

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas make progress in storm restoration

Little Rock, Ark. – Jan. 30, 2009 – 3 p.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 3 p.m. today, about 118,300 members remained without power, down from 143,800 reported earlier today.

"Crews continue to make great strides in reconstructing the distribution lines that were destroyed by this catastrophic ice storm," said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. "Workers from the Gulf Coast, who are assisting, are calling this Arkansas' Hurricane Katrina as the damage is so dramatic and widespread."

With many cooperatives, transmission line outages continue to plague restoration progress. In some cases, substations are not receiving power from the transmission lines and, as a result, lines that have been rebuilt cannot be energized, White said.

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 3:00 p.m. January 30, 2009</i>		
Electric Cooperative	Member Outages (est.)	Storm Total Broken Poles (est.)
Arkansas Valley	300	100
Carroll	30,000	1000
Clay	12,500	1,000
Craighead	13,500	3,000
Farmers	1,850	200
First	1,500	500
Mississippi County	2,500	1000
North Arkansas	26,000	1,500
Ozarks	24,000	500
Petit Jean	6,150	1000
Rich Mountain	0	0
Woodruff	0	0
Totals	118,300	9,800