

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Ice Storm Restoration Update

Little Rock, Ark. – Feb. 17, 2009 – 3:30 p.m. – Crews at four electric cooperatives persist in reestablishing electric service for approximately 4,390 electric cooperative members that remain without power, down from a peak of more than 210,300 outages.

In several locations crews are working in muddy conditions, in which tractors must pull digger derrick and bucket trucks through the muck. And, in other extremes, crews are faced with navigating very hilly, remote locations.

The Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas urge 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; 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>

Updated 3 p.m. -Tuesday, Feb.
17

Electric Cooperative	Current Member Outages (est.)	Storm Peak Outages (est.)	Storm Total Broken Poles (est.)	Current Broken Poles (est.)
Arkansas Valley	0	4,400	100	0
Carroll	0	57,500	1900	0
Clay	3,100	12,000	15,000	7,500
Craighead	800	25,000	8,000	900
Farmers	0	3,500	500	0
First	0	8,300	225	0
Mississippi County	40	3,000	1,000	60
North Arkansas	0	30,500	2,500	0
Ozarks	0	51,000	1,600	0
Petit Jean	450	13,000	2,000	300
Rich Mountain	0	800	0	0
Woodruff	0	1300	0	0
Totals	4,390	210,300	32,825	8,760