRB.

Rate L-25

The proposed Rate L-25 would remain essentially intact except for adding winter On-Peak Energy hours from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on weekdays in the calendar months November through February. The current and proposed On-Peak hours are illustrated in Table 3. The On-Peak Demand hours are designated with a “D.” The On-Peak hours designated “DE” are both Demand and Energy hours. The blue-highlighted hours are current rates while the in proposed changes in On-Peak hours are green-highlighted.

Table 3
Rate L-25 On-Peak Demand and On-Peak Demand and Energy Hours

Hour Beginning	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12:00 AM												
1:00 AM												
2:00 AM												
3:00 AM												
4:00 AM												
5:00 AM	DE	DE	D	D						D	DE	DE
6:00 AM	DE	DE	D	D						D	DE	DE
7:00 AM	DE	DE	D	D						D	DE	DE
8:00 AM	DE	DE	D	D						D	DE	DE
9:00 AM	DE	DE	D	D						D	DE	DE
10:00 AM												
11:00 AM												
12:00 PM												
1:00 PM					D	DE	DE	DE	D			
2:00 PM					D	DE	DE	DE	D			
3:00 PM					D	DE	DE	DE	D			
4:00 PM					D	DE	DE	DE	D			
5:00 PM					D	DE	DE	DE	D			
6:00 PM	D	D	D	D	D	DE	DE	DE	D	D	D	D
7:00 PM	D	D	D	D	D	DE	DE	DE	D	D	D	D
8:00 PM	D	D	D	D	D	DE	DE	DE	D	D	D	D
9:00 PM	D	D	D	D	D	DE	DE	DE	D	D	D	D
10:00 PM	D	D	D	D	D	DE	DE	DE	D	D	D	D
11:00 PM												

D	On-Peak Demand Hours.		Highest Winter Peak Hours
DE	On-Peak Demand and Energy Hours.		Highest Summer Peak Hours

The new On-Peak Energy hours would occur simultaneously with the winter morning On-Peak Demand hours. This change makes sense because, with the notable exception of November, Santee Cooper experiences its winter peaks during this period. Less obvious is why Santee Cooper is proposing to retain On-Peak Demand hours in every month, including winter evenings (6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) when there are no corresponding On-Peak Energy

hours. Not only is continuing this practice questionable because the system peaks occur in the winter and summer months, it adds confusion and makes effective load management more challenging. Further, the current On-Peak Energy hours occur only during the peak summer months of June, July, and August.

A customer that manages load to minimize peak demand during On-Peak hours will be similarly motivated to manage On-Peak energy consumption. Designating On-Peak Demand and Energy hours in different months makes load management more difficult.

Therefore, to simplify the rate design while providing strong load management assumptions, we recommend that the On-Peak Demand and On-Peak Energy periods should be identical. Further, there should be no On-Peak Demand hours in the spring and fall months. Our recommendation is consistent with (1) the designated On-Peak Energy hours, (2) Santee Cooper's system load characteristics as demonstrated in Figure 1 (which shows that system peak demands in the spring and fall months are much lower than the corresponding system peaks in January, February, June, July, August, and December) and (3) Santee Cooper's use of the 4CP method to allocate production plant costs.

If this change is accepted, the billing demand in the spring and fall months should be based on the average of the summer and winter billing demands.

Additionally, Santee Cooper is proposing to retain the provision that allows it to call additional Off-Peak Demand hours based on operational limitations or cost constraints. As discussed later, the exact circumstances for calling additional Off-Peak Demand hours are not transparent and should be modified.

Rate L-25-I

For the most part, we agree with the fundamental design of Rate L-25-I. With some refinements, the proposed Interruptible Demand Charge would more accurately reflect the avoided cost of generating capacity. Avoided capacity cost is the primary metric for determining the value of interruptible service.

Interruptible service is very important to Industrial customers. Currently, Santee Cooper provides 518 MW of interruptible service, which is 223 MW or 75% more than the corresponding Industrial firm demand.¹⁵ Because interruptible service is not counted in assessing Santee Cooper's future need for capacity, it is critical that Santee Cooper provide the proper financial incentives to both sustain and grow Industrial customer participation in interruptible service.

Interruptible service helps Industrial customers to better manage their costs. However, interruptible service is not cost or risk free. Interruptible customers are subjected to curtailments, either for economic reasons (*i.e.*, Economic Curtailments) or during system reliability challenges and emergencies (*i.e.*, capacity curtailments). An Interruptible customer has a choice of curtailing load down to the customer's firm contract level or, during Economic Curtailments, the customer may purchase Secondary Power.

The cost of Secondary Power is based on Santee Cooper's "reasonable best estimate" of its incremental cost, plus a margin of 12.92% above incremental cost. This exposes Interruptible customers to significant price risk, particularly if economic curtailments are called when it is neither conducive nor safe to curtail load. For this reason, the events triggering Economic Curtailments should be reexamined, as discussed later.

¹⁵ Report Table 2-1 (Summer).

Recognizing the importance of interruptible service in providing another tool that Santee Cooper can use to maintain system reliability, it is vital that the Interruptible Demand Charge properly reflect the value of interruptible service. That value includes not just the cost of avoided generating capacity — it should also include the cost of the additional reserve margin that would otherwise be incurred to serve interruptible load on a firm basis. Santee Cooper's quantification of the Interruptible Demand Charge ignores the incremental cost of reserve capacity.

In addition to recognizing the incremental cost of additional reserve capacity, the rate should also recognize that there are losses incurred from the system level to the transmission level. While there are other potentially avoidable costs associated with interruptible service, recognizing at least the value of avoided additional reserves would be a major improvement in the interruptible rate. Applying both Santee Cooper's established 18% winter reserve margin and 2.6% transmission loss factor, the value of interruptible service should be \$12.88 per kW-month.

To properly reflect the full value, \$12.88 per kW Interruptible Credit should apply to the L-25 Demand Charge, net of the base DSC credit. Based on the information presented in Appendix C, the proposed L-25 Demand Charge would be \$21.08 per kW, while the corresponding firm and interruptible base DSC Credits would be \$0.17 and \$0.25 per kW, respectively. Thus, a cost-based Interruptible Demand Charge would be \$8.28 per kW ($\$21.08 - \$0.17 - \$12.88 + \0.25).

A further change should also be made to the demand ratchet provision. Currently, Interruptible customers are billed for at least 80% of their (firm plus interruptible) contract demand. The same 80% ratchet also applies to firm customers.

A demand ratchet is contrary to the fact that Santee Cooper has a more limited obligation to provide interruptible service. It also creates a disincentive to shift load to off-peak periods since the customer would not pay reduced demand charges for reducing peak demand below the 80% ratchet. Nevertheless, the ratchet provides assurance that interruptible customers will provide a known and steady contribution to Santee Cooper's fixed costs. Reducing the ratchet to, for example, 60%, would ensure that interruptible customers continue to provide a robust contribution to Santee Cooper's fixed costs, while also giving interruptible customers more flexibility to reduce demand in off-peak hours.

Rate L-25-EP

The EP Reservation Charge is proposed to increase by \$1.43 per kW, or 79%. A 79% increase is excessive. Further, it is also not cost based.

The basis for the proposed EP Reservation Charge is to allow Santee Cooper to fully recover system transmission costs. However, EP customers receive non-firm transmission service.¹⁶ It is, thus, inappropriate to charge a firm price for non-firm transmission service.

Further, as is the case with Interruptible customers, EP customers that receive non-firm transmission service are also subject to considerable price risk. This is because, as with Secondary Power, the Economy Energy Price shall be based on Incremental Energy Cost + 12.92% + \$7.47 per MWh, unless Santee Cooper could have sold such Economy Power to another utility at a higher price.

Recognizing both the non-firm nature of the service provided and customer's price risk exposure, the increase in the Reservation Charge should be less extreme. Specifically, we recommend that the increase in EP revenues should not exceed 15.5%, which is 1.5 times the annualized system average increase, excluding (base fuel and FAC) cost recoveries.

¹⁶ Response to ICG June 23, 2024 Information Request, Question 2g.

Rate L-25-EP-O

EP-O is essentially the same as EP, except that customers pay a higher Reservation Charge in exchange for setting the Off-Peak Energy Charge to the same level as under Rate L-25, which is based on Santee Cooper's average cost. The proposed EP-O Reservation Charge would increase by \$1.23, or 33.6%. Although a higher Reservation Charge for EP-O than EP is reasonable, the proposal would increase non-fuel base revenues from EP-O customers by 42%, which is excessive. To prevent rate shock while also recognizing its hedge value, the increase to EP-O should not exceed the proposed increase in the L-25 Demand Charge, or 9.5%.

It is proposed that additional On-Peak hours can be called under Rate L-25-EP-O when the Incremental Energy Price as determined under EP exceeds \$49.70 per MWh. This can occur at any time, on weekdays, weekends, and holidays throughout the year, irrespective of whether the estimated system daily peak demand is expected to be greater than 90% of the projected (summer or winter season) system peak. EP-O customers are also subject to the same event trigger as is applicable in Rate L-25, which grants Santee Cooper sole discretion to call additional Off-Peak hours. Both the Off-Peak Demand hours and Economic Curtailments event triggers need to be reexamined. For the reasons discussed below, we recommend that the terms for designating additional On-Peak hours should not be changed as proposed.

Event Triggers

Santee Cooper can call (at its sole discretion) additional Off-Peak Hours under Rate L-25 and Rate L-25-EP-O because of "operational limitations or cost constraints." It can also call Economic Curtailments in response to "market or system conditions." There is obviously some overlap between operational limitations and system conditions, and between market

conditions and cost constraints. The concern is that although the current policy gives Santee Cooper maximum discretion to administer these event triggers as it deems necessary, the specific circumstances for triggering additional Off-Peak Hours, Economic Curtailments and/or additional On-Peak hours are not transparent.

Transparency is important because, particularly in the case of Economic Curtailments and calling additional On-Peak hours, these policies can impose significantly higher costs to participating Industrial customers. For example, Secondary Power purchases made during Economic Curtailments can average tens of thousands of dollars per day.¹⁷ Given that customers are at risk for incurring higher costs, they are entitled to know that Santee Cooper is prudently and reasonably administering the event triggers, while also retaining maximum operational flexibility.

To improve transparency, the event triggers in Rates L-25, L-25-I, and L-25-EP-O should be based on more specific criteria that appropriately reflect the necessary circumstances that justify calling additional Off-Peak Hours, Economic Curtailments, and additional On-Peak Hours. Greater specificity can benefit customers because it will provide better tools to anticipate problems before they incur, and it will provide more confidence that Santee Cooper is prudently and reasonably complying with the terms of these rate schedules. Further, it would not constrain Santee Cooper's ability to use its discretion to manage the system as conditions warrant.

¹⁷ Response to ICG's July 1, 2024 Information Request, Question 20 (specific amounts are confidential).

Examples of metrics that could be used to define more specific system conditions and/or operational limitations include:

- Whenever daily peak demand is projected to exceed the forecast annual system peak; and/or
- Whenever the daily reserve margin is expected to be less than the minimum required operating reserve.

Alternatively (or in addition to the above), Santee Cooper could define a more specific price trigger as is the case in EP-O. For example, a price trigger based on a designated system heat rate threshold and the daily spot gas price would provide a more accurate real-time market price signal than a fixed price.

We encourage the Board to authorize a further collaborative with industrial customers to more fully assess the suggested event triggers and develop more transparent alternatives.

OTHER RATE DESIGN ISSUES

We also have concerns with the proposed DSC-25, the proposed DCR-25, and the proposed FAC-25.

Demand Sales Adjustment Clause (DSC-25)

The DSC provides credits to both firm and interruptible customers from the Demand Charges from Non-Class sales. Non-Class sales contribute to the recovery of production and transmission costs. The production and transmission revenues are separately identified and then allocated to retail customer classes using the same methods that are also used to allocate production and transmission plant, respectively.

Currently, Non-Class sales from Interruptible customers are not allocated to Interruptible customers. This is despite the fact that the Demand and Reservation Charges paid by Interruptible customers contribute to the recovery of both production and transmission costs. Further, the demand ratchet provision ensures that Interruptible customers would continue providing a steady stream of Non-Class sales revenues, even if no service is actually taken. Importantly, by allocating Interruptible Non-Class revenues exclusively to Firm customers, the DSC further reduces the value provided to Interruptible customers.

To resolve this problem, the DSC applicable to Interruptible customers should include Non-Class interruptible sales. However, reflecting the lower Interruptible Demand Charge, the proportion of demand sales credit allocable to Interruptible customers should be, at a minimum, 50% of the corresponding credit allocable to Industrial Firm customers.

Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause (DCR-25)

The proposed DCR-25 would be implemented despite the fact that the amount of deferred cost is not yet known and, further, that cost recovery will not commence until well after the effective date of the new rates (next April). Further, in addition to recovering the annual deferred costs, DCR-25 would also include CIFR and projected interest/carrying costs. Additionally, both the allocation and recovery of costs in DCR-25 would be exclusively through Energy (or kWh) Charges.

This raises many concerns. First, establishing the amount of the Cook RA is not at issue in this Rate Study. The amount and nature of the costs comprising the Cook RA are currently unknown. Second, the period over which the costs are recovered will directly determine the rate impacts that customers experience for many years in the future.

Third, the composition of the costs deferred and reflected in the Cook RA through calendar year 2023 does not support a kWh allocation and recovery. The deferred costs are summarized in Table 4. Of the amounts shown in Table 4, only the exceptions pertaining to Sugar Camp fire would be at least partially related to the kWh billed under the frozen FAC. Excluding interest, the exceptions for the Sugar Camp fire would account for about 76% of the total regulatory asset. The remaining 24% is either directly assignable to Central Electric Cooperative or asset-related.

Table 4 Cook Settlement (Exceptions) Regulatory Asset At December 31, 2023 (Dollar Amounts in Thousands)¹⁸	
Exception	CY 2023
Changes in Law¹⁹	\$100,322
Central Load Deviation (> 4%)	\$21,568
Fire at Sugar Camp & MSHA COL	\$455,349
VC Summer 1 Transformer Fire	\$4,824
Named Storm Events²⁰	\$19,587
Interest	\$23,258
Total	\$625,111

Further, not all customers were subject to a frozen FAC (*i.e.*, Secondary and Economy Energy purchases). The DCA should only apply to customers who benefitted from the frozen FAC.

For all of the above reasons, a straight kWh allocation would neither be consistent with cost causation, nor fair and reasonable to Industrial customers – especially to those Industrial customers that did not pay a frozen FAC for a portion of their energy purchases.

Finally, critical information about how projected interest and CIFR will be uplifted and the applicable billing determinants could not be provided at this time.²¹

Given the many unknowns, we highly recommend that the Board not approve DCR-25 at this time, and not without a further vetting of the Rider in a formal, public process that will allow for customer input. Interested parties should have an opportunity to provide input

¹⁸ Santee Cooper 2023 Annual Report.

¹⁹ COVID, Act 90, ELG Regulation Revisions, St. Stephen Rediversion Project.

²⁰ Isaias, Elsa, Ian, Elliott, Idalia.

²¹ Response to ICG's August 20, 2024 Information Request, Questions 40 and 41.

and feedback into such issues as the design and amortization period, as well as the proper recovery mechanism (*i.e.*, through either Demand and/or Energy Charges). Because the Cook RA amount will not be determined until well after the conclusion of this Rate Study, there is plenty of time to provide for a separate and more formal assessment of DCR-25 before it is implemented.

Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC-25)

Two changes to FAC-25 are proposed. First, FAC-25 will distinguish between Shared and Non-Shared Resources. Second, FAC-25 would allow for the recovery of identifiable net energy expenses associated with solar and/or wind energy purchases, exclusive of “designated” capacity or demand charges. This is a change from FAC-17 in which only renewable fuel costs are eligible for recovery unless solar and/or wind energy is purchased on an economic dispatch basis.²²

The concern is that few, if any, third-party wind and solar PPAs have explicit designated demand charges, even though the vast majority of the costs recovered in a wind/solar PPA are fixed costs. The lack of a designated demand charge does not mean that these PPAs do not provide firm capacity. Further, allowing all of these fixed costs to be passed-through on a per kWh basis would be contrary to how the fixed costs of Santee Cooper’s production plant are allocated and recovered from retail customers.

Therefore, FAC-25 should be modified to preclude recovery of costs incurred under third-party wind and/or solar PPAs. These PPA expenses should be recovered in base rates. At a minimum, if any third-party wind/solar PPA expenses are to be included in FAC-25, there

²² The Report (on page 5-4) states that the tariff language was revised to explicitly include gypsum expenses and renewable PPA energy costs. However, FAC-25 does not mention gypsum expenses.

should be explicit recognition of the capacity value provided by these PPAs in the absence of a designated demand charge. The mechanism should quantify the “imputed” capacity value that reflects the current cost of capacity and the firm capacity rating of the resource(s).

CONCLUSION

We recommend that the Board take the following actions and revise the proposed rates as follows:

- Closely scrutinize the excessive increases in non-fuel electric O&M expenses incurred since 2022.
- Allocate transmission plant and related expenses using the same method as is used to allocate production plant costs (*i.e.*, 4CP) and allocate sales expense not directly assigned based on the number of customers in each class, thereby reducing the Industrial revenue increase by \$3.3 million.
- Establish the same On-Peak Demand and On-Peak Energy hours during the peak winter and summer months only.
- Set the L-25-I Demand Charge to reflect the full value of the Interruptible Credit, net of the base DSC.
- Reduce the demand ratchet in L-25-I.
- Moderate the proposed increases in the EP and EP-O Reservation Charges to not exceed 20% and 9.5%, respectively.
- Revise the event triggers for calling additional On-Peak and Off-Peak Hours and Economic Curtailments in the L-25, L-25-I, and L-25-EP-O rate schedules to be based on more specific and objective system operating conditions and cost parameters.
- Revise the DSC to apportion a share of Interruptible Non-Class Sales to Interruptible customers.
- Reject DCR-25.
- Develop a formal process to allow customer input regarding issues related to the recovery of the Cook RA costs, such as the period in which the costs should be recovered, the appropriate allocation of the costs, and whether the costs to be recovered from the applicable Industrial rate schedules should be recovered through Demand and/or Energy Charges.
- Exclude purchased power expenses from third-party owned solar and/or wind resources from FAC-25 and recover such costs through base rates. If third-party wind/solar PPA expenses are to be included in FAC-25, then, at a minimum, FAC-25 should be modified to remove the capacity-related portion of the purchased power expense associated with these resources

Finally, we appreciate the Board's consideration and look forward to your questions.

Conclusion

APPENDIX A
Jeffry Pollock CV



Jeffry Pollock is President of ***J. Pollock, Incorporated (J. Pollock)***. He has been an energy advisor since 1975. Mr. Pollock has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's in Business Administration from Washington University. Additionally, he has completed a Utility Finance and Accounting course.

Upon graduation, in June 1975, Mr. Pollock joined Drazen-Brubaker & Associates, Inc. (DBA). DBA was incorporated in 1972 assuming the utility rate and economic consulting activities of Drazen Associates, Inc., active since 1937. From April 1995 to November 2004, he was a managing principal at Brubaker & Associates, Inc. before founding ***J. Pollock*** in December 2004.

In his 50 years of practice, Mr. Pollock has been engaged in a wide range of consulting assignments, including energy and regulatory matters in both the United States and several Canadian provinces. He has prepared financial and economic studies of investor-owned, cooperative, governmental and municipal utilities on revenue requirement, cost of service and rate design issues; conducted site evaluations; assisted clients with the procurement and management of electricity in both competitive and regulated markets through RFPs and direct negotiations with suppliers; and prepared market assessments and price forecasts. Jeff has also developed and presented seminars on electricity issues.

