SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY



Report on Public Comments

For the Proposed February 1, 2027 and February 1, 2028 Rate Increases

VOLUME II of II

August 2026

Section V

Written Questions and Comments with Management Response

SECTION V: Written Questions and Comments with Management Response

This section contains all written comments and questions received by Santee Cooper on the proposed rates and, where appropriate, management's response. 303 written comments were received during the public comment period, which occurred from May 1, 2026 through July 30, 2026.

Santee Cooper received comments from Nucor Steel, who is an Industrial customer, and the Industrial Customer Group (ICG) as part of the public comment process. The written comments from these two entities and the response Santee Cooper provided to the comments are first in this section.

Following the Industrial comments are comments written from Residential and Commercial customers as well as the response Santee Cooper provided to these customers. Overall Residential and Commercial customer comments have been focused on the following:

- General opposition to the rate adjustment and concerns around affordability
- Concerns with peak charges
- The allocation of the rate adjustment to the Residential class
- Impacts on fixed income customers

Santee Cooper also received joint comments from the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, The South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, and the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center. These comments are provided at the end of this section along with the response Santee Cooper provided.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jeff	**Last Name:**	Pollock
Organization:	J Pollock Inc		
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001165

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	

Comment:

Attached are the comments sponsored by the Industrial Customer Group. On behalf of J. Pollock, we appreciate your assistance in helping us to craft these comments. Please advise if you have any questions or need further information. Finally, please send us the unredacted comments submitted by others or advise how we can access them on line. Regards, Jeff

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY



Santee Cooper 2026 Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Design Study

Comments

On Behalf of

Industrial Customer Group

July 30, 2026



J. POLLOCK
INCORPORATED

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
2026 Rate Study	2026 Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Design Study Report
Brookfield	Brookfield Asset Management
CCOSS	Class Cost-of-Service Study
CIF	Construction Improvement Fund
DCR	Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause
DSCR	Debt Service Coverage Ratio
FAC	Fuel Adjustment Clause
ICG	Industrial Customer Group
J. Pollock	J. Pollock, Incorporated
kW / kWh	Kilowatt(s) / Kilowatt-Hour(s)
Moody's	Moody's Investor Service
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MW / MWh	Megawatt(s) / Megawatt-Hour(s)
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ORS	Office of Regulatory Staff
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
S&P	S&P Global Ratings
Schedule EP	Large Light and Power Economy Power
Schedule EP-O	Large Light and Power Economy Power Optional
Schedule L	Large Light and Power Firm Service
Schedule L-HIL	Large Light and Power High Impact Load Service
Schedule L-I	Large Light and Power Interruptible Service

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 2026 rate proposal, focusing on the impacts to industrial customers and provide recommendations and Comments to South Carolina Public Service Authority (hereinafter "Santee Cooper" or "Authority"). The principal authors, Jeffry Pollock, Billie LaConte, and Jonathan Ly reviewed the Santee Cooper 2026 Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Design Study Report (2026 Rate Study), including the Technical Appendices and supporting documents, along with Santee Cooper's responses to Information Requests provided to **J. Pollock** and to the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS). Thus, these Comments represent the professional opinions of Mr. Pollock, Ms. LaConte, and Mr. Ly. Individual ICG members may also submit Comments addressing their unique issues and concerns.

The CVs of Mr. Pollock, Ms. LaConte, and Mr. Ly are provided in **Appendix A**. Mr. Pollock has over 50 years of experience in regulatory matters and has been actively involved in Santee Cooper matters for over a decade. Ms. LaConte is well-versed in revenue requirement issues and, specifically, in determining the cost of capital required to maintain reasonable credit ratings. Mr. Ly is familiar with the Authority's resource planning processes and is also well-versed in regulatory matters, particularly with cost allocation and rate design issues.

The ICG and **J. Pollock** appreciate the time and effort devoted to compiling both the 2026 Rate Study and the responses to ICG's Information Requests.

Key Findings

The following are **J. Pollock's** key findings:

- Santee Cooper's retail rates have become, and will continue to be, less affordable. This is due to the nearly 20% increase in retail rates since January 1, 2025. If the proposed 6.4% two-step rate increase is approved, retail rates will be nearly 26% higher by January 1, 2028.
- The proposed two-step rate increase is based on two fully projected test periods. This practice is unprecedented and not used by the South Carolina Public Service Commission to set rates for its regulated investor-owned utilities. Although using two fully projected test years to set rates eliminates regulatory lag and substantially reduces Santee Cooper's financial risk, it also diminishes the incentive to carefully manage costs.
- The Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) does not need to be increased at this time. Based on recent credit rating reports, which are credit stable/positive, and the 2027 and 2028 budgets, we estimate that Santee Cooper will achieve a debt service coverage ratio (DSCR) which is well within the target range of 1.3x to 1.5x identified by Moody's Investor Services (Moody's), even if the 9% CIF contribution is retained.
- Further, if the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Brookfield Asset Management (Brookfield) is executed — a development viewed as credit positive by the rating agencies — Santee Cooper would receive a $2.7 billion cash payment that will be used to pay down debt. This would result in a higher DSCR than currently projected.
- Santee Cooper's class cost-of-service study (CCOSS) provides a reasonable basis for determining retail class revenue allocation and rate designs.
- Although the Authority has taken positive steps to improve the cost basis for the Interruptible Demand charge, the avoided capacity cost is understated because the value of reserve capacity was omitted. This is in stark contrast to the avoided capacity cost used to design the Coincident Peak Demand charge in the proposed Large Light and Power High Impact Load Service (Schedule L-HIL), which not only includes reserve capacity, but also uses incremental debt service costs.
- The increasing duration of Economic Curtailments and higher cost of Secondary Power are making interruptible power less cost-competitive. Accordingly, it is important to properly quantify incremental capacity cost in determining the Large Light and Power Interruptible Service (Schedule L-I) Demand charge.
- The proposed Large Light and Power Economy Power (Schedule EP) and Large Light and Power Economy Power Optional (Schedule EP-O) (collectively referred to hereinafter as "Economy Power") Reservation charges would result in rate shock and, in any event, are not cost-based because they assume Economy Power is a firm service. The reality is that Economy Power is only available at the Authority's sole discretion and at the price determined by the Authority. Thus, the Reservation charges should provide a *contribution* to (rather than full payment of) transmission fixed costs.

- Coupled with the increasing cost of Economy Power, it is important to avoid rate shock in setting the Reservation charges.
- To avoid rate shock while treating Economy Power customers more fairly, we recommend setting the contribution to transmission fixed costs to not more than 80%.
- As proposed, Schedule L-HIL could apply to existing customers rather than just high impact computational loads, such as data centers because the proposed 20 megawatt (MW) load threshold is too low, and there is no specific load-factor threshold that would appropriately distinguish these different types of loads.
- The proposed Schedule L-HIL rates are unduly discriminatory because they are designed based on incremental capacity costs, whereas all other firm rates are designed based on average costs. Further, obligating Schedule L-HIL customers to pay significant minimum Demand charges for at least 15 years would allow for the recovery of the incremental costs that they cause.
- However, because Santee Cooper is not projecting any sales or revenues from Schedule L-HIL customers and, therefore, in the absence of a CCOSS, it is premature to establish specific rates for Schedule L-HIL at this time.
- The proposed Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) would include both the revenues and costs associated with the production and procurement of gypsum, which, although related to coal-fired generation, does not exhibit the same characteristics as eligible fuel expense (*i.e.,* fuel expenses are material, volatile, and beyond direct control).
- The proposed FAC would also recover the costs incurred under third-party renewable power purchase agreements (PPAs). This is despite the fact that renewable generation has zero fuel costs, and it also provides accredited capacity. Further, the FAC specifically excludes recovery of designated demand charges.

Recommendations

The following are the ICG's recommendations based on the above key findings and conclusions from **J. Pollock's** analysis:

- In light of the unprecedented practice of setting rates using two fully projected test periods and to address growing affordability concerns, the Authority should accrue a regulatory liability for any actual margins that exceed a 1.5x DSCR in 2027 and 2028.
- Recognizing both the stable/positive financial outlook, particularly if the MOU is executed, and growing affordability concerns, it is unnecessary to increase the CIF at this time. The Authority can revisit this issue late next year if circumstances warrant.

- The Authority's CCOSS should be adopted and used for class revenue allocation and the design of retail firm rates.
- The proposed Interruptible Demand charge should be reduced to properly reflect avoided capacity costs, consistent with the Authority's quantification of incremental capacity costs in designing the proposed Schedule L-HIL Coincident Peak Demand charge.
- The Economy Power Reservation charges should not be designed to recover full transmission costs because Economy Power is not a firm service. Recognizing that Economy Power is a non-firm service, the Reservation charges should reflect an 80% contribution to fixed transmission costs.
- The Authority should discontinue the practice of setting the Economy Energy Price based on the higher of the Authority's Incremental Energy Cost or quotes from utilities offering to buy power from the Authority because it is inconsistent with the Authority's obligation to serve. Thus, Economy Energy Prices should be based solely on the Authority's Incremental Energy Cost.
- The proposed Schedule L-HIL should be revised as follows:
- Raise the load threshold to at least 100 MW.
- Require a minimum load factor of at least 90%.
- Include language clarifying that the Schedule is applicable only to computational loads and not to existing Santee Cooper customers, including Schedule L-I customers who convert a portion of their load from interruptible to firm power.
- The Demand and Energy charges should be derived using a CCOSS that includes actual Schedule L-HIL customers.
- When Santee Cooper commences serving actual HIL customers, it should reassess the reasonableness of the adopted rates to ensure that existing customers are being charged only for the costs they are causing.
- Gypsum revenues and costs should be excluded from the FAC.
- Any demand-related costs associated with renewable PPAs should be removed from the FAC.

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 2026 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 even less competitive. Excessive rate changes can 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 2026 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, including the cumulative impacts of recent past rate increases;
- The factors causing significant upward rate pressure;
- The retail CCOSS;
- Industrial rate design, including the Interruptible and Economy Power rates;
- The proposed Schedule L-HIL; and
- Proposed and other changes to the FAC.

The fact that these Comments do not address all of the issues presented in the 2026 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 2026 Rate Study after the Report was published. We appreciate the time and effort of the Santee Cooper Rates Team in responding to these requests.

BACKGROUND

Since January 2025, Santee Cooper has implemented three significant rate increases. The first increase, effective with the January 2025 billings, was to unfreeze the FAC. This resulted in a revenue increase of approximately $64 million (8.7%) over present 2025 revenues.

The second increase was implemented in April 2025, when retail base rates were increased by $53.7 million (6.7%) on an annualized basis.

Third, beginning in July 2025, the Authority implemented the Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause (DCR). The DCR resulted in an initial retail rate increase of approximately $32 million (4%).

Thus, even before the proposed two-step rate increase in this 2026 Rate Study, retail rates have increased by nearly $150 million (20%).

The proposed two-step rate increase would generate an additional $67 million (6.4%) of revenues from retail customers. Thus, by January 1, 2028, the combination of base rate increases, the DCR, unfreezing the FCA, and projected additional FCA rates will result in overall retail rate increases of over 26%.

Although electricity rates have increased in South Carolina as a result of rate increases approved by the South Carolina Public Service Commission for regulated investor-owned electric utilities, since January 2025 these base rate increases average around 8%. This compares to the over 10% non-fuel rate increases (including the DCR). As Santee Cooper's rates are clearly becoming less affordable and less competitive than neighboring utilities, the Authority must continue to exercise due diligence in managing its costs.

REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed two-step rates are predicated on two fully projected test periods. The practice of using two fully projected test periods is unprecedented for Santee Cooper and is seldom used by any state regulatory commission. This includes South Carolina, wherein the Public Service Commission requires investor-owned utilities to use a historical test. A forecast test year reduces regulatory lag, which allows for more timely cost recovery and, therefore, reduces financial risk. In addition, forecasts are inherently inaccurate. Locking in specific assumptions about future costs, such as labor expenses, interest rates, and materials diminishes the Authority's incentives to carefully manage costs.

That stated, recognizing the Authority's forward-looking ratemaking practice, which completely eliminates regulatory lag, the ICG recommends that (1) the Authority accrue a regulatory liability for any actual margins in calendar years 2027 and 2028 that result in a DSCR in excess of 1.5x; and (2) the present 9% CIF requirement be retained.

Regulatory Liability

As previously stated, retail customers have already experienced substantial rate increases since January 2025. Further, the Authority is proposing higher rates based solely on two projected test years, a practice that is not used in setting rates for investor-owned electric utilities in South Carolina (and in most other state regulatory commissions) and is unprecedented for the Authority. To ensure that rates recover only the actual costs incurred to provide retail service, we recommend that Santee Cooper accrue a regulatory liability for any actual margins that exceed a 1.5x DSCR in 2027 and 2028, thereby protecting customers from excessive rates. This is especially important if the proposed agreement with Brookfield materializes in 2027 or 2028, and it will also provide more confidence in the Authority's ratemaking practices.

Capital Improvement Fund

The Authority's current Moody's debt rating is A3, with a stable outlook.[1] In February 2026 S&P Global Ratings (S&P) affirmed its A- rating for Santee Cooper and revised its outlook from stable to positive.[2] Both Moody's and S&P noted the expiration of Santee Cooper's rate freeze and its return to traditional rate-setting practices as a credit strength. As a public power utility, credit rating agencies consider the company's DSCR when assessing the credit quality. Additionally, Moody's states that the stable outlook is based on Santee Cooper's projection that it will maintain a target DSCR range of 1.3x to 1.5x DSCR. Assuming the full retail rate increase is implemented, we estimate that Santee Cooper will achieve DSCRs of 1.50x in 2027 and 1.43x in 2028, which are well above the target range.

The CIF is calculated as a percentage of gross revenues. It provides non-debt capital funding and supports Santee Cooper's DSCR. Currently, the CIF is 9% of gross revenues. Santee Cooper proposes to raise the CIF to 10% of gross revenues, which increases the revenue requirement by approximately $30 million in each calendar year.

Santee Cooper claims that the increase in the CIF is needed "to maintain financial health."[3] While a strong DSCR is desired, Santee Cooper has demonstrated that its DSCR prior to the proposed 2027 and 2028 rate increases, was 1.35x in 2025, when its CIF requirement was 9% of gross revenues. Our analysis indicates that if the CIF payment remains at 9%, Santee Cooper's DSCR would be 1.46x in 2027 and 1.40x in 2028. These are within Moody's DSCR target range of 1.3x to 1.5x.

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[1] Moody's Ratings, Credit Opinion, *South Carolina Public Service Authority* at 1 and 2 (Feb. 23, 2026).

[2] S&P, Research Update*: South Carolina Public Service Authority Revenue Debt Rating Outlook Revised to Positive on Improving Financial Position* at 1 (Feb. 10, 2026).

[3] 2026 Rate Study at Executive Summary.

As noted by both Moody's and S&P, Santee Cooper has signed a MOU with Brookfield regarding the partially built V.C. Summer Nuclear Units 2 and 3.[4] While it has not been finalized, under the MOU Santee Cooper would receive a $2.7 billion cash payment and retain a targeted 25% ownership stake, subject to the final cost of completing the nuclear plant. Santee Cooper states that it expects to use the cash payment to pay down debt, which would result in a higher DSCR than currently projected. Moody's states that if the transaction is completed, it would be a substantial credit positive for the utility. Neither Moody's nor S&P have included the impact of the MOU on Santee Cooper's current credit rating.

As previously stated, the significant past rate increases, coupled with the proposed increases, would significantly impact affordability. Heightened affordability concerns will continue to persist as Santee Cooper continues to invest in significant capital investments during a period of elevated inflation.

Therefore, recognizing Santee Cooper's strong credit ratings, stable/positive DSCR, and the potential significant cash infusion from the Brookfield transaction, we recommend that Santee Cooper maintain its CIF payment at 9% of gross revenue requirement. This will appropriately address affordability concerns, while allowing Santee Cooper to maintain its credit ratings and access to capital. This decision can be revisited next year if circumstances merit.

[4] Also referred to as Fairfield Nuclear Project.

CLASS COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY

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 CCOSSs presented with the 2026 Rate Study and a review of the working model, Santee Cooper's retail CCOSS generally comports with industry practice and closely reflects cost causation. The one major exception is that the Twelve Coincident Peak method to allocate transmission plant and related expenses is not consistent with the reality that Santee Cooper has distinct winter and summer peaks. This is why, in past Comments, the ICG has proposed that the same methodology be used to allocate both production and transmission plant and recommended the Four Coincident Peak method as a better reflection of cost causation on Santee Cooper's system.

Nevertheless, at this time when affordability is concerning, it is more important to maintain a consistent cost-based framework for setting rates in calendar years 2027 and 2028. Accordingly, the ICG is accepting the results of the Authority's CCOSS for this 2026 Rate Study.

INDUSTRIAL RATE DESIGN

The ICG has provided feedback (through its Comments in the 2024 Rate Study and in subsequent meetings and workshops) expressing concerns with the design of the industrial rates. Specifically, we have urged the Authority to:

- Align the On-Peak Demand periods with the On-Peak Energy periods and limit On-Peak (Demand and Energy) hours to the summer and winter peak months (*i.e.,* June, July, and August; January, February, and December).
- Define specific event triggers used to call additional Off-Peak Demand hours, Economic Curtailments, and additional On-Peak hours that reflect more specific and objective system operating conditions and cost parameters.
- Revise the Demand Sales Credit Rider to apportion a share of Interruptible Non-Class Sales to Interruptible customers.

Despite raising these concerns on multiple occasions, the Authority has yet to provide meaningful feedback. Significantly, none of these issues were addressed in this 2026 Rate Study. Accordingly, while we continue to support these specific changes (for the reasons previously expressed), our Comments will be limited to the proposed Interruptible and Economy Power rates.

Interruptible Rates

For the most part, we agree with the fundamental design of Schedule L-I, which recognizes that the value of interruptible service can be measured using avoided capacity costs. With further refinements, the proposed Interruptible Demand charge can more accurately reflect the avoided cost of generating capacity than the Authority is proposing.

Interruptible service is very important to industrial customers. Santee Cooper projects that it will provide 528 MW of interruptible service during the test years, which is 167 MW or

46% more than the corresponding industrial firm demand.[5] Because interruptible service is not counted in assessing Santee Cooper's future need for capacity, interruptible load is essential to maintaining a reliable system. Thus, it is critical that Santee Cooper provide the proper financial incentives to both sustain and grow industrial customer participation in interruptible service.

A primary benefit of interruptible load is that interruptible customers are required to curtail load during either Emergency Events or Economic Curtailments as determined by the Authority in its sole judgment. While interruptible load must be fully curtailed during Emergency Events, customers are allowed to buy through during Economic Curtailments. Further, such Economic Curtailments may occur for up to 250 hours per year, spread over no more than 60 days per calendar year, with no more than two curtailments per calendar day, or 72 hours of curtailments per calendar week. The Authority may also call Economic Curtailments for up to 18 hours per calendar day in the months January, February, and December, and up to 12 hours per calendar day in other months. Thus, Economic Curtailments give the Authority (and interruptible customers) flexibility to continue supplying service to avoid unnecessary and costly curtailments. Importantly, any incremental costs to supply Secondary Power are fully recovered from interruptible customers.

There is, however, a significant cost to buy through during Economic Curtailments. Specifically, each customer is required to pay the Authority's best estimate of its incremental cost, plus a contribution that includes transmission losses and CIF contribution. The proposed CIF and losses would add 13.1% to the Authority-determined incremental costs.

[5] 2026 Rate Study at Table 2-1 (Summer).

Even before raising the CIF from 9% to 10%, Economic Curtailments have occurred more often and over more hours, and the cost of Secondary Power, while always more expensive than firm power, has increased.

Schedule 1 shows the number of curtailment hours during each of the Economic Curtailments in calendar years 2024, 2025, and through May 2026. As can be seen, there is a clear upward trend on the Economic Curtailment hours. For example, the Authority implemented 174 hours of Economic Curtailments in 2024 and 250 curtailment hours in 2025. Thus far in 2026, 112 hours of Economic Curtailments have been called.

The average cost of Secondary Power is shown in **Schedule 2**. As can be seen, the average cost exceeded $75 per megawatt-hour (MWh) throughout 2025, with average prices of $100 per MWh up to $200 per MWh in the months January, February, June, and July. Thus far in 2026, costs have been even higher, in excess of $750 per MWh in the first two months of 2026.

Had the Authority been required to supply this energy on a firm basis, it would have placed significant upward pressure on the FAC rates. However, because of the significant increase in both the frequency and cost of Economic Curtailments, it is especially important to properly value interruptible service. The proposed Interruptible Demand charge, however, continues to understate the value of interruptible power.

First, the 2026 valuation omits the value of avoided reserve capacity, as well as losses. Compensating for the Authority's 20% target reserve margin alone would increase the value of interruptible power from $13.19 per kW-month to $15.83 per kW-month.

Second, the interruptible credit is supposed to reflect the incremental cost of capacity. However, it appears that the incremental cost used to derive the value of interruptible power is significantly below the incremental cost of capacity used to derive the Coincident Peak

Demand change in the proposed Schedule L-HIL. **Schedule 3** provides a comparison of the incremental capacity costs associated with the proposed interruptible credit and the Schedule L-HIL Coincident Peak Demand charge. The highlighted portions reveal the different assumptions used by the Authority to quantify the Schedule L-HIL Coincident Peak Demand charge. Specifically, the Authority used a higher incremental annual debt service (line 4), which impacted other downstream costs (lines 8-10). Further, the Authority added the cost of reserves (line 14) to derive the avoided capacity costs associated with the design of Schedule L-HIL service even though it did not do so in valuing interruptible service.

In light of the increasing frequency and cost of Economic Curtailments, the ICG recommends that the interruptible credit should be valued at full incremental cost. This is the same foundation as the proposed Schedule L-HIL Coincident Peak Demand charge. Doing so would increase the credit to $15.83 per kW-month (including reserves). However, consistent with the incremental capacity costs used to quantify the Schedule L-HIL Coincident Peak Demand change, the interruptible credit could be as high as $22.57 per kW-month.

The other concern is with the requirement that interruptible customers pay for at least 80% of their Interruptible Contract demand. This provision, which is referred to as 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 save money by reducing peak demand below the 80% ratchet. Nevertheless, the ratchet provides assurance that interruptible customers 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.

Economy Power Rates

The Authority provides Economy Power under Schedule EP, Schedule EP-O, and Economy Power As Used. Economy Power is made available to firm customers who have contract demands of at least 2,000 kW in an amount scheduled by the customer. Economy Power customers are charged a monthly Customer charge, Reservation charge, and Energy charge. The Customer charge is, and would remain, $1,000 per month. The proposed Reservation charges are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1
Current Vs. Proposed Economy Power Reservation Charges
($/kW)

Rate Schedule	Current	Proposed 2027		Proposed 2028	
		Amount	Percent Increase	Amount	% Increase Over Current
EP	$2.90	$3.85	32.8%	$4.49	54.8%
EP-O	$4.55	$5.80	27.5%	$6.54	43.7%

As Table 1 demonstrates, the Authority is proposing substantial increases in Reservation charges. They are, in fact, the largest increases proposed for any retail rate class.

In our experience, the magnitude of these increases are clear examples of rate shock. A fundamental principle of rate design should be to provide more gradual rate increases to avoid rate shock. Although the Authority did apply gradualism in setting the current Schedules EP and EP-O Reservation charges in the 2024 Rate Study, it is clearly not doing so in setting the charges for calendar years 2027 and 2028.

The Energy charge is the aggregate sum of all Hourly Energy charges, which is the product of the Houry Energy and the Economy Energy Price. The Economy Energy Price is the greater of:

- The Authority's Incremental Energy Cost, plus losses and CIF, and a contribution to generation-related charges; or
- The price at which the Authority could have sold such Economy Power to another utility or utilities based on actual quotes.

The Economy Energy Price applies to all hours under Schedule EP; whereas under Schedule EP-O, it would apply to On-Peak Periods, including any Off-Peak Periods designated as On-Peak Periods by the Authority.[6] Importantly, the availability and cost of Economy Power is solely at the discretion of the Authority. This undermines the assumption underlying the proposed Reservation charges that Economy Power is a firm service.

Schedule 4 provides a history of the average Economy Energy Prices. As can be seen, prices have increased significantly in calendar years 2025 and 2026. These increases will be further exacerbated by the very large increases in the proposed Economy Power Reservation charges.

Specifically, the proposed Reservation charges are based on the full recovery of system transmission costs. In addition, because Schedule EP-O purchases essentially occur during On-Peak Periods only, the Authority adds a 10% contribution to generation fixed costs.

As previously stated, setting aside rate shock, the assumption that Economy Power customers should pay full transmission service charges is based on a false premise that Economy Power is supplied on a firm basis. The reality is that Economy Power is non-firm because it is only available at the sole discretion of the Authority and is priced based on the Authority's determination of its incremental costs or incremental opportunity costs. Therefore, the Reservation charges should be designed to provide a *contribution* to, rather than full recovery of, transmission costs to recognize the non-firm nature of the service provided.

[6] Under Schedule EP-O, Additional On-Peak Hours may be called when Incremental Energy Cost is at or above $60 per MWh for no more than seven days per month, or when the Authority (in its sole judgment) experiences operational limitations or cost constraints.

Schedule 5 replicates the Authority's quantification of the Schedule EP and Schedule EP-O Reservation charges with one change. Specifically, we recommend that the contribution to transmission costs be set to 80%. Table 2 shows the impact of applying the transmission charges derived in **Schedule 5**.

Table 2
Corrected Firm Economy Power Reservation Charges
($/kW)

Rate Schedule	Current	Proposed 2027		Proposed 2028	
		Amount	Percent Increase	Amount	% Increase Over Current
EP	$2.90	$3.08	6.2%	$3.59	23.8%
EP-O	$4.55	$4.61	1.3%	$5.19	14.1%

The Reservation charges shown in Table 2 would be far more reasonable with only minimal rate shock.

One additional recommendation concerns the derivation of Incremental Energy Cost. Specifically, under the current definition, Incremental Energy Cost could be determined based on prices quoted by other utilities to purchase energy from the Authority. This process is anything but transparent. Further, it is inconsistent with the Authority's obligation to serve customers at the lowest reasonable cost. Santee Cooper customers deserve to be given higher priority than other utilities. Therefore, the ICG recommends that the Economy Energy Price be based solely on the Authority's Incremental Energy Cost.

HIGH IMPACT LOAD (SCHEDULE L-HIL)

The Authority is proposing significant changes to the existing Experimental Large Load Schedule that would ultimately transform it into a new rate option, Schedule L-HIL. The purpose of these changes is to shield existing customers from the impact of serving new very large loads. Although targeted primarily at data centers having a projected peak demand of at least 20 MW and to mobile data centers with a projected peak demand of at least 1 MW, Schedule L-HIL could also be used to serve other (non-data center) loads that are also 20 MW or greater with high load factors that would not otherwise qualify for current economic development rates.

This is one of several primary flaws with Schedule L-HIL – it should never apply to any existing customers, including when an existing interruptible customer requests to convert a portion of its load to firm service. It is also contrary to the Authority's intention regarding treatment of increased loads by existing customers as asserted in discovery.[7] Consistent with the goal of protecting existing customers, Santee Cooper should revise the proposed Schedule L-HIL eligibility criteria so that it would only apply to computational loads.

There are, however, other flaws that should be addressed to protect existing customers.

First, the proposed 20 MW eligibility threshold is too low. Many new large load tariffs that have been implemented across the nation to address the transformative impact of data centers have much higher load thresholds. This is because most new data centers typically have peak demands in excess of 100 MW. Loads of this size would pose a significant impact on Santee Cooper's system, and the addition of such loads would materially impact Santee

[7] Response to ICG Information Request 2, Question 3.

Cooper's resource planning. In contrast, the 20 MW threshold is not exceptional, and Santee Cooper's routine planning processes would adequately address such additions. For example, some existing Schedule L-I customers have contract demands greater than the proposed threshold, and the existing Experimental Large Load Schedule has an eligibility criterion of 50 MW.

Regulators throughout the nation are grappling with how to handle new very large loads. While there is no widely accepted definition, several utilities have set load thresholds of 100 MW or higher. Recently, the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced the Ratepayer Protection Act that would push states to formally consider measures to shield ratepayers from utility bill increases tied to new data center development. While we believe that with the proper guardrails, new large loads can potentially reduce rates for existing customers, the proposed bill defines new very large loads as having a peak demand of 100 MW or more.[8] Therefore, to ensure that Schedule L-HIL is applied only to loads that would have a substantial impact on Santee Cooper's system and consistent with the pending Ratepayer Protection Act, the threshold should be 100 MW.

Second, while Schedule L-HIL should only apply to customers with computational loads, it is possible that not all computational loads have a high impact. The impact would depend on the load factor. However, the qualifying load factor is not specified and does not reasonably inform potential customers whether they would be required to take service on Schedule L-HIL. The Authority's refusal to specify a load factor criterion is puzzling.[9] It is also contrary to accepted rate design in which tariffs should be easy to administer and simple to understand. Absent a clear definition of load factor, it is possible that Schedule L-HIL could

[8] **Schedule 6** is an article published by S&P Global Energy describing the Ratepayer Protection Act.

[9] Response to ICG Information Request 2, Question 1.

be applied differently depending on the specific customer. To remedy this deficiency, the load factor criterion should be specifically defined. We recommend specifying that the load factor should be 90% or higher. This would be consistent with the operating characteristics of a large data center.

Third, the rates charged under Schedule L-HIL are unduly discriminatory because they are based, in part, on incremental costs, whereas all other firm rates are based on average cost. As previously stated, the monthly Schedule L-HIL Coincident Peak Demand charge is based on incremental capacity costs.[10] This is problematic because treating these incremental costs to serve Schedule L-HIL customers in isolation ignores that the addition of new high factor loads could, over time, reduce rates for existing customers because fixed system costs would be spread over a larger sales base. If Santee Cooper's proposed incremental cost-based calculation is intended to prevent cost-shifting to other customers, or to minimize the risk of stranded costs, these concerns are already addressed in the proposed terms and conditions that, among other things, require: 1) a long-term commitment with minimum monthly demand charges; 2) appropriate credit support; and 3) payment of all interconnection costs. These terms would ensure that Schedule L-HIL customers fully pay for the incremental costs they cause.

Finally, it is premature to determine the specific rates that should be charged under Schedule L-HIL. The 2027/2028 budgets project no Schedule L-HIL customers. Therefore, the costs to serve any potential Schedule L-HIL customers are largely speculative. Until further studies have been conducted regarding the costs to serve new very large, very high load factor customers, the basis for designing rates is largely unknown. These rates should

[10] Proposed High Impact Load Service Schedule L-HIL.

only be set after customers who will actually take service under Schedule L-HIL have requested specific engineering studies and the Authority has had the opportunity to conduct a CCOSS to evaluate the projected costs and revenues over the contract term.

When service under Schedule L-HIL commences, it will not only increase net revenues, it will also reduce the proportion of system capacity costs that are currently allocated to existing retail customers as reflected in the CCOSS. Therefore, we recommend that the Authority reassess the reasonableness of the adopted rates to ensure that existing customers are only paying for the costs that they cause.

FUEL ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE

The ICG has two primary concerns with the FAC. First, eligible fuel expense would include the costs associated with the production and procurement of gypsum. Second, it 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.

The production and procurement of gypsum is, at best, a byproduct of burning coal. Including both the costs and offsetting revenues is not consistent with the intent of the FAC, which is to provide timely recovery of costs that are clearly material, volatile, and beyond the Authority's direct control. Gypsum procurement and production do not satisfy any of these clear purposes. Therefore, the costs and revenues from the production and procurement of gypsum should be removed from the definition of eligible fuel expense.

Regarding third-party wind and solar PPAs, it is highly unlikely that there would be any explicit designated demand charges, even though the vast majority of the costs recovered in a wind/solar PPA are no different in nature from the Authority's production plant costs, which are recovered entirely in base rates. Further, the lack of a designated demand charge does not mean that these PPAs do not provide firm capacity. Allowing demand-related PPA costs to be passed-through on a per-kWh basis would be contrary to how demand-related costs of Santee Cooper's production plant are allocated and recovered from retail customers.

Therefore, the FAC 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 the FAC, there 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:

- Accrue a regulatory liability for any net retail revenues collected that result in a DSCR that exceeds 1.5x in CY 2027 and CY 2028.
- Maintain the current 9% CIF requirement and reassess the need to increase the CIF late next year if circumstances warrant.
- Raise the proposed interruptible credit to at least $15.83 per kW-month.
- Reduce the demand ratchet in Schedule L-I to 60%.
- Set the Economy Power Reservation charges to provide a contribution not to exceed 80% of transmission system costs.
- Discontinue the practice of setting the Economy Energy Price based on the higher of the Authority's Incremental Energy Cost or quotes from utilities offering to buy power from the Authority and instead set the price based solely on the Incremental Energy Cost.
- Adopt the ICG's proposed revisions to Schedule L-HIL, including limiting the applicability to computational loads, raising the load threshold to 100 MW, specifying a 90% or higher load factor, and defer setting the Demand and Energy charges until after conducting an updated class cost-of-service study that includes projected Schedule L-HIL loads.
- Reassess the adopted retail rates prior to when service would commence under Schedule L-HIL.
- Remove gypsum revenues and costs from the Fuel Adjustment Clause.
- Exclude all demand-related costs associated with renewable PPAs from the definition of eligible fuel expense.

Finally, we appreciate the Board's consideration and look forward to your questions.

APPENDIX A

Jeffry Pollock – President
Curriculum Vitae



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 over 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, Utah, 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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Billie S. LaConte – Associate
Curriculum Vitae



Billie S. LaConte is an Associate of ***J. Pollock, Incorporated (J. Pollock)***. She has been an energy advisor since 1995. Ms. LaConte has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from Boston University and a Masters in Business Administration from Washington University.
Upon graduation in May 1995, Ms. LaConte joined Drazen Consulting Group, Inc. (DCGI). DCGI was incorporated in 1995 assuming the utility rate and economic consulting activities of Drazen Associates, Inc., active since 1937. During her tenure at DCGI, she was a Senior Consultant. She joined ***J. Pollock*** May 2015.

During her tenure at DCGI and ***J. Pollock*** her work has focused on revenue requirement issues, cost of capital (return on equity and capital structure), cost allocation, rate design, sales and price forecasts, power cost forecasting, electric restructuring issues, and contract interpretation.

Ms. LaConte has been engaged in a wide range of consulting assignments, including energy and regulatory matters in both the United States and several Canadian provinces. She has advised clients on economic and strategic issues concerning the natural gas pipeline, oil pipeline, electric, wastewater and water utilities. She has prepared cost of capital analyses, revenue requirement analyses, and cost allocation and rate design studies to provide timely support to clients engaged in settlement negotiations in electric and gas utility proceedings, provided power cost forecasting studies to assist clients in project planning and negotiated contracts with electric utilities for standby services and interruptible rates. She has

prepared studies on electric and gas utilities performance-based rate (PBR) and benchmarking programs to evaluate their success and to provide recommendations on methods to be used. Ms. LaConte has worked on contract interpretation to resolve contract disputes for several clients. She has provided financial and cost of service analysis for natural gas pipelines certificate approval from the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Canadian National Energy Board (NEB).

Ms. LaConte has worked on projects in various states and several Canadian provinces including Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. She has testified before the state regulatory commissions of Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and the provincial regulatory boards of Alberta and Nova Scotia. She has also appeared before the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District Commission.

J. Pollock 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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Jonathan Ly – Associate
Curriculum Vitae



Jonathan Ly is an Associate of ***J. Pollock, Incorporated (J. Pollock)***. Mr. Ly has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Integrative Biology from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Science Degree in Energy and Earth Resources from the University of Texas at Austin

Since joining ***J. Pollock*** in 2018, Mr. Ly has been involved in preparing financial and economic studies of investor-owned, cooperative, and municipal utilities on revenue requirements, cost of service and rate design, tariff review and analysis, integrated resource planning, and certificates of convenience and necessity.

Mr. Ly has worked on projects in various states and testified before state regulatory commissions including Arkansas, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, and Texas.

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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 (kWs). This includes production, transmission, and some distribution investment and related fixed operation and maintenance (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 (kWhs). 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 CCOSS 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.

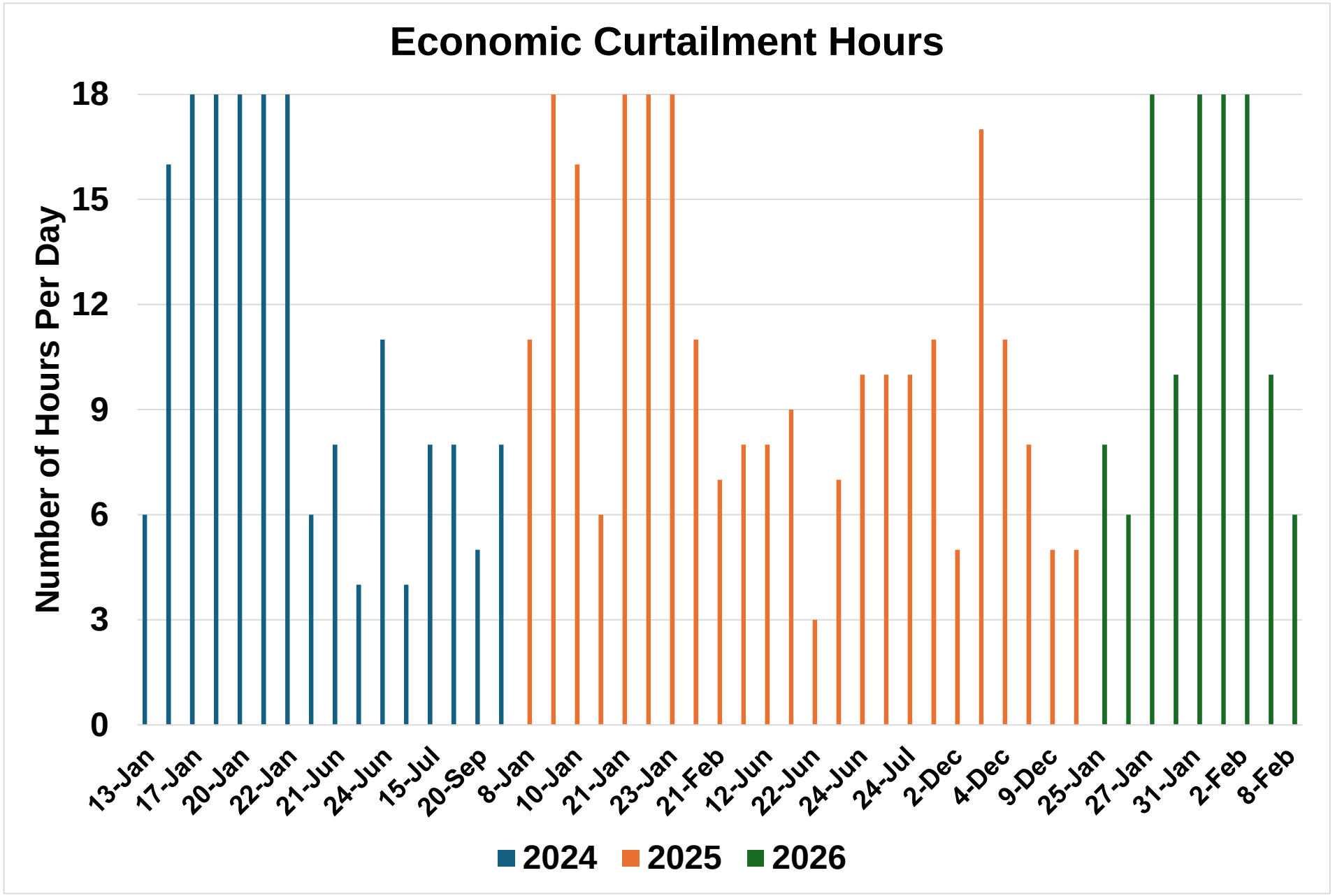
Further, non-firm service is a lower quality of service than firm service. Thus, non-firm service is less costly per unit than firm service for customers that otherwise have the same characteristics. This explains why some customers pay lower average rates than others.

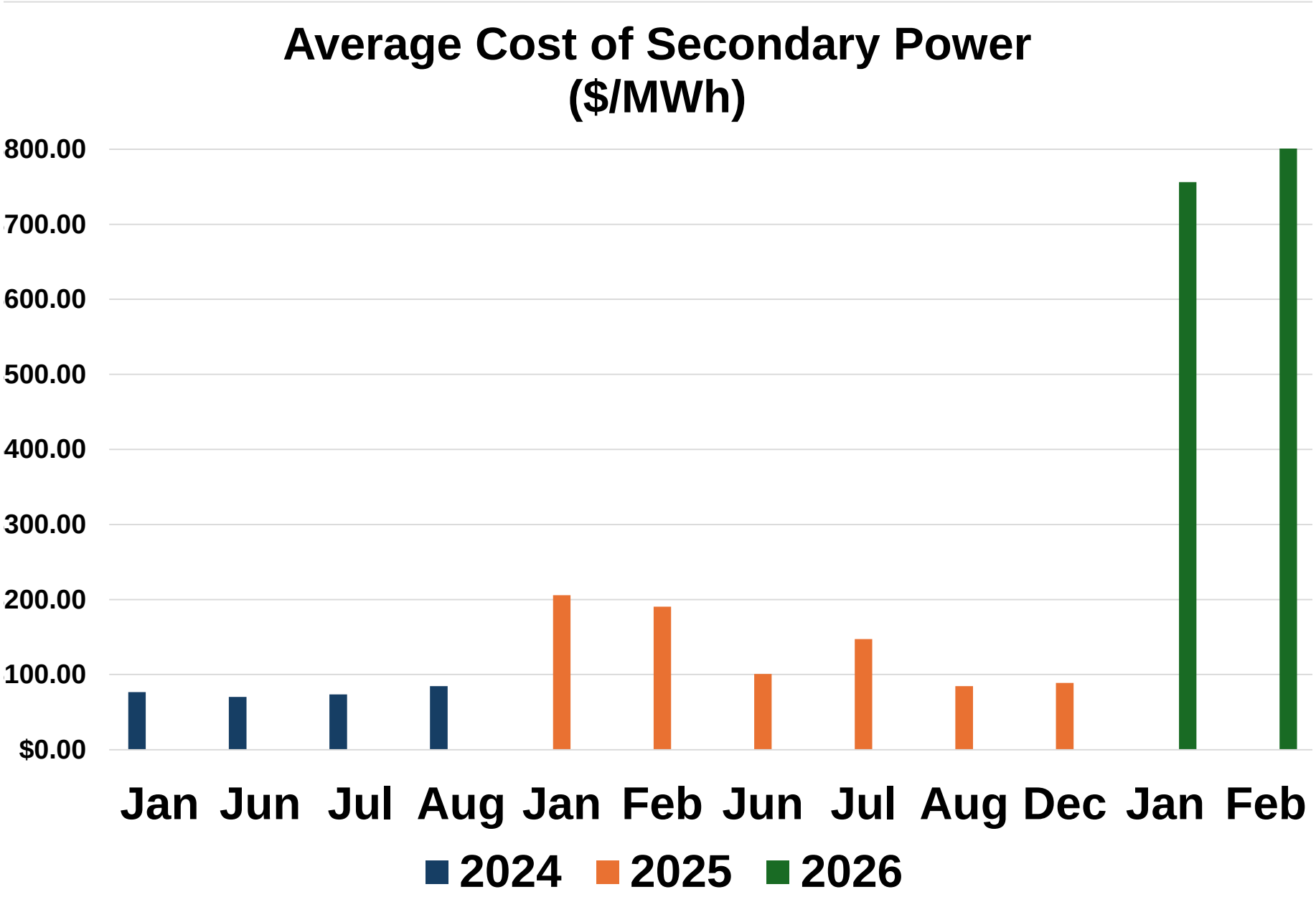
For example, the difference in the losses incurred to deliver electricity at the various delivery voltages is a reason why the per-unit energy cost to serve is not the same for all customers. More losses occur to deliver electricity at distribution voltage (either primary or secondary) than at transmission 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.

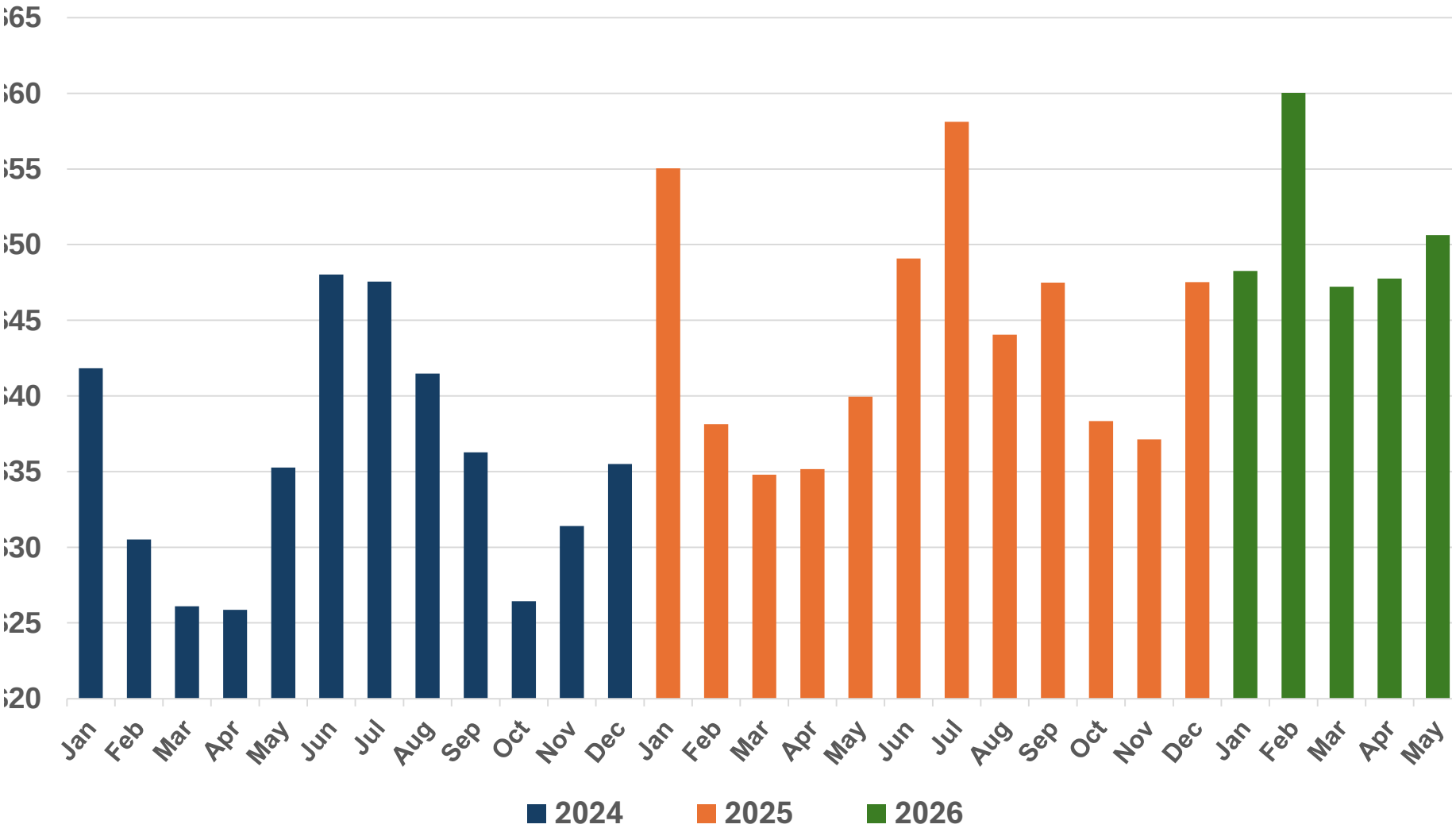

Economic Curtailment Hours
Number of Hours Per Day
18
15
12
9
6
3
0
13-Jan
17-Jan
20-Jan
22-Jan
21-Jun
24-Jun
15-Jul
20-Sep
8-Jan
10-Jan
21-Jan
23-Jan
21-Feb
12-Jun
22-Jun
24-Jun
24-Jul
2-Dec
4-Dec
9-Dec
25-Jan
27-Jan
31-Jan
2-Feb
8-Feb
2024
2025
2026


Average Cost of Secondary Power
($/MWh)
800.00
700.00
600.00
500.00
400.00
300.00
200.00
100.00
$0.00
Jan
Jun
Jul
Aug
Jan
Feb
Jun
Jul
Aug
Dec
Jan
Feb
2024
2025
2026

2026 Rate Study Interruptible Credit and High Impact Load Incremental Cost Calculations

Line	Description	Combustion Turbine Simple Cycle GE 7FA.05 Interruptible Credit	Sch. L-27 HIL Incremental Cost
		(1)	(2)
1	Construction Cost (includes interest during construction)	$469,846,561	$469,846,561
2	Combustion Turbine Rated Capacity (Winter kW)	244,725	244,725
3	Installed Cost per kW	1,919.90	1,919.90
4	Annual Debt Service ($/kW-yr)	127.21	$187.00
5	Annual Fixed O&M Cost	3,250,907	3,250,907
6	Annual Fixed O&M Cost ($/kW-yr)	13.28	13.28
7	Total Annual Fixed Cost ($/kW-yr)	140.49	200.28
8	Payment to State ($/kW-yr)	1.58	2.25
9	Sums In Lieu (25% of Payment to State; $/kW-yr)	0.39	0.56
10	CIF @ 10% ($/kW-yr)	15.83	22.57
11	Total Annual Fixed Cost w/CIFR ($/kW-yr)	158.29	225.66
12	**Monthly Cost ($/kW-mo)**	**$13.19**	**$18.80**
		2025	
13	**Monthly Unit Cost (Nominal $)**	**$13.19**	**$18.80**
14	Add: 20% Reserves	**$15.83**	$22.57
15	L-Rate Production Demand		$16.48
16	HIL Minimum Billed Demand		90%
17	Adjusted Firm Capacity		$14.83
18	**Coincident Peak Demand Charge ($/kW-mo)**		**$7.73**

Average Economy Energy Prices ($/MWh)



ICG Comments
Schedule 5

ICG Recommended
2026 Rate Study EP & EP-O Reservation Charge Calculation

Line	Description	2027	2028
		(1)	(2)
	Transmission Revenue Requirement ($000s)		
1	Transmission O&M Expenses	$90,068	$94,420
	Allocated A&G Expenses		
2	(1) Property Taxes (Insurance)	$828	$969
3	(2) Other A&G Expenses	$29,547	$30,497
4	Total Allocated A&G Expenses	$30,375	$31,466
5	Taxes and Sums In Lieu of Taxes	$5,949	$7,049
6	Debt Svc	$118,836	$168,839
7	Lease Payments	$0	$0
8	Working Capital Requirement	$1,173	$1,052
9	**Total Trans System Rev Requirement Before CIF**	**$246,400**	**$302,826**
10	Allowance for Capital Improvements	$59,591	$70,518
11	**Gross Requirement with CIF**	**$305,991**	**$373,344**
12	Other Income and Revenues	($6,864)	($8,771)
13	**Net Transmission System Rev Requirements**	**$299,127**	**$364,573**
14	**System Peak Demand @ production level (MW) (includes off-system & nonfirm)**	6,467	6,761
15	**Transmission System Cost per kW-Month**	$3.85	$4.49
16	EP Transmission Contribution	80%	80%
17	**EP Reservation Charge $/kW-mo**	**$3.08**	**$3.59**
15	EP-O Generation Contribution (%)	10%	10%
16	**Net Production Demand System Rev Requirements**	**$1,185,493**	**$1,291,901**
17	**Unit Cost**	$15.28	$15.92
18	**10% Contribution**	$1.53	$1.59
19	**EP-O Reservation Charge $/kW-mo**	**$4.61**	**$5.19**

US House energy panel advances bill to shield ratepayers from data center costs

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:45 PM CT

By Zack Hale
S&P Global Energy

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee overwhelmingly advanced a bill on July 21 that would push states to formally consider measures to shield ratepayers from utility bill increases tied to new data center development.

The bill, called the Ratepayer Protection Act, cleared the full committee on a 52-0 bipartisan vote, with some members saying the legislation is just a first step in responding to consumer concerns. It now heads to the full US House of Representatives for consideration.

The legislation is intended to build on a nonbinding White House pledge signed in March by artificial intelligence companies including Amazon.com Inc., Google LLC, Meta Platforms Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

If enacted, the Ratepayer Protection Act would amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to require state utility authorities to launch formal ratemaking proceedings within one year for large-load customers with a peak demand of 100 megawatts or more. States would be required to complete those proceedings and issue final determinations no later than two years after enactment.

The legislation specifies that state-level proceedings should consider standards requiring large-load customers to pay for "the full, incremental cost" of their generation needs, as well as any related transmission or distribution upgrades. Proceedings would also need to consider requiring financial assurances from large-load customers before utilities undertake generation, transmission or distribution upgrades, and consumer protections for early contract terminations.

"The Ratepayer Protection Act says that the data center pays for its own upgrades, not the rest of us," lead co-sponsor Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.), ranking member on the panel's Energy Subcommittee, said during a July 21 committee markup. "It's about fairness."

Rep. Gabe Evans (R-Colo.), another lead co-sponsor, added that the bill "does not impose a federal mandate."

"Instead, it offers a federal standard for states to consider as they evaluate how to best integrate large loads," he said.

