

# News Release

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## Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas

### ***Restoration work continues; Major progress made***

**Little Rock, Ark.** – Jan. 31, 2009 – 1 p.m. – Crews have restored power to approximately 50 percent of the cooperative members that were left without power as the result of the devastating ice storm that hit the state earlier in the week. As of 1 p.m. today, about 96,445 members remained without power, down from approximately 198,000 at the peak of the outages.

“The severity of the outages created by the ice is indescribable,” said Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. “The crews are working around the clock to restore power to members as quickly and as safely as possible.”

With many cooperatives, transmission line outages continue to plague restoration progress. In some cases, substations are not receiving power from the transmission lines and, as a result, lines that have been rebuilt cannot be energized, White said. A few substations are now receiving power and as a result the number of outages is expected to decrease.

More than 2,500 linemen from electric cooperatives in Arkansas and surrounding states are working to restore power.

The hardest hit systems are in northern Arkansas. The cooperatives with outages include: Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative, Ozark; 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.

#### **For additional information, contact:**

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## January 2009 Ice Storm Outage Report

*Updated 1:00 p.m. January 31, 2009*

<b>Electric Cooperative</b>	<b>Current Member Outages (est.)</b>	<b>Storm Total Broken Poles (est.)</b>
Arkansas Valley	200	100
Carroll	22,000	1000
Clay	11,000	3,000
Craighead	11,000	3,000
Farmers	1,700	200
First	1,150	500
Mississippi County	1,845	1000
North Arkansas	22,000	1,500
Ozarks	20,200	500
Petit Jean	5,350	1000
Rich Mountain	0	0
Woodruff	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>96,445</b>	<b>11,800</b>

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