Mr. Pollock has worked on various projects in many states and several Canadian provinces. This includes advising several industry groups and legislative coalitions on regulatory policy issues. He has testified before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Ontario Energy Board and state regulatory commissions of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. He has also appeared before the City of Austin Electric Utility Commission, the Board of Directors of Santee Cooper, the Board of Public Utilities of Kansas City, Kansas, the Bonneville Power Administration, Travis County (Texas) District Court, and the U.S. Federal District Court.

Mr. Pollock has authored several papers on timely topics and has been a featured speaker at industry conferences.

J. Pollock, Incorporated assists clients to procure and manage energy in both regulated and competitive markets. **J. Pollock** clients include commercial, industrial, and institutional energy consumers. The **J. Pollock** team also advises clients on energy and regulatory issues.

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APPENDIX B

Procedures and Key Principles of a CCOSS

The basic procedure for conducting a CCOSS is fairly simple. First, we identify the different types of costs (functionalization), determine their primary causative factors (classification), and then apportion each item of cost among the various rate classes (allocation). Adding up the individual pieces gives the total cost for each class.

Identifying the utility's different levels of operation is a process referred to as functionalization. The utility's investments and expenses are separated into production, transmission, distribution, and other functions. To a large extent, this is done in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts developed by FERC.

Once costs have been functionalized, the next step is to identify the primary causative factor (or factors). This step is referred to as classification. Costs are classified as demand-related, energy-related or customer-related. Demand (or capacity) related costs vary with peak demand, which is measured in kilowatts (kW). This includes production, transmission, and some distribution investment and related fixed O&M expenses. As explained later, peak demand determines the amount of capacity needed for reliable service. Energy-related costs vary with the production of energy, which is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Energy-related costs include fuel and variable O&M expense. Customer-related costs vary directly with the number of customers and include expenses such as meters, service drops, billing, and customer service.

Each functionalized and classified cost must then be allocated to the various customer classes. This is accomplished by developing allocation factors that reflect the percentage of the total cost that should be paid by each class. The allocation factors should reflect cost-causation; that is, the degree to which each class caused the utility to incur the cost.

A properly conducted CCROSS recognizes several key cost-causation principles. First, customers are served at different delivery voltages. This affects the amount of investment the utility must make to deliver electricity to the meter. Second, since cost-causation is also related to how electricity is used, both the timing and rate of energy consumption (i.e., demand) are critical. Because electricity cannot be stored for any significant time period, a utility must acquire sufficient generation resources and construct the required transmission facilities to meet the maximum projected demand, including a reserve margin as a contingency against forced and unforced outages, severe weather, and load forecast error. Customers that use electricity during the critical peak hours cause the utility to invest in generation and transmission facilities. Finally, customers who self-serve all or a portion of their power needs from BTMG will have dramatically different load characteristics than customers who purchase all or most of the power from the utility. Thus, they should be costed separately.

Factors that affect the per-unit cost include whether a customer's usage is constant or fluctuating (load factor), whether the utility must invest in transformers and distribution systems to provide the electricity at lower voltage levels, the amount of electricity that a customer uses, and the quality of service (e.g., firm or non-firm). In general, industrial consumers are less costly to serve on a per-unit basis because they:

- Operate at higher load factors;
- Take service at higher delivery voltages; and
- Use more electricity per customer.

Further, non-firm service is a lower quality of service than firm service. Thus, non-firm service is less costly per unit than firm service for customers that otherwise have the same characteristics. This explains why some customers pay lower average rates than others.

For example, the difference in the losses incurred to deliver electricity at the various delivery voltages is a reason why the per-unit energy cost to serve is not the same for all customers. More losses occur to deliver electricity at distribution voltage (either primary or secondary) than at transmission voltage, which is generally the level at which industrial customers take service. This means that the cost per kWh is lower for a transmission customer than a distribution customer. The cost to deliver a kWh at primary distribution, though higher than the per-unit cost at transmission, is lower than the delivered cost at secondary distribution.

In addition to lower losses, transmission customers do not use the distribution system. Instead, transmission customers construct and own their own distribution systems. Thus, distribution system costs are not allocated to transmission level customers who do not use that system. Distribution customers, by contrast, require substantial investments in these lower voltage facilities to provide service. Secondary distribution customers require more investment than either primary distribution or primary substation customers. More investment is required to serve a primary distribution than a primary substation customer. This results in a different cost to serve each type of customer.

Two other cost drivers are efficiency and size. These drivers are important because most fixed costs are allocated on either a demand or customer basis. Efficiency can be measured in terms of load factor. Load factor is the ratio of Average Demand (*i.e.*, energy usage divided by the number of hours in the period) to peak demand. A customer that operates at a high load factor is more efficient than a lower load factor customer because it requires less capacity for the same amount of energy. For example, assume that two customers purchase the same amount of energy, but one customer has an 80% load factor and the other has a 40% load factor. The 40% load factor customers would have twice the

peak demand of the 80% load factor customers, and the utility would therefore require twice as much capacity to serve the 40% load factor customer as the 80% load factor. Stated differently, the fixed costs to serve a high load factor customer are spread over more kWh usage than for a low load factor customer.

Santee Cooper Response to Industrial Customer Group Comments

September 27, 2024

Dear Mr. Pollock:

Thank you for your comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment on behalf of the Industrial Customer Group ("ICG"). All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a meeting to receive management's final recommendations on November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment is recommended to take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper appreciates the ICG's input and would like to respond to the recommendations provided in the document "ICG Comments" submitted September 13, 2024:

"The impact of the proposed retail rate increase should measure the change in revenues on an annualized basis; that is, the 2025 revenues should assume that the proposed rates were in effect for the entire twelve months"

Santee Cooper's proposed rates, if approved, would be effective April 1, 2025. The percentages listed in the 2024 Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Design Study are based upon this timing and reflect the change in revenues in Calendar Year 2025. Santee Cooper recognizes that the annualized basis to individual customers may differ. The Bill Comparisons provided in Appendix A of the Cost of Service report present an annualized impact to example customers with various load profiles.

"The Board needs to more closely scrutinize the very large increases in non-fuel O&M expenses incurred since 2022 and projected for 2025."

The Board receives and reviews Santee Cooper Financial Forecasts and Budget annually and receives financial updates throughout the year.

"The CCOSS should be modified as follows:

Transmission plant and related expenses should be allocated the same as production plant costs, the Four Coincident Peak (4CP) method because the same peak demands that drive the need for additional generation capacity also drive the need to invest in additional transmission facilities."

The existing (12CP) methodology utilized for the recovery of fixed costs associated with the transmission system is congruent with industry standards and is the preferred method by FERC in developing the Open Access Transmission Tariffs (“OATT”). Santee Cooper recognizes that FERC does not regulate retail transmission service; however, the 12CP cost allocation methodology for the retail transmission expenses has been adopted by Santee Cooper’s Board of Directors as a matter of policy. Santee Cooper management believes these costs should continue to be allocated using a 12CP method for the retail class, as transmission expenses are not always driven by peak load but rather may be incurred for redundancy, constraints or other reliability issues not limited to selected peak load months.

“Consistent with the practices of other electric utilities in South Carolina, sales expense not directly assigned to specific customer classes should be allocated based on the number of customers in each class.”

Santee Cooper believes allocation by energy is a reasonable approach. Allocation of sales expense by the number of customers in each class ignores the significant disparity of customer sizes between classes.

“With respect to Rate L-25:

The On-Peak Demand periods should coincide with the On-Peak Energy periods.”

On Peak Demand is the primary billing mechanism for calculating monthly demand charges. It must be measured each month, unlike On-Peak Energy, which recognizes differentiation in marginal energy costs.

“On-Peak (Demand and Energy) hours should be limited to the summer and winter peak months (e.g., June, July, and August; January, February, and December).”

On-Peak Energy hours are limited to June to August and November to February.

Santee Cooper has established On-Peak Demand hours every month for the L rate. This structure allows for an Off-Peak period every month during which customers that are able to modulate their load can exceed their On-Peak Demand without additional charges. For example, if a customer with contract demands of 10 MW records a demand of 10 MW during the Off-Peak Demand hours and 8 MW during the On-Peak Demand hours, that customer would be billed for 8 MW. If Santee Cooper were to eliminate On-Peak Demand hours for a month, this would eliminate the ability for a customer to modulate their load between on and off peak periods and require that customers are billed on their pure monthly Non-Coincident Peak.

“The Interruptible Credit should reflect the avoided cost of delivered capacity. Thus, in addition to recognizing avoided capacity, the Interruptible Credit should also include the further benefits to Santee Cooper of avoiding additional reserve capacity and the associated transmission losses. This would result in setting an Interruptible Credit of \$12.88 per kilowatt (kW).”

Interruptible Load is very important to Santee Cooper, and it aims to offer fair compensation to customers taking service under the Interruptible rider. As part of this Rate Study, Santee Cooper has increased the value of the Interruptible Credit from \$8.95 per kilowatt to \$10.64 per kilowatt,

resulting in an overall projected revenue increase of less than one percent in 2025 from Interruptible load.

Santee Cooper has valued Interruptible service based on the avoided cost for an incremental simple cycle combustion turbine generation unit. Consistent with prior practice, Santee Cooper has not included avoided reserve capacity in the value of the Interruptible credit. Santee Cooper believes this is a reasonable approach.

“To avoid diminishing the value of interruptible service, the Demand Charge in the L-25-I rate schedule should reflect the full value of the Interruptible Credit, net of the applicable base DSC-25 adjustment.”

Santee Cooper has established a separate Demand Sales Adjustment Credit for Firm and Interruptible rates. Applying the Interruptible Credit to L-25 net of the DSC-25 credit for firm would result in Firm and Interruptible receiving the same benefit.

“The demand ratchet that applies to L-25-I should be reduced.”

Santee Cooper’s rates are designed to encourage customers to utilize the system in an efficient manner and to encourage off-peak usage. The primary pricing encouragement used by Santee Cooper to accomplish this load profile are Firm and Interruptible demand rates that are based on monthly on-peak usage. The difference between a customer’s on-peak usage and their contract demand, which is the starting point for off-peak demand-equivalent billing, is billed at average system energy cost with no associated demand charges. For this reason, the firm and interruptible ratchets not only serve as a method to ensure large customers do not vary their load significantly but also as the only limiting factor towards usage with no associated demand charges. At this time, Santee Cooper believes the 20% maximum allowable “unbilled demand” is an appropriate amount to encourage efficient use of the system while maintaining our financial integrity.

“The proposed increases in the EP and EP-O Reservation Charges should be moderated to better reflect cost causation, while also avoiding rate shock.”

Santee Cooper weighs the impact of cost recovery across all classes and customers. Economy Power and Economy Power Optional are optional non-firm rates and just two of several options for Industrial customers.

“DCR-25 should not be implemented prior to conducting further review to allow customer input about the period in which the deferred costs should be recovered, the appropriate allocation of the Cook RA costs, and how the costs should be recovered from each applicable Industrial rate schedule.”

The DCR-25 Rider is a framework for recovering deferred costs. ICG’s position on this topic is noted.

“FAC-25 should explicitly exclude purchased power expenses from third-party owned solar and/or wind resources because the vast majority of the costs of solar and/or wind resources are fixed. At a minimum, FAC-25 should be modified to remove the capacity-related portion of the purchased power expense from any third-party owned solar and/or wind resources.”

The FAC-25 includes energy charges associated with third-party owned solar and/or wind resources because these energy purchases offset fuel and market purchases that Santee Cooper would otherwise make. The FAC-25 already excludes designated capacity or demand charges associated with solar and/or wind purchases.

Santee Cooper remains committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

**IN THE MATTER OF:
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY (SANTEE COOPER)
2024 ELECTRIC RATE REVIEW**

September 13, 2024

**COMMENTS BY NUCOR STEEL – BERKELEY
ON SANTEE COOPER 2024 ELECTRIC RATE PROPOSAL AND RATE STUDY**

Submitted On Behalf of NUCOR By:

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**COMMENTS BY NUCOR STEEL – BERKELEY
ON SANTEE COOPER’S REQUEST FOR ADJUSTMENT TO RATE SCHEDULES AND TARIFFS AND
2024 ELECTRIC SYSTEM COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN STUDY**

Nucor Steel – Berkeley, a Division of Nucor Corporation (NUCOR) hereby submits the following comments on the Santee Cooper Management Team’s *2024 Request for Adjustment to Rate Schedules and Tariffs* and the *2024 Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Design Study* prepared by NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC for Santee Cooper (collectively referred to herein as the “Rate Study”). NUCOR welcomes the opportunity to provide these comments and recommendations, and we appreciate the consideration of our views, concerns, and proposals by Santee Cooper’s Board of Directors and management.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Santee Cooper’s electric rates are of critical importance to NUCOR, as low and stable electric costs are essential to NUCOR’s ability to remain competitive. In these comments, due to limits on time and information, rather than addressing all the issues raised by the Rate Study, we have instead focused on several limited, but important, issues to NUCOR. Specifically, these comments address: (i) the interruptible rate (L-25-I) (including the level of the interruptible credit, the application of the Demand Sales Adjustment Clause (DSC-25) to interruptible power, and the level of the demand ratchet under the rate); (ii) certain proposed changes to Santee Cooper economy power rates (L-25-EP and L-25-EP-O); (iii) the pass-through of Cook Exception costs (under the Deferred Cost Recovery mechanism (DCR-25)); (iv) proposed changes to the fuel cost recovery mechanism (FAC-25); and (v) the need for clean, green, and sustainable industrial rate options. NUCOR’s conclusions and recommendations as to these issues are outlined in the executive summary below. For ease of reference, NUCOR’s recommendations are also summarized in Attachment A to these comments.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Interruptible Rate

- Interruptible Credit
 - Interruptible customers provide important reliability, cost avoidance, and economic development and retention benefits for the Santee Cooper system by, for example, providing a ready supply of non-firm load that Santee Cooper may curtail when there is a system emergency or when energy prices spike. This allows Santee Cooper to avoid building or acquiring generation or transmission capacity to serve interruptible customers, and by providing interruptible customers with lower energy costs to help them remain competitive. Santee Cooper's interruptible rate is intended to allocate to interruptible customers the system benefits from their interruptibility. This is accomplished with a reduced demand charge that reflects the standard firm rate less the interruptible credit. NUCOR appreciates the Rate Study's proposal to increase the interruptible credit, and we support, at a minimum, an increase in the credit to at least the level recommended in the Rate Study.
 - However, key beneficial elements are still not reflected in the interruptible credit, even at the increased level. In order to ensure that the interruptible credit more closely and fairly reflects the full value to Santee Cooper that interruptible load provides, the credit should be further increased.
 - As a result, NUCOR recommends that, at a minimum, the credit be increased to reflect the following major elements (while there are others, these are particularly important):
 - Avoided cost of reserves – the credit should reflect avoided reserves because if the interruptible load was firm, Santee Cooper would have to procure reserves to cover that additional firm load. Therefore, avoided reserves is a system cost savings that should be recognized and included in the interruptible credit.
 - Avoided incremental energy cost – Santee Cooper's ability to call economic curtailments when energy prices get high is a benefit to the system by keeping energy costs lower than otherwise would be the case without such curtailments, but currently the interruptible credit does not reflect any of these reduced energy cost savings. In other words, these economic interruptions come at a cost to interruptible customers without credit for the commensurate system benefit. The interruptible credit should reflect at least some of the value interruptible customers provide by being subject to economic curtailments.

- Avoided transmission cost – the interruptible credit is based on the avoided cost of a peaking generator. However, in addition to generation, interruptible customers also allow Santee Cooper to avoid transmission costs by curtailing when transmission is constrained. The interruptible credit should be increased to reflect this avoided transmission capacity cost.
- Application of DSC to Interruptible Demand
 - Santee Cooper uses a Demand Sales Adjustment Clause (DSC) to provide a credit to certain customers to share the demand and capacity revenues from Non-Class sales such as interruptible power. Currently, although Santee Cooper credits other Non-Class sales to interruptible customers under the DSC, Santee Cooper does not credit the benefit of interruptible sales revenues to interruptible customers like it does for firm customers. As a result, interruptible customers are paying more per kW for the firm component of their power than if they were actually firm customers. (Based on Santee Cooper estimates, the difference between the DSC applied to firm service and the DSC applied to interruptible service in 2025 is about \$1/kW).
 - The effect of this treatment is that interruptible customers receive less than the full avoided cost value of the interruptible service they provide, since the interruptible credit is effectively applied to a higher firm demand charge than is actually paid by firm customers. This is unfair to interruptible customers that are providing a substantial benefit to the Santee Cooper system and other customers.
 - Santee Cooper should return to its historical practice of crediting interruptible revenues in the DSC to both firm and interruptible customers alike. Applying the interruptible credit to the same combined net firm demand charge for interruptible customers that applies to firm load (i.e., the firm demand charge adjusted by the firm power DSC) would ensure that interruptible customers receive the full avoided cost value of their interruptible load.
- Interruptible Demand Ratchet
 - A “demand ratchet” is a mechanism that requires customers to pay for a minimum amount of demand each month, regardless of their actual demand usage. In other words, a ratchet requires the customer to pay for demand it does not use if the customer’s demand falls below the level of the ratchet in a given month. The purpose of this mechanism is to ensure that customers provide a certain minimum contribution to the utility’s fixed (demand/capacity-related) costs each month. Our concern here is with the level of the interruptible ratchet.
 - The current and proposed interruptible rate includes an 80% demand ratchet, the same percentage that applies under the firm rate. This means that interruptible

customers are required to pay for 80% of their contract demand, regardless of how much demand that they actually use in a given month. Since Santee Cooper does not build generation or transmission capacity to serve non-firm load, there is no need to apply such a large demand ratchet to interruptible service. Further, the size of the demand ratchet unnecessarily reduces customer flexibility and is a strong disincentive to significantly reducing unnecessary on-peak demand (which would benefit the system), since customers would realize no demand cost savings if they reduce their demand below the ratchet level. We have seen no analysis to support the 80% demand ratchet under the interruptible rate and we recommend that it be reduced to a more reasonable level (such as 50% or less).

Economy Power

- The Rate Study recommends that the reservation charges for Economy Power (EP) and Economy Power – Optional Energy Charge (EP-O) be increased tremendously (by 79% for EP and 34% for EP-O). If approved, this level of increase would violate the fundamental ratemaking principle of gradualism, would charge such customers for firm transmission service they do not receive, and would be a strong disincentive for customers to take service under these rates.
- A large increase in Santee Cooper’s open access transmission rate is the main reason given for the proposed increase in the EP and EP-O reservation charges. Since the economy power offerings are non-firm services and can be interrupted for generation or transmission capacity/reliability reasons, however, there is no need for Santee Cooper to charge the full cost of firm transmission to serve customers on these rates. Accordingly, the increase in Santee Cooper’s open access transmission tariff (OATT) rate should not drive the need for a large increase in the economy power reservation charges. Santee Cooper should keep the EP and EP-O reservation charges at their current level, or at least propose a much smaller percentage increase in these charges (no more than the system average rate increase or 10%, whichever is higher).
- The Rate Study proposes to significantly modify the trigger for calling additional on-peak hours under EP-O. Instead of the trigger during the summer and winter being tied to the load forecast as is currently the case, Santee Cooper would be able to call for additional on-peak hours when energy prices reach \$49.70/MWh during all months of the year, regardless of the level of demand on the system. This change is unnecessary and will likely result in additional on-peak hours being called more frequently and would be a further disincentive for customers to take service under EP-O. The current trigger for calling additional on-peak hours should be maintained.
- Under EP-O, energy prices are the same as for firm customers in designated off-peak hours but reflect incremental costs in designated on-peak hours. We recommend that EP-O off-peak hours be increased to include more lower-cost hours. Specifically, the electric industry generally recognizes that on-peak hours typically occur on weekdays, not on

weekends or holidays. As a result, weekends and holidays should be considered off-peak and not have designated on-peak hours since the highest incremental energy prices are unlikely to occur during these days. Even if this change is adopted, under the EP-O rider, Santee Cooper would still have the discretion to designate certain hours during weekends or holidays as on-peak if deemed necessary.