Industrial consumer concerns

During the markup, Evans secured support for a bipartisan amendment intended to address concerns from large industrial customers about the original bill's definition of large-load customers.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America had warned that an earlier definition of large loads — defined as nonresidential consumers with a peak electricity demand of 100 megawatts or greater at a single site — would capture the broader US manufacturing sector.

The bipartisan substitute amendment, adopted July 21 by voice vote, narrows the definition to large-load customers that require "electric energy primarily to operate information technology infrastructure and systems pertaining to data storage and computational applications and services." The bill's peak demand threshold would continue to be set at 100 MW or more "at a single site or campus."

The American Iron and Steel Institute commended the bill's narrower focus on computational electricity users.

"This important change will permit the domestic steel industry to continue investing in American manufacturing and job creation, while enhancing electrical grid reliability during times of systemic stress," Kevin Dempsey, the trade group's president and CEO, said in a July 21 statement.

Access to reliable, affordable electricity has become an emerging issue for the US steel industry as the nation struggles to meet surging demand, largely driven by rapid data center expansion. Over 70% of US steel production uses electric arc furnaces, leaving many US steelmakers vulnerable to higher power costs as demand continues to increase.

Further committee action

The July 21 committee markup included action on several more bills related to data centers and US electric transmission expansion.

The panel voted 47-0 to advance the Load Forecasting Enhancement Act, led by Reps. Troy Balderson (R-Ohio) and Rob Menendez (D-NJ). The bill would establish regional joint boards of state utility regulators and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission members to identify and report on best practices for predicting demand from new electric load.

The Protecting Families from AI Data Center Energy Costs Act, led by Rep. Greg Landsman (D-Ohio), advanced 44-0. The bill, intended to complement a series of show-cause orders issued by FERC last month, would direct the commission to hold a technical conference on ways to shield ratepayers from data center-related cost increases.

The committee voted 44-0 to advance the Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act, led by Reps. Diana Harshbarger (R-Tenn.) and Kevin Mullin (D-Calif.). The bill would direct FERC, the North American Electric Reliability Corp. and the US Energy Department to analyze how high-performance computing and AI can enhance the performance of the bulk power system.

The High-Capacity Grid Act, led by Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND), cleared the panel on a 49-0 vote. The bill would require new or modified interstate transmission lines to use the best commercially and economically available transmission conductors, whenever practical. During the markup, the committee adopted changes proposed by Fedorchak to include safety-related exemptions and provide utilities with more flexibility on reconductoring decisions.

Sarah Elbeshbishi contributed to this article.

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Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

Santee Cooper Response to Industrial Customer Group Comments
August 14, 2026

Dear Mr. Pollock

Thank you for your comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment on behalf of the Industrial Customer Group ("ICG"). Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper appreciates the ICG's input and engagement in this process. This letter is in response to the recommendations provided in the document "ICG 2026 Rate Study Comments" submitted July 29, 2026:

"In light of the unprecedented practice of setting rates using two fully projected test periods and to address growing affordability concerns, the Authority should accrue a regulatory liability for any actual margins that exceed a 1.5x DSCR in 2027 and 2028."

Santee Cooper respectfully disagrees that a phased rate increase using two projected test years is unprecedented. The ICG provided significant input into Santee Cooper's 2012 and 2015 Rate Studies, both of which included a phased increase over multiple test years. Furthermore, other electric utilities have recently proposed and received approval for multi-year increases, including:

- Colorado Springs Utilities (CO): Five-Year Increase[1]
- Duke Energy Carolinas (NC): Two-Year Increase[2]
- National Grid (NY): Three-Year Increase[3]
- Puget Sound Energy (WA): Two-Year Increase[4]
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District (CA): Two-Year Increase[5]

[1] https://www.csu.org/about/five-year-rate-case
[2] Duke Energy, NC settlement cut residential power bill hike | Charlotte Observer
[3] national-grid-electric-post-order-rate-case-summary_0.pdf
[4] State regulators approve new rates for PSE
[5] SMUD approves 3% rate hikes for 2026, 2027 | Sacramento Bee

Santee Cooper further disagrees that creating a regulatory liability to cap margins at a 1.5x Debt Service Coverage Ratio represents Good Utility Practice. Nevertheless, if excess revenue recovery does occur, notably as related to the potential nuclear transaction, Santee Cooper will evaluate opportunities to manage the over-recovery if appropriate.

"Recognizing both the stable/positive financial outlook, particularly if the MOU is executed, and growing affordability concerns, it is unnecessary to increase the CIF at this time. The Authority can revisit this issue late next year if circumstances warrant."

Santee Cooper plans for financial metrics consistent with a highly rated utility both to ensure the long-term financial health of the organization and to maintain our high credit ratings. Based on the significant capital investments included in the capital plan, the increase to 10% CIF is intended to maintain our financial health over time while concurrently reducing debt service costs to customers.

The stable and positive outlooks from Credit Rating Agencies were predicated upon projected metrics from Santee Cooper's 2026 Budget Financial Forecast, which contemplates raising the CIF requirement to 10% in 2027. Further, in late July 2026, Santee Cooper's credit rating was upgraded by Fitch and S&P Global and its outlook was upgraded by Moody's. These changes were driven by forecasted improvements to financial metrics, and the increased CIF component is a key piece of these metrics.

On July 27, 2026, Fitch upgraded Santee Cooper's rating to 'A' from 'A-', citing:

"Financial metrics are likely to improve further through 2028, supported by growing electric sales and modest annual rate increases."[6]

On July 28, 2026, Moody's revised its outlook on Santee Cooper to positive from stable, citing:

"The positive outlook reflects the utility's expectation of consistent rate setting that should lead to DSCR between 1.3x to 1.5x and sustained adjusted liquidity well in excess of 250 days"[7]

On July 29, 2026, S&P Global upgraded Santee Cooper's rating to 'A' from 'A-', citing:

"…[T]he rating upgrade is further underpinned by our analysis of management-provided forecasts that the authority will maintain stable FCC at about 1.3x-1.4x (S&P Global Ratings-calculated) and robust liquidity through fiscal 2029."[8]

If the nuclear transaction is completed, Santee Cooper will evaluate the impact on financial metrics and financial plans at that time.

"The Authority's CCOSS should be adopted and used for class revenue allocation and the design of retail firm rates."

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[6] https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Investors/easset_upload_file59347_84126_e.pdf
[7] https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Investors/easset_upload_file15652_84126_e.pdf
[8] https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Investors/easset_upload_file76684_84126_e.pdf

The ICG's position on this topic is noted and appreciated.

"The proposed Interruptible Demand charge should be reduced to properly reflect avoided capacity costs, consistent with the Authority's quantification of incremental capacity costs in designing the proposed Schedule L-HIL Coincident Peak Demand charge."

Santee Cooper's resource planning process treats non-firm load as a resource available to meet our reserve targets and compensates customers accordingly. . This treatment means that converting the load from non-firm to firm creates a reduction in resources instead of an increase in required reserves. More generally, Santee Cooper's position is to not add the value of calculated reserves on reserves in the derivation of the Interruptible credit because Santee Cooper does not carry reserves on our reserves.

That being said, Interruptible load is very important to Santee Cooper, and we aim to offer fair and reasonable compensation to customers taking service under the Interruptible rider. As such, Santee Cooper has not increased the demand or energy charges for the Interruptible rate in 2027 or 2028, nor have we proposed to increase the limit of economic curtailment hours. The residential class is seeing an aggregate increase of over 9% while interruptible sees no price change in either year. Based on the value that Santee Cooper assigns, the average credit over 2027 – 2028 is in line with the value received.

"The Economy Power Reservation charges should not be designed to recover full transmission costs because Economy Power is not a firm service. Recognizing that Economy Power is a non-firm service, the Reservation charges should reflect an 80% contribution to fixed transmission costs."

Santee Cooper has modified the calculation of the Economy Power Reservation charge in the proposed rates to include non-firm peak load in the divisor of the calculation. This change was made, in part, to moderate the increase in the Reservation charge and to recognize the non-firm customer use of the transmission system when determining the rate.

Santee Cooper also notes that a portion of the higher transmission operations and maintenance expenses, and the sizeable transmission investments, enable Santee Cooper to provide power to customers at a lower marginal cost and at times when the power would not otherwise be available for non-firm customers in a capacity constrained market, which provides a significant benefit to EP customers.

"The Authority should discontinue the practice of setting the Economy Energy Price based on the higher of the Authority's Incremental Energy Cost or quotes from utilities offering to buy power from the Authority because it is inconsistent with the Authority's obligation to serve. Thus, Economy Energy Prices should be based solely on the Authority's Incremental Energy Cost."

Economy Power is considered market priced power, or power that Santee Cooper has available in excess of our firm customers' needs and is available to sell to other parties. It is reasonable for our

firm customers to expect that this power be sold at a true market rate. The Economy Power rate schedule is an optional rider that the "Authority may from time to time, in its sole discretion, determine to be available from the Authority's resources (including the Authority's arrangements with other utilities) in excess of the power and energy requirements of the Authority's other customers." Pricing at incremental energy cost only and forgoing market sales (or "arrangements with other utilities") incrementally increases the average fuel cost for our firm customers. This rate is not intended to be subsidized by firm customers and/or cause Santee Cooper to reject opportunities to reduce their fuel cost.

"The proposed Schedule L-HIL should be revised as follows:
Raise the load threshold to at least 100 MW.
Require a minimum load factor of at least 90%."

The High Impact Load is in line with expected proposed federal standards for what constitutes large load. On October 23, 2025, the Secretary of Energy, acting under section 403 of the Department of Energy Organization Act, directed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to consider an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR) focused on the timely and orderly interconnection of large loads to the interstate transmission system. The ANOPR seeks public input on potential reforms related to how large loads - generally defined as electricity demand greater than 20 megawatts (MW) – interconnect to the transmission system.[9] This size is also consistent with Santee Cooper's transmission planning guidelines.

The HIL rate is designed, in part, to protect customers from incremental capacity costs which would be incurred to serve new load that provides limited economic development to the State, and thus stating a specific minimum load factor is not necessary.

"Include language clarifying that the Schedule is applicable only to computational loads and not to existing Santee Cooper customers, including Schedule L-I customers who convert a portion of their load from interruptible to firm power."

The HIL is designed to keep our other customers, in part, from subsidizing large loads coming to the system or, generally, from subsidizing the cost of large loads on the system. Santee Cooper makes an exception for Economic Development type loads for the benefits they bring to South Carolina, and instead charges those customers only fully-allocated pricing. Further limiting the rate schedule is not necessary to achieve Santee Cooper's goals of protecting customers from large loads.

"The Demand and Energy charges should be derived using a CCOSS that includes actual Schedule L-HIL customers."

Santee Cooper cannot predict which customers joining the system in the future would be eligible for the L-HIL rate and thus cannot set rates based on an unknown estimate. We do not currently serve any L-HIL customers.

[9] *Docket No. RM26-4-000*

"When Santee Cooper commences serving actual HIL customers, it should reassess the reasonableness of the adopted rates to ensure that existing customers are being charged only for the costs they are causing."

Santee Cooper intends to continually review the HIL rate to verify it is accomplishing the goal of ensuring existing customer do not subsidize new load.

"Gypsum revenues and costs should be excluded from the FAC."

Santee Cooper considers gypsum as a variable cost related to the production of energy and believes it is appropriate to include the cost and revenues associated with gypsum in the true-up of actual costs charged to customers through the fuel adjustment clause. This is not a change from our existing fuel adjustment clause.

"Any demand-related costs associated with renewable PPAs should be removed from the FAC."

The proposed FAC 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. Additionally, Santee Cooper has included costs associated with battery PPA's in base rates, recognizing the capacity benefit that they provide to the system.

Thank you again for your comments on Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment and your interest in the process. We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country.



Greg McCormack
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Submitter Information

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Organization:	Nucor		
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001166

Date Submitted:	7/30/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Santee Cooper Rates Team: Attached please find Nucor Steel – Berkeley's comments on Santee Cooper's 2026 electric rate proposal and rate study. Please let us know if you have any questions. Also, could you please send a confirmation e-mail so we know the comments have been received and that you are able to open the file? Thanks, Mike

IN THE MATTER OF
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY (SANTEE COOPER)
2026 RATE STUDY

July 30, 2026

FORMAL COMMENTS BY NUCOR STEEL – BERKELEY
ON SANTEE COOPER 2026 ELECTRIC SYSTEM COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN STUDY

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FORMAL COMMENTS BY NUCOR STEEL – BERKELEY
ON SANTEE COOPER 2026 ELECTRIC SYSTEM COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN STUDY

Nucor Steel – Berkeley, a Division of Nucor Corporation (Nucor) hereby submits formal written comments on the 2026 Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Design Study (Rate Study or Study) prepared by NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC for the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper). Nucor welcomes the opportunity to provide these comments, and we appreciate Santee Cooper's Board of Directors' and management's consideration of our views, concerns, and proposals.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nucor is a long-standing customer of Santee Cooper and is proud to call South Carolina home. As a large, energy-intensive steel manufacturer, Santee Cooper's electric rates are of critical importance to Nucor because low and stable electric costs are essential to Nucor's ability to remain competitive in national and international steel markets. In these comments, we focus on the main issues of concern to Nucor in the Rate Study. Specifically, these comments address: (i) the interruptible rate (including the level of credit, the application of the Demand Sales Adjustment to interruptible demand, and the demand ratchet under the rate); (ii) proposed changes to Santee Cooper's economy power rates; (iii) fuel costs and the fuel adjustment clause; and (iv) the proposed High Impact Load rate. Nucor's conclusions and recommendations regarding these issues are outlined in the executive summary below.

<u>Interruptible Rate</u>

- Interruptible Credit
    - In proposing to hold the interruptible rate steady for the next two years, Santee Cooper recognizes the increasing value of interruptible load. Interruptible customers provide critical reliability, cost avoidance, and economic development and retention benefits for the Santee Cooper system. As load continues to rapidly grow on Santee Cooper's system, interruptible load will become ever more valuable.
    - Santee Cooper's interruptible rate compensates interruptible customers for the benefits of their interruptibility by applying an interruptible credit to the standard firm rate. While an increase in the interruptible credit is reflected in the Rate

Study, key beneficial elements are still not reflected in the interruptible credit. In order to ensure that the interruptible credit fairly reflects the full value interruptible load provides, the credit should be further increased.

- Nucor recommends that the credit be increased to better reflect the avoided cost of constructing a combustion turbine (CT). In addition, the credit should be further increased to reflect the following elements:

  - Avoided reserves – the credit should reflect avoided reserves because if 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. However, currently the interruptible credit does not reflect any of this 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. The interruptible credit should be increased to reflect this avoided transmission cost.

- Application of Demand Sales Adjustment Clause to Interruptible Demand

  - Santee Cooper uses a Demand Sales Adjustment Clause (DSC) to credit to customers the demand and capacity revenues from Non-Class sales such as 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. As a result, interruptible customers are paying more per kW for the firm component of their power than if they were actually firm customers (Santee Cooper estimates the difference between the DSC applied to firm service and the DSC applied to interruptible service in 2027 to be 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 paid by firm customers. This is unfair to interruptible customers that are providing a substantial benefit to the Santee Cooper system and other customers.

- In order to ensure that interruptible customers receive the full avoided cost value of their interruptibility, Santee Cooper should return to its historical practice of crediting interruptible revenues in the DSC to both firm and non-firm customers alike. In the alternative, Santee Cooper should adjust the interruptible credit upward to mitigate at least in part the effect of not crediting interruptible sales revenues under the DSC to interruptible customers.

- 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 is with the level of the interruptible ratchet.

  - The interruptible rate currently includes an 80% demand ratchet, the same percentage that applies under the firm rate. 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 is a strong disincentive to reducing 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. The 80% demand ratchet under the interruptible rate should be reduced to a more reasonable level (such as 50% or less).

Economy Power

- Like the interruptible rate, Economy Power (EP) and Economy Power – Optional Energy Charge (EP-O) are non-firm rates that will become increasingly important as load grows and capacity remains tight for Santee Cooper. However, unlike what the Rate Study proposes for the interruptible rate, the Study proposes significant increases to the EP and EP-O rates. Specifically, the Rate Study recommends that the reservation charges be increased by 55% for EP and 44% for EP-O. This level of increase would violate the ratemaking principle of gradualism and would send the wrong signal at a time when non-firm products are becoming increasingly important.

- The proposed increases to the reservation charges are intended to reflect Santee Cooper's increased open access transmission rate. However, since EP and EP-O are non-firm services that can be interrupted for transmission capacity/reliability reasons, there is no need for Santee Cooper to charge the full cost of firm transmission to serve customers on these rates. As a result, Santee Cooper should keep the reservation charges for these rates at their current level or at least should approve a smaller increase (such as no more than the system average increase or 10%, whichever is higher).

- 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. The EP-O off-peak hours should be expanded to include more hours that are typically lower-cost. 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 all off-peak under EP-O and should not have designated on-peak hours since the highest incremental energy prices are unlikely to occur on these days. If this change is adopted, Santee Cooper would still have the discretion to designate certain hours during weekends or holidays as on-peak if deemed necessary.

Fuel Adjustment Clause

- At the time of the last rate review, Santee Cooper's customers were hit with three significant cost increases – a base rate increase, imposition of the Cook Exceptions cost recovery mechanism, and unfrozen fuel cost. For large industrial customers, the unfrozen fuel cost was the most significant cost driver of the three. Going forward, Santee Cooper is forecasting sustained high fuel and purchased power costs for at least the next several years. Santee Cooper needs to make a concerted effort to find ways to mitigate fuel cost increases.

- The fuel adjustment clause (FAC) should be limited to recovering fuel costs. To the extent the FAC includes non-fuel costs, the FAC is being misused. Since fuel costs are recovered on a per kWh basis, 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. Therefore, costs more appropriately designated as fixed or demand-related (including the cost of firm natural gas transportation, renewable PPAs, and gypsum) should be removed from the FAC and recovered through base rates, or through another rate component that allocates costs based on demand.

- 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.

- Santee Cooper should work with interested large industrial customers to develop customized fuel hedging mechanisms.

High Impact Load Schedule

- The Rate Study proposes that the current experimental Large Load Schedule be renamed as the High Impact Load (HIL) Schedule and made permanent. The HIL rate is an attempt

to address the expected influx of new large load, particularly data center load, to Santee Cooper's system.

- Santee Cooper has not justified lowering the threshold for applicability of the tariff from 50 MW to 20 MW. 50 MW is what is included in the current experimental Large Load Schedule, and many utilities, regulators, and legislatures have recognized that 50 MW is a reasonable large load threshold.

- Existing customers are not driving the need for the HIL tariff. Therefore, the tariff should not apply to existing customers. However, if existing customers are not exempted, then the tariff should make clear that the HIL provisions apply only to incremental load of existing customers that meets the minimum MW threshold. The HIL tariff provisions should not apply to contract demands included in current service agreements.

II. COMMENTS

A. Overview

Nucor Corporation is North America's largest steelmaker and recycler and is a leader in the national and international steel industry. While Nucor Corporation has steel mills located throughout the country (including two in South Carolina), the mill located in Berkeley County that is served by Santee Cooper is one of the largest and most diversified mills in the Nucor fleet. The Berkeley mill started operations 30 years ago, and over that time Nucor has continued to make significant expansions and investments in the plant, most recently with a new galvanization line. Nucor's Berkeley mill employs over 1,000 teammates and is a major contributor to South Carolina's economy.

Nucor makes steel by melting scrap steel in massive electric arc furnaces and recycling the scrap into new steel products. Since this steelmaking process taps the latent energy contained in the 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 critical to Nucor. Nucor has worked closely with Santee Cooper management on rate and power supply issues over the years, including in prior rate reviews, and we appreciate Santee Cooper's willingness to engage with us on these issues. We also appreciate Santee Cooper's efforts to provide safe and reliable electric service while attempting to control costs.

In Santee Cooper's 2024 rate review process, Nucor expressed concern about the impacts of three separate rate increases converging at once in the wake of the expiration of the Cook

litigation rate freeze in 2025 – a base rate increase, an increase in fuel costs resulting from unfreezing the fuel rates, and the start of the recovery of the Cook Exceptions costs. Santee Cooper's customers absorbed all of these increases, but unfortunately, customers have had little time to enjoy a breather before facing the next wave of rate increases. In the current rate review, Santee Cooper's retail customers are being asked to absorb a 6.4% base rate increase over the next two years, with additional base rate increases likely following closely thereafter. Even more concerning for some customers (large industrial customers in particular), fuel and purchased power costs have increased significantly, and are projected to continue to stay high over the next several years.

Santee Cooper is currently making significant investments in generation, transmission, and distribution to address load growth and to modernize and improve its system. These projects include the Santee Cooper/Dominion joint build combined cycle generation plant at Canadys, the Rainey combined cycle conversion, and the LM6000 combustion turbine project at Winyah. Nucor supports these projects and believes that they will provide benefits, and we understand that these projects are in part driving the need for a base rate increase. We also understand that Santee Cooper needs to set its rates at a level adequate to cover its costs. Nevertheless, rate increases are a real burden for customers, and for energy-intensive industrial customers in particular, significant and sustained electric cost increases will negatively impact their competitiveness. As a result, Nucor urges Santee Cooper to keep these customer impacts in mind and to actively work to mitigate rate increases to the greatest extent possible.

Notwithstanding the overall concern about rate increases and the specific issues and recommendations discussed later these comments, there are certain key elements and recommendations in the Rate Study that Nucor supports. For example, Nucor agrees with the Rate Study that allocating generation production demand costs using a 4 CP methodology[1] is reasonable and appropriate, since this methodology reflects how Santee Cooper plans and builds its system. While there are improvements that could be considered in future rate reviews (for example, a 2 CP methodology could be considered, and a 2 or 4 CP approach would also be

[1] *See* Rate Study at 4-5 (explaining that demand allocation factors for production costs were developed based on the four coincident peaks during the months of January, February, July, and August, reflecting the fact that Santee's Cooper's system has distinct summer and winter peaks).

appropriate for allocating transmission costs), Santee Cooper's allocation approach is reasonable, generally reflective of cost-causation, and consistent with how Santee Cooper currently allocates costs. Nucor also supports Santee Cooper's proposal to recover the cost of incremental market capacity purchases through the DSC since these costs are clearly capacity/demand related.

In the remainder of these comments, Nucor addresses our concerns with certain elements of the Rate Study and our recommendations for improving Santee Cooper's rates. Nucor urges Santee Cooper to carefully consider and adopt these recommendations, which are specifically intended to improve Santee Cooper's industrial rates by better reflecting cost causation, providing important price signals, and maximizing flexibility.

B. Interruptible Rate

Interruptible customers provide significant benefits to Santee Cooper and other customers on the system. These benefits include:

- 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 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 at market prices that would otherwise be required to serve the load that is interrupted.
- Interruptible load can be used as operating reserves to meet NERC reliability requirements.
- By curtailing or buying through non-emergency 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 customers, interruptible rates help advance Santee Cooper's economic development and job and industry-retention goals.

Nucor takes a large amount of interruptible power, and therefore the interruptible rate is of primary importance to Nucor in this rate review, as it has been in past rate reviews. Quite simply, we could not operate our steel mill and produce steel cost-effectively without the availability of non-firm rates (both the interruptible rate and the economy power rates). This is despite the fact that, all things being equal, Nucor would prefer to be a firm customer rather than interruptible. Interruptible service is a lower-quality form of electric service, and physical curtailments can be highly disruptive to the operations of a manufacturer. In addition, economic curtailments can also be highly disruptive, and customers have to make a quick decision whether to curtail in response to an economic curtailment or buy through at often very high Secondary Power prices. In recent years, interruptible customers have experienced more economic curtailments at higher Secondary Power prices, and this trend is likely to continue given strong load growth, extreme weather, and other factors.

While the interruptible rate has always provided valuable benefits to industrial customers on the rate and to the system overall, interruptible load is of increasing importance in light of the significant load growth being experienced on Santee Cooper's system. Santee Cooper projects a total winter load of over 7,200 MW expected by 2035, an increase of 32% compared to 2025.[2] The near-term impacts of this load growth are being felt today, as evidenced by the fact that Santee Cooper set seven new peak power demand records in 2025.[3] Load growth leads to capacity constraints, and the Rate Study recognizes that "[d]ue to the capacity constraints in the market, the value of non-firm load is growing." The increasing importance of interruptible load has been highlighted by Santee Cooper in other forums, including Santee Cooper's most recent Integrated Resource Plan, where Santee Cooper explained that non-firm offerings mitigate reliability risk and help Santee Cooper to meet its reserve margin.[4] In recognition of the growing

[2] Request to Adopt Retail Rate Adjustment Process and Recommendation to Adjust 2027 and 2028 Rates, Management Recommendation (May 2026) at 6.
[3] Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Report at 1.
[4] South Carolina Public Service Commission, Docket No. 2023-154-E, South Carolina Public Service Authority's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan, Rebuttal Testimony of Rahul Dembla at 24.

value of non-firm load, the Rate Study proposes that the interruptible rider will not experience a rate increase during this rate review.[5]

Nucor appreciates Santee Cooper's recognition of the importance of interruptible load and its proposal not to increase the interruptible rate (currently $10.44/kW-month). Nucor also agrees that Santee Cooper's approach of valuing the interruptible credit based on the avoided cost of a combustion turbine generator is the right starting point for developing the interruptible rate. However, we believe that the interruptible credit implied in Santee Cooper's proposed interruptible rate is still undervalued, and as a result, the proposed interruptible rate is too high. As discussed further below, the interruptible credit should be adjusted upward (and the interruptible rate should be adjusted downward) to better reflect the estimated avoided cost of constructing a peaking generator, as well as to reflect the cost of reserves, energy, and transmission that Santee Cooper avoids due to the availability of interruptible load. The interruptible rate should also be adjusted to reflect the impact of the DSC not being applied to interruptible load, which effectively results in a significant discount to the interruptible credit included in the interruptible rate.

We request that Santee Cooper reduce the proposed $10.44/kW-month interruptible rate for 2027 and 2028 to account for these factors. This would be an important step toward more fully reflecting the value of interruptible load in the rate, and would help mitigate rate increases interruptible customers will experience (customers on Santee Cooper's interruptible rate may still have large amounts of load on Santee Cooper's firm and economy power rates, and significant increases to these rates are being proposed in the rate review).

1. The interruptible rate should be adjusted to better reflect the avoided cost of constructing a CT

Santee Cooper typically develops the interruptible rate by calculating an interruptible credit based on the avoided cost of a CT, then subtracting that credit from the firm rate under Schedule L. For example, in the last rate review, Santee Cooper approved a firm rate under Schedule L of $21.08/kW, and an interruptible credit of $10.64. As a result, the interruptible rate

[5] Rate Study at 5-3.

under Schedule I was $10.44 ($21.08 - $10.64 = $10.44). It follows that the implied interruptible credit can be calculated by subtracting the interruptible rate from the firm rate.

In this rate review, Santee Cooper proposes to increase firm rates in 2027 and 2028. However, Santee Cooper proposes to hold the interruptible rate steady at $10.44 for both years, in part to recognize the increasing importance of interruptible load.[6] Nucor appreciates that Santee Cooper recognizes the importance of interruptible load in designing its rates and agrees with Santee Cooper that holding the interruptible rate stable for 2027 and 2028 is a good approach. However, even without taking into account other important avoided costs that are missing from Santee Cooper's interruptible credit calculation which are discussed further below, Santee Cooper's proposed interruptible rate does not accurately reflect the avoided costs of constructing a CT.

Santee Cooper's 2026 Rate Study Interruptible Credit Calculation produces a nominal monthly credit value of $13.19/kW for 2025.[7] When an inflation factor is applied, the credit value increases to $13.53 in 2026, $13.89 in 2027, and $14.25 in 2028.[8] These credit values, however, differ from the implied interruptible credits reflected in the proposed interruptible rates. If the interruptible rate is set at $10.44 for the next two years, the implied interruptible credit reflected in the rates increases from the $10.64 credit reflected in the current rates to $12.79 in 2027 ($23.23 firm rate - $10.44 interruptible rate = $12.79) and to $14.62 in 2028 ($25.06 firm rate - $10.44 interruptible rate = $14.62).

As a result of holding the interruptible rate steady, therefore, the implied interruptible credit increases, which is directionally appropriate given that the costs of a CT will continue to rise. Nevertheless, the interruptible credit reflected in Santee Cooper's interruptible credit calculation (as well as the implied credits reflected in the proposed rates) are still significantly undervalued because the CT construction cost estimate does not take into account certain key elements. As one example, the calculation does not take into account the cost of dual fuel capability, fuel storage for alternative fuel, or the cost of firm gas transportation. Particularly

[6] *See* Rate Study at 5-3.
[7] 2026 Rate Study Interruptible Credit Calculation (posted as "Interruptible Credit 5-1-2026 FINAL.xlsx" in Data Room: ORS Discovery and Additional Documents, Additional Information).
[8] *Id*.

given the pipeline constraints in recent years, it would be reasonable to assume that a new CT would need dual fuel capability if it could not obtain firm gas transportation. Therefore, it is appropriate to include these costs when estimating the costs of constructing a CT. Santee Cooper's interruptible credit calculation also does not accurately reflect the expected steep increases in gas turbine costs due to increased demand, reduced supply, and supply-chain issues. As noted above, Santee Cooper's interruptible credit calculation starts with a 2025 credit value and increases that value by a 2.6% inflation factor each year to calculate nominal credits for 2026, 2027, and 2028. This inflation factor likely far under-estimates the actual CT construction cost increases that would be experienced over the next several years.

If these factors are taken into account, the interruptible credit would increase, and the resulting interruptible rate would decrease. As noted above, we see value in holding the interruptible rate stable for 2027 and 2028 as Santee Cooper proposes. However, we recommend that the rate be reduced to reflect these additional cost elements.

2. The interruptible credit should be increased to reflect additional avoided costs

As discussed above, Nucor agrees that the avoided cost of constructing a CT is the appropriate starting point for calculating the credit. Nevertheless, there are certain key costs that interruptible load helps Santee Cooper avoid that should also be reflected in the credit. A few of the key avoided cost categories that should be considered are discussed below.

a. Avoided reserves

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 it were firm. As a result, the interruptible credit should reflect avoided reserves based on Santee Cooper's current planning reserve margin. Santee Cooper's current planning reserve margin is 18%, and Santee Cooper's recent planning reserve margin study has recommended that the

planning reserve margin be increased to 20%.[9] The avoided cost calculation should be increased 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 1,200 MW of capacity resources (1,000 MW x 120% = 1,200 MW) to meet its winter planning requirements, of which 200 MW represents the 20% reserve margin. Now assume that 100 MW of the firm load is converted to interruptible load. In this case, Santee Cooper would plan for 1,080 MW of firm supply resources (900 MW x 120% = 1,080 MW) to meet its planning reserve requirements, of which 180 MW represents the 20% 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 120 MW of generation capacity (1,200 MW – 1,080 MW = 120 MW), consisting of 100 MW plus 20 MW of planning reserves.

There is no question that Santee Cooper avoids the need for reserves on non-firm load, as reflected in the example above. To fully capture this benefit, the interruptible credit should be increased by 20% to account for the 20% reserve margin Santee Cooper would otherwise have to carry if the interruptible load on its system were firm. Santee Cooper should reflect some increase in the interruptible credit to reflect the avoided reserve margin benefit, even if not the full 20%, in this rate review.

b. 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.

[9] Santee Cooper Resource Planning Stakeholder, General Notice Meeting #4 (June 11, 2026) at slide 55 (available at https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Integrated-Resource-Plan/2026-IRP-Stakeholder-Process/_pdfs/Santee-Cooper-IRP-General-Notice-Meeting-4.pdf).

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 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 that 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 may 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.

As noted above, interruptible customers have shouldered the burden of increasing secondary power events and costs while mitigating high fuel costs for Santee Cooper's other customers in the hours when economic curtailments are called. The interruptible credit should reflect at least in part this avoided energy benefit. Santee Cooper should 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. 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.

3. The interruptible credit should be adjusted upward to address the impact of not crediting interruptible sales to interruptible customers through the DSC

Santee Cooper uses the DSC to credit customers demand and capacity revenues from Non-Class sales such as off-system sales, inter-utility sales, and the sales of interruptible power. 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 demand charge actually paid by firm customers. The result is that the effective interruptible credit is significantly reduced or discounted since interruptible customers receive less than the full avoided cost value of their interruptible service.

As explained above, in the current rate review, Santee Cooper has proposed to keep the interruptible rate at $10.44/kW. The 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. As proposed by Santee Cooper, this would be $12.79 for 2027 ($23.23 - $10.44 = $12.79) 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 used by Santee Cooper to calculate the interruptible rate is preserved ($22.23 - $9.44 = $12.79).

However, since Santee Cooper proposes to continue crediting interruptible revenues only to firm customers, the starting point for the interruptible rate (the combined firm demand charge) prior to applying the interruptible credit is higher than that paid by firm customers. The result is a reduced or “discounted” interruptible credit. The following table, which reflects the projected

2027 DSC rates[10] applied to the proposed firm and interruptible demand charges, illustrates the impact:

Schedule L-25 Firm Demand Charge	$23.23
DSC Applied to Firm	$(1.18)
Net Firm Rate	$22.05
Schedule L-25-I Interruptible Demand Charge	$10.44
DSC Applied to Interruptible	$(0.017)
Net Interruptible Rate	$10.42
Difference Between Net Firm Rate and Net Interruptible Rate (effective interruptible credit)	**$11.63**

The effective $11.63 interruptible credit reflects a roughly 9% haircut to the full $12.79 avoided cost value of interruptible for 2027 as reflected in the Rate Study.

Prior to the 2012 rate review, the same DSC was applied to both firm and interruptible customers by Santee Cooper. We think this is the appropriate approach because it prevents the erosion of the interruptible credit demonstrated above. Going forward, we recommend that Santee Cooper apply the same DSC to firm and interruptible customers consistent with Santee Cooper's historical approach so that the interruptible credit is applied to the actual net demand charge paid by firm customers. In the alternative, the interruptible credit reflected in the interruptible rate can be increased to mitigate at least some of the impact created by not applying the DSC to interruptible service.

4. The demand ratchet applicable to the interruptible rate should be reduced

Santee Cooper's firm and interruptible rates both contain an 80% "demand ratchet," the purpose of which is to ensure that customers provide a minimum contribution to Santee Cooper's

[10] Rate Study 2027 Technical Appendix, Projected Demand-Sales Credit Present Rates (posted as 2027 Technical Appendix C 5-4-2026.xlsm, worksheet "Projected Pres DSC" in Data Room: ORS Discovery and Additional Documents, Additional Information).

fixed (demand/capacity-related) costs each month. The Rate Study proposes to continue this demand ratchet for both firm and interruptible service.

Santee Cooper does not incur fixed generation and transmission capacity costs to serve interruptible customers, so a reasonable argument could be made that no demand ratchet is necessary for interruptible demand, much less the same 80% demand ratchet that applies to firm demand. Further, the ratchet provides a distorted price signal that discourages customers from reducing load at times of peak demand. Since the ratchet 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% demand ratchet is a significant impediment for an industrial customer to shift more usage off-peak. At a time when Santee Cooper should be designing rates to encourage customers to reduce power at peak times, the demand ratchet sends exactly the opposite signal to Santee Cooper's largest retail customers.

The ability to shift load off-peak is of particular benefit to a manufacturer when the market for its product slows, since shifting load off-peak would allow the manufacturer to possibly lower its electric costs and help offset reduced product sales. 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 available to mitigate the impact of economic downturns or other periods of weakened demand for their products. In other words, in addition to being detrimental to system reliability since it eliminates the incentive for customers to reduce their demand below the ratchet level at peak times, the ratchet also works counter to Santee Cooper's economic development and industry retention goals by effectively blocking an opportunity for industrial customers to reduce their energy cost by reducing their on-peak demand.

The Rate Study includes no analysis or explanation for why the 80% demand ratchet is appropriate for interruptible service. The reason for a demand ratchet is to ensure that a customer makes a reasonable contribution to fixed costs regardless of fluctuations in the customer's usage, and we are not suggesting that there should be no demand ratchet, particularly for firm loads. However, the current high demand ratchet applied to interruptible contract demands creates an unnecessarily high barrier to customer price response. As a result, we

recommend that Santee Cooper reduce the interruptible demand ratchet to a more reasonable level, such as 50%, to encourage price responsiveness.

C. Economy Power

The interruptible rate is not the only non-firm rate option available to Santee Cooper's customers. Santee Cooper also offers Economy Power and Economy Power – Optional Energy Charge, two non-firm incremental pricing options for industrial customers. 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 FAC 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. Customers on EP and EP-O are subject to interruption similar to the interruptible rate.

Nucor appreciates that Santee Cooper offers these incremental pricing rates and believes they provide a good compliment to Santee Cooper's other industrial rate options. However, we note that the amount of demand under these rates has waned significantly in the last several years, and Santee Cooper forecasts that this trend will continue.[11] Particularly at a time when more participation on non-firm rate options should be actively encouraged, Santee Cooper should be looking to make these rates more attractive. The proposed increases to the reservation charges for EP and EP-O will be a strong disincentive to customers considering these rates and will likely lead to further attrition in participation. To reverse course and incentivize more participation on EP and EP-O, we recommend that Santee Cooper reject the proposed increases to the reservation charges as well as implementing the other changes discussed below.

[11] *See* "EP EP-O Demand and Energy Final.xlsx" provided by Santee Cooper in Response to Nucor Information Requests 7 and 8. For EP, billed demand has decreased from 1,617,400 kW in 2021 to 869,400 kW in 2025. Santee Cooper projects a further reduction in EP billed demand in 2027 and 2028. For EP-O, billed demand decreased from 3,938,400 kW in 2021 to 920,400 in 2025, and Santee Cooper projects that EP-O billed demand will hold steady at 920,400 in 2027 and 2028.

1. Santee Cooper should reject the EP and EP-O reservation charge increases recommended by the Rate Study

The Rate Study recommends that the EP reservation charge be increased from $2.90/kW to $3.85/kW in 2027 and $4.49/kW in 2028, an increase of 55% over two years.[12] For EP-O, the Rate Study recommends that the reservation charge be increased from $4.55/kW to $5.80 in 2027 and $6.54 in 2028, an increase of 44%.[13] This is an extreme increase, many times the system-average increase of 6.4%, and is inconsistent with the ratemaking principle of gradualism.

These increases, if approved and implemented, would undermine the structure of the rates and would make them much less attractive to customers. EP and EP-O are incremental cost rates, so customers taking service under these rates will be subject to more energy price risk and volatility than they would on Santee Cooper's other industrial rates. However, the much lower reservation charges associated with EP and EP-O mitigate, to some degree, the higher energy pricing often experienced under these rates and the incremental energy pricing risk. The large increase in the reservation charges would upset the inherent trade-off between low fixed cost recovery and higher, more volatile energy pricing. In addition, these reservation charges are applied to contract demands, effectively making them a demand charge with a 100% ratchet, which enhances the negative impact of the proposed increase.

To the extent the proposed reservation charge increase is attributable to increased transmission costs under Santee Cooper's Open Access Transmission Tariff rate, it is important to recognize that since the economy power offerings are non-firm services and can be interrupted for generation and capacity reasons, 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 transmission rates should not drive the need for a large increase in economy power reservation charges.

In the last Rate Review, a similar extremely large increase in the economy power reservation charges was proposed in the rate study for the same reason. In the end, Santee Cooper proposed a smaller increase to these charges, and the Board adopted this

[12] Rate Study at Table 6-4.
[13] *Id*.

recommendation. Santee Cooper should reject the reservation charge increases proposed in the current Rate Review like it did in 2024. Our recommendation is that Santee Cooper keep the EP and EP-O reservation charges unchanged, in recognition that Santee Cooper does not need to secure firm transmission to serve non-firm economy power load. In addition, this approach would be consistent with the Rate Study's proposal not to increase the interruptible rate. As non-firm rates, EP and EP-O provide similar benefits to the system as the interruptible rate, and keeping the reservation charges at their current level would make it more likely that at least the customers currently on the economy power rates will remain. If Santee Cooper determines that some increase to the reservation charges for EP and EP-O is necessary, Santee Cooper should implement more gradual increases limited to no more than the system average increase or 10% in any given rate review.

2. Weekend and holiday hours should be designated as all off-peak under EP-O

EP-O is kind of a hybrid or middle ground between the standard industrial firm or interruptible rate and the EP rate. It is a potentially favorable option for customers who are willing to accept the cost and risk of incremental energy pricing in some hours, but who also value the stability of fixed energy pricing in the designated off-peak periods. Increasing the number of designated off-peak hours would likely make the EP-O rate a more attractive alternative and may encourage more participation on the rate.

As a general rule, on-peak hours should be reserved for those times 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 these are the times system peaks are most likely to occur. The same is true for wholesale markets such as PJM, where a typical on-peak product is limited to non-holiday weekdays. We recommend that Santee Cooper adopt the same approach, and that weekends and holidays be designated as all off-peak under the EP-O rate.

Under the EP-O tariff, Santee Cooper may call additional on-peak hours during designated off-peak hours if Santee Cooper projects that its incremental cost will equal or exceed $60.00/MWh.[14] As a result, even if Santee Cooper adopts our recommendation, it would still be able to designate weekend or holiday hours as on-peak if loads are expected to peak during these times. This change, therefore, would entail no risk to Santee Cooper, but would generally provide more rate certainty for EP-O customers operating on weekends and holidays. If Santee Cooper rejects this recommendation, then we request that Santee Cooper consider designating more weekend and holiday hours as off-peak on a case-by-case basis when system conditions allow.

D. Fuel Costs and Fuel Adjustment Clause

Fuel and purchased power costs comprise the largest portion of Santee Cooper's gross revenue requirements, accounting for 46% of the revenue requirement in 2027 and 42% in 2028.[15] Santee Cooper's fuel and purchased power costs rose dramatically after the FAC was unfrozen in 2025, resulting in a revenue increase of almost 9%. Since then, fuel costs have remained stubbornly high, and Santee Cooper projects that this will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future. On top of sustained high average monthly fuel costs, customers have seen extreme spikes in fuel costs in the last year, especially in January and February of this year due to the extreme cold weather, and last summer.

High and volatile fuel costs are a particular problem for large industrial customers who use massive amounts of energy. In 2025, the fuel impact for the industrial class was 13.4%, compared to 6.4% for the residential class and 7.5% for the commercial class.[16] Cost impacts of this magnitude certainly have a negative impact on industrial customers' competitiveness. We understand that the increase in fuel costs is due to a number of factors, many of which are outside Santee Cooper's control. Nevertheless, we urge Santee Cooper to do all that it reasonably can to mitigate fuel costs, including adopting the improvements to Santee Cooper's fuel cost recovery mechanism discussed below.

[14] Rate Study at Appendix B, Proposed L-27-EP-O at (D)(1).
[15] Financial Planning and Requirements Report at 6.
[16] Proposed Plan for 2027 and 2028 Retail Rate Adjustments (May 2026) at Slide 3.

1. Fixed and demand-related costs should not be recovered through the FAC

Santee Cooper's FAC recovers the cost of fuel used in Santee Cooper's generators and the energy cost of purchased power. It is standard industry practice to allow fuel costs 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 and unpredictable. 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 generally reasonable and reflective of cost-causation that fuel costs are allocated and recovered based on energy.[17]

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 (e.g., the cost of natural gas and coal) this approach is reasonable. However, a problem arises when fixed or demand-related costs are included in the fuel factor, since recovering these costs through a variable energy charge does not reflect cost causation. In addition, since industrial customers use large amounts of electric energy at high load factors, allocating and recovering demand-related costs on an energy basis through the FAC over-assigns these costs to industrial customers and causes inflated rates, which is detrimental to Santee Cooper's economic development and industry retention goals. As a result, any fixed or demand-related costs that are currently recovered through the FAC should be removed from the FAC and recovered through base rates, or though another rate mechanism that allocates costs based on demand, such as the DSC.

One category of demand-related costs currently being recovered though the FAC is the cost of firm natural gas transportation.[18] Firm transportation rates recover fixed, not variable, costs. As Santee Cooper explained in response to an information request, "[f]irm natural gas transportation costs typically do not vary based on the quantity of gas delivered."[19] Also, since

[17] There are exceptions to this rule. For example, Santee Cooper properly treats a portion of fuel costs as demand-related since some fuel cost is incurred to maintain reserves and therefore does not vary based on customer energy use. Rate Study at 4-3.

[18] *See* Santee Cooper Response to Nucor Information Request 3.a. (confirming that firm natural gas transportation costs are included in the FAC). Santee Cooper currently has a service agreement with Transco for 80,000 MMBtu/day of firm natural gas transportation on the SouthCoast Expansion through November 1, 2031, and has arrangements in place for additional firm gas transportation in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper Response to Nucor Information Request 3.b.

[19] Santee Cooper Responses to Nucor Information Request 3.e.

firm gas transportation is intended to ensure that Santee Cooper has gas available for its generation plants when needed, firm transportation performs a distinctly capacity/reliability-related function. As a result, recovering firm gas transportation costs through the FAC inappropriately recovers fixed/capacity-related costs on an energy basis and does not reflect cost causation.

Renewable purchased power costs are a second category of costs that are more appropriately considered fixed or demand-related rather than energy-related, and therefore should be removed from the FAC. The language in the FAC related to renewable PPA costs was added in the last rate review, and provides that 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."[20] This language appropriately excludes designated capacity or demand charges, but the reality is that renewable PPAs often do not include "explicit" capacity or demand charges, but instead include only "implicit" demand-related costs that are nevertheless recovered through energy charges. Even if a renewable PPA includes only energy charges, this does not mean there are no capacity or demand-related costs being recovered. It simply means that the parties have agreed 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 FAC on an energy basis simply because Santee Cooper or its supplier chose to price the power on an energy basis.

One of the main benefits of renewable generation such as solar is that there are no fuel costs, and very little other variable O&M costs. In fact, the vast majority of the costs associated with solar generation are fixed, demand-related costs that are typically allocated based on production demand. Unlike fuel costs, the cost of renewable generation does not vary based on customer energy usage, even if a renewable PPA uses energy charges to recover its 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

[20] Rate Study at Appendix B, Fuel Adjustment Clause, FAC-27, Section 2.

cost, not the choice made in the PPA of how to charge for renewable energy, should determine cost recovery.

In fact, allocating and recovering renewable PPA costs on a production demand basis is the only way to capture the avoided fuel cost benefit of renewable generation in customer rates. Under Santee Cooper's current approach of including renewable PPA costs in the FAC, these PPAs may or may not reduce the overall fuel factor. But if renewable generation is removed from the FAC and 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 solar PPA costs should not be allocated based on demand because 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 paired with battery storage), solar does provide capacity value for the summer peak.[21] The continued importance of the summer peak is reflected in Santee Cooper's use of a 4 CP methodology to allocate production demand costs, which recognizes that summer peaks continue to be a key consideration in designing and operating the system.

If Santee Cooper believes that at least some portion of renewable PPA cost should be allocated and recovered based on energy, we recommend that Santee Cooper consider a compromise where a portion of the cost is allocated based on energy and a portion allocated based on demand. A 50/50 split would be a reasonable approach that would recognize both the arguments in favor of allocating these costs based on energy (*i.e.*, limited capacity value and recovery through PPA energy charges) and those in favor of allocating costs based on demand (*i.e.,* no variable costs, capture of zero fuel cost benefit in FAC, and summer capacity contribution).

To summarize, fixed or demand-related costs should not be recovered through the FAC, but instead should be allocated based on production demand and recovered through base rates or a different rate mechanism that allocates and recovers costs based on demand, such as the

[21] *See* Santee Cooper 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (May 15, 2023) at 74 (noting a summer peak effective load carrying capability of solar of 26%).

DSC. As a result, firm natural gas transportation costs and renewable PPA costs should be removed from the FAC.

2. Gypsum costs should not be recovered through the FAC

In the last rate review, Santee Cooper approved the recovery of gypsum costs through the FAC. Gypsum is not fuel used to operate Santee Cooper's generating plants, such as coal, natural gas, or nuclear fuel. It is a byproduct of burning coal. Further, it has not been demonstrated that gypsum costs vary directly with the amount of energy Santee Cooper generates. Santee Cooper projects that net gypsum expense will be approximately $4.5 million in both 2027 and 2028.[22] While these costs are a relatively small part of the costs to be recovered through the FAC, gypsum costs are not the type of costs that should be recovered though the FAC and therefore should be removed.

3. The FAC should be modified to reflect time of use

Fuel costs vary by time of use. Fuel costs are generally higher during on-peak periods and lower during off-peak periods. However, while demand and energy charges in Santee Cooper's base rates currently reflect time of use at least to some degree, there is no recognition of seasonal or time of day cost differences in the FAC, other than as an inadvertent byproduct of developing the monthly FAC based on the average of the prior three months' fuel costs. The same type of time of use elements that are incorporated into other demand and energy charges under Santee Coopers rates should be applied to the FAC as well. 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 and more accurate price signal for customers.

4. Santee Cooper should work with interested large industrial customers to develop fuel hedging options

Hedging is an important way to reduce volatility in fuel costs. Santee Cooper currently has a hedging procedure used in acquiring fuel. However, individual customers may have more or less risk tolerance than reflected in Santee Cooper's current hedging approach, and as such, a

[22] Santee Cooper Response to Nucor Information Request 4.a.

particular customer may want to hedge more or less than Santee Cooper currently hedges for its overall fuel portfolio. This is particularly the case for large industrial customers, since fuel costs are typically a proportionally greater share of their overall electric costs than for other customers. For these customers, having the ability to implement a fuel hedging approach that better fits with the customers' own needs would be very valuable.

We understand that developing customer-specific hedging approaches would be a departure from how utilities typically purchase fuel and could be complex. Nevertheless, the current period of sustained high fuel costs will be a particular challenge to industrial customers, so the situation calls for the consideration of outside-the-box solutions. As a result, we recommend that options for customers to hedge all or a portion of their fuel costs be developed and offered to interested customers. In order to make the process more manageable, the availability of these options could be limited to the very largest customers, who are the ones that would likely be most interested in developing customized fuel hedging options anyway. Santee Cooper should work with interested customers to develop these options. For example, Santee Cooper could work with an individual industrial customer to develop a hedging approach that meets the customer's needs. Or, Santee Cooper could work with a group of interested large customers who have similar hedging goals and objectives to develop a hedging option that can be used for all the customers in the group. We urge Santee Cooper to commit to developing these customized hedging solutions as a way to help address the impacts of high and volatile fuel costs.

E. High Impact Load Service

Like many utilities, regulators, and legislatures around the country, Santee Cooper is figuring out how to address the expected influx of large computational loads, data centers in particular. In 2025, Santee Cooper developed and approved an experimental Large Load tariff. To date, no customers have taken service under this tariff. The Rate Study recommends that Santee Cooper adopt the large load tariff permanently, renamed as the High Impact Load Service tariff, and with certain changes to the experimental tariff. We have several recommendations related to the HIL that we urge Santee Cooper to consider.

First, the current experimental large load tariff applies to customers with a projected peak demand of at least 50 MW, but under the HIL tariff, this threshold would be reduced to 20 MW. According to Santee Cooper, the new 20 MW threshold was chosen because this was the level included in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANOPR) addressing integration of large loads.[23] But the ANOPR is not binding on Santee Cooper, and the 50 MW threshold has either been adopted or is being considered elsewhere in the Southeast, including in South Carolina.[24] As a result, Santee Cooper should consider leaving the applicability threshold at no lower than 50 MW, as currently reflected in the experimental Large Load rate.

Second, we note that the primary purpose of this tariff should be to allow the integration of new large loads into Santee Cooper's system without burdening existing customers with additional costs, and to mitigate the risk of a new large customer shutting down or departing the state and leaving stranded investment to be borne by other customers. We also note that a tariff such as the proposed HIL has not been necessary up to now, and that Santee Cooper has successfully integrated and served new large industrial customers in its service territory for many years. Therefore, as a threshold matter, the HIL tariff should not apply to an existing customer, even if the customer adds incremental load in excess of the minimum MW threshold established in the tariff. In other words, existing customers should be grandfathered.

Finally, if a grandfathering provision is not adopted, then Santee Cooper should clarify that the HIL tariff could apply to expansions by existing customers only if the incremental load being added exceeds the minimum MW threshold, and in such a case, the provisions of the tariff would apply only to the incremental load. Santee Cooper should further clarify that the HIL provisions will not apply to contract demands provided for in any current service agreements between Santee Cooper and its customers.

[23] Santee Cooper Response to Nucor Information Request 9.c.

[24] *See, e.g.,* South Carolina Public Service Commission Docket No. 2026-138-E, Petition to Establish a Generic Docket for the Purpose of Receiving Comments Addressing Large Load Additions (establishing a docket to receive comments on the addition of loads 50 MW or greater).

III. CONCLUSION

Nucor thanks Santee Cooper's Board and Management Team for the opportunity to provide these comments and express our views and concerns. We ask that Santee Cooper give careful consideration to our comments and adopt our recommendations.

Santee Cooper Response to Nucor Comments
August 14, 2026

Dear Mr. Lavanga and Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment on behalf of Nucor. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper appreciates the Nucor's input and engagement in this process. This letter is in response to the document "Nucor 2026 Rate Review Formal Comments" submitted July 30, 2026:

"The interruptible rate should be adjusted to better reflect the avoided cost of constructing a CT [Combustion Turbine]"

Santee Cooper has not increased the demand or energy charges for the Interruptible rate in 2027 or 2028, nor have we proposed to increase the limit of economic curtailment hours. The residential class is seeing an aggregate increase of over 9% while interruptible sees no price change in either year. Based on the value that Santee Cooper assigns, the average credit over 2027 – 2028 is in line with the value received.

