

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas slammed by January ice storm

Little Rock, Ark. – Jan. 27, 2009 – As of 2 p.m. today, more than 100,000 electric cooperative members were without power in the wake of a crippling ice storm that has downed tree limbs and power lines.

The outages are concentrated in the northern tier of Arkansas. Ten of the state's 17 electric distribution cooperatives have power outages, including: Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative of Ozark; Carroll Electric Cooperative, Berryville; Clay County Electric Cooperative, Corning; Craighead Electric Cooperative, Jonesboro; Farmers Electric Cooperative, Newport; First Electric Cooperative, Jacksonville; North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Salem; Ozarks Electric Cooperative, Fayetteville; and Petit Jean Electric Cooperative, Clinton.

These cooperatives are working hard to restore power as quickly as possible and will seek assistance from sister cooperatives not impacted by storm, said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

"The electric cooperative workers in Arkansas are working diligently in difficult conditions to restore power for cooperative members in Arkansas," White said. "They are always ready and willing to help each other in times of need."

The public is cautioned to avoid any downed power lines and to report them immediately to local authorities.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas comprise 17 electric distribution cooperatives; Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. (AECI), a Little Rock-based cooperative that provides various services to the distribution cooperatives; and Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp. (AECC), a generation and transmission cooperative. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to approximately 490,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.