Cook Exceptions Cost Recovery

- Recovery of the cost associated with the Cook Exceptions is likely to have a substantial impact on electric costs paid by Santee Cooper customers, particularly when considered along with the proposed base rate increase and the unlocking of the fuel rates starting in 2025. Santee Cooper should consider ways to mitigate the impact of Cook Exception cost recovery on customers, such as: (a) spreading the recovery over a long term (such as 15 or more years); (b) delaying and/or phasing in the recovery; and/or (c) securitization. Moreover, the cost recovery mechanism should also incorporate a fair allocation and recovery of such costs among customers.
- Proposed Cook Exception Cost Recovery Mechanism
 - Although it is currently not known what Cook Exception costs Santee Cooper will be allowed to recover from customers or the rate of recovery (such as over what time period), a rate schedule mechanism for allocating and recovering these costs (the Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment or DCR) has been proposed in the Rate Study. As proposed, the DCR would allocate and recover Cook Exception costs on a pure energy (per kWh) basis from industrial customers on all rate schedules (except EP energy and Interruptible Secondary Power pricing).
 - The EP rate is an hourly incremental rate and was not frozen under the Cook Settlement. Therefore, it is appropriate that the DCR not be charged to EP customers.
 - However, customers on the interruptible rate and the EP-O rate also were subject to incremental fuel pricing in the highest price hours and, as a result, their rates also were not frozen during the period of the Cook Settlement. As a result, such customers should pay either no DCR charge or a reduced DCR charge on all such non-firm load (maybe a 50% discount; similar to the discount embodied in the interruptible credit) in recognition that they were subject in part to very high-priced incremental pricing during the rate freeze. Santee Cooper should also take into account and provide credit in some form to customers that were subject to non-frozen rates during the rate freeze but are no longer subject to such rates to the same degree.
 - Since the Cook Exception costs are not purely energy-related, the costs should not be recovered on a purely energy basis. A reasonable option would be to allocate

and recover a portion (we suggest at least 50%) of these costs based on peak demand.

Fuel Adjustment Clause

- The Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) should be limited to recovering fuel costs. To the extent the FAC includes non-fuel costs (such as renewable Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) costs, gypsum costs, and other demand-related costs including some purchased power costs, firm gas supply and transportation costs, etc.), the FAC is being stretched beyond its intended purpose. Since fuel costs are recovered on a per kWh basis, recovering non-fuel costs and particularly fixed/demand-related costs through the fuel factor does not reflect cost causation. In addition, since large industrial customers use massive amounts of energy at high load factors, recovering demand-related costs on an energy basis through the FAC over-assigns these costs to industrial customers and is detrimental to Santee Cooper's economic development and retention goals.
- Renewable PPAs
 - The Rate Study indicates that Santee Cooper intends to recover the full cost of renewable energy PPAs through the FAC (other than "designated" capacity or demand charges). This approach fails to recognize that there are virtually no fuel costs or variable O&M costs associated with renewable energy. In addition, passing these costs through to customers on an energy basis would have an inordinate and detrimental cost impact on industry that will only grow more severe as Santee Cooper adds more renewable energy through PPAs. As a result, renewable PPA costs should not be passed through the FAC on an energy-only (per kWh) basis.
 - Instead of recovering the cost of renewable PPAs through the FAC, all or at least a reasonable portion of the costs should be treated as demand-related costs and allocated and recovered through base rates. Alternatively, PPA costs should be recovered through a separate component of the FAC or some other rider that allocates and recovers PPA costs based on demand.
 - At a minimum, a reasonable demand/energy split (for example, a 50/50 split) for these costs should be adopted.
- Other Fuel-Related Issues
 - The Rate Study indicates that gypsum expenses will be recovered through the FAC. Since gypsum expenses are not fuel costs, they should not be recovered on a per kWh basis through the FAC.
 - The FAC should be modified to reflect time-of-use by establishing on-peak and off-peak fuel charges, consistent with the on-peak and off-peak energy charges in the

base rates. A properly designed time-of-use FAC would better reflect cost causation and would incentivize customers to increase usage off-peak and/or switch usage from higher to lower fuel cost hours. We encourage Santee Cooper to commit to address this issue in the next rate review.

Clean/Green Power Options

- Today, many manufacturers (including NUCOR) have green, clean, and sustainable power supply goals. It is vital that Santee Cooper offer manufacturers clean/green power supply options that are also reasonably priced, allow customers to take advantage of hedging benefits from such resources, and are cost effective. The Rate Study recommends allowing industrial customers to participate on the Distribution Generation Rider to help them meet their renewable goals, but this single limited proposal is far from enough. Santee Cooper should commit to working on developing a portfolio of new clean, green, and sustainable rate options to meet customer needs and pricing objectives after the current rate review concludes.

II. COMMENTS

A. Overview of NUCOR's Interest

Nucor Corporation is the nation's largest steelmaker. While Nucor Corporation has steel mills located throughout the country, our facility located in Berkeley County is one of the largest and most diversified mills in the Nucor fleet. NUCOR makes steel by melting scrap steel in massive electric arc furnaces and recycling the scrap into new steel products. In addition to being the nation's largest steelmaker, Nucor Corporation is also the largest recycler in North America. Since NUCOR's steelmaking process taps the latent energy contained in scrap steel, the process is highly efficient. Nevertheless, NUCOR's steelmaking process is still extremely energy-intensive. As a result, low and stable electric rates are vital to NUCOR. Over the years, NUCOR has worked closely with Santee Cooper management on rate and power supply issues, and we have actively participated in a number of prior rate reviews.

As the Rate Study notes, Santee Cooper's last base rate increase was in 2017. Since that time, Santee Cooper and its customers have been buffeted by numerous events affecting Santee Cooper, the cost of power, and the economy as a whole, including the cancellation of the VC Summer project, the Cook Settlement, legislative actions related to Santee Cooper and energy regulation in South Carolina, COVID, the spike in natural gas prices resulting from the Ukraine war and other factors, and recent high inflation to name a few. NUCOR appreciates Santee Cooper's

efforts to provide safe and reliable electric service while attempting to control costs and keep rates stable in the tumultuous years since the last base rate increase.

While NUCOR understands the need for Santee Cooper to set its rates at a level adequate to cover its costs, we have serious concerns over the impact of Santee Cooper's proposed base rate increase, particularly in light of other expected electric cost increases. The Rate Study recommends a revenue increase for 2025 of 4.9% for Santee Cooper's retail customers, and a revenue increase of 2.8% for Santee Cooper's industrial (firm and non-firm) customers.¹ For large, energy-intensive industrial customers like NUCOR, this level of base rate increase would increase annual electric costs by millions of dollars a year. But the much greater concern is not the effect of the base rate increase alone, but the combined triple impact on industrial customers' rates of the base rate increase, along with expected dramatic increases in fuel charges in 2025, and new charges to recover Cook Exception costs.

To elaborate, when the rate freeze ends in January of 2025 and fuel charges are unfrozen, Santee Cooper estimates that its retail customers will experience an average electric price increase of 7% from fuel costs alone in 2025.² While these increased fuel costs will affect all of Santee Cooper's customers, they will have a particularly severe impact on industrial customers, since fuel costs are recovered on an energy (per kWh) basis, and industrial customers consume massive amounts of electrical energy at high load factors. This can be expected to mean a much higher percentage fuel cost-related price increase for such industrial customers.

In addition, Santee Cooper plans to start recovering Cook Exception costs that have been deferred, when and to the extent that the court approves them. While the exact amount of these costs that may ultimately be approved for recovery from customers is currently unknown, the

¹ Rate Study at 4. These figures represent a percentage compared with total revenue, including fuel revenues. The percentage increase to base revenues alone (i.e., not including fuel revenues) is significantly higher. These figures do not include increases in fuel due to unfreezing the FAC or recovery of Cook Exception costs. Note also that the new base rates are due to take effect in April, so if the increase was looked at on an annualized basis, the percentage increase would be larger.

² Rate Study Management Reports ("Management Reports"), Financial Planning and Requirements Report at 5.

level of Cook Exception costs that Santee Cooper is currently deferring already stands at \$625.1 million as of the end of 2023.³

In making decisions regarding the issues in this rate review, we submit that Santee Cooper should keep in mind the overall level of rate increase (including the triple threat of base rates, fuel charges, and cost recovery for Cook Exceptions) customers will face starting in 2025 and make a concerted and aggressive effort to mitigate these increases. Mitigating cost increases is particularly important for Santee Cooper's industrial customers, who have been dealing with economic headwinds and ever-increasing competitive pressures in recent years. To that end, NUCOR urges Santee Cooper to consider and adopt the recommendations discussed in these comments, which are intended to improve Santee Cooper industrial rates by, among other things, better reflecting cost causation and providing important price signals to customers.

B. Interruptible Rate

NUCOR takes a large amount of interruptible power and therefore Santee Cooper's interruptible rate is of primary importance to Nucor in this rate review. Interruptible customers provide significant benefits to Santee Cooper and other customers on the system, including the following:

- Interruptible customers are subject to mandatory physical interruptions whenever, in the judgment of Santee Cooper, there is a reliability issue on the system. Santee Cooper's ability to curtail interruptible customers provides a significant reliability benefit and reduces the likelihood that Santee Cooper will have to shed firm load.
- Santee Cooper does not have to build or acquire generation or transmission capacity to serve interruptible load.
- Santee Cooper does not have to acquire or maintain planning reserves (or a reserve margin) to serve interruptible load.
- During hours when interruptible customers are curtailed, Santee Cooper avoids fuel and variable O&M costs associated with running higher cost generation or purchasing high cost energy (to the degree available) at market prices that would otherwise be required to serve the load that is interrupted.

³ Santee Cooper Annual Report 2023 at 43.

- Interruptible load can be used by Santee Cooper as operating reserves to meet NERC reliability requirements.
- By curtailing or buying through non-emergency economic interruptions at incremental cost, interruptible customers reduce the need for Santee Cooper to run marginal generation units or make expensive power purchases, or they agree to pay the incremental cost of such power, the cost of which would otherwise be passed to all of Santee Cooper's customers through the fuel component of retail rates.
- By providing lower electric rates to energy-intensive and price-sensitive industrial load, interruptible rates help advance Santee Cooper's economic development and industry-retention goals.

It is important to recognize that interruptible power is a lower quality of service than firm service and, all things being equal, any interruptible customer would prefer to be firm. Interruptible service, in fact, comes at a significant cost to participating customers. Physical curtailments can be highly disruptive to the operations of a manufacturing plant. At NUCOR, when we physically curtail, our electric arc furnaces (our largest load) are shut down, as well as much of our other equipment. We can accomplish the shut-down very quickly, but production is delayed for the duration of the curtailment (which is sometimes several hours), plus additional time is required to restart the production process after the curtailment ends. In most cases, a significant portion of product must be scrapped when responding to an interruption. In the case of economic curtailments, the price of Secondary Power (economic buy-through power) is often very high, and interruptible customers have to decide in a very short period of time whether it makes sense to curtail (and delay or lose production and/or sales, as well as idle employees) or buy-through at these extremely high prices.

In a nutshell, being an interruptible customer is challenging due to the disruptions, costs, and uncertainties that come along with being interruptible. Despite these challenges, for NUCOR and likely for most other interruptible customers, without interruptible service we could not economically and competitively operate our plant. However, for as important as robust and low-cost interruptible rates are to industrial customers like NUCOR, interruptible load is of ever-increasing value to Santee Cooper given the "[t]rend toward rapid growth outpacing the ability

to build new generation.”⁴ Santee Cooper explains that it and many other utilities in the region are “experiencing a shortage of generating capacity beyond that needed to meet its current load” and that this lack of excess capacity “enhances the value of demand reduction in customer classes and the use of interruptible rates.”⁵ Santee Cooper also affirmed the importance of interruptible rates in its 2023 Integrated Resource Plan proceeding, explaining that non-firm offerings mitigate reliability risk and will help as Santee Cooper steps into meeting its higher planning reserve margin.⁶ In other words, interruptible rates are important not only to the customers on those rates, but are also indispensable to Santee Cooper’s ability to reliably serve other customers.

While the Rate Study recommends some improvement to the current interruptible rate (specifically, by recommending an increase to the interruptible credit), as discussed further below, we believe that further improvements are necessary at this time. We focus on key improvements and do not attempt to address all of the improvements that could be considered. In this regard, the interruptible credit should be further increased to reflect additional costs that interruptible load avoids but that were not recognized in the credit calculation, and modifications to the L-25-I rate design should be made to ensure that interruptible customers receive the full avoided cost value of their interruptibility and to provide for more accurate price signals.

1. The interruptible credit should be increased beyond what is proposed in the Rate Study to reflect additional types of avoided costs

The current interruptible credit under Santee Cooper’s industrial rate schedule is \$8.95/kW-month. This credit was established in the 2015 rate review. Not surprisingly, given the unprecedented levels of inflation and the length of time since the last adjustment, the value of the credit has increased substantially. The Rate Study recommends increasing the interruptible

⁴ Management Reports, Rate Design and Proposed Rates Report at 5.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ South Carolina Public Service Commission, Docket No. 2023-154-E, South Carolina Public Service Authority’s (Santee Cooper) 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), Rebuttal Testimony of Rahul Dembla at 24. This testimony explains that Santee Cooper’s “non-firm offerings are a cost-effective option for industrial customers when appropriate for their business needs since those offerings do not require Santee Cooper to procure firm capacity resources for service,” and explaining that Santee Cooper recently reached an agreement in principle with a large industrial customer for non-firm service that “could result in an additional 2-3% of incremental reserve margin during years 2024-2026.” *Id.*

credit to \$10.63/kW-month “based on the costs for an incremental combustion turbine (CT) generation unit in a simple cycle configuration that are avoided with the Authority’s access to interruptible load.”⁷ NUCOR appreciates this proposed increase and agrees that the avoided cost of a CT is the appropriate starting point for calculating the credit. Nevertheless, despite the proposed increase, the credit does not reflect certain critical avoided costs and benefits provided by interruptible customers and should be increased further to reflect these factors.

a. The credit should reflect avoided reserves

Stated simply, since interruptible load avoids the need for generation capacity, interruptible load also avoids the associated capacity reserves that would have been required to serve that load if the load were firm. As a result, the interruptible credit should reflect avoided reserves (reserve margin) based on Santee Cooper’s current planning reserve margin. According to Santee Cooper’s recently-approved Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), the current planning reserve margin is 18%.⁸ Therefore, the avoided cost calculation for the interruptible credit should be increased by 18% to account for the avoided reserve margin.

The following example illustrates how interruptible load allows Santee Cooper to avoid reserves. If Santee Cooper’s firm load requirements during the winter were 1,000 MW, it would plan for 1,180 MW of capacity resources ($1,000 \text{ MW} \times 118\% = 1,180 \text{ MW}$) to meet its winter planning requirements, of which 180 MW represents the 18% reserve margin. Now assume that 100 MW of the firm load is converted to interruptible load. In this case, Santee Cooper would plan for 1,062 MW of firm supply resources ($900 \text{ MW} \times 118\% = 1,062 \text{ MW}$) to meet its planning reserve requirements, of which 162 MW represents the 18% reserve margin. It is clear that the non-firm nature of the 100 MW of interruptible load in this example allows Santee Cooper to avoid acquiring 118 MW of generation capacity ($1,180 \text{ MW} - 1,062 \text{ MW} = 118 \text{ MW}$), consisting of 100 MW plus 18 MW of planning reserves.

⁷ Rate Study at 5-3.

⁸ Santee Cooper Addendum to 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (October 27, 2023) at AD-7. Recognizing the importance of a robust reserve margin, Santee Cooper has increased its reserve margin from 12% to 18%.

In the past it has been argued that since Santee Cooper has treated interruptible load as a “resource” (like a generator or purchased power) rather than as a reduction in load, there is no reason to gross up the contribution of interruptible load for a generation reserve margin. However, labeling interruptible load as a resource does not change the fact that Santee Cooper avoids the need for reserves on non-firm load, as reflected in the example above (note also that a generator cannot supply firm power without reserves). Further, in response to an information request in the current rate review asking why the interruptible credit does not reflect reserves, Santee Cooper does not offer the resource v. reduced load explanation, or any other explanation for that matter. Instead, Santee Cooper simply notes that “Santee Cooper management does not believe this element is necessary to develop a reasonable interruptible credit.”⁹

As noted above, NUCOR is supportive of much of the overall methodology Santee Cooper used to develop the interruptible credit and of many of the inputs and assumptions that were used to calculate the avoided cost value of interruptible load. Nevertheless, the avoided reserve value of interruptible load is a large missing piece that cannot be ignored. The interruptible credit should be adjusted upward by 18% to recognize and account for the 18% reserve margin Santee Cooper would otherwise have to carry if the interruptible load on its system were firm. Particularly given the overall level of combined price increases faced by large industrial interruptible customers, now would be a good time to include avoided reserves in the credit.

b. The credit should reflect avoided energy costs

Customers on Santee Cooper’s interruptible rate are subject to both emergency physical curtailments and economic curtailments. The generation capacity value of the physical curtailments is currently reflected in the interruptible credit, since the credit reflects Santee Cooper’s avoided generation capacity cost. However, neither the current nor the proposed interruptible credit reflects the incremental energy cost that Santee Cooper avoids when a physical or economic curtailment is called.

Although an interruptible customer can buy through an economic curtailment, there is no question that Santee Cooper avoids incremental energy costs when it calls an economic

⁹ Santee Cooper Response to NUCOR’s First Set of Information Requests at 4.a.

curtailment regardless of whether the customer curtails or buys through. If the customer curtails, Santee Cooper does not have to incur the incremental energy cost to serve the customer. The same is true if the customer decides to buy through, since in that case the customer bears the incremental cost, rather than those costs having to be incurred by Santee Cooper and then recovered from other customers through the fuel adjustment clause. In effect, Santee Cooper uses economic interruptions as a hedge against high hourly power costs but assigns the customer that provides the hedge no value for the hedge. At the same time, the customer bears all the risk and cost responsibility. As seen in the past few years, the risk from a planning and budgeting perspective can be significant since Santee Cooper can call up to 250 hours of economic curtailments a year, and the interruptible customer has no idea when those curtailments might occur and what the buy through price will be in those hours until shortly before the economic curtailment is called.

The interruptible credit clearly should reflect the avoided energy costs associated with economic interruptions. If there is no system value for this feature, then why do economic interruptions exist? Santee Cooper could estimate the value of avoided energy by using historical incremental energy costs in the highest priced hours (or use typical or average actual Secondary Power costs), then determine an avoided energy cost based on the number of assumed economic interruptions. This avoided cost value could then be factored in when calculating the interruptible credit.

c. The credit should reflect avoided transmission costs

The interruptible credit should reflect avoided transmission system capacity costs. Since system transmission capacity costs are incurred to meet firm system peak demands (as confirmed by the cost allocation method reflecting coincident peak demands that is used for transmission costs), and interruptible load does not contribute to firm system peaks, Santee Cooper avoids the need for some transmission capacity as a result of interruptible load. In addition, Santee Cooper has the ability to curtail interruptible customers based on transmission capacity limits or other transmission-related system emergencies, not just for generation issues. Therefore, it is

appropriate that interruptible customers receive at least some reasonable credit for this capability.