"The interruptible credit should be increased to reflect additional avoided costs" including:

> ***"Avoided reserves"***
>
> Santee Cooper's resource planning process treats non-firm load as a resource available to meet our reserve targets and compensates customers accordingly. This treatment means that converting the load from non-firm to firm creates a reduction in resources instead of an increase in required reserves. More generally, Santee Cooper's position is to not add the value of calculated reserves on reserves in the derivation of the Interruptible credit because Santee Cooper does not carry reserves on our reserves.

"Avoided energy costs"

Santee Cooper does not believe avoided energy costs for a CT should be included in the calculation of the Interruptible rate. CTs are not typically dispatched to reduce energy costs, and the interruptible class does not fully represent the capabilities of an equivalent physical CT.

Avoided incremental energy costs resulting from physical and economic curtailments reduces the system average fuel cost for all customers, including Interruptible customers.

"Avoided transmission costs"

Transmission-related capacity costs should not be included in the avoided cost calculation as suggested. The transmission system is designed to serve 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 we reserve 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 interruptible credit should be adjusted upward to address the impact of not crediting interruptible sales to interruptible customers through the DSC"

We understand 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 at that time and as part of the 2015 rate study and 2024 rate study, the change was an attempt 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 applicable to the interruptible rate 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 limiting factor for usage with no associated demand charges. At this time we feel the 20% maximum allowable "unbilled demand" is an appropriate amount to encourage efficient use of the system while maintaining our financial integrity.

Santee Cooper would like to note that the nterruptible credit is based on Santee Cooper's ability to use the interruptible class as a resource when the system is constrained. Santee Cooper's other customers do not receive the value that they are paying for when a curtailment is needed and the interruptible load is not available to curtail. Further reducing the minimum reduces the likelihood of interruptible load being available for curtailment.

"Santee Cooper should reject the EP and EP-O reservation charge increases recommended by the Rate Study"

Both the EP and EP-O reservation charges are cost based and are increasing in line with Santee Cooper's increase in transmission revenue requirements. Santee Cooper has modified the calculation of the Economy Power Reservation charge in the proposed rates to include non-firm peak load in the divisor of the calculation. This change was made, in part, to moderate the increase in the Reservation charge and to recognize the non-firm customer use of the transmission system when determining the rate. Even though Interruptible, EP and EP-O are non-firm services the transmission assets are constructed to meet the peak firm and non-firm load requirements.

Santee Cooper also notes that a portion of the higher transmission operations and maintenance expenses, and the sizeable transmission investments, enable Santee Cooper to provide power to customers at a lower marginal cost and at times when the power would not otherwise be available for non-firm customers in a capacity constrained market, which provides a significant benefit to EP customers.

Compared to existing rates, the proposed aggregate two-year increase to EP revenues is 12% and EP-O is 15%, significantly lower than the Nucor calculated 55% EP and 44% EP-O increases from evaluating the reservation charge increase in isolation.

"Weekend and holiday hours should be designated as all off-peak under EP-O"

Nucor's position on this topic has been noted. Santee Cooper system peaks have historically occurred on weekend days and weekdays at a roughly even distribution.

"Fixed and demand-related costs should not be recovered through the FAC" including:

> ***"Cost of firm natural gas transportation"***
>
> Santee Cooper considers and accounts for natural gas transportation as a fuel cost.
>
> ***"Renewable PPAs"***
>
> The current FAC-25 and proposed FAC-27/28 include 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 current and proposed FAC's already exclude designated capacity or demand charges associated with solar and/or wind purchases. Additionally, Santee Cooper has included costs associated with battery PPA's in base rates, recognizing the capacity benefit that they provide to the system.

"Gypsum"

Santee Cooper considers gypsum as a variable cost related to the production of energy and believes it is appropriate to include the cost and revenues associated with gypsum in the true-up of actual costs charged to customers through the fuel adjustment clause. This is not a change from our existing fuel adjustment clause.

"The FAC should be modified to reflect time of use"

The On-Peak and Off-Peak differential in the L and Interruptible rate energy charges provides an appropriate price signal and generally aligns with time differentiated fuel costs.

"Santee Cooper should work with interested large industrial customers to develop fuel hedging options"

Nucor's position on this topic has been noted; however, this specific recommendation is outside the scope of the rate study.

"Santee Cooper should consider leaving the applicability threshold at no lower than 50 MW, as currently reflected in the experimental Large Load rate"

Santee Cooper's 20 MW threshold is in line with FERC's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking guidance.[1] Although the ANOPR is not binding, Santee Cooper believes this to be a reasonable threshold. This size is also consistent with Santee Cooper's transmission planning guidelines.

"[T]he HIL tariff should not apply to an existing customer, even if the customer adds incremental load in excess of the minimum MW threshold established in the tariff. In other words, existing customers should be grandfathered."

The HIL is designed to keep our other customers, in part, from subsidizing large loads coming to the system or, generally, from subsidizing the cost of large loads on the system. Santee Cooper makes an exception for Economic Development type loads for the benefits they bring to South Carolina, and instead charges those customers only fully-allocated pricing. Further limiting the rate schedule is not necessary to achieve Santee Cooper's goals of protecting customers from large loads.

"[I]f a grandfathering provision is not adopted, then Santee Cooper should clarify that the HIL tariff could apply to expansions by existing customers only if the incremental load being added exceeds the minimum MW threshold, and in such a case, the provisions of the tariff would apply only to the incremental load. Santee Cooper should further clarify that the HIL provisions will not apply to contract demands provided for in any current service agreements between Santee Cooper and its customers"

Nucor's position on this topic has been noted. Santee Cooper intends to continually reviewthe HIL rate to verify it is accomplishing the goal of ensuring existing customer do no subsidize new load.

[1] *Docket No. RM26-4-000*

Thank you again for your comments on Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment and your interest in the process. We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country.



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

Submitter Information

First Name:	Callie	**Last Name:**	Crawford
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526-0700		

SC Reference # : SC0000000810

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The proposed rate increases are a money grab. If you care to maintain customers who can afford to live here, you need to put customers first, and shareholders second. You don't need to make millions for shareholders, instead, reduce their already exorbitant rates and have them make moderate incomes instead of exponential gains. You need to do away with peak pricing or adjust it to make less of an impact. If you keep peak pricing, don't increase fees. If you increase fees, remove peak pricing, you can't do both and expect to survive as a business. You are pricing customers out of their homes and forcing people to live dangerously in the heat and cold depending on the season. If you want to reduce costs, invest in renewable energy instead of non-renewable energy sources. We need to increase solar and wind power and reduce our reliance on non-renewable sources. You also need to charge commercial entities more, residents are the reason the city exists, commercial customers are going to increase their costs so the community no matter what so it might as well be worth the increase by them paying more for energy. Previously a representative of Santee Cooper said you don't increase commercial costs because that would be felt by the customer, that is factually incorrect. We have choices when it comes to products we buy, if a commercial option increases their prices, we can shop around. In a situation where there is a single option for energy, we don't have that choice and are forced to destroy ourselves to afford heat, light, and AC. If you continue to increase pricing for residential customers without reason, you are going to lose paying customers. You also need to refuse to work with data centers, they are a blight on the community and destroy everything. Charge commercial customers more, maintain your residential customers, and help them spend less. You have the power to do so. If you want people to appreciate you, do better.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Callie Crawford,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31, and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027, and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your comment mentioned shareholders. You should know that Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period. In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000811

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The rates are high enough! What should happen is residential rates need a decrease and commercial should see an increase. These resorts hike usage up, not families. We are a tourist destination and need to act as such. The residents are charged enough. With all the commercial properties out there, a minor increase for them would be more substantial than costing the people that live here and struggle more. Even the peak charges should be less for homes than they are.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Katherine Tatro,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31, and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027, and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Trinity	**Last Name:**	Wilson
Organization:			
City:	North Myrtle beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc 29582		

SC Reference # : SC0000000812

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

This increase is ridiculous. Check the local Facebook groups of all the people who are going broke and having to work second jobs just to pay their power bill. The peak hours are bad enough. Santee cooper only continues to charge more and more because they know people don't want to go without power and in most areas there's not an alternative power company we can use. You don't care about your customers at all. In fact if you did you would ensure the increase didn't happen! Especially not with the cost of general living expenses going up. People are not able to afford groceries much less a $300+ power bill. Even with energy efficient appliances and stuff it doesn't help. There are people on Facebook showing they aren't even at their property and still getting charges that are astronomical. DO BETTER SANTEE COOPER! If a petition was started and it had thousands of signatures would you reconsider then? Because I know for a fact that is something that could happen just to stop these increases.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Trinity Wilson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31, and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027, and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Your comment mentioned the peak hours. In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000813

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Why do residential customers get the shaft on rate increases. Should be Residential no increase. Commercial accounts small 6% increase. Commercial accounts large consumption 12% increase. Data center accounts rate increase 35%. Stop killing the Residential end user with always the greatest increase amounts. Maybe if your Bored of being a compassionate Directors would start feeling for the Residential end user scraping the funds to meet budget needs then we all can make it here.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Elwood Warner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000814

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

My question is "what, if anything, are you doing for those of us who are in our 80s and have been retired for 20 plus years?" We don't get a raise every time (or any time) you decide to jack up your rates. Seems like a fair question to me. Long time customer, Jim Anderson

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear JIM ANDERSON,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31, and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027, and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000815

Date Submitted:	5/1/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

This is ridiculous! Instead of raising rates, how about balancing your budget, stop paying executives ridiculous salaries and stop giving them bonuses. We already being gouged with the "peak hours" nonsense, on top of that we are charged $20 per month just to be a customer. As if we have a choice to be a customer or not, there aren't any other companies we can use. Santee Cooper price gouges all customers currently and now wants even more from us? This has to stop and Santee Cooper should be audited from the State.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jason Clark,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential

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.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000816

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I understand that things have to change and the cost of most things are going up, but I am currently in a fixed income, in which I receive only 1/4 of my annual income due to being out of work on a work related injury. I have been out of work for 2 years and 5 months, and am not sure when I will be able to return to work. So everything matters to me financially. Even the smallest increases in expenses impact me deeply. I am concerned about this upcoming percentage increase. Thank you

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Fredrica Chestnut ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000817

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

To whom it may concern, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the proposed 2027-2028 rate adjustments outlined in the 2026 rate study. I also recognize the importance of maintaining system reliability and investing in necessary infrastructure upgrades. However, I am concerned about the cumulative impact of the proposed increases, particularly the 4.7% & 4.6% increases for residential customers in consecutive years, on homes in the Myrtle Beach area. Over the past The past several years residents in Myrtle Beach and Horry County have faced a significant rise in the cost of living. Housing costs, property insurance, food, and healthcare expenses have all increased at rates, that in many cases, outpace wage growth. At the same time available data indicates that the median household income in the area has not kept pace with inflation and in some segments has stagnated or declined when adjusted for real purchasing power. This creates a widening affordability gap. In many households, particularly retirees, service workers and those on fix or seasonal incomes, utility bills are not discretionary expenses. Even modest percentage increases can translate to financial strain. This is not abstract for my household. My significant other, who lives with me, is an Horry County Firefighter, and EMT. Despite working in a critical public service role, his current rate of pay already makes it difficult for us to afford our existing electric bills. Additional increase increases would further place strain on our ability to manage essential monthly expenses. While I understand the need for investment, I encourage Santee Cooper to more fully considered the regional economic context when implementing rate changes. Specifically: - phasing increases more gradually to reduce the immediate burden on residential customers - expanding and or strengthening bill assistance or low income support programs as well as programs dedicated to supporting first responders, active military and veterans - exploring cost control measures or alternative funding mechanisms to lessen ratepayer impact - providing clear data in regard to how additional investments will improve service reliability and reduce long-term costs I do appreciate the opportunity to provide customer feedback, particularly in regard to demand charge adjustments. That said affordability remains a critical concern that warrants additional consideration. In closing, I respectfully urge Santee Cooper to reconsider the scale and timing of the proposed residential rate increases in light of the current economic conditions of the Myrtle Beach in Horry County area. Thank you for your time and considering public input in this process.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Caroline McCracken,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000818

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

To whom it may concern: Prices on everything have gone up except of course the working class pay scale. I know everything costs, and don't entirely agree with the costs being increased over the next few years. But what I'd like to see gone is the " Beat the Peak". If you're going up in prices to begin with, the least you could do is do away with the so-called Peak Hours of use. I find it to be a total nuisance. Sincerely, Tricia Saal

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patricia Saal,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000819

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Our power bill has continued to increase. We have adjusted our schedules to account for the peak hours, however they are unjust for families that are unable to. Per these suggested increases for 2027/2028 that is averaging an additional $500 a year by 2029. That's a little over $40 a month. Until our minimum wage increases, or more job opportunities increase in the area, it is not right to increase our power bill, which is required to live in a safe home. I understand fuel costs do rise, but considering we just had an adjustment April of 2025, we should hold off for the time being, before March of 2026, fuel costs were actually steadily decreasing through-out 2025. Power companies are a government allowed monopoly, it is unjust for our bills to be raised without another company to turn to for service. This raise is purely for the profit margin, and it is NOT for the people. The raising fuel costs, should be covered by the rate increase of 2025 as it adds up to almost a 15% increase. And fuel prices decreased an average of 19cent a gallon compared from 2/2024-2/2025. These added increases would make for 23% in 4 years from Santee Cooper. I object to this proposed rate increase. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Margaret Sikes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Pamela	**Last Name:**	Powell
Organization:			
City:	Little River	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29566		

SC Reference # : SC0000000820

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

So this means our demand charge will increase! What was your profit last year? What are the salaries and benefits that your top CEI, CFO and others get? You need to do better than increasing rates in this economy! Be creative and don't make your customers have even more hardship!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Pamela Powell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

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.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Chris	**Last Name:**	Spivey
Organization:			
City:	Loris	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29569		

SC Reference # : SC0000000821

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

With the proposed rate change, will EV (electric vehicle) plans still be offered?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Chris Spivey ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper will continue to offer residential electric vehicle rates. REV is available to customers with electric vehicles and has super off-peak energy pricing from 11pm-5am. EVO is available for separately metered electric vehicle equipment and has super off-peak energy pricing from 9pm-5am.

Additional information regarding our residential electric vehicle rates can be found at www.santeecooper.com/rates.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000822

Date Submitted:	5/1/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

We can not afford another rate increase. We are already seriously being robbed with this peak excuse. We need a break. Find a way to charge these non SC people moving in here or pass it on to the visitors. Thank you

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Gregory Dean Parker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000824

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I'm disgusted and disappointed that you would even suggest a rate increase! YOU the TRUMP administration and his MINIONS should be ashamed of yourselves! Me and the American Working people don't need this! YOU All make me SICK! Don't waste people's time asking you will do it anyway! How do you sleep at night knowing we are struggling, oh yes, you're heartless and don't care about us! Shame on you!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Leslie Frausto,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Bryant	**Last Name:**	Godwin
Organization:	N/A		
City:	North Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582		

SC Reference # : SC0000000825

Date Submitted: 5/1/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

See attached PDF file, Prottes Objection Letter to Santee Copper Broad of Commissioners and Members date May 1, 2026 regarding proposed rate increases for 2027 and 2028.

May 1, 2026

Santee Cooper Commissioners and Board of Directors
1 Riverwood Drive
Mocks Corner, South Carolina 29461

Reference: Protest and Objection - Current Santee Cooper Proposed Rate Increase for 2027/2028 as announced May 1st, 2026

Dear Commissioners and Board Members of Santee Cooper Power Electric

This is a formal objection to the proposed rate increase sought by Santee Cooper for the 2026/2027 calendar years as announced May 1st, 2026.

I am writing as a residential customer of Santee Cooper to formally object and protest specifically the proposed percentage of rate increase of 4.7% for 2027 and 4.6% for 2028 for residential customers.

As a loyal customer, I recognize that utility company infrastructure requires maintenance and there are costs associated with that. However, the current proposal for a rate increase is unreasonable, unfair, and imposes an undue financial burden on residential households already facing high cost-of-living increases, inflationary increases on a daily basis for day to day services such as groceries, medical costs, etc. Your rate study released to the public May 1st, 2026 does not address in detail cost increases and projections of the same for 2027 and 2028.

I object and protest to this rate increase based on the the following:

- **Disproportionate Residential Burden:** The proposal places a massive financial burden squarely on residential ratepayers, while not clearly demonstrating that commercial or industrial users are paying their fair share. 4.7% for residential vs 3.2% for lighting and 2.6% for industrial customers for 2027 and 4.6% for residential vs 2.9 % for lighting and 2.1% for industrial in 2028. It's obvious there is something wrong with this calculation and is very on sided.

- **Unfair Increases:** As a consumer, I should not be forced to pay higher base fees for "Demand Charges at Prescribe Specific Times and Seasonal". Now with the proposed "Balanced Demand Billing Concept" to replace that program is just more un-necessary financial strain imposed and this is also very stressful for some.

- **Lack of Justification & Transparency:** Santee Cooper has failed to provide a clear, detailed plan on how these funds will be allocated specifically to essential upgrades versus luxury upgrades or increased profit margins for investors who invest via bonds.

- **Economic Strain:** Households in this community, and throughout Santee Coopers Service Territories, especially customers who are retired and on a fixed income, are struggling with inflation not on a monthly basis, but on a daily basis. An increase of this magnitude will push many families towards financial hardship. The demand charge model in place today as discussed above already imposes hardship especially for families who work, need to operate cooking electric stoves, clothes dryers, HVAC systems when they come home from work, especially in the case where two parents work to maintain a livelihood and family basic needs such as shelter and food.The proposed Balanced Demand will impact the strain four fold.

For a utility that provides an essential, monopolistic service, your current financial strategy suggests a prioritization of profit for executive salaries and bond investors over the well-being of the community you serve, although you state that you are a “not for profit” entity. I find this self serving, selfish and disregard for the residential customer base. It is clear that the proposed rates favor the industrial and lighting customers and residential are expected to carry the load financially.

In closing, I request as a minimum that this rate increase proposal be modified and significantly reduced to a level that aligns with the cost-of-living adjustments of the communities that Santee Cooper serves. As a recommendation why don’t you form a committee of representatives from each of the three segments that are inclusive to the proposed rate structure, i.e; residential, industrial and lighting customer base. Give them the latitude to outsource a firm to review and make suggestions of proposed rate increases based on real time usage and projected usage baselines and associated operation costs and expenditures.
Please include this correspondence as part of the official record regarding this rate increase.

Sincerely,

Bryant F. Godwin
[REDACTED]
North Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29582
Santee Cooper Account Number [REDACTED]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Bryant Godwin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000826

Date Submitted: 5/2/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

He needs to be very careful with your braid increases for us. People who are on Social Security and fixed incomes. It’s very hard to pay my bill now than any kind of increase, especially the increases. You’re talking about already charging us a penalty For peak hours You need to take a long hard look before you act

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Roland Kemerer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000827

Date Submitted: 5/2/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

While I understand rate increases are necessary, I would like to propose if Santee Cooper could implement a discounted rate for charging EV cars. I currently own an electric car and a plug in hybrid. When I lived on Long Island, LIPA had a 5 kw per hour rate from 11pm to 6am. Is that something that can be accomplished I would be open to any sort of discount for home based charging Thank you Jeffrey Schein

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jeffrey Schein,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper currently offers two residential electric vehicle rates featuring a 4.18 cents/kWh super off-peak charging window. The whole-home REV rate is available to customers with electric vehicles and has super off-peak energy pricing from 11pm-5am. The EVO rate is available for separately metered electric vehicle equipment and has super off-peak energy pricing from 9pm-5am. Both of these rates are included in the proposed 2027 and 2028 rates and retain the 4.18 cents/kWh super-off peak energy periods.

Additional information regarding our residential electric vehicle rates can be found at https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives/empowerauto/chargesmart-rate-plans/.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mack	**Last Name:**	Bone
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000828

Date Submitted: 5/2/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Residential Rate Changes. I am a residential customer on the RG (Residential General Service) plan, and I am submitting this comment regarding the proposed 2027 and 2028 rate changes. I understand that maintaining the electric system, paying down debt obligations, and planning for future growth require revenue. I am not opposed to reasonable increases when they are clearly justified and fairly applied. However, I have serious concerns about how the current rate structure, particularly demand charges, impacts residential customers in real-world use. The demand charge structure places significant weight on a single highest one-hour usage period each month. For most households, this does not reflect excessive or unusual behavior. It reflects normal daily activities such as running air conditioning, cooking meals, doing laundry, or managing a household during peak hours. These are not optional or easily shifted activities for many families. While the intent may be to encourage more efficient energy use, the current structure creates unpredictability and financial risk. A single hour of overlapping appliance use can result in a disproportionately high charge, even if overall monthly energy consumption is moderate. This makes it difficult for customers to anticipate or manage their bills in a meaningful way. Santee Cooper's own research indicates that customers value predictability, clarity, and fairness in their billing. The current demand-based model does not align well with those priorities. Most residential customers do not have the tools, time, or detailed usage data needed to actively monitor and control their peak demand hour. I respectfully ask that the Board consider the following: Reevaluate how demand charges are applied to residential customers, particularly whether a single highest-hour measurement is an appropriate basis for billing. Consider alternative approaches that better reflect overall usage patterns, such as averaging peak usage over multiple periods rather than relying on a single event. Provide clearer, more accessible tools and real-time data so customers can understand and manage their demand before being charged for it. Ensure that any increases tied to demand-based pricing are balanced with protections for customers who are not intentionally creating excessive load but are simply using electricity in normal, necessary ways. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input and ask that these concerns be carefully considered before final decisions are made.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mack Bone,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Dawn	**Last Name:**	Ungaro
Organization:	Carolina Wellness Massage & Cryo		
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Commercial
State / Zip:	SC 29572		

SC Reference # : SC0000000829

Date Submitted: 5/2/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Before increasing rates I feel it is of the upmost importance to place rate increases on the accounts of Irresponsible Energy customers, first. Let's not punish every customer. What is an Irresponsible Energy customer? Every restaurant or retail shop that leaves their doors open during peak energy usage times. This includes any business located in or at Barefoot Landing, Broadway at the Beach, Tanger Outlets and shops along the Boulevard. The business model, "Open doors make customers want to come in." is wildly irresponsible. My Q1 energy cost nearly doubled from Q1 2025 at my facility and we operate in a responsible manner and the weather conditions were very similar both Quarters. These businesses are burning up the grid to sell mediocre cuisine and low quality trinkets and bobbles. While paying some of the lowest wages in the country. These rate increases will only hurt small female owned businesses like mine and households struggles with every day bills. I will be writing to my Congressman on this matter.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Dawn Ungaro,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000830

Date Submitted: 5/2/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Impose fines on the businesses that have an "open door" policy in the middle off summer. Broadway at the Beach, Tanger Outlets, Boulevard shops, Barefoot Landing. Even the Hotels

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Timothy Ungaro,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper's rates are based on the cost to serve each group and we are committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000831

Date Submitted: 5/2/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

After reviewing Santee Cooper's current and proposed rate structure, it is clear that the largest share of the increase is being shifted to residential customers. The company's own proposal shows average residential increases of 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028, while commercial customers are projected to see smaller average increases of 2.9% in both years. The proposed residential schedule also raises the Residential General Service energy charge from 7.92 cents per kWh to 8.99 cents in 2027 and 9.25 cents in 2028, along with increases in the monthly customer charge and demand charge. By contrast, the Large Light and Power commercial schedule shows no increase in the on-peak energy charge, which remains 4.97 cents per kWh in both 2027 and 2028. This means residential customers are being asked to absorb repeated price increases, even though households are already paying more per unit of energy than many commercial classes. In my understanding, a fairer policy would place greater emphasis on protecting residential customers, not consistently passing the burden to them while leaving commercial energy charges unchanged

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santee cooper

Dear Arpan Chawala,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mary	**Last Name:**	Griffin
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach, SC	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC0000000832

Date Submitted: 5/4/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

That rate increase is triple what my SS payment adjusts for COLA. Rates should NOT go up.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mary Griffin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000833

Date Submitted:	5/4/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

I don't understand or agree with residential customers being charged higher rates than commercial providers. I believe this unfairly penalizes the residential customers. If the rates must increase , both should be charged the same rate (or lower for residential customers, many of whom are retired and/or on fixed incomes). Also I don't follow the need or the benefit for an "average maximum" use charge which just effectively increases the rate further based on tables provided. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity provide feedback.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Theodore Brna,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000834

Date Submitted: 5/5/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

We are already dealing with increases in mortgage rates, groceries and gas. This is going to make another huge hit that can't be afforded. In the last 18 months my bill has already increased significantly. If I look at the last 4 ears and the upcoming two years it's an increase anywhere up to $40-$50/month

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Brittany Sullivan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Richard	**Last Name:**	Blake
Organization:			
City:	Little River	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC		

SC Reference # : SC0000000835

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	mail

Comment:

We do not agree with this increase. As the population continues to rapidly grow, you have endless amounts of new customers to drive revenue. Charge higher rates on new customers due to grow, do not charge higher rates to existing contracted customers

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Richard Blake,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: G **Last Name:** McGee

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000836

Date Submitted: 5/5/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

How much money do you greedy people need? You added a 20.00 charge on top of having peak hours when everyone is at home preparing kids for school or for work in the morning hours and did the same for afternoon times. My bill not being home very much use to be around 43.00 not very long ago and now it's a 100.00 and Im home less these days.. Electric companies are the biggest rip off to its customers out of all utilities. Its just pathetic. How many raises do the management need that it's customers have to pay for???

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear G McGee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Patricia	**Last Name:**	Ferner
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29588		

SC Reference # : SC0000000837

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Why the increases? We are already limited to usage for peak time hours. Will peak hours disappear? Not in favor of a price increase. Peak hours are enough of an increase.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patricia Ferner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Lauren	**Last Name:**	Kligman
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000838

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

This is absurd amount that you are planning on up-charging. You should not increase this amount, most people have to abide and use Santee cooper and there are no other options. Please reconsider especially since we already paying a lot for peak services.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lauren Kligman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Shawn	**Last Name:**	Lamothe
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000839

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I am a residential customer served by Santee Cooper and would like to formally express concern regarding the proposed base rate adjustments for 2027 and 2028. Following the recent rate restructuring and increases implemented in 2025, the proposed additional increases of approximately 4.6%–4.7% annually for residential customers are difficult to justify from a customer perspective. These increases come on top of a fundamental shift to demand-based and time-of-use pricing, which has already made monthly bills less predictable and, in many cases, higher for typical households. Residential customers appear to be disproportionately impacted compared to other customer classes, with consistently higher percentage increases than commercial and industrial users. This raises concerns about fairness, particularly when residential customers have the least flexibility to shift energy usage away from peak periods due to work schedules, weather conditions, and basic household needs. At a minimum, I would ask Santee Cooper to: • Reevaluate the magnitude of residential rate increases relative to other customer classes • Provide greater transparency into how these increases directly benefit residential customers • Consider mitigation strategies such as bill protections, phased increases, or expanded customer tools to better manage demand-based billing • Affordability, fairness, and predictability are critical. Without meaningful adjustments, these continued increases risk placing an undue burden on residential customers. Thank you for your consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Shawn Lamothe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027, and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000840

Date Submitted: 5/5/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

3% seems unfortunate but reasonable to me for infrastructure My biggest concern is the many, MANY mysterious electrical flickers (not complete outages) per day all over our development. This phenomenon did not start until the Winter of 2025, and the flickers have nothing to do with heat pump, A/C, or appliances it seems to be related to the grid / demand or similar...

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Paul Boatman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your request has been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors. 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Marissa	**Last Name:**	Hippenmeyer
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC0000000841

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

5% increase is ridiculous for residents.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Marissa Hippenmeyer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	KK	**Last Name:**	Wynns
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000842

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing as a residential customer deeply concerned about the proposed rate increases. Our electric bills are already difficult for our family to manage, and another increase would put even more strain on us during a time when groceries, insurance, housing, and childcare costs continue to rise. We already make sacrifices every single day to keep our power bill down. Even during the hottest South Carolina days, we rarely turn on the air conditioning because we are afraid of what the bill will become. Our home becomes unbearably hot, but we try to endure it because we simply cannot afford higher monthly costs. No family should have to choose between comfort and financial survival. Electricity is not a luxury. It is a necessity. Families like mine are already doing everything we can to conserve energy and live responsibly. Raising rates again feels like a punishment to people who are already stretched to their limit. I understand that infrastructure and operations cost money, but I urge Santee Cooper to seriously consider the impact these increases will have on working families. Please look for alternatives that do not continue placing the burden on residential customers who are already struggling. Thank you for taking public comments into consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear KK Wynns,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Patty	**Last Name:**	Lamothe
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000843

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I am a residential customer served by Santee Cooper and would like to formally express concern regarding the proposed base rate adjustments for 2027 and 2028. Following the recent rate restructuring and increases implemented in 2025, the proposed additional increases of approximately 4.6%–4.7% annually for residential customers are difficult to justify from a customer perspective. These increases come on top of a fundamental shift to demand-based and time-of-use pricing, which has already made monthly bills less predictable and, in many cases, higher for typical households. Residential customers appear to be disproportionately impacted compared to other customer classes, with consistently higher percentage increases than commercial and industrial users. This raises concerns about fairness, particularly when residential customers have the least flexibility to shift energy usage away from peak periods due to work schedules, weather conditions, and basic household needs. At a minimum, I would ask Santee Cooper to: • Reevaluate the magnitude of residential rate increases relative to other customer classes • Provide greater transparency into how these increases directly benefit residential customers • Consider mitigation strategies such as bill protections, phased increases, or expanded customer tools to better manage demand-based billing • Affordability, fairness, and predictability are critical. Without meaningful adjustments, these continued increases risk placing an undue burden on residential customers. Thank you for your consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patty Lamothe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jay	**Last Name:**	Rimovsky
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000844

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Per the SC study, I am definitely opposed to the proposed rate adjustment specifically for residential customers. As a retired homeowner, these proposed rate adjustments in 2027 and 2028 far exceed the CPI and SC needs to spread the burden equally across all customer categories! My thanks, Jay Rimovsky

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jay Rimovsky ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mike	**Last Name:**	Samra
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000845

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Thank you for the heads up email regarding a rate increase. However, it lacks something very important, that is how much will the rate increase be? Would appreciate that information please. Thank you, Mike Samra

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mike Samra,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

The proposed 2027 adjustment includes average increases of 4.7% for residential customers, 2.9% for commercial customers, 3.2% for lighting customers, and 2.6% for industrial customers. The proposed 2028 adjustment includes increases of 4.6% for residential, 2.9% for commercial, 3% for lighting and 2.1% for industrial customers.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Bryan	**Last Name:**	Moore
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000846

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To whom it may concern, I just received the email on proposed rate hikes. I am opposed to these new rates. They increase quite a bit. Customers are already getting squeezed with "peak hour" garbage rates. It appears that rates are increasing for both energy use and just having an account. These new rates are ridiculous. Maybe some of this cost needs to be passed along to the new homes builders and the counties for approving such growth. I am strongly against the new rates, not that it matters what the customers think, you will do what you see fit for profits and to keep the board happy. Bryan Moore.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Bryan Moore,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Nicole	**Last Name:**	Pisani
Organization:	Small Business Owner		
City:		**Customer Type:**	Commercial
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000847

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I am a small business owner in Horry County submitting a public comment regarding the proposed rate adjustments by Santee Cooper. I strongly oppose the current and proposed use of demand charges based on the highest 30-minute interval, especially when combined with peak usage charges. This structure is not sustainable for small businesses like mine—or many others in our community. This past winter, my electric bill nearly tripled. After spending over three hours reviewing my account with one of your specialists, it was confirmed that this increase was not due to business growth, increased staff, extended hours, or additional equipment. It was caused by a single short-duration spike during a cold snap—when heating systems temporarily kicked on. To be clear: We did not increase our thermostat significantly. We did not change how we operate our business. The spike was brief and tied to a heating element we have always had. It was not sustained usage and not tied to growth in any way. Yet, that one short interval determined the cost of our entire billing cycle. I was also told there was nothing we could have done differently to prevent this charge. That is unacceptable. A system where small businesses cannot control or mitigate their utility costs—especially when the cause is weather-related—is fundamentally flawed. Beyond that single spike, the larger issue is the overall structure we are being placed under. Small businesses are now facing both peak usage charges and demand charges at the same time. That layered cost structure may be manageable for large corporations—but for small, service-based businesses, it is overwhelming. We are already navigating rising costs across every area of operation: Rent and lease increases Insurance premiums rising year after year Payroll and retaining staff in a competitive market Product and supply cost increases And even our own household costs increasing alongside business expenses To now add unpredictable, compounding utility charges on top of all of this is simply not sustainable. We are not a large corporation. We are not operating massive square footage or industrial-level demand. We are a small, service-based business, yet we are being billed under a structure that treats us the same as much larger operations. This is not just about my business. Horry County's economy depends heavily on small businesses—salons, restaurants, retail shops, and service providers. According to U.S. Small Business Administration data, over 99% of businesses in South Carolina are small businesses, employing nearly half of the workforce. These businesses are already stretched thin. A rate structure that combines peak pricing with demand charges—while also allowing a single 30-minute weather-related spike to dictate billing—is not a reasonable increase. It is a financial burden that many small businesses simply cannot absorb. We understand and can plan for reasonable, gradual increases. That is part of doing business. What we cannot sustain are unpredictable, extreme costs driven by factors outside of our control. This is crippling. If this structure continues, it will force business owners to make difficult decisions—cut staff, raise prices beyond what customers can afford, or close altogether. The ripple effect on our local economy will be significant. I urge you

to: Reevaluate how demand charges are applied to small businesses Consider separating or limiting the compounding effect of peak and demand charges Provide alternative rate structures for small, service-based operations Base rates on consistent usage over time rather than isolated peak intervals Create a system where businesses have a realistic ability to manage and control their costs If this rate structure continues, it will not just impact individual businesses—it will lead to closures. Small businesses in Myrtle Beach and across Horry County will be forced to shut their doors, reduce staff, or stop hiring altogether. These are local jobs, local families, and a local economy that depends on us. When small businesses go under, the ripple effect is immediate and lasting. I urge you to fully consider the real-world impact these decisions will have—not just on paper, but on the people and communities you serve. Small businesses need fairness, predictability, and a rate structure that reflects reality—not worst-case, short-lived spikes combined with layered charges. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nicole Pisani,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Revised rates for small commercial customers change how demand charges are calculated to reduce the impact of isolated spikes in electricity usage on customer bills. Instead of billing demand on a single highest-hour charge regardless of time of day, the new Balanced Demand Billing would include a charge for the average of a customer's maximum hourly use during the four highest peak periods each month. Additionally, the commercial peak window has been shortened from four hours to three, aligning business peak hours with residential and giving customers more flexibility to manage costs.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/business

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	TJ	**Last Name:**	Turner
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000848

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

The residential proposed rate increase seems excessive. We already have to deal with playing this peak v.s. no-peak game. And at times established when heat or cooling is most needed. The increase will create a financial hardship for many. I am OPPOSED to any residential rate increase. I can not understand the logic of raising residential rates more than commercial. Those facilities or businesses use a lot more electricity than residential..

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear TJ Turner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Leslie
Last Name: Fraust
Organization:
City:
Customer Type: Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000849

Date Submitted: 5/5/2026
Origin: email

Comment:

I think it's a shame that this company would consider an increase! The way the economy is at this VERY moment, food and gas! YOU and The TRUMP administration and his MINIONS do not CARE about us, the American Working people! I'm absolutely DISAPPOINTED and DISGUSTED, SHAME on YOU to even suggest it! I want to say much more but I won't waste my breath!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Leslie Fraust,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Dawn	**Last Name:**	Casvikes
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000850

Date Submitted: 5/5/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

It is ludicrous that you are proposing a rate increase especially with the peak hours increase. I can't believe I'm exhausted when I get home from work at 2pm and cannot even do my laundry for the morning until after 6pm with this nonsense. I get up at 4am for work so thanks for making me stay up later! Do not increase rates further!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Dawn Casvikes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Bruce **Last Name:** Corner

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000851

Date Submitted: 5/5/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Clearly, I am against any rate increase for these unregulated bandits who have implemented this peak rate nonsense. The implemented peak rate increases were predatory against the elderly and those with school aged children.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Bruce Corner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

For more details, please visit www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Duane	**Last Name:**	Brown
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC0000000852

Date Submitted: 5/5/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To Whom it May Concern: am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rate adjustments. These changes should not be allowed, particularly given the peak time programs already in place that serve as significant revenue generators. Adding further rate increases on top of these existing structures is unreasonable for customers. Please include these comments in the official record for the current rate review process.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Duane Brown,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Danny Joe	**Last Name:**	Mishoe
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000853

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I understand a utility company doing what it has to do regarding the rate situation. However, as consumers, we should be able to seek out other utility companies for service instead of being a captive audience. If I don't like what t mobile is doing, I can give my hard earned dollar to Verizon. It should be the same way with our utilities. If I don't like what Santee Cooper is doing regarding rates, I should be able to take my hard earned dollar to Horry Electric or Duke Energy. And WHY is it that residential customers have to pay the higher rate hikes?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Danny Joe Mishoe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Debra	**Last Name:**	Sanders
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000854

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I do not agree with the rate changes. Everything is being increased without better services. Thank you

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Debra Sanders,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Racquel	**Last Name:**	Herrin
Organization:			
City:	Bonneau	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC		

SC Reference # : SC0000000855

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper Board Members, My name is Racquel Herrin, and I am a residential customer in Bonneau, South Carolina. I am writing to provide comments on the proposed 2027 and 2028 rate increases. I appreciate Santee Cooper's commitment to maintaining system reliability and making necessary infrastructure investments. However, I am concerned that the proposed rate structure does not align with key ratemaking principles such as cost causation, equity among customer classes, and gradualism. Under the current proposal, residential customers are facing increases of nearly 5% in both years—significantly higher than those assigned to industrial customers. This raises concerns about whether costs are being allocated to the customers who are actually driving them. Large commercial and industrial users—particularly high-load customers like data centers—place substantial demands on the system. They contribute to peak load growth, require expanded generation and transmission capacity, and often necessitate enhanced reliability. Based on standard cost-of-service principles, these incremental costs should be borne by those customers rather than broadly distributed to residential households. I am also concerned about the potential for cross-subsidization. Without targeted mechanisms such as incremental cost pricing, dedicated tariffs, or infrastructure cost recovery tied to large-load customers, residential ratepayers may end up subsidizing system expansions they did not cause. While changes like Balanced Demand Billing may improve how demand is calculated within customer classes, they do not address how costs are allocated between classes. Additionally, the principle of gradualism should be considered, as residential customers typically have limited ability to shift or reduce usage and are more vulnerable to rate increases. I respectfully urge Santee Cooper to reconsider the allocation of these increases by: • Better aligning rates with cost-of-service principles • Increasing the share of costs assigned to large, high-demand users • Implementing targeted cost recovery mechanisms for infrastructure driven by those users • Moderating the impact on residential customers A more balanced and forward-looking approach will help ensure fairness while maintaining system reliability. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Racquel Herrin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	David	**Last Name:**	Barley
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000856

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

This is David Barley. My wife and I own [Redacted], Our account number is [Redacted]. I looked at the rate increases and see that residential customers rates will increase more than Commercial and Industrial rates. I do not understand as to why residents must pay higher rate increases than companies that make money. Residents always seem to get the worst. Everything goes up for the residents but I guarantee their income does not go up as much. This also affects seniors that live on a fixed income.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear David Barley,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Kenneth	**Last Name:**	Shane
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000857

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed electric rate increases. While I understand the importance of maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, these increases place an additional financial burden on residential customers who are already dealing with rising costs of living, including housing, food, and fuel. Electricity is a basic necessity, not a luxury. Even modest percentage increases can have a significant impact on working families, retirees on fixed incomes, and lower-income households. Many customers are already struggling to keep up with monthly utility bills, and further rate increases will only make essential services less affordable. Before implementing higher rates, I encourage the company to prioritize cost-control measures, operational efficiencies, and alternative funding solutions that do not shift the financial responsibility primarily onto customers. Greater transparency regarding spending, investment priorities, and measurable benefits to customers would also help build public trust. I respectfully ask that the company reconsider or delay these proposed rate increases until all reasonable efforts have been made to minimize the impact on customers. Reliable electric service is important, but affordability must remain a central consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Kenneth Shane,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Sean	**Last Name:**	Malinski
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000858

Date Submitted:	5/5/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the proposed rate adjustments under review by Santee Cooper. I understand and support the need for continued investment in system reliability, infrastructure modernization and long-term service quality. However, I am concerned with how the proposed increases are allocated across customer classes, specifically, the relatively higher increases applied to residential customers compared to commercial and lighting classes. Under the current proposal, residential customers are expected to absorb increases of 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028, exceeding those proposed for commercial and lighting customers. While cost-of-service principles are an important foundation in rate design, this allocation raises important questions about affordability and customer impact. In the Myrtle Beach region and surrounding communities, a significant portion of the population consists of retirees and individuals living on fixed or limited incomes. These customers have little to no ability to offset rising utility costs. Unlike commercial entities, residential customers cannot pass through increased expenses or claim tax deductions. As a result, even modest percentage increases can create a disproportionate financial burden. From a personal standpoint, I reviewed a recent residential bill (33-day period) with total charges of $294.97 based on 2,262 kWh of usage and a 9.5 kW demand. Applying the proposed increase: • A 4.7% increase would raise this bill by approximately $13.86 per month • A subsequent 4.6% increase would bring the total monthly increase to roughly $27–$30 compared to today's rates While this may appear incremental, in practice it represents a meaningful and recurring cost increase, especially when layered on top of rising insurance, property taxes and COLA. Utility costs are not discretionary and in peak winter and summer months, usage would likely be even higher. Given these realities, I respectfully request additional clarity and consideration in the following areas: • Cost Allocation Transparency: Please provide a clear explanation of the underlying cost-of-service analysis that results in higher percentage increases for residential customers relative to other classes. • Affordability Considerations: What measures are being considered to protect vulnerable populations, including seniors and fixed-income households from cumulative rate increases over multiple years? • Alternative Phasing Options: Has Santee Cooper evaluated a more balanced approach to phasing in increases across customer classes to reduce near-term impacts on residential customers? I also encourage careful evaluation of how rate design changes, such as the proposed Balanced Demand Billing. Will it affect typical residential usage patterns in practice.? While smoothing isolated demand spikes is a positive step, it is important to ensure that the overall bill impacts remain manageable and predictable for households. A sustainable rate strategy should balance system needs with customer realities. Ensuring that residential customers are not disproportionately impacted, particularly those with limited financial flexibility. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Sean Malinski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Tabitha	**Last Name:**	Lowery
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000860

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper, I am opposed to the proposed energy rate increases for 2027 and 2028. I have been living in the same house since 2020 and never have I experienced this much of an increase in price for electricity since the peak hours began. My husband and I use every measure to ensure we are reducing energy usage during peak hours, yet, our bills have increased over 30% since last year. We are using the same amount if not less energy as last year. People who work in this city cannot continue affording these increases with the types of jobs Conway offers. There needs to be a better solution that meets the needs of Conway citizens than what is proposed. I hope to hear back about what Santee Cooper is doing to help its customers beyond the usual peak hour guidance. It is becomimg increasingly difficult to maintain any sense of comfort in my own home during the hottest months in the summer and the coldest months in the winter. I sincerely hope that Santee Cooper will do something about these rates.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Tabitha Lowery,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Leslie	**Last Name:**	Fraust
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000861

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

This message is in addition to my previous email sent yesterday. I researched how much you all make. The CEO makes over 1 MILLION dollars per year and the company makes over 1 BILLION! Again, I'm asking you ALL is that fare to us to increase our rates! This sickens me to my core. I'm a caregiver making 17.00/hr. I had a client booked then my schedule changed, now I have no client no work and no pay for the next 2 weeks. Put your self in my, in our shoes! But, I know you WON'T because you don't care just like that IDIOT and his MINIONS in the WH! I hope you all sleep well because A LOT of people won't be! Leslie Frausto, UPSET!!!

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santee cooper

Dear Leslie Fraust ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000862

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Stop with the green energy investments and you might actually be able to stop raising customers rates NO RATE INCREASE Its bad enough you price gouge unfairly 3 hours a day

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Michael Hrinda,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Laura	**Last Name:**	Hunnicutt
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000863

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hello I do not agree with rate increase at this time. Is this because of any large commercial or business? Data centers? Why so much and why now when your customers are struggling with other bills? I do believe that people should pay this increase. I think businesses (large one tha eat power) should pay more.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Laura Hunnicutt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Debbie	**Last Name:**	Bone
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000864

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Residential Rate Changes I am a residential customer on the RG (Residential General Service) plan, and I am submitting this comment regarding the proposed 2027 and 2028 rate changes. I understand that maintaining the electric system, paying down debt obligations, and planning for future growth require revenue. I am not opposed to reasonable increases when they are clearly justified and fairly applied. However, I have serious concerns about how the current rate structure, particularly demand charges, impacts residential customers in real-world use. The demand charge structure places significant weight on a single highest one-hour usage period each month. For most households, this does not reflect excessive or unusual behavior. It reflects normal daily activities such as running air conditioning, cooking meals, doing laundry, or managing a household during peak hours. These are not optional or easily shifted activities for many families. While the intent may be to encourage more efficient energy use, the current structure creates unpredictability and financial risk. A single hour of overlapping appliance use can result in a disproportionately high charge, even if overall monthly energy consumption is moderate. This makes it difficult for customers to anticipate or manage their bills in a meaningful way. Santee Cooper's own research indicates that customers value predictability, clarity, and fairness in their billing. The current demand-based model does not align well with those priorities. Most residential customers do not have the tools, time, or detailed usage data needed to actively monitor and control their peak demand hour. I respectfully ask that the Board consider the following: 1. Reevaluate how demand charges are applied to residential customers, particularly whether a single highest-hour measurement is an appropriate basis for billing. 2. Consider alternative approaches that better reflect overall usage patterns, such as averaging peak usage over multiple periods rather than relying on a single event. 3. Provide clearer, more accessible tools and real-time data so customers can understand and manage their demand before being charged for it. 4. Ensure that any increases tied to demand-based pricing are balanced with protections for customers who are not intentionally creating excessive load but are simply using electricity in normal, necessary ways. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input and ask that these concerns be carefully considered before final decisions are made. Sincerely, Debbie Bone - [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Debbie Bone,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Holly	**Last Name:**	Poplin
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000865

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Santee Cooper Rate Review Committee: I am submitting this correspondence as a formal written objection to the proposed 2027 and 2028 residential rate adjustments, including the associated structural changes to billing methodology. I am also requesting a detailed, data-supported response and placing this matter on record for potential review by the South Carolina Public Service Commission and other appropriate oversight bodies. Santee Cooper's proposal includes residential base rate increases of approximately 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028, representing a cumulative increase of approximately 9.3% over a two-year period. While these figures are presented as "average" adjustments, Santee Cooper acknowledges that actual customer impacts will vary and may exceed these averages depending on usage patterns and billing structure. In addition to these increases, the proposal includes: - An increase in the monthly residential customer charge from $20.00 to $21.00 (2027) and $22.00 (2028) - An increase in demand charges from $8.00/kW to $8.75/kW (2027) and $9.50/kW (2028) - An increase in energy charges from $0.0792/kWh to $0.0899/kWh (2027) and $0.0925/kWh (2028) Of particular concern is the proposed implementation of "Balanced Demand Billing," which calculates demand charges based on the average of a customer's maximum hourly usage during the four highest peak periods each month. While presented as a measure to reduce the impact of isolated spikes, this structure effectively shifts cost exposure to households with consistently high energy needs. In practice, this includes families with medical equipment, multi-generational households, and residents in coastal South Carolina who must maintain continuous climate control due to extreme heat and humidity conditions. This proposal must be evaluated within the context of rapid population growth and expanding demand within Santee Cooper's service territory. Publicly available data from the U.S. Census Bureau demonstrates significant population and housing growth in Horry County between 2020 and 2025. Santee Cooper's own Integrated Resource Plan further acknowledges that customer growth has exceeded prior forecasts and is expected to continue increasing both customer counts and energy demand. Given these conditions, it is reasonable to conclude that Santee Cooper is already positioned to realize increased revenue through expansion of its customer base and increased aggregate consumption. The necessity of imposing additional rate increases on existing residential customers—particularly at a higher proportional rate than commercial and industrial classes—requires clear, transparent, and data-supported justification. Accordingly, I formally request a written response addressing the following: 1. The total projected annual revenue increase attributable specifically to the proposed 2027 and 2028 residential rate adjustments. 2. The projected revenue increases attributable to population growth, new customer accounts, and increased overall energy demand within Horry County and the broader service area. 3. A detailed justification for the proportional allocation of rate increases across residential, commercial, and industrial classes. 4. Any impact analyses, including but not limited to county-level or demographic studies, evaluating

the effect of these proposed increases on fixed-income households, elderly residents, medically dependent individuals, and economically vulnerable populations. 5. The methodology and supporting data used to substantiate the public claim that the proposed increases equate to approximately $6.60 per month for residential customers. 6. A comparative analysis of projected billing outcomes under the current demand structure versus the proposed Balanced Demand Billing model, including identification of customer groups most likely to experience increased financial burden. 7. Whether Santee Cooper has evaluated alternative rate structures, phased implementation strategies, or targeted customer protections designed to mitigate disproportionate impacts on residential users. As a state-owned public utility, Santee Cooper operates with a heightened obligation of transparency, accountability, and equitable treatment of its customers. The current proposal raises substantial concerns regarding cost allocation, proportionality, and the cumulative financial impact on a rapidly growing residential population. Please be advised that this correspondence is submitted for inclusion in the official public record and may be shared with the South Carolina Public Service Commission, local government representatives, and other relevant stakeholders for further review. I respectfully request a written response addressing each of the above items prior to final consideration or implementation of the proposed rate adjustments. References: 1. Santee Cooper, Rate Study Materials and Proposed Adjustments (2026) 2. Santee Cooper, Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Upda

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Dear Holly Poplin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

A response to your specific questions can be accessed here:

https://burr.sharefile.com/d-sa17d65dbe45e45efba31b4af625daed9

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Susan	**Last Name:**	Hoefert
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000866

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To whom it may concern; I moved to Conway SC, from Florida, 4 years ago. (I moved into an existing house that was built in 1984 and have spent money to make it more energy efficient.) The peak hours rate that took place April 2025 sent me scrambling to find ways to not use electricity during the peak period hours. I already had installed a smart thermostat and had allowed Santee cooper to install equipment in my home to be able to turn off power to my HVAC and Hot water heater. I had also installed a timed circulating pump on my hot water heater because it took so much water to get hot water to the farthest bathroom. I believe in conservation. I was horrified when we were sent an itemized sample bill of my January usage during what would have been peak hours rate. My bill would have doubled. This past year I lived with peak hours during the 6-9 am period and 3-6 pm period. I have learned not take showers, turn off my hot water heater through installation of timer shut off box, and not allow the HVAC system to run during those periods. But there are so many things in our lives that are electric and short of turning off the power during those periods, I still use Electricity but is affordable. I can tolerate the afternoon period better than the morning because it forces me to get up earlier to eat and shower or wait until after 9. I am senior citizen and social security's "inflation" rate increases does not keep up with reality. If you want to increase your revenue to keep up the infrastructure of the grid to keep up with the increasing demand due to the influx of more residents, then charge the developers a building fee for each residence they build. They are lining their pockets due to high demand for new housing at the expense of current and sometimes longtime residents. Unfair. Please reconsider raising residents bills. Thank you for your consideration into this matter that comes from a part of your population whose income is already stretched.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Susan Hoefert,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.
Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Amy **Last Name:** Miller

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:** Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000867

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To Whom it may concern: I feel like electrical rates are beyond high in SC. In this economy with most people struggling to make ends meet, any increase seems excessive and greedy. Sincerely Amy Miller [Redacted]

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Dear Amy Miller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Cindy **Last Name:** Lee

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:** Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000868

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

With an increase of almost $1800.00 on my taxes with no improvements or additions this is only going to add to the burden. I have only been to my house twice last year and everything just wants to go up. People can only take so much. Properties are well overpriced.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

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Dear Cindy Lee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Marianne	**Last Name:**	Zeltner
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000869

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper Representatives, I am writing as a long-time residential customer and a retiree to express my deep concern regarding your proposed rate increases for residential customers. We are retired. We live on a fixed income from Social Security and retirement. My husband has a minimal income from a small property management business. This proposed increase will place a significant and unfair burden on our household budget. This would mark the second major rate adjustment since the end of a court-ordered five-year rate freeze in 2025, following a previous 13% increase. Every dollar is carefully allocated to cover essential needs such as housing, food, medication, and utilities. A 13% increase in our electric bill over 2 years may seem small in percentage terms, but for seniors on fixed incomes, it translates into real sacrifices—whether that means cutting back on groceries, delaying necessary medical supplies, or going without air conditioning or heat during extreme weather. We understand that utility companies face rising operational costs, but we urge you to consider the disproportionate impact this rate hike will have on vulnerable populations like elderly and low-income households. We respectfully request that: 1. The proposed 13% rate increase be reconsidered or significantly reduced. 2. Expanded assistance programs to be made available for seniors and fixed-income customers, including bill deferral options, increased discounts, or extended payment plans. 3. The company might wish to invest in outreach to ensure eligible customers are aware of and enrolled in existing programs like LIHEAP, CARE, or state-specific senior utility assistance. We are not asking for special treatment—only fairness and compassion. As loyal customers who have paid our bills on time for years, we believe the company has a responsibility to protect its most vulnerable users. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will take our concerns seriously and act in the best interest of all your customers, especially those of us living on fixed incomes. Sincerely, Marianne Zeltner [Redacted] Account [Redacted]

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santee cooper

Dear Marianne Zeltner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Sam	**Last Name:**	Miller
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000870

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Good afternoon, I am responding to the above info sent to The Town of Briarcliffe Acres by Anna Strickland on 5/1/26. I understand the need for rate increases but have two questions for you: • Are all customers get the same rate increases including commercial and AI data centers? • Do rates ever decrease ? For example if oil were to fall back to $75/Brl and other costs started receding. Thank you for your time, Sam Miller Town Council [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Sam Miller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

The proposed 2027 adjustment includes average increases of 4.7% for residential customers, 2.9% for commercial customers, 3.2% for lighting customers, and 2.6% for industrial customers. The proposed 2028 adjustment includes increases of 4.6% for residential, 2.9% for commercial, 3% for lighting and 2.1% for industrial customers.

