

## ***Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas continue ice storm restoration efforts***

**Little Rock, Ark.** – Jan. 30, 2009 – 10 a.m. – Arkansas' electric cooperatives continue to make progress in restoring power to members in the aftermath of a devastating ice storm that left up to 198,000 members without power on Wednesday. As of 10 a.m. today, about 143,800 members remained with power, down from 161,000 on Thursday afternoon.

"Workers are continuing to make progress, but it is slow going because of the massive damage to the cooperatives' systems," said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. "As crews work, they continue to find more poles down and more damage to the infrastructure."

In addition to damage to the cooperatives' distribution systems, there are transmission lines out of service that must be restored by other companies. Once those are restored, the cooperatives expect the restoration process to accelerate.

More than 2,000 linemen from electric cooperatives in Arkansas and surrounding states are working to restore power.

The hardest hit systems are in northern 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; and Petit Jean Electric Cooperative, Clinton. ***(A chart is attached for outages by cooperative; cooperative service territory map is also attached)***

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.

## January 2009 Ice Storm Outage Report

<i>Updated 10 a.m. January 30, 2009</i>		
<b>Cooperative</b>	<b>Outages (est.)</b>	<b>Broken Poles (est.)</b>
Arkansas Valley	700	25
Carroll	47,000	1000
Clay	12,500	1,000
Craighead	15,000	3,000
Farmers	1,900	200
First	2,000	150
Mississippi County	2,500	1000
North Arkansas	27,000	1,500
Ozarks	29,000	500
Petit Jean	6,200	1000
Rich Mountain	0	0
Woodruff	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>143,800</b>	<b>9,375</b>