2. The interruptible rate should be calculated by applying the interruptible credit to the firm demand charge as adjusted by the Demand Sales Adjustment Clause

Santee Cooper's DSC credits to customers the demand and capacity revenues from Non-Class sales such as off-system sales, inter-utility sales, and sales of interruptible power. Currently, while Santee Cooper credits other Non-Class sales to interruptible customers, Santee Cooper does not credit interruptible sales revenues under the DSC to interruptible customers like it does for firm customers. This means that the starting place for interruptible rates, prior to applying the interruptible credit, is higher than the net demand charge actually paid by firm customers. As a result, the effective interruptible credit is significantly reduced or discounted since interruptible customers receive less than the full avoided cost value of their interruptible service. This is a fundamental problem with how the interruptible credit is applied that should be recognized and corrected. Specifically, the same DSC (including interruptible sales revenues) should be applied to both firm and interruptible load.

As discussed above, Santee Cooper has developed its interruptible rate by determining a value for the costs Santee Cooper avoids by having interruptible load available, including the avoided cost of a peaking generator. In the current rate review, Santee Cooper has proposed an avoided cost value of \$10.64/kW for interruptible. This avoided cost value is reflected in the difference between the proposed Schedule L-25 demand charge for firm service and the interruptible demand charge under Schedule L-25-I ($\$21.08 - \$10.44 = \$10.64$) prior to the application of the DSC. If interruptible customers received the same DSC credit that firm customers do, this would ensure that interruptible customers receive the full avoided cost value applied to the same *net* firm service demand charge paid by firm customers. For example, if one assumes a hypothetical DSC of \$1/kW applied to both the firm and interruptible demand charges, the full avoided cost value of interruptible is preserved ($\$20.08 - \$9.44 = \$10.64$).

However, since Santee Cooper proposes to continue crediting interruptible revenues only to firm customers, the starting point for interruptible rates (the combined firm demand charge),

prior to applying the interruptible credit, is higher than that paid by firm customers. As a result, the interruptible credit is effectively reduced by the difference between the DSC for firm versus the DSC for interruptible customers. The following table, which reflects the projected 2025 DSC rates¹⁰ applied to the proposed firm and interruptible demand charges, illustrates the impact:

Schedule L-25 Firm Demand Charge	\$21.08
DSC Applied to Firm	\$(1.205)
Net Firm Rate	\$19.88
Schedule L-25-I Interruptible Demand Charge	\$10.44
DSC Applied to Interruptible	\$(0.144)
Net Interruptible Rate	\$10.30
Difference Between Net Firm Rate and Net Interruptible Rate (effective interruptible credit)	\$9.58

The effective \$9.58 interruptible credit is roughly 10% less than the full \$10.64 avoided cost value of interruptible as calculated in the Rate Study.

It is important to note that, prior to the 2012 rate review, the same DSC was applied to both firm and interruptible customers by Santee Cooper. In our view, the unequal application of the DSC between firm and interruptible customers is unreasonable and unjustified. In response to an information request asking Santee Cooper to explain the reasons for the difference in the DSC for firm service as compared to interruptible service, Santee Cooper states that the “primary reason for the difference between the two DSA values is that non-firm interruptible rate customers do not receive the benefit of DSA credits from their own sales.”¹¹ This response, however, does not resolve or even address the problem illustrated by the example above – the effective haircut in the avoided cost value for interruptible customers resulting from the interruptible credit being applied to a higher demand charge than that paid by firm customers.

¹⁰ Rate Study at Appendix C, Technical Appendix, Sheet “Projected Pres DSC.”

¹¹ Santee Cooper Response to NUCOR’s First Set of Information Requests at 1.a.

Simply put, under the proposed approach, interruptible customers will not receive the full interruptible credit that Santee Cooper's own avoided cost study determined is justified, and, as a result, these customers will pay higher rates than they should be due to Santee Cooper's current approach to applying the DSC to interruptible customers. We urge Santee Cooper to reverse this policy and return to its historical practice of applying the same DSC (including interruptible sales revenues) to both firm and interruptible customers so that the credit is applied to the actual net demand charge paid by firm customers.

3. The demand ratchet applicable to the interruptible rate should be reduced

Currently, Santee Cooper's firm and interruptible industrial rates both contain an 80% "demand ratchet." A demand ratchet is a mechanism that requires customers to pay for a minimum amount of demand each month, regardless of their actual demand usage. In other words, a ratchet requires the customer to pay for demand it does not use if the customer's demand falls below the level of the ratchet in a given month. The purpose of this mechanism is to ensure that customers provide a certain minimum contribution to the utility's fixed (demand/capacity-related) costs each month. The Rate Study proposes to continue the current 80% demand ratchet for both firm and interruptible service.

Since Santee Cooper does not incur fixed generation and transmission capacity costs (such as building or acquiring such capacity) to serve interruptible customers, a reasonable argument could be made that no demand ratchet is necessary for interruptible demand, much less the same 80% ratchet that applies to firm demand. Moreover, since a demand ratchet effectively establishes a floor below which a customer cannot reduce its on-peak demand and still receive an economic benefit in the form of a reduced demand charge, the 80% ratchet is a significant impediment for an industrial customer to shift more usage off-peak. To take a simple example, assume the case of an industrial customer with a contract demand of 100 MW. The application of the 80% demand ratchet means that, even if the customer could reduce its on-peak demand to 70 MW and shift the remainder of its load off-peak, the customer would still have to pay for 80 MW of on-peak demand (80% x 100 MW). Therefore, even if this hypothetical customer could

reduce its on-peak load to 70 MW or lower, the customer has no incentive to do so because it will have to pay for a minimum of 80 MW of on-peak demand no matter what.

The Rate Study includes no analysis or explanation for why the 80% demand ratchet is appropriate for interruptible service. Such a high demand ratchet mutes the price signal sent by time-of-use rates and serves as a strong disincentive for large industrial customers to shift load to off-peak periods. It should be noted that the ability to shift load off-peak is of particular benefit to a manufacturer when market demand for its product slows, since shifting load off-peak would allow that manufacturer to possibly lower its electric costs to help offset reduced product sales (by contrast, when demand is strong there is less opportunity – and less of a need – to shift load since the manufacturer likely has to run at or near full capacity to meet its orders). Significantly reducing the benefit from shifting load off-peak due to a high demand ratchet, therefore, robs industrial customers of a tool they would otherwise have to mitigate the impact of economic downturns or other periods of weakened demand for their products.

The benefits to interruptible customers, the Santee Cooper system, and to other customers from these large customers reducing their loads in the on-peak periods, therefore, are being lost due to this rate design feature. The reason for a demand ratchet is to ensure that customers make a reasonable contribution to fixed costs regardless of fluctuations in the customer's usage patterns. We are not suggesting that there should be no demand ratchet, particularly for firm loads. However, we submit that the current high demand ratchet applied to interruptible contract demands creates an unnecessarily high barrier to customer price response. Santee Cooper should strongly consider reducing the interruptible demand ratchet to a more reasonable level to encourage price responsiveness. We recommend that an interruptible ratchet of 50% or less be adopted.

C. Economy Power

Santee Cooper currently offers two incremental pricing options for industrial customers – Economy Power and Economy Power – Optional Energy Charge – that are significantly different than Santee Cooper's other industrial rate offerings. Instead of average cost energy and fuel pricing, EP provides for hourly incremental energy pricing. EP-O provides for hourly incremental energy pricing in designated on-peak hours and average cost energy pricing (*i.e.*, a Base Energy

Charge of 3.75 cents/kWh to which the Fuel Adjustment Clause is applied) in off-peak hours. Rather than demand charges, both EP and EP-O have “reservation charges” that apply to the customer’s designated EP or EP-O contract demand. Both EP and EP-O are also non-firm rates and are subject to interruption similar to the interruptible rates.

NUCOR appreciates that Santee Cooper offers these rates. We believe that incremental pricing options are a good alternative and/or complement to Santee Cooper’s other rate options. However, we are very concerned that the Rate Study proposes several changes that would strongly disincentivize customers from reasonable use of these rates going forward. As discussed further below, Santee Cooper should reject these changes and adopt a more measured approach to modifying the rates.

1. Santee Cooper should approve a much smaller increase in the EP and EP-O reservation charges than recommended by the Rate Study

As the table below shows, the Rate Study recommends that the reservation charges for EP and EP-O be increased tremendously:¹²

Rate	Current Reservation Charge	Proposed Reservation Charge	% Increase
EP	\$1.81/kW	\$3.24/kW	79%
EP-O	\$3.66/kW	\$4.89/kW	34%

Such a drastic increase in these reservation charges – 79% for EP and 34% for EP-O – would undermine the very structure of these rates. Since EP and EP-O are incremental cost rates, a customer that elects to participate on these rates will be subject to more energy price risk and volatility than they would on other industrial rates. However, the much lower reservation charges associated with EP and EP-O mitigate to some degree the risk and volatility of incremental energy pricing and are an important upside component to these rates from a customer’s perspective. The massive increase in the reservation charges proposed in the Rate Study would upset this

¹² Rate Study at 6-5.

inherent trade-off between low fixed cost recovery and higher, more volatile energy pricing. In addition, if approved, the level of increase would violate the ratemaking principle of gradualism, which recommends against utilities imposing large sudden rate increases.¹³ Finally, note that these “reservation” charges are applied to contract demands (effectively making them a 100% ratchet). For these reasons, the proposed increases to the EP and EP-O reservation charges are excessive and threaten the viability of these rates going forward.

The reason given for the increase to the reservation charges is to reflect a large increase in transmission costs contained in Santee Cooper’s OATT. Since the economy power offerings are non-firm services and can be interrupted for generation or transmission capacity reasons, however, there is no need for Santee Cooper to charge the full cost of firm transmission to serve customers on these rates. As a result, the increase in Santee Cooper’s OATT rate should not drive the need for a large increase in the economy power reservation charges, particularly when the resulting percentage increase in these charges is so large.

To the extent any increase in the reservation charges is necessary in light of the increase to the OATT rates, the increase should be more reasonable and limited, with an eye toward keeping economy power as a viable and attractive rate option for customers under the right circumstances. We recommend that Santee Cooper keep the EP and EP-O reservation charges at their current level, in recognition that Santee Cooper does not need to secure firm transmission service to serve non-firm economy power load. If, however, Santee Cooper determines that some increase in the reservation charges for EP and EP-O is necessary, we recommend gradual increases limited to no more than 10% during any given rate review.

2. The current trigger for calling additional on-peak hours under EP-O should be maintained

As explained above, while EP provides for incremental energy pricing in all hours, EP-O provides for incremental pricing in designated on-peak hours and fixed/average energy costs in designated off-peak hours. This structure benefits customers by providing stable energy pricing

¹³ In his seminal treatise *Principles of Public Utility Rates*, James Bonbright articulated a variation on the “gradualism” principle in his list of ten attributes of a sound rate structure: “Stability and predictability of the rates themselves, with a minimum of unexpected changes seriously adverse to ratepayers and with a sense of historical continuity.” James C. Bonbright, *et al.*, *Principles of Public Utility Rates* at 383 (1988).

in off-peak hours, and benefits Santee Cooper by providing for incremental energy pricing for EP-O customers in on-peak hours when the system is more likely to be strained and electric costs higher.

Santee Cooper also has the right under the EP-O rate schedule to designate additional on-peak hours during hours that are otherwise designated as off-peak hours. Currently, Santee Cooper may designate additional on-peak hours during the summer and winter months when Santee Cooper “determines that its estimated system daily peak demand will be greater than 90% of the projected system peak demand for that summer or winter season (based on the Authority’s most recent load forecast).”¹⁴ The Rate Study proposes to change this provision and establish a trigger for calling additional on-peak hours for every month of the year based on projected incremental energy cost. Specifically, Santee Cooper would reserve the right to designate additional on-peak hours when it projects that incremental energy cost would equal or exceed \$49.70/MWh, which is the on-peak energy rate proposed for the L-25-I rate.¹⁵

Switching from a trigger based on forecasted load to one based on a designated incremental energy price will likely lead to many more on-peak hours being called, thereby upsetting the current balance between on-peak and off-peak pricing under EP-O and changing the value proposition for customers on the rate. In other words, being subject to more frequent incremental on-peak energy pricing might make customers less likely to take service under EP-O. Further, a trigger tied to when forecasted load gets particularly high is reasonable since these are the times the system is more likely to be under stress and when switching to incremental pricing will provide the greatest benefit.

Changing the trigger for designating additional on-peak hours does not appear to be necessary and would be unnecessarily disruptive. We recommend that Santee Cooper not adopt this proposed change and retain the existing trigger based on projected system peak demand.

¹⁴ Rate Schedule L-17-EP-O, Economy Power Service Rider, Optional Energy Charge, Section (D)(1).

¹⁵ Rate Study at Appendix B, Proposed Rate Schedule L-25-EP-O, Economy Power Service Rider, Optional Energy Charge, Section (D)(1).

3. Weekend and holiday hours should be designated as all off-peak under EP-O

As the discussion above illustrates, EP-O is a potentially favorable option for customers willing to accept the risk of incremental pricing in some hours, but who also value the stability of fixed energy pricing in designated off-peak hours. As a result, expanding the number of off-peak hours would likely make the EP-O more attractive and may spur more participation on the rate. As a general rule, on-peak hours should be reserved for limited hours when system peaks are most likely to occur, and all other hours should be designated as off-peak. Currently and as proposed in the Rate Study, EP-O does not include weekends and holidays in the off-peak periods in the summer and winter months (in the shoulder months of March, April, and October, all hours are off-peak). In our experience, most utility time of use rates limit on-peak periods to weekdays, excluding holidays, since system peaks typically do not occur on these days. The same is true for the wholesale market, such as PJM, where a typical on-peak product is for weekdays.¹⁶ Therefore, we recommend that the EP-O tariff be modified to exclude weekends and holidays from the on-peak periods. This enhancement would make the rate more attractive for customers and would entail little risk to Santee Cooper since it would still have the discretion to designate on-peak hours on weekends or holidays when a system peak might be expected to occur on those days.

D. Cook Exceptions

Along with the base rate increase and the fuel cost increases accompanying the expiration of the current rate freeze, Cook Exception costs are the third component of the trifecta of rate increases that will be hitting Santee Cooper's customers in the near future. As of now, the exact amount of Cook Exception cost that will be allowed to be recovered from customers is unknown. Nevertheless, based on the amounts attributable to Cook Exceptions that Santee Cooper has been deferring, these costs could very well be very large. As a threshold matter, we urge Santee Cooper to look for ways to mitigate the impact of Cook Exception cost recovery on customers. For example, in order to reduce the rate impact on customers, Santee Cooper should strongly consider spreading the recovery over a long term (such as 15 or more years) rather than

¹⁶ See, e.g., PJM Manual 15: Cost Development Guidelines at Section 12.4 (defining peak days as Monday through Friday, excluding North American Reliability Corporation holidays).

recovering all the cost over just a few years. Similarly, Santee Cooper should consider delaying and/or phasing in Cook Exception cost recovery. Finally, Santee Cooper should explore securitization if the Cook Exception costs ultimately approved for recovery are significant, and if it is determined that securitization could result in cost savings for customers.

While the specific Cook Exception costs themselves are not at issue in this rate review since it is not yet known what exception costs Santee Cooper will be allowed to recover, the Rate Study nonetheless proposes a cost recovery mechanism for the exceptions – the Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause. The DCR allocates deferred Cook Exception costs among the customer classes based on energy usage and recovers costs from customers through a pure energy (kWh) charge. NUCOR’s concerns and recommendations related to the DCR are discussed below.

1. The DCR should not apply to customers whose rates were not fully frozen during the rate freeze

Certain Santee Cooper rates were not frozen under the Cook Settlement rate freeze. In particular, economy power (EP and EP-O) customers were subject to incremental pricing, and therefore did not have their rates frozen during the rate freeze. Similarly, interruptible customers did not have frozen rates since they were subject to incremental pricing for Secondary Power during Economic Curtailment hours. As Santee Cooper recognizes, all of these non-firm rates (EP, EP-O, and Interruptible) may “include pricing benefits for the system, such that the customer is charged incremental prices for their power at certain times.”¹⁷ Santee Cooper also recognizes that economy power pricing and buy-throughs during economic curtailment hours are at “prevailing market rates.”¹⁸ This means when non-firm customers paid high market rates at times of tight supply, they provided a significant benefit to Santee Cooper and the system. In particular, by curtailing and/or buying through at prevailing market rates or incremental costs, customers on

¹⁷ Management Reports, Load Forecast Report at 3.

¹⁸ *Id.*

EP, EP-O, and Interruptible allowed Santee Cooper to avoid incurring very high costs that it would not have been able to recover through the fuel adjustment clause due to the rate freeze.

As proposed by the Rate Study, only the EP rate would be fully exempt from the DCR, presumably because all energy sales under this rate are incremental. Under EP-O, only on-peak sales is proposed to be exempt from the DCR, and under the Interruptible rate, the DCR would apply to all energy sales except Secondary Power sales. Applying the DCR to all off-peak energy sales under the EP-O rate and all energy sales under the Interruptible rate except for Secondary Power does not adequately recognize that these customers were subject to incremental pricing in many hours, typically at times when such prices were extremely high, and therefore did not receive the benefit of the rate freeze. In addition, since Interruptible and EP-O are non-firm rates, customers on those rates are subject to curtailment at any time, 24/7. As a result, customers on these rates did not cause the Cook Exception costs, or, at the very least, do not bear as much cost responsibility for Cook Exception costs as customers on firm rates.

The simplest and most straightforward way to address this issue is to not apply the DCR to any sales under the Interruptible or EP-O rates, as is the case for EP. In the alternative, the DCR could be applied to only a portion (for example, 50%) of the non-Secondary Power sales under the Interruptible Rate and off-peak energy sales under EP-O (this might best be accomplished by simply applying a discounted DCR charge to these types of sales). This compromise approach would at least better reflect the reduced cost responsibility of Interruptible and EP-O customers for the Cook Exception costs.

2. A crediting mechanism should be developed to recognize customers that were on non-frozen rates during the rate freeze but that are not on such rates today or in the future

A crediting mechanism should be developed to recognize that some customers were on non-frozen rates during the rate freeze, and therefore did not cause the Cook Exception costs, but may not be on these same rates or mix of rates going forward.

For example, consider the case of a customer that took a significant amount of service under EP during the rate freeze. This customer would have been subject to “unfrozen” rates. As Santee Cooper’s proposed rate design recognizes, all EP usage and at least all on-peak EP-O usage

should not be subject to the DCR since customers paying incremental rates cannot be considered to have caused the Cook Exception costs. Now assume the customer that was on EP during the rate freeze at some point decides to take some or all of its power under another rate going forward. Assuming the DCR is applied as proposed in the Rate Study, this customer could end up paying Cook Exception costs even though its rates were not frozen during the rate freeze.

For cases such as this, a crediting mechanism should be developed that would reduce the customer's cost responsibility under the DCR to recognize, at least in a rough fashion, that the customer did not cause Cook Exception costs to the degree it was taking service under non-frozen rates during the rate freeze. Since the rate freeze time period is limited, and the number of customers that could be affected is limited to the small number of Santee Cooper industrial customers taking service under the various non-firm options during the rate freeze, it should be possible for Santee Cooper to determine a fair mechanism to credit these customers for their actual service under an unfrozen rate during the freeze.