Your comment mentions the rate adjustments for data centers. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

In response to your question about the impact of a change in costs, Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility, and our rates are based on the cost to serve our customers. If those costs change materially, Santee Cooper would consider adjusting our rates to reflect the change. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Alicia	**Last Name:**	Deas
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000871

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear]Santee Cooper power I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed 10% power bill increase over the next two years. I purchased a condo in the Malibu Pointe area of North Myrtle Beach three years ago to be closer to my children. Due to rising property taxes, I recently decided to use the unit as a rental to offset costs. Because I cannot control the energy usage of my renters, my bill has already doubled due to high peak usage charges. Implementing further increases now would create an even greater financial burden. While I understand the East Coast is a major tourist destination, these hikes are negatively impacting homeowners. This would mark three consecutive years of difficult changes for me—starting with high usage and peak hour fees, and now these two upcoming increases. I would like to go on the record stating that I am against these rate hikes. Thank you for your time and for considering my feedback. Best regards, Alicia Deas

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Dear Alicia Deas,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Carrie	**Last Name:**	Weaver
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000872

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To whom it may concern, Please tell me how raising residential rates to 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028 makes sense. People are struggling to put food on their tables, but you are proposing an almost 5% raise for residential customers. This is ridiculous! However, your commercial and industrial users are only going to receive an increase of 2.9% and 2.6%. Your commercial and industrial customers should pay the most. How about charge them an increase of 4.7% and 4.6%? They are the ones using the most and making money in sales and using write offs for their usage. Charge the commercial and industrial customers the most so that your average everyday working citizens can have enough money to put food on their table and purchase the essential things in life. Carrie Weaver Account Number [Redacted]

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Carrie Weaver,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Terry **Last Name:** Hasselman

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:** Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000873

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We the customers do not deserve another rate hike . We the customers should not have to pay for your failed nuclear power plant debt . We the customers deserve a state that can provide an affordable service to their customers.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Terry Hasselman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Gerard	**Last Name:**	Devito
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000874

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hi, my name is Nancy Devito and I have been a customer of Santee Cooper since 2007. I know the demand with all these new families and businesses moving into the area but for existing customers the burden is being put upon them. First you implement peak hours and now you want to increase 4.9%. How about more incentives on new construction being energy or solar efficient? What's gonna happen when AI is fully operational? We must think ahead Majority of these homes homes are electric.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Gerard Devito,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Michelle
Last Name: Magill
Organization:
City:
Customer Type: Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000875

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026
Origin: email

Comment:

Stop the rate hikes!!!!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Michelle Magill,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Marisa	**Last Name:**	Fragomeli
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC0000000876

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Get rid of peak hour usage and don't even CONSIDER balanced demand billing. This (had been) is equivalent to a tax on working class and retired people. People getting ready to go to work 6-9. Pay more. People coming home for dinner 3-6. Pay more. My sister was charged $90.00 peak on her bill because she has to eat and likes to cook Ridiculous! You want an increase, just do the straight increase. Why do you need an increase next year too? You know and I know you're going to get it anyway! I just love how 12 people on a board get to dictate to the consumer. How much money do you make? I can tell you it's not what I make. Where do you live? Not in my neighborhood. The bottom line is so many people are moving down here and you're afraid of overloading the grid. This should not be my problem, but yours. The consumer is tired of bailing everyone out.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Marisa Fragomeli,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Terry **Last Name:** Hasselman

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000877

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We the customers do not deserve a rate hike . We the customers our not responsible for your company's debt because you failed making a nuclear power plant happen. Why should our rates go higher because of your recurring debt & interest . South Carolina needs regulations to keep Santee from continuing to keep raising our rates . Your proposal is not fair to the everyday hard working people.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Terry Hasselman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Terri	**Last Name:**	Farrington
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000878

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Just plain ridiculous. Haven't you already gouged us enough already with the joke of "Peak Hours"? There are so many retirees and struggling folks who are feeling the pain of these insane rate hikes. Stop already!! I can afford the rates increases but I speak for the many who can't. I'll just bet some of the top folks at Santee Cooper are enjoying the fat paychecks they're getting. Shame on you! !!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Terri Farrington,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Richard	**Last Name:**	Kelly
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000879

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Im writing this email to oppose the rate increase from Santee Cooper I am on a fixed income and with everything else going up food,taxes, gas, my homeowners and car insurance I cannot afford this increase in this economy this is a terrible idea because people are struggling to pay their bills and keep food on the table so please don’t do this increase thanks for listening to me.Rick Kelly

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Richard Kelly,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	George	**Last Name:**	Ulrich
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Commercial
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000880

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear Members of the Board, I am submitting this comment as someone who experiences Santee Cooper's rates from multiple perspectives. I am a residential customer, a commercial customer, and I also work for a non-profit organization that receives electric service for multiple group homes and programs facilities served by Santee Cooper. Because of this, I see firsthand how proposed rate increases ripple across households, businesses, and mission-driven organizations that serve vulnerable populations. While I recognize the importance of maintaining a reliable and resilient electric system, I am deeply concerned about the cumulative impact of the proposed rate increases for 2027 and 2028 - particularly during an already difficult economic period. Many families, small businesses, and non-profit organizations are already struggling to manage rising costs across housing, insurance, food, payroll, and utilities. Additional increases of this scale, especially for residential customers facing average increases of 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028, will create real hardship. As a non-profit employee, I can state plainly that non-profits do not have the ability to simply absorb higher utility costs. Increased electric expenses directly reduce funds available for staffing, services, and care. For organizations operating group homes and program facilities, electricity is not discretionary - it is essential. Any increase in base rates ultimately affects the people we serve. I appreciate that Santee Cooper gathered customer feedback and proposed changes such as Balanced Demand Billing and adjusted peak demand windows. However, it is important to note that customers are already paying high energy costs, including existing peak-use rates. Structural adjustments alone do not sufficiently offset the proposed base increases, and customers should not be expected to shoulder rising costs without clear evidence that internal cost reductions have been fully pursued. Before approving any additional rate hikes, I strongly urge Santee Cooper to conduct and publicly demonstrate a thorough revieqw of overhead and operational expenses, including but not limited to: • Reducing executive and administrative vehicle fleets, vehicle allowances, and travel costs • Reassessing executive and management overhead, just as families and organizations are required to reassess their own budgets • Cutting or delaying non-essential expenditures before shifting further financial burden to customers In the real world, families, small businesses, and non-profits must make difficult decisions when costs rise. It is only reasonable to expect the same level of fiscal restraint from a public utility. Additionally, customers continue to live with the financial consequences of past decisions - most notably the investment in the now-defunct V.C. Summer nuclear project. Santee Cooper had an opportunity to modernize infrastructure, and that effort instead resulted in long-term financial strain for ratepayers. That history cannot be separated from today's rate discussions and underscores the need for exceptional financial discipline moving forward. Given these concerns, I believe it is also appropriate for state leaders and the Board to thoughtfully revisit whether Santee Cooper's current structure is truly serving customers' best interests. A public utility

should operate with efficiency, accountability, and transparency expected of any well-run business - not as another layer of bureaucracy insulated from the financial realities its customers face. In closing, I respectfully ask the Board to reconsider the scope and timing of these proposed increases, prioritize internal cost reductions, and fully acknowledge the strain already placed on residential customers, small businesses, and non-profits. Reliability is essential - affordability and accountability are equally critical. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration. Sincerely, George Ulrich Residential Account: [Redacted] Commercial Account: [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear George Ulrich,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Pamela	**Last Name:**	Strickland
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000881

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Rates are so high now, we are elderly and on Medicare. We have to decide whether to buy medicine or pay for electric. Medicine looses most times. Please, we can't afford a rate increase. Jerry W Strickland Little River, SC, customers for many years. Never missed a payment or had a late check.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Pamela Strickland,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Calvin	**Last Name:**	Jacobs
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000882

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

These winter time and summer time rates I think are high, the winter rates hit at the time the mornings is the coldest and everyone are hitting the showers before work , the summer time hits when families are going home from work and making dinner, keep me updated on this matter, Thanks Calvin Jacobs

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Calvin Jacobs,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Nick	**Last Name:**	Lomma
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000883

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I would like to express my disapproval of a rate increase. It seems that all working class Americans are being squeezed everywhere: at the gas pump, the grocery checkout, paying for all utilities, simply purchasing socks and underwear that doesn't seem to last very long and taxes! We are taxes when we're paid, on every product we purchase and property taxes that never seem to go down. Santee Cooper, while not receiving government subsidies, does oversee a $5.5M federal grant. How does that help the members? I know I own a solar system that I paid for, and I'm unable to sell power back, nor do I receive any rebates for this 'green' effort. My bill is still almost $400 per month. DO NOT INCREASE THE RATE!! -Nick Lomma

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nick Lomma,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Allen	**Last Name:**	Lamb
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000884

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

If your proposed rate adjustment includes additional charges to your residential customers, I am against it! The peak time charges we are now having to endure are a large enough increase for all of us! Thanks, Allen Lamb

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Allen Lamb,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Lynda Grace	**Last Name:**	Moore
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000885

Date Submitted:	5/6/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Santee Cooper SC Consumer Entity and South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, local elected officials, Santee Cooper Board of Directors, Please enter this email into the official public comment record for Santee Cooper's proposed 2027 and 2028 rate adjustments. I am a Santee Cooper residential customer in Georgetown County, South Carolina, and I strongly oppose the proposed residential rate increases as currently presented. Santee Cooper's own materials show proposed residential increases of 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028, for a listed two-year residential base-rate impact of 9.3%. That is higher than the proposed impact for commercial and industrial customers. Santee Cooper's materials also show that residential customers already experienced a significant 2025 bill impact. That is unacceptable without a far more rigorous showing that residential customers are not being asked to absorb costs created by load growth, new generation decisions, debt strategy, industrial expansion, capital planning, or internal management choices. Residential customers are not voluntary investors in Santee Cooper's capital plan. We are captive customers who need electricity for basic daily life. Families, retirees, fixed-income residents, small businesses, and working households should not be treated as the easiest place to recover revenue. Before approving any rate increase, I ask the Board to answer the following: 1. Why are residential customers facing a higher proposed percentage increase than commercial and industrial customers? 2. How much of this increase is tied to new load growth, new generation, new transmission, debt service, capital improvement funds, or costs connected to large industrial or high-impact-load customers? 3. What specific internal cuts, administrative reductions, executive-cost reductions, delayed capital projects, or non-ratepayer funding options were considered before asking residential customers to pay more? 4. What protections will ensure new large-load or industrial customers do not shift costs to existing residential customers? 5. What relief will be offered to retirees, fixed-income residents, families with medical needs, and customers already struggling with high utility bills? 6. Why should customers trust another increase so soon after the 2025 bill impact? 7. Will Santee Cooper publish clear, plain-language residential bill examples by usage level so customers can see the real dollar impact, not just percentages? I respectfully ask the Board to reject, reduce, or delay the proposed residential rate increases unless and until Santee Cooper proves that the increase is necessary, equitable, transparent, and not disproportionately placed on residential customers. South Carolina residents deserve reliable power, but we also deserve accountability, affordability, and protection from unchecked utility costs. See you July 28th, Waccamaw Neck Library in Pawleys Island at 10:30 a.m, respectfully, Mike and Lynda Grace Moore Santee Cooper Residential Customer Georgetown County, South Carolina

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lynda Grace Moore,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027, and Feb. 1, 2028.

We recognize the concerns you've raised regarding the proposed residential rate adjustments. Your questions about cost drivers, internal reductions, and protections for existing customers will be included in the official record for review. We appreciate your participation in this process and your interest in ensuring rate decisions are fair, equitable, and fully supported by evidence.

A response to your specific questions can be accessed here:
https://burr.sharefile.com/d-s394fdf3303834500bf9afc51a6c25fce

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Edward	**Last Name:**	Myers
Organization:			
City:	MYRTLE BEACH	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000000888

Date Submitted: 5/6/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

To whom it may concern, My wife and I are long time owners of our 2nd home in Myrtle Beach. I understand that our little townhome only represents a very small segment of the population. And for that reason, my comments and concerns may be considered as very minor in the big scheme of things as it relates to the overall community. With that said, Myrtle Beach is also one of the biggest tourist destinations in the world. There are certainly not as many full time residents as there are visitors. And many of these owners and members of Santee Electric (like my wife and I) are only present for a few weekends and Holidays a year. We have never rented out our 2nd home and it sits empty nearly 300 days a year. And when we are not visiting the beach for a long weekend, we always turn everything off and make sure that the thermostat is at least 15+° above or below the comfortable temperature to insure that the Heat or AC is not running wild while we're away. With all of that said, with the prior changes in rates and the new "demand" billing process that has been instituted, we have seen our electricity bills sky rocket from month to month. (Even when we're not there.) So, any further increases just scares us to death. To the point that we're afraid to even visit more than 1-2 days a month due to the bill that might hit us the following month. For example: February of 2026: We had nearly a $200 electric bill when we were not even at the beach..?? I can remember when my normal monthly bill was around $33-$38 dollars on average as the home sat empty. (What happened?) So, if there is anything different that can be done for owners that have very little electricity usage every month,....great. If not, then at least offer an EPP (equal payment plan) so we can help to divide these unusual spikes in costs over 12 months rather than the big surprise in peak months. It really help with budgeting when there is flexibility such as this. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment. Sincerely, Mr & Mrs Myers.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Edward Myers,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/billing-options. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000894

Date Submitted: 5/7/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Your rate increase is out of line. You have thousands of new customers adding to your revenue and profit. There should be no need for a rate increase. I have been a big fan of Santee Cooper since coming to this area over 12 years ago. I have lost much of that support due to your rate increases and demand pricing structure. I'm not sure who was in your focus groups, but either they didn't participate very well or you are ignoring them. Please reconsider your current approach.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear henry cigolle,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000896

Date Submitted:	5/7/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Santee Cooper Mgt., I am emailing to express my concern with the excessively high rates during the 3-hour summer and winter windows. We have owned properties in Myrtle Beach for over 25 years. We are now retired and living on a fixed income, trying to enjoy our condo in Myrtle. Unfortunately the rates in those 3-hour windows are so excessive that, when there, it is too expensive to prepare meals, control temperature, watch TV etc. during those times. We are fully supportive of conservation. Maybe double rates would make sense but these seem to be about 10-fold. It makes us nervous wrecks. We skip meals ans sweat/chill depending upon your penalty rate schedule. We are afraid to eat our meals, have comfortable temperatures or watch TV during those times. We had considered moving there full-time but concluded that these rates are just too burdening to tolerate. We never saw discussion about whether this strategy for draconian rate increases was appropriate. They just appeared and are stunning. We schedule our day around them. Please consider more reasonable punitive rates for these times. Retired Meal Skippers, Steve & Mina Brown [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Stephen Brown,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jo **Last Name:** Ann Malatesta

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000898

Date Submitted: 5/7/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ Good Morning, I am concerned regarding the upcoming rate increases. Many of us are in our 70's-80's on a fixed income. Why are the residential families suffering the largest increase. It should be spread out on the commercial, industrial, and lighting areas. Your average cost of $6.60 per month is not going to work for most of us, more like $18-20.00 per month. Also, you are not being forthcoming regarding the increase in the Customer Fee charged each month of $20.00 raising to $21.00. It would be great to see how the new Balanced Demand Billing will work. How do you determine the four highest peak periods per month. Is this based on each household or and overall Peak Period. Lastly, Santee Cooper has totally ignored the North End of Horry County by not having a public comment meeting in North Myrtle Beach, Little River area. You expect us to drive (with current gas prices) to Gardner Lacy, PAWLEY's Island, etcetera..to attend a meeting. For us it's 25 to 40 miles ONE WAY to any of these meetings. There should be a meeting in the AREA!! Sincerely, Jo Ann Malatesta [Redacted] Customer Account [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jo Ann Malatesta,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Thank you for your comments about the challenges of attending one of the scheduled public comment meetings. As a reminder, the comments provided through email will also be provided to the Board. In addition, Santee Cooper will take this feedback into consideration for future public comment meetings.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Fred & Maureen	**Last Name:**	Scott
Organization:			
City:	murrells inlet	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	sc 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000000899

Date Submitted: 5/7/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am really not happy with the proposed changes in the electric bill for the next 2 years. I can only imagine what your new rates will be after 2028. I don't think you ever considered all the retired households in SC and that we are on a limited income. Your new future rates are outrageous! With all the new homes and retired people coming to SC you would think that the rates would be cheaper. Is there ever going to be a time when we will brake even? Its becoming more and more of a challenge to stay afloat each day with everyone joining the band wagon by increasing the cost of living here (and throughout the united states). We moved to this state 26 years ago because financially it was in our best interest. I have grave doubts now that this would be our choice of retirement living if we had to make that decision today. The future is looking bleak. Santee Cooper is dictating and controlling a life style that we must all abide by. Please reconsider your proposal with retired people in mind.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Fred & Maureen Scott,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000900

Date Submitted: 5/7/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Santee Cooper Board, The proposed residential rate increases come at a horrible time in our economic development, particularly as they come just after the new Peak Hours adjustments. I find it unfathomable that the Peak Hour increases do not meet the long-term needs of the company to maintain and improve infrastructure. I am hardly even able to pay those rate increases!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Brandon Palmer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lynne **Last Name:** Merritt

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000901

Date Submitted: 5/7/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am a senior and a home owner, over the past 10 + years Santee Cooper added and retracted a few incentives for the homeowners to try and save on electricity. I understand Santee Cooper is still paying for the power plant that went "bust" but passing these high costs to the residents is unacceptable. We wear coats in the cold weather in the house, pay strong attention to the 'PEAK time" and look for every opportunity to save costs and energy. I am on a auto pay / budget and my monthly bills with food prices and gas right now is making life a struggle. PLEASE consider the costs of everyday for the residents of your service area. DO NOT RAISE RATES for the homeowners in the area. Thank you [Redacted] Lynne Merritt [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lynne Merritt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000905

Date Submitted: 5/7/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Please consider 'NO PEAK HOURS SUNDAYS". It is difficult to put a dinner on the table at a reasonable hour with the peak being 3-6pm. That way, families would be able to have their Sunday family dinners again before bedtime for the kiddies. This would go a long way in customer relations. Make people happy before your new rate hike. That way they will see that you are a company with a heart for family time. You would have the other 6 days for figuring the peak rates/hours. Thanks for your consideration

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear June Peterson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John **Last Name:** Mele

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000906

Date Submitted: 5/8/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to formally express my concern and dissatisfaction with Santee Cooper's continued rate increases, particularly in light of the organization's well-documented financial position stemming from the abandoned V.C. Summer nuclear project. It is difficult to reconcile the burden being placed on customers with the reality that Santee Cooper is still carrying approximately $4.4 billion in debt tied to that failed investment. Customers had no role in that decision, yet we continue to absorb the financial consequences through repeated rate adjustments. This raises a straightforward question: what specific measures are being taken to ensure accountability at the leadership level, and why are customers expected to shoulder the impact of past strategic failures? I would appreciate a clear and direct explanation of: • The justification for recent and planned rate increases • What internal cost-control or debt-reduction measures have been implemented • How Santee Cooper is ensuring that customers are not disproportionately impacted going forward Given the scope of this issue, I am directing this inquiry to executive leadership, including Jimmy Staton, Shawan Gillians, and Carmen Thomas, as it extends beyond routine customer service concerns. I expect a substantive response that addresses these points directly, rather than a generic or templated reply. This is 100% unacceptable and us customers are downright sick and disgusted with you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear John Mele,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027, and Feb. 1, 2028.

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.

Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Santee Cooper	**Last Name:**	Customer
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000908

Date Submitted:	5/8/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hello Santee cooper this isnt fair for our rates to go up 4.7% because of the data centers. The data centers need to pay their own rates

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Santee Cooper Customer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Santee Cooper	**Last Name:**	Customer
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000909

Date Submitted:	5/8/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Good afternoon, I am a Santee Cooper customer. I absolutely oppose any more rate hikes. You have already created Peak times that is sad that i have to live like this! It is sad that I have to not cook, or run appliances, turn on heat or air, because you guys want more money. And now, let's hit me again with your proposed rate increases in back-to-back years. I promise you that when they get approved, which we all know it will, the Peak times will also remain. I am on social security, and this is not good. I am not sure what to do anymore. You will get away with this and there is nothing that I can do. I am sure that my opinion won't matter, but at least you can try and understand.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Santee Cooper Customer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000911

Date Submitted: 5/10/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Santee Cooper does not need a rate increase, they need to stop expecting to make so much money year after year. Their net profits have been insane and any further rate increase is not in the best interest of a public-private partnership. This utility should be entirely taken over by the state government and act in the best interests of the constituents it serves. Were all having the bear the burden of the realities of this economy. Santee Cooper should not be passing on their costs while they've been generating this level of profit. When and if Santee Cooper starts to run at a level well beyond what is absolutely necessary in profit surplus a rate increase could be justified. We are a looong way off from that. 2025 $165 Million 2024$124 million 2023$88 Million 2022$62 Million 2021$45 Million

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Max Sauve,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Henry **Last Name:** Lowenstein, PhD
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:**
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000912

Date Submitted: 5/11/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

HENRY LOWENSTEIN, Ph.D. Research and Consulting Services LLC
[Redacted] May 8, 2026 Submission by U.S. Mail and Email Santee Cooper rates@santeecooper.com Rates Public Comments (M301) P.O. Box 2946101 Monks Corner, SC 29461 Re: Public Comment on Santee Cooper Proposed 2026 Rate Increases Dear Santee Cooper: I write to OPPOSE the proposed two year rate increases as premature, inappropriate and excessive at this time. It has been less than a year since Santee Cooper initiated its recent new 8.5% rate increase and structure late 2025-26. Contrary to its statements, the base rate change not only was not a rate reduction, but actually the largest rate increase in Santee Cooper history. On any given month, even with low use over 50% of a residential bill is the Peak Rate charge. The "control" alleged ratepayers have over it is illusory. Peak charge offsets any lower base rate of electric use and has been a revenue windfall for Santee Cooper, not even counting the Customer Charge and Fuel Adjustment and the like on the bill. For example: A residential house using 514kWh energy charge is $40.71 or 7.9 cents a kWh. This same house used a minimal 2,7KWh Demand on Peak but charged $21.60 or $8.00 a KWh. The peak load charge is 101.3 times the standard energy charge! This is outrageous-preposterous by any standard. Even blended in the above energy charge example, the total average cost per kWh goes to 12 cents a KWh, or 52% higher. To declare a rate increase less than a year after such a substantial increase and change is unconscionable and against the public interest. Moreover, the proposed increase is 50% higher than the current and projected annual cost of living, CPI. Santee Cooper does not have sufficient valid statistical data at this point to fully assess the financial and unintended consequences of the recent rate change, necessary to truly determine any future increased rate needed. To do so would take a minimum of 18-24 months to get through multiple seasonal cycles. For example, summer 2025 August had record heat, while this past winter had record cold. Both of these resulted in windfall revenues to Santee Cooper. Such weather variations are not normal and use-revenue cannot be estimated based on such outlier circumstances That said, Santee Cooper has had inadequate time and data to properly assess the unexpected consequences of its new rate system on the public. In my 2025 written comments on that rate change, I warned of these, all caused by outside consults' theoretical model used by those who do not live here, understand region climate dynamics and its socio-economic effects on ratepayers, most of whom have all electric homes. Among unexpected consequences but not limited to include: • Service region high percentage of retirees on fixed income and lower average income. • Elderly and those with health conditions who must maintain heating-cooling temperatures and medical equipment for health reasons, thus penalized by the peak rate system. • Fall peak charges at key dinner cooking hours. RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. Santee Cooper should cancel the current proposed increase for the coming year until such time as it has a clear and comprehensive evaluation of

the new rate-peak rate system implemented this year; financial, revenue and public impact. That will require at least 18 months of data. 2. Any increase Santee Cooper seeks MUST result in substantial reduction of the PEAK RATE $8.00 per KWh charge and other structural changes to fairly mitigate the severe unintended consequences. 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. To be sure it is a high quality public utility. As a state agency in the public interest you are not hamstrung by the requirements/overhead of an investor owned utility. Hence, these rate decisions must made with criteria beyond just financial spreadsheets. Like others I was disappointed last year, despite all the detailed public comments, time and hearings, 65%+ opposed the new peak rate structure, yet Santee Cooper Board made not one change based on the extensive public input. I hope that will not be the case again. Sincerely, Henry Lowenstein
Henry Lowenstein, PhD, President-CEO

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Henry Lowenstein, PhD,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. As a direct result of feedback gathered during the Public Comment process, Santee Cooper reduced the residential demand charge from the originally proposed $10.03 per kW to $8.00 per kW in the final approved rates, which was intended to lessen the impact of the new structure.

We heard your feedback that despite the reduction, this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Holly **Last Name:** Gardner

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000913

Date Submitted: 5/11/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I saw in the Myrtle Beach herald there may be a rate increase. You guys are great. But i wanted to say just a little. i worry the rate increase of 9% over a couple yrs time might be too much for some. But i know you need enough money. They could end up on govt resources and charge us all for that.❤ and I went to a friends and he was charging an electric Tesla there! I know i saw on pbs that you/electric companies cant make enough to support that. And i know lots of businesses run too much ac. I wonder if its possible to bill them or maybe to address waste publicly instead of having peak times and 9% increase? ❤ i am thinking i will be at the Myrtle Beach meeting. If my friend knew he was wasteful he would sell the Tesla ! just my thoughts ! Thanks!! Holly Gardner

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Holly Gardner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexibly payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Neal	**Last Name:**	Cully
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000915

Date Submitted:	5/11/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Pretty soon no one living along the coast will be able to afford electricity.I have lived in several different places.Santee Cooper has the most expensive electricity I have ever seen. Its not even close.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Neal Cully,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Francis	**Last Name:**	Miele
Organization:			
City:	MURRELLS INLET	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000000916

Date Submitted: 5/12/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

regarding the proposed rate increases, I see no information for Solar Customers. How will the rate changes affect Solar Customers please

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Francis Miele,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Information on changes to the Distributed Generation Rider for Solar Customers can be found on Santee Cooper's Residential Rate Study webpage:

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential/

Santee Cooper is proposing no increase to the customer charge in 2027 and a $2.00 per month increase in 2028. Additionally, the proposed rates increase the Energy Credit for energy sent back to Santee Cooper from the current $0.0415/kWh to $0.0558/kWh in 2027 and $0.0514/kWh in 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Frank	**Last Name:**	Miele
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	S. 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000000917

Date Submitted: 5/12/2026 **Origin:**

Comment:

is there an Date Center impact to these revised rate increases? I believe that Date Center owners should absorb 100% of their usage and not have homeowners absorb any of those charges.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Frank Miele,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Alicia	**Last Name:**	Francisco
Organization:	JJAR LLC		
City:	Murrells Inlet	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000000918

Date Submitted: 5/12/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

This increase rate is unacceptable. This is a vacation home for which I am rarely in residence. Is this why I'm being charge an extra $38.02? If so, I will be reaching out to the BBB, because however you are getting the additional rate information cannot be correct.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Alicia Francisco,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000919

Date Submitted: 5/12/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The Rate Increase for SANTEE COOPER is really not fair to the local residences. I feel that it is really gonna cause a hardship on a lot of people especially with the peak we are suffering now because of peak I really feel that you should not do a rate increases and if you’re going to do it you need to drop the peak. Beverly Jones

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Beverly Jones,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Joseph	**Last Name:**	Pechalonis
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000920

Date Submitted:	5/13/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hello I'm writing to see if you are going to implement any rate adjustments for senior citizens to lower the cost of utilities. I understand prices do go up but unfortunately for those of us on fixed incomes these utility rate hikes are difficult. Any chance of incorporating a plan for seniors living on social security??? Sent from my iPhone
Janet Pechalonis

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Joseph Pechalonis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Brittany	**Last Name:**	Perritt
Organization:			
City:	Aynor	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29511		

SC Reference # : SC0000000921

Date Submitted: 5/13/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing as a residential Santee Cooper customer to formally express my concerns regarding the recent and proposed rate changes, particularly the shift toward demand-based billing and the continued discussion of future rate increases. While I understand utilities must maintain infrastructure and plan for future energy demand, I believe many residential customers are being placed under increasing financial pressure with little practical ability to avoid higher costs. According to Santee Cooper's own rate study materials, residential customers were already subjected to an average increase of approximately 8.7% under the new rates that took effect in April 2025, and the utility is now discussing additional future rate adjustments because of projected revenue deficiencies beginning in 2027. For many families already struggling with inflation, insurance increases, grocery costs, and rising housing expenses, this is extremely concerning. One of the most troubling aspects of the new structure is the residential demand charge system. Most households are not energy experts and do not fully understand how demand charges work. A family can now be penalized financially for using normal household appliances during limited "peak" hours, even if their total monthly energy usage is reasonable. Everyday activities such as cooking dinner, running the dishwasher, washing clothes, or using air conditioning during South Carolina summers can significantly impact a bill under this model. Santee Cooper has stated that customers have "more control" over their bills under this structure. However, many working families do not realistically have the flexibility to avoid using electricity during the designated peak periods. Parents with children, elderly residents, people who work traditional schedules, and households with medical or accessibility needs cannot simply delay necessary electricity usage until late evening hours. The burden of managing peak demand unfairly shifts operational and infrastructure costs onto ordinary residents. Additionally, many customers remain frustrated that South Carolina residents continue paying the price for long-term utility planning failures and expensive infrastructure decisions made years ago. Customers should not continually shoulder financial consequences while being told future increases may still be necessary despite previous adjustments. I also believe Santee Cooper's messaging minimizes the real impact these increases have on rural and middle-class households. While the company references keeping bills below national averages, that does not reflect the economic reality many South Carolinians are currently facing. "Below average" does not automatically mean affordable. I respectfully ask Santee Cooper and its Board of Directors to: • Reconsider additional residential rate increases. • Reevaluate the fairness of mandatory demand-based billing for residential customers. • Improve transparency regarding long-term financial planning and projected future increases. • Provide stronger protections and relief options for financially vulnerable households. • Consider alternative solutions that do not disproportionately impact working families and rural communities. Reliable power is essential, but affordability matters as well. Customers deserve a system that is understandable, fair, and

sustainable without placing excessive financial strain on households already dealing with rising living costs. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Brittany Perritt on behalf of Steve Perritt Relation to Customer: Daughter Address: [Redacted] Acct# [Redacted] Thank you kindly, Brittany Perritt

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Brittany Perritt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Shawanna	**Last Name:**	Owens
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000922

Date Submitted:	5/13/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

First of all I know my input is not going to make any difference because I'm sure the decision is already made but I'll voice my opinion anyway. The $13 increase over the next two years is utterly ridiculous! I feel it is punishment to your customers for YOUR failed $25 billion failed expansion project a few years ago in which you were made to pay us money back. Now it seems like you're acting like it's our fault and you've been finding ways to hike up our bills ever since.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Shawanna Owens,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ania	**Last Name:**	Kupracz-Kahn
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000923

Date Submitted:	5/14/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hello, I'm very disappointed with the rate change plan. I'm already paying over 40% more than I was paying last year, and this is absolutely unacceptable and intolerable. It feels like these increases are pushing people out of Horry County. I'm also very disappointed with your policies. I'm already struggling financially, especially during peak hours when I have almost everything turned off just to keep my bill manageable. It's really upsetting to see what feels like a lack of concern for customers from your company. Please reconsider your plans and actions, Anna Kupracz-Kahn

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Ania Kupracz-Kahn,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jamie & Sue	**Last Name:**	Hagan
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000924

Date Submitted:	5/14/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

The account number is [Redacted] The account name is James Hagan If you do the rate increase, please stop the Peak charges. They have added anywhere from $20 to $87 dollars to our bill. We are retired and these amount do make a difference in our monthly expense. Thanks, Jamie and Sue Hagan

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jamie & Sue Hagan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Kenneth	**Last Name:**	Blackmon
Organization:			
City:	Surfside Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	sc 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000925

Date Submitted: 5/15/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I would like to address the cost of our power bills. To hear you are going to raise our cost after implementing the Peak hours cost just doesn't make sense as a customer. The Peak hours is causing our bill to go up drastically. Example: Before Peak our bill was about $45 to $75 a month with no other appliances running to offset cost of power as you suggested .We have not moved there yet but go almost every weekend. We set our air on 74. I run the air down to 70 before the peak kicks in at 3pm. And then put it back on74. every day. We were there 9 days in this April and our peak house was $77.60 for the month. The temperature was in the mid 60 to 70 during the day. Our bill was a record $143.50. I cannot image what it will be when we move there. Now you want to raise the cost again. Talking to my neighbors this is driving the cost up tremendously. Please check my bill history to see I am correct in my statement of our bill. If you are not making enough with the Peak hours as indicated someone is mismanaging the financing in my opinion. I have been in Government work for 48 years with the last 23 years in Management and now just retired. I do know about management. I feel the Peak hours and a cost increase is too much on us. If you feel a need of a cost increases please stop the Peak hours. Why have both put on us. I do plan to attend one of the meetings to explain my position on this in a better detail. I know you are busy so I kept it short. I hope you do consider some decision that will benefit us both. Thank you for your time.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Kenneth Blackmon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Steven	**Last Name:**	Hamblin
Organization:			
City:	Daleville	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	VA 24083		

SC Reference # : SC0000000926

Date Submitted: 5/16/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I believe your new method of calculating the demand usage is more fair than the current way of using a single event. I would like to see more than 4 highest events averaged to determine the peak usage amount. I also would like to see the increase spread more fairly among your classes of customers. It costs the same to generate a kW whether it is used for residential, commercial, or industrial. It is not fair to burden your residential customers with almost double the increase than the commercial and industrial customers.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Steven Hamblin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Nicole	**Last Name:**	Parker
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000928

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

South Carolinians are tired of being treated like an endless source of revenue for institutional failures. Residents are already doing everything you ask of us. We avoid using appliances during peak hours, keep our homes uncomfortable during extreme heat, rearrange our schedules, and carefully monitor our energy use while trying to survive rising costs everywhere else. Yet the answer from Santee Cooper is always the same: pay more. Customers are still carrying the financial fallout of the failed V.C. Summer project years later after billions were wasted through catastrophic mismanagement, poor oversight, and failed leadership decisions. Ordinary residents had no role in those decisions, yet we continue paying for them while being told additional rate increases are necessary. At what point does accountability shift back to the institution responsible for these failures? Utilities are essential services, not luxury products. South Carolinians cannot simply shop elsewhere when rates become unreasonable. Continuing to push massive increases onto residents while expecting endless understanding and sacrifice is unacceptable. People are exhausted. Families are struggling. And many of us are tired of being treated as the solution to problems we did not create. What are you going to do about it? Charge us even more? Destroy lives? Force people into homelessness? How do you people sleep at night? Maybe try taking accountability for once.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nicole Parker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Georgia	**Last Name:**	Kirkpatrick
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000929

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

You have got to be kidding. You already are holding us hostage during peak hours. You send notices with lies about us being in control of saving energy, such Bull. The population has exploded here. Which enables you to be making more money & you want more. Sad & shame on you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Georgia Kirkpatrick,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Sandy	**Last Name:**	Yanichko
Organization:			
City:	CONWAY	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC0000000930

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The rates have been coming hard fast and expensive the last three years I've lived in this community. We already cannot use air-conditioning, washer dryer oven etc. 3 to 6 PM. Since living in this community I have seen my bill go up tremendously every single year. I am on a fixed income and I cannot afford the continuous increases that Santee Cooper puts on the Residents. The increases are too frequent even though we closely monitor our Usage. I believe we should have other choices in energy. Having only one company to monopolized … Makes me feel like I am left without any choices whatsoever. I do not agree with another increase… This madness has to stop!!!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Sandy Yanichko,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000931

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

It's just not a good time to raise rates 3+%.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patricia McCusker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	James	**Last Name:**	Burns
Organization:			
City:	Surfside beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29425		

SC Reference # : SC0000000932

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

I think it's absurd that you're increasing rates again. As it is I have been paying inflated rates since you started peak pricing. If I had the ability I'd leave your company for any other utility but you've got a monopoly on the market so I'm stuck with your ridiculous prices and rates because I cannot leave you. Rest assured, if that possibility ever comes to fruition, I'll leave your utility so fast it will make your head spin. In these times where inflation is eating away at people's money and gas prices are at heights we haven't seen since the Biden administration, it is unconscionable that you're looking at a 3 percent raise

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear James Burns,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Stephanie	**Last Name:**	Miller
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000000933

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am writing to strongly Oppose the proposed electric rate increase as a customer in the service area. I believe this increases unfair unreasonable, and especially concerning given that the residents do not have a true choice in electric providers when one company is the only realistic electric option for an area customers are placed in a monopolistic position where they cannot shop around compare rates or choose a more affordable provider because of that any proposed increase should be held to an extremely high standard of necessity and fairness. Families in this area are already dealing with rising costs across nearly every part of daily life, housing insurance groceries gas childcare, and basic household expenses electricity is not optional. It is a necessity raising rates on customers who have no alternative provider places an additional burden on working families, retirees, small business owners, and people who are already trying to keep up with the cost of living. It is also important to point out that customers are already paying more during peak hours usage periods in the summer and winter when electricity is needed for basic comfort and safety. These are not luxury usage periods. These are months when families need air-conditioning and extreme heat and heat and colder weather increasing cost during those peak times already creates financial strain for families. An additional rate increase would only compound that burden. I believe that this proposed increases difficult to justify given the rapid population In this area with the influx of new residence, new homes and new developments, the electric company is already gaining more customers and more revenue. Every new residence represents another paying customer at a time when the customer base is growing significantly raising rates on existing customers should not be the priority growth should be creating additional revenue opportunities for the company, not being used as a reason to place even more financial pressured on the community. A company with a guaranteed customer base has a responsibility to act with restraint and transparency when customers cannot choose another provider, the company should not be allowed to continually shift raising cost onto the public without Proving that every other option has been exhausted before any rate increased is approved there should be a clear explanation of why the increase is truly necessary how the additional revenue will be used and what cost saving measures. The company has taken internally and how customers will be protected from excessive financial burden. I urge, regulators and decision-maker to reject or significantly limit. This proposed rate increase. The priority should be protecting the residence, not increasing cost for people who have no alternative electric power customers deserve valuable service, fair pricing, and accountability from a company that holds such a necessary and powerful role in the community.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Stephanie Miller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Alicia	**Last Name:**	Milan
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000934

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

I have been a residential customer for the last 21 years in the same home. My monthly bills have almost doubled with the last rate change. If it goes up again it won't be long until people have to factor in electric costs that price them out of the area and their homes. Be fair to your long established customers. Respectfully. Alicia Milan

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Alicia Milan,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000935

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I added a smart meter and we are rarely at Condo since it's our vacation spot and I have never seen a decrease in the cost and now you want to raise it even higher. The lights are never on, only the frig and I unplug the microwave and shut key electricity and water heater breakers from the breaker box on wall and yet... do I see a decrease.. NO. How can you please explain how on earth I am charged a monthly free over $50 dollars if I shut breakers off and increase thermostate to 78 degrees and am not physically there to use electricity? That deserves explanation don't you think??????

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Maria Morais,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is customer costs, or costs that are directly related to the number of customers, such as customer accounting and the costs of meters. These costs are included in the customer charge portion of your bill.

Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ray	**Last Name:**	Messemer
Organization:	n/a		
City:	Moncks Corner	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29461		

SC Reference # : SC0000000936

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

100 times the regular rate for peak times is OUTRAGIOUS !!!!!!!!!! That should be for commercial & industrial customers. Retired people spend more time in the home than most and WE ARE SUFFERING by turning off our heat & air conditioning systems during peak hours.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Ray Messemer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000937

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I think it is totally unfair to charge electric car charging at 1/2 the price of residential customers for homes and condos during super off peak hours. Why not have the same rate for residential customers. We should also have a super off peak charge as well. Also, why do we pay such a high customer charge each month and why is it going up.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear David Forrest,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Thank you for your feedback on the electric vehicle rates. The standard residential rate (RG) in 2027 includes a proposed energy rate of $0.0899/kWh for all hours, while the Electric Vehicle Power rate (REV) in 2027 includes a proposed energy charge of $0.0418/kWh from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. with all other hours being charged at $0.1015/kWh. This pricing structure is intended to encourage electric vehicle charging, which uses a significant amount of energy, during those hours when electric demand is lower with a premium applied to usage outside of those hours. Typical residential customers do not have the ability to adjust their usage to the super off-peak periods and thus super off-peak pricing would result in a higher bill due to the higher charge for other periods.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000938

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am 74 years old and the proposed rate increase most likely will be over the social security increase we will get for next year and the year after. 3.1% increase may not seem important to you but it is for us trying to make ends meet. If I am right in seeing the proposed increase of ten dollars a month, that's 120.00 a year and another 120.00 for the next year. It is far too much times how many customers you have. Stop paying so many dividends and use some of that money to pay your own costs. I have to make my payments to my bills and try to have money over to buy food, gas, clothes. I can't ask S.S. for a higher pay raise or my pension.

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santee cooper

Dear James nowell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000939

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

While the common theme today is "prices are going up", Santee Cooper has been extreme in hurting your customers since april 2025. The peak hours (3pm-6pm in the summer and 6am-9am in the winter) is horrific in its implementation and intent. Elderly have to choose between power and their basic needs, especially in the coldest and hottest months of the year. Young families can't turn off their power during the school year when kids need to get up for school, eat, get dressed and go to school. As for our current houses, one is a short-term rental home in Ocean Lakes. The summer peak charge hits just as guest come in off the beach and prepare for their routine, 3pm-6pm. It is a brutal charge for the rental properties and you are profiting off of it. The peak hours charge is driving up rental costs, which drives up the rental rates just as the market is cooling off. We are chasing guests away from Myrtle Beach as the market continues to gouge the tourists for more money through county, city, utilities and other money grabbing tactics. In the end, no one will want to come here when they can cruise for much less or go to other markets for less money. And, even in the off season, your peak hours rate hurt us. Amazingly, we sold one house this winter (to build another) and yet, our electric bill in January 2026 was MORE this year for the ONE remaining house than for both beach houses last and we had the major appliances turned off (no water heater, washer/dry, etc), nothing running but low heat to prevent freezing. We still had a much higher electric bill for ONE beach house than two beach houses last year. All due to the $8 per KwH charges. As for our new personal home, we are hoping the gas service in the community will reduce our dependency on Santee Cooper significantly, expecially for heat this winter. We use so little electricity now and yet pay so much for it. Back home in Tennessee, we are used to TVA so to see how Santee Cooper works is truly upsetting. Your proposed increased rates are disappointing to see as it will impact the peak hours as well. Why not DROP the peak hour charges significantly (maybe $8 per KwH to $4 per KwH), raise the other rates up to a fair rate across the board? You are hurting your communities, your elderly and your young families which have little choice at times. The $8 per KwH for residential and $12 per KwH for businesses is ridiculously high. Adjust that down and adjust the other times up slightly. Bottom line is, Santee Cooper created a peak hour charge system that is gouging its customer base and now is looking to increase rates in 2027 and 2028. Is there anything we can do about it? I hope so but as you are the only electric provider in this region, the options are looking less optimstic.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Teresa Herbert,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000940

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Do not care about elderly people who are on a very fixed income. Just keep raising charges. If you had completed the plant that you shuttered there would be no need to increase prices. WE ARE STILL PAYING FOR THAT DEBACLE!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Fred Newell ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000941

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I personally feel that if you are already charging more during peak hours, which is a totally rediculous concept already, then there should not be an increase at all. I understand maintaining lines and such but you are already charging more for peak hours. If you want to raise the rates then get rid of the peak hours crap so we can live life without an extra worry.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Robin Peiper,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000942

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

When do those of us who are retired get increases in income to pay all the increased rates we are paying? It certainly isn't from social security.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear James Anderson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000943

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am completely against any rate increase. Being on ssdi does not support the financial burden burden Santee Cooper is putting on our lively hood. With all the development in South Carolina, the burden needs to be put on the corporations & builders not the residence. Danny

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Danny Price,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Danielle	**Last Name:**	Sheldon
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000944

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

While I understand that you need to increase rates I think it should be even rate increase across the board meaning commercial, industrial and residential should all have the same rate increase. They should not be only raised less than 3 % while we're going up almost 5%.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Danielle Sheldon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Patrick	**Last Name:**	Spadaro
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000000945

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Raising rates is one thing…but on top of the peak hours is quite another thing. Invest in more sustainable energy production like solar or else you'll drive people like me to just install them myself to offset the cost. Families will be incredibly affected by these increases. There are other ways to supply energy without these increases. I as well as others, feel that since you have a monopoly of power in the area, you are beholden to focus on profits over the people.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patrick Spadaro ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Joseph	**Last Name:**	Martin
Organization:			
City:	CONWAY	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	So 295268 934		

SC Reference # : SC0000000946

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I do NOT agree with this increase...the control demand increase was a sham that was designed to increase the bill by $7 to 10 no matter what one did to reduce demand

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Joseph Martin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000947

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I disagree with the proposed rate increases, especially considering they disproportionately affect residential customers as commercial and industrial customers are not seeing as high of increases. It is the later that has a heavier impact on the electric grid with consumption, especially taking into account higher computing needs and data centers with AI and technology advancements requiring excessive demand on aging electrical grid structures. Residential customers should not be left to shoulder a higher burden of cost in light of this. The fees and extra charges in addition to the kwh base rates are already the largest part of the bills and have a heavy impact. I am opposed to this change.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Alexis Richardson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ohnalee	**Last Name:**	McKitrick
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575-4600		

SC Reference # : SC0000000948

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Raising your prices because it costs more is lame. Seniors don't get more money because things go up. They instead eat soup and lower there standard of living to pay your bill. Think about it before you just roll over and give cost of living increase to your Clevels. It comes off the backs of the elderly.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Ohnalee McKitrick,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Christopher	**Last Name:**	Welch
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC0000000949

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Continuous rate increases have pushed household budgets past their breaking point, making further hikes completely unsustainable for your consumers. Electricity is an absolute necessity, yet your customers are now forced to make dangerous trade-offs between heating or cooling their homes and paying for medicine, groceries, and housing. While corporate profit margins and infrastructure investments are standard business priorities, they cannot come at the expense of human survival and financial ruin for the community you serve. Wage growth has not kept pace with the soaring cost of living, and absorbing another rate hike is a mathematical impossibility for working families and seniors on fixed incomes. We urge you to immediately halt further rate increases, optimize your internal operational efficiencies, and pursue alternative funding structures that protect vulnerable human beings from being priced out of basic utility access.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Christopher Welch,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Scott	**Last Name:**	Carle
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC0000000950

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am a bit flabbergasted at the bad information here. I just got an email saying your rate increases over then ext two years are An average 3.3% increase systemwide in 2027. An average 3.1% increase systemwide in 2028. Then on your website it says this. The proposed 2027 adjustment includes average increases of 4.7% for residential customers. Well I'm a residential customer and your jacking our rate much higher than any other category.. So I'm not happy about that. then I look at current rates vs rates you are going to charge.. and they don't agree at all with your email or your website. On the page below it shows a chart of current and future rates. https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential/ For a residential customer that is a 1 cent per kilowatt increase which is larger than 10%, each year. In what world does this equate to a 3.2 and then 3.2% increase in the email I got. This is some serious bait and switch. So no I want on record that I don't agree to this rate increase. It is being done in a really shady way to try and not say we are increasing your power rate by over 20% over the next 2 years, and keeping a modified peak demand charge. It's already inconvenient as hell trying to make sure the dryer, microwave, stove's or hot water heater aren't running during peak demand and we still get 30 to 40 is dollar peak demand amounts on our bill. Sincerely, Scott Carle

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Scott Carle,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Joseph	**Last Name:**	Damewood
Organization:			
City:	LITTLE RIVER	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29566		

SC Reference # : SC0000000951

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am opposed to any base rate increases for residential customers in Horry and Georgetown counties without a corresponding reduction in executive salaries. It is unconscionable that while local per capita incomes hover around $38,000 to $44,000, Santee Cooper continues to pay its president and CEO a base salary of roughly $1.5 million. Other executive team members are compensated at similarly excessive levels.* This is a stark example of corporate bloat. The utility expects customers who are struggling to survive on less than $42,000 to bear the ultimate costs of their system investments and now this proposed rate increase? With an income disparity of more than 30 times LESS than your executive leadership, asking our community's most financially vulnerable to pay more shows a blatant disregard and disrespect for Santee Cooper's customers. *Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey and Bureau of Labor Statistics. | South Carolina Department of Administration State Salaries Query

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Joseph Damewood,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000952

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Get rid of peak hours. Unfair and unethical to charge for electricity never used. Just take rate increase to have flat 24 rates to make even higher profits. Greed!!!!!!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Richard Bankert,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000953

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am submitting this comment in strong opposition to the proposed rate increases and the new peak-hour structure. My neighborhood consistently follows Santee Cooper's conservation guidelines, limits discretionary usage, and adheres to all published recommendations — yet our monthly bills remain high. This demonstrates that the issue is not customer behavior, but the structure of the rates themselves. The proposed peak windows (3pm–6pm in summer and 6am–9am in winter) are not discretionary usage periods. They coincide with essential household activity: cooling or heating the home, cooking, cleaning, and preparing for work. These are unavoidable baseline functions, not optional consumption. The new structure shifts more usage into the highest-priced hours by design. This is not a conservation incentive; it is a structural rate increase. Customers cannot "shift" heating, cooling, or morning/evening routines without compromising safety or basic living standards. Additionally, the claim that customers can reduce bills by adjusting usage is misleading. Even households like mine — who already minimize consumption and follow all guidelines — will see higher bills because the unavoidable load is now concentrated in peak-priced windows. I want it clearly reflected in the public record that many customers do not support these changes. We are already conserving responsibly, and the proposed structure penalizes normal, necessary daily life rather than wasteful behavior. I urge Santee Cooper to reconsider the peak periods or develop an alternative that does not disproportionately burden households who are already doing everything asked of them.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Linda Slee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	David	**Last Name:**	Attkisson
Organization:			
City:	Redondo Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	CA 90278		

SC Reference # : SC0000000954

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Rates are getting out of control. Not fair to punish residential customers at the expense of industrial. Peak hour pricing is terrible idea too. Given my properties are all short term rentals I can't control the peak hour usage nor do I think it is fair that I have a higher rate for residential when my properties are used as a business.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear David Attkisson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000955

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Why I do NOT agree with any increase; 1- the ceo's raise and million dollar salary. 2- you literally created the ridiculous peak hours to "prevent" having to increase overall rates, now you want to keep peak AND increase rates? So.. you lied. 3- where do you think we get extra money? 4- MAKE THE DEVELOPERS PAY FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE!!! Stop punishing the customers 5- ok, then eliminate the completely pointless customer charge, $20 just for the privilege of having an account, Then separate charges for the actual service.. 6- you're going to raise it regardless so why ask for our feedback, do you think any of us want this? 7- you are literally just jumping on the inflation bandwagon along with all the other utility companies, again, we do not have the money to boost your profits while you can get away with it, you do not have a legitimate reason when the ceo makes millions (see reason #1) 8- what choice do consumers have? There is no competition, we can't switch electric providers so we get screwed but.. at least you generously allowed us to share our input, lmao!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Tiffany Culver,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Nina	**Last Name:**	Kirby
Organization:			
City:	SCNorth Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 295822 9582		

SC Reference # : SC0000000956

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I do not support a residential price increase. I do support averaging the 4 highest peak usages. Santee Cooper should have experienced significant savings with its introduction of peak hours, which are already a huge burden to customers. I see no justification for a rate increase so soon after the last cost adjustment.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nina Kirby,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000957

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

You have already increased our rates with your peak hours charge. Now you want more money, no thanks we already pay enough as it is. Regards, Marcus Cooper

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Marcus Cooper,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000958

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I strongly oppose these proposed rate increases. Santee Cooper has already implemented peak hour pricing, and many customers have experienced substantial increases in their monthly electrical bills as a result. Proposing additional rate hikes places a greater burden on families and businesses that are already struggling with rising costs. As a public utility, Santee Cooper provides an essential service that residents and businesses depend on daily. Reliability and infrastructure improvements are important, but customers also deserve affordability, transparency, and meaningful accountability regarding how existing revenues are being managed. The statement that "customer feedback is an important part of the process" feels disconnected from the reality many customers are facing. If certain customers support paying higher rates to fund these initiatives, then allow those customers to voluntarily support those increases. However, those of us who oppose these increases should not be forced to pay higher rates for a service that has already become significantly more expensive. At a time when utility costs have already risen substantially, I adamantly and unequivocally oppose any additional rate increases.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nadine Duerr,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Gary	**Last Name:**	Turner
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000959

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Ridiculous we are already being beat over our heads with your rates this prime hours rates are unrealistic especially for families.You are like legal bandits not wearing a mask. ENOUGH!!!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Gary Turner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Richard	**Last Name:**	Laurence
Organization:	Palm Villas iii HOA		
City:	myrtle beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	sc 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000000960

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Wow. Please STOP your demand pricing. My friends become clock watchers who don't do their laundry when convenient. Slaves to your clock. Let them be! It it supposed to be egalitarian? It's authoritarian and controlling. Also why are you increasing the rates? Cut back on programs. Just be invisible and just provide electricity. Richard Laurence

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Richard Laurence,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	David	**Last Name:**	Alaimo
Organization:	David Alaimo		
City:	MYRTLE BEACH	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000961

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

You are asking a customer what they think about their rates being raised, my question to you is how many increases have their been in the last 5 years? And why. Are we paying for all the new construction on the Grand Strand? My development hasn't changed since I moved in back in 2019. If Santee Cooper is asking me to pay more money a month for electricity then I need to know where the money is going to and why. We have to already conserve energy by reducing our usage during peak times to save money but why when Santee Cooper plans on raising rates. I understand the company has increasing costs through the years but when does it stop. Utility companies are like the Healthcare companies, always raising rates while the income of the people become less. So if you haven't figured it out by now, no I am not in favor of raising rates.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear David Alaimo,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper implemented a base rate adjustment in 2025, and the base rate adjustment prior to that was in 2017.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000962

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

My comments are relatively brief. I am astonished? flummoxed? in disbelief? agog? that you are asking for a rate increase after implementing peak hours billing so recently. Frankly, you should be raking in the dough based on the resulting increase in not only our personal bills but those of all of our friends, acquaintances, and strangers! All have seen consistent increases in their power bills of at least $25 - that's at the very least $300 more from each customer - each of your thousands and thousands of customers - every year! Surely these millions more will suffice? Thanks for listening, and keep in mind I'm someone who can absorb this additional expense so my real concern is for the many, many people who cannot or who will have to go without something else to pay a higher bill for the same service. Kathy Tinius Acct [Redacted] (As with so many things, I am not listed on the account, only my husband Donald Webb is listed.....)

