

News Release



First Electric returns more than \$3.8 million to members

Jacksonville, Ark., Dec. 29, 2011 – The First Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved a refund of \$3,813,770 to members this year. This refund, known as capital credits, represents the members' share of the remaining revenue minus the cost of operation for the years being retired. Capital credit refunds are assigned to each member account annually and then refunded when financial conditions permit.

Capital credit checks were mailed Dec. 14. Members whose refund was less than \$20 received a credit on their December electric bill. With this refund of \$3,813,770, the amount returned to First Electric members now totals more than \$52.7 million. Capital credit refunds are one of the major differences between a not-for-profit electric cooperative, such as First Electric, and a for-profit investor-owned electric company.

A portion of the refund check represents each member's share of \$3,813,770 of margins that were allocated from a portion of years 1985 to 2010. The amount of the check is based on the amount of electricity used during those years.

First Electric's philosophy of operating on sound, conservative business principles makes it possible to provide the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost and to return capital credits to members.

First Electric serves 88,390 active accounts throughout 17 counties in central and southeast Arkansas. The cooperative maintains full-service offices in Benton, Heber Springs, Jacksonville, Perryville and Stuttgart. For news and other information, visit the First Electric website at www.firstelectric.coop or search for First Electric Cooperative on Facebook.

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