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## **N E W S R E L E A S E**

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### **BLUEBONNET MEMBER'S POWER FULLY RESTORED; CREWS SENT TO AID NEIGHBORING UTILITIES**

(Bastrop) – Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative announced that it had fully restored power by 8 a.m. Sunday to its more than 8,000 members who suffered outages as a direct result of Hurricane Ike's path through its service territory.

"Thanks to the incredible job done by all of our crews, contractors and support personnel, we were able to fully restore power by early Sunday morning to more than 8,000 members who lost power due to Hurricane Ike," said Mark Rose, Bluebonnet general manager. "Lots of hard work in preparing for Ike and in implementing our emergency response plan enabled us to respond quickly and safely to the needs of our members, who showed great patience and understanding during the storm and its aftermath."

Between 6 p.m. Friday, September 12, and 8 a.m. Sunday, September 14, Bluebonnet experienced 144 power outages affecting 8,198 members, resulting in 27,717 member hours of interruption. Nearly all of these outages were due to Hurricane Ike, with the majority of outages in Washington and Burleson counties. Average restoration time during that period was 3 hours and 46 minutes.

Bluebonnet's Brenham service area experienced 108 outages, affecting 5,523 members, resulting in 24,225 member hours of interruption. The Giddings service area experienced 18 outages affecting 1,581 members, resulting in 1,446 member hours of interruption. The Red Rock service area experienced 18 outages, affecting 1,094 members, resulting in 2,046 member hours of interruption.

The longest outage was in the Brenham service area, in which 214 members were without power for more than 15 hours. High sustained winds, the remoteness of the damaged section of line, difficulty in removing large amounts of tree debris and a faulty substation breaker contributed to the lengthy outage.

Bluebonnet came through the hurricane better than other utilities in Ike's path. After a complete damage assessment to its electric system, Bluebonnet released seven contractor tree-trimming crews, eight contractor construction crews and two of its own construction crews to aid power restoration in areas that suffered severe storm damage.

"We were more fortunate than some of the other utilities in Texas whose systems were severely damaged," Rose said. "We are happy to be able to lend some of our crews to help those utilities and communities in greater need than we are."

The two Bluebonnet crews will help Mid-South Synergy, in Navasota, restore power to its customers. Six of the contractor crews will go to Liberty, near Houston, to help power restoration activities in that community.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative serves nearly 80,000 meters and owns and maintains about 11,000 miles of power lines, located across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 southeastern Texas counties. Bluebonnet's service area stretches from Travis County to Washington County and from Milam County down to Gonzales County. For more information about Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative go to [www.bluebonnetelectric.coop](http://www.bluebonnetelectric.coop).