

Snapping Shoals EMC Illuminator

A Monthly Newsletter for Snapping Shoals EMC Members

April 2023

Don't Fall for Natural Gas Marketing Tactics

We have all recently felt the effects of higher prices for our groceries, fuel, and other daily expenses – including natural gas. Many factors influence the price of natural gas. Thanks to our partner program with Walton Gas, Snapping Shoals EMC members can trust that they get a great rate and award-winning customer service from a local provider.



Phil Weatherly

Phil Weatherly, business development director for Walton Gas, wants to help Snapping Shoals EMC members navigate the natural gas market with a few valuable tips.

Check your rate plan: Fixed or variable? Fixed rate plans have been significantly lower than variable plans over the last 10 to 12 years. Many people are not aware of which plan they are currently on — and some providers have very high variable rates.

Be aware of your renewal date. If your fixed rate term ends, and you have not actively signed up for a new fixed plan, you will be put on a variable rate plan.

Read the fine print. You may receive an attractive rate offer from other providers on occasion. Be sure to understand the details of the offer. There are usually strings attached that detract from the offer and end up costing you more in the long run. 4636472

Understand the “incentives” some marketers offer, and don't be fooled by “introductory” or “discount” rates. Some natural gas providers offer a low rate for only a month or two. If you lose track and do not sign up for a fixed rate, you will be placed on a variable rate. Your new rate could be double or even triple the rate you signed up for. Is that really a good deal?

For more information on how to sign-up with Walton Gas, visit walgas.com/snappingshoals or call a Walton Gas representative at 678-639-3277.



You've likely noticed Snapping Shoals EMC crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineman's job is tough, but it's a job that is essential and must be done. Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. April is national Lineman Appreciation Month but Snapping Shoals EMC's linemen are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year to our members.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. The equipment and tools that a lineman carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds. That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Linemen are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall.

Linemen must be committed to their career because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineman is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. Linemen often work non-traditional hours in difficult weather conditions. Becoming a journeyman lineman can take more than 7,000 hours of training. That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work. 4538111

Despite the many challenges, SSEM's linemen are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, linemen are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later.

Linemen are essential to our community. Without the dedication and commitment of these hardworking men, we would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life. So, the next time you see SSEM linemen, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, linemen are the power behind your power.

Surge Protection Offers Peace of Mind

Power surges can happen at any moment. While typically caused by lightning strikes during storms, tripped circuit breakers and short circuits can also cause them too. Power surges can wreak havoc on the appliances and electronics inside your home, but fortunately there's a way to protect your household items so you won't have to replace them.

SSEMC offers members a surge protection program called Avert for only \$8.99 a month. Avert Surge Protection provides a combination of meter-base and point-of-use protection to guard appliances and electronics from the damaging effects of power surges. 1546126

When you sign up for Avert, SSEMC will install a meter socket adapter (MSA) at your meter base to protect motor-driven appliances such as your refrigerator, air conditioner, washer and dryer. There is a one-time \$19.99 installation fee for the MSA. We will also provide five plug-in surge



protectors for you to use inside your home to give sensitive electronics such as TVs, computers and audio systems the additional protection they need. Two of these plug-in devices will protect up to eight items each, and the other three are single-plug units. Some also provide telephone and/or coaxial (cable/satellite) protection as well.

The manufacturer guarantees protection of all qualifying appliances and electronics covered under the Avert surge protection agreement. A warranty of up to \$50,000 per surge occurrence is included. Some exclusions apply. Call our Member Services Department at 770-385-2875 for more information. 4643989



P.O. Box 509
Covington, GA 30015
www.ssemc.com

24-Hour Phone Number
770-786-3484

Report an outage:
Use the mySSEMC app
or call 678-814-4961

Pay your bill or check your account balance:
Call 1-888-999-1416 or
use the mySSEMC app

Report power theft:
Call our anonymous tip line
at 678-729-8095

Call before you dig:
Call Utilities Protection Center
of Georgia at 811 or visit
www.georgia811.com

OFFICE LOCATIONS
14750 Brown Bridge Road
Covington, GA 30016

190 Fairview Road
Ellenwood, GA 30294

*24-hour payment kiosks
are located at each of our offices*

OFFICE HOURS
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday

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If your Snapping Shoals EMC
account number is hidden in this
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770-786-3484 within the next
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The Illuminator is a monthly
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Snapping Shoals EMC members.

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Funds Available for Education Assistance

Applications are currently available for education assistance from Operation Round Up. Applicants must live in a household receiving electric service from Snapping Shoals EMC, and total household income may not exceed \$50,000. The assistance may be used to attend an accredited college, university or trade school in Georgia. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted at the school they are seeking funds to attend. We will be accepting completed applications through May 15. Download an application at www.ssemc.com or call our Operation Round Up line at 770-385-2737 to have one mailed to you.

Summer Rates Become Effective May 1

SSEMC's summer rates are effective from May through October, and winter rates are billed from November through April. In areas such as ours where summers are hot, the peak demand for electricity occurs during the months when air conditioners are working hard to keep everybody cool. The higher demand for electricity on these hot summer days makes the cost of providing power greater at this time of year, and that is reflected in our rate structure. 4525463



SSEMC RESIDENTIAL RATES
Summer (May through October)
Base Charge: \$28.00 per month
First 1,000 kwh: 8.53¢ per kwh
Over 1,000 kwh: 11.52¢ per kwh

Winter (November through April)
Base Charge: \$28.00 per month
First 1,000 kwh: 8.20¢ per kwh
Over 1,000 kwh: 7.95¢ per kwh