3. Cook Exception costs should not be allocated and recovered on a pure energy basis

Even though it is not yet known what Cook Exception costs will be approved for recovery from customers, Santee Cooper has proposed that all of these costs be allocated and recovered on a pure energy basis. Based on the types of costs that are being deferred, however, all such costs are not appropriately considered energy-related. Since the actual costs to be recovered are not yet known, it is at best premature to determine that allocating and recovering all of the costs on an energy basis is appropriate.

Explaining the difference between demand-related costs and energy-related costs, Santee Cooper defines demand-related costs as follows:

Demand-related costs (or "fixed" costs) are costs incurred to maintain an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. Additionally, they are generally fixed in the short-run and do not materially vary directly with the number of kilowatt-hours generated or sold. Demand costs will include that portion of operation and maintenance expenses, debt service, renewals, replacements and improvements, and other

costs that are not designated as specifically customer or variable energy costs.¹⁹

By contrast, “[e]nergy related costs (or ‘variable’ costs) are costs that vary substantially or directly with the amount of energy sold or generated and purchased, including costs for fuel and a portion of operation and maintenance expenses related to production facilities.”²⁰ Based on descriptions of the Cook Exception costs included in the *Cook v. Santee Cooper* South Carolina Public Service Authority 2023 Annual Compliance Report (“2023 Compliance Report”), it is clear that at least some of these costs (and perhaps most of them) are more appropriately categorized as demand-related costs instead of energy-related. For example, the Compliance Report explains that exceptions totaling roughly \$56 million in 2023 are categorized as a change in law exception associated with the Environmental Protection Agency’s new effluent limit guidelines (“ELG”) regulations.²¹ The costs incurred under this exception in 2023 included “consultant costs, related to the design, engineering, materials, and construction of wastewater technology treatment systems for Cross and Winyah.”²² It seems clear that this cost does not “vary substantially or directly with the amount of energy sold or generated and purchased,” and would be better classified as a fixed cost or demand-related cost since it relates to upgrades at Santee Cooper’s generating plants. Even in the case of the Sugar Camp mine fire, where Santee Cooper had to purchase replacement coal, it is unlikely that all of this cost is appropriately classified as energy-related. In the Compliance Report, Santee Cooper explains that it had to purchase some coal on the market because it “was needed to ensure reliability.”²³ Since this coal was needed for reliability reasons, it should be considered capacity or demand-related rather than energy-related.

Given the uncertainty regarding the Cook Exception costs, the best approach would be to not approve a cost recovery mechanism in this rate review, but instead to wait until after it is known what costs are allowed to be recovered from customers, and how such costs should be

¹⁹ Management Reports, Cost-of-Service Report at 3.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ 2023 Compliance Report at 15.

²² *Id.* at 23.

²³ *Id.* at 26.

classified, before establishing a cost recovery mechanism. Once the amount of cost to be recovered is established, Santee Cooper could continue to defer those costs in a regulatory asset like it is doing today until a cost recovery mechanism such as the DCR can be approved in the future. Moreover, customer input should be sought at that point as to how these costs should be allocated and recovered. However, if Santee Cooper decides to move forward with approving the DCR in this rate review, the DCR should not be a pure energy charge. Instead, the costs should be allocated and recovered partially based on energy and partially based on demand. We recommend that no more than 50% be recovered as energy (per kWh) in such a case.

E. Fuel Adjustment Clause

Santee Cooper's FAC recovers the cost of fuel used in Santee Cooper's generators and the energy cost of purchased power. Fuel costs have typically been allowed to be recovered in a mechanism separate from base rates since the utility does not have control over the cost of fuel and such costs can be volatile. For the most part, the costs of fuel are energy-related since the costs directly correlate to the amount of energy customers use. Therefore, it is reasonable that fuel costs are generally allocated and recovered based on energy (there are exceptions to this rule; for example, Santee Cooper properly treats a portion of fuel cost as demand-related since some fuel cost is incurred to maintain reserves, and therefore does not vary based on customer energy usage).

Santee Cooper's FAC allocates and recovers costs based on energy and, to the extent the costs actually recovered through the FAC are limited to fuel, this approach is reasonable. However, including demand-related costs in the FAC is not reasonable or fair. Since fuel costs are recovered on a per kWh basis, allocating and recovering fixed/demand-related costs through the fuel factor does not reflect cost causation. In addition, since large industrial customers use massive amounts of energy at high load factors, recovering demand-related costs on an energy basis through the FAC over-assigns these costs to industrial customers and is detrimental to Santee Cooper's economic development and retention goals.

NUCOR is concerned that the Rate Study proposes certain changes to the FAC (specifically, the inclusion of renewable purchased power costs and gypsum costs) that will allow substantial non-fuel, demand-related costs to be recovered through the FAC, contrary to cost-causation.

NUCOR urges Santee Cooper to keep the FAC limited to serving its intended purpose of recovering fuel costs.²⁴

1. Renewable power purchase agreement costs should not be recovered on an energy basis

The Rate Study explains that the FAC tariff language has been revised to explicitly include renewable PPA energy costs as part of fuel costs.²⁵ The specific language in the FAC explaining the renewable PPA cost to be recovered through the FAC is “the actual identifiable net energy expenses associated with solar and/or wind energy purchases, exclusive of designated capacity or demand charges.”²⁶ While the language appropriately excludes designated capacity or demand charges, the reality is that renewable PPAs often do not include “explicit” capacity or demand charges, but instead include only “implicit” demand-related costs. In fact, Santee Cooper has indicated that there are no capacity or demand charges associated with its current solar and/or wind purchases.²⁷ This does not mean that there are no capacity costs – it simply means that the parties have chosen to use an energy charge to recover such costs. It is not reasonable or reflective of cost causation to recover all of the costs of renewable PPAs from Santee Cooper through the fuel factor on an energy basis simply because Santee Cooper or its supplier chose to price the power on that basis.

NUCOR is very supportive of renewable generation. One of the key benefits of renewable generation such as solar and wind is that there are no fuel costs, and very little other variable O&M costs, associated with these technologies, as Santee Cooper recognizes. When asked to explain and quantify fuel and variable energy costs associated with renewable resources, Santee Cooper did not identify any such costs, but instead noted that renewable energy purchases “offset fuel and market purchases that Santee Cooper would otherwise make.”²⁸ Indeed, the vast majority of the costs associated with solar generation are fixed, demand-related costs that are

²⁴ Santee Cooper may already be recovering some other non-fuel costs as fuel. While we are not addressing this issue directly at this time, we reserve the right to address it in the future.

²⁵ Rate Study at 5-4.

²⁶ *Id.* at Appendix B, Fuel Adjustment Clause, FAC-25, Section 2.

²⁷ Santee Cooper Response to NUCOR’s Second Set of Information Requests at 1.b.iv.

²⁸ *Id.* at 1.b.vii and 1.b.viii.

typically allocated based on production demand. The cost of renewable generation does not vary based on customer energy usage like typical fuel costs, even if a renewable PPA uses energy charges to recover these costs. Therefore, allocating and recovering the cost of renewable generation based on production demand (regardless of whether Santee Cooper builds the generation itself or obtains it through a PPA) is more reasonable and reflective of cost causation than allocating and recovering these costs on an energy basis through the fuel factor. In other words, the underlying nature of the cost – not the choice made in the PPA of how to charge for the renewable energy – should dictate cost recovery.

In fact, allocating and recovering renewable PPA costs on a production demand basis is the only way to truly reflect the fuel cost avoidance benefit of renewable generation in customer rates. Under Santee Cooper’s approach, renewable PPA costs may or may not reduce the overall fuel factor. But if renewable generation is allocated and recovered on a production demand basis, the fuel cost associated with that generation is zero, which necessarily reduces the FAC, similar to the impact of other very low or zero fuel cost generation such as nuclear and hydro.

Some may argue that it is not appropriate to allocate solar PPA costs based on demand since solar facilities provide relatively little capacity value on Santee Cooper’s system. However, while solar may provide very little stand-alone capacity during the winter peak (unless it is packaged with battery storage), solar does provide capacity value for the summer peak.²⁹ The continued importance of the summer peak, in fact, is a reason why Santee Cooper elected to use a 4CP approach for allocating production demand costs. As Santee Cooper explains:

While Santee Cooper’s actual annual peak has typically occurred during the winter months for several years and the winter peak is the primary driver for capacity planning, it also plans for capacity resources to meet summer peaks due to the duration of those peaks, the reduced rated capacity for generation units, and the limited access to purchased power in the summer months as well. Thus, Santee Cooper’s use of 4CP, which reflects these peak loads in summer and winter months, is also consistent with its most recent Integrated Resource Plan.³⁰

²⁹ See Santee Cooper 2023 Integrated Resource Plan at 74 (noting a summer peak effective load carrying capability of solar of 26%).

³⁰ Management Reports, Cost-of-Service Report at 6.

Santee Cooper's 4CP cost allocation approach recognizes that summer peaks continue to be an important consideration in designing and operating the system. Therefore, arguing that the renewable costs should be allocated on a pure energy basis would entirely ignore this important factor.

In considering this issue, NUCOR also urges Santee Cooper to consider the impact on economic development and retention and the effects on promotion of the "greening" of Santee Cooper's power supply. As we have noted earlier in these comments, allocating and recovering non-fuel costs on a per kWh basis such as through the fuel factor has a major negative impact on high load factor industrial customers. To the extent that fixed/demand-related renewable PPA costs are included in the FAC and allocated and recovered based on energy, industrial customers will bear a disproportionate share of the cost. While solar PPA costs may be relatively small today, Santee Cooper has plans to significantly expand the amount of solar on its system. Santee Cooper's IRP calls for 2,150 MW of new solar generation between 2026 and 2033, and Santee Cooper is targeting 300 MW of new solar a year.³¹ To date, all indications are that Santee Cooper intends to acquire this new solar generation primarily through PPAs. As more and more solar is added to Santee Cooper's system, the disproportionate cost burden on industrial customers will continue to grow if the cost of this generation is allocated and recovered based on energy.

There are several reasonable approaches to renewable PPA costs that we urge Santee Cooper to consider. Our primary recommendation is to remove renewable PPA costs from the FAC and recover them through base rates, allocating the costs of the renewable facilities based on production demand as would be the case for any other Santee Cooper-owned generator. Alternatively, Santee Cooper could create a separate component of the FAC (or a new rider) that would allocate and recover renewable PPA costs based on demand.

Finally, if Santee Cooper continues to believe that at least some share of renewable PPA costs should be allocated and recovered based on energy, we urge Santee Cooper to consider a compromise where a portion of the cost is allocated based on energy and a portion based on demand. We propose a 50/50 split as a reasonable approach at this point that would recognize both the arguments in favor of allocating these costs based on energy (*i.e.*, limited capacity

³¹ Santee Cooper Press Release, *Santee Cooper Begins New Solar Power Solicitation* (March 11, 2024).

contribution) and the arguments in favor of allocating the costs based on demand (*i.e.*, capacity contribution and limited variable costs). In fact, this same 50/50 compromise approach was recently adopted by the West Virginia Public Service Commission when considering how to allocate costs of renewable generation facilities and PPAs among customer classes.³²

2. Gypsum costs should not be recovered through the FAC

The Rate Study indicates that Santee Cooper proposes to change how gypsum costs are recovered. Currently, gypsum expense is treated as a variable O&M expense and is recovered through the base energy rate.³³ But in the Rate Study, Santee Cooper proposes to treat gypsum costs as a fuel cost to be recovered through the FAC.

Gypsum is not “fuel” used to operate Santee Cooper’s generating plants, such as coal, natural gas, or nuclear fuel. Rather, gypsum is a byproduct of burning coal. The gypsum costs at issue in this rate review are “costs incurred through the purchase and handling of gypsum.”³⁴ There has been no demonstration that gypsum costs “vary substantially or directly with the amount of energy sold or generated and purchased” such that recovery of these costs on an energy basis through the FAC (or even through the energy component of base rates) is appropriate.

Santee Cooper estimates that gypsum expense will be approximately \$8.7 million in 2025 alone.³⁵ As noted elsewhere in these comments, fuel costs are already expected to skyrocket when the rate freeze ends. The addition of gypsum costs to the FAC will make the situation worse. Rather than including gypsum costs in the FAC, Santee Cooper should continue to recover the costs through the base rate and should consider whether allocating at least a portion of these costs based on demand might be more reflective of cost causation than a pure energy allocation. At a minimum, Santee Cooper should continue to treat the gypsum expenses as a variable expense allocated and recovered through the base energy rate, as is currently done today.

³² [Appalachian Power Company and Wheeling Power Company Petition for Commission Approval of Cost Recovery for Three Purchase and Sale Agreements for Three Purchased Power Agreements for Renewable Energy](#), 2023 W. VA. PUC LEXIS 72 (Jan. 17, 2023).

³³ Santee Cooper Response to NUCOR’s Second Set of Information Requests at 1.a.iii.

³⁴ *Id.* at 1.a.ii.

³⁵ *Id.* at 1.a.i.

3. Santee Cooper should consider modifying the FAC to reflect time-of-use

Like other costs that are recovered through Santee Cooper's demand and energy charges, fuel costs vary by time of use. Fuel costs are generally higher during on-peak periods and lower during off-peak periods. However, while Santee Cooper's demand and energy charges currently reflect time of use to some degree, there is no recognition of seasonal or time of day cost differences in the FAC, other than inadvertently through the current process of developing a monthly FAC based on the average of the prior three months' fuel costs. The same type of time of use elements that Santee Cooper has been incorporating into its demand and energy charges should also be applied to the FAC. This would ensure that the FAC is aligned with the time of use elements in Santee Cooper's base rates and would provide a stronger price signal for customers. We strongly encourage Santee Cooper to commit to considering and addressing this issue in the next rate review.

F. Clean/Green Power Options

Today, many manufacturers (including NUCOR) have clean, green, and sustainable power supply goals. These requirements are being driven in part by the demands of manufacturers' own customers for products that are made with low carbon or carbon-free energy. As a result, the availability of clean/green rate options from Santee Cooper is not simply a matter of preference for Santee Cooper's industrial customers. Rather, the availability of these options will be critical to the ability of South Carolina's manufacturers to make the products their customers demand going forward. At the same time, in order for Santee Cooper's energy-intensive industrial customers to remain competitive even while they transition to a cleaner and more sustainable energy supply, clean/green rate options must be cost effective.

Santee Cooper recognizes that "[t]here is a strong interest in renewable energy from Santee Cooper's industrial customers" and to address this need and "in order to allow customers to receive compensation for any solar energy that is produced above their own needs" the Rate Study proposes to expand the Distribution Generation Rider (DG) rate to include industrial customers.³⁶ Specifically, Santee Cooper offers to make the DG rate available to industrial

³⁶ Management Reports, Rate Design and Proposed Rates Report at 5.

customers with installed systems limited to 2,000 kW.³⁷ NUCOR appreciates Santee Cooper's recognition of the trend toward renewable energy and we support the expansion of the DG rate to include industrial customers as a small step toward making more renewable options available to customers. Nevertheless, bolder and more significant action on this front is necessary.

Santee Cooper should be open to considering more flexible options for incorporating renewable/carbon-free generation. Options could include, for example, direct sales to customers of energy from Santee Cooper owned and/or contracted renewable/carbon-free resources, or Santee Cooper "sleeving" power from customer designated, contracted, or owned renewable/carbon-free resources. Santee Cooper should also be open to expansion of behind-the-meter options for customers beyond what is proposed under the DG rider in the Rate Study. In any of these cases, customers should have the ability to claim the renewable energy credits (RECs) or other similar clean energy attributes associated with their renewable/carbon-free energy. We recommend that Santee Cooper work on developing a portfolio of these and other new green/clean rate options after the current rate review concludes.

III. CONCLUSION

NUCOR thanks Santee Cooper's Board and Management Team for the opportunity to provide these comments. We ask Santee Cooper to carefully consider these comments and to adopt the recommendations they contain, which are outlined in Attachment A to these comments. We look forward to continued dialogue with Santee Cooper on these important issues.

³⁷ Rate Study at 5-5.

ATTACHMENT A

Summary of NUCOR Recommendations Regarding Santee Cooper Rate Review and Proposed Rate Adjustment

Interruptible Rate

- The interruptible credit incorporated into the interruptible rate should be increased further to reflect additional system benefits such as avoided reserves, avoided incremental energy costs, and avoided transmission costs.
- The same DSC should be applied to firm and interruptible customers (*i.e.*, revenues from interruptible sales, like other Non-Class sales, should also be credited to interruptible customers).
- The demand ratchet in the interruptible rate should be reduced from 80% to no higher than 50%.

Economy Power

- The increase to the reservation charges for EP and EP-O should be limited to no more than 10%.
- The current triggers for calling additional on-peak hours should be retained.
- Weekends and holidays should be designated as off-peak hours under EP-O.

Cook Exceptions

- Santee Cooper should explore ways to mitigate the impact of Cook Exception cost recovery on customers such as: (a) spreading recovery of the costs over a long term, such as 15 years or more; (b) delaying and/or phasing in cost recovery; and/or (c) securitization.
- The EP-O and Interruptible rates (not just EP-pricing) should be exempt from Cook Exception cost recovery since customers on these rates were subject to incremental pricing during high priced hours, and therefore rates to these customers were not frozen.
- A crediting mechanism should be developed for customers that were subject to non-frozen rates during the rate freeze but are no longer on such rates to the same extent.

- Approval of the DCR at this time is premature. However, if the DCR mechanism is approved in this rate review, the Cook Exception costs should not be recovered purely on an energy basis (per kWh). Instead, at least 50% of such costs should be allocated and recovered based on demand.

Fuel Adjustment Clause

- Renewable PPA costs should be recovered through base rates instead of through the FAC, or should be recovered through a separate component of the FAC or other rider that allocates and recovers such costs based on demand.
- At a minimum, a reasonable demand/energy split (for example, 50/50) for renewable PPA costs should be adopted.
- Gypsum costs should be allocated and recovered through base rates, preferably on the basis of demand, rather than through the FAC.
- Further consideration should be given to adopting a time-of-use FAC.

Clean/Green Power Options

- A portfolio of additional cost-effective clean, green, and sustainable power supply options should be explored, developed and offered by Santee Cooper.

Santee Cooper Response to Nucor Comments

September 27, 2024

Dear Mr. Lavanga:

Thank you for your comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment on behalf of Nucor. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a meeting to receive management's final recommendations November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment is recommended take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper appreciates Nucor's input and would like to respond to the recommendations provided in the document "Nucor Rate Review Comments" submitted September 13, 2024:

"Interruptible Rate

The Interruptible credit incorporated into the Interruptible rate should be increased further to reflect additional system benefits such as avoided reserves, avoided incremental energy costs, and avoided transmission costs."

Interruptible Load is very important to Santee Cooper and we aim to offer fair compensation to customers taking service under the Interruptible rider. As part of this Rate Study, Santee Cooper has increased the value of the Interruptible Credit from \$8.95 per kilowatt to \$10.64 per kilowatt, resulting in an overall projected revenue increase of less than one percent in 2025 from Interruptible load.

Santee Cooper has valued Interruptible service based on the avoided cost for an incremental simple cycle combustion turbine generation unit. Consistent with prior practice, Santee Cooper has not included avoided reserve capacity in the value of the Interruptible credit. Santee Cooper believes this is a reasonable approach.

Avoided incremental energy costs resulting from physical and economic curtailments reduces the system average fuel cost for all customers, including Interruptible customers.