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Donald Webb,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000963

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The cost of electricity is already outrageous. Is the plan to continually increase cost without end? What is Santee Cooper doing, or could be doing to help generate electricity without continually increasing the rates? The special hours price gouging is already a hassle.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Theresa Austin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000964

Date Submitted:	5/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Would you consider instituting a "medical baseline" (or similar) program, similar to Southern Calif EDISON for residents that require extra electricity for a medical condition, such as oxygen or air conditioning? I am a senior citizen with only source of income Social Security Retirement income, and just enough to be over the limits to qualify for any public assistance benefits. I have suffered with multiple sclerosis for two and a half decades. I have always have had extreme sensitivity to heat, which causes me to experience debilitating fatigue. Being able to have a cool enough home is critical to my health and ability to function. Due to the cost of living already greatly outpacing "cost of living increases" in Social Security, I have had to get a part time job, which at my age and level of cognitive ability, is very difficult and challenging. I can't afford not perform or show up due to fatigue from being overheated in my home, and get fired. Please find a way to help those of us who are just barely above the poverty level, and have medical issues that rely on electricity for our ongoing health, be able to live our later years in some degree of temperature comfort. Thank you for your time.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Kimberly Cuff,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Nicole	**Last Name:**	Young-Cline
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000965

Date Submitted: 5/18/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am strongly against Santee Cooper doing yet another increase on the residential rates!!!! You are already ripping off your customers enough at this point that it is criminal to continue to increase rates on people who can barely pay their electric bills now. It is completely ridiculous and there will be protesters all over this because this is extremely unfair to your customers!! I know a lot of people that feel the same. And we will most definitely make sure our voices are heard about how unfair this is !!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nicole Young-Cline,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Edward	**Last Name:**	Yanchar
Organization:			
City:	Aynor	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29511		

SC Reference # : SC0000000966

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

justification????? with all the new developments and housing going in, the amount of revenue im sure far exceeds any amount needed for maintenance and or upkeep of grid. Every year I hear and see the amount of money generated from companies like yours to stay in not only in the black but far exceed any amount any normal person would need to be justified for a raise in rates. Dont forget where you came from , not everyone has endless pockets like all you rich folks.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Edward Yanchar,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000967

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I think a rate increase will devastate residential customers and small businesses who are just trying to survive the current economic conditions -- particularly the elderly on fixed income. I think you should wait until the price of gas and groceries drop. Failure to do so will probably result in many families unable to pay their utility bills. The cost of water is also going up. I live on a fixed income and I am barely able to afford minimal groceries and a tank of gas.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Cynthia Dassoulas,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Stephen	**Last Name:**	Hicks
Organization:			
City:	SURFSIDE BEACH	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000000968

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Hello, I feel the peak hours rates are and will be WAY too high. The rate increases 700% for peak usage. Gimme a break. I can see doubling but this rate is unacceptable. You have made this without any input from the community. Our lawmakers have to stop this. Sincerely, Steve Hicks

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Stephen Hicks,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000969

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

NO RATE INCREASE !!!!!!!! Your customers are sick and tired of paying for the nuclear megaproject 9 million dollar debacle! Figure out how to operate more efficiently making rate increases unnecessary.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Donna Mason,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000970

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am writing as a Santee Cooper residential customer to formally oppose the proposed rate increases of 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028. While I understand that infrastructure investment requires funding, I do not believe these increases are justified at this time. A combined increase of over 9% across two years places a significant financial burden on residential customers, particularly those on fixed incomes or facing economic hardship. The stated savings of approximately $6.60 per month understates the cumulative, long-term impact on household budgets. I am also concerned that the shift to Balanced Demand Billing — while framed as a benefit — represents a fundamental restructuring of how customers are charged, without sufficient transparency about how it may affect individual bills in practice. I respectfully urge the Board of Directors to: 1. Reject or substantially reduce the proposed rate increases. 2. Explore internal cost efficiencies before passing costs to customers. 3. Provide clearer, more detailed analysis of how the new demand billing structure will affect bills across different usage profiles. Customers deserve affordable, reliable power. I ask that the Board prioritize residential customers' financial wellbeing in this decision.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Gina Black,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

You can view an estimated impact of the changes on your individual bill at www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential/.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000971

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The rate adjustment percentages should be more equal across the residential, business, and industry categories. The largest hike should definitely not fall on residential customers that are already having to deal with rationing (peak hours) of our utilities. With the massive power needs of industry, it should fall on those customers, and whatever category any future data centers might fall in.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Aaron Spelbring ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Your comment mentions concerns of charging data centers appropriately. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jeffrey	**Last Name:**	Peterman
Organization:			
City:	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29582-1427		

SC Reference # : SC0000000972

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I have read the proposed increases and have an issue with several of the components. Although the proposed percentage increase seem in line with inflation, the choice of the company, a public utility with no competition, to increase residential rates at a higher percentage than commercial seems unfair. A better way to balance cost is to limit executive salaries. They are not special people, but you are paying a number of the top employees over a million dollars per year, and much higher than that at the top. It is an example of not caring about the public and thinking you are above us. You talk a lot about the need for additional capacity, yet, it is likely you know most of the town and county officials, and do not urge them to rezone so that growth is manageable for quality of life and your business. My last point. Although it is better and more fair for you to change the peak hour calculation, even that is likely an unconstitutional policy. You are charging me, and others, for electricity we are not using. And since you know what the real numbers are, that should be the charge. In all, peak hour policy is bad policy. You are punishing people is some liberal egg head manner in order to change their behavior. Stop it. Control growth with your rich friends. Push for allowing competition in the generation space, ala Pennsylvania, and give people a choice. Thank you, JD Peterman

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jeffrey Peterman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

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.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000973

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

The current residential increases are causing an increased strain on our family and businesses. I have 2 accounts and with the increases on all fronts it's getting harder to keep up. I cannot control the Airbnb business peak hours, and the increase has reduced our income to pay bills. Santee electric needs to look at ways to make their business more efficient and reduce waste within the business. All cost is increasing but the incomes at the Beach are not increasing. I also suggest having developers pay increased fees that are going to pull on the grid. The power the new developments use should be priced higher to compensate on the increased usage so current residents are not paying for them.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Clyde Gregg,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Colleen	**Last Name:**	Millz
Organization:	Parents of Carolina Forest High School		
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579		

SC Reference # : SC0000000974

Date Submitted:	5/19/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

This rate increase is coming at a time where you already put us on a schedule and where we are all struggling with a crap economy. Some of us can't afford this increase. Please go back and ask for money from the State as they like to waste money redistricting. They have plenty to help you all out.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Colleen Millz,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000975

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I understand the need to keep up with unprecedented growth. That is to be expected. I STRONGLY oppose passing on the cost of any data center to the public. Have the entire cost of electricity paid by the owners of the center.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Dale Morris,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper’s proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000976

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

This proposal is criminal. You are feeding on the pockets of people just live their lives. It is already ridiculously high for the "peak hours," and to suggest an increase is ridiculous. The people you are "listening" to up rates are the people who don't live here full time and who have deeper pockets than the average customer. Average residents don't have time to come and sit in meetings about price gauging because they're too busy working to make ends meet. Not to mention the lower percentage increase of rates for industrial and commercial vs residential. You know how to help? Lobby for better taxation on the people who don't live here full time. Stop digging into the pockets of people who can't afford it. Stop trying to appease the people with the most money by charging them less and us more. Lobby for fewer empty residences that constantly being built, overcharged, and sitting empty. There is demand because it's being created, not because it actually exists.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Rachael Harrell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Todd	**Last Name:**	Palmer
Organization:	Black Squirrel Surf		
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29572		

SC Reference # : SC0000000977

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Your overhead expenses should be reducing with the implementation of AI and more automation. Gas rates should be dropping as a result, not increasing.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Todd Palmer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000978

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am opposed to any rate hike for electric service. This is due to natural gas prices have not increased, but are decreasing which is your major cost input for generating electricity. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Robert Campbell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper's rates include a fuel adjustment clause that is designed to recover the actual cost of fuel, such as natural gas, from 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Frank	**Last Name:**	McLaurin
Organization:			
City:	Charlotte	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	NC 28278		

SC Reference # : SC0000000979

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I do not support rate increases based on average or peak loads which are now stressed by the massive power demands of new data centers. I understand the utility has implemented stricter rules and specialized rates to manage this new load but these rules do not negate the fact that intense infrastructure has to be built within the system to accommodate the growing AI boom and its massive energy needs. Recently Santee Cooper has been in advanced discussions for a new nuclear site and gas generation. The finance for these huge projects will negatively impact existing residential and business customer rates. Balanced growth cannot include massive data centers that compete for finite power generation. Balanced growth has no place at the table for nuclear power plants that place additional safety risks on the public while serving a single business entity that profits from it. Balanced growth must protect consumer rate increases that stress families and small business. The peak loading argument must not include massive private data centers. This will not change in the mind of the consumer and as our political representatives finally grasp public sentiment on this issue I'm sure additional and more restrictive legislation will be required. As a final note to this comment, I would like to say that social justice issues on equity of money, power and community will continue to grow and demand solutions that consider the rights of the individual who may not have a voice or choice. We are not rate payers to be exploited. The citizens of this great state are partners in its growth and demand quality over quantity and protection of South Carolina's beauty and natural resources. As it stands now, Santee Cooper appears to be on the wrong side of the fence.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Frank McLaurin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

In regards to your comments on new nuclear. Santee Cooper initiated a competitive process in January 2025 to complete the two partially completed AP1000 units in Fairfield County. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000980

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed rate increases for 2027 and 2028. Our electric bills over the past 5 months have run substantially higher than the same period last year. That reality's so disconcerting that we recently spent many thousands of dollars to install 2 Mitsubishi mini splits in hopes they would help offset the increases in our current usage/costs. We are always very careful to avoid the peak hour demand charges whenever possible in the use of energy and can't begin to imagine what our already substantially higher monthly cost would have been had we not done so. Now we learn of your proposed rate increases and that news just added salt to the wound!! Your website shows our current average bill is a $198/month. Your recent email projects an average residential increase of 4.7% for 2027 but using your rate calculator our rate increase translates to $15.72/month or nearly 7%! If we then use your rate calculator for the proposed 2028 4.6% average increase, we will pay and additional $25.63/month or nearly 13% more than we are currently paying and we have no idea why our percentage increase would be so far out of line with your 2 average projected increases. We hope you will reconsider these rate increases because for those of us who are retired absorbing the proposed 2027 and 2028 rate increases will be very painful economically and they translate to a cost of energy far above general cost of living estimates. Regards, William and Patricia White

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear William White,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Praveen Subhash	**Last Name:**	Ingale
Organization:	Engineer		
City:	MONCKS CORNER	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29461		

SC Reference # : SC0000000981

Date Submitted:	5/19/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

please substantiate more elaborately the need to increase the price? For a local person like me, I don't understand if there is a supply demand issue or if there is no sufficient power in the state for which there is a price hike? Alternates like solar power has been connected to my house and several houses in our community and many in this state and believe when there is excessive power generated through these solar units, it can be connected to grid and supplied to high peak demand areas or store as needed and given back to us as demand peaks at our homes. You can always reach me at [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Praveen Subhash Ingale,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

You can learn more about Santee Cooper's expected power needs by visiting www.santeecooper.com/about/integrated-resource-plan.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000982

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

If SanteeCooper is raising rates for 2027/2028 the the company needs to remove the residential customers off of the black out periods. Moving forward we should not be charged additional monies for the 3 hours per day during the peck periods. With the increase we should be able to use our electricity any time of day. NO peck charges, No peck hours and No penalties for the power we need. I understand in order to supply the necessary power upgrades are need, but not at the raping of your customers.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Robert Datris,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Richard	**Last Name:**	Rosetti
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29579-5012		

SC Reference # : SC0000000983

Date Submitted:	5/19/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

I reject the rate increase this time.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Richard Rosetti,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000984

Date Submitted: 5/19/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

How completely out of touch is Santee Cooper that they would raise rates AGAIN during economic troubling times for American citizens. Why not reduce the boards pay instead? I doubt anyone on Santee Cooper's board is struggling to put food on their tables or pay their rent and bills. DISGRACEFUL!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Matthew Malarich,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Robert	**Last Name:**	Nasto
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576-7216		

SC Reference # : SC0000000985

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Corporate Greed. You already have already imposed peak hour rates.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Robert Nasto,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Francis	**Last Name:**	Clark
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526-6662		

SC Reference # : SC0000000986

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Your rate increase calculations should include the fact that your base charge is increasing 5%. Further, if you are (as you say) a State of South Carolina owned and operated utility, runaway costs seem to be no problem for you while most EMC's are returning capital as they are better managed!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Francis Clark,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Megan	**Last Name:**	Hilbrands
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc 29569		

SC Reference # : SC0000000987

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am EXTREMELY upset about the rate increase! Electric is too expensive as it is and the rate hike will make it even more difficult on everybody. We pay enough for it to not be needed. I am strongly against it and everybody else is too! Stop this and do not increase the costs!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Megan Hilbrands,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000000988

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am a residential Santee Cooper customer in Little River, South Carolina, living in a single family home. Our summer usage is typically around one thousand to twelve hundred kilowatt hours per month, which puts us close to the definition of a normal residential customer. I am writing to comment on the proposed residential rate changes and the 2027 and 2028 rate design, including the demand based billing structure. My family understands that costs change over time and that the system needs investment. What we are asking for is a structure that keeps bill increases modest and predictable for a typical household that is already trying to use power responsibly. Over the last several years, residential customers have already seen increases, including the recent adjustment in 2025, and now face additional increases in 2027 and 2028. For a normal family using around one thousand kilowatt hours per month, these repeated increases add up to a noticeable hit to the household budget. It would be reasonable for Santee Cooper to place a firm cap on the total cumulative increase that a standard usage household will see over this period, rather than letting multiple layers of increases stack on top of each other. The new demand structure is also hard for many people to understand and manage. Balanced demand billing based on peak periods may be more fair than using a single highest hour, but it can still feel like a moving target for a family just trying to run air conditioning, cook meals, and get kids ready for school. A useful analogy is a grocery store that suddenly starts charging part of your bill based on the most expensive ten minutes you spend in the store. Even if you shop carefully, you can still be surprised at checkout if a few necessary items happen to be placed together. That is how a demand charge can feel if it is not tightly controlled and clearly explained. To keep this fair and predictable, I respectfully ask Santee Cooper to: Cap total residential bill increases over the 2025 through 2028 period for typical usage levels like ours, so that a normal family does not see excessive cumulative increases. Provide stronger protection for low and moderate income households, such as a discounted essential usage block for the first several hundred kilowatt hours each month or an income qualified credit, so that basic heating, cooling, refrigeration, and medical needs remain affordable. Tighten the design of residential demand charges so that small and moderate users are not penalized. That should include an exemption or very low demand component for customers below a reasonable monthly usage or kilowatt threshold, and a limit on how much the demand portion of a bill can jump from one month to the next unless overall energy use has actually risen in a similar way. Give every residential customer a clear, personal before and after comparison using their own last twelve months of data. Show what their bills would have been under the new rates and demand structure in simple dollar terms, so customers can see the impact on their specific household, not only systemwide averages. Strengthen off peak incentives through time of use and similar options so that families who can shift laundry, dishwashers, water heating, and electric vehicle charging to off peak hours see meaningful savings, not just small percentage changes that are lost inside larger

fixed and demand charges. I also ask for clear, plain language disclosure of what is driving these increases, including how much is related to generation investments, transmission and distribution reliability, fuel, debt service, and any deferred cost recovery. Any deferred costs should be clearly listed with sunset dates rather than quietly rolled into permanent base rates. My goal in submitting these comments is not to oppose all change but to ask that the final rate design reflect the reality of how families in places like Little River actually use power. Even if we are willing to shift some loads away from peak periods, there will always be essential use during those times. Please adopt a structure for the 2027 and 2028 rates that does not punish unavoidable, essential use and that keeps bill increases manageable and predictable for ordinary residential customers. Thank you for considering my comments and for including them in the formal record for the 2026 rate study and proposed 2027 and 2028 rate changes.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Allen Ramsey,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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You can find a variety of detailed information on the drivers of the rate adjustment need in the "Additional Documents and Information" section of the rate study webpage at www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Cecilia & Gerald	**Last Name:**	Kellar
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000990

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	mail

Comment:

I know my one little letter isn't going to mean anything, but wanted to get this down anyway.. Santee Cooper has been pushing the peak period and we have tried our best to comply. We have had our heat off until 9 AM in winter and we turn AC off 3 to 6 now. We try to be vigilant to not use our oven, drier and any other high usage appliance during peak hours. So, to reward our efforts, you now want to raise our rates. I assume this is because alot of customers tried to conserve energy, as requested, and now you are not getting the income you want. With the hundreds or even thousands new housing being built, giving you new customers, why isn't that enough? And why put the burden on residential customers when Businesses are using a lot more energy than we are???? Doesn't make sense to me; but, like I said, I'm sure my little voice will mean nothing. Cecilia & Gerald Kellar [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Cecilia & Gerald Kellar,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Camille	**Last Name:**	Bertang
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000991

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

_____ To Whom it may concern: As a single retiree, with no pension, just social security, I just cannot afford another rate hike! It is truly unfair that citizens, and mainly senior citizens, have to bare the burden of Santee Cooper's failed (i.e.) nuclear power project that we had to contribute to whether we liked it or not! Shame on the Santee Cooper board… STOP increasing our costs to pay for your mistakes! I am sure there are a lot more citizens out there who are just as fed up as I. Sincerely, Camille Bertang [Redacted]

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Camille Bertang,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Angela	**Last Name:**	Olinick
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000992

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

_____ To whom it may concern, My comments, and concerns regarding the proposed rate hikes are as follows: The most prominent objection is the clear disproportionate burden on residential customers. There is an unfair distribution of the rate increase across different customer classes. Residential households are taking the hardest hit compared to commercial and industrial users. The proposed hike unfairly burdens residential customers , nearly 5% a year for households vs. 2–3% for commercial/industrial. Families and retirees can't absorb this disparity. Seniors and fixed-income residents on the Grand Strand will be hit hardest; offer a protective rate or a fixed lower option for them. Demand-based billing penalizes normal household use and is too complex. Residential demand pricing is inappropriate. Customers rightly resent continuing to bear the costs of Santee Cooper's failed nuclear project. Customers had already paid billions through electric rates for the project, only for it to collapse after years of overruns and delays. Now, with the Board having accepted a deal to sell the partially constructed plant for approximately $2.8 billion, it is difficult to justify, or for customers to understand, why such a significant rate hike is still being pushed onto residential customers. Santee Cooper is a state-owned, nonprofit utility with major financial advantages, including the ability to issue tax-exempt debt and borrow at lower interest rates than most for-profit utilities. Those advantages should result in lower, not higher, costs for customers. Given these concerns, and the fact that the $2.8 billion Santee Cooper stands to gain from this deal, there is no justification for forcing residential customers to pay more. I urge the Commission to reject this rate hike or substantially reduce it and require real protections for vulnerable ratepayers. Respectfully, Angela Olinick _____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Angela Olinick,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. Santee Cooper initiated a competitive process in January 2025 to complete the two partially completed AP1000 units in Fairfield County. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. At this time, the outcome of this potential transaction is not known.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: butkus1625 **Last Name:** butkus1625

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000993

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Please this is a joke , like you really care. The Avg pay her is $8-$12 and you think a rate increase is ok . People live in houses and trailers here that should have been demolished 20 years ago, but a company that's making millions needs a few extra bucks from everyone that doesn't have a few extra bucks. Your peak hour time a even a bigger joke . So if everyone doesn't use as much energy in those 3 hours won't they use it right before or after it making that a peak time ? . Singn a customer who can't afford another rate hike Sent from my Galaxy

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear butkus1625 butkus1625,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mark **Last Name:** Hoban

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000994

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Hello, This account is in my wife's name - Nancy Hoban - Account ID: [Redacted] If your rate proposal is about Money - then , as a business figure out what you need to sustain the business and calculate the rate changes necessary to meet that financial plan. My input would be to end this peak rate plan - Stop charging us more for power during the hours that we really need it.... and figue out the rate change necessary to end that peak hour strategy... IF the issue is supply - then I understand what the peak hours are about.... to reduce the overall load on the supply and be able to NOT need to use "Brown outs" or rolling "BLack outs" to maintain the supply - that you did not plan correctly or that the population has risen to the point you can no longer supply Electricty to everyone at those times.., Then just say that - that we are going to run out of Power and tha tthese steps need to be taken - and explain to us why.... Thank you,,Mark Hoban

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mark Hoban,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Neal	**Last Name:**	McCraw
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000995

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

What are the major factors that are driving up the costs for delivering power to residential customers? Are residential customers covering more than their fair share of the cost/rate increases. Is additional generation/delivery being driven by industrial and commercial companies' load demands versus residential customers? How much is the rate increase associated with the cost of fuel or purchased power? What are the major factors that are driving the rate increases? What is the percentage split of the rate increase for industrial/commercial customers vs. residential? Neal McCraw [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Neal McCraw,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

The proposed 2027 adjustment includes average increases of 4.7% for residential customers, 2.9% for commercial customers, 3.2% for lighting customers, and 2.6% for industrial customers. The proposed 2028 adjustment includes increases of 4.6% for residential, 2.9% for commercial, 3% for lighting and 2.1% for industrial customers.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Peggy	**Last Name:**	Disner
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000996

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Please do not increase rate ... the three hour increase time is painful enough ... Stay safe and Happy Trails!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Peggy Disner,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ann	**Last Name:**	Clarke
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000997

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Customer: Ann & John Clarke A count number:[Redacted] Dear Sirs We are opposed to the rate increases you are proposing. This state has become home to many retirees that are on limited budgets due to their retirement incomes. We suggest that there be fee be charged to the individuals selling and buying that land for all the communities being built in the state which has required the increased productivity you require. The builder of the communities could also be charged per unit to help offset the costs to have the units come online. We feel you need to get the state and federal government to work on the issue of energy, so the costs are not so high, Thank you for your attention to this matter. Ann and John Clarke

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Ann Clarke,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mike	**Last Name:**	Czapiewski
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000000998

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Michael Czapiewski Account : [Redacted] To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed electric rate increases of 4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028, as well as the continued use of punitive peak-hour pricing policies imposed on customers in the Myrtle Beach and Horry County area. Over the past several years, Horry County has experienced explosive residential and commercial growth. Thousands of new homes and developments have been approved and constructed. This growth did not happen unexpectedly. It was visible, measurable, and foreseeable years in advance. Yet despite this rapid expansion, the electrical infrastructure serving this area appears to have fallen significantly behind demand. Instead of adequately preparing generation capacity and grid infrastructure for the growth that local governments approved, your company has shifted the burden onto customers through peak-hour penalties and now additional rate increases. Customers are effectively being punished because the utility failed to plan sufficiently for the population boom. The introduction of expensive peak-hour billing during the highest-demand periods is particularly troubling. During the summer months, customers are penalized between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM — precisely when families need air conditioning most in extreme South Carolina heat. In winter, similar penalties apply during morning hours when people are preparing for work and school. These are not luxury usage periods; they are normal daily living hours. Rather than investing aggressively and proactively in infrastructure improvements before demand reached critical levels, the company now appears to be relying on rate structures designed to suppress usage and generate additional revenue from customers who have little practical ability to avoid electricity consumption during those times. Customers should not be financially penalized for the utility's inadequate long-term planning. The responsibility to anticipate growth and maintain sufficient capacity belongs to the utility provider, especially in one of the fastest-growing regions in the country. I urge you and state regulators to reject these proposed increases and instead require greater accountability, transparency, and infrastructure investment planning before asking customers to absorb additional financial burdens. Residents of Horry County already face rising housing costs, insurance costs, taxes, and inflation. Adding repeated utility increases while service constraints continue is unacceptable. I respectfully request that this objection be formally entered into the public record regarding the proposed rate increases. Sincerely, Michael R Czapiewski [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mike Czapiewski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Vicki **Last Name:** Capps

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000000999

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ Any person with any intelligence can see the outrageous growth demand is out of control. In SC and NC the growth explosion is due to local greed and incoming residents' desire to take advantage. And, make where they move just like where they came from. NC is in a drought, perhaps like 2008, when water was scarce and waterways dried up. But there are a million or so more in demand. Nothing can be prepared for that! Common sense is taking a long vacation— The rate increase and peak hours are difficult on ordinary citizens. Parents, especially children, have to awake to a cold house to get ready for work and school. In summer here the peak rate in the hottest part of the day. The winter peak rates causes more sickness and allergy issues. Warm the house to get ready for the peak hours and you can't sleep due to the heat wave! Sadly, Myrtle Beach is becoming only for the rich and famous. Think I'm wrong? How can the ordinary person who may have been born here keep affording the high cost of taxes, utilities, cost of living? Proof is, also, in the huge 10,000 ft or more monstrosities being built just between 82 and 76th street. No character but a monument to the rich and famous. No animosity against either but stop destroying something the hardworking person deserves to enjoy. And, leave some precious memories for the children who will grow into adults of happy beach days. Otherwise, something else , only in old movies or good books. Gone with the Wind of greed! Tell the powers that be to get a grip and utilities may be able to stay in the normal range. Thanks for this opportunity to be honest. Sent from my iPad _____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Vicki Capps,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Beverly	**Last Name:**	Guthrie
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001000

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I would like to recommend that the rate increase only be applied to the peak hours. That would further encourage customer participation in cutting down usage during peak hours. Acct number: [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Beverly Guthrie,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach and recovered through either demand, energy, or customer charges.

We will consider and review your comments about applying the rate adjustment to only the peak hours. Any proposed modifications resulting from this review will be presented to the Board on Sept. 29.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Janice **Last Name:** Strafella

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001001

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ please don't I can't even afford the bills now Sincerely Santee copper customer Thank You, Janice Strafella | Engineer Coordinator [Redacted]| Myrtle Beach SC 29572 Direct Line: [Redacted]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail transmission (and/or the attachments accompanying it) may contain confidential information, belonging to the sender. The information is only for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying or distribution of any information in this transmission, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this transmission, is strictly prohibited. Any unauthorized interception use or re-transmission of this transmission is illegal under the law. If you have received this transmission in error, please promptly notify the sender by reply e-mail, and then destroy all copies of this transmission. Thank you.

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Janice Strafella,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Rachel	**Last Name:**	Beck
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001002

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, In an environment so collectively concerned about the burden of the individual dollar being used to support the collective, I find it incredibly concerning that Utilities are burdening our small households with the energy costs we aren't responsible for consuming. Our small amount of peak hour usage is miniscule compared to that of commercial businesses or large structures. We feel the affects of irresponsible renters and visitors even more so. It is not the will of any of us that Horry County allowed egregious over building that your grid can't handle. Rather than burden hard working families with peak charges (which is basically a penalty for using your services when its not favorable) why is there not just a small increase to everyone's overall bill and a peak hour rates for new development that are causing the burden to our grid? Why arent we charging peak hours to rental units who are obviously profiting from renters who have no concern for our grid? It repeatedly sounds like we are in a crisis situation for which you have no good resolve and your members are exhausted from being monopolized by a system that isn't providing any permanent resolve for the issues at hand. No increase is the best answer but, in lieu of your ultimate decision to increase, we of course, want for whatever plan will cost hard working families the least. Many people in our community live paycheck to paycheck. Having utility bills that are predictable is paramount in order for is to sustain our budgets. Advocate for less development to sustain our environment and do better for your members. Thank You, Rachel Harris

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Rachel Beck,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: William **Last Name:** Barnes

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001003

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ People are not making any more money and everything is going up. This is the definition of inflation and you should be ashamed of yourselves. I feel 100% that the rates should remain the same people are struggling Sent from my iPhone _____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear William Barnes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Steve **Last Name:** Boswell

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001004

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ Does the increase in rates include an AI data center? If so, I thought President Trump said the companies could NOT charge customers for these data centers. Thanks. Michele Boswell

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Steve Boswell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mark	**Last Name:**	Westbrook
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001005

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I've been a 40 year customer and to watch Santee Cooper go from a local provider to a corporate monopoly driving household rates through the roof in 1 year is disappointing and disgraceful. First SC imposed a peak rate to presumably reduce usage and charge high rates on those periods knowing residents must shower in the morning(winter when usage is low??) and eat dinner in the afternoon during summer or anytime is ridiculous. Then after a year of imposing these high rates add another proposed nearly 5% rate hike each year over next 2 years is nearly criminal? I would like Santee cooper to simply follow CPI and raise with same COLA that is used to increase seniors with SS. Do away with peak or offer discounts on seniors (62+) who mainly live on fixed incomes. Shameful and close to deceitful approach for a 3 year plan to greatly escalate rates? Then have residents carry commercial usage at a 2% higher rate?? Amazing how a once valuable and fair service has gone a rye after losing billions on a failed nuclear project and not seeking other remedies until too late? Also, possibly charge new homeowners an extra hook up fee, nonresidents an alternate rate, etc., to help generate income to expand our evidently deficient electric grid and generating system if over taxed? Thank you Long term resident of Grandstrand of SC… Mark Westbrook [Redacted] Sent from my iPhone CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential information that is legally privileged and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken in reliance on the contents of these documents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this information in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete these documents.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mark Westbrook,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: John **Last Name:** Mull

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001006

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ Give us a break! Sent from my iPhone

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear John Mull,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Nadine **Last Name:** Duerr Trentini

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001007

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ I strongly oppose these proposed rate increases. Santee Cooper has already implemented peak usage pricing, and many customers have experienced substantial increases in their monthly electric bills as a result. Proposing additional rate hikes of 3.3% in 2027 and 3.1% in 2028 places an even greater burden on families and businesses that are already struggling with rising living costs. As a public utility, Santee Cooper provides an essential service that residents and businesses depend on daily. Reliability and infrastructure improvements are important, but customers also deserve affordability, transparency, and meaningful accountability regarding how existing revenues are being managed. The statement that "customer feedback is an important part of the process" feels disconnected from the reality many customers are facing. If certain customers support paying higher rates to fund these initiatives, then allow those customers to voluntarily absorb those increases. However, those of us who oppose these increases should not be forced to pay higher rates for a service that has already become significantly more expensive. At a time when utility costs have already risen substantially, I adamantly and unequivocally oppose any additional rate increases. Nadine Duerr _____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nadine Duerr Trentini,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Virginia	**Last Name:**	Baumiller
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001008

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

1. Based on the chart on your website, I still have no idea how these increases will affect my monthly bills. 1. I am 69 years old and on Social Security. Regardless of how much I try to watch when I shower, when I cook, when I do laundry, etc., the bill is still hundreds of dollars a month. 1. I hate this AM and PM Peak schedule. If you are not cooking dinner between 3 and 6 PM, when would you be cooking it? The rate system is too convoluted and impossible to figure out which pricing strategy is best of which customers. 1. I vote NO RATE INCREASES 1. I vote FOR senior discounts and a moratorium on rate increases, especially for seniors. Virginia Baumiller [Redacted] Account #: [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Virginia Baumiller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

You can view an estimated impact of the changes on your individual bill at www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Jay **Last Name:** Brescia

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001009

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ I feel if your raising rates the prime hour rates for winter and summer should go away especially the summer the hours are dinner time it is not fai Jay Brescia Sent from my iPhone

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jay Brescia,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	James	**Last Name:**	Pfennigwerth
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001010

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

A continued charge for peak demand on residential customers should not occur. Peak periods are an attribute of commercial and industrial accounts. These high usage peak periods are mostly caused by the influx of tourism frequenting the commercial businesses not the residential customers. Industrial load also has high usage of megawatts during certain periods of the day. In closing residential usage is a small fraction of the power demand, therefore rate hikes should be minimal and peak period rates should not apply to residential(permanent residents). Additionally, inflation is significantly impactful to the residents of South Carolina. Let's not pile it on by raising our annual bills year over year. Thank you James Pfennigwerth Acct# [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear James Pfennigwerth,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Anita **Last Name:** Clark

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001011

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Board Members, my husband, Stephen Clark, and I, Anita Clark, account # [Redacted] would like to respond to your proposed rate increase. Please consider what you're doing to senior citizens on fixed incomes. We are barely able to exist in today's world, without another nail in our coffin. Please reconsider: be the company to have compassion for your fellow human beings. Thank you for taking the time to listen to us. Stephen & Anita Clark

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Anita Clark,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Rami **Last Name:** Zaki

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001012

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ Sent from my iPhone

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Rami Zaki,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

While we appreciate your participation in the process, your email did not include a comment for consideration. Please resubmit if you have comments that you would like us to consider.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Magali **Last Name:** Huertas

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001013

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ I'm ok with rates going up now as the cost of energy is increasing because of the Iran war. But I hope that if energy prices decrease you'll take that into consideration and adjust rates down again. Thanks Magali Huertas _____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Magali Huertas,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Matt	**Last Name:**	Marcus
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001014

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I may be one of the few people who say this, but I think you should raise the rates as much as you need to. People need to stop taking power for granted. I would even be in favor of raising 4% and setting aside some money for people whose power has been shut off or is about to. America used to be about generosity. With kind regards, Matt Marcus [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Matt Marcus,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

We will consider and review your comments about increasing our rate adjustment amount. Any proposed modifications resulting from this review will be presented to the Board on Sept. 29.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Sandi **Last Name:** Yocum

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001015

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ We are senior citizens and the way you keep raising rates is affecting us tremendously. You are our biggest utility bill. We are on a reduced fixed income since we retired. We are in our late 70s and cannot go back to work, but if you don't quit raising our rates we may have to. Sent from my iPad

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Sandi Yocum,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Danny **Last Name:** Price

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001016

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ We are completely against the rate increase.

Danny _____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Danny Price,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Juli	**Last Name:**	Talbot
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001017

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hi, I received an email inviting me to comment about proposed rate increases starting 2027. Let me just be very clear when I say "no, just please no". It is hard enough to afford my current bill as is, and even though it is stated that "the average customer will only see an increase of about $6.60/month", but what about those that are not "average"? The bills could be plenty more than that for many people. For those of us that struggle with electric costs, this increase could mean the difference between buying food or paying the electric bill, then not having any food to cook with our electricity. Not to mention fuel costs going through the roof; many will have to decide whether to eat, have lights, or out gas in their cars every month. And to top it off, trying to juggle when we use our electricity (per the peak hour mess we now have), as if people don't have enough on their minds (like where to get money for electric bills), now we are having to remember when to sit in darkness and silence, probably hungry, and freezing or sweating -depending on time of year-and most likely agitated about the whole train wreck called our electric bill. Now, don't get me wrong, I understand inflation and that everything gets more expensive for the most part, but a billion dollar company can afford to eat these costs way easier than us average customers. Thank you for listening, Juli Talbot

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Juli Talbot,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Kathy **Last Name:** Earnhardt

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001018

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ Good afternoon While I realize everything doesn't stay the same I also realize that we have to look at the bigger picture. I am definitely against a rate increase on residential customers. This is a tourist area and city and county should not expect the burden of supply to fall on the residents. I am sure that is not highly regarded but the tourism and commercial community of the area. Increase needs to go to the city, county, and tourism departments. Kathy Earnhardt [Redacted] Myrtle Beach Sc 29577

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Kathy Earnhardt,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jerrica	**Last Name:**	Hasman
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001019

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed 2027-2028 Rate Increases – Residential Customer Feedback Dear Santee Cooper Board of Directors and Rate Study Team, I am a residential customer in [your city/county], and I strongly oppose the proposed average 3.3% rate increase for 2027 (including the 4.7% for residential customers) and the additional 3.1% in 2028. While 3.3% may appear modest, it represents a significant added burden for families and fixed-income households already facing rising costs for groceries, housing, and other essentials. This equates to millions of extra dollars collected from ratepayers across your service area. Your energy infrastructure is largely established — these hikes feel like an unnecessary burden shifted onto existing customers. I actually, ironically, demand a rate decrease to cut 3% from every household since you already are established and as for servicing more customers, the state of South Carolina and city of Myrtle Beach spend thousands on advertising to influence people to move here. Funnel that money to the energy if you need to as I have eaten four times this month and deadass can NOT afford the bill as it is. I am particularly concerned that a major driver appears to be preparing for and subsidizing massive new data centers and large-load customers. While economic development is important, residential ratepayers should not bear the primary cost of powering these high-demand facilities. Recent special rates for data centers are a step in the right direction, but more must be done to ensure these users pay their full incremental costs for new generation and transmission rather than passing them on to households. I urge you to: • Reject or significantly reduce the proposed base rate increases. • Prioritize cost containment, operational efficiencies, and aggressive pursuit of lower-cost energy sources (including expanded solar where viable). • Ensure data centers and other large new loads fully cover the infrastructure they require. • Provide greater transparency on how these rate changes were calculated and what specific measures are being taken to protect residential customers. We the customers expect reliable service at reasonable rates. Rate hikes should be a last resort, not the default response to growing demand. I will be watching the outcome of this process closely and encourage other customers to submit comments as well. Thank you for considering my input during the public comment period. Sincerely, Dr. Jerrica Hasman, ND, DD [Redacted] Sent from my iPhone

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jerrica Hasman,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Deborah **Last Name:** Hughes

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001020

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper, I believe the rate increase would be acceptable if you eliminate the unfair "Peak Charge." The disruption of normal lives is ridiculous. Senior citizens, such as myself, are suffering greatly due to your "Peak Charge." Please use your profits to upgrade your infrastructure. Respectfully submitted, Deborah Hughes Acct# [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Deborah Hughes,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Brady **Last Name:** Kluge

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001021

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

_____ Greetings, I'm responding to the email regarding a proposed rate change. Please see the following requested information: Account number: [Redacted] Name: Brady Kluge I strongly oppose a rate increase. I'm a resident physician and I can barely afford my rent. It may seem like a small increase but when you combine this rate increase along with the rising prices of fuel, food, clothing, and essentially every product on the market, it makes it even harder for families to afford to pay for basic necessities. This area is already highly underserved regarding healthcare. A rate increase makes it even more unattractive. Please consider the hardworking families before you increase rates. You're already increasing revenue by the peak pricing. Best regards, Brady Kluge

_____

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

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Dear Brady Kluge,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Diane	**Last Name:**	Russell
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001022

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Realtors should make people aware the the power issues in SC so the consumer is aware before moving here. We were not and surprised when we moved he we are limited as when we can use the power or pay higher rates and now being informed we will have increases here over the next two years ....as soon as we can we are moving. Never heard it had this issue with power before moving here will make sure everyone I know knows before thinking about retiring here. In the winter no cooking breakfast or turning your heat on to get warm till 9 am that is awful for older people moving here unless we want to run our bill up. My friend said there are a bunch of gangster here.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

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Dear Diane Russell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Steve	**Last Name:**	Gruenwald
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001023

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I don’t see how my comments carry any weight on your decision. If the rate increase becomes a burden on marginal income users their communities will have to pitch in. My philosophy is based on supply and demand, when costs go up, use less, buy less. Over and out GoodRealty LLC Steve Gruenwald | Broker | Owner 7 Vintners Ln | [Redacted] Sent from iPhone XIII Important Notice: Never trust wiring instructions sent via email. Cyber criminals hack email accounts, send fake emails with fake, convincing and sophisticated wiring instructions. Always, independently confirm wiring instructions in person or via a telephone call to a trusted and verified phone number. We never ask for banking, credit, personal data via email.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Steve Gruenwald,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Peter **Last Name:** Boisvert

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001024

Date Submitted: 5/20/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

We’re all struggling enough already. Enough is enough.!!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Peter Boisvert,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Shawn	**Last Name:**	Lamothe
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001025

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed residential rate increases for 2027 and 2028. South Carolina families are already dealing with rising costs across nearly every aspect of daily life, including groceries, insurance, housing, and fuel. Adding another significant increase to electric bills places an additional burden on working households, retirees, and families on fixed incomes. While I understand the importance of maintaining a reliable electric system and planning for future infrastructure needs, I strongly encourage Santee Cooper and its leadership to prioritize cost containment, operational efficiencies, and phased investment strategies before passing additional costs directly onto residential customers. Many customers have already adjusted their usage patterns in response to prior rate changes and demand-based billing structures. Asking residential customers to absorb another two consecutive years of increases — totaling more than 9% overall — is difficult to justify in the current economic environment. I respectfully request that Santee Cooper reconsider or reduce the proposed rate increases, provide greater transparency into cost-saving efforts already undertaken internally, and explore alternatives that minimize the financial impact on residential customers. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment and for considering the concerns of the customers who ultimately fund these projects and operations. Sincerely, Shawn Lamothe

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Shawn Lamothe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ed	**Last Name:**	Barch
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001026

Date Submitted:	5/20/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Leave it to santeecooper during this increased time of household stress to come up with another rate increase request. People just settled down and changed their life routines over "Defeat the Peak" and now more pain is in the works. Previous states I have resided in have websites listing utility providers vetted by the state PUC for companies who wish to do business in a state. Published rates make it much easier for the public to understand who is charging what to enable consumers to make a more educated choice of which provider to choose. Seems South Carolina has NO choice in my area except santeecooper! Competition keeps prices in check and also stimulates advances in utility throughput to not only give consumers choice, but keep large companies honest. I have no idea how santeecooper rates compare to other areas and having attended the initial zoom call when defeat the peak was coming, all I can expect going forward is more charts, graphs, and sermons filled with big words and comparisons nobody understands except people who work there. Solar through a private company looks better and better everyday. Of course pretty sure santeecooper has figured out a way to profit from that as well.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Ed Barch,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Barbara	**Last Name:**	Baranowski
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001027

Date Submitted:	5/21/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear Board Members, I am writing to express my concerns regarding recent planning decisions. Given historical trends, the current population explosion, and the growth of AI, our dire situation should have been anticipated and addressed further in advance. This is a significant oversight in the planning process and it will be detrimental to the future growth of our area. Barbara Baranowski

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Barbara Baranowski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Boyd **Last Name:** Butz

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001028

Date Submitted: 5/21/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Acct.# [Redacted] Boyd Butz [Redacted] Hello, I appreciate the necessity of rate increases to offset the costs of system upgrades. However, it is an added burden to those of us retired seniors on fixed incomes. I can also appreciate the need to curb peak hours usage to decrease the burden on your system. However, the demand cost of $8.00 (per kW) compared to $0.0792 (per kWh) seems exorbitant. What is the non-demand per kW charge for equal comparison? My last bill had a charge for 634 kWh of $50.21 yet only 2.6kW demand charged $20.80. Could you please explain how 2.7kW cost 41% of my total kWh usage? Why is there such a variance in charges? Also, is the demand usage kW charged included in the total usage kWh billed? Thank you, Boyd Butz

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Boyd Butz,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

To help you better understand demand, please visit the "Balanced Billing Demand" section of the rate study webpage at www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Joel **Last Name:** Vaught

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001029

Date Submitted: 5/21/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Good morning, According to your press release, the proposed 2027 increase for residential customers is a 4.7% increase. However, that does not match what is outlined in the chart. A 4.7% increase from $20.00 = $20.94, NOT $21.00. A 4.7% increase from $8.00 = $8.376, NOT $8.75. A 4.7% increase from $0.0792 = $0.829224, NOT $0.0899. This chart needs to be adjusted for your records and rate increases, or the proposal needs to be adjusted to reflect YOUR TRUE RATE INCREASES. These increases are also incorrect, moving forward to the proposed 2028 rates. A 4.6% increase from $21.00 = $21.966, NOT $22.00. A 4.6% increase from $8.75 = $9.15, NOT $9.50. A 4.6 increase from $0.0940354, NOT $0.0925. (I would personally prefer the higher energy charge than the higher peak demand charge for 2028). Is this supposed to be an average rate increase in all categories? If so, this is not explicitly stated, and regardless, the numbers do not add up. I propose that the rate charges reflect the actual rate increases of 4.7% and 4.6% respectively for 2027 and 2028. If the increases in the chart are the actual increases, I request that all press releases reflect THE ACTUAL rate increases. Be honest about your proposals! Do not cheat your customers! Thank you for your time, Joel Vaught E.F. Hucks & Associates, Inc. E.F. Hucks Consulting, LLC [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Joel Vaught,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

The rate adjustment percentages you referenced represent the average impact of the rate adjustment on a customer's bill, not necessarily the individual component charges. You can view an estimated impact of the changes on your individual bill at www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/residential.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001030

Date Submitted:	5/21/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Can you explain exactly how the smart meters work? Are they really capturing actual usage or is the meter estimating usage at intervals. Please explain. [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Michael Miller,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Smart meters measure your actual usage digitally, in real time, and your monthly bill is based on this actual usage.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Laurene & John	**Last Name:**	Hutter
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001031

Date Submitted:	5/21/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

You want to raise our rates, are you kidding me? You are getting a raise with your 3-6 pm and 6-9am rate hikes already! We are paying nearly double with that little hike! We don't want another hike. You're getting enough! Laurene & John Hutter Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Laurene & John Hutter,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Greg	**Last Name:**	Gonzalez
Organization:			
City:	Georgetown	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29440		

SC Reference # : SC0000001033

Date Submitted: 5/21/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

ABSOLUTELY NOT!! Most likely, the corruption is currently there within Santee Cooper, just like most other state owned utility companies. You guys do have a track record for some shenanigans. There is zero accountability and God knows what other nefarious activities that take place. Santee Cooper is very financially strong, find other ways to fund your projects. Below are several more reasons. A final say, have some decency and do the right thing. With the current cost of living, you supply a need that is barely affordable for a vast number of people. Use the opportunity to create a better reputation and stand out. 1) Misleading Average Increase: While Santee Cooper claims an 8.7% average increase, critics argue the true impact could be closer to 20% for many households. This discrepancy arises because the 8.7% figure only reflects part of the year and underestimates the annualized cost, especially under the new demand charge structure. 2) Unfair Demand Charge: The new $10 per kilowatt demand charge is based on a customer's single highest usage hour during peak times (3–6 p.m. in summer, 6–9 a.m. in winter). Critics say this is arbitrary and punitive, as one high-use hour—such as running the oven during dinner—can drastically spike the bill, even if usage is low the rest of the month. 3) Lack of Control and Transparency: Customers cannot predict or monitor when their peak usage occurs in real time, making it nearly impossible to avoid the demand charge. This lack of visibility undermines Santee Cooper's claim that the change gives customers more control. 4) Disproportionate Impact on Small Businesses: Nearly 44% of small businesses could see bills rise by 10% to 100%, with some facing an 83% month-over-month jump. Small businesses also pay 50% more per kW than residential users, despite similar usage patterns. 5) Subsidizing Heavy Users: The structure may force low-usage customers to subsidize heavier users, as fixed costs are shifted into demand charges that primarily affect those who occasionally peak. 6) No Opt-Out Option: Customers are forced into the new rate structure with no option to remain on the previous, simpler two-part rate. AARP and other groups have argued that such changes should be voluntary. 7) Lack of Regulatory Oversight: As a state-owned utility, Santee Cooper is not regulated by the Public Service Commission, reducing accountability and public input compared to investor-owned utilities.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Greg Gonzalez,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Your comment mentions a concern over subsidizing heavy users. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

The rate increase would take effect for bills rendered Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb 1, 2028, which means the increase percentages represent a full calendar year impact.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	CE	**Last Name:**	Smith
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Other
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001034

Date Submitted:	5/21/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To whom it may concern, My comments, and concerns regarding the proposed rate hikes are as follows: The most prominent objection is the clear disproportionate burden on residential customers. There is an unfair distribution of the rate increase across different customer classes. Residential households are taking the hardest hit compared to commercial and industrial users. The proposed hike unfairly burdens residential customers , nearly 5% a year for households vs. 2–3% for commercial/industrial. Families and retirees can't absorb this disparity. Seniors and fixed income residents on the Grand Strand will be hit hardest; offer a protective rate or a fixed lower option for them. Demand based billing penalizes normal household use and is too complex. Residential demand pricing is inappropriate. Customers rightly resent continuing to bear the costs of Santee Cooper's failed nuclear project. Customers had already paid billions through electric rates for the project, only for it to collapse after years of overruns and delays. Now, with the Board having accepted a deal to sell the partially constructed plant for approximately $2.8 billion, it is difficult to justify, or for customers to understand, why such a significant rate hike is still being pushed onto residential customers. Santee Cooper is a state-owned, nonprofit utility with major financial advantages, including the ability to issue tax-exempt debt and borrow at lower interest rates than most for-profit utilities. Those advantages should result in lower, not higher, costs for customers. Given these concerns, and the fact that the $2.8 billion Santee Cooper stands to gain from this deal, there is no justification for forcing residential customers to pay more. I urge the Commission to reject this rate hike or substantially reduce it and require real protections for vulnerable ratepayers. Respectfully, CE Smith Rate-Payer Murrells Inlet SC

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear CE Smith,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper’s proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Due to the uncertainty of this transaction, Santee Cooper's financial plan assumes no impact from the potential sale of the nuclear assets. If the transaction is completed, Santee Cooper expects to use the proceeds to pay down debt, which will reduce the cost recovery needed from our customers. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Angela **Last Name:** Williams

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001035

Date Submitted: 5/21/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I'm a residence of Conway, my rates changed drastically during the month of December, January, February of 2025-26. Increasing by at least 40 dollars each month. The hours of 6am-9am during winter season (Nov-March) is not conducive to those of us who shower in the AM, work outside the home, have elderly loved ones or children and are on a fixed income. It appears the hours would be more feasible if it was pushed up i.e.,9-12, people have usually left for work by then. From April -Oct 3-6pm most times are the hottest parts of the day, seems as though Santee Cooper are not thinking about the health of the elder, the pressure of the expensive units or the cost of living. These higher rates are placing customers in a compromising position from shifting times to cook dinner, washing clothes and just being comfortable at home after a long day of work. I've even walked into the MB Santee cooper building after 4 and realized how hot it was in there for the workers and customers alike. In closing, please bring individuals to the table/panel who are facing similar challenges, not the ones who are inconsiderate of the working-class people, drunk in power or closed minded to the reality of hard working Horry County citizens.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Angela Williams,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if

you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001036

Date Submitted: 5/22/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Hello, I find it appalling that with the Myrtle Beach "claim to fame" being their tourist industry, with all the hotels, shops, restaurants and more, that Santee Cooper would price gouge their residential customers, when you could clearly add a surcharge, or rate increase to these establishments and make your money surplus you are looking for. You have us changing our home routine so that we are not paying higher rates, and you still want to increase cost. Do you not have elderly fix income family members? Do you not think of how this can and will effect all those on fixed incomes? All this area has are tourist, make them burden some of this cost, not the people who live here and support this company throughout the year. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Joy Brougher,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001037

Date Submitted: 5/23/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Absolutely no rate increase! Between everything we use on a daily basis has gone up due to this awful president, I can't afford ANOTHER rate increase. It's bad enough we have to watch our usage between peak hours! Then when AI goes in effect you're going to increase us substantially! Enough is enough! I'm on a fixed income and can barely get by as it stands now. How much more can the average consumer endure! The greed in this country is out of control!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Monica Zwicker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Cory & Virginia	**Last Name:**	LASKOWITZ
Organization:			
City:	MURRELLS INLET	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576-7001		

