

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Ice Storm Restoration Update

Little Rock, Ark. – Feb. 19, 2009 – 9 a.m. – Electric cooperative line workers remain vigilant in their efforts to restore power to approximately 2,970 members that do not have electric service as the result of the January ice storm.

“We are proud to report that electric service has been restored to about 98 percent the members impacted by the ice storm,” said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. “This is an amazing feat. In many instances miles and miles of electric distribution infrastructure has been replaced. The remaining outages are being addressed as quickly as possible.”

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 Thursday, Feb. 19 -9 a.m.

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	2,650	12,000	15,000	6,300
Craighead	100	25,000	8,000	350
Farmers	0	3,500	500	0
First	0	8,300	225	0
Mississippi County	20	3,000	1,000	40
North Arkansas	0	30,500	2,500	0
Ozarks*	0	51,000	1,600	0
Petit Jean	200	13,000	2,000	300
Rich Mountain	0	800	0	0
Woodruff	0	1300	0	0
Totals	2,970	210,300	32,825	6,990