

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

July 2026

Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

Coordinating power across the grid

When you flip a switch, electricity is there—instant, reliable and ready to power your day. But behind that simple moment is a carefully coordinated system made up of many “grid power players,” all working together to keep the lights on.

At Washington EMC, we think it’s important for our members to understand how this system works and who’s involved in delivering the electricity you depend on every day.

It all starts with generation owners and operators. These are the facilities that actually produce electricity. Power plants convert energy from a variety of sources, such as natural gas, coal, nuclear energy and renewables like wind or solar, into electricity. These facilities may be owned by electric utilities, government entities or private companies. In most regions, a diverse mix of generation sources helps ensure reliability, while also supporting affordability and sustainability goals.

Once electricity is generated, it needs to travel—often across long distances—to reach local communities. That’s where transmission owners and operators come in. Using high-voltage transmission lines strung along massive towers, they move bulk electricity from power plants to local areas. You’ve likely seen these lines along highways or across open land. Because electricity can’t easily be stored in large quantities, this system must constantly move power from where it’s produced to where it’s needed, all in real time.

Coordinating the flow of large amounts of power is a complex job, especially across multiple states or

regions. In many parts of the country, organized wholesale markets, managed by regional transmission organizations or independent system operators, handle this responsibility. These entities don’t typically own power plants or transmission lines. Instead, they act as traffic controllers for the grid, balancing supply and demand every second of the day and directing which power plants should generate electricity at any given moment.

Then there’s the part of the grid most people are familiar with—your local electric utility. Washington EMC takes electricity from the high-voltage transmission system and delivers it directly to your home, farm or business through lower-voltage distribution lines. We also maintain utility poles, power lines, electric substations and other essential equipment in our community.

When storms roll through or outages occur, our crews are the ones working to restore power safely and as quickly as possible. At Washington EMC, we’re proud to serve more than 12,000 members across our 10-county service area, and we’re committed to providing reliable, affordable electricity you can count on.

Finally, there’s you—the end user. Homes, businesses and industries all play a critical role in the grid. Your energy use directly influences how much electricity needs to be generated and



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

delivered at any given time. During periods of high demand, such as hot summer afternoons or cold winter mornings, the grid must work harder to meet increased use. Simple steps like adjusting your thermostat or running appliances during off-peak hours can make a meaningful difference.

Beyond these key power players, there are additional organizations working behind the scenes to ensure our grid remains reliable and secure. The North American Electric Reliability Corp. develops and enforces reliability standards through a collaborative stakeholder process that includes utilities, regulators and industry experts. They also monitor the grid, train personnel and assess risks to help maintain a strong and resilient electric system across North America.

Meanwhile, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission provides federal oversight. They regulate interstate transmission of electricity and oversee wholesale energy markets to ensure they operate fairly and efficiently. They also play a role in hydroelectric licensing and energy infrastructure development, helping ensure safe and reliable energy delivery nationwide.

From generation and transmission to your local utility, it takes a coordinated effort to power your everyday life. At Washington EMC, we’re proud to be your trusted energy partner and to play our part in keeping the grid strong for the communities we serve.

Grid Power Players

Electricity is available with the flip of a switch, but it travels great distances and is coordinated among multiple entities before it reaches your home or business. Take a look at the grid power players that ensure you receive reliable electricity.



1. Generation Owners & Operators

Power plants can be owned and operated by electric utilities, government entities or other private companies. Power plants produce electricity by converting energy from various sources—like natural gas, coal, nuclear, or renewables—into electricity.



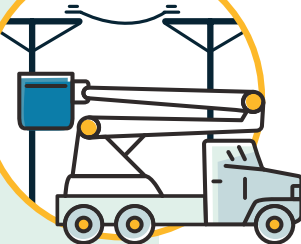
2. Transmission System Owners & Operators

The transmission grid moves large amounts of electricity over long distances using high-voltage transmission lines attached to large towers. Like power plants, these lines can be owned by a variety of public and private companies.



3. Organized Wholesale Markets

In many parts of the country, Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) & Independent System Operators (ISOs) coordinate the flow of electricity across regions by balancing supply and demand in real time and managing the dispatch of electric generation and transmission across large areas with the participation of generation and transmission owners.



4. Electric Utilities (That's Us!)

Electric distribution utilities take electricity from the transmission system and deliver it to homes and businesses through lower-voltage distribution lines. They also maintain local power lines, poles and other essential equipment.



5. End Users (That's You!)

End users consist of the homes, businesses and industries that consume electricity. Their demand drives how much electricity is generated and how the grid is managed in real time.