SC Reference # : SC0000001038

Date Submitted:	5/23/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Hello— I am opposed to rate changes that increase the rates for residential customers more than for business or commercial enterprises. Senior are on fixed incomes and these rates affect them more than anyone else. It can drastically reduce their standard of living. Why should we always be the ones that are pinched? Have you ever watched an older person in the grocery store, deciding if they can afford meat? Individuals cannot raise prices to offset price increases. Businesses can raise prices and do even effecting individuals more, but we can determine if we want to patronize the business. We cannot choose not to use electricity, your services. Do you ever turn down your thermostat in your own home knowing that you will be sweating in your home? Also, clearly the businesses have a strong lobby that helps them in this matter. It is the big utility against the little guy. Thank you for listening. Virginia Laskowitz

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Cory & Virginia LASKOWITZ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001039

Date Submitted: 5/24/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

your rate calculator indicates a 9% increase for 2027 and then another 5% for 2028 ie a 14% increase from 2026 to 2028. this seems way more than inflation.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Bruce Barach,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

The proposed 2027 adjustment includes average increases of 4.7% for residential customers, 2.9% for commercial customers, 3.2% for lighting customers, and 2.6% for industrial customers. The proposed 2028 adjustment includes increases of 4.6% for residential, 2.9% for commercial, 3% for lighting and 2.1% for industrial customers. The actual increase for each customer will vary based on your particular usage characteristics.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	TJ	**Last Name:**	Lavallee
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000001040

Date Submitted: 5/24/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

To whom it may concern, As a resident of Horry Co. I'm OPPOSED to your "RAISING" rates. We already pay to much. It seems no matter how much we try to conserve, it's never enough. People who are on a fixed income can barely afford the "rates" now. Especially the elderly on Social Security. Why do you want us to suffer more??? I vote NO RATE RAISE. DO NOT RAISE OUR RATES. I'm a senior with a fixed income. Thank you for taking the time to understand. TJ Lavallee [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear TJ Lavallee,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001041

Date Submitted: 5/25/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am against the increased rate proposal due to inflation already making it tough as it is for so many people to keep up on their bills. Myrtle Beach SC's fast growing population will offset the proposed increased rates with more customers from a lot more people moving to the area. If you increase rates, then you could potentially be looking at households falling behind on their electric bill. Please do not increase rates and hurt households financially.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Karen Crane,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001043

Date Submitted: 5/26/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am concerned about the proposed rate increases, especially at a time when customers are already facing rising living costs. Public reporting indicates Santee Cooper is seeking multiple rate hikes over the next two years to cover operating expenses and capital projects. If the utility is asking ratepayers to shoulder additional financial burden, it is reasonable to expect that all non-essential expenses and activities are being carefully evaluated and reduced. This should include the use of Santee Cooper vehicles, staff time, and resources in community parades and promotional events. While community engagement is important, participation in parades using utility vehicles sends a conflicting message when customers are simultaneously being asked to pay more. Eliminating these non-essential appearances would demonstrate a stronger commitment to cost control and accountability. Please also discontinue setting up tables and booths at community events, as these appear to be non-essential activities that require staff time, transportation, and potential vendor or event fees—costs that ultimately fall on ratepayers. Before implementing any rate increases, Santee Cooper should prioritize cutting discretionary spending and clearly demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to minimize costs for the customers it serves. The parades, conferences, and community events are a WASTE of money that cost us! We don't need you to interact with the community. You should consider laying off a majority of your marketing department and keeping all PR staff. Lastly, please considering cutting your marketing budget significantly! We don't need your billboards around Horry and Georgetown County. They are a WASTE of money. Jason Aiesi

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jason Aiesi,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Santee Cooper	**Last Name:**	Customer
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001051

Date Submitted:	5/27/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I don't understand how you can claim that there is only a proposed 4.7% increase in residential rates when actually it's more like 13.5%. For Residential RG: (0.0899 - 0.0792) / 0.0792 = 0.1351 Please check your calculations. The reported proposed increase is misleading. Michael Floyd [Redacted] Additional Residential Rate Information [https://image-tracking-service.us-1.mimecastcybergraph.com/v1/image?imageData=8nPbw2LyCdLqhT0Npxk7rJFEUr7dNDDvysTJRHUF77oR2E1a%2Fr2LzxBJ1kk8JdBF4MYGxJnQHu4TIC00iJ%2Fp1zOV%2FJUhnoQpPie8gsR%2F78Ry5nq7nR0oTM7cjPCmSSrhrveib4chyYUbCUbhQGHHH2o4mDRY52ZH9YejcRVH5HFGH9jAjVKHiSur8j3gCHc5jQDV7XdPcAcfc6TrUmf5UMZ8Hz77rR%2FEWsPRWnc4nm%2B%2BO0qtsNZABii9etwiDv5Ikc9gGOvuT1P3hX3NTtXawhYidNsE98SwyB5buDw20huEPK3QkDFr6Z9EtItRxsWMV%2BqtsLDBskTVB68zBYp9DP7HaEtN7Lnxi%2Fo3tUg5FQ%3D%3D]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Santee Cooper Customer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper's proposed 4.7% residential increase represents the overall annual bill increase across all residential customers. Individual bill impacts will vary based on actual usage patterns. additionally, separate rate components may increase by more or less than the class average. Please note that Santee Cooper's proposal includes Balance Demand Billing, which averages your demand across the four highest peak usage periods each month. This means that on average, customers will be billed for fewer KW than under the current system. Your specific bill impact under the proposed rates can be viewed using our rate calculator, available at the link below:

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/calculator/

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	bhaugh01	**Last Name:**	bhaugh01
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001052

Date Submitted:	5/27/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I am writing to let you know that I have a very hard time believing that these proposed upcoming rate hikes are warranted. These proposals on top of your peak hours (which is a huge hit in itself in increases) tell me that internal management needs to look in the mirror and see what is transpiring within that is causing these decisions in an already difficult economy. With no other energy options in our market, this feels truly monopolistic and leaves a very sour taste in a lot of your customers mouths. You may want to consider some kind of a discount for seniors on fixed incomes. Our cost-of-living adjustments don't keep up with your proposed rate [Redacted] hikes! Barry Haugh

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear bhaugh01 bhaugh01,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Philip	**Last Name:**	Ward
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001053

Date Submitted:	5/27/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Santee Cooper, My husband and I are your customers and our account number is [Redacted]. We have heard about the future rates that will be going up. We are on a fixed income and are already struggling with the peak hours you have implemented as well as trying to manage all of the other monthly expenses and bills. This rate increase is not just affecting us but so many others. If you are planning on increasing the rates then you should eliminate the peak hours. Thank you. Vicki Ward

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Philip Ward,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Lewis	**Last Name:**	Houghtaling
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001054

Date Submitted:	5/27/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear Sir: I oppose the new rate adjustments. I oppose the change as the changes are not fair to the residential users, which is given a higher rate than any other category. The rates should be equal for all electric users. Thank you, Lewis Houghtaling [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lewis Houghtaling,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Santee Cooper	**Last Name:**	Customer
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001055

Date Submitted:	5/27/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Teague Mathewacct [Redacted] I understand the rising cost. I dont have a problem with raising the cost of electricity but I have a huge problem raising the cost of the customer fee that we shouldn't have to pay to begin with. I have three meters on my property do. My bill went up $60 a month just for a fee that you are charging because I have to use your company for electricity. Santee Cooper has us all handcuffed and its unfortunate for us, as consumers, that we have no choice. You should be ashamed of yourself for charging a customer fee less than a year ago and now are goin up on that fee, along with power , for the next two years. I hope and pray this increase isn't due to the big data centers popping up everywhere. You need to charge the he'll out of them! Not us. I oppose the customer fee increase!!! I can live with the power increase . Sent from my Galaxy

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Santee Cooper Customer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is customer costs, or costs that are directly related to the number of customers, such as customer accounting and the costs of meters. These costs are included in the customer charge portion of your bill.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Elise **Last Name:** Scivolette

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001056

Date Submitted: 5/27/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Just a heads up, the link to email a response to your email brought me to a blank page. Might want to check that. I worked for Central Hudson Gas & Electric in Poughkeepsie, NY. We went through rate challenges every 2 years. I understand it's the standard. Having been through that process, however, I have a few questions. (I worked in Energy Resources - responsible for purchasing the power, both gas and electric for our customers, and balanced the NYISO bill every month as well as monitoring our lines, ties and generators every day. We were small compared to the big guys like Con Ed and NYPA) but having that experience I never got over the feeling that since we were a non-profit, we were still restricted constantly by Albany's idiotic decisions including the new green scam and many others. And our customers always paid the price. And the number of accounts we could not get payment from grew and grew every year I was there. I know that SC's infrastructure, especially when it comes to the grid, is not going to be able to handle the HUGE influx of people moving here.I know why it's happening!! The NE sucks in many ways - cost of living being a huge proponent - along with insane politicians. But we have to take all of that into consideration. How much of this increase will go to building infrastructure? I have no insight into Santee Cooper's monitoring of spikes, storms, etc. though I would assume you have fewer widespread outages than we had in the NE which were common due to winter storms. I've been here 4.5 years and have seen a few good storms, but nothing like I witnessed in the NE. And yes, my energy bills are less than they were up north. But my biggest concern is WHAT ARE YOUR PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE GIRDING UP OF WHAT WE HAVE?? I had to go through tests every month for cyber security. I assume you do the same. Utility companies are high on the list of potential targets for terrorists. Easy way to destroy cities is to take out the power. You send cities into chaos while ravaging said city. How much are you currently investing in security against such attacks? How secure is your hiring process knowing you aren't letting a potential evil into the workforce? I've spent a fair amount of time on your website just trying to figure out changes in my bill. It hasn't been a great experience. I've downloaded info into spreadsheets and still not been able to make heads or tails out of the information. That to me is not good. I get it's challenging. But I think you have to make it easier for your customers to understand your billing. I used to say the hardest billing to understand was the phone bill. That was a long time ago. Utility companies have far surpassed that challenge. Your bills need to be explained in plain terms, so those not used to things like "delivery charge" etc. can understand. Just my thoughts tonight. Utility companies are often denigrated and I believe it's because the top folks don't know how to lower their intelligence level to understand the majority and speak without an air of superiority. That's never a good way to reach your customers, in my humble opinion. Elise Scivolette [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Elise Scivolette,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions. More detail on the specific investments can be found in the "Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Report" available on Santee Cooper's Rate Study website:

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/

Santee Cooper treats cybersecurity as a core part of operating critical infrastructure. We use multiple layers of digital and physical safeguards, regularly test our systems, and update our strategy as threats evolve. We also compare our program to industry and federal standards and use independent experts to assess our security posture. To date, we have not identified any cybersecurity incidents that have had a significant impact on our operations or customers.

We have taken your other concerns and comments into consideration, particularly your comment about your challenges in understanding the changes in your bill. We will ensure the new rates, if approved, are clearly understandable to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: David **Last Name:** Haseltine

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001057

Date Submitted: 5/27/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper Board of Directors and Rate Review Committee: I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed 3% electric rate increase over the next two years. I understand that running a utility costs money, but this rate hike is not the right answer right now. It will hurt real people who are already struggling to pay their bills. I am asking the Board to reject this increase. WHY I OPPOSE THE RATE INCREASE Families Cannot Afford This Right Now Everything costs more these days — food, rent, gas, and medicine. Many Santee Cooper customers live in rural areas and do not have a lot of extra money. A 3% rate increase on top of everything else significantly strains household budgets. People cannot live without electricity, especially in South Carolina summers. Raising rates should only happen when there is absolutely no other option, and Santee Cooper has not proven that yet. Santee Cooper Needs to Cut Its Own Costs First Before asking customers to pay more, Santee Cooper should show that it has done everything it can to reduce its own spending. Has it reviewed executive salaries? Has it looked at cutting administrative costs? Has it found ways to buy fuel or supplies more cheaply? Customers deserve honest answers to these questions before any rate increase is approved. The company has not made a strong enough case that it has tried hard enough to save money on its own. South Carolinians Have Already Paid a High Price for Past Mistakes Many remember the V.C. Summer nuclear plant disaster. That failed construction project wasted billions of dollars and led to higher bills for South Carolina utility customers. While Santee Cooper's role was different from SCE&G's, the lesson is the same: utility companies can make costly mistakes and customers end up paying for them. Before approving more rate increases, the Board needs to show that it has learned from the past and that it is being honest with the public about where the money is going. Solar Energy Should Be Lowering Our Bills, Not Hidden in Rate Hikes Santee Cooper has been building out solar power, which costs less to operate than coal or gas plants. As more solar comes online, fuel costs should go down. So why are rates going up? Customers should see the savings that come from cheaper energy sources. If Santee Cooper is collecting savings on the back end but still raising rates on the front end, that is not fair to people who pay the bills. Other Options That Should Be Tried First A rate increase should be a last resort. Before going that route, Santee Cooper should explore: • Refinancing debt to get lower interest payments; • Selling off assets that are not needed; • Renegotiating contracts for fuel and purchased power; • Putting non-urgent construction projects on hold; • Applying for federal grants available for clean energy and infrastructure. These options should be fully explored and reported publicly before asking customers to pay more. Homeowners Should Not Pay for Data Centers' Electricity Use Data centers are moving into South Carolina in large numbers. These facilities run around the clock and use enormous amounts of electricity — far more than any home or small business. They strain the power grid and require Santee Cooper to build or buy more capacity to meet that demand. That costs money. But if Santee Cooper does not

charge data centers fairly for the strain they cause, that cost gets spread across all customers — including regular homeowners who use a fraction of the electricity these facilities consume. This is not fair. A homeowner should not be subsidizing the electric bill of a massive server farm. Before any residential rate increase is approved, the Board must answer these questions publicly: • Are data centers and other large industrial users being charged rates that truly reflect the grid infrastructure they require? • How much of the claimed need for a rate increase is driven by large commercial and industrial demand growth — rather than ordinary residential use? • Are residential customers being asked to help pay for grid upgrades that mainly benefit high-volume commercial users? If homeowners are being asked to carry costs caused by data centers or other large power users, that is unacceptable. The cost should follow the cause. Santee Cooper must show that large users are paying their fair share before asking families to pay more. A Two-Year Rate Increase Locks In Costs Without Accountability Approving a rate increase for two years means Santee Cooper gets the money no matter how it performs. There are no checkpoints. There are no requirements to prove the money was spent wisely before the next increase kicks in. If rates need to go up at all, they should be reviewed year by year, with clear goals that Santee Cooper has to meet before getting more. Customers deserve that level of protection. THE PEAK RATE AVERAGING PROPOSAL: A STEP IN

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear David Haseltine,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

We appreciate your comments regarding Balanced Demand Billing. Please note that in addition to the RG rate, Santee Cooper offers a residential time-of-use rate (RT). Rather than assess an on-peak demand charge, the RT rate charges a per kWh on-peak energy charge across all on-peak hours. More information can be found on the Santee Cooper Rate Study website:

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Norma	**Last Name:**	Geathers
Organization:			
City:	Mrytle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000001058

Date Submitted: 5/27/2026 **Origin:** mail

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern! As a native and a retiree, born and raise here in Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577. I am a black woman with social security income only, I work hard and retired at Grand Strand Memorial Hospital 2012, single mom raise my daughter now groan, she have to help me and other different agenciy, Waccamaw EOC to pay my electric bill, where was the peak in the late 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's even now? Look back at my record always paid my bill on time. I barely have money to buy food and put gas in my car. I am afraid to turn on the lights, cook, or wash clothes, I am 72 years old- single and work hard all my life. I am so embarrass to keep asking my only child for money, and go to agencies, to help with my utility bill. What a sad situation the time we living in now, the rich gets richer and the poor gets poorer. I need any-kind of help or any adjustment. Thank you, Sincerely Yours Norma A. Geathers

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Norma Geathers,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. Our customer assistance number is 800-804-7424. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Pearlene	**Last Name:**	Mills
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000001060

Date Submitted:	5/27/2026	**Origin:**	mail

Comment:

Santee Cooper, My name is Pearline Mills I live at 4356 Goude St in Murrells Inlet SC; I am 87 in Aug 11 years old and I cant pay a whole lot more for my electricity. My husband died and SS don't go for I would like to ask you to please do not raise raise my electric so I can stay home as long as I live. God sure has been good to me in so many ways to live this long. Thank you very much, Pearlene Mills [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Pearlene Mills,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001061

Date Submitted: 5/28/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I can understand needing a rate hike but with the demand charge that was forced upon us you have already received a hefty increase, which in my calculations, is a lot more than the percentage of increase you are asking for. To me, you are trying to get a double increase, and I can't see how that's justifiable. Being 73 years old I get no pay increase to speak of and we do everything in our power to keep our bill down but the demand charge makes it impossible unless we kill our main breaker during your peak hours which isn't feasible. The demand charge was just forced on us and now you want to increase it and our electric rate as well, doesn't seem right at all

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Thomas Ellis,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001062

Date Submitted: 5/29/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am writing as a South Carolina resident and Santee Cooper customer to formally register my strong opposition to the proposed electricity rate increase. While customers are being asked to absorb higher monthly costs following the expiration of the five-year rate freeze, Santee Cooper's top management continues to take home multi-million dollar compensation packages. I request that the Board of Directors reject the current rate hike proposal and instead find operational savings internally by cutting executive salaries, bonuses, and vehicle allowances. My opposition is based on the following points: 1) Disproportionate Executive Pay: Santee Cooper's top executives are among the highest-paid public employees in South Carolina. The President and CEO's base salary sits at over $1.2 million, and total cash compensation for senior executives routinely reaches hundreds of thousands of dollars above their base pay via performance bonuses. 2) Precedent for Executive Pay Cuts: CEO Jimmy Staton recently demonstrated that executive salary reductions are entirely possible when he voluntarily requested a $250,000 pay cut. However, rather than utilizing those savings to shield customers from rate increases, that money was reallocated within the executive team. Top management should absorb the financial pressure of grid expansion and inflation before passing those costs to everyday citizens. 3) Economic Burden on Ratepayers: Increasing utility rates directly impacts families and small businesses who are already dealing with high inflation. It is fiscally irresponsible to increase the financial burden on customers while senior management receives performance incentives and flat-rate vehicle allowances. Before asking customers to pay more, Santee Cooper must exhaust every internal cost-cutting measure. I urge the Board to freeze executive bonuses, reduce top-tier salaries, and restructure management compensation to close the budget gap without raising consumer rates. Thank you for your time and consideration of this public comment.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nadine Duerr,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Anonymous	**Last Name:**	Anonymous
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001063

Date Submitted:	5/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I have concerns with the rates being raised, This has occurred several times.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Anonymous Anonymous ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Tommy	**Last Name:**	McPherson
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001064

Date Submitted:	5/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

As a retired Santee Cooper employee with experience in developing transmission rates for the OASIS tariff, I find it interesting that Santee Cooper has decided to apply peak pricing to weekends and FERC holidays. I do own a home in the Pinopolis service area but currently reside in Liberty SC. My electric service is provided by Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. When I became a BREC customer last year I was automatically enrolled in their time of use rate. I also own a home in Franklin NC which I voluntarily elected to use Duke Energy's time of use rate so when I was automatically enrolled by BREC that caught me by surprise. So I began to research and question. What I find is that all the Coops in South Carolina follow Santee Cooper's lead with rates, mirroring the "on peak" times verbatim. While I understand peak rates should be applied to weekday usage because demand is stronger and typically higher, I don't understand Santee Cooper's decision to apply peak rates to weekend usage. Duke Energy does not apply peak pricing to weekends or holidays as is the traditional method in the utility industry. Also another big distinction between Duke's time of use rate and Santee Cooper's (thus the Coops) is Duke uses 6-9 PM for peak pricing where as your time period is 3-6 during "summer" months. While comparing Santee Cooper's time of use summer hours to Dominion I find Dominion defines summer peak hours as 4-8 PM weekdays only. In my opinion Santee Cooper's 3-6 PM time frame is not an easy period to defer energy consumption, especially during high heat and humidity days. Asking customers to defray usage in such times is just not practical, By extending this rate period to weekends and holidays Santee Cooper has created a rate that is punitive. I hope the next rate review calls into question this unacceptable practice Santee Cooper has created for not only your retail customers but all of us who also are service by our local cooperatives.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Tommy McPherson,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper appreciates your extensive knowledge of electric system operations, including the role of demand in allocating capacity costs and the pricing mechanisms in place under the OATT. In response to your comments, Santee Cooper conducted a study evaluating your claim that weekday demand is typically stronger and higher than on the weekends. Our analysis shows that our system peaks on weekends approximately 21% of the time, which aligns with the expected distribution between weekend and weekday peaks.

Santee Cooper's peak periods are designed to capture most system peak events while keeping the window as narrow as reasonably possible. The defined summer peak hours capture more than 75% of the system's historical peaks.

We are currently evaluating your comments regarding the exclusion of holidays from the peak period calculation. Any proposed modifications resulting from this review will be presented to the Board on Sept. 29.

Lastly, Santee Cooper and the South Carolina electric cooperatives independently set their retail rates. Several electric cooperatives implemented demand rates without weekend exemptions prior to Santee Cooper, some as early as 2016.

Thank you again for your comments and participation in the rate study process. We remain committed to offering electric rates that are among the lowest in the Southeast and, indeed, the country.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Robert & Mary	**Last Name:**	Morawski
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001065

Date Submitted:	5/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Dear Customer Service Team, Account Number: [Redacted] Account Holders: Robert J. Morawski & Mary Morawski I am writing to inquire about the current rate structure for our electric service. Why are residential rates consistently increased at a higher percentage than commercial or industrial rates? Residential households consume significantly less energy than commercial and industrial entities, which are often better positioned to absorb higher costs. It feels as though residential customers are being unfairly penalized, particularly regarding peak-time usage rates. Because your company maintains a monopoly on the infrastructure in our neighborhood, we do not have the option to switch providers as we might with other utilities or services. I look forward to receiving a detailed response to these concerns. Thank you, Mary & Robert Morawski

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Robert & Mary Morawski,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Judy **Last Name:** Winkler

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001066

Date Submitted: 5/29/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Since you are planning to increase the rates for all retail customers, will you be discontinuing the outrageous peak hour charges?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Judy Winkler,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: KC **Last Name:** Glasser

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001067

Date Submitted: 5/29/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I reference the May 28, 2026 op-ed in the Coastal Observer written by Angela Olinick. All SC residents should read her common-sense editorial exposing Santee Cooper's failed nuclear project which residents already paid for without any benefit. Upon the sale of this defunct plant, residence should be reimbursed for what they already paid. I also strongly support ELIMINATING the Peak-use System for residential users. It encroaches on our rights to use electricity when and how it suits our personal needs. This Restrictive System seems like a communist-country idea. When asked by Santee Cooper to contact them if we are having difficulty paying our electric bill, clearly the rates are too high. As 23-year residents and senior citizens, we object to further electric rate increases and hope you will eliminate the peak-use system without doing an across-the-board increase in rates.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear KC Glasser,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper’s proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Due to the uncertainty of this transaction, Santee Cooper's financial plan assumes no impact from the potential sale of the nuclear assets. If the transaction is completed, Santee Cooper expects to use the proceeds to pay down debt, which will reduce the cost recovery

needed from our customers. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	KC	**Last Name:**	Glasser
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001068

Date Submitted:	5/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Ironically, you use the term rate "adjustment ", when clearly it is an increase in rates

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear KC Glasser,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

The proposed rate adjustment also includes changes to the rate design. In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001069

Date Submitted: 5/29/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Santee Cooper, your proposed REVISED rate increase tells me one thing, you didn't profit from the 3 peak hours like you thought. Thousands of new homes have been and will be built in the area. Rather than penalizing the current residents, you should go after the developers and new home owners. If the infrastructure is not there to support all the development, charge the builders and new homeowners not the existing residents. Why are we subsidizing the millions that the developers walk away with? Not to mention the tax increases we all be subject to in order to pay for police, schools, roads etc. you get the picture. This resident votes NO to any rate adjustments (unless you get rid of peak hours).

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Donna McEntire,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001070

Date Submitted: 5/30/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Everyday Americans continue to carry the burden of high inflation while our wages DO NOT keep up. Please do not raise the rates. We are getting by as it is right now. Maybe Santee Cooper could just take a smaller profit at the top. Again, everyday American's can't continue to Carry this burden on our shoulders. Thank you for allowing us to comment and thank you for your consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lynn Giudice,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Patricia	**Last Name:**	Yost
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000001071

Date Submitted: 6/1/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper ~~~ While it is understandable that the growth of the Grand Strand has warranted a higher demand for energy; however, there needs to be a balance. Can't someone have the compassion to give a break to citizens above the age of 70 (plus)? Often, they have a need to prepare meals, use heat/cooling energy for personal health, or medical apparatus that takes "energy" and waiting until after 6:00 to prepare/dine is a health risk. Can't there be some compassion for everyone and remove the restrictions on weekends when the demand is less? I previously lived in a state with a plan similar to yours but they were considerate to give the public a "reprieve" on weekends! Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Patricia Yost [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patricia Yost,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper conducted a study evaluating whether to include weekends in the peak demand window and found that our system peaks on weekends approximately 21% of the time, which aligns with the expected distribution between weekend and weekday peaks and indicates that weekends should be included in the peak window.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Leo **Last Name:** Dick

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001072

Date Submitted: 6/1/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear sirs: As a retired resident and living on a fixed income, I'm spending more on electricity today than I have over the past 3 years. I'm very concerned about your proposed rate increases for the coming year(s). Considering your potential windfall from the upcoming sale of the nuclear power plant facility, which I helped pay for, that never became operational, I hope you will avoid increasing residential rates further. As a customer since 2003, I kindly ask that you not raise the residential rates. Thank you for your attention to my request. Leo Dick Acct #[Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Leo Dick,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Due to the uncertainty of this transaction, Santee Cooper's financial plan assumes no impact from the potential sale of the nuclear assets. If the transaction is completed, Santee Cooper expects to use the proceeds to pay down debt, which will reduce the cost recovery needed from our customers. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Lynne	**Last Name:**	Carney
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC		

SC Reference # : SC0000001073

Date Submitted:	6/2/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I urge regulators to reject or reduce the unfair rate hikes proposed for residential customers in the Grand Strand. As a state owned nonprofit utility, there are structural financial advantages that should/could be utilized that would translate into affordability for customers, rather than repeated rate increases and disguised rate increases in the form of demand-based billing for residential customers. With the pending sale of the failed nuclear project that Santee Cooper will benefit from, why the call for rate increases at all?! When we read in the newspaper that towns are having to make difficult budget decisions based on the cost of electricity, it doesn't take a genius to recognize how entire communities are struggling to meet their basic needs. Please reconsider your plans to raise already-high rates for electricity in our area.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lynne Carney,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Due to the uncertainty of this transaction, Santee Cooper's financial plan assumes no impact from the potential sale of the nuclear assets. If the transaction is completed, Santee Cooper expects to use the proceeds to pay down debt, which will reduce the cost recovery needed from our customers. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001074

Date Submitted: 6/5/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am a resident of Pawleys Island in Georgetown County and a customer of Santee Cooper. I am writing to formally object to the proposed 2027 and 2028 rate increases. For many households, this is not just a nominal adjustment; it is a direct financial hardship. Families are already struggling with the rising cost of living, gas, groceries, and housing. Increasing electric bills forces people to make difficult, unfair choices between cooling their homes in the summer, heating in the winter, and putting food on the table. While I understand that utilities face rising operational and infrastructure costs, it is unacceptable to pass the burden of these corporate expenses onto every day, captive ratepayers—especially while the company continues to report high profits and executive compensation. I also can’t help but wonder how much of these proposed rate increases will be used to offset the huge increases in energy usage from data centers. The tech company data center owners, whose corporate profits are in the tens or hundreds of millions - sometimes billions - should bear these costs, not the local citizens. I urge the Commission to deny this rate increase and protect vulnerable residential consumers. Ratepayers should not be expected to subsidize data centers, wealthy oligarchs, corporate growth, and shareholder returns at the expense of our basic well-being. Thank you for your time, consideration, and for serving as the public's buffer against unwarranted rate hikes.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Heather McLarney,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Lana	**Last Name:**	Baldwin
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001077

Date Submitted:	6/9/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

HELLO I appreciate the inquiry as it relates to our communities electric billing. I feel that Balanced Demand Billing is the better and more forgiving option. Averaging the highest 4 hours provides a crucial safety net. It prevents a single, accidental spike in electricity use from severely inflating your bill, offering far more flexibility than being penalized for your absolute highest 15-minute or 1-hour interval. Why this structure works well: * Softens Spikes: Because the bill assesses the average of four distinct peak-use periods in a month, one heavy-use afternoon will not ruin your energy budget. * Predictability: Consistent peak hours (Summer: 3-6 p.m., Winter: 6-9 a.m.) mean you can reliably schedule energy-heavy tasks, like running pool pumps or charging electric vehicles, during the other 21 off-peak hours. Thank You Lana Baldwin [Redacted] ACCOUNT#-[Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lana Baldwin,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment and for your support of the Balanced Demand Billing structure.

Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001078

Date Submitted: 6/10/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Proposing another rate increase so soon after implementing you time of day peak hour rates is absolutely absurd. The peak hour rates have doubled our monthly bill, even after installing a smart thermostat which keeps our HVAC system from running during peak hours. We are snowbirds, and are not even there this time of year, and yet just received a bill for $126. You are gouging your customers to ,pay for all the capacity demand due to growth in the area, We, the existing customers, should not be footing the bill for your capacity increases. Instead, the developers need to be charged for these costs. Your rates are out of control.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Scott Merryfield,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	David	**Last Name:**	Priester
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000001079

Date Submitted: 6/10/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I had heard about a change to the way Santee Cooper would be billing customers but really didn't pay much attention until we went on a long trip a recent Spring. We were gone all but 2 days during the billing period. I was curious as to how low our bill would be considering we were not using our HVAC or appliances. Imagine my surprise to see that the bill was roughly the same as the previous month when we were home all month and used electricity normally (no attempt to conserve). That is when I called and discovered the huge change in our monthly bill was based on ONE HOUR of use on a SINGLE DAY. I couldn't believe my ears. The structure requires that in order to avoid this enormous "tax", you have to conserve during every peak hour on EVERY SINGLE DAY. If you have an unusually hot/cold day or maybe have company wanting to use the shower during the "peak" time or forget one day and wash clothes? Well, then it does not matter how much you conserve the rest of the month, you are going to have a large bill regardless. It is the rare homeowner that can make sure they do not use appliances or HVAC during every single peak hour during a given month. Never have I heard of a system as unfair as this one. One that does not encourage conservation because there is almost no way to escape the enormous surcharge - so why bother to try? Now I understand that you "listened" and you are going to average our highest 4 hours. That's better - but not much better. The notice we received also said you were going to be increasing this surcharge by an amount much larger than expected inflation the next few years (double or more). I imagine that your revenues are soaring due to this change - that we as consumers have to stomach because there is no competitor. Our annual bill has nearly doubled so, I would guess, has many others. Can you not develop a system that perhaps charges a slight premium (maybe a few cents per KWH) during peak hours? That would encourage more conservation as you would actually have a good chance of reducing your bill through conservation. The current system makes that nearly impossible. David Priester [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear David Priester,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. Unlike privately or investor owned utilities, Santee Cooper does not have shareholders or make a profit.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

We appreciate your comments regarding Balanced Demand Billing. Please note that in addition to the RG rate, Santee Cooper offers a residential time-of-use rate (RT). Rather than assess an on-peak demand charge, the RT rate charges a per kWh on-peak energy charge across all on-peak hours. More information can be found on the Santee Cooper Rate Study website:

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Chris **Last Name:** Helsabeck

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001080

Date Submitted: 6/10/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I can't imagine that you are getting any positive feedback from the proposed rate increases. This ridiculous eight dollar per kilowatt hour during three hours a day is already killing us even you just use a single highest day, but somehow, even though we don't do anything different, usage manages to go upright before the billing cycle ends. At the very least Santee Cooper ought to have the decency to have a discounted senior rate. Stop lining your pockets at the expense of everyone who uses your services having to cut back on everything else they do like eat and pay for medicine, and pay for medical bills. I know you need to build new infrastructure for all the complexes but WE should not have to pay for that. There should be some way to charge the complex being built an infrastructure charge for upgrading your system. I don't know why I am bothering to write anything because I'm sure you're going to do what's in the best interest of your profits regardless of what your customers say.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Chris Helsabeck,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001081

Date Submitted: 6/15/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

1219 kWh - Total Energy Used - 96.54 7.1 kW - Demand On-Peak 05/23/26-05:00PM - 56.80 Above is the data from my recent bill. As you can see, the demand on peak usage is more than 50% of my bill. I can't imagine these fees increasing again. But, they will. Comments from the public and the impact of the increases will be ignored, of course. We are at the mercy of a monopoly that spent over $3B on nuclear reactors that wasn't completed and doesn't care about the consequences to its customers in a county that is failing to manage growth and the infrastructure that comes with it. Thanks. Judy

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Judy Powers,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Due to the uncertainty of this transaction, Santee Cooper's financial plan assumes no impact from the potential sale of the nuclear assets. If the transaction is completed, Santee Cooper expects to use the proceeds to pay down debt, which will reduce the cost recovery needed from our customers. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Christine	**Last Name:**	Armstrong
Organization:			
City:	Bonneau	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29431		

SC Reference # : SC0000001082

Date Submitted: 6/16/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

First of all, I would like to thank Santee Cooper for providing reliable power that rarely goes out and when it does, it is usually restored quickly. I understand that as more people move into the service area, there is a greater need for more power. Although I understand the need for more power and the costs that might be associated with that, I want to offer a couple of suggestions that would help many of your customers who are struggling in this current economy. It would be highly beneficial to many of us if you would do away with the current CUSTOMER CHARGE. We pay that every month just to be a customer of Santee Cooper and there is no benefit to us...we in essence end up paying the price of a month of electricity that we don't get. Another way that would help customers is to cancel the DEMAND ON PEAK charge on the weekends. I understand many people are using large amounts of electricity during the peak times during the week (getting ready for school/work and then after school/work); however, schedules don't run the same on the weekends when most people don't have school and work schedules to work around. Electricity is being used less during those peak times on the weekends than during the week. During these difficult times when the cost to live is rising but our paychecks are not, it would be a blessing to know that Santee Cooper is willing to work with its customers to provide continued reliable power but cutting costs to the consumer where they are able. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Christine Armstrong,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is customer costs, or costs that are directly related to the number of customers, such as customer accounting and the costs of meters. These costs are included in the customer charge portion of your bill.

We also appreciate your thoughtful comment on ways that Santee Cooper may adjust the peak demand charge. Santee Cooper's peak periods are designed to capture most system peaks while keeping the window as narrow as reasonably possible. Santee Cooper performed an analysis to determine if weekday demand is stronger than on weekends. Our analysis shows that our system peaks on weekends approximately 21% of the time, which aligns with the expected distribution between weekdays and weekends.

Our current demand charge for residential customers is based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard customer feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001083

Date Submitted:	6/18/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

How about not changing the residential rates. I think most people are tired of getting nickel and dimed with all the rate increases for everything. You also have more residential customers than ever here which I know requires more infrastructure on your end and perhaps more power generation, but you will be making more money with sheer volume. Industries that use great demand such as MetGlas should be paying for their enormous load on the system - as bad as data centers. Same with the university and community college. Commercial customers should also take the brunt of the rate changes over residential as they consume a lot of electricity and have pushed inflationary prices onto us. I don't want to subsidize commercial business at all - they can pay their own way from the money they make off of the residents. What have you done about trying alternative energy in the area like wind farms or are you all afraid of the federal government opinions and actions in the US? Do something for us for a change. You already botched the nuke plant project. Look forward and plan for the future.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mark Rose,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

Your comment mentions data centers in relation to other large commercial customers. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of them joining the system.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Due to the uncertainty of this transaction, Santee Cooper's financial plan assumes no impact from the potential sale of the nuclear assets. If the transaction is completed, Santee Cooper expects to use the proceeds to pay down debt, which will reduce the cost recovery needed from our customers. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Coleen	**Last Name:**	Kelly
Organization:			
City:	Murrells Inlet	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC		

SC Reference # : SC0000001084

Date Submitted:	6/23/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To whom It May Concern: My name is Coleen Kelly and I reside part time at [Redacted] Murrells Inlet SC My account # is [Redacted] As I first stated, I am a part time resident. It's my second home, soon to be primary within the next year. My electric bill is ok, but if I were to be at this address full time, I suspect, like my neighbors, it will almost triple in cost. Why? Tell me why as a conglomerate operation, residents are paying a high price because 1] you're in debt for bad decision making 2] overgrowth in SC. You need better communication with politicians and so called leaders who work for the residents to start slowing things down. 3] please do not use the word inflation on a source that could be much cheaper if things were managed properly and from the Tesla days and suppression of his genius invention of this required source. It should be so much cheaper and possibly free. Why in the late 1800s, early 1900s did he show his inventions at world fairs? Money, ego, power of whoever owns this product. Why are you not investigating the means to provide better, cheaper energy for residents and you should be at the meetings to discuss less growth for infrastructure catch ups. Who should be paying? The state! Thank you. Coleen Kelly

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Coleen Kelly,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your comment mentions growth as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

To address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001085

Date Submitted:	6/24/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

To the Board members: I am a 77 year old single man living on savings and Social Security. I am extremely frugal and especially with energy usage. The prospect of Santee-Cooper raising prices by almost 10% in the next two years is certainly not welcome news. Please consider reducing the burden of increased costs on residential customers like myself. Thank you and best regards, Rodger Dicks

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Rodger Dicks,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001086

Date Submitted: 6/24/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Gentlemen: As a solar customer and a member of the solar pilot program 17 years ago I object to any rate increases based on increasing use of fossil fuels. A responsible utility company would be working to incorporate renewable energy. South Carolina has an abundance of both solar and wind energy. Harness those; do not burn more fossil fuels. Regards, Barb MacKinnon

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Barbara MacKinnon,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jeff	**Last Name:**	Cook
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29575		

SC Reference # : SC0000001088

Date Submitted: 6/26/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Your rates are already a complete rip off. Last year after moving into my home a tech was sent to check my meter and it was confirmed it was running faster than it was supposed to. It was supposed to be replaced. It never was. Your "peak hours" rates are a complete joke and should be half what they are. Your company completely sucks and if I owned my home I would go solar and completely disconnect my house from your service. Just a bunch of Jews ripping off your customers.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jeff Cook,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Your comments regarding your meter have been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors for review.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Bruce	**Last Name:**	Bunker
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29588		

SC Reference # : SC0000001095

Date Submitted: 7/8/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

I am writing to protest the latest "Rate Adjustment" proposed by Santee Cooper. Have you forgotten the 2025 "Defeat the Peak" pricing implemented in the Spring of 2025? Santee Cooper customers are still suffering the onerous predatory pricing increases imposed by that scheme. Now Santee Cooper wants another increase Consider how self-serving the Peak Pricing is: The Santee Cooper customer can judiciously conserve power over 98% of the peak period; however, for just one hour during the roughly 90 hours in a billing cycle if the customer needs or accidently uses more electricity, then Santee Cooper is allowed to slam the customer with the $8.00/kW charge for that hour. One hour, less than 2% of the peak time increases the bill in a most predatory manner. Customers with children know all-too-well that a crisis is bound to occur within the "Peak Window" regardless of how hard they work to "defeat the peak." Despite my conservation efforts, my bill easily jumped roughly 30%. 30% Percent! All because for one hour I needed more electricity. Santee Cooper does not warrant another price increase, particularly since they sucker punched their customers with a huge increase inherent in the peak scheme. If the 4.7% increase is to be applied equally to the Energy Charge and the Peak Charge, do not allow it. Either reduce the $8.00kW peak or replace the highest peak period hour of usage with the median peak period hour. You must not allow the rate increase without a reduction modification to the existing pricing structure. Trusting that while reviewing the proposed increase, you will seriously consider all the inflationary pressures Santee Cooper customers are already experiencing and not allow the 4.7% rate increase. Trustingly yours, Bruce Bunker [Redacted] Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Bruce Bunker,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard feedback, similar to the feedback in your comments, that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	ASHLEY	**Last Name:**	BROOME
Organization:			
City:	MURRELLS INLT	**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000001102

Date Submitted: 7/13/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I have been a Santee Cooper customer for over 30 years and have had 1 bill over $200.I had 3 bills over $200 and 1 over $300 since the rate increase. My bills have increased 20% since the rate increase. We have done Everything possible to reduce peak usage but to no avail.show a not for profit state owned entity can charge 100% higher rates for a 3 hour period is extremely unfair.This increase was marketed as an 8.7% increase in rates. You knew tis was not going to be the case. 2025 earnings were $125 million vs 2024 (148000) loss. That is directly due to rate increase. You cannot "precool" or "preheat" your house. That is crazy. In the winter at 20 degrees in the morning the Only way to not get a huge peak charge is to cut you heat pump Off!. You knew this and proceeded anyway. You also knew people were struggling. You sent out many emails on how to reduce usage and for agencies to help people pay their bills. I knew a family in a newly built energy efficient home who had a $700 bill in January. That is unfair. This new 2027 proposed rate increase attempts to rectify the 2026 increase. I want to know where this windfall earnings is going. Is the Canada's project going to be a rerun of the VC Summer plant fiasco? I have contacted both of my local state representatives but nothing is happening on that front. It would not be so bad if I had options in my power source but Santee Cooper has a monopoly in the areas it serves so I have no choice but to use your service. I have always had a positive view of Santee Cooper but these 100% rate charges have completely changed my outlook.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear ASHLEY BROOME,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge, which is then recovered based on usage during the three hour period that you mention in your comment.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001103

Date Submitted: 7/13/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Given the gross negligence displayed by your leadership during the ill fated construction of the nuclear debacle above Columbia & the failure to subsequently take corporate responsibility to discipline officers & board members responsible for it, I have no confidence (1) these rate increases are necessary & (2) aren't a smokescreen to offset the costs of your other failed projects. Among the things you should be addressing are (1) the need to protect the public in the low-country below the obsolete & failing dam built in 1939-40; (2).Speculating in lot sales around the 2 existing lakes & the need to set aside a fund from incoming revenue to compensate the innocent landowners below the dam, the lot owners on the lakes above the dam Need & the cost of restoring the original area destroyed by the flooding necessary to create the now obsolete power plant that generates only 1%.power today . All further expenditures & projects should be devoted to conversion to solar & wind offshore 10 to 15 miles following the example of China!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Frank Beattie,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

We will consider and review your comments. Any proposed modifications resulting from this review will be presented to the Board on Sept. 29.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001104

Date Submitted: 7/13/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

To whom it may concern, I am a teacher on a budget. I have tried my best to be careful about using my appliances during peak hours. I am doing okay because I don’t have any special reasons to use medical equipment or many people living in my house. However, my neighbors are not as fortunate. I have seen them pinch every penny and I am very concerned for their welfare. Is there any plans to reduce their rates?

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Elizabeth Bradley,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to have your neighbors contact us if they think these options may apply to their 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Patricia	**Last Name:**	Hall
Organization:			
City:	Murrells inlet	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000001105

Date Submitted: 7/13/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

As a senior on limited social security income, I DEMAND THAT YOU NOT RAISE OUR RATES. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN SC CANNOT AFFORD AN INCREASE WE CANNOT AFFORD A RAISE JUST SO YOUR TOP OFFICIALS CAN GET A RAISE NO RATE INCREASE NO RATE INCREASE NO RATE INCREASE

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patricia Hall,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	WILLIAM	**Last Name:**	KEULL
Organization:			
City:	Murrells inlet	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29576		

SC Reference # : SC0000001106

Date Submitted: 7/14/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Data Centers need to pay for their utility usage. There is no reason to raise residential rates to support these resource hogs. If they can't afford it, that's their problem. As much as your customer base is expanding due to the overdevelopment taking place, there is no reason to raise rates at all. There is a cost to doing business.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear WILLIAM KEULL,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In regard to your comment on data centers, Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001107

Date Submitted:	7/15/2026	**Origin:**	mail

Comment:

This message is in response to the postcard sent to me at my address. I truly appreciate the services that you supply to my home. However as a elderly senior citizen, I try to keep my electric bill at a cost that I have in my budget. I do not approve of the time restrictions of usage of electricity as it puts another burden on my already restricted budget. I have family that have moved in with me since my husband became ill and passed. My son works from my home, on the computer, so he can be of assistance to me since I am disabled. I cant afford to move into assisted living so this is a blessing to have help in my home. However as you clearly understand it puts more constraints on my budget. As you know, everything has escalated substantially. My family has sacrificed to be here to help me. As a huge corporation, I feel that seniors need to be considered in making such huge decisions. We are totally all electric and have paid our dues to society, without complaining, but it has gotten to be a worrisome problem. Please take my situation in consideration before raising rates. The seniors would appreciate your judgement before making a final decision to help us.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Regina Bellina,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced this demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback on this billing structure.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Robert	**Last Name:**	Snyder
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001108

Date Submitted:	7/15/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Thank you for proposing the change that the demand charge be calculated using 4 highest usage figures each month. This is certainly more reasonable than the single highest. I have spent much of my career in the power generation industry and understand the difficulty of peak demand in planning and operating the grid. Since the implementation of the demand charge I have tried to conserve energy during these hours, both to save money and also do my part to reduce peak demand. But there is no incentive to continue to conserve for the balance of the month after one day where high usage was unavoidable or not practical. Even 4 days will not yield enough incentive to warrant a concerted effort to conserve throughout the month as the demand charge still will not rightly reward peak hour conservation efforts. If the stated goal is to conserve energy during these peak hours, why cannot the average of peak hour usage for the monthly billing days be used to calculate the charge? Respectfully, Robert Snyder Acct [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Robert Snyder,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

The Balanced Demand Billing average of four periods was chosen to balance Santee Cooper's goals of measuring consistent behavior while encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide. This Balanced Demand Billing concept maintains the cost recovery concept of a demand charge and means usage during a single hour will have less impact 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Charles	**Last Name:**	Brown
Organization:	Artistik Image Salon & Spa		
City:		**Customer Type:**	Commercial
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001110

Date Submitted: 7/22/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Members of the Santee Cooper Board of Directors, Thank you for providing the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed commercial rate increases for 2027 and 2028. My wife and I have owned and operated Artistik Image Salon & Spa for many years, and we have now lived under Santee Cooper's 2025 commercial rate redesign for well over a year. That has given us the opportunity to evaluate its real-world impact—not as a projection or theoretical model, but through the day-to-day realities of operating a small South Carolina business. I respectfully submit these comments because I believe our experience demonstrates that the 2025 rate redesign has imposed a far greater burden on customer-facing service businesses than many of us anticipated, and I ask the Board to carefully consider that experience before approving additional commercial rate increases for 2027 and 2028. When the previous commercial rate changes were proposed, Santee Cooper described them as "slight" and emphasized that the new rate structure would provide customers with greater "flexibility." Unfortunately, that has not been our experience. The figures below are taken directly from my Santee Cooper billing history. The following comparison shows our actual electric bills before the 2025 rate redesign and after it had been fully implemented. Rather than experiencing a temporary increase, our business has continued to operate under a substantially higher cost structure. Depending on the month, our electric bills remain approximately 30% to nearly 150% higher than they were prior to the rate redesign. These are not temporary increases. They have become the new normal for our business. It is also important to note that these higher electric bills are not the result of increased business activity. Our customer volume has remained relatively stable overall and certainly has not increased enough to explain electric bills that are now consistently 30% to nearly 150% higher than before the 2025 rate redesign. In fact, the spa portion of our business has experienced a continued decline in clientele since 2024. That decline accelerated in 2025 and has continued into 2026. We are now actively attempting to sublease our spa rooms because the business is no longer generating enough revenue to justify maintaining that portion of our operation. If those efforts are unsuccessful, we may ultimately be forced to sell the spa portion of our business altogether. Unlike many commercial customers, a salon cannot simply shift its electrical usage outside designated peak hours. Our business is entirely customer-driven. We are open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and we use electricity when our clients are receiving services. We cannot tell a client that we will dry their hair later in the evening, postpone a color service until after peak hours, or stop using air conditioning during the hottest part of a South Carolina afternoon. As a result, the current rate structure effectively penalizes businesses like ours simply for operating during normal business hours. The flexibility described in the rate study is, for many service businesses, not flexibility at all. If Artistik Image Salon & Spa attempted to raise our service prices by the same percentages reflected in many of these electric bill increases, we would almost certainly lose customers. Unlike Santee Cooper, we

compete every day in an open marketplace. We cannot simply pass these costs on to our clients. I understand that maintaining a reliable electric system requires ongoing investment and that reasonable rate increases may sometimes be necessary. My concern is not simply about an additional percentage increase in 2027 or 2028. My concern is that these proposed increases would be layered on top of a rate structure that has already dramatically increased the operating costs of many small businesses. I respectfully ask the Board not to evaluate the proposed 2027 and 2028 rate increases in isolation. Please first consider the documented impact that the 2025 commercial rate redesign has already had on small, customer-facing service businesses like ours. The billing history above is not a projection, estimate, or theoretical model—it is the actual experience of one South Carolina small business after living under the current rate structure for more than a year. I also respectfully ask the Board to evaluate whether the current commercial rate structure has truly achieved its stated goals of fairness, balance, and flexibility for customer-facing service businesses. Businesses that have little or no practical ability to shift their electrical demand should not bear a disproportionate share of the burden. South Carolina's small businesses are an essential part of our communities and local economy. I sincerely hope our experience will help inform your deliberations before any additional commercial rate increases are approved. Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of these comments.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Charles Brown,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for small commercial customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use at any time during the month. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be impacted by one unusually high usage period and also that the charge potentially caused confusion among customers who had both residential service and commercial service.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour at any time during the month, your demand charge would be calculated based on the same peak period (or peak window) as a residential customer and, further, that the peak will be based on an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

If you feel this change does not address your concerns or meet the needs you expressed in your comment, please reach out to us to determine if there are other options that may fit your needs.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Donald	**Last Name:**	Mazzarelli
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001111

Date Submitted:	7/22/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to any proposed rate increase by Santee Cooper Electric. The peak demand rate increase has already significantly increased my monthly electric bill. At 76 years old, and living on a fixed social security income, yet another increase on top of this will absolutely affect my standard of living. I have already reduced my electricity consumption to meet a manageable monthly expense.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Donald Mazzarelli,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Mona	**Last Name:**	Sites
Organization:			
City:	Little River	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC		

SC Reference # : SC0000001112

Date Submitted: 7/22/2026 **Origin:** mail

Comment:

DEAR SIR OR MADAME I AM WRITING TO SAY I LIVE BY MYSELF I HAVE RELATIVES ON MAJOR HOLIDAYS AND IN JULY FOR VACATION. THE OTHER TIMES ARE GENERALLY SICKNESS I WASH ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS. I COOK VERY LITTLE. I USE THE DISHWASHER EVERY TWO WEEKS. YOU CAN LOOK AT MY BILLS AND SEE I AM TELLING THE TRUTH I AM AGAINST GETTING A RISE IN THE COST OF ELECTRIC. I ALSO DISREPECTED THE BILL YOU SENT FOR $286 A FEW MONTHS AGO BECAUSE I KNOW FOR A FACT I DID NOT COOK ON THE STOVE EXCEPT TWO OR THREE MORNINGS A WEEK I BY SANDWICHES AND KEEP FOR LUNCH AND DINNER MOST ALWAYS THANK YOU FOR ANY CONSIDERATIONS SINCERELY MONA S SITES

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mona Sites,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your request has been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors and you will be contacted about your concerns with 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001113

Date Submitted:	7/23/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

I am very much opposed to the peak hours rate charges. It is very unreasonable and causes a hardship on families, especially retirees who are struggling financially. Please help and stop these peak hours rate charges. Thank you.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Willie Vaughn,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Marjorie	**Last Name:**	McDonnell
Organization:			
City:	PAWLEYS ISL	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC0000001114

Date Submitted: 7/27/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

One increase for 2027-2028. Decide if it is "Defeat the Peak" increase remaining at 2026 costs or a 3% overall increase. I do not support the rate increases as stated. They are too extreme for the population. Thank you for considering my input.
Marjorie McDonnell

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santee cooper

Dear Marjorie McDonnell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Lauren **Last Name:** Kerr
Organization:
City: **Customer Type:**
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001116

Date Submitted: 7/27/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Formal Public Comment Submission Date: July 9, 2026 To: The Board of Directors, Santee Cooper (South Carolina Public Service Authority) Regarding: Formal Opposition to Proposed 2027 and 2028 Retail Rate Adjustments & 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Submission Type: Official Public Record / Written Stakeholder Feedback To the Members of the Board of Directors: I am writing as a resident and retail customer of Santee Cooper to lodge a formal complaint and voice my resolute opposition to the proposed retail rate adjustments for 2027 and 2028. The current proposal—which outlines a compounding increase of nearly 10% for residential ratepayers over the next two years (4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028)—represents an unjustifiable financial burden that violates basic tenets of consumer protection, public interest, and regulatory equity. Public utilities operate under a legal and ethical mandate to provide reliable, affordable service to the public. However, this proposal shifts the financial risk of industrial expansion and systemic infrastructure deficits directly onto individual households. I urge the Board to reject these hikes based on the following critical policy and economic realities: 1. Disproportionate Burden and Regressive Economic Impact Since the 1970s, domestic wage growth has fundamentally decoupled from productivity and failed to keep pace with cumulative, structural inflation. While working-class families have experienced decades of real-wage stagnation, the cost of core living necessities has skyrocketed. Layering a cumulative ~10% rate hike on top of recent inflationary pressures acts as a regressive economic penalty. For captive residential consumers who cannot opt out of your service, electricity is not a discretionary luxury; it is an absolute necessity. Santee Cooper's proposal fails the basic consumer policy threshold of affordability. 2. Infrastructure Deficits and the Penalization of Residential Consumers Our current power grid is visibly strained under existing demand, as evidenced by the implementation of peak demand initiatives and "power hours" (such as system peak windows and demand charges). Restructuring rates to penalize families for using electricity during standard household hours—such as cooking dinner or cooling homes in the summer peak—is a clear symptom of capacity failure. It is fundamentally unjust to alter the lives of ratepayers and threaten them with severe demand-charge spikes to compensate for a grid that Santee Cooper has failed to adequately insulate against foreseeable peaks. 3. Unchecked Residential Development Outpacing Grid Capacity Across the Palmetto State, massive high-density housing developments continue to be approved and built without concurrent, proportional upgrades to the local distribution and transmission infrastructure. By allowing residential expansion to systematically outpace grid capacity, Santee Cooper is forcing existing residents to finance the infrastructure updates required by new developments. Under traditional utility accounting rules, expansion costs should be borne equitably by developers and new connections through cost-of-service allocations, rather than socializing the cost across a vulnerable, fixed-income customer base. 4. Cross-Subsidization of High-Impact Loads (AI Data Centers) The

most egregious strain on our state's grid comes from the rapid proliferation of high-impact loads, specifically speculative and artificial intelligence (AI) data centers. These hyperscaler facilities demand unprecedented amounts of baseload power and water, forcing massive capital expenditures for new generation assets, such as natural gas plants and pipeline corridors. While certain electric cooperatives have established strict financial guardrails (such as infrastructure prepayments and 15-year contract minimums), Santee Cooper’s retail rate adjustments risk forcing everyday families to cross-subsidize the immense energy appetites of tech corporations. Residential customers must not be used as an involuntary shield to absorb the market risks and capital investments brought on by the tech sector. Conclusion and Request for Regulatory Action A public power entity should not treat its captive consumer base as a primary mechanism for deficit mitigation or capital fundraising for industrial over-expansion. I formally request that the Santee Cooper Board of Directors: Deny the requested 4.7% and 4.6% residential base rate hikes for 2027 and 2028. Isolate all capital expenditure costs associated with data centers and massive industrial expansions, ensuring they are paid for exclusively by those high-impact industrial users via targeted, incremental tariffs. Re-evaluate the IRP load forecasts to prioritize grid stabilization for existing domestic infrastructure before committing to speculative regional growth. Thank you for your time and your documented consideration of these comments in the official record of the 2026 Rate Study.

