Southern Company Services, Incorporated, part of the Southern Company and the Southern Electric System, has been a great contributor to the advancement of the South.

Southern Services, Inc., emerged in 1949, from the Southern Company, as the support organization providing technical and specialized services, at cost, to the parent company and other member companies. The 150 Southern Company Services employees worked out of offices in the Alabama Power Company building in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1973, Southern Company Services, comprising mainly engineers and support personnel, moved to new corporate headquarters on Shades Creek Parkway in Birmingham.

The engineers and support personnel of Southern Company Services perform a wide range of engineering services for the operating companies. Southern Company Services engineers are involved in power plant design, retrofit services, and site selection for new generating facilities.

Apart from the designated engineering organization, other areas of engineering activity within the service company are responsible for the design of transmission and substation systems, system-wide power dispatching, coordination of mining operations, and fuel procurement activities.

In recent years, the primary focus has been on retrofit designs required to maintain, modify, or upgrade the six nuclear-powered, 135 fossil-fueled, and 113 hydroelectric units in the system's mix of generating capacity. Currently there are some 800 engineers and support personnel, and of these employees, 126 have advanced degrees, and approximately 60 percent of the engineers have their professional engineer registration.

Much of the strength of the Southern Electric System has been credited to the company's teamwork, with all member companies working together and saving money by avoiding duplication of operations and personnel.

In addition, Southern Company Services is involved in dozens of engineering projects for other utilities and industries throughout the United States and in several foreign countries through Southern Electric International. Engineers work on assignments ranging from management of a nationwide pool of nuclear plant parts and equipment to design and construction of cogeneration facilities and other power generation systems.

Southern Company Services, Incorporated, has completed many noteworthy projects, including the Bartlett's Ferry Labyrinth Weir, the largest spillway of its type east of the Mississippi River and second largest in the U.S., and the design of a hydro tunnel in Rocky Mountain, Georgia, the largest hydro tunnel in the Southeast.

Southern Company Services has been recognized with many honors and awards for its achievement in the electric power supply industry, including the 1989 Industrial Appreciation Award from the American Association of Cost Engineers.