Finally, Santee Cooper does not think that transmission related capacity costs should be included in the avoided cost calculation as Nucor has suggested. The transmission system is designed to serve the peak load, without reduction for the interruptible service load. Therefore, the interruptible demand rate should reflect the appropriate contribution to recover transmission system capacity

costs. Notwithstanding, Santee Cooper typically does not curtail interruptible load due to transmission constraints, although it has and reserves the right to do so. The avoided capital cost estimate does include an allowance for the cost of the incremental step-up transmission facilities.

“The same DSC should be applied to firm and Interruptible customers (i.e., revenues from Interruptible sales, like other Non-Class sales, should also be credited to Interruptible customers).”

Santee Cooper understands Nucor’s continued opposition to the modification made to the Demand Sales Credit (DSC) as part of the 2012 rate study that does not give credit to Interruptible sales to the Interruptible customers through the DSC. Per our response to Nucor’s comments in 2012 and as part of the 2015 rate study, the change was intended to match cost causation and cost recovery in a just and reasonable manner. The exclusion of Interruptible sales from that portion of the DSC better aligns that portion of non-class revenues with Interruptible customers’ contribution to the fixed cost recovery in their proposed demand rate. It should be noted that Interruptible sales do receive credit through the remaining elements of the DSC, which include off-system and EP sales.

“The demand ratchet in the Interruptible rate should be reduced from 80% to no higher than 50%.”

Santee Cooper’s rates are designed to encourage customers to utilize the system in an efficient manner and to encourage off-peak usage. The primary pricing encouragement used by Santee Cooper to accomplish this load profile are firm and interruptible demand rates that are based on monthly on-peak usage. The difference between a customer’s on-peak usage and their contract demand, which is the starting point for off-peak demand-equivalent billing, is billed at average system energy cost with no associated demand charges. For this reason, the firm and interruptible ratchets not only serve as a method to ensure large customers do not vary their load significantly but also as the only limiting factor towards usage with no associated demand charges. At this time Santee Cooper thinks the 20% maximum allowable “unbilled demand” is an appropriate amount to encourage efficient use of the system while maintaining our financial integrity.

“Economy Power

The increase to the reservation charges for EP and EP-O should be limited to no more than 10%.”

Santee Cooper weighs the impact of cost recovery across all classes and customers. Economy Power and Economy Power Optional are optional non-firm rates and just two of several options for Industrial customers.

“The current triggers for calling additional on-peak hours should be retained”

Santee Cooper believes that tying the trigger for additional on-peak hours to energy prices rather than load allows EP-O pricing to more closely reflect the costs Santee Cooper incurs to serve the load and ensures embedded cost customers are not subsidizing EP-O customers during high-cost periods.

“Weekends and holidays should be designated as off-peak hours under EP-O.”

Nucor’s position on this topic is noted.

“Cook Exceptions

Santee Cooper should explore ways to mitigate the impact of Cook Exception cost recovery on customers such as: (a) spreading recovery of the costs over a long term, such as 15 years or more; (b) delaying and/or phasing in cost recovery; and/or (c) securitization.”

Nucor’s position on this topic is noted.

“The EP-O and Interruptible rates (not just EP-pricing) should be exempt from Cook Exception cost recovery since customers on these rates were subject to incremental pricing during high priced hours, and therefore rates to these customers were not frozen.”

The proposed DCR-25 Rider does not apply to the L-25-EP tariff and only applies to the off-peak hours of the L-25-EP-O tariff.

“A crediting mechanism should be developed for customers that were subject to nonfrozen rates during the rate freeze but are no longer on such rates to the same extent.”

Nucor’s position on this topic is noted.

“Approval of the DCR at this time is premature. However, if the DCR mechanism is approved in this rate review, the Cook Exception costs should not be recovered purely on an energy basis (per kWh). Instead, at least 50% of such costs should be allocated and recovered based on demand.”

Nucor’s position on this topic is noted.

“Fuel Adjustment Clause

Renewable PPA costs should be recovered through base rates instead of through the FAC, or should be recovered through a separate component of the FAC or other rider that allocates and recovers such costs based on demand.”

The FAC-25 includes energy charges associated with third-party owned solar and/or wind resources because these energy purchases offset fuel and market purchases that Santee Cooper would otherwise make.

“At a minimum, a reasonable demand/energy split (for example, 50/50) for renewable PPA costs should be adopted.”

The FAC-25 excludes designated capacity or demand charges associated with solar and/or wind purchases.

“Gypsum costs should be allocated and recovered through base rates, preferably on the basis of demand, rather than through the FAC.”

Santee Cooper considers and accounts for gypsum costs as fuel costs.

“Further consideration should be given to adopting a time-of-use FAC.”

Nucor’s position on this topic is noted.

“Clean/Green Power Options

A portfolio of additional cost-effective clean, green, and sustainable power supply options should be explored, developed and offered by Santee Cooper.”

Nucor’s position on this topic is noted.

Santee Cooper remains committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM OTHER ENTITIES

Submitter Information

First Name:	Charmaine	Last Name:	Fuller
Organization:	AARP South Carolina		
City:	Columbia	Customer Type:	Other
State / Zip:	SC	29201	

SC Reference # : SC0000000247

Date Submitted:	7/15/2024	Origin:	email
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Comment:

PDF attached



July 15, 2024

Santee Cooper Rates Public Comments (M301)
Post Office Box 2946101
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
By email to rates@santeecooper.com

COMMENTS OF AARP SOUTH CAROLINA ON RATE PROPOSAL

AARP South Carolina submits these comments regarding the proposed residential rate design on behalf of its members served by Santee Cooper's retail operations. AARP has over 600,000 members statewide and 75,740 members - age fifty and above - in Horry County, your largest service county. AARP South Carolina has long engaged in consumer protection advocacy regarding utility policy, utility rates and rate designs at the South Carolina General Assembly and the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

AARP South Carolina opposes the proposal to move all residential customers to a new three-part tariff which includes a demand charge or, in the alternative, a mandatory time-of-use rate. Santee Cooper should allow all residential customers to remain on the current two-part rate which allows customers to voluntarily move to other options if they so wish.

The argument for demand charges is that they incentivize customers to change their behaviors in ways that reduce demand during peaks. The ability to change those behaviors, however, varies by economic status and life circumstances. Worse, customers likely won't know when their peak demand is so there is little ability to respond.

Additionally, Santee Cooper's 'My Energy app' does not appear to provide granular, real-time, and actionable data that would allow a customer to know that they were near or hitting their monthly usage peak. Customers would only know the following month when they receive a surprisingly large bill and would not know exactly when they incurred such a charge.

Furthermore, a demand charge could lead to much higher costs for customers who have limited options for moving their demand to off-peak times with no benefit to the utility. This

includes those who cannot afford to invest in new time-controllable appliances and updated equipment for heating and air conditioning as well as water heaters.

Encouraging customers to raise their thermostats in the summer, to lower them in the winter or to change the time to run clothes dryers does not address the concurrent cycling of air conditioning, water heating and refrigeration that might drive the monthly peak. Even a higher thermostat will trigger frequent air conditioner cycling on a hot, South Carolina summer day when many older adults are already suffering from the heat and afraid to use their air conditioning.

Worse, demand charges are not widely used for residential customers for the reasons noted above.

Allowing customers to switch to a time of use rate to escape the new demand charge rate is also problematic. **AARP opposes mandatory time of use rates.**

Santee Cooper has a long and proud history of high levels of customer satisfaction. Demand rates - with a mandatory time of use alternative - are likely to undermine that satisfaction by adding a new surprise monthly charge for the customer's highest peak demand use. Such a charge is confusing and makes it hard for customers to plan and respond.

Customers who cannot track or control their energy use could face dramatically higher energy bills. Such surprise charges are unfair to customers, do little to change energy consumption and are unreasonable.

We urge Santee Cooper to continue with the two-part rate structure and offer demand rates and time of use rates only as options for customers that want them. We favor the current rate design - volumetric rate with a monthly customer charge.

Santee Cooper has not demonstrated that a radical and unnecessary overhaul of its residential rate structure is even necessary or beneficial to the utility. Now is not the time to impose a confusing and unnecessary change when older adults are already suffering.

Sincerely,



Charmaine S. Fuller Cooper, State Director
AARP South Carolina

- c Cassandra Addison, AARP SC - State President
- Patrick Cobb, AARP SC – Senior Associate State Director for Federal Advocacy
- John Ruoff, AARP SC – Utilities Volunteer Liaison

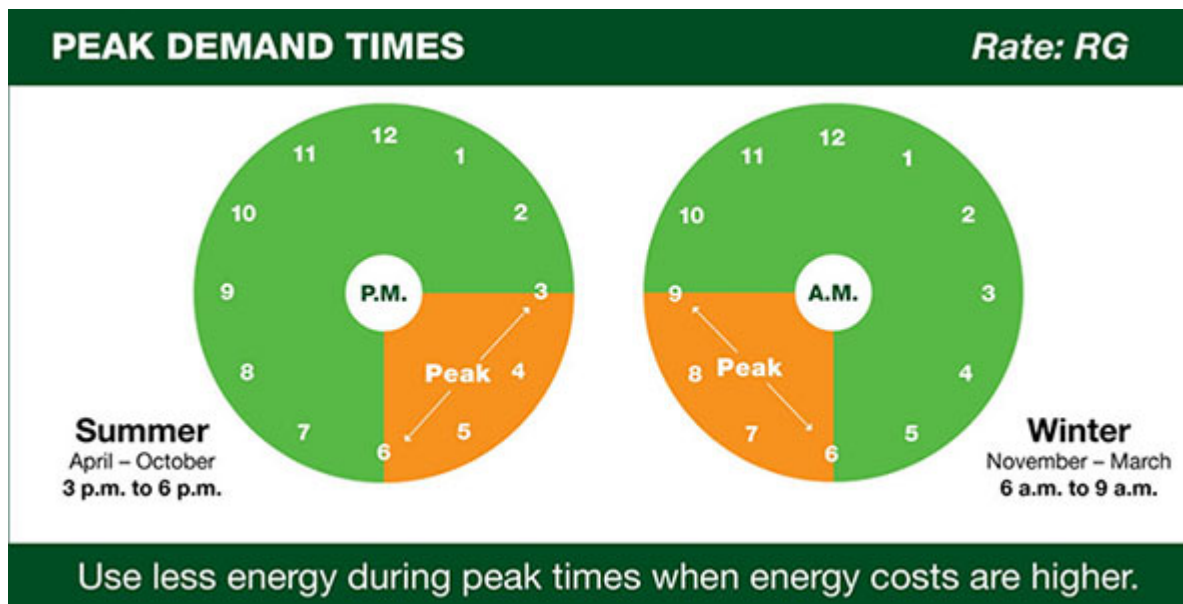
Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Dear Ms. Fuller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors. The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a final public hearing November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment would take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper, like several other utilities in South Carolina, has proposed a three-part residential rate that will give customers the power to dramatically lower their bills by adjusting when they use high-energy appliances, such as clothes dryers or water heaters. The rate does this by lowering energy charges by about 40% and moving some of those costs to a new peak demand charge. Your demand charge will be based on your energy usage during a consistent three-hour window (peak period) and specifically, the hour within that window reflecting your highest energy usage over the month. Our planned summer and winter peak periods are shown here:



By consistently shifting some of their usage from peak periods to the 21 other hours of the day, residential customers will have a lower demand charge and lower bill. In fact, by shifting the usage of just one or two major appliances outside of peak periods most customers could lower their monthly bill amount while using the same amount of electricity. Please go to www.santecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential for more details.

We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help you become more energy efficient by building habits that will save you money and save energy for the long term. Learn more about our energy-saving programs at www.EmpowerSC.com.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Comments of Vote Solar on Santee Cooper's Proposed 2025 Rate Increase

August 30, 2024

Dear Santee Cooper,

Vote Solar is a member-based 501(c)(3) whose mission is to realize a 100% clean energy future through a solutions-driven, people-first approach. Vote Solar has a long history of advocating for pragmatic regulatory solutions and rate designs across the country and in South Carolina. On behalf of our member customers of Santee Cooper, Vote Solar respectfully submits the following comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed 2025 rate increase.

We applaud Santee Cooper's vision outlined in its General Rate Design Criteria section. Rate design is a complex endeavor, we agree that ensuring rates are understandable, avoid undue price fluctuation, and encourage efficiency, among the other stated goals, are admirable goals. We further applaud Santee Cooper for removing the system cap from its Distributed Generation (DG) Rider. In the context of the increasing load forecasts and peak demand, rising temperatures, and extreme weather events, now is an important time to align price signals with system needs.

However, Vote Solar has serious concerns with several of Santee Cooper's proposals. In particular, we find that the proposed mandatory residential demand charge is inappropriate and goes against the ratemaking principle of being understandable and equitable. The proposed changes to the Distributed Generation rider are ill designed, do not compensate DG customers for the value they provide to the grid, and will result in less DG development in a time of energy needs. If Santee Cooper's goals with these changes are to reduce peak demand, there are better ways to do so while providing stability to customers.

Summary of Recommendations:

1. Do not require mandatory demand charges for residential customers in the proposed RG-25 General Service Residential Rate.
 - a. If Santee Cooper desires to create a residential demand charge, Vote Solar recommends making the residential demand charge rate optional.
 - b. If Santee Cooper does decide to impose mandatory demand charges in its residential general service rate, Vote Solar recommends that Santee Cooper create a glide path to implement the demand charge rate in two years while providing a calculator and bill insert about demand charges to prepare customers for the change.
2. Regarding the proposed residential time of use rate RT-25 – designate holiday and weekend hours as off-peak and create an off-peak period for the shoulder seasons of April, March, October, and November.
3. Make the following changes to the proposed Distributed Generation Rider DG-25:
 - a. Allow customers participating in rider DG-25 to take service under RT-25.

- b. Establish monthly netting, and net customer imports and exports within TOU periods.
 - c. Align distributed generation export compensation rates with the higher value of exports during peak periods. Vote Solar recommends avoiding placing demand charges on DG customers. If Santee Cooper accepts recommendation 3a, Vote Solar recommends maintaining a consistent ratio of the value of grid imports to solar exports during peak and off peak periods, which equates to a peak export compensation rate of \$0.19/kWh.
4. Vote Solar recommends the creation of a Distributed Power Plant rider to compensate customers to operate behind the meter storage to reduce peak demand. We provide a model DPP tariff.
5. Provide analysis and the underlying data that support the following elements of Santee Cooper's proposed rates:
- a. The creation of the time of use windows, including the marginal cost of capacity and energy.
 - b. The determination of the \$0.0415/kWh export rate for solar customers under proposed rider DG-25.

Detailed Recommendations:

1. Do not require mandatory demand charges for residential customers in the proposed RG-25 General Service Residential Rate.

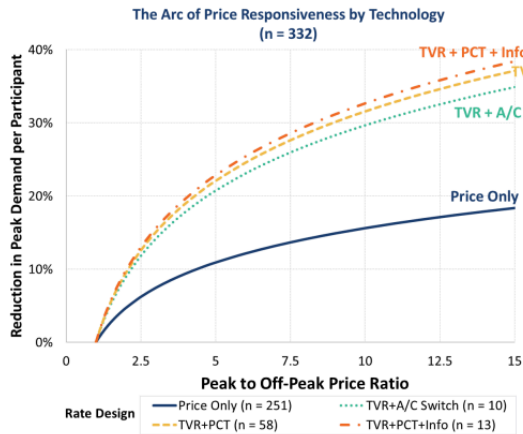
First, demand charges are difficult for residential customers to respond to. The average residential customer is unfamiliar with the concept of "peak demand" and does not know how much demand their home is using or has historically used. Importantly, for most customers, the main source of information about their energy use has been their utility bill, which has never distinguished energy from demand. Requiring customers to manage their bill based on a concept they have no history with and potentially no way of observing is unjust and unreasonable.

Second, if the goal is to reduce residential customer peak demand, there are better ways to do so. Rate design is a stick. In this case, it attempts to create a higher financial cost to customers if they behave in a certain way. Residential customers need significantly more tools and information to be able to manage their peak demand under any demand charge. A Brattle Group study of the results from 397 time of use rates across the world importantly found that providing a technological and/or programmatic method to respond to a price signal is over twice as effective at reducing peak as providing the price signal alone¹. Enacting a rate design change by itself does not guarantee corresponding behavioral changes to reduce peak demand. Providing a stick but no means of responding to or avoiding the stick is an incomplete solution.

1

<https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Do-Customers-Respond-to-Time-Varying-Rates-A-Preview-of-Arcturus-3.0.pdf>

Pairing TVR with programmable communicating thermostats (PCT) and information treatments more than doubles the TVR impacts for a given P/OP ratio



We observe four types of additional treatments paired with TVRs:

- Programmable communicating thermostats (PCT)
- Direct load control or A/C switches
- Information feedback
- PCT and information feedback

TVR+PCT, TVR+PCT+Info, and TVR+A/C Switch program impacts are significantly different from those of the price only programs

TVR+Info is not statistically different from price only

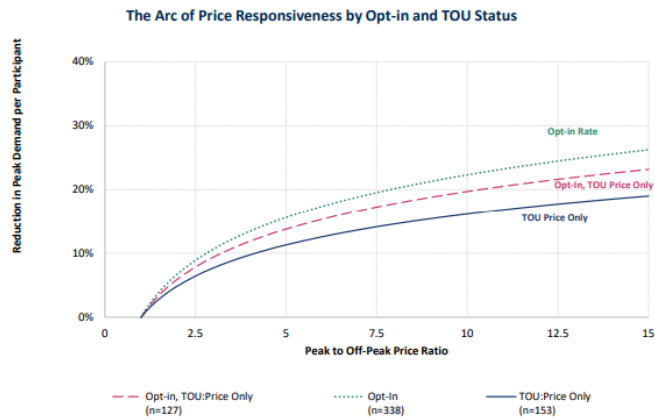
TVR+PCT, TVR+PCT+Info, TVR+A/C Switch are not statistically significant from each other

Notes: A/C Switch includes Energy Orb, A/C switch, and any load control devices. PCT refers to programmable communicating thermostat or smart thermostat. PCT + Info includes all programmable communicating thermostat with in-home display (IHD).

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1a. If Santee Cooper desires to create a residential demand charge, Vote Solar recommends making the residential demand charge rate optional. Santee Cooper should prioritize activating engaged customers to reduce their peak demand rather than requiring all customers to become engaged in their energy use. The subgroup of customers who are aware and interested in either managing their bill or reducing their energy use are likely to drive the majority of peak savings from a demand charge. On the other hand, most customers are likely either unable or unwilling to reduce their peak demand accordingly and will be hit with a significant increase from a demand charge. This is supported by the aforementioned Brattle study of 397 time of use rates that found that customers that opt-in produce 20% greater peak demand savings than customers who are forced into a demand charge. Therefore, Santee Cooper can still reduce peak demand by activating engaged customers and avoid rate shock to the average customer by making the demand charge opt-in.

The impact of TOU rates, when deployed in opt-in mode, is 20% more than the average TOU only impact from Arcturus



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1b. If Santee Cooper does decide to impose demand charges in its residential general service rate, Vote Solar recommends that Santee Cooper create a glide path to implement the demand charge rate in two years while providing a calculator and bill insert about demand charges to prepare customers for the change. Creating a glide path can lessen the rate shock that would inevitably occur from a sudden shift to mandatory demand charges. While on the glide path, Santee Cooper can build customer awareness of demand charges by adding a bill insert explaining what a demand charge is, when they will be implemented, information on the customer's current peak demand, and what the customer's bill would be under a demand charge. For example, some utilities have provided "shadow billing" for a year that allows a customer to see whether they would come out ahead on a new, optional rate. Santee Cooper should also create an online calculator where customers can enter their account information and receive detailed, account specific information about historic peak use and the implications of a demand charge for their account.