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santee cooper

Dear Lauren Kerr,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

Your comments regarding the IRP load forecast are outside the scope of the rate adjustment proceeding. Only the rates proposed for adjustment are under consideration.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Chris	**Last Name:**	Dacier
Organization:			
City:	Charlotte	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	NC 28211		

SC Reference # : SC0000001118

Date Submitted: 7/27/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Please consider revising the residential demand charge calculation. The current max peak usage does not provide incentive for customers to manage peak usage throughout the billing period. An average peak usage calculation would provide more incentive to manage usage throughout the month. For example, if i have a 7+ kwh peak usage early in the month, and my normal average peak usage is less than 3 kwh, i have no incentive to monitor and reduce peak usage for the remainder of the month. Thank you for your consideration.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Chris Dacier,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper heard our customer's feedback about concerns that their bill could be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Alexis	**Last Name:**	Fiddie
Organization:			
City:	Moncks Corner	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29461		

SC Reference # : SC0000001119

Date Submitted:	7/27/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Please do not raise the rates again. Please think of your long time residential customers while making this decision. Thank you, Alexis M Fiddie

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santee cooper

Dear Alexis Fiddie,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001120

Date Submitted:	7/27/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Residential customers should not pay costs for commercial properties and data centers. There was also a recent rate increase and there shouldn't be another one

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santee cooper

Dear Bonnie Mandel,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your comment mentions costs for data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mona **Last Name:** Sites

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:** Residential

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001121

Date Submitted: 7/27/2026 **Origin:** mail

Comment:

DEAR SIR OR MADAME I AM WRITING TO SAY I LIVE BY MYSELF I HAVE RELATIVES ON MAJOR HOLIDAYS AND IN JULY FOR VACATION. THE OTHER TIMES ARE GENERALLY SICKNESS I WASH ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS. I COOK VERY LITTLE. I USE THE DISHWASHER EVERY TWO WEEKS. YOU CAN LOOK AT MY BILLS AND SEE I AM TELLING THE TRUTH I AM AGAINST GETTING A RISE IN THE COST OF ELECTRIC. I ALSO DISREPECTED THE BILL YOU SENT FOR $286 A FEW MONTHS AGO BECAUSE I KNOW FOR A FACT I DID NOT COOK ON THE STOVE EXCEPT TWO OR THREE MORNINGS A WEEK I BY SANDWICHES AND KEEP FOR LUNCH AND DINNER MOST ALWAYS THANK YOU FOR ANY CONSIDERATIONS SINCERELY MONA S SITES

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mona Sites,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your request has been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors. 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Henry	**Last Name:**	Phelps
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001122

Date Submitted:	7/27/2026	**Origin:**	mail

Comment:

Gentlemen, I thought Santee Cooper had already had a rate increase when they implemented this peak charge in 2025. After all, the six to nine am period for winter months fully takes advantage of those that work early for school or work and start heating systems for comfort and use hot water for early morning showers. Then the switch to summer months to the three to six pm period tends to catch the vacationing beach crowd coming off the beach and needing showers and clean bathing suits using washers and dryers. Those that for whatever reason are to take advantage of these peak periods have already had a pretty good increase. I personally do get very good service from Santee Cooper with very few interruptions. Hopefully any future increases will not work to further harm those that need it. Thanks for this opportunity. Henry Phelps

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Henry Phelps,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Morgan C.You are	**Last Name:**	Hamby
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585		

SC Reference # : SC0000001123

Date Submitted: 7/27/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

You are in my opinion increasing my rates to cover your bad decisions on the Nuclear Power partnership that failed. I am 92 my wife is 84. We are both receiving Social Security. We have some investments in an IRA but are not wealthy. As this is a State Owned Company you need to stop giving away money to large companies such as Scout Motors. Cut back on excess spending on Boards and Committees. Not allow Data Centers to build in SC at all! We do OK in the summer, we keep our thermostats at 78 cutting our usage down from 3 to 6 in the afternoon. Winter is much harder. We cut our heat back when we go to bed to save energy. The mornings when the higher rate kicks in is hard for us as the house is cold .

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Dear Morgan C. Hamby,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

In regards to your comments on new nuclear. Santee Cooper initiated a competitive process in January 2025 to complete the two partially completed AP1000 units in Fairfield County. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001124

Date Submitted: 7/27/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Unlike the 4% numbers you quote in your press releases as being the increase residential customers will incur with your rate increases, according to your calculator, my rates will increase 8% in 2027 and 5% in 2028 for an increase of 13%. And this is after imposition of the demand charge this year which now accounts for 30% of my total bill. The demand charge was an ill concieved notion to begin with. People already try to conserve and to impose a charge on the period of time when natural usuage is at its peak for reasons of necessity simply indicates it was a way to maximize the increase in revenue for you without customers being able to do anything about it. In addition, over the last two years your service has declined to the point that is dangerous and destructive. I have a device in my home which measures incoming voltage from you. For at least three days a week and sometimes 5, voltage declines 5-6 volts- from 123 to 117-- for periods of 5-6 hours each day. This never happened previously, and while everything still operates, this does not seem like a good sign to me. Even worse, we suffer brownouts and brief power failures at least once a week and sometimes more. During these, voltages drops to the 70's and 80's in terms of volts. This is not only annoying and startling but destructive to all electronic equipment. Clocks have to be reset, TV's rebooted and heave only knows what else is being stressed. I think you need to tell the truth about the size of your proposed increases, charge the people who are causing the increase in demand more than those that are not whether that be new data centers or subdivisions, provide us measures of the quality of your service so that you can be held accountable in some way, and finally spread the incidence of your increases over more future years than 2 to make the increased burden for rate payers easier to bear. Get you act together, Susan Golden

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Susan Golden,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Your comment also mentions load growth from data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001125

Date Submitted:	7/27/2026	**Origin:**	web

Comment:

Please say No to data centers. What we need is 1. Reasonably priced electricity to care for our families 2. Clean water You can be the heroes here! Don’t fall for the hype. Keep it simple, care for your community and your family and your environment. People before profits. Just say No! To data centers.

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Dear Rebecca Jeffreys,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Thank you for your comments on data centers. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	michael	**Last Name:**	minter
Organization:			
City:	Martinsville	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	VA 24112		

SC Reference # : SC0000001126

Date Submitted: 7/27/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I don't understand why rates are so much higher than my home In Martinsville,va.During the month of April my Bill for Santee Copper was about $ 47.00 for 800 square ft, and nothing was own but the Fridge, we were in Martinsville,Va, we live in a 2400 square ft house. Our bill was $ 62.00 for the same month. This peak rate is a rip off. We don:t have anything like thie in Va. You are ready over charging us now. You need to lower the rate and get rid of the peak rate.

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Dear michael minter,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge (or the peak rate you reference) for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Shaunte	**Last Name:**	Richards
Organization:			
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC0000001127

Date Submitted: 7/28/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Our monthly utility bill is very high we are a local church in a residential community but we are yet being charged for commercial rates. Each time i pay my bill paying it on line but still being charged for the $12 dollar commercial rate. We have service twice per week and our bill runs about two hundred dollars or less or more some months. i have submitted a work order for the utility crew to cut down tree limbs on 2300 9th Avenue the limbs are hanging over power lines. Its very dangerous situation knowing Hurricane Season is upon us. The work order was cancelled with out any notification to our company. i am in favor of the rates being lower you have my vote.

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Dear Shaunte Richards,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your request has been forwarded to one of our Residential Energy Advisors. You should be contacted by your Advisor shortly to address your concerns.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Christine	**Last Name:**	Harrison
Organization:			
City:	Myrtle Beach	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	Sc 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000001129

Date Submitted: 7/28/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper I am writing to oppose the proposed rate hike. We are already being charge a mid-assessment fee for street lights through our homeowners association [Redacted] on top of our regular bills. These additional costs make it difficult for households to absorb further increase. I urge you to reconsider and find cost savings elsewhere, including by not charging mid-assessment fees. Thank you for your attention to this matter. The mid-assessment fees through paid through our HOA started in 2008. This agreement by the developers, the City of Myrtle Beach and Santee Cooper should have had a discontinued contract date. Sincerely Christine Harrison

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Dear Christine Harrison,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001130

Date Submitted: 7/28/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

No more rate hikes! Older folks come here to retire and get away from places like the liberal northeast where we're taxed to death. Living on a fixed income means we can't tolerate never-ending rate increases or we won't be able to live at all.

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Dear Alan Higgins ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001131

Date Submitted: 7/28/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern, As a Santee Cooper customer and South Carolina homeowner, I strongly oppose the proposed rate increases. Santee Cooper is asking customers to pay even more while many of us are already struggling with rising costs for groceries, insurance, housing, and everyday necessities. An additional $13 per month may not seem significant on paper, but for thousands of families, it is simply another increase on top of many others. What is even more frustrating is that this proposal ignores the financial burden already created by Santee Cooper's peak-hour pricing structure. Most working families don't have the luxury of shifting their electricity usage to the middle of the night. Peak hours are exactly when people come home from work, cook dinner, run the dishwasher, wash clothes, help their children with homework, and try to live normal lives. You're effectively charging your customers the highest rates during the only hours many of us can realistically use electricity. Customers are already being asked to change their lifestyles to accommodate your pricing model, and now you're asking them to pay even more. Santee Cooper cites population growth and aging infrastructure as reasons for these increases. Those are real challenges, but they are also foreseeable responsibilities of a utility provider. Infrastructure investment should be planned years in advance, not passed directly to customers whenever costs increase. Before asking ratepayers to shoulder another increase, Santee Cooper should clearly demonstrate: * What cost-saving measures have been implemented internally. * How executive compensation and administrative spending compare to previous years. * Why current revenues are insufficient. * What alternatives were considered before requesting higher rates. * How customers who already participate in peak-hour conservation programs are being rewarded. Electricity is not a luxury—it's an essential service. Customers deserve affordability, transparency, and accountability. I urge the Public Service Commission to reject these proposed rate increases unless Santee Cooper can demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to reduce internal costs and that customers are receiving measurable value in return. South Carolina families deserve better than higher bills year after yea

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Dear Justin Shaffer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

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.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Eric	**Last Name:**	Steakley
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001134

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Eric Steakley Account: 8606521399 So I doubt y'all have actually had anyone that has been for rate increases unless I'm guessing your C level employees because I'm sure their bonuses are tied to the increases and I'm sure like all the rest of these comments they'll go straight to the trash but I wanted to write so I am. This is bullshit. I mean your peak hours crap is bullshit as it is, I've dropped our usage like crazy during peak house and still I only see increases and now y'all wanna add over $16 a MONTH to add more infrastructure. How about you charge all these damn builders who are throwing up new slop construction on every square inch they can, pass those costs onto them. I don't want any of these new garbage houses here, let alone any more new development. I'm tired of getting screwed holding the bag because y'all just let the nuclear project flop, why it's on us to float that bill which I'm sure y'all probably got a huge tax break on even trying for clean renewable energy yet were again holding the bill. Take those people to court and force the work to be completed! Again your and their problem, why myself and all other residents are paying for it is beyond me. Also don't you think y'all should have been reinvesting into infrastructure instead of taking huge profits for the last few years although I'm sure y'all could have done both really but whatever. This won't even get read, the economy is crap as it is and y'all are just making sure you're following suit like every other industry out there and getting yalls. Anyways, we aren't for any rate increases obviously. Not that it'll change anything. Sincerely Eric Steakley

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Dear Eric Steakley,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper’s proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

In regards to your comments on new nuclear. Santee Cooper initiated a competitive process in January 2025 to complete the two partially completed AP1000 units in Fairfield County. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Traci	**Last Name:**	Bell
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001135

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hello, While I understand the need for possible new equipment, why are you punishing residential customers instead of putting it on commercial customers. I'm already doing everything I can to keep my bill low. Come 2:30 I no longer watch TV, use a computer, cook anything, wash clothes, have a/c on. I turn the AC on each night for 30 mins to lower the temps from 80s down to 78. Then turn it back off. I sit in my home with one fan on reading during peak hrs. (I'm disabled so I don't work) I'm already on a limited budget and elderly, so I can't just get in my car to go sit somewhere with AC for 3 hrs. That costs more gas, so I just stay home, and sit with no clothes on waiting for after 6 so I can eat something other than a sandwich. Think about your current customers and perhaps help us by voting against new commercial property be opened in horry county, and less new homes that aren't being occupied. Thank you Traci Bell [Redacted]

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Dear Traci Bell,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Please note that in addition to the RG rate, Santee Cooper offers a residential time-of-use rate (RT). Rather than assess an on-peak demand charge, the RT rate charges a per kWh on-peak energy charge across all on-peak hours.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Colleen	**Last Name:**	Mills
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001136

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

If your going to raise our rates twice, you have to cut us a break and drop the peak hour thing. It already has proven not to be working or you wouldn't need to raise our rates twice. Some of us live on a strict income. We can't afford anymore increases. Please do one or the other. Not both. Sincerely a 30 year customer, Colleen Mills

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santee cooper

Dear Colleen Mills,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to 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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Gerald
Last Name: Currier
Organization:
City:
Customer Type: Residential
State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001137

Date Submitted: 7/29/2026
Origin: email

Comment:

I suggest you use a higher rate, not the current penalty rate, for all Peak hours to help those who get penalized by slipping up for their high useage for one hour. Or, use the average of all the Peak hours in the month, You could raise the regular off peak rate by one cent to mitigate your loss in revenue. Gerald Currier [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Gerald Currier,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Connie	**Last Name:**	Briglio
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001138

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To the Santee Cooper Board of Directors: I appreciate the move to Balanced Demand Billing, which appears to better reflect actual residential usage than billing based on a single peak hour. However, based on Santee Cooper's own rate comparison calculator, my household's electric costs are projected to increase by approximately $250 per year by 2028. As a long-time residential customer approaching retirement, I am deeply concerned about the cumulative impact of rising utility costs, especially when combined with increasing homeowners insurance, property taxes, healthcare, and everyday living expenses. As a residential customer on a demand rate, I have made a conscious effort since the peak-hour plan was introduced to shift my electricity use outside peak hours and reduce my household's overall consumption whenever possible. I appreciate changes that recognize those efforts. Even so, the projected increase represents another significant expense for households that are already working hard to control costs. The Grand Strand continues to experience rapid residential growth, and our region's electric system is being asked to serve far more customers than it did just a few years ago. As Santee Cooper plans for that growth, I encourage the Board to ensure that the costs of expanding and modernizing the system are managed as efficiently as possible so that long-time residential customers are not disproportionately burdened by the pace of development. Our community also includes a large and growing population of retirees and older adults for whom affordability is an essential consideration. While I understand the need to maintain a reliable electric system, I encourage Santee Cooper to continue exploring every reasonable opportunity to control costs, improve operational efficiency, and minimize the financial burden on residential customers. I also encourage the Board to consider expanded energy-efficiency assistance and additional protections for seniors and customers living on fixed incomes. Finally, in keeping with Santee Cooper's stated commitment to transparency, I would appreciate greater information regarding how the costs associated with our region's rapid population growth are allocated. To what extent are these proposed rate increases driven by the need to serve new growth versus maintaining and improving the existing electric system for current customers? Understanding that distinction would help customers better understand the necessity of these increases. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully, Constance Briglio Account: [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Connie Briglio,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

In regards to your question about the rate adjustment, please visit the Santee Cooper Rate Study website for our cost projections and the drivers of the need: https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/. The "Additional Documents and Information" section provides a variety of information that may be helpful. Santee Cooper does not have a specific breakdown of the rate increase attributable to new growth.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Mike **Last Name:** Saguto

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001139

Date Submitted: 7/29/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Dear Santee Cooper, Pursuant to the public review and comment period for your proposed rate adjustment, I offer the following. After what Santee Cooper has done to us with regard to the peak hours surcharge, I find the very notion that the utility would even consider doubling down with consecutive rate increases in 2027 and 2028 to be beyond absurd. Additionally, for the "consumer advocates" at SC ORS to allow this proposed hike to somehow advance past an internal greenlighting session is deeply concerning in and of itself. Even with a substantial amount of care given to observing the peak hours, our total 2025 Santee Cooper charges were 15.51% higher than 2024, and substantially more than prior years when we had four individuals residing in the household as opposed to the two people living here now. In conversations with friends and family in other areas of the country, they are flabbergasted beyond belief that our electric utility has the gall to surcharge residential customers for peak usage. And now you are going to jack our rates up even more? With residential customers bearing the brunt of the increases in comparison to your commercial, lighting, and industrial customers?? Really??? Of course, since Santee Cooper has a monopoly as there are no other realistic choices for electricity in its service area, the answer will assuredly be "yes" as fairness to the utility's residential customers is hardly of any concern when it comes to restocking depleted coffers due to past poor business decisions. Yep – penalize those over which Santee Cooper has a stranglehold in order to pay for your mistakes. Nice gig if you can get it, I suppose…. Please do not burden us further with these rate increases as you already burden us enough. Do the right thing. Act like a real business and figure out ways to address your bottom line rather than unworthily engorging your top line at our expense to cover self-inflicted shortcomings. Regards, Mike Saguto Pawleys Island PS: After you whack us with a rate increase – which I suppose is a foregone conclusion – might Santee Cooper possibly consider giving its customers a temporary break from these extreme peak rates during the "shoulder" months of April/May and October/November? Air conditioning and heating demands during these months are historically low and as such do not warrant the peak usage rates. Of course you won't, but I figured I'd throw it out there anyway since when I previously posed this reasonable inquiry in an email to customer service and they assured me that they would forward it to the appropriate department, I received no further replies.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Mike Saguto,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Philip **Last Name:** Welch

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001140

Date Submitted: 7/29/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

[Customer attached PDF to email with comments.]

Comments on Proposed Rate Adjustment

Three rate increases over a four-year period is excessive. I see the reason for this being one or more of the following:

- Overestimate of the additional revenue expected from the 2025 rate adjustment
- Underestimate of increased power and energy demand following the 2025 adjustment
- Impact of proposed data centers to be built in the Carolinas and neighboring states on the power grid and related infrastructure. I don't believe the SC legislation on additional costs being charged to the facilities will be sufficient. Some costs will need to be passed on to existing customers.
- The 2027 and 2028 rate adjustments were planned along with the 2025 adjustment. It was decided to spread out the increases over a four year period to minimize customer concerns.

The percent increase is significantly higher for Residential customers compared to Commercial and Industrial accounts. We need to understand Residential customers are the least able to increase income and/or decrease expenses compared with the other types of accounts.

Within Residential customers the effect is disproportionate. Low income and fixed income customers will have the greatest burden. There is less impact on those with six figure incomes compared to those with incomes of $50,000 or less per year.

Please consider the following options:

1. Balance the rate increases across all types of accounts – residential, commercial, industrial.
2. Use a lower rate structure for permanent South Carolina residents and a higher rate for rental properties and second homes. In general, those who have rental properties and/or second homes are more able to absorb increased utility costs.

3. Use tiered rates based on consumption to assist lower income customers. Start with a base rate for let's say the first 500 or 1000 kwh per month and incremental increases for those using more energy. Although people with low income may have high energy use, this would provide additional motivation for reducing energy use and saving money.

Thank you for your consideration,

Philip J. Welch (Residential customer)

[redacted]

Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Email: [redacted]

Phone: [redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Philip Welch,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

In regards to your alternate collection suggestions, we will consider and review your proposals. Any proposed modifications resulting from this review will be presented to the Board on Sept. 29.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Jimmy	**Last Name:**	Edwards
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001141

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

James W Edwards [Redacted] Myrtle Beach SC 29577 Account #: [Redacted] I am against a rate increase I am a retired police officer age 66 and live on a fixed income I have a mortgage-insurance-utilities to pay for along with a Medicare Supplement and Prescription Drug Plan Increases should be passed on to these National Home Builders who are flooding our community with more homes for sale they are the root of the problem I have lived in SC particularly in MB since 1962 and I never had a problem with paying my bills but with the increase in structures and the demand for service why is it we hve to pay more for others to come here Thank you Sent from my iPhone

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Jimmy Edwards,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Debbie	**Last Name:**	Esposito
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001142

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Here is a good idea: Perhaps have a fee for developers to pay for increased infrastructure costs and generation cost based on the size of the project and a projected cost of generation over a 10 year period. How about this, charge the commercial/industrial sector more for energy seeing as they use the most and turn a profit while sucking it of the grid. Do not charge the residents for the massive infrastructure that must be built for commercial and industrial purposes and say it is to maintain what we already have in place when its not. Do not build Data centers(we all know you have to beef up the grid to supply their massive demand) Charge them to install an new generation station to supply just them, see how that rides. Opposed to all Thank You!!!

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Debbie Esposito,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Your comment mentions data centers as a concern. Santee Cooper's proposed rates include an incrementally priced rate for High Impact Loads like data centers that ensures other customers' rates do not increase as a result of a data center joining the system.

We will consider and review your other comments. Any proposed modifications resulting from this review will be presented to the Board on Sept. 29.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Michele **Last Name:** Jolly

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001143

Date Submitted: 7/29/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

[Customer attached a PDF document to email with comments.]

July 27, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Santee Cooper
1 Riverwood Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
rates@santeecooper.com

To Whom It May Concern:

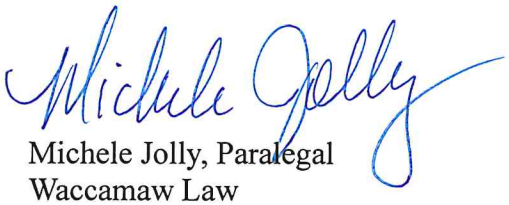
I am writing in regards to your proposed rate increases. While I doubt that you care much what anyone has to say about the subject, and have probably already made up your minds to go forward no matter what the public says or thinks, I figured it couldn't be the worst waste of my time to add my name to the list of customers that vehemently oppose any kind of rate increase whatsoever. Your charges are already absurd – charging people $20 every billing cycle just for existing as a customer, and I dare not even get started on how bogus the whole "demand" charge is. It is an unfair and predatory way to make extra money on the backs of working people who are already taxed into oblivion and for the most part are just doing their best not to drown in the escalating costs of everyday needs.

I used to believe that Santee Cooper cared about the people of South Carolina but if that was ever the case, nothing could be further from the truth now. You people who sit in boardrooms making decisions have apparently lost all concept of what it's like out here just trying to get from paycheck to paycheck, doing the best you can to pay everything on time, every time, and hoping that at the end of the bills there will be something left to go to the grocery store with, or put gas in the car with. So many people are only getting by, certainly not getting ahead, and rate increases from enormous companies like Santee Cooper are unwelcome, to say the least. Perhaps instead of spending so much money on the advertising that goes into the envelopes with the bills, trying to push people to buy "smart" items, you should save that money and put it back into the company so rate hikes like this don't have to happen. And if there really is no other way around it, perhaps they at least wouldn't be so high if you would make some cuts too. Everybody is always so eager to just jack up prices instead of approaching things with an honesty and thoughtfulness that would exhaust all other possibilities – and by that I mean finding ways that costs could be cut internally first – instead of always expecting John Q. Customer to pick up the slack. We're all doing the best we can out here, so the least you could do is the same within the company. How about cutting back on salaries for managers and executives? Why not scale back some executive perks that the company pays for? We're all supposed to be in this together – except it seems that we most certainly are not. And if you have tried those things already, well then please accept my sincerest apologies. You will excuse me, however, if I don't, in my heart of hearts, believe you have ever considered those kinds of things before, or that you ever will. It's much too easy to burden the thousands of nameless, faceless people that you don't ever have to see or look in the eye.

So add this letter to the pile of "nays", if you have one. I sincerely hope that enough people have spoken out against this and that these rate increases won't happen. I am a single female, 53 years old, making too much money to get any help with anything at all, yet not

making enough to get ahead, or save money, or do anything but live paycheck to paycheck and pray that nothing bad happens. I can promise you I am not the only one out here being held hostage by companies like you, either.

With kind regards,



Michele Jolly, Paralegal
Waccamaw Law
Pawleys Island, SC

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Michele Jolly,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is customer costs, or costs that are directly related to the number of customers, such as customer accounting and the costs of meters. These costs are included in the customer charge portion of your bill.

In addition, a portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Nancy	**Last Name:**	Lipe
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001144

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Please find an attached letter commenting on the proposed rate changes and changes to peak energy calculations. The last rate change in 2025 increased our cost per KWH by 71% and we have recommendations on how to correct this with the next rate adjustment. The account information is in the letter but is also provided below for your convenience. Account name: Nancy Lipe. Account number: [REDACTED]. Property Address: [REDACTED] North Myrthe Beach, SC [Customer attached a PDF document to the email with comments.]

[REDACTED]
Richfield, NC 28137 July 26, 2026

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

Re: Account number [REDACTED] Property Address: [REDACTED] North Myrthe Beach, SC

Dear Santee Cooper,

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the proposed rate increase and adjustment to the method used to charge for peak rates. When the previous billing change was implemented in April 2025, **my cost per KWH increased by 71%.** This is based on a review of my bills from July 2024 through June 2026. Prior to the April 2025 bill, I consistently paid $0.10/KWH for my electricity. From April 2025 through June 2026 the price per KWH ranged from $0.11/KWH to $0.28/KWH with an average of $0.17/KWH – a 70% increase. (A table with the data is included at the end of this letter.)

The reason for the 71% increase in my charge is the disconnect between the method Santee Cooper uses to charge for peak energy usage and the use patterns of my condo. The condo is a second home for my family and is only occupied 1-2 weeks a month. As a result, the highest usage always hits when it is occupied. The rest of the month, we minimize energy usage by turning off the hot water heater and turning the thermostat to 62 degrees in the winter and 80 degrees in the summer. We even have a programmable thermostat that changes the temperature setting to 60 degrees during winter peak and 85 degrees during summer peak when we are not there. Essentially, we are paying more per KWH on average because we use significantly less electricity than a fully occupied condo unit of a similar size outside of the peak hours.

The change to use an average of the 4 highest days will not help much. Per the Santee Cooper calculator, we will save an average of $0.83/month (or about 1.2%/month) with the new approach for 2027. This is better than the forecast of a $6.60/month projected average increase for residential customers but does not make up for the outsized increase we had to deal with from the April 2025 rate hike. For comparable periods before and after April 2025, our average monthly bills increased from $45.37 to $66.32 – an increase of 46%. And this was reduced from what it would have been with our addition of a smart thermostat and the behavioral changes we implemented to try and “defeat the peak”.

I believe the use of a very limited number of days to assess a premium energy charge will always unfairly discriminate against owners of second homes who use their property a limited number of weeks a month, forcing them to pay a higher-than-average rate per

KWH than other customers. Even spreading the peak usage rate across 4 days does little to improve the situation as the owners will likely be in residence for those four days of the month.

Hopefully you will consider an alternate approach for encouraging your customers to “defeat the peak” while not overcharging those of us with second homes due to our electricity usage patterns. For example, if the program picked the worst peak hour from each week and averaged those, it would better match the second homeowner’s actual usage pattern to their rate while still encouraging others to “defeat the peak” on an on-going basis. Such a change may also encourage second homeowners to further reduce their usage during peak hours when they are not in residence (by turning off their water heater and adjusting their thermostat) as it would lead to significant savings.

I understand the need to conserve electricity and control peak usage as much as possible. It will help reduce costs by not requiring new generators or purchasing peak energy from other suppliers. I am just requesting that the increases are fairly distributed across all of your customers and those of us with second homes are not be penalized by the method you use to charge for peak electrical use.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you wish, you may contact me at ed-lipe@carolina.rr.com.

Sincerely,

Edward Lipe

Table of energy usage and cost before and after the previous rate increase in April 2025.

Bill date	Monthly Charge	KWH	KW Peak	cust chrg	Energychrg	$KWH
7/15/2024	$80.05	545	4.3	$19.50	$60.55	$0.11
8/15/2024	$48.48	255	4.8	$19.50	$28.98	$0.11
9/15/2024	$50.78	274	5.3	$19.50	$31.28	$0.11
10/15/2024	$37.73	193	1.1	$19.50	$18.23	$0.09
11/15/2024	$33.53	146	6.1	$19.50	$14.03	$0.10
12/15/2024	$68.60	544	3.1	$19.50	$49.10	$0.09
1/15/2025	$62.76	478	1.6	$19.50	$43.26	$0.09
2/15/2025	$69.84	538	4.9	$19.50	$50.34	$0.09
3/15/2025	$53.98	353	2	$19.50	$34.48	$0.10
Totals	**$56.19**	**3326**			**$330.25**	**$0.10**
4/15/2025	$45.81	177	1.4	$20.00	$25.81	$0.15
5/15/2025	$44.92	156	1.5	$20.00	$24.92	$0.16
6/15/2025	$60.43	252	2.5	$20.00	$40.43	$0.16
7/15/2025	$104.29	376	4.6	$20.00	$84.29	$0.22
8/15/2025	$65.59	395	1.5	$20.00	$45.59	$0.12
9/15/2025	$77.83	223	4.6	$20.00	$57.83	$0.26
10/15/2025	$68.03	209	3.6	$20.00	$48.03	$0.23
11/15/2025	$43.49	165	1.1	$20.00	$23.49	$0.14
12/15/2025	$56.48	325	1.2	$20.00	$36.48	$0.11
1/15/2026	$80.40	367	3.7	$20.00	$60.40	$0.16
2/15/2026	$127.23	719	5.3	$20.00	$107.23	$0.15
3/15/2026	$60.04	297	1.4	$20.00	$40.04	$0.13
4/15/2026	$67.61	169	3.7	$20.00	$47.61	$0.28
5/15/2026	$54.64	173	2.2	$20.00	$34.64	$0.20
6/15/2026	$38.01	185	0.2	$20.00	$18.01	$0.10
Totals	**$75.93**	**4188**			**$694.80**	**$0.17**

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Nancy Lipe,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

We appreciate your comments regarding the impact of demand billing and recognizing that Balanced Demand Billing will provide benefits to you. Please note that in addition to the RG rate, Santee Cooper offers a residential time-of-use rate (RT). Rather than assess an on-peak demand charge, the RT rate charges a per kWh on-peak energy charge across all on-peak hours. More information can be found on the Santee Cooper Rate Study website: https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Irene	**Last Name:**	Piecora
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001145

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Those Raising Rates - I am annoyed with the factor that the rates had not been increased for many years and now another rate increase (after 2025) is being proposed so very soon. I am also disgusted with the $20 customer fee. You have a monopoly in the area so why penalize customers, when the choice is so extremely limited. The Peak Hour situation is absurd and holds individuals hostage to a schedule you presume to be efficient (yes, presume - even with all of your data studies). If another system is being built, just increase the rates in that area, why are all Santee Cooper customers being impacted with the new facility build fees? You state that the increase averages to $6.60 a month, or $0.20 a day, how nice of you to buffer it in such a minimal manner. You offer these programs to control thermostats during high grid timeframes, and yes I do take advantage - after fighting with the website, emailing customer service, etc.. - but why offer that? You pulled one program to put in place another, which is hard to sign up for. I used to feel good about Santee Cooper, now I just feel trapped. I'm sure my email will be ignored or a blatant pre-scripted reply with be provided. Either way, I wanted to state my opinion. Regards, Irene Piecora

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Irene Piecora,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is customer costs, or costs that are directly related to the number of customers, such as customer accounting and the costs of meters. These costs are included in the customer charge portion of your bill.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Margaret	**Last Name:**	Halasnik
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001146

Date Submitted:	7/29/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Hello We have been tracking our residential energy cost month by month and year over year since late 2023, before the peak charge was initiated. Based on our energy cost (understanding that energy use is weather dependent), we have been using LESS energy in comparable months during that span but when the peak charge is added each month our overall Santee Cooper bill is either the same or more money each month thereby wiping out any apparent savings. From what we can see, you never really Beat the Peak - whether you're being assessed $20 or $100 peak charge per month depending on energy usage, no matter how it's calculated, the program is an added fee. If the peak charge were removed, we would truly see a savings. With the pending residential base rate increases (4.7% in 2027 and 4.6% in 2028) and the peak charge continuing (just calculated a new way) there will be no savings and on average our increase will be approximately $60 to $70/month through 2028. We assume other residential customers will see the same energy costs or higher. When can we anticipate that the Beat the Peak charge will be retired so that we can truly recognize a savings?? Development throughout the coastal region has been on the uptick for more than 10 years. We understand that the base rate increases are a two year plan to fund critical infrastructure upgrades and new generation/transmission projects throughout the Santee Cooper coverage area. Once these new generation & transmission projects and upgrades are complete, will it remove Santee Cooper's reliance / purchase of electricity / gas / other from outside sources? If no, what is the long term plan? How will these new upgrades / projects once completed affect the added Beat the Peak fee?? Margaret Halasnik Acct#: [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Margaret Halasnik,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge (or what you refer to as the peak charge in your comment) for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

For information on Santee Cooper's long-term resource plans, please visit our Integrated Resource Planning page at: www.santeecooper.com/about/integrated-resource-plan.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Angela	**Last Name:**	Marcone
Organization:			
City:	Pawleys Island	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29585-6159		

SC Reference # : SC0000001148

Date Submitted: 7/29/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Please see attached letter. Thank you. [Customer attached PDF to the comment.]

Angela Marcone
[REDACTED] Red Rose Blvd
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Account # [REDACTED]

July 29, 2026

Santee Cooper
1 Riverwood Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Att: Jimmy Station, President and CEO
Greg McCormick, Sr. Dir. Fin. Planning

RE:Ideas and suggestions for the Community Residential Price Increases

Dear Mr. Staton,

While I was first made aware that Santee Cooper was going to be adding "**peak hour**" changes in mailed consumer letters, I along with many others was not prepared for these additional charges. Even though Santee Cooper sent letters and announcements, the reality of the cost did not actually hold impact with anyone in the community until the charges began to appear.

Most residential customers felt and still feel that we are shouldering the burden of community growth and lack of preparation by Santee Cooper. Growth is and should be positive but, as you pointed out in the meeting, it impacts our electrical grid systems. It seems there are many factors related to handling the growth. And that various ideas and conversations have been considered to handle and prepare for the future. Which led to the conclusion of raising consumer rates and charging peak hour fees.

In listening to your presentation, I am aware that you and the company are working to try and find the most effective ways to support the community and to handle the growth and expansion that is happening more quickly than anticipated.

I am also aware through rumors and talk, that there was a project related to Santee and other electrical companies in the area that was stalled and even shut down several years ago. Many argue that money was spent during that time and that now an attempt to make up for unwise decisions is impacting the community. Since I don't know the logistics of that rumor, I can only react to the present dilemma. And what has happened in the past is over and we have to find solutions to our current needs.

While I understand adding ***congestion*** prices for those who are **unaware** or do not care about their **impact** on our energy use creates awareness and even a shock factor, it is the rest of the community who feel that we are being punished. . Your concepts of a blanket charge of $8. Per kWh used during defined hours seems logical, but it begins to crumble in theory as the charges are implemented.

Of course the first line of thought is to make those who are abusive pay more, but I emphasize and feel strongly that this is the first line of charges and **cannot be an across the board fee**. Especially for senior citizens and those who are on fixed incomes.

As I stated in my comments in the meeting on July 28th at the Waccamaw Library, I am a proponent of offering solutions rather than complaints.

I expressed some of these ideas at the meeting and I would like to formally present them and other ideas for consideration.

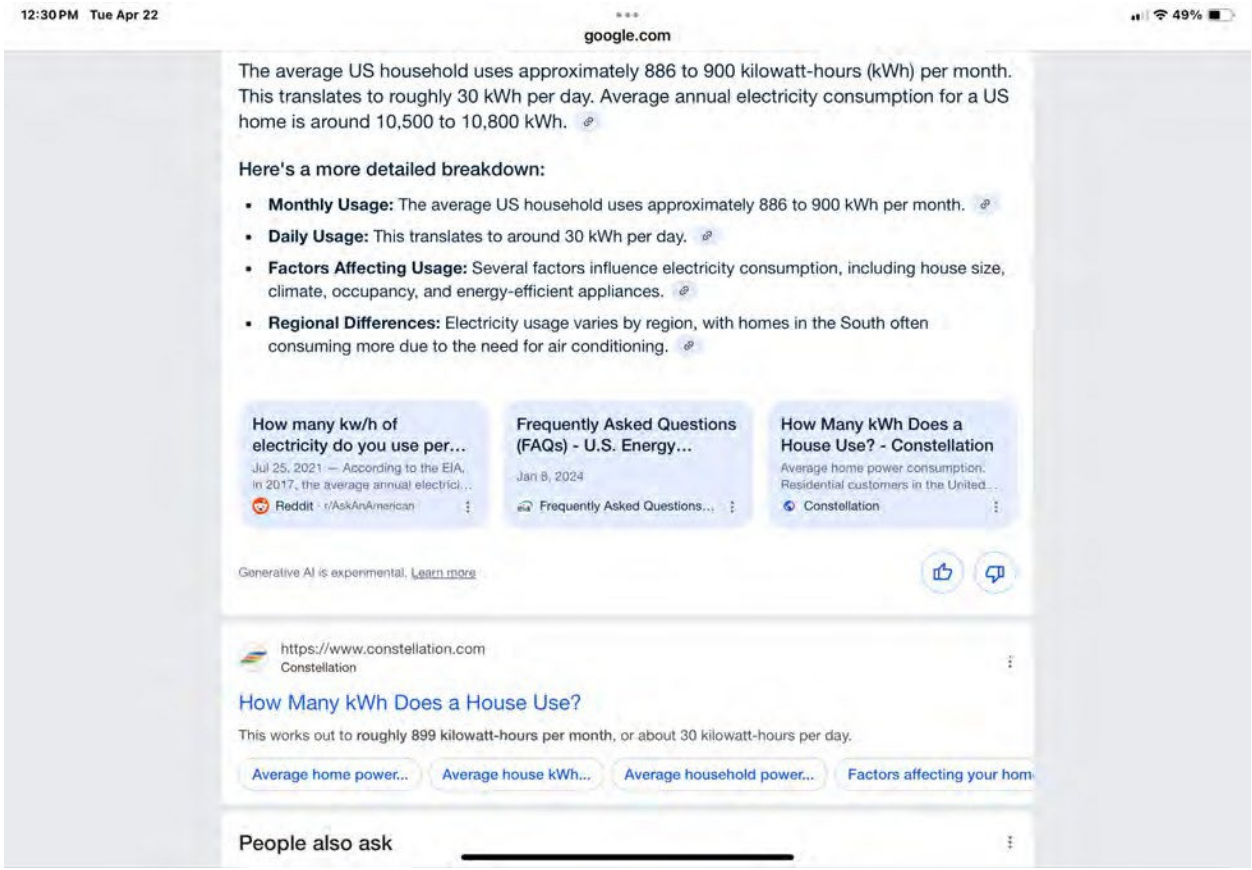
Key Points Below:

1. I think that based on what I am seeing, ***perhaps time and effort can be applied thinking through some alternative logistics and deeper database queries can be made*** to justify this new fee you are charging.

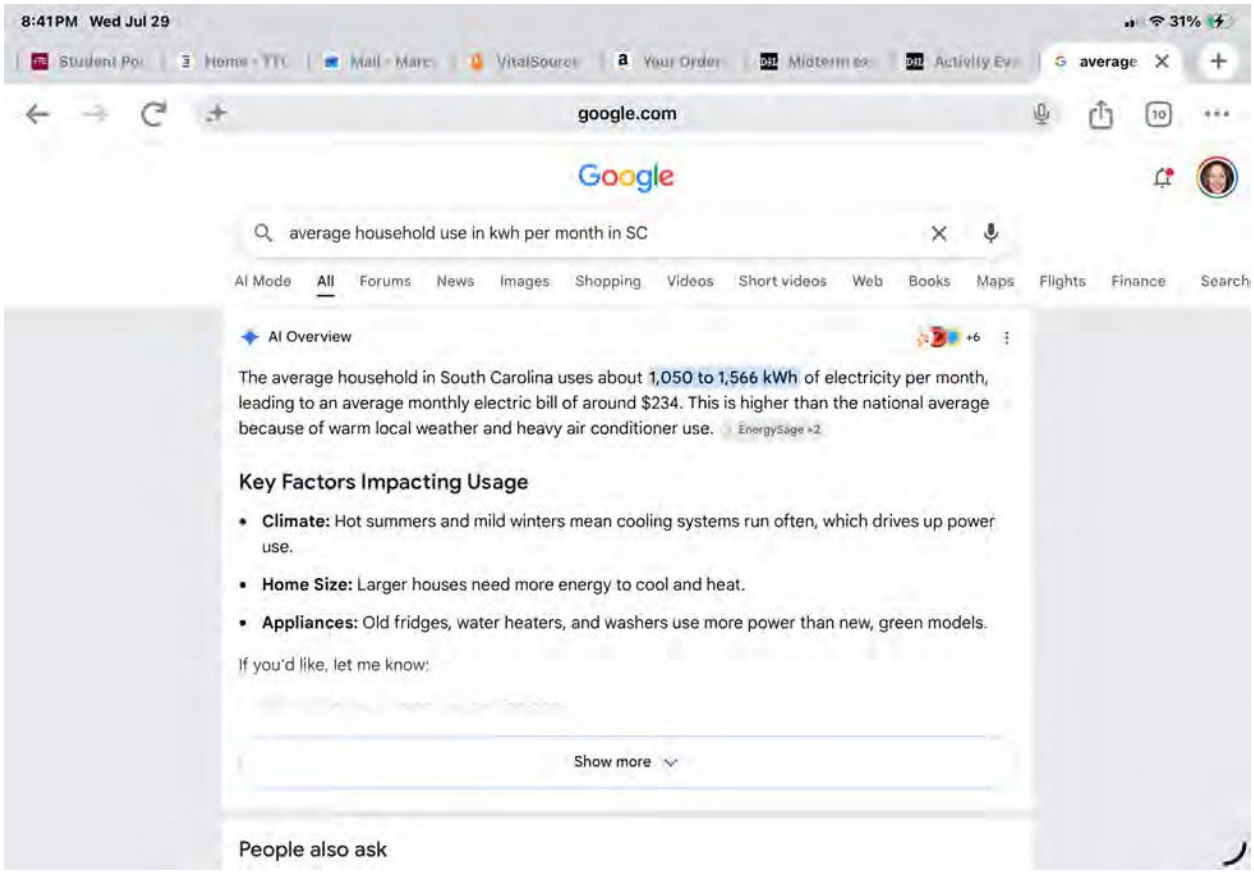
2. Perhaps **another round of research** (residential) could look at those **abusers** who go **above** the **average household usages** of energy per month, from a given set of factors.
    a. Size/ square footage vs average use and abusive use
    b. Beach rental gaining income that can be passed on
    c. Abusive use during peak hours.

3. Any normal sized or smaller ***households*** that use well ***below the average use*** are **NOT** charged the peak hour fees. Doesn't that make sense and also give reward to those who are aware and working to assist you to meet your goals?

Here is a response to the average household use in US…in April of this year.



Average US household usage is 886 - 900 KWh per month. (Translates to 30kwh per day.)



Average household use in South Carolina versus US…

My monthly usage for one month is = 346 kWh.
My Max usage for one month is = 652 kWh

Even during the hottest month, my usage is lower than the US average and ½ of SC average.

So even though your logic is that during peak hours you are having to supply more power than is currently available, it just seems that more detailed research can provide data that will identify those who should be charged more or even experience loss of power for the abuse.

Below are my ideas for further research:

Brainstorming Ideas for a more Logical Shift by Santee:

Perform a **database** search of the **top usage** households within the region.

Do the **same** *for* a particular **subset** community

Target the **abusers** first before charging everyone across the community.

Determine the **household size** and **average** monthly. **KWh** used. (1 year data)
compare this data to the State Average
compare this data to the US Average

If household uses less than subset community, (remove the "peak hour parameter)

Database search households with **single** or two person **occupancy** (house size, apt. Size, etc…)

- Adjust peak charge $ parameters for those who have a **smaller** footprint.
- Compare a 1 year analysis for average charges
- **Only** charge "**peak**" or extra charges **when** identified **abuse** parameters are met.

Target high users/abusers first - $X per X kwh

Relief for those who adjust to the new charges for peak times…(analyze drop in usage and **reward** with refund or other gift **annually**) (thermostat, humidifier, etc.)

Identify **households who use less than the average** usages monthly - **remove** any **peak** charge application here

Database **search** number of households with **senior** citizens over **65**

Identify Senior Citizen and **fixed income** people and **remove** any **peak** charges unless abuse is detected. (Set parameters to recognize use above normal household average or above the normal average for this user)

Work with community instead of dictating to the community:

Perhaps explain to customers the ultimate goal and then issue requests in a personalized letter. Ask to work together as a team. Explain the $$ goals and what it would take to meet the goals. Example: Each household will be charged an additional $25 per month per household for a set number of months. Reevaluate savings and distance from goals after that goal date.

BIG ONE: - Incoming residents or builders who are building new and large lots…
Contact the **state** to **collect** a "***move to town***" fee for **new residents** and **builders**. (IE: 5k towards the grid per household upon new nome build)

Hopefully you will consider some of these ideas and implement to allow the residential consumers to feel that they are heard and that concessions can be made to assist.

Speaking of **assistance**. Because I lived up north for many years, I was aware of a monthly rate option and an annual reconciliation. Even though your website contains links, many elderly

people in the community do not know of the programs available to assist them with these new charges and changes to their utility bill.

Perhaps spend more in advertising and social media to inform residential customers of:

- LIEP
- Weatherizing Assistance
- Budget Billing
- Payment Assistance

The goal is to have the community work with you to resolve the issues that have been presented. Rather than alienate the community by implementing charges generically across the board. I know for myself that if I were asked to participate to assist in the energy crisis, I would be amenable to helping. It is the same concept of making employees feel empowered.

Thank you for your time to read my letter and consider my proposals.

Respectfully,

Angela Marcone

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Angela Marcone,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment and for your comments at our public meeting. I also appreciated our conversation after the meeting where you explained some of the concepts you have outlined in the attached letter.

Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

We will consider the alternate concepts you propose in your letter and will take them into consideration as we evaluate rate structures and cost recovery options. Any modifications to our currently proposed rates will be presented to be Board of Directors on Sept. 29th.

