

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Ice Storm Restoration Update

Little Rock, Ark. – Feb. 18, 2009 – 9 a.m. – Electric service has been restored to approximately 98 percent of the 210,300 electric cooperative members that were left in the dark as the result of January's crippling ice storm.

According to Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, approximately 3,680 cooperative members are still not reconnected despite the ongoing effort of line crews.

"We cannot emphasize the severity of the widespread damage caused by the ice storm," White said. "Crews continue to work from daylight until dark in some very challenging locations. The efforts of these men and the support staff are to be commended."

White said that many of the workers have basically put their personal lives on hold in order to reestablish electric service to cooperative members.

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>

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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	3,000	12,000	15,000	7,000
Craighead	400	25,000	8,000	600
Farmers	0	3,500	500	0
First	0	8,300	225	0
Mississippi County	30	3,000	1,000	60
North Arkansas	0	30,500	2,500	0
Ozarks*	0	51,000	1,600	0
Petit Jean	250	13,000	2,000	250
Rich Mountain	0	800	0	0
Woodruff	0	1300	0	0
Totals	3,680	210,300	32,825	7,910