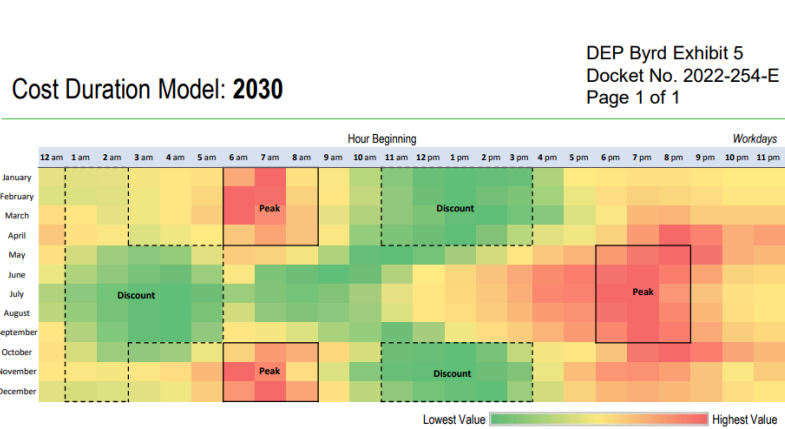
1c. Further, any demand charge should exclude weekends and holidays from the peak demand hours. This is the standard practice for residential time varying residential rates in South Carolina and across the country due to the fact that residential customer load varies significantly from normal weekdays and are less peaky.

2. Regarding the proposed residential time of use rate RT-25 – designate holiday and weekend hours as off-peak and create an off-peak period for the shoulder seasons of April, March, October, and November.

Designating weekends and holidays as off peak is the standard practice for residential time varying residential rates in South Carolina and across the country due to the fact that residential customer load varies significantly from normal weekdays and are less peaky.

Further, Santee Cooper has only designated summer and winter periods in RT-25. Vote Solar believes that Santee Cooper should designate shoulder months as off peak. Santee Cooper designates April and October as summer and November and March as winter. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration², average high temperatures in Myrtle Beach in April are 72 degrees and in October are 76 degrees while the average high temperature of the other summer months range in the mid to high 80s. December to February average lows are in the mid to high 30's, while the average low temperatures for November and March are in the mid 40's. As such, it is inappropriate to designate April and October as summer and November and March as winter; these months should be considered an off peak shoulder season.

Finally, as referenced in recommendation 5a, it is impossible for any entity other than Santee Cooper to assess the reasonableness of the proposed time of use windows and seasonal designations as Santee Cooper has not published any form of supporting documentation. Normally, a utility will develop a historical and future forecast analysis of marginal energy costs for representative hours of each month of the year. This may be visualized as a heat map, as done in the most recent Duke Energy Progress rate case³. Currently, stakeholders have no such information to review that justifies Santee Cooper's TOU and peak window proposal.



- Proposed peak period suitable for summer at least through 2030, ensuring durability of proposed new TOU periods
- Mid-day costs in winter continue to drop in later years due to solar, but costs remain low for overnight discount period



3. Make the following changes to the proposed Distributed Generation Rider DG-25:

² <https://www.weather.gov/media/ilm/climate/CRErecordsNormals.pdf>

³ <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Attachments/Matter/55a22983-b442-44c9-80d3-619f14fb6176>

3a. Allow customers participating in rider DG-25 to take service under RT-25. Assuming that Santee Cooper created the time of use windows to reflect the marginal cost of energy in peak and off peak windows, then by definition, the price signals associated with the TOU windows in RT-25 provide sufficient incentive for customers to reduce their peak demand and would result in no cross subsidization. This is consistent with the structure of the approved Solar Choice Rate offerings of Santee Cooper's neighboring utilities Dominion and Duke.

3b. Establish monthly netting, and net customer imports and exports within TOU periods. Santee Cooper proposes to use an hourly netting for the proposed DG-25 rider. Many utility solar composition riders use monthly netting, including Dominion and Duke Energy's South Carolina utilities. Hourly netting is more challenging for customers to understand and respond to compared to monthly netting with TOU periods. In an hourly netting system, customers must closely align their electricity generation and consumption each hour, which can be challenging without the ability to measure hourly energy use. This complexity can lead to reduced financial benefits and greater confusion. On the other hand, monthly netting within TOU periods simplifies billing by allowing customers to understand and optimize their energy use over longer periods while still reflecting the value of electricity during peak and off-peak times. This approach can lead to higher overall savings and encourage the adoption of solar energy systems, as it offers a more user-friendly and predictable way to manage energy bills.

3c. Align distributed generation export compensation rates with the higher value of exports during peak periods. The very concept of peak periods indicates that there are periods in which the system is more constrained and in which it is more expensive to deliver energy to customers. As such, exports during peak periods should be valued higher than off-peak exports because they provide energy during these constrained periods.

Under the current proposal, it is likely that DG customers will be harmed if they take service under the proposed RG-25. While there is uncertainty how such customers would be treated, it is possible that a DG customer could net export 250 kWhs at a rate of \$0.0415/kWh during a month's peak demand period, yet be charged \$10.00/kWh for a single kWh and wipe out the customer's potential savings. Such a practice is obviously inappropriate and would discourage solar adoption in a period of high load growth. Vote Solar recommends avoiding placing demand charges on DG customers and instead providing a fair TOU energy rate with a reasonable compensation for customer exports during peak TOU periods

If Santee Cooper accepts recommendation 3a, DG customers that use RT-25 will pay \$0.3139/kWh during peak periods but be compensated at \$0.0415/kWh, or 13% of the value of imports, for exports in the same period. During off peak periods, the export value of DG is 60% of imports. Vote Solar recommends adjusting the value of exports

during peak periods to 60% of the value of on peak imports, which equates to an export compensation rate of \$0.19/kWh.

4. In order to provide a complementary pathway for peak demand reduction with greater certainty of customer action, Vote Solar recommends the creation of a Distributed Power Plant rider to compensate customers to operate behind the meter storage to reduce peak demand. A DPP rider would correspond to the operations of a customer's battery storage system while DG-25 would correspond to the performance of a solar system. As such a DPP rider can be used in combination with the DG-25 rider.

A DPP rider can be designed to compensate customer-owners of battery storage to dispatch their system in a manner that yields peak demand savings. Such programs generally require customers to allow the utility or a 3rd party aggregator to remotely dispatch their batteries under certain conditions. As such, this method would provide significantly more certainty and control over peak demand reductions compared to an unknown behavioral response to TOU tariffs. There are currently nearly 4 million utility customers enrolled in similar programs across the country⁴.

A national nonprofit, Solar United Neighbors, recently published a model DPP Tariff⁵. Vote Solar encourages Santee Cooper to use this model as a launching point to design its own tariff with stakeholder input.

5. Provide analysis and the underlying data that support the following elements of Santee Cooper's proposed rates:

5a. Santee Cooper should provide the analysis and underlying data that informed the creation of the time of use windows, including the marginal cost of capacity and energy.

5b. Santee Cooper should provide the analysis and underlying data that informed the determination of the \$0.0415/kWh export rate for solar customers under proposed rider DG-25. Santee Cooper should specify what cost-benefit analysis framework it used and provide the calculations for each category of cost and benefit.

Sincerely,

Jake Duncan
Southeast Regulatory Director
Vote Solar

On behalf of Vote Solar's member customers of Santee Cooper:
Emily S. Doscher
Ian Childress

⁴ https://rmi.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2024/06/VP3_flipbook_v1.1.pdf

⁵ https://solarunitedneighbors.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/SUN_Model-DPP-Tariff_v1-June-2024.pdf

Santee Cooper Response to Vote Solar Comments

September 27, 2024

Dear Ms. Doscher, Mr. Childress, and Mr. Duncan:

Thank you for your comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment submitted by Ms. Doscher and Mr. Childress on behalf of Vote Solar. All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a meeting to receive management's final recommendations on November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment is proposed to take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper appreciates Vote Solar's input and would like to respond to the recommendations provided in the document "Vote Solar_Santee Cooper rate increase comments" submitted September 13, 2024:

"Do not require mandatory demand charges for residential customers in the proposed RG-25 General Service Residential Rate."

Vote Solar's position on this topic is noted.

"If Santee Cooper desires to create a residential demand charge, Vote Solar recommends making the residential demand charge rate optional."

Vote Solar's position on this topic is noted.

"If Santee Cooper does decide to impose mandatory demand charges in its residential general service rate, Vote Solar recommends that Santee Cooper create a glide path to implement the demand charge rate in two years while providing a calculator and bill insert about demand charges to prepare customers for the change."

Vote Solar's position on this topic is noted. Santee Cooper created a bill calculator for residential customers to evaluate their impact, which is available at:

<https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/rates-comparison/>

Santee Cooper will provide bill inserts explaining the changes in the proposed RG-25 rate should the rates be approved by the Board.

“Regarding the proposed residential time of use rate RT-25 – designate holiday and weekend hours as off-peak and create an off-peak period for the shoulder seasons of April, March, October, and November.”

Vote Solar’s position on this topic is noted.

“Make the following changes to the proposed Distributed Generation Rider DG-25:

Allow customers participating in rider DG-25 to take service under RT-25.”

The \$10.00 incremental residential customer charge in the proposed DG-25 rider was developed based on the RG-25 demand based rate. The RT-25 time of use rate would require the development of a separate standby charge.

“Establish monthly netting, and net customer imports and exports within TOU periods.”

Santee Cooper believes that hourly netting more closely reflects the actual costs and system benefits that solar provides.

“Align distributed generation export compensation rates with the higher value of exports during peak periods. Vote Solar recommends avoiding placing demand charges on DG customers. If Santee Cooper accepts recommendation 3a, Vote Solar recommends maintaining a consistent ratio of the value of grid imports to solar exports during peak and off peak periods, which equates to a peak export compensation rate of \$0.19/kWh.”

Excess energy is credited at Santee Cooper’s projected avoided cost.

“Vote Solar recommends the creation of a Distributed Power Plant rider to compensate customers to operate behind the meter storage to reduce peak demand. We provide a model DPP tariff.”

Vote Solar’s position on this topic is noted.

“Provide analysis and the underlying data that support the following elements of Santee Cooper’s proposed rates:

The creation of the time of use windows, including the marginal cost of capacity and energy”

The requested information is confidential and proprietary. South Carolina Code Ann. Section 58-31-730(B)(4)(b) does not require the disclosure of confidential or proprietary information to customers as part of the retail rate adjustment process.

“The determination of the \$0.0415/kWh export rate for solar customers under proposed rider DG-25.”

The proposed 2025 energy credit of \$0.0415/kWh was developed based on Santee Cooper’s projected hourly marginal cost of energy for 2025 weighted by the hourly load profile of solar generation.

The specific workpapers used to calculate the credit are confidential and proprietary. South Carolina Code Ann. Section 58-31-730(B)(4)(b) does not require the disclosure of confidential or proprietary information to customers as part of the retail rate adjustment process.

Santee Cooper remains committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help them become more energy efficient by building habits that will save them money and save energy for the long term.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria N. Budreau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Rick	Last Name:	Baumann
Organization:	Nance's Shellfish Company		
City:	Murrells Inlet	Customer Type:	Commercial
State / Zip:	SC	29576	

SC Reference # : SC000000756

Date Submitted:	9/13/2024	Origin:	web
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Comment:

Please see the attached file.

**Initial Comments of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and South Carolina Small
Business Chamber of Commerce
regarding the
Proposed Santee Cooper 2025 Rate Increase**

Sept. 13, 2024

Dear Santee Cooper and Santee Cooper Board Members:

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) and the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce (SCSBCC), through their member customers of Santee Cooper, hereby submit these comments regarding your proposed 2024 rate increase for your consideration.

1. Transparency: Santee Cooper should give customers a full picture of total near-term rate and revenue increases.

a. Fuel adjustment

We believe that Santee Cooper should give ratepayers and the public a full picture of its expected near-term rate and revenue increases. Santee Cooper's rate documents describe two charges that will be imposed in addition to its general rate increase: a fuel adjustment and a Cook exceptions rider.

Regarding the fuel adjustment, Santee Cooper notes that “[p]rojections based on the 2024 Budget indicate that Santee Cooper's retail customers could experience a price increase of approximately 7% from fuel costs alone in 2025; however, fuel commodity prices have moderated and the price increase may be lower.”¹ Santee Cooper's 7% fuel cost estimate appears to date from December 2023, and is not further described in the rate case study that has been provided to the public.

On July 24, Rick Baumann, Santee Cooper a commercial customer (Nance's Shellfish Company) who serves on the SCSBCC Board of Directors, asked Santee Cooper “What is Santee Cooper's current projection of the amount of the fuel cost rate increase that will take effect in January 2025?” (emphasis added). In response, Santee Cooper referred us to the “Projected Prop Fuel Adj Factor” worksheet of its Cost of Service Study (COSS) Appendix C. It appears that the provided worksheet did not include a tab labeled “Projected Prop Fuel Adj Factor.” Further, presumably any estimate included on a document prepared for this rate proposal would date back to its announcement. Santee Cooper's response thus did not answer the question of what its current projection of fuel cost increases will be.

Taking into account the estimate within Santee Cooper's COSS, residential customers could soon experience an 8.7% base rate increase plus a 7% increase due to increased fuel charges, for a total increase approaching 16%. We believe that Santee Cooper should make available as soon

¹ <https://www.santeecooper.com/Rates/Rate-Study/pdfs/Supplement-Santee-Cooper-2024-Rate-Adjustment-Request-05.24.2024.pdf> (“Supplement”), at page 5.

as possible its estimate of the size and timing of this potential fuel rate increase, including a transparent calculation of how it calculates the estimate.

b. Cook rider.

Similarly, Santee Cooper states that “[e]stimates of how the Cook Settlement rate freeze exceptions will be recovered from customers are unavailable at this time and collection-related revenues are not included in the 2025 projections.”² This rider apparently would be added to the 16% rate increase above. We believe that the public should be given notice and time to understand the timing and size of any Cook Settlement rider, including a transparent calculation of how it is derived, before the new base rate increase is locked in.

c. Revenue increases.

We believe that retail customers also should be allowed to see and understand the overall revenue increase picture. For instance, are Santee Cooper wholesale customers paying a similar increase in rates and revenues from 2024 to 2025, comparing actual rates and revenues prior to the proposed rate increase, and projected rates and revenues after the rate increase?

Again, Mr. Bauman noted that “while Santee Cooper estimates that it needs a 4.9% increase in retail revenue requirement for 2025 (COSS at 2), its projections indicate that, under the required rate increase, annual revenue will increase by almost 17% from 2024 to 2025 (Supplement at 14). Mr. Bauman asked Santee Cooper “why, specifically, is the revenue requirement increase so much larger than the 4.9% requested rate increase?” Santee Cooper’s response was that

the revenue requirement increases are system level expenses across all customers, including off-system and wholesale customers. The revenue requirement increase is also impacted by projected year over year load growth.

Respectfully, this response does not answer the question that was asked. Customers who are being told there will be a 4.9% increase but notice that revenues will rise 17% should be given a detailed, reasonable, component-by-component explanation of exactly what contributes to the revenue increase.

We also note that the proposed capital expenditures that appear to drive the rate increase have been described only in the most general terms, thereby not allowing any examination of their validity, reasonableness, or impact on Santee Cooper operations. Santee Cooper’s COSS explains that

Major factors driving the need for rate revisions and for this Study include:

A significant increase in Authority’s costs due to compliance with environmental regulations, increased transmission operations and maintenance expenses stemming from regional system constraints, and inflation . . .

² *Id.*

It appears that the reasonable cost of each of these major factors driving the need for rate revisions are not detailed and specified in the COSS, in the supplement to the COSS, or in Appendix C. For instance, these documents do not list the projects that form the basis for transmission cost increases during the test year compared to the prior year, or explain why the test year transmission costs, without adjustment, are a valid basis to establish rates that likely will persist well beyond the test year. Also, for instance, the Company's Integrated Resource Plan includes over \$400 million in transmission costs associated with the retirement of the Winyah Generating Station. Does the requested revenue requirement in any way address these transmission costs, or have they been excluded? Similarly, the exact cost and nature of environmental upgrades is not listed in a manner that would enable verification that these costs merit the requested annualized rate increase.

Further, regarding transparency, we note that ORS has recently commented on Santee Cooper's rate proposal. On page 31 of the ORS comments, ORS states that:

Santee Cooper applied a "test year adjustment" to the proposed rates to account for the proposed rates effective April 2025 (i.e., applied to the March bills onwards). This type of adjustment has not been seen by ORS while reviewing IOUs during rate proceedings."

Much of the remainder of the page is redacted, apparently due to Santee Cooper (not ORS) requesting that information about its test year adjustment be kept confidential. Santee Cooper similarly redacts information about a "manual adjustment" to different rate classes to reallocate portions of demand costs [emphasis added].

We believe that Santee Cooper must be required to be entirely transparent about the method in which it calculates proposed rate increases. The General Assembly has provided that the public must be given notice and be afforded an opportunity to comment on Santee Cooper's rate proposal. We do not believe that hidden rate methodologies constitute "notice" or that they reasonably allow the public to comment on those aspects of the rate proposal.

More particularly, in this regard, Santee Cooper's adjustment of revenues may affect the calculation of the overall amount of revenue that will be collected from the residential, small business, or other rate classes. For instance, on Appendix C page 001-001465, Santee Cooper projects the future revenues for the residential class based upon two months of old rates (January, February) and ten months of new rates (March through December). It appears that these revenues total to equal Santee Cooper's reported 8.7% rate increase for the residential class. This calculation thus appears not to include the revenue that would be collected in January and February under new rates. We note that January is the month with the highest residential billing determinants in terms of both kW billing demand and kWh sales. Absent a clear explanation of the hidden revenue adjustment described above, it appears that Santee Cooper is under-representing the amount of the residential rate increase.

A similar issue affects revenue projections for the small business class, and we further note that the first month of small business rate schedule GA billing appears to represent an 81% increase

in monthly revenue, in part due to projected demand charges in March significantly exceeding demand in any other month, according to Appendix C, page 001-001466. According to this page, the small business class would pay \$3.7 million to Santee Cooper for February, but then would be billed \$6.8 million in March—normally a mild Spring month. This outcome may be a side-effect of Santee Cooper’s unexplained billing adjustment, or perhaps a demonstration of the wide-ranging billing results that small business customers will experience under a \$17-per-kW, ½-hour demand charge. We merely note that such a large increase in billing for the small business class in the first month of new rates will cause rate shock.

2. Fairness: Santee Cooper should implement TOU rates in a manner that is just and reasonable for all customer classes.

Santee Cooper’s proposed default residential rate would for the first time impose an approximately \$10 per kW demand charge on residential customers during defined TOU periods. Alternatively, residential customers could opt into a TOU energy rate, but the demand charge rate is the basis of revenue calculations in the COSS.

Small business customers in the SGS rate class would for the first time be subject to an approximately \$17 per kW demand charge. It appears that the SGS rate customers would not have an alternative non-demand charge rate.

While we acknowledge the validity in concept of TOU rates that are reasonably designed to send a price signal to customers to shift the timing of energy usage in order to reduce overall system costs, we oppose Santee Cooper’s residential and small commercial demand charge proposal as currently written.

We first note that, unlike smaller customers, larger customers would be allowed to choose TOU service and that, unlike the rates proposed for residential and small commercial customers, the rates for larger customers focus on peak seasons and allow them to gain off-peak cost savings by shifting usage to weekends or non-peak months. Only the small customers newly experiencing demand charges would be required to pay them in all seasons on all days—even during months and days that are unlikely to experience system peaks. Further, the overall rate proposal is not logically consistent because it defines “peak” differently for different classes and rate schedules, and for energy charges and demand charges.