In regards to your comments on new nuclear, which I believe is the project you refer to in your email. Santee Cooper initiated a competitive process in January 2025 to complete the two partially completed AP1000 units in Fairfield County. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Thomas	**Last Name:**	Prickett
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001149

Date Submitted:	7/30/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Raising rates again?? You just got an over the top increase for 2026!! Thousands of people are moving into the area so your profits on your base rates are going up. If you run the business correctly you do not need to increase your rates every year. It's time to stop ripping off the citizens!! Tom Prickett [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Thomas Prickett,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is a not-for-profit public power utility. 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 our customers.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Valerie	**Last Name:**	Stewart
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001150

Date Submitted:	7/30/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

To Whom it may concern: Please do not burden us with a rate increase. I am begging you. Valerie Stewart The Litchfield Company-Christie's International Real Estate Sales Agent License [Redacted] Cell: [Redacted] Office: [Redacted]

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Valerie Stewart,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Ginny	**Last Name:**	Dority
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001151

Date Submitted:	7/30/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

If the $20 dollar service charge for the failed nuclear plant and the peak hours charge is eliminated then I would agree to a rate increase. Virginia B. Dority

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Ginny Dority,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

In regards to your comments on nuclear. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Due to the uncertainty of this transaction, Santee Cooper's financial plan assumes no impact from the potential sale of the nuclear assets. If the transaction is completed, Santee Cooper expects to use the proceeds to pay down debt, which will reduce the cost recovery needed from our customers. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	GINA	**Last Name:**	HANZEL
Organization:			
City:	MYRTLE BEACH	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29577		

SC Reference # : SC0000001152

Date Submitted: 7/30/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

You need to stop pricing people out of their comfort. We pay you and you refuse to adequately provide the service we depend on. We are the consumer. But the monopoly has turn us into hostages to your inability to operate as you should. If it is growth? Use your leverage to impact the over-growth that you are unable to provide service for. Try being advocates for your customers for a change.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear GINA HANZEL,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Karen	**Last Name:**	Wesdorp
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001153

Date Submitted:	7/30/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Simply put, please don't increase electric billing. It's so difficult to understand why you propose to do this to citizens at all, let alone two years in a row and on top of peak period billing. The average citizen can not continue to carry the burden for all the mistakes made in this county over the last decade or two. Citizens are being punished through higher gas prices, higher food prices, higher clothes prices, higher rent/home buying prices, higher taxes, higher electricity rates, etc., etc. Almost everything, especially anything that involves a supply chain process, has prices going through the roof. People here are struggling like they haven't in nearly a century. Aren't your peak period prices punishment enough for your mismanagement? Think about the hardship you have imposed on the families that have no choice but to rely on you as the sole option for electricity? They have to pay peak charges just to get their kids up for school, washed, fed and out the door during the school year. The parents work all day, pick up their kids from some kind of care, sport, etc., in the late afternoon and then you charge them peak prices just at the time when they have little choice but to make a meal to feed their family. I have talked to people who work in service industries here and your pricing is bringing them to their knees. Take a house keeper/cleaning person for example. Many of them clean homes/rentals all day and have to do laundry for the people they work for whenever they can get to it. And as I've been told, that typically means their washer and dryer are running either early in the morning before they go to work at other people's homes, or in the later afternoon. I've also told people in other parts of the United States about your peak period pricing and they are shocked and appalled. They have never heard of such a thing and say they could never live like this. Honestly, your company should be ashamed of what you are doing. I see the average citizen of your coverage area as victims of your incompetence. They're also the victims of our incompetent county council who just continue to approve the building of huge developments with zero regard for support and infrastructure. So I ask again, please figure out how to run your business better. Think outside the box. Do whatever you can to continue to provide good reliable service without adding to the overwhelmingly stressful financial situation the average Georgetown County and SC citizen finds themselves in now. You have my permission to publish this email BUT you may not use my name, my email address or any other identifying information of me. I look forward to shortly hearing a response from you. Karen Wesdorp

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Karen Wesdorp,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper understands that some of our customers may face financial pressures, and we are committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each customer group and costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Sheila **Last Name:** DeHaven

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001154

Date Submitted: 7/30/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

Santee Cooper, I am writing to express serious concern regarding the proposed rate increases. I reside in a 1,300 square foot condominium and already pay close to $200 per month while maintaining a modest temperature of 73 degrees. I also avoid using appliances during peak hours. Despite these efforts, the current costs are already burdensome, and an additional $25 increase over the next two years is untenable for many residents, particularly those on fixed incomes. The peak hour structure is placing an undue strain on residential customers, effectively forcing lifestyle changes because of the company's inability to maintain affordable energy rates. It is also unclear why residential consumers are absorbing the majority of these increases while business customers are not held to the same standard. Any rate adjustments—up or down—should be applied equitably across all customer categories. I strongly urge you to reconsider these proposed increases and adopt more responsible, consumer focused strategies that support residential customers rather than placing additional financial pressure on them. Regards, Sheila DeHaven Pawleys Island

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Sheila DeHaven,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

We also offer flexible payment options and assistance programs: www.santeecooper.com/residential/payment-assistance. We encourage you to contact us if you think these options may apply to your situation.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Donna	**Last Name:**	Levesque
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001155

Date Submitted:	7/30/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Our account is for [Redacted] under the name Michael & Donna Levesque. We adamantly oppose any rate increases! We also do NOT think it is fair that you have "peak" times where you can charge us more. Please reconsider raising our rates, as times are tough enough as it is! The Levesque's

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Donna Levesque,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name: Connie **Last Name:** Huber

Organization:

City: **Customer Type:**

State / Zip:

SC Reference # : SC0000001156

Date Submitted: 7/30/2026 **Origin:** email

Comment:

No increase. Sent from Connie's IPhone

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Connie Huber,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

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Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

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

SC Reference # : SC0000001159

Date Submitted: 7/30/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Santee Cooper's proposed electric rate increases and to urge you to reject this proposal in its current form. Electricity is not a luxury, it is an essential service that every household depends on. Increasing electric rates places an even greater financial burden on customers who are already struggling with previous rate increases, time-of-use peak-hour charges, and monthly deferred cost recovery fees resulting from past decisions made by Santee Cooper. Customers have no choice but to rely on electricity, and many working families, seniors, and individuals with medical needs cannot simply rearrange their daily lives around designated peak periods to avoid higher costs. Rather than encouraging conservation, the current pricing structure often penalizes people for using electricity during the times they naturally need it most. I am also deeply concerned that the proposed rate increases disproportionately impact residential customers. Under this proposal, residential customers face a significantly higher increase than commercial, industrial, and lighting customers. Families should not be expected to shoulder a larger percentage of the financial burden while businesses receive comparatively smaller increases. This disparity raises serious questions about fairness and whether residential customers are being asked to subsidize costs that should be shared more equitably among all customer classes. Santee Cooper spokesperson Tracy Vreeland has stated that the proposed increases are necessary because of aging infrastructure and the need to expand the electric system to accommodate South Carolina's rapidly growing population. Ms. Vreeland explained that "we've seen significant additions to our system the past couple of years as people move here, and we have to be able to provide power for them. So, we have to grow our system to be able to supply that power." While growth undoubtedly requires planning and investment, existing customers should not be expected to bear the primary financial responsibility for infrastructure expansion that is driven by new customer demand. Long-time customers should not be forced to subsidize the cost of serving future development. New growth should pay a fair share of the costs associated with expanding the system rather than shifting those costs onto existing residential ratepayers who have faithfully paid their electric bills for years. Equally concerning is Santee Cooper's acknowledgment that its electric system is aging. Aging infrastructure does not occur overnight. It raises an important question: Why has Santee Cooper allowed its system to reach a point where substantial upgrades are now necessary instead of making consistent investments in maintenance, modernization, and replacement over time? Effective utility management requires long-term planning and preventative maintenance. Customers should not be expected to absorb large rate increases resulting from years of deferred infrastructure investment or inadequate planning. Before asking customers to pay more, Santee Cooper should demonstrate that it has exhausted every reasonable effort to improve operational efficiency, reduce unnecessary spending, eliminate waste, and carefully evaluate executive compensation and discretionary expenditures. As a state-owned utility, Santee

Cooper has a responsibility to manage public resources prudently and to protect the customers it serves. Ratepayers should not be expected to finance inefficiencies or management decisions over which they have no control. I respectfully urge Santee Cooper and its Board to withdraw the proposed rate increases, reevaluate the current peak-hour pricing structure, and develop a more balanced approach that protects residential customers while ensuring necessary investments are funded fairly and responsibly. Customers deserve affordable, reliable electric service, greater transparency regarding utility spending, and confidence that long-term infrastructure needs are being managed proactively rather than addressed through repeated rate increases. Thank you for providing customers the opportunity to comment on this proposal. I sincerely hope these concerns are given meaningful consideration before any final decision is made. Respectfully, Lana Madison

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Lana Madison,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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To further address your question about cost control measures, Santee Cooper executed debt refinancings in 2024 and 2025 that lowered interest cost to customers by approximately $220 million and generated an annual savings of approximately $7 million in 2027 and 2028. Santee Cooper has also been working with large customers to identify additional opportunities to make their power curtailable when needed, which reduces our need to purchase capacity for the system. These efforts have saved customers an estimated $75 million per year.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

This concept also addresses your comments about the current pricing structure penalizing customers. To determine rates, costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

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Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Sylvia	**Last Name:**	Bauer
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001160

Date Submitted:	7/31/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Good Afternoon Santee Cooper, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed electric rate increase. Electricity is not a luxury—it is an essential service that every household depends on. Increasing electric rates worsens the financial burden on customers who are already struggling with your recent increases and peak hours charges and who are forced to pay monthly deferred cost recovery fees for your past activities. Additionally, customers are expected to rearrange their daily lives around arbitrary peak periods simply to try to avoid higher costs. Many people—including working families, seniors, and those with medical needs—cannot realistically shift their energy use to off-peak hours. Rather than rewarding conservation, this system often feels like a penalty for living a normal life. Also, the proposed rate increases are significantly higher for residential customers compared to proposed increases for commercial, lighting and industrial customers which comes across as an unfair attempt to favor businesses at the expense of families. Before asking customers to pay more, the company should make efforts to improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary spending, and control operating costs. Ratepayers should not be expected to bear the consequences of decisions over which they have no control. I respectfully urge you to withdraw your rate increase proposal and instead focus on providing reliable, affordable service and reevaluating the current peak-hours pricing structure. Customers deserve transparency, fairness, and a genuine commitment to keeping electricity affordable. Thank you for considering my comments. I hope the concerns of your customers will be given the serious attention they deserve. Sincerely, Sylvia Bauer Murrells Inlet

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Sylvia Bauer,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

This concept also addresses your comments about penalizing customers. To determine rates, costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

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times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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Sincerely,



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	Patricia	**Last Name:**	Casey-Olsen
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001161

Date Submitted:	7/31/2026	**Origin:**	email

Comment:

Good Afternoon Evening, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed electric rate hikes. Electricity is not a luxury, it is an essential service that every household depends on. Increasing electric rates worsens the financial burden on customers who are already struggling with your recent increases and peak hours charges and who are forced to pay monthly deferred cost recovery fees for your past activities. Additionally, customers are expected to rearrange their daily lives around arbitrary peak periods simply to try to avoid higher costs. Many people, including working families, seniors, and those with medical needs, cannot realistically shift their energy use to off-peak hours. Rather than rewarding conservation, this system often feels like a penalty for living a normal life. Also, the proposed rate increases are significantly higher for residential customers compared to proposed increases for commercial, lighting and industrial customers which comes across as an unfair attempt to favor businesses at the expense of families. Before asking customers to pay more, the company should make efforts to improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary spending, and control operating costs. Ratepayers should not be expected to bear the consequences of decisions over which they have no control. I respectfully urge you to withdraw your rate increase proposal and instead focus on providing reliable, affordable service and reevaluating the current peak-hours pricing structure. Customers deserve transparency, fairness, and a genuine commitment to keeping electricity affordable. Thank you for considering my comments. I hope the concerns of your customers will be given the serious attention they deserve.

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear Patricia Casey-Olsen,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper is committed to keeping costs as low as possible. Before proposing this adjustment, we reduced costs where we could. Even with these efforts, the cost to provide electricity to customers is rising in ways we cannot avoid without affecting reliability. Our current financial plan indicates a revenue deficiency beginning in 2027. This projected deficiency means a retail rate adjustment is needed. We are making necessary investments in power generation and the electric grid to meet growing demand and ensure dependable service, especially during peak winter conditions.

Rates are based on the cost to serve each group and the cost to serve residential customers is rising faster than for others. This is primarily because residential customers use electricity more during peak times when electricity is most expensive to produce. Santee Cooper is committed to helping customers manage their energy use and bills. We offer a variety of programs to help reduce energy costs, including energy-saving tools and efficiency programs: https://www.santeecooper.com/programs-incentives.

This concept also addresses your comments about the peak charge being a penalty. To determine rates, costs are categorized based on the basic functions involved in the supply of energy to the customer, including production, transmission, distribution, and customer service. These costs are then classified using usual regulatory practice as well as a reasonable and equitable approach. A portion of this classification is demand, or fixed, costs, which are costs that are incurred to maintain in readiness-to-serve an electric system capable of meeting the total combined demands of all customer classes. These costs may not vary in direct proportion to energy usage and are instead recovered through a demand charge.

In 2025, Santee Cooper introduced a demand charge for residential customers based on the single highest hour of electricity use during peak times. We heard your feedback that this approach could cause your bill to be affected by one unusually high usage period.

In response, we are proposing Balanced Demand Billing, an innovative new approach designed to give customers more control and make bills more predictable. Instead of being based on just one high-use hour, your demand charge would be calculated using an average of your four highest peak usage periods each month. This means usage during a single hour will have less impact on your bill.

This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

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 how you can save at www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

Submitter Information

First Name:	David	**Last Name:**	Michaux
Organization:			
City:		**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:			

SC Reference # : SC0000001162

Date Submitted:	8/3/2026	**Origin:**	mail

Comment:

Dear Friends, My Family and I have always been a supporter of Santee-Cooper and its relationship to the State of South Carolina for more years than I can remember, but times have changed. Maybe it is time to privatize "our" electrical utility company. Why? "Peak hour" is the most discriminatory "idea" ever conceived by the mind of man. Young and growing families, working men and women and even many of we Seniors get up each morning, take a shower and hopefully eat a decent breakfast sometime between 6:00-9:00 EACH morning. If "peak hour" is your way of paying for the dollars lost on the failed nuclear power plant with SCANA, that is really poor for it hurts everyone who uses Santee-Cooper. The 3:00-6:00 afternoon is an unfair fee because it mostly impacts families whos children return home from school after 3:00 and those folks – young and old – who prepare and eat their supper from 5:00-6:30. A "classic" example of DISCRIMINATION. Now let us discuss a "rate increase. When I was much younger, my Mother told me "What was good for the goose is good for the gander." A "FAIR" across the Board increase is tolerable and citizens of South Carolina – your customers- do not like it, but we try to under if EVERYONES rates are raised at the same level. People have extenuating circumstances such as a below the average income and age. This needs to be taken into the equation-fairly- on a written case by case, not verbal, and verified by QUALIFIED people to insure fairness. What Santee-Cooper has done and wants to do is "not fair to all concerned." You are part of our lives if we live within your area of providing electricity. Why can not a system be evolved like the U.S. Government uses "Cost of Living" that is recalculated each year. It may "go" up" or it may "come down" depending on the economy of South Carolina and the will of our Legislature. Even when using a similar system needs to be done fairly. Someone needs to go look in the mirror and think about "fairness" and "real" need. Thank you for your time and interest in my thoughts. I just hope all the time spent on this letter were not for naught. Sincerely, David

Powering a Reliable and Sustainable Future for South Carolina

santee cooper

Dear David Michaux ,

Thank you for your response regarding Santee Cooper’s proposed rate adjustment. Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

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This approach incorporates customer feedback we received while still encouraging customers to shift high-energy activities, like running large appliances, away from peak times, when electricity is most expensive to provide.

In regards to your comments on new nuclear. Santee Cooper initiated a competitive process in January 2025 to complete the two partially completed AP1000 units in Fairfield County. In December 2025, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Brookfield Asset Management to pursue exclusive negotiations and feasibility work at the site. Brookfield's proposal supports completion of these units at no additional cost or risk to Santee Cooper customers and includes $2.7 billion in cash to Santee Cooper should the parties reach a Final Investment Decision and commit to constructing the units, plus an ownership interest in the completed units. Additional information can be found at www.scnuclear.com.

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 how you can save at

www.DefeatThePeakSC.com.

Sincerely,

Greg McCormack

Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM OTHER ENTITIES

Submitter Information

First Name:	Sara	**Last Name:**	Rich
Organization:	Coastal Conservation League		
City:	Conway	**Customer Type:**	Residential
State / Zip:	SC 29526		

SC Reference # : SC0000001133

Date Submitted: 7/29/2026 **Origin:** web

Comment:

Santee Cooper Public Input Meeting, Myrtle Beach, 7/28/2026, 6pm (post peak time!) Thank you for opening these forums for public input on price increases. My name is Sara Rich, and I've been a Santee Cooper residential customer since 2018. I'm also a Project Manager for the Coastal Conservation League, so I'm speaking tonight both as a long-time, on-time bill-paying customer and as someone who is increasingly concerned about energy usage and equitable billing. Responding to a few of Santee Cooper's stated rate study mission and pricing principles: Mission: Limit price increases to less than inflation - Inflation has increased by nearly 30% since 2020, so to limit price increases to less than inflation is not exactly a guarantee of reasonable pricing, nor does it give customers any peace of mind since so many of us already struggle to pay existing electricity costs. - That said, the proposed option to change from the current Residential Peak Demand charge to the proposed Balanced Demand Billing would be an incremental improvement. In my case, and likely others, opting into the time-of-use rate would save us a little money by comparison to the current model. But there is another option: Rather than utilizing peak demand charges based on a few hours within the month, a better approach would be to transition the standard rate toward a volumetric TOU rate design. Paying slightly higher volumetric rates during all peak hours, instead of being hit with high demand charges for a handful of unpredictable system peaks, would be easier for customers to understand and manage, and it would better incentivize customers to conserve energy throughout the month. Equity: Allocate costs to specific customer classes in a reasonable, equitable and defensible manner - As it stands right now, the DOE shows that South Carolina households making less than 30% of the area median income are spending 21% of their earnings on home energy costs, far above the 6% threshold that is considered energy burdened. - The proposed rate changes would disproportionately affect residential customers, despite Management's acknowledgement that projected load growth will be caused by data centers. Santee Cooper is unique among South Carolina utilities in that it includes speculative loads without signed service agreements in load forecasts to justify system investments. But if these investments prove unnecessary, this forecasting method creates enormous risk for ratepayers who would still be burdened with paying for stranded assets. The burden that tech giants want to place on average residents is entirely unjust considering that none of us ever asked for AI in the first place. We need Santee Cooper, a public utility, to insist that big industry pays its own way, and repairs the damage it causes along the way, instead of passing the buck onto households. - While Santee Cooper has now offered an experimental large load rate for about a year, no customers have signed up for it, and the more stringent large load rate proposed might have an even harder time enrolling customers. Yet here we are with major new expenses being charged to existing ratepayers, including charges for under-construction assets. Because Santee Cooper has not provided the relevant data, there is no way for stakeholders to confirm whether existing customers are

being unfairly asked to subsidize future customers from an entirely different class. That burden of proof is on Santee Cooper, not ratepayers. Efficiency: Design prices so that conservation savings are shared with the customers - We need Santee Cooper to invest fully in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Had Santee Cooper fully invested in energy efficiency, the magnitude of revenue shortfalls might have been mitigated significantly, and the company could have reduced, delayed, or altogether avoided the proposed rate changes. - Further, investing in comprehensive home retrofit programs often leads to annual customer savings of 30-40%, and sometimes as high as 50%. Transparency: Require openness in annual review of compliance with Pricing Principles - I submitted a data request on July 8th, which remains unanswered. Santee Cooper's website states that responses will be provided by August 31st, but that is a month after written comments are due. Further transparency would help customers understand the need for these rate increases and assure residential customers that they are not propping up data center development. Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful consideration of these points. Sara Rich McKeithan St. Conway, SC 29526

July 30, 2026

Santee Cooper Board of Directors
1 Riverwood Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

RE: Santee Cooper's 2026 Rate Study and Proposed Modifications to Direct-Service Retail Electric Rates

Please accept the following comments on behalf of Santee Cooper customer Sara Rich, the S.C. Coastal Conservation League ("CCL"), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy ("SACE"), the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce ("SCSBCC"), and the S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center (collectively, "Joint Commenters") regarding Santee Cooper's 2026 rate study and proposed modifications to direct-service retail electric rates.

Overall, we are concerned that the proposed rate modifications are neither just nor reasonable. In the following comments, Joint Commenters will outline our key concerns and offer recommendations to mitigate those concerns.

Public engagement

While we recognize that rate increases are sometimes necessary to provide reliable electric service, we believe that robust public engagement is also necessary to ensure that all perspectives are considered and to balance the various needs of the public interest. We appreciate the opportunity for customers to submit comments and provide oral testimony. In the future, we encourage the Board to allow written and oral comments from non-customers who represent the public interest and the interests of Santee Cooper customers. Similarly, we encourage Santee Cooper to accept data requests from non-customers, including public interest groups.

Additionally, we note that Santee Cooper's stated deadline for its responses to data requests is August 31, which is about a month after the July 30 deadline for written comments. In the future, we encourage Santee Cooper to ensure that it will provide responses to reasonable data requests in a timely manner, sufficiently far in advance of the deadline for written comments. Finally, we recommend that the deadline for written comments in future rate studies be moved back to align with the deadline for oral testimony to allow more time for detailed written comments informed by robust technical analyses that are difficult to include in time-limited oral testimony.

Excessive energy burdens and insufficient investments in energy efficiency

We note that Santee Cooper was able to provide reasonably reliable electric service during the recent five-year rate freeze enacted pursuant to the terms of the *Cook v. S.C. Public*

Service Authority settlement. Now, a little over a year after implementing a substantial rate increase in 2025, Santee Cooper is considering additional back-to-back rate increases in 2027 and 2028. Like in 2025, residential customers would see the highest percentage rate increases in 2027 and 2028 under the proposed rates.

We have heard from residential customers served by Santee Cooper who have struggled to budget for the higher bills they have received following the 2025 rate increase, and we are concerned that additional rate increases in 2027 and 2028 would exacerbate their unaffordable energy cost burdens. Affordable, reliable, universal electric service is critical for a healthy modern economy. Energy burden, which is defined as a household's home energy costs as a percentage of its income, is an important metric to consider in ratemaking. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), a household is considered energy burdened if home energy costs exceed 6% of its income. The DOE's Low-Income Energy Affordability Data ("LEAD") Tool shows that South Carolina households making less than 30% of the area median income are spending 21% of their earnings on home energy costs, including 18% on electricity.[1] High energy burdens in South Carolina did not begin in 2025, and the problem is driven not only by rates, but also by climate, inefficient housing stock and appliances, and low incomes, among other factors.

In spite of already-high energy burdens and the substantial rate hikes in 2025, Santee Cooper has failed to make meaningful improvements in its energy efficiency programs that would help to alleviate energy burdens and reduce upward pressure on rates. Higher rates should create additional opportunities for cost-effective energy savings, as should the recent elimination of the federal tax credit for home energy efficiency improvements, as well as the recent large increases in forecasted demand in Santee Cooper's balancing authority. Santee Cooper launched two new programs in 2025 – Power Partners and Marketplace – but neither of these programs has the potential to yield the deep savings needed to achieve significant reductions in energy burden for participants; they only offer low-cost measures like light bulbs and weather stripping that achieve relatively small bill reductions on their own.[2] In addition, no improvements in Santee Cooper's energy efficiency offerings have been proposed to coincide with the proposed rate increase in 2027 and 2028.

The overall energy savings attributed to Santee Cooper's energy efficiency programs have continued to fall far short of the savings achieved by regional and national leaders. In 2024, Santee Cooper achieved only 0.13% in incremental annual energy savings according to data reported to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).[3] By comparison, Duke Energy Carolinas achieved 0.74% energy savings in 2024, and national leaders achieved savings in excess of 1.5%.[4] None of Santee Cooper's programs offer comprehensive home

[1] https://www.energy.gov/cmei/scep/slsc/lead-tool
[2] https://www.santeecooper.com/about/sustainability-report/2025/people/power-partners/
[3] https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861/
[4] https://cleanenergy.org/news/energy-efficiency-in-the-southeast-report-the-untapped-opportunity-to-address-load-growth-and-affordability/

retrofits like programs offered by leading utilities, which can often lead to annual bill savings of 30-40%. While financing and modest rebates are available for select appliance upgrades, none of Santee Cooper's programs offer incentives to enable customers to access professional air sealing and insulation services, which are some of the most impactful savings opportunities and are particularly important for getting the most out of an expensive heat pump upgrade.

Had Santee Cooper fully invested in energy efficiency, the timing and magnitude of potential revenue shortfalls might have been mitigated significantly, potentially enabling it to avoid, delay, or reduce the proposed rate increases. Santee Cooper's last energy efficiency potential study was completed in 2023, prior to the important changes in market conditions discussed above. While Santee Cooper has been working on an updated potential study for its 2026 triennial integrated resource plan ("IRP"), we are concerned that the study will not account for valuable savings potential that could materialize following potential near-term rate increases, as well as savings that could be achieved by incorporating programs that serve large industrial customers and programs developed in partnership with electric cooperatives to serve their retail customers. Excluding electric cooperatives and industrial customers leaves a particularly large gap in Santee Cooper's savings potential.

We recommend that the Board direct management to propose program modifications designed to achieve deep savings from comprehensive home retrofits by December 31, 2026.

Class cost of service study (COSS) and ratepayer risks

Based on the publicly available information from Santee Cooper's COSS and related information from other planning processes, we have serious concerns regarding the fairness of the proposed rates and the risks they will impose upon customers if future conditions deviate from management forecasts. In Santee Cooper's recent IRPs, forecasted demand growth has been driven primarily by large industrial customers, including data centers. Santee Cooper CEO Jimmy Staton has publicly stated as far back as 2024 that an estimated 70% or more of the utility's forecasted load growth is associated with data centers.[5] However, in the proposed rate modifications, residential customers would experience the greatest increases. The public deserves, at the very least, a clear explanation of this discrepancy and full transparency into the workpapers used to justify management's findings and recommendations in the 2026 rate study.

As a matter of basic fairness and adherence to fundamental ratemaking principles, existing residential and small business customers should not be charged for expenses incurred in the course of preparing to serve future customers in an entirely different rate class. This is an issue both of timing and inter-class cost shifting. Santee Cooper has not provided

[5] https://scdailygazette.com/2024/08/22/sc-senate-panel-considers-future-of-energy-in-the-growing-state/

enough information to confirm whether this might occur under the proposed rates, and the burden of proof should rest on the utility. Santee Cooper has not provided any data breaking out the incremental cost to prepare to serve new data centers. This omission is particularly concerning.

Notably, Santee Cooper is the only major electric utility in South Carolina that has included potential new large loads without signed service agreements in the load forecasts utilized for long-range resource planning. The expenditures to begin building the infrastructure needed to serve these large loads is the basis of the instant rate study. In the time since Santee Cooper started projecting infrastructure needs based on speculative loads in 2024, stakeholders have repeatedly raised concerns in IRP stakeholder working group meetings and in testimony before the S.C. Public Service Commission ("PSC"). This practice creates unreasonable risks in long-range resource planning, including the potential for stranded assets, as well as in near-term ratemaking decisions.

In the 2026 rate study, Santee Cooper has forecasted enormous increases in its revenue requirements. From 2025 to 2027, Santee Cooper projects that its total revenue requirement will rise 46%, from $2.2 billion to $3.2 billion.

Included in that increase is a 33% increase, from $843 million to $1.1 billion, in the projected cost to serve retail customers; and a 55% increase in revenue from electric cooperatives, from $1.3 billion to $2.1 billion. These are astoundingly high, historic, unprecedented increases to expect within three years. Uncertain growth in data center development is likely driving a significant portion of these increases, but Santee Cooper has not provided enough information to clearly identify how much.

Some $364 million of the $1 billion proposed rate increase is related to spending on construction and construction-related debt. This includes a 50% increase, from $506 million to $756 million, in debt service; and a 56% increase, from $202 million to $316 million, in annual contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF). While increasing CIF contributions could reduce financing costs, it also shifts substantial risks onto existing ratepayers. One of the fundamental principles of regulatory utility ratemaking is that rates should only include recovery of costs associated with assets that are "used and useful," not under-construction assets or assets that are otherwise not in active use for the provision of electrical service.

The most notable exception to this principal—V.C. Summer—demonstrated why ratepayers should not start paying far in advance of infrastructure becoming "used and useful." Early rate recovery of spending on assets that are not "used and useful" not only shifts risks onto existing customers, but also reduces utility incentives to complete projects on-time and on-budget. The burden of proof should rest on management to prove why it may be in the public interest to raise annual contributions to the CIF by $114 million, especially when capacity expansions are being undertaken largely to serve new data centers, some of which might never come online. Based on our reading of the publicly available materials, management has not satisfied that burden of proof. Therefore, we recommend that the

Board reject the proposed increase in CIF contributions and the corresponding portions of the proposed rate increases.

High Impact Load Rate

Santee Cooper has also proposed a new High Impact Load Rate, which would replace the existing Experimental Large Load Rate. We applaud Santee Cooper for taking the initiative to implement a special tariff for large loads and seeking to fine-tune it in order to protect ratepayers from inappropriate cost-shifting. However, Santee Cooper has not provided enough information for stakeholders to determine if the existing or proposed rates are likely to achieve this goal. We recommend that the Board direct management to break out the incremental costs to serve and prepare to serve new large loads forecasted to come online over the next 15 years and demonstrate how those costs would be recovered over time.

We further note that, at the time of stakeholders' last communication with Santee Cooper staff about the Experimental Large Load Rate, we were informed that no customers had enrolled in the tariff. And in a July 22 response (Appendix 1) to a July 8 data request submitted by Santee Cooper customer and CCL Conservation Project Manager Sara Rich, Santee Cooper revealed that it is not forecasting any revenues through 2028 coming from the proposed High Impact Load Rate.

Nevertheless, the proposed rate increases on existing customers, including residential and commercial customers, include funding for the development of two major new gas-fired power plants: the Canadys Joint Resource and the Hampton project in Early Branch, the latter of which has not received the required approval from the PSC of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity. In Santee Cooper's July 22 data request response (Appendix 1), it noted: "Santee Cooper's capital plan includes approximately $50 million in capital costs related to a future natural gas plant, which is currently budgeted to as a Hampton gas plant. This translates to approximately $750,000 of debt service included in the 2028 revenue requirements." It is more difficult to determine how of much of the other capital improvements reflected in the proposed rate increases, including substantial investments in transmission, are associated with these future gas plants or other upgrades designed to meet load growth driven by data centers.

We note that other regional utilities report regularly on the status of large load realization. Georgia Power provides public, quarterly reports and provides contracts for review by regulatory staff, in order to ensure that the public is both informed and protected. Duke Energy provides similar bi-annual reports. We urge the Board to establish a reporting process, either quarterly or as part of its periodic Board Meetings, that will track where large load projects are in the development and electric-service contracting process, aggregate versus projected revenues received, and whether or not the large loads will be served under the High Impact Load rate.

However, we also reiterate our concern that investing in system expansions based on speculative large load growth forecasts, including potential data centers that have not signed service agreements, exposes ratepayers to unacceptable risks, including exposure to excessive stranded asset risks.

Customer-class allocation of revenue requirements

In addition to our outstanding questions and concerns regarding the COSS, we are concerned about the allocation of the revenue requirements between the various customer classes. Historically, utilities have commonly allocated less than 100% of the estimated residential cost of service to residential customers. This is done to achieve policy goals in the public interest, including affordability. Reliable, affordable, universal electric service is critical for a healthy modern economy. If customers cannot afford electric service, then it is not reliable.

When residents do not have reliable electric service, it can have cascading effects throughout the local economy, with missed work and school days, higher unemployment, reduced income and tax revenues, less spending at local businesses, housing insecurity, higher healthcare costs, higher crime rates, outmigration, brain drain, and greater pressure on limited public services, among other things. According to the most recent data from the EIA Form 861, Santee Cooper shut off service to customers 7,457 times in 2024.

Santee Cooper has proposed allocating 100% of the estimated cost to serve residential customers to residential rates, with no differentiation based on customers' ability to pay. Under the proposed rates, residential customers will see a 4.7% increase in rates starting February 1, 2027, and another 4.6% increase on February 1, 2028. This is following the rate hike in 2025, which resulted in 8.7% base rate increase plus an estimated 7% increase due to increased fuel charges, resulting in a 16% overall increase last year. Combined, these recent and proposed residential rate increases would amount to a roughly 27% increase within just a few years—far higher than is reasonable and far higher than any of Santee Cooper's other rate classes—and that is before even accounting for additional increases for deferred recovery of costs related to the *Cook* settlement. We believe that such a dramatic increase in so short of a time violates the fundamental regulatory utility ratemaking principle of gradualism, and it could result in a sharp increase in Santee Cooper's already-high rate of service disconnections.

Santee Cooper declined to provide requested information on rate increase amounts associated with the *Cook* settlement (see Appendix 1), but overall revenues included a $35.1 million year-over-year increase associated with *Cook* amounts in 2025.

In their comments on the 2025 rate increase, SACE and SCSBCC expressed concerns about costs being over-allocated to the residential class because all production costs are allocated on based on demand rather than a combination of demand and energy. Joint Commenters are disappointed to see that Santee Cooper is continuing this practice. It appears that this over-allocation is contributing significantly to the higher proposed rate increases on residential customers, who have more variability in their usage than large

industrial customers. Santee Cooper's new baseload power plants under development, and new long-term gas firm-transportation contracts to fuel them, are needed mostly to serve high-load-factor new loads (data centers). These are primarily energy supply costs, not pure capacity costs. But these costs are being disproportionately allocated to low-load-factor customers on a demand basis, as though they were peaker plants.

We recommend that the Board direct management to revise its cost allocation methodology to account properly for energy costs, as well as demand costs, and end the practice of over-allocating costs to low-load-factor customers. Alternatively, a portion of the cost to serve residential customers, perhaps 10%, could be allocated to large load and other industrial rates to alleviate residential energy burdens, adjust rates to better reflect the risks associated with potential large load growth, and at least partly correct for the over-allocation of costs to low-load-factor customers.

These recommendations would also provide local economic benefits. Compared to large corporations, residential customers with the least ability to pay tend to have a greater propensity to spend any discretionary income at the end of a month in the local economy, which can have significant multiplier effects on local economic growth.

Joint Resource cost increases

The Joint Resource currently under development at the site of the retired Canadys Station has already seen significant increases in estimated costs, rising from $2.5 billion to $5 billion, and that was prior to receiving bids from potential Engineering, Procurement, and Construction ("EPC") contractors. The forthcoming EPC contract is expected to comprise the majority of the overall project costs. At the June 26 Board meeting, it was shared that Santee Cooper has received the EPC bids and intends to award a contract in the fourth quarter of 2026.

In accordance with Act 41, the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") is required to provide quarterly monitoring reports to the PSC on the development of the Joint Resource. If costs exceed certain thresholds, these reports could potentially lead to PSC actions that impact the future of the project, future revenue requirements, and various pressures on Santee Cooper's retail and wholesale rates. In addition, NextEra Energy is currently seeking regulatory approval to acquire Dominion Energy, which could further impact risks and costs associated with the Joint Resource.

The capital plan cited in the 2026 rate study includes $460 million of construction costs for the Canadys Joint Resource by 2028. Given the potential for significant changes in the estimated costs and risks associated with the Joint Resource, the Board should, at the very least, clarify whether the EPC bids fit within the $5 billion cost estimate for the Joint Resource prior to approving any rate increases.

Residential rate design

In 2025, Santee Cooper radically restructured its residential rate design by implementing a new demand charge, which is highly unusual among electric utilities nationwide. The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, SACE, and SCSBCC all submitted detailed analysis and comments explaining that basing a large share of residential bills on a peak demand charge is a fundamentally flawed approach. Commenters pointed out that, under Santee Cooper's definition of peak hours, there are approximately 90 peak hours in a month (3 hours per day times and roughly 30 days per month) and basing residential bills on only one hour of usage means that the other 89 hours carry no significance for ratemaking or peak reduction. Santee Cooper's approach treats a customer with a single peak hour of high usage the same as a customer with 90 peak hours of high use. This is unfair, unpredictable, and counterproductive. The effect of using only one or even a handful of peak hours for a demand charge is primarily to firm revenue for the utility because the customer is charged largely regardless of system impact—not to fully enable responsive behavior by customers.

These detailed, expert comments were reinforced by numerous customer comments and by the alternative recommendations of the Santee Cooper Board's own outside expert, the Regulatory Assistance Project, which sought to ameliorate Santee Cooper's approach by using medium-cost shoulder hours.

SACE and SCSBCC also suggested, as an alternative, a time-of-use ("TOU") energy rate. We note that Santee Cooper does offer a TOU energy rate, but that materials provided in the prior rate case were much less complete regarding how this rate was calculated. Moreover, the TOU rate appeared to generate more revenue per customer than the demand charge rate, leading us to question whether it would put customers choosing the TOU rate at a disadvantage. SACE and SCSBCC further recommended that customers with self-generation should not be excluded from the TOU energy rate. Joint Commenters reiterate that recommendation. If Santee Cooper wants customers to reduce demand on the utility system during peak hours, it should not matter whether those energy reductions occur due to load shifting, distributed generation, or battery storage.

Despite all of these comments, warnings, and recommendations, Santee Cooper's actions in the last rate study and in the current rate study have not responded to this fundamental concern that was so clearly broadcast by multiple parties in the last rate case. In the prior study, Santee Cooper ultimately decided to retain the single-hour demand charge, but reduced it, while reserving the right to raise it in later years. That action did not respond to the critique that a demand charge is inappropriate for residential ratepayers, who exhibit great load diversity and variability from day to day, and do not individually drive a three-hour peak on the Santee Cooper system.

Similarly, Santee Cooper's current proposal to base a residential demand charge on four of the roughly 90 peak hours (as defined by Santee Cooper), rather than one hour, does not

address the recommendation to transition the standard residential tariff to TOU energy rates. TOU energy rates would encourage demand reduction in any or all of the peak hours in a fairer, more predictable, and more practically manageable rate structure that is more accurately based on cost-causation than a three-part rate based on an arbitrary small subset of peak hours.

Santee Cooper has already developed TOU energy rates for the residential class. We urge the Board to help public commenters verify that these TOU energy rates are fair and equivalent, in terms of per-customer revenue generated, to the TOU demand rates, and then to rely primarily on TOU energy rates rather than residential demand rates. We further urge Santee Cooper to open the TOU energy rates to customers with self-generation and/or energy storage.

Paying higher volumetric rates during all peak hours, instead of being hit with demand charges for a handful of unpredictable system peaks, would be easier for customers to understand and manage, and it would better incentivize customers to conserve energy all throughout each month. Additionally, all customers of Santee Cooper could reap benefits from TOU net metering rates, which would better incentivize distributed solar and battery storage. We recommend that Santee Cooper transition the standard residential rate to a volumetric TOU design, and offer optional TOU net metering rates.

Santee Cooper is also proposing to increase the fixed monthly charge for residential customers from the current level of $20, to $21 in 2027 and $22 in 2028. We adamantly oppose any increase in the fixed monthly charges for residential customers and recommend that the Board reject these changes and consider lowering fixed residential charges to be in line with neighboring utilities like Dominion Energy South Carolina ("DESC"). We note that the proposed residential fixed charges are roughly twice as high as DESC's Basic Facilities Charge for residential service, which is $0.36164 per day, or about $11 per month.

High fixed charges disincentivize conservation, energy efficiency investments, demand response, distributed solar and battery storage, and other approaches to peak shaving. In the current era of high load growth, it is especially important to ensure that these beneficial behaviors and investments are not impeded. Additionally, high fixed charges can make up a significant portion of monthly bills for low-income customers, especially seniors on fixed incomes, who tend to live in smaller residences and use less energy than more affluent customers.

Conclusion and recommendations

The Joint Commenters appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Santee Cooper's 2026 rate study and proposed modifications to direct-service retail electric rates. Electric rate increases and rate design changes can have big impacts on communities, and robust public engagement is critical for improving overall outcomes and customer

satisfaction. In general, we recommend that Santee Cooper strive to improve transparency and ensure that adequate information is available to the public well in advance of comment deadlines in the future.

In summary, we recommend the following:

1. Allow non-customers with relevant interests in the impacts of proposed rate modifications to offer oral testimony at all public hearings, align the deadline for Santee Cooper response to data requests with the deadline for written comments, and align the deadline for written comments with the deadline for oral testimony in future rate studies;
2. Direct management to propose modifications to Santee Cooper's energy efficiency programs to incorporate incentives for comprehensive home energy retrofits;
3. Reject the proposed increase in CIF contributions;
4. Improve transparency around large load rates by requiring management to publish quarterly reports on large load realization, revenue, and rate treatment;
5. Direct management to revise its cost allocation methodology to account properly for energy costs, as well as demand costs, and end the practice of over-allocating costs to low-load-factor customers; or alternatively, reallocate at least 10% of the estimated cost to serve residential customers to large loads and other industrial customers;
6. Prior to approving any rate increases, clarify whether the EPC bids received for the Canadys Joint Resource fit within the current $5 billion project cost estimate;
7. Eliminate residential demand charges and instead transition the standard residential rate to a traditional volumetric TOU rate, and allow net metering with TOU rates to incentivize beneficial distributed solar and battery storage;
8. Reject the proposed increases in fixed residential service charges and consider lowering them to be in line with neighboring utilities like DESC.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and recommendations. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sara Rich
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Appendix 1

Santee Cooper 2026 Retail Rate Study
Santee Cooper Response to:
Sara Rich July 8, 2026 Information Request

Cost of Service Study

Please provide the 2027 and 2028 versions of this full Final Cost of Service Study in pdf and Excel versions (RE: "the Final Santee Cooper Electric Cost of Service Study Technical Appendix C" from the 2024 rate case, which includes 72 pages of charts, including many that are not included within the ten tabs of the summary 2026 "Technical Appendix C 5-4" documents that have been provided publicly to ORS.")

Santee Cooper Response: *Please refer to the following excel files available in the "Additional Information" section of Santee Cooper's Rate Study website Data Room:*

"2027 Technical Appendix C 5-4-2026.xlsm"
"2028 Technical Appendix C 5-4-2026.xlsm"
"Summary COS Model 2027 2028 5-5-2026 FINAL.xlsm"

https://santeecooperratestudy.sharefile.com/share/view/sa8bbf2fe8ee94d9d8643fb1ec6403555/fo10082c-625c-429e-8874-6e4b141e8a75

Please note that both the 2027 and 2028 Technical Appendices each contain 76 pages of charts in a similar format to the Rate Study 2025 Technical Appendix published as part of the 2024 Rate Study. The Summary COS model is a functioning formula-intact Cost of Service model with supplemental detail.

Please refer to Santee Cooper's "2026 Electric Cost of Service and Rate Design Study" available on Santee Cooper's Rate Study website for a written discussion of methodologies:

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/

Please list out expenses that are included in the Other categories (demand-related and energy-relate) in the COSS for each customer class under Production Expense.

Santee Cooper Response: *Please refer to the "Func Classify 2027" and "Func Classify 2028" worksheets of the Summary COS model for a breakdown of expenses by FERC account and their functionalization to Production Energy Other and Production Demand Other (Labeled as "Eng-Other" and "Dmd-Other" in column J)*

Please explain the adjustments in the COSS: Policy, Non-Firm, Cook.

Santee Cooper Response: *The Policy Adjustment represents the difference in management's proposed base rates compared to Cost of Service allocated revenue requirements by class.*

The Non-Firm Adjustment is the aggregate revenue credit impact of Interruptible, EP, and EP-O sales. In general, fuel-related revenues are allocated using energy, production demand-related revenues are allocated using 4CP, and transmission-related revenues are allocated using 12CP. Please see technical appendix for a calculation of non-firm revenues.

The Cook Charge Adjustment represents the retail portion of the Cook Charge (net of wholesale collection). The Cook Charge is generally allocated based on energy. Some industrial customers have elected for an alternate methodology based on historic share of energy during the rate freeze. Note that the Cook Charge is excluded from base rates and is currently collected through the Deferred Cost Recovery Adjustment (DCR) rider. The proposed rates maintain this treatment.

Why is there no meters expense associated with industrial customers in the COSS?

Santee Cooper Response: *Industrial meter expense is $256 in 2027 and $324 in 2028. These amounts are included in the total allocated Industrial revenue requirement but display as $0 in the $Thousands view of the excel model. Meter expenses are allocated by number of customers excluding lighting. Industrial customers account for a very small proportion of overall customers (0.012% in 2027; 0.013% in 2028).*

Please explain why certain costs are based on 4cp vs. 12cp vs. 12ncp.

Santee Cooper Response: *Please refer to Santee Cooper's "2026 Electric Cost of Service and Rate Design Study" available on Santee Cooper's Rate Study website for a written discussion of allocator selection:*

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/

What is the estimated average fixed cost of service for residential customers in 2027 and 2028?

Santee Cooper Response: *Please refer to the "Summary COS Model 2027 2028 5-5-2026 FINAL.xlsm" available in the "Additional Information" section of Santee Cooper's Rate Study website Data Room for Residential allocated costs by function and classification, as well as customer counts:*

https://santeecooperratestudy.sharefile.com/share/view/sa8bbf2fe8ee94d9d8643fb1ec6403555/fo10082c-625c-429e-8874-6e4b141e8a75

How many customers take service under the RT rate schedule?

Santee Cooper Response: *As of December 2025, 6,662 customers took service under the RT rate schedule.*

Please provide all billing determinants, other assumptions, and calculations necessary to derive the RT rate.

Santee Cooper Response: *Please refer to the "Projected Rev Prop Res" worksheets of the 2027 and 2028 Technical Appendices.*

Please provide actual data center revenues for 2025 and projected data center revenues for 2027 and 2028. If such revenues are not broken out by data centers, then please use large loads as defined in Santee Cooper's large load tariff.

Santee Cooper Response: *Santee Cooper did not have any retail data center revenue in 2025, nor any projected data center or large load revenue in 2027 or 2028.*

In parallel with the 2024 base rate increase, Santee Cooper also un-froze fuel rates and added a Cook exceptions charge. Estimates for the impact of those two additional rate adjustments were not provided to customers during the 2024 base rate proceedings. What, if any, other rate adjustments beyond the base rate adjustments, are being planned or considered by Santee Cooper?

Santee Cooper Response: *As part of this rates adjustment proceeding and pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-31-730(B)(6), Santee Cooper responds to reasonable questions and requests for information from customers regarding the rate proposal. This question exceeds the scope of this proceeding. Only the rates proposed for adjustment are under consideration.*

Executive Compensation

Please provide the total annual compensation for each of the four members of the Senior Management Team over the past five years.

Santee Cooper Response: *Please see "SMT Compensation History.xlsx"*

Rate Structure

What annual cost reductions were realized due to peak demand reductions associated with the current residential demand charge? What is the estimated value of these reductions in 2027 and 2028?

Santee Cooper Response: *Since residential demand rates were implemented in April 2025, customers have demonstrated measurable adjustments in usage during peak windows. Residential load during summer peak periods has declined by approximately 4%, and winter peak load has declined by approximately 2%. Please refer to slide 7 of "Management's Rate Recommendation Presentation to Board – May 1, 2026" available on Santee Cooper's Rate Study website:*

https://www.santeecooper.com/rates/rate-study/

These reductions indicate substantive behavioral response to the demand rate design. Shifts in customer load patterns are incorporated into our ongoing planning and load forecasting processes, supporting long-term resource, capacity, and infrastructure planning decisions.

Energy Efficiency

Please provide workpapers from any analysis Santee Cooper performed into whether potential demand-side management opportunities could reduce the need for the proposed rate adjustments.

Santee Cooper Response: *Santee Cooper conducts market potential studies (MPS) to assess the achievable potential for cost-effective demand-side management (DSM) resources. The results of these studies serve as an input into Santee Cooper's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which considers the potential contribution of DSM resources as part of the overall resource planning process. Santee Cooper then plans and budgets DSM programs based on the DSM potential included in the selected IRP planning scenario, with programs implemented over time to align with the long-term resource plan. As a result, DSM is incorporated into Santee Cooper's long-term resource planning and ultimately informs the revenue requirement and rate development process, rather than being a single work paper directly tied to a specific rate adjustment.*

Additional information regarding Santee Cooper's most recently finalized MPS are available on our IRP website:

EE MPS: https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Integrated-Resource-Plan/Reports-and-Materials/Santee-Cooper-2022-EE-MPS-Report_02022023-as-Posted.pdf

DR MPS: https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Integrated-Resource-Plan/Reports-and-Materials/2023-Santee-Cooper-DR-MPS-Report-Final.pdf

Santee Cooper is currently finalizing its 2026 MPS, which will be incorporated into the 2026 IRP and made available publicly with the IRP filing later this year.

V.C. Summer

Are any new costs included for recovery through the proposed rates associated with the V.C. Summer nuclear expansion? If so, please list them.

Santee Cooper Response: *No.*

Hampton

Are any new costs included for recovery through the proposed rates associated with the potential construction of a gas plant in Hampton County? If so, please list them.

Santee Cooper Response: *Santee Cooper's capital plan includes approximately $50 million in capital costs related to a future natural gas plant, which is currently budgeted to as a Hampton gas plant. This translates to approximately $750 thousand of debt service included in the 2028 revenue requirements. These costs can be found in Exhibit XI_2 and Schd_7 of the Redacted 2026 Budget Financial Forecast at:*

https://santeecooperratestudy.sharefile.com/share/view/sa8bbf2fe8ee94d9d8643fb1ec6403555/fo10082c-625c-429e-8874-6e4b141e8a75

Reliability

Please provide reliability data, including SAIDI and SAIFI scores, by census tract for Santee Cooper's retail service territory.

Santee Cooper Response: *Please see "23-26 Reliability.xlsx"*

Santee Cooper Response to CCL, SACE, SCSBCC and Appleseed Comments
August 14, 2026

Dear Ms. Rich

Thank you for your comments regarding Santee Cooper's proposed rate adjustment on behalf of the S.C. Coastal Conservation League ("CCL"), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy ("SACE"), the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce ("SCSBCC"), and the S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center (collectively, "Joint Commenters."). Santee Cooper's Board of Directors is scheduled to receive all written public comments on Aug. 31 and customers and other interested parties will also have the opportunity to appear in person to provide comments directly to the Board. Following this, the Board will hold a final meeting on Sept. 29 to review staff recommendations before voting on the rate proposals on Oct. 30. As an agency of the state of South Carolina, Santee Cooper's Board meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at www.santeecooper.com/about/leadership/board-meetings. If approved, rate adjustments would take effect Feb. 1, 2027 and Feb. 1, 2028.

Santee Cooper appreciates the Joint Commenters' input and engagement in this process. We would like to respond to the recommendations provided in the document "2026_Santee Cooper Rate Comments_CCL_SACE_SCSBC_Appleseed" submitted July 30, 2026:

"Allow non-customers with relevant interests in the impacts of proposed rate modifications to offer oral testimony at all public hearings, align the deadline for Santee Cooper response to data requests with the deadline for written comments, and align the deadline for written comments with the deadline for oral testimony in future rate studies"

Santee Cooper values transparency and would like to clarify several procedural points.

Customers provided oral comments at public meetings held in late July. Interested parties, including advocacy groups, may provide oral comments directly to the Board on August 31.

Additionally, Santee Cooper has established multiple channels for engagement with advocacy groups. One such channel is the Rates Stakeholder process, including the Technical Working Group, in which SACE and SCSBCC participate. This forum is designed specifically to provide deeper, ongoing dialogue on technical issues and rate design.

The claim that Santee Cooper's deadline for responding to information requests is August 31 is incorrect. Santee Cooper has committed to responding to all information requests submitted by August 31, and has provided timely responses to every request received prior to the written

comment deadline. For example, Ms. Rich's July 7 information request was answered on July 22. As shown in the Joint Commenters' Appendix 1, most of the information requested was already available in materials posted to the Rate Study website on May 1, when the public comment period began.

"Direct management to propose modifications to Santee Cooper's energy efficiency programs to incorporate incentives for comprehensive home energy retrofits"

This recommendation is outside the scope of the rate adjustment proceedings. Only the rates proposed for adjustment are under consideration.

"Reject the proposed increase in CIF contributions"

Santee Cooper plans for financial metrics consistent with a highly rated utility both to ensure the long-term financial health of the organization and to maintain our high credit ratings. Based on the significant capital investments included in the capital plan, the increase to 10% CIF is intended to maintain our financial health over time while concurrently reducing debt service costs to customers.

In late July 2026, Santee Cooper's credit rating was upgraded by Fitch and S&P Global and its outlook was upgraded by Moody's. These changes were driven by forecasted improvements to financial metrics, and the increased CIF component is a key piece of these metrics.

On July 27, 2026, Fitch upgraded Santee Cooper's rating to 'A' from 'A-', citing:

"Financial metrics are likely to improve further through 2028, supported by growing electric sales and modest annual rate increases."[1]

On July 28, 2026, Moody's revised its outlook on Santee Cooper to positive from stable, citing:

"The positive outlook reflects the utility's expectation of consistent rate setting that should lead to DSCR between 1.3x to 1.5x and sustained adjusted liquidity well in excess of 250 days"[2]

On July 29, 2026, S&P Global upgraded Santee Cooper's rating to 'A' from 'A-', citing:

"…[T]he rating upgrade is further underpinned by our analysis of management-provided forecasts that the authority will maintain stable FCC at about 1.3x-1.4x (S&P Global Ratings-calculated) and robust liquidity through fiscal 2029."[3]

"Improve transparency around large load rates by requiring management to publish quarterly reports on large load realization, revenue, and rate treatment"

This recommendation is outside the scope of the rate adjustment proceedings. Only the rates proposed for adjustment are under consideration. However, we note that Santee Cooper has

[1] https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Investors/easset_upload_file59347_84126_e.pdf
[2] https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Investors/easset_upload_file15652_84126_e.pdf
[3] https://www.santeecooper.com/About/Investors/easset_upload_file76684_84126_e.pdf

already published the full calculations supporting the High Impact Load rate to support transparency.

"Direct management to revise its cost allocation methodology to account properly for energy costs, as well as demand costs, and end the practice of over-allocating costs to low-load-factor customers; or alternatively, reallocate at least 10% of the estimated cost to serve residential customers to large loads and other industrial customers"

Joint Commenters state that "In their comments on the 2025 rate increase, SACE and SCSBCC expressed concerns about costs being over-allocated to the residential class because all production costs are allocated on based on demand rather than a combination of demand and energy." This is inaccurate. Production costs are first classified into fixed and variable components. Fixed production costs are then allocated to customer classes based on contributions to the four coincident peaks. On the other hand, variable production costs are allocated to the customer classed based on energy. This method reflects how Santee Cooper plans and uses generation capacity, and it aligns with standard industry practices.

We also reviewed the comments submitted by SACE and SCSBCC in the 2024 Rate Study and found no mention of production cost allocation. We presume the recommendation refers to a preference for a hybrid allocator, such as Peak and Average, as suggested by the Department of Consumer Affairs in 2024 and 2026.

Santee Cooper notes that the methodology in our proposed rates is consistent with that accepted by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC) in recent Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress rate cases. Santee Cooper is unaware of any Commission decision adopting the A&P approach advanced by DCA's consultant. The PSC's past decisions, as well as Santee Cooper's proposal, reflect a more traditional understanding of cost allocation.

Joint Commenters also state that "Santee Cooper has proposed allocating 100% of the estimated cost to serve residential customers to residential rates." This statement is incorrect. Santee Cooper has intentionally set proposed residential rates below allocated costs: by $11.7 million (3.6%) in 2027 and $15.5 million (4.8%) in 2028. This policy adjustment promotes affordability and achieves a similar objective to the hybrid allocator commenters support. In fact, as illustrated in Santee Cooper's response to Ms. Rich's information request (Appendix 1), this was directly explained.

Finally, Joint Commenters claim that "Santee Cooper declined to provide requested information on rate increase amounts associated with the *Cook* settlement (see Appendix 1)." This is also incorrect. Cook impacts are included in publicly available documents such as Appendix A: Bill Comparisons and the Working COS Model. An explanation of the Cook adjustment was included in the materials provided to Ms. Rich and referenced in Appendix 1.

"Prior to approving any rate increases, clarify whether the EPC bids received for the Canadys Joint Resource fit within the current $5 billion project cost estimate"

This recommendation is outside the scope of the rate adjustment proceedings. Only the rates proposed for adjustment are under consideration.

"Eliminate residential demand charges and instead transition the standard residential rate to a traditional volumetric TOU rate, and allow net metering with TOU rates to incentivize beneficial distributed solar and battery storage"

Santee Cooper currently offers a residential time-of-use (TOU) rate, which remains available under the proposed 2027 and 2028 rates. Customers may view their individualized bill impacts using historic usage data on Santee Cooper's website.

Customers with solar or other forms of self-generation must take service under the RG demand rate because the DG rider's incremental customer charge is based on that rate design. Allowing self-generating customers onto the RT TOU rate without a standby charge would shift costs to customers without self-generation. Customers with battery storage only may take service on the RT TOU rate.

"Reject the proposed increases in fixed residential service charges and consider lowering them to be in line with neighboring utilities like DESC"

Santee Cooper's customer charges are cost based and intended to recover the costs that are directly related to the number of customers, such as customer accounting costs and the cost of meters. These costs do not tend to vary with customer usage. In line with cost-of-service principles, Santee Cooper has proposed to increase the RG customer charge by 5.0% in 2027 and 4.8% in 2028, which is consistent with the overall residential class increases of 4.7% and 4.6%.

Santee Cooper respectfully disagrees with the assertion that the current residential customer charges are out of line with neighboring utilities. As demonstrated in Dominion Energy South Carolina's 2025 rate case filing[4], residential customer charges among 30 South Carolina utilities range from $7.50 to $50.18 per month, with a median of $19.50. Santee Cooper's proposed $21.00 charge is within the normal range.

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.

[4] https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Attachments/Matter/71cd43cb-c80d-428a-956c-5f8edb37774e

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



Greg McCormack
Senior Director of Financial Planning
Santee Cooper