

1. Introduction

Santee Cooper is committed to creating a robust process to continually engage stakeholders and solicit feedback on our retail rate adjustment processes and results, as per our mission. While Act 90 of 2021 provides a formal mechanism for stakeholder input on rates and ratemaking, Santee Cooper recognized that its current informal methods of stakeholder engagement were neither consistent nor efficient. As a result, the company felt the need to develop an “alternate” process.

Accordingly, Santee Cooper will facilitate a stakeholder process to improve our retail rates and development processes, based on feedback from participants. Santee Cooper intends to continue this process on an “ongoing” basis to continue to improve and extend stakeholder engagement for future rate adjustments. As part of this commitment, Santee Cooper has formed a technical working group composed of members who represent a wide range of interests and perspectives.

The technical working group plays an essential role in informing the development of our retail rates. However, a stakeholder’s participation in the working group does not imply that the stakeholder supports the rates that are eventually developed and proposed by Santee Cooper, and all stakeholders reserve the right to participate and express their views in the rate review process or other proceedings addressing Santee Cooper’s rates. The remainder of this Charter lays out the mission statement and objectives, composition and members, timeline, logistics and responsibilities, and media and external communications for the working group.

2. Mission Statement and Objectives

The technical working group’s mission is to provide a wide range of perspectives and expertise to inform the development of retail rates that are in the best interest of Santee Cooper’s customers and the State of South Carolina.

The objectives of the working group are to:

- Create an open dialogue around Santee Cooper’s retail rates and ratemaking processes.
- Provide the opportunity to share wide-ranging and diverse opinions on the planning process, analysis, and the contents of retail rates.
- Provide a forum for deep, technical discussion of the assumptions, supporting studies, methodologies, and analytics that underpin the development of retail rates, and the trade-offs inherent in ratemaking across customer classes.
- Collaborate and discuss how diverse perspectives and approaches could advise and benefit Santee Cooper’s retail rates.

To fulfill the mission and objectives, the technical working group members are committed to:

- Participate actively and focus on the technical working group process' success.
- Build trust and strong relationships among the members.
- Consider the interests and concerns of all Santee Cooper stakeholders.

- Interact respectfully with all other members.
- Create transparency into ratemaking processes and assumptions.
- Create an open dialogue and encourage a diverse range of perspectives and input.
- Invest the personnel, time, and resources to fully participate in the working group.
- Evaluate fairly and thoroughly the feedback and input from all members and keep the needs, concerns, and questions of members alive and present in the review of ratemaking processes.
- Recognize and agree that not all feedback can be incorporated into the next set of retail rates, but that all perspectives will be considered.

3. Composition and Members

Santee Cooper desires to create a team that represents a full range of interests. The working group has a set membership of organizations and individuals representing diverse interests and perspectives, including government, regulatory agencies, environmental, social, customer classes, etc. The views and positions of the individual(s) participating in the working group shall not necessarily represent the views and positions of the company or organization the individual represents.

Each organization involved in the working group assigns a primary contact whose consistent involvement benefits the process and leads to overall success in meeting the mission and objectives. In their absence or inability to attend a scheduled meeting, each primary contact is responsible and encouraged to identify someone from their organization to participate in their place. If an organization desires to name a new primary contact, they will notify Santee Cooper of the change and share new contact information with the group.

Below are the organizations that currently make up the working group:

- Santee Cooper, including its employees and consultants
- Vanry Associates, the independent facilitator for the process
- NewGen Strategies & Solutions, LLC
- South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
- South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
- Central Electric Power Cooperative
- Industrial Customer Association, J. Pollock
- Century Aluminum
- Nucor
- Aalberts
- Heidelberg Materials
- Ineos
- Matheson

4. Timeline

The working group is envisioned as a standing group that does not currently have a set end date. Organizations and the individuals identified as primary contacts will continually evaluate

their ability to effectively participate. If an organization or individual chooses to no longer participate in the working group, Santee Cooper will work to find a replacement that represents similar interests.

5. Logistics and Responsibilities

The working group largely engages through virtual meetings, facilitated by Vanry. Meetings include technical presentations from Santee Cooper subject matter experts and consultants, and allow for presentations from working group members and their experts who desire to share their thoughts and opinions. To increase transparency, Santee Cooper has created a dedicated webpage to house stakeholder meeting information.

The working group is meant to be a collaborative process with open communication. Members are encouraged to contact the Santee Cooper Rates team and other technical working group members by email, at rates@santeecooper.com, or by phone outside regular meetings. Each working group member, including Santee Cooper, will provide contact information for use in communications.

Below is a list of specific responsibilities for Santee Cooper, Vanry, and stakeholder members. The list also includes details on logistics for the working group engagement.

Santee Cooper:

- Provide the working group with a schedule of meetings and priority topics.
- Consider and evaluate all feedback and opinions fairly and earnestly.
- Document action items and commitments received during the process.
- May provide feedback on how the working group's input has materially impacted the development of retail rates.
- Share materials pre- and post-meetings in a timely manner. Santee Cooper will try to provide materials three to four days prior to each meeting.
- Maintain a public webpage dedicated to the review process and stakeholder engagement, which includes meeting materials, relevant reports and studies, and shared data.
- Provide meeting notices generally 1 month prior to each meeting date.

Independent Facilitator – Vanry Associates:

- Ensure they remain an independent facilitator.
- Bring the groups' attention, when necessary, to the agreed-upon commitments and responsibilities as outlined in this Charter.
- Engage technical working group members to ensure the process is meeting expectations and goals.
- Provide tools to assess the effectiveness of the engagement, allowing working group stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the process.
- Develop and produce meeting summaries.

Stakeholder Members:

- Review materials, attend meetings, and actively participate in discussions during meetings.
- Designate an alternate from their organization to attend a meeting if they are unable to participate.
- Invite additional personnel, who may be subject matter experts on particular topics, from their organization to meetings while considering the desire to keep the meeting group size to a manageable level.
- Present, when requested and agreed to by the stakeholder member at meetings, and provide their thoughts, perspectives, proposed approaches, etc.
- Request, if desired, Santee Cooper to host technical meetings on specific topics with a smaller group of interested members.
- Provide feedback for the development of retail rates
- Provide feedback on the stakeholder engagement process.

6. Media and External Communications

The intent of the technical working group is to create a collaborative and open discussion regarding Santee Cooper's retail rates and rate development process. Recognizing that member organizations are free to express their opinions and thoughts, members are asked not to speak to the media or external groups on behalf of the technical working group. This will ensure the group meets its mission, objectives, and commitments.

Technical working group materials listed below will be posted to the Rates Stakeholder web page and made available to the general public:

- Presentations from all meetings
- Summaries for all meetings