



**Jason Bowling, CEO**  
Sulphur Springs Valley  
Electric Cooperative

# Thankful for energy independence

**A**s we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, we at SSVEC are giving thanks for the steps we've taken toward energy independence. These moves help stabilize your electric bills and align perfectly with our mission of providing "safe, reliable, and affordable" service

The simple act of lighting up a room involves a vast network of power generation, transmission, and distribution systems. Yet most of us, including me, overlook this marvel of engineering and human achievement.

Energy costs have risen sharply in the last year, affecting not just us but utility customers across the nation. In January, we faced extra costs from our energy supplier, Arizona G&T, to the tune of twenty-two million dollars. It's been tough, and we hear you. The high electric bills are a concern for us all.

That's why your Cooperative stepped in to make a meaningful impact. Earlier this year, the SSVEC Board of Directors decided to put every penny of our 2022 operating margin of eight million dollars toward reducing this debt. This action immediately cut the additional fuel charge by a full 20%, reducing your costs. Since then, we've made even more cuts, lowering the charge by a total of 45% since January.

Your trust in us fuels our drive to make decisions that serve your best interests, both now and in the future. For example, we're also tackling the higher costs of electricity in the open market. As demand surges during hot weather, we sometimes have to buy more expensive electricity. That's why we're pushing for energy independence. By adding more solar power and new turbines that can quickly adjust to energy needs, we're aiming to better control costs.

In October, we celebrated a milestone with the addition of another twenty megawatts of solar power in McNeal, thanks to our partnership with Silicon Ranch. This venture locks in the cost of electricity from this solar farm for the next twenty years, providing yet another layer of stability for your electric bills.

In addition to our efforts to control energy costs, we have more good news to share. Your board of directors recently approved a \$3 million capital credit retirement. Capital credits reflect our not-for-profit operational status and are your share of the cooperative's margins. This retirement directly reflects our strong financial position and our commitment to our members.

We're committed to a brighter, more sustainable future for all our members, balancing both our responsibility to the planet and your wallet. Have thoughts or questions? We're always here to listen. ■



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