



**Sulphur Springs Valley
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

Keep them up and running!

Team of six mechanics provides professional care and maintenance for every mobile need

By Manny Gonzalez
Technical Services/Fleet Manager

Every day SSVEC employees leave local construction yards or offices to fulfill their part of a vital mission to provide safe and reliable power for more than 38,000 member-owners.



Fleet Foreman Karl Berryhill at the Benson facility

What may seem like an easy task becomes a demanding reality when considering SSVEC's 5,600-square mile service territory, the cooperative's more than 4,100 miles of energized electrical power lines, 32 substations, hundreds of pieces of apparatus equipment and critical right-of-ways.

In the same manner that our power flows 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the member-owned fleet assets must also be ready. The responsibility of meeting this logistical transportation requirement rests on a team of six mechanics, whose professional experience adds up to more than 100 years.

The mechanic team is strategically located in Sierra Vista (Fleet Foreman David Gaskill, Mechanic III Daniel



In Sierra Vista Fleet Foreman David Gaskill (center), Mechanic III Daniel Myers (right) and Mechanic II Tom Shaughnessy, keep SSVEC vehicles ready to go.

Myers and Mechanic II Tom Shaughnessy), Benson (Fleet Foreman Karl Berryhill) and Willcox (Mechanic III Blaine Thompson and Mechanic III Cory Thompson). This team maintains a fleet of 153 vehicles and 85 trailers, as well as other assets that can be needed at a moment's notice.

These fleet assets are what SSVEC employees use to

get to local job sites on a daily basis, on weekends or after hours and consist of light vehicles, utility vehicles, service body trucks, heavy equipment, boom trucks, digger trucks, underground fault locators, backhoes, trailers, the herbicide spray quad and a mobile substation.

SSVEC's mechanic team also has standardized their mechanic vehicles to allow for quick response and performing timely repairs in the field.



In Willcox, SSVEC relies on Mechanic III Blaine Thompson (left) and Mechanic III Cory Thompson

Chief Executive Officer Creden Huber stresses the importance of being good stewards of our member-owners investment. The SSVEC mechanic team does this every day and they do it well. The team makes every effort to "right-size" its fleet to meet demands as varied as smaller vehicles for no cost energy audits to large boom trucks responding to restore power as soon as a call comes.

Then, SSVEC uses a thorough maintenance program that involves monthly vehicle inspections, Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports and Department of Transportation yearly inspections. These processes ensure that SSVEC is getting the most life out of every single fleet asset by taking a proactive approach to finding and correcting issues that can cause damage or hinder the cooperative's ability to respond in a timely manner.

Finally when the decision is made to retire a fleet asset, it is based on past maintenance history, depreciation and the continuing cost to maintain. This is the final part of the process to ensure that our member-owners' investment has been managed properly from day one.

Only after this evaluation, is a fleet asset sold or given a way as a grand drawing prize at a cooperative annual meeting.



Setting a pole and safely electrifying a line bearing 69,000 volts requires the right equipment and reliable vehicles. This team of SSVEC journeyman linemen depend on a well-maintained fleet.



Linemen prepare to set a pole



Vehicles are a vital part of the operation

Total Fleet

153 Vehicles, 87 Trailers

Benson

29 vehicles, 15 trailers

- 12 light class**
- 15 heavy duty**
- 1 fork lift**
- 1 wave assist**

Sierra Vista

70 vehicles, 42 trailers

- 31 light class**
- 33 heavy duty**
- 4 fork lifts**
- 2 UTV**

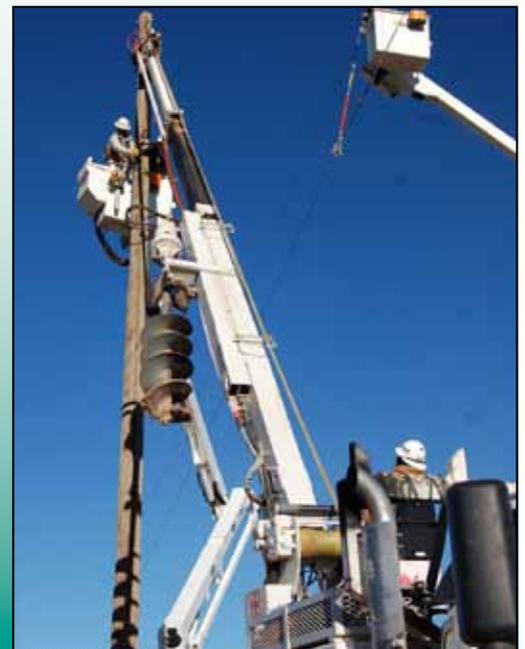
Willcox

54 vehicles, 30 trailers

- 29 light class**
- 19 heavy duty**
- 4 fork lifts**
- 1 UTV**
- 1 Quad**



Ready to go in Willcox



The final placement of the pole, after the drilling is done.