We recommend that TOU service to residential and small commercial customers should be provided in the form of energy charges, rather than demand charges, for the following reasons:³ Effectively, the demand charge approach could cost a residential customer over 150 times as much for the single highest kilowatt hour during the month as for all other kilowatt hours

³ In this regard, however, we note that the ORS review of Santee Cooper’s rate proposal seems to indicate that the Santee Cooper’s proposed residential TOU energy rates produce significantly higher bills than its residential demand charge proposal, with bill increases ranging from 12% to 15%. The COSS, however, does not provide an estimate of revenues that would be collected under the residential TOU energy rate. *Review of the Public Service Authority 2024 Request for Adjustment*, ORS, Sept. 6, 2024, at p. 42
(<file:///Users/eddy Moore/Downloads/ORS%20Comments.Santee%20Cooper%202024%20Request%20for%20Rate%20Adjustment.REDACTED.pdf>)

(\$10.71 per kilowatt hour for the single peak hour and less than 7 cents per kWh for every other kilowatt hour). Across the country, demand charges have rarely been imposed on residential customers because they send an ineffective and somewhat arbitrary price signal for the management of residential loads, which leads to unpredictable, unfair results for individual customers.

Consider three hypothetical customers: Customer number one hits a 10 kW peak hour on the first day of a billing period, incurring over \$100 of charges for this single hour. This could be true even if the first day were a Sunday in May, when it is extremely unlikely that the Santee Cooper system would be experiencing peak usage. For the remainder of the month, customer number one's peak does not exceed 7 kW.

Customer number two could hit a 9 kW hourly peak usage every day of the month, never attempting to save energy. The first customer will pay a higher demand charge even though it is likely that the second customer puts more overall strain on the electric grid.

Finally, customer three hits a monthly peak demand of 10 kW for every peak hour of a day or month will pay the same demand charge as a customer one who hits a 10 kW demand for only a single hour.

These examples show why using a one-hour or half-hour demand charge to send a TOU price signal produces arbitrary results that diverge from the purpose of helping customers manage demand in order to reduce system costs. For instance, any customer who has already hit a high hourly peak demand has less reason to manage demand for the rest of the month under the new rates than under Santee Cooper's current rates, because the new residential rates concentrate charges in a single hour and sharply reduce the remaining energy charges that reflect the total amount of energy used during the month.

Demand charges on small customers will produce widely different results for similarly-situated customers, with little corresponding benefit to ratepayers as a whole. For instance, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff indicates that typical 1,000 kWh residential customers could experience rate increases ranging between 0% and 36% due to differences in the size and timing of demand.⁴

Small business customers could see even sharper inconsistencies in resulting bills because the proposed demand charges are higher (\$17.08/kW) for them and are measured across a shorter, half-hour period. ORS estimates that some high-load-factor small business customers would see rate decreases while low-load-factor customers receive a 34% increase. For SGS customers generally, over half the monthly bill could easily be determined by a ½ hour of usage during the month.

The flip side of the high demand charges for a single hour or half-hour of the month are low per-unit charges for energy. This rate structure will send the mixed message that customers should

⁴ORS report at 44-45

(<file:///Users/eddy Moore/Downloads/ORS%20Comments.Santee%20Cooper%202024%20Request%20for%20Rate%20Adjustment.REDACTED.pdf>).

use more energy overall in most hours of the month. Customers will thus be encouraged to use more, but penalized if even a single on-peak hour during the month is not controlled—even if the hour occurs during a low-demand shoulder month or weekend.

These flaws in these price signals sent by small-customer demand charges are worsened by the fact that small customers generally do not understand which equipment or appliances are likely to cause short-term peaks in demand. For instance, customer hot water heaters, air conditioners, and refrigerators generally cycle on and off without customer input. The accidental coincidence of these three appliances during a single peak hour could form the majority of a customer's monthly bill, even if the customer is diligently moving clothes washing, dishwashing, or small business applications such as printing to off-peak periods in an attempt to save money.

Customers may spend time trying to manage numerous incidental loads, such as laptop charging and cooking, without understanding that HVAC and water heating are the biggest elements of demand. And customers should be rewarded for moving dishwashing and clothes washing to weekends, not charged the same amount.

Worse, many residential and small business customers have limited means to move major energy usage to off-peak periods and legitimate reasons for retaining peak usage. Elderly, fixed-income customers dependent on medical devices should not be penalized for using these devices or for cooling their homes on hot afternoons. Further, while air conditioning, heating, and water heat are the most likely drivers of monthly peaks, renters have little control over the efficiency of these core equipment types. Many small businesses customers fall in this category: they rent or lease spaces in which the major energy uses are driven by equipment owned by the lessor. These customers either should have an option for a traditional, seasonally-adjusted energy rate (or tiered energy rate) like the one that Santee Cooper currently offers, or a TOU energy rate that produces less arbitrary billing results associated with short periods of on-peak or off-peak usage.

We also note that, under a demand charge approach, a single day of warm weather in March or October could produce high customer bills similar to months with frequent peaks such as June or December. This is particularly true of small business customers who would be assessed on a half hour of energy usage. The resulting high bills will tend to confuse, rather than educate, customers regarding the true drivers of high energy usage or utility system costs.

Overall, for customers who do not understand and closely monitor energy usage during every hour of the year, the proposed demand charge is likely to operate more like a simple fixed charge. For reasons the residential customer will not likely understand, they will always receive a bill with a \$20 customer charge plus a demand charge that never falls below the peak usage of their air-conditioning or heating system. This means that over \$50 of the monthly bill will likely be fixed in every month, and remaining energy charges will offer little potential for significant cost savings.

The small business customer will receive an even higher bill for the same usage: under Santee Cooper's own example of 32 kW of demand, a single half hour of energy usage could result in over \$500 of charges, regardless of what happens during the rest of the month.

We note further that Santee Cooper already has the largest fixed charge of any major utility in South Carolina. Santee Cooper's fixed charge for residential customers is \$19.50, roughly double the Dominion \$9.50 fixed charge and Duke Progress \$11.78 fixed charge. Based on calculations from Santee Cooper's rate study Appendix C, fixed charges plus demand charges could account for 50% or more of residential revenue, leaving less than half of the bill within reasonable control of many residential customers.

3. Leveraging customer resources for effective load management.

An increasing number of residential customers are adopting solar energy—either with or without energy storage. While other South Carolina utilities offer these customers a TOU energy rate that provides significant compensation for supplying energy to the grid during peak periods, Santee Cooper's rate proposal retains its unique “hourly netting” approach for these customers.

Under Santee Cooper rates, during the 3PM-6PM summer afternoon peak period, when energy costs are high and the grid needs energy, Santee Cooper will charge customers very high prices for energy while compensating solar assistance at low rate that does not take peak value into account. While residential customers would pay 31 cents per kWh (under Santee Cooper's TOU energy rate) or even over \$10.00 per kWh for peak energy, a customer feeding the same amount of energy to the grid would be compensated less than 5 cents per kWh. This massive discrepancy is neither just nor reasonable.

Further, under the demand rate, a solar customer who helpfully zeros-out energy usage during the peak period nearly every day will be charged the full peak period demand charge if he or she fails on a single day during the billing period to zero-out peak energy usage. A customer with batteries, who could actually supply substantial energy to the grid when it is needed most, will be undercompensated at less than 5 cents per kWh. Santee Cooper should allow its residential, commercial, and other customers with distributed generation and storage to participate in its TOU energy rate, with 1-for-1 monthly netting within the on-peak and off-peak periods, like neighboring utilities do.

Further, increasingly, utilities (including Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress) are instituting “Virtual Power Plant” programs that aggregate the controllable demand of solar customers, customers with battery backup, and customers with smart devices such as Nest thermostats and communicating hot water heaters. Such aggregation programs can be swiftly implemented through experienced third-party firms that specialize in aggregated load management. Santee Cooper should move quickly to engage one or more demand aggregators so that customers can assist in meeting its near-term capacity needs and reduce marginal system costs.

4. Recommendations: Santee Cooper should provide a full picture of its revenue and rate increases; re-design its residential and small commercial rates to be based on fair TOU energy charges; and enable fair customer contributions to its energy and capacity needs.

Given all of these considerations, we make the following recommendations:

- a. Santee Cooper should provide a clear overall picture of the rate and revenue increases that it plans to impose in the near-term, such that customers can understand what the year-over-year increases in rates and revenues will be for each retail and wholesale customer class and what costs drive those increases.
- b. Santee Cooper should not impose TOU rates on small customers through a demand charge. Rather, it should pursue reasonably-based TOU energy charges that target times and seasons that are actual system peaks, leaving all other non-customer-specific costs to be recovered on a volumetric basis that enables and facilitates energy conservation. Also, customer fixed charges should be reduced to be in line with neighboring utilities, based upon the cost of billing services.
- c. Santee Cooper should reasonably and fairly enlist the cooperation of its retail customers in meeting energy and capacity needs by revising its distributed generation tariffs to include TOU-based compensation for solar and battery customers within a monthly netting construct. Santee Cooper should seek the services of a proven aggregator to maximize the growth and management of these customer resources.

Sincerely,

Eddy Moore
Director of Decarbonization
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
eddy@cleanenergy.org
501-772-5426

Frank Knapp Jr.
President & CEO
SC Small Business Chamber of Commerce
fknappp@scsbc.org
803-600-6874

Santee Cooper Response to Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce Comments

September 27, 2024

Dear Mr. Baumann, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Knapp:

Thank you for your comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment submitted by Mr. Baumann on behalf of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy ("SACE") and South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce ("SCSBCOC"). All written comments will be given to Santee Cooper's Board of Directors (the "Board"). The Board members are scheduled to receive all written public comments on October 8, hold a meeting to receive management's final recommendations on November 7, and review comments and staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on December 9. Any approved rate adjustment is recommended to take effect April 1, 2025.

Santee Cooper appreciates SACE and SCSBCOC's input and would like to respond to the recommendations provided in the document "Santee Cooper Rate Case Comments Sept 13" submitted September 13, 2024:

"Santee Cooper should provide a clear overall picture of the rate and revenue increases that it plans to impose in the near-term, such that customers can understand what the year-over-year increases in rates and revenues will be for each retail and wholesale customer class and what costs drive those increases."

Santee Cooper will make its most recent fuel estimate public with delivery of the 2025 Budget in December of this year. Final determination of Cook Rate Freeze Exceptions and collection will not be known or available until after the conclusion of the Rate Freeze and when directed by the Board.

"Santee Cooper should not impose TOU rates on small customers through a demand charge. Rather, it should pursue reasonably-based TOU energy charges that target times and seasons that are actual system peaks, leaving all other non-customer-specific costs to be recovered on a volumetric basis that enables and facilitates energy conservation. Also, customer fixed charges should be reduced to be in line with neighboring utilities, based upon the cost of billing services."

SACE and SCSBCOC's position on this topic is noted. Santee Cooper's proposed customer charges are cost based.

“Santee Cooper should reasonably and fairly enlist the cooperation of its retail customers in meeting energy and capacity needs by revising its distributed generation tariffs to include TOU-based compensation for solar and battery customers within a monthly netting construct. Santee Cooper should seek the services of a proven aggregator.”

In September 2023, as part of the initial Rate Study process, Santee Cooper surveyed its retail customers to obtain input on all its current rate structure and evaluate potential changes and new offerings. Over 4,500 customers responded, and their feedback was incorporated into the proposed rates.

Santee Cooper’s proposed Distributed Generation Rider credits customers for energy returned to Santee Cooper based on its avoided cost to generate or procure that energy itself. The proposed 2025 energy credit of \$0.0415/kWh was developed based on Santee Cooper’s projected hourly marginal cost of energy for 2025 weighted by the hourly load profile of solar generation.

Santee Cooper remains committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country. We also will continue to work with all of our customers to help them become more energy efficient by building habits that will save them money and save energy for the long term.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate hearing from you.



Vicky Budreau
Chief Customer Officer
Santee Cooper

Appendix A

Handout Distributed at Public Comment Meetings

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina



Santee Cooper is proposing changes to customer rates that, if approved, would take effect in April 2025. The Board of Directors has approved a public review and comment period through Oct. 8, 2024. These proposed changes offer residential customers more control over their monthly bills.

Why is Santee Cooper proposing these changes?

- > Inflation has outgrown our ability to manage it, and revenues from current rates will not cover our expenses in 2025.
 - Our rates have been flat since 2017, but inflation has increased 25% in that time.
 - We have already cut budgets (\$100 million total), refinanced debt (saving customers \$765 million over time), strategically reduced our headcount, and taken other steps to address rising prices.
- > We need to invest in the electric system to maintain high reliability of the system, and to comply with new regulations related to the environment, grid operations and security.

Proposed Changes for Residential Customers

Rate recommendations includes a new rate structure that *lowers the energy charge by approximately 40% and adds a demand charge.*

This new structure for the RG rate, which covers most residential customers, gives customers the power to lower their bills if they shift use of high-demand appliances to the 21 hours outside of daily peak hours. Peak hours last only three hours and are 3-6 p.m. in summer months and 6-9 a.m. in winter months.

Residential General Service (RG)	Current	Proposed 2025
Customer Charge	\$19.50	\$20.00
Demand Charge <i>(per kW)</i>	N/A	\$10.03
Summer Energy Charge <i>(per kWh)</i>	\$0.1197	\$0.0684
Winter Energy Charge <i>(per kWh)</i>	\$0.0997	\$0.0684

Learn More About Demand

Demand Charge *(kilowatts)*

A charge reflecting the maximum electricity used in any hour during the system peak each month.

Monthly Energy Charge *(kilowatt-hours)*

A charge reflecting the total amount of electricity consumed during the month.



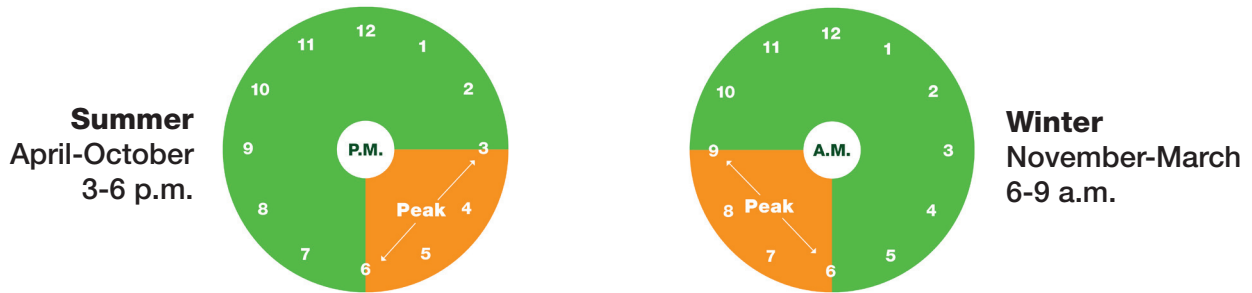
SCAN
code above
to watch
the video



How Can You Save Money On Your Bill?

Green Means Go! Use your higher-demand appliances during the 21 “green” hours to avoid system peaks and help control your bill. Typically, the three highest-demand appliances are water heaters, clothes dryers and heat pumps.

The higher your demand during the three on-peak hours shown in orange below, the higher your bill.



How Could This Impact Your Bill?

Customers who choose to use high-demand appliances outside of peak hours can significantly reduce their monthly bills. On the chart below, note the difference in the bills as the on-peak demand changes.

Rate	On-Peak Demand (kW)	Average Monthly Energy (kWh)	Average Monthly Bill	2025 Avg. Monthly Increase
Monthly Bill <i>Current</i>	N/A	1,000	\$115.69	-
Monthly Bill <i>Proposed</i>	5.1 4.3	1,000 1,000	\$125.98 \$119.35	\$10.29 \$3.66

Common Appliances and Sample Demands

Water Heater	4.5 kW
Heat Pump	3 kW
Clothes Dryer	5 kW
Dishwasher	1.5 kW
Oven	3 kW

Scan the code at right to calculate the potential impact on YOUR bill.



WE WANT YOUR INPUT

Santee Cooper has opened a public review and comment period, and we encourage customers to get involved by reviewing proposed rates and appearing and speaking in public at a meeting or submitting written comments.

DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- > Deadline for submission of **written** comments: **Extended to Sept. 13, 2024**
- > Deadline for **oral** comments: **Oct. 8, 2024**, Board of Directors meeting

Sign up to speak at a Public Comment Meeting, submit written comments, and view Rate Schedules, Rate Study and additional information at

www.santeecooper.com/ratestudy

Appendix B

Public Notice Card

Notice Of Santee Cooper Rate Adjustment, Review Of Proposed Rates And Public Comment Period

Santee Cooper is proposing adjustments to retail customer rates and has opened a public review and comment period. That period begins June 10, 2024.

Santee Cooper residential, commercial, industrial, municipal street lighting, and certain wholesale customers have the right to review the proposed rate schedules; appear and speak in person concerning the proposed rates at public meetings or the specified meetings of the Board of Directors; and submit written comments.

The proposed rates, supplemental rate study report and management presentation are available for review at www.santeecooper.com/ratestudy or in person at Santee Cooper's headquarters, 1 Riverwood Drive, Moncks Corner, and at Santee Cooper's HG Division Office, 305A Gardner Lacy Road, Myrtle Beach.

The deadline for submission of written comments is Sept. 9, 2024, and the last meeting for oral comments is Oct. 8, 2024. Any new rates approved by the Board of Directors through this process would become effective April 1, 2025.

Written comments can be dropped off at either of the addresses above; submitted electronically at www.santeecooper.com/ratestudy; emailed to rates@santeecooper.com; or mailed to Santee Cooper, Rates Public Comments (M301), P.O. Box 2946101, Moncks Corner, SC 29461.

Public comment meetings will be held at the locations and times below. Except for the Oct. 8 meeting, public comments during these meetings are limited to Santee Cooper customers. Comments from all meetings will be transcribed and provided to the Board for its consideration.

Aug. 26 | 6 p.m.
Santee Cooper Auditorium
1 Riverwood Dr., Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Sept. 17 | 1 p.m.
Waccamaw Neck Library
41 St. Paul's Pl., Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Sept. 17 | 6 p.m.
Santee Cooper Auditorium
305A Gardner Lacy Rd.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Sept. 24 | 9 a.m.
VIRTUAL
Please go to www.santeecooper.com/ratestudy for more information and to register.

Oct. 8 | 2 p.m.
Santee Cooper Auditorium
305A Gardner Lacy Rd.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

This will be a meeting of the full Santee Cooper Board and is the final opportunity for oral comments. Customers and other interested parties can make comments during this meeting.

Additional Board Meetings That Are Part of the 2024 Rate Process
No public comments will be received during these two meetings.

Nov. 7 | 8 a.m.
Dan Ray Conference Center
Wampee
2213 Pinopolis Rd.
Pinopolis, SC 29469
Management will present final recommended rates to the Board for consideration.

Dec. 9 | 8 a.m.
Dan Ray Conference Center
Wampee
2213 Pinopolis Rd.
Pinopolis, SC 29469
The Board is scheduled to vote on new rates.

**Make Up Public Comment Meeting Dates
(IF NEEDED)**

Sept. 23 | 6 p.m.
Santee Cooper Auditorium
1 Riverwood Dr.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Sept. 30 | 6 p.m.
Santee Cooper Auditorium
305A Gardner Lacy Rd.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579



Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future



Scan to learn more
about the proposed rate
changes and process.