

Ice storm restoration continues; Progress continues

Little Rock, Ark. –Feb 1, 2009 – 1 p.m. – A growing number of line and right-of-way crews continue restoring power to cooperative members across the northern tier of Arkansas. As of 1 p.m. today, about 78,500 members remain without power, down from approximately 198,000 at the peak of the outages.

“On Saturday, the ice began to melt, which aided in the reconstruction process,” said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. “As crews work, they continue to locate additional broken poles. The total number of broken poles on cooperative lines has risen to more than 11,000. After the damaged materials are cleared, it takes a seasoned crew about one and one-half hours to place a new pole.”

According to White, poles and other infrastructure materials are streaming into the damage-stricken areas. Organizations that supply materials for power line construction are working around the clock to meet the demand for needed materials, White said.

As transmission outages are corrected, cooperatives have reenergized substations. As the substations are energized, then the cooperatives can restore power to members.

More than 2,700 linemen from electric cooperatives in Arkansas and surrounding states are working to restore power.

Cooperatives with outages now include: 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 and cumulative damaged pole count by cooperative)***

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.

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Electric Cooperative	Current Member Outages (est.)	Storm Cum. Total Broken Poles (est.)
Arkansas Valley	0	100
Carroll	16,200	1000
Clay	9,800	3,000
Craighead	9,000	3,000
Farmers	1,000	200
First	600	500
Mississippi County	2,000	1000
North Arkansas	19,500	1,500
Ozarks	16,000	500
Petit Jean	4,400	1000
Rich Mountain	0	0
Woodruff	0	0
Totals	78,500	11,800