

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas continue ice storm restoration efforts

Little Rock, Ark. – Jan. 28, 2009 – 4:30 p.m. – As the electric cooperatives hit hardest by the disastrous ice storm accessed damage today, the number of damaged or downed poles reached about 6,475 and more than 189,000 members remain without power.

The cooperatives with the least amount of damage were able to restore power to many or all of their members. However, the cooperatives receiving the brunt of the storm spent much of the day assessing damage and finalizing work plans.

Additionally, a growing number of line and right-of-way crews from within and outside Arkansas are converging on the worst hit area. More than 400 crews, including out-of-state workers, will continue restoration efforts until power is restored.

Eleven of the state's 17 electric distribution cooperatives have varying degrees of outages with the hardest hit systems being in the northernmost sections of Arkansas. The cooperatives with outages include: Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative, Ozark; Carroll Electric Cooperative, Berryville; Clay County Electric Cooperative, Corning; Craighead Electric Cooperative, Jonesboro; Farmers Electric Cooperative, Newport; First Electric Cooperative, Jacksonville; Mississippi County Electric Cooperative, Blytheville; North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Salem; Ozarks Electric Cooperative, Fayetteville; Petit Jean Electric Cooperative, Clinton; and Woodruff Electric Cooperative, Forrest City. ***(A chart is attached for outages by cooperative)***

According to Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, the 2009 ice storm is one of the worst natural disasters to hit the northern section of the state.

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.

For additional information, contact:

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January 2009 Ice Storm Outage Report

<i>Updated 3:00 p.m. January 28, 2009</i>		
Cooperative	Outages (est.)	Broken Poles (est.)
Arkansas Valley	4,400	50
Carroll	56,000	425
Clay	12,500	1,000
Craighead	15,000	2,000
Farmers	3,500	100
First	4,800	100
Mississippi County	3,000	500
North Arkansas	30,000	1,500
Ozarks	50,000	500
Petit Jean	10,000	300
Rich Mountain	0	0
Woodruff	40	0
Totals	189,240	6,475