

Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2020 • VOLUME 43, NUMBER 2



Take Control of Your Account with the LOEMC Mobile App

Visit the app store on your mobile phone and search for LOEMC, then download. This free app will give you fast and secure access to manage your account easily.

What is the difference between the mobile app and the mobile web app, and how secure?

Our mobile apps are native apps that can be downloaded and installed on your compatible mobile device, while the mobile web app is a web portal that runs directly in the mobile browser on your smartphone or other mobile device. All critical information is encrypted in every transaction run through the apps and the mobile web app, and no personal information is stored on your mobile device. However, mobile devices do allow you to store your login information for apps installed on the device. If you choose to store your login information, any person with access to your mobile device can access your account.

Both the native apps and the mobile web app give you secure access to maintain your account information, to view your bills and your payment history, to manage your alerts and reminders and to make payments on one or more accounts directly from your mobile device.

How do I sign up for push notifications? What if I want to receive push notifications for multiple accounts?

Mobile apps allow you to register your accounts to receive push notifications for account milestones, such as an approaching or a missed due date. Push

notifications are not available through the mobile web app.

The first time you launch the app after installing it on your mobile device, you'll be asked whether you want to enable push notifications for our app on your device. Select OK to enable push notifications. Next, be sure to select each individual account and enable the Notify option for every account you want to receive push notifications. If you have our app installed on multiple devices, don't forget to enable push notifications for your accounts on each one.



I have five accounts. Can I see them all in the mobile app and the mobile web app, and can I make a payment on multiple accounts?

Yes. Once you've logged in, you'll be directed to a list of all your accounts. When you select a specific account, the details will display above the list. If you only have one account, the details will show up as soon as you log in. From the list of accounts, either select the option to pay all accounts or select specific accounts for payment. You can also make a payment to a single account by selecting the payment option when that account's details are displayed.

How current is the account information I see in the mobile app?

The information in the mobile app and in the mobile web app is shown in real time, so it's always accurate. However, if you keep your mobile app or mobile web app open for an extended period, you should refresh the page by selecting a new option to ensure the information is still current.

Notice of Patronage Capital Assignment for 2019

Because Little Ocmulgee EMC is a nonprofit cooperative, revenue collected in excess of expenses is eventually returned to the co-op's member-owners, our electric customers. After each year is completed, margins are assigned to members' accounts so they can be paid later as capital credits.

Assigned margins are retained for several years to be used, in place of borrowed money, as a source of funding for the construction of new lines and other utility plant expenses. This helps the cooperative keep the cost of providing service as low as possible. When financial conditions are favorable, the margins are returned as capital credits to the members.

The assignment is made by applying the percentage of the cooperative's margins (revenues in excess of expenses) to each member's total billing for the year (excluding sales tax). In addition, margins are assigned to Little Ocmulgee EMC by other organizations with which it is associated, such as Cooperative Finance Corp., CoBank, Gresco, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and Southeastern Data Corp. The percentage assigned from these associated organizations is assigned to each member each year in the same manner as above.

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{2019 total operating margins +} \\ \text{2019 total associated organizations} \end{array}}{\text{2019 total sales of electric energy}} = \frac{\$ 1,504,422}{\$ 23,959,761} = 0.062789526$$

Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Cooperative 2019 Patronage Capital Assignment Factors

	Allocation Factor	If your total bills were: (excluding sales tax)		
		\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000
2019 patronage capital assigned for Little Ocmulgee EMC	0.060080441	\$ 30.04	\$ 60.08	\$ 120.16
2019 patronage capital assigned from associated organizations	0.002709085	\$ 1.35	\$ 2.71	\$ 5.42
2019 total patronage capital assigned	0.062789526	\$ 31.39	\$ 62.79	\$ 125.58

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) **Mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) **Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) **Email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Utility Notification Requirements for Anyone Working Within 10 Feet of a High-Voltage Line

Contractors and landowners have substantial compliance responsibility when working near an electric utility's underground and overhead distribution power lines. Georgia law and Little Ocmulgee EMC regulations require contractors and landowners to contact Georgia 811 before working near power lines.

Little Ocmulgee EMC hopes to avoid personal injuries, unnecessary power outages and line damage associated with accidents involving its electric distribution facilities. Contractors can avoid substantial equipment damage and repair costs, as well as personal injuries to their employees, if they abide by these requirements.

These regulations apply to contractors, well drillers, farmers, landowners and others who may have a personal business interest in work performed near power lines. While the following rules address overhead power lines, Georgia law requires that anyone digging in Georgia must contact Georgia 811 at least three days before construction begins, so utility companies can be contacted to mark underground facilities.

High Voltage Safety Act

The High Voltage Safety Act became law in Georgia on July 1, 1992. This act requires individuals performing work within 10 feet of overhead high-voltage electric power lines to notify Georgia 811 during its regular business hours at least 72 hours prior to beginning the work (excluding weekends and holidays).

Georgia 811 will then contact the owner of the power lines to take appropriate safety measures to prevent injuries, property damage and

interruptions of utility service resulting from accidental or inadvertent contact with high-voltage electric lines. Failure to call Georgia 811 constitutes a violation of the law and can result in fines and penalties, in addition to liability for repair of damages.

Contractors are encouraged to become fully familiar with the details of the High Voltage Safety Act. Information is available directly from Georgia 811. Use the same telephone number for notifications or contact them at their website.

Georgia 811
Statewide: 811
Nationwide: 811
www.gaupc.com

Special notice to farmers

Modern farm equipment can be raised or lowered to allow for harvesting greater amounts with fewer delays. Use of this equipment requires that you check fields and roads where your equipment may come within 10 feet of overhead power lines.

The power lines were installed to comply with the National Electrical Safety Code clearance guidelines at the time of construction. If any part of your equipment will be within 10 feet of overhead power lines, you must notify Georgia 811 at least 72 hours before you work under the power lines.

Wells and pumps

Both the well driller and the landowner bear responsibility to notify Georgia 811 when any equipment or materials will be within 10 feet of overhead high-voltage power lines. For safety reasons, installation of wells and well pumps at distances closer than 30 feet from any overhead

power line should generally be avoided, but in locations where the options for well placement are limited, Little Ocmulgee EMC will help determine the minimum clearance requirements, as specified in the National Electrical Safety Code.

Minimum clearance requirements for the location of wells and well pumps vary according to the line voltage and certain site-specific attributes, and Little Ocmulgee EMC should be consulted to determine the appropriate minimum recommended distance. Clearance requirements vary with the voltage of the power line, the height of the line above ground, the distance to poles that support the line and other local factors that determine where a drilling rig will be stationed for installation and future maintenance or pump replacement activities.

A Little Ocmulgee EMC representative will meet with the well driller and/or landowner to determine the minimum acceptable distance if the desired pump location is closer than 30 feet from an overhead line.

Easements

Little Ocmulgee EMC's Service Rules and Regulations require the contractor to notify Little Ocmulgee EMC directly if proposed work and/or construction will be performed inside the utility's easement. In most cases, the easement extends 20 feet on each side of the power line. Little Ocmulgee EMC will provide the necessary protection to avoid hazards. Again, consideration should be given to providing plenty of time to respond.

Call Little Ocmulgee EMC's Engineering Department at (912) 568-7171 or 1 (800) 342-1290 and ask to speak with a representative.



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause in home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.