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BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

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### **BEMC ANNOUNCES REPAYMENT PLANS FOR MEMBERS AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

**Supply, NC, (7/31/2020)** - Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) remains committed to working with members experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic when normal member payment procedures resume August 3.

On March 15, BEMC made the decision to temporarily suspend service disconnections due to nonpayment and waive late payment fees on all past due accounts. NC Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 124 requiring the same action for all utilities on March 31. Executive Order 142 was issued on May 30 and extended the terms of Executive Order 124 until July 29. These executive orders stipulate that they do not relieve consumers of their obligation to pay for services received during the duration of the orders.

As North Carolina reopens and the moratorium on utility disconnections is lifted, BEMC is aware that many members will continue to face economic hardship. Currently 7% of BEMC's accounts have past due balances, with an average of \$300 in arrears. In an effort to help the members most affected, the following repayment plans will be available based on the service type:

- **PREPAY ACCOUNTS:** Upon completion of the morning update on August 3, any negative balance will be converted to an arrangement amount in addition to a \$20 credit. This will provide members additional time to purchase power and keep power on. The \$20 will be added to the arrangement amount. Until the outstanding balance is repaid, each payment made will be applied as follows:
  - 25% to the outstanding balance
  - 75% to the current energy purchase
- **MONTHLY BILLED ACCOUNTS:** Overdue balances will be divided into 12 equal payments and added to bills as a COVID payment arrangement beginning in September.

“Our region has been substantially impacted by COVID-19, and BEMC is listening to our members and working to meet their needs,” said Corey Thurlow, COO. “In addition to these

standard repayment plans, we will be working one-on-one with members to establish repayment arrangements that are fair to both them and the rest of the cooperative membership.”

BEMC employees are available to address any questions or concerns that members may have. Members are encouraged to call 800-842-5871 to speak to a customer service representative or visit one of three district offices during normal business hours.

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***BEMC is a locally owned and operated not-for-profit corporation. It is the second largest electric cooperative in North Carolina and serves more than 98,000 meter locations in Brunswick, Columbus, and parts of Bladen and Robeson counties. Founded in 1939, BEMC has a longstanding commitment to the communities it serves, providing support for a wide variety of activities that contribute to the quality of life for all citizens.***