Other Key Players:

NERC: The regulatory authority that develops and enforces mandatory, reliability standards for the North American bulk electric grid. (Standards are developed through a stakeholder process.)

FERC: Independent federal agency that oversees interstate transmission and wholesale electricity sales, ensuring fair access to the grid.



Holiday office closure

Washington EMC's offices will be closed Friday, July 3,
in observance of the Fourth of July.

Community news



The Operation Round Up board met April 27 and approved funding for the following organizations: Washington County NB & PW Club, Georgia Forestry Commission, Warren County Pop Warner League, Washington County Senior Center, Special Olympics of Georgia, Promise of Hope, Georgia Hi-Lo Trail for the Kids Bike League, ALS United of Georgia and Make-A-Wish Georgia. We are so proud to be able to give back to the ones making a difference in our communities. The next board meeting will be July 27, with the deadline for applications on June 30. For more information, visit www.washingtonemc.com.



Washington EMC board chair and vice chair renew gold credentials

Washington EMC is proud to announce that our dedicated directors, Mike McDonald and Mike Beckworth, have renewed their Director Gold Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The Director Gold Certificate is earned through completion of the most advanced director certificate program offered by the NRECA and must be renewed every two years.



Mike McDonald

Mike Beckworth

To achieve this prestigious certification, directors must first complete the NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), along with three additional credits from the BLC course. The CCD certificate builds on a strong foundation, with several courses focusing on governance and the essential skills required of directors. With the BLC, directors can fill in information gaps and go deeper on emerging challenges like risk management and ratemaking. The Director Gold Certificate is a testament to their ongoing commitment to enhancing their knowledge and fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities with excellence.

We applaud McDonald and Beckworth for demonstrating such a deep commitment to advancing their knowledge and executing their board responsibilities to such a high level.

An electric membership corporation

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Website: www.washingtonemc.com
Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike McDonald,
Chair, District 1

Mike Beckworth,
Vice Chair, District 6

Brenda English,
Secretary/Treasurer, District 3

Mildred W. Jackson, *District 5*

Jeff Lacksen, *District 2*

Becky Prince, *District 4*

Ken Vickers, *District 7*

SANDERSVILLE OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

PHONES

Local (478) 552-2577
Long distance (800) 552-2577

24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power outage or
pay by phone, please call:
Local (478) 552-2577
Long distance (800) 552-2577

BRANCH LOCATIONS

12860 Broad St.
Sparta, GA 31087
Closed on Thursday

100 W. College St.
Wrightsville, GA 31096
Closed on Wednesday

Convenient bill pay options include:

DRIVE-THRU WINDOW

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PAY ONLINE

Visit www.washingtonemc.com
and click the "Pay Now" button
to pay your bill online.

SMARTHUB APP

Download, sign up and use the free
SmartHub app and web portal online at
www.washingtonemc.com/smarthub.

2026 Director Elections

The Washington EMC Board of Directors is composed of members just like you, who reside in the specific districts of our service territory and are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Directors are elected for a three-year term. Elections will occur for Districts 1, 2 and 6 at the Annual Meeting of Members on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

Details regarding serving on the Board of Directors can be found in the Qualifications of Directors and the Nominations sections of the corporate Bylaws.

The following members will serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee and can be contacted at the addresses below:

District 1

Cathy T. Norris
1317 Baker Road
Mitchell, GA 30828

District 2

Bruce Morgan
196 WJ Archer Road
Sparta, GA 31087

District 3

Shari Walls
4762 Jones Chapel Road
Sparta, GA 31087

District 4

Ellen Wright
7595 Highway 88
Sandersville, GA 31082

District 5

Emory Neely
809 Dixon Grove Road
Tennille, GA 31089

District 6

Mike Sheppard
167 Mills St.
Harrison, GA 31035

District 7

Sharon Sutton
1227 KB Brantley Road
Kite, GA 31049

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Washington EMC headquarters at 258 North Harris St. in Sandersville on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 2 p.m. for the purpose of nominating at least one member from Districts 1, 2 and 6.

Members will vote on director candidates at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026. Members from all seven representative districts may vote in the election for all director positions.

Claim undeliverable capital credits by September 30 deadline

Please help Washington EMC locate members and former members who have unclaimed refunds. In compliance with the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236, Washington EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credits checks were issued August 31, 2020, but have been

returned by the U.S. Post Office as “undeliverable” or have otherwise been unclaimed.

A current list of the names of these members and instructions for claiming these funds is posted online at www.washingtonemc.com. This list is also available at all Washington EMC locations for reviewing during regular business hours.

The last date to claim these funds is September 30, 2026. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236. To claim a refund or submit any question about this notice or the list, call the Washington EMC office at (478) 552-2577.

