

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Ice Storm Restoration Update

Little Rock, Ark. - Feb. 14, 2009 - 12:30 p.m. - The number of electric cooperative members that do not have electric service as the result of the recent ice storm stands at approximately 9,475. This is down from a peak of more than 210,300.

More than 4,200 line workers are working to rebuild electric distribution infrastructure and reestablish electric service for cooperative members.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas urges cooperative members to use caution both within and outside their homes. Candles, lanterns and temporary heating devices can pose a fire hazard. Home generators should be properly vented to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, and they should be connected to home wiring through appropriate protective devices to prevent power from feeding back onto the utility's wires.

The cooperatives with outages include: Clay County Electric Cooperative, Corning; Craighead Electric Cooperative, Jonesboro; Mississippi County Electric Cooperative, Blytheville; North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Salem; and Petit Jean Electric Cooperative, Clinton. (A chart is attached for outages 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.

To see how your local electric cooperative typically goes about the task of restoring electric services go to: <http://www.aecc.com/content.cfm?id=2210>