



Santee Cooper One of Nation's Most Reliable Utilities

In late March, Santee Cooper received a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA). Of over 2,000 public electric providers nationwide, Santee Cooper ranks in the top 5% for reliable, safe power with both its distribution and transmissions systems scoring 99.9% on measurement criteria in 2009. The award strengthens the economic development message of Santee Cooper and the state's 20 electric cooperatives that distribute its electricity.

"South Carolina enjoys a diverse employment base, but our major employers share one major interest. They need reliable electricity, and they need it to be affordable," said Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper president and ceo. "Santee Cooper understands this, and we work hard to maintain efficient generation, transmission and distribution systems that South Carolina can count on now and that will help attract our major employers for tomorrow."

Santee Cooper produces more electricity than any other utility in the state and distributes it across South Carolina's largest electric system made up of the electric cooperatives and Central Electric Power Cooperative, a transmission co-op. The total system is a power supplier to over 300 industrial customers across the state.

"Whether it is a business operation thinking of coming here or one already here, one thing is certain: When they throw the switch to power their process, they want electricity that is sufficient and continuous," said Fred Gassaway,

executive vice president for marketing at the South Carolina Power Team. "In our business recruitment and retention efforts, the reliability of our electric system is something we stress. The award Santee Cooper received for reliability affirms the legitimacy of our message."

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