




Texas Electric Cooperatives

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 16, 2008

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MORE COOPERATIVES RUSH TO ASSIST EAST TEXAS COLLEAGUES

About 300 workers from 40 Texas cooperatives were helping re-energize 10 East Texas electric distribution cooperatives on Tuesday, September 16, said Tiffin Wortham, vice president, member services, for Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC). TEC is the statewide service organization for 75 distribution and generation and transmission cooperatives. It coordinates deployment of linemen and equipment to hard-hit cooperatives when cataclysmic events such as Hurricane Ike occur.

The cooperatives receiving assistance were Sam Houston, Jasper-Newton, Deep East Texas, Mid-South, Houston County, Rusk County, Panola-Harrison, Cherokee County, San Bernard and Bowie-Cass.

Melody Pinnell, manager of **Houston County Electric Cooperative** in Crockett, said, “Words can’t express how grateful I am to be part of such a great organization. When I saw all of those trucks in my (equipment) yard from the other cooperatives, I felt so proud. They all came to do a job, and it was an amazing sight to see. They knew exactly what to do.”

More than 2 million Texans were without power Tuesday. Problems with Entergy Texas’ transmission system continue, so even after cooperatives in their transmission areas have repaired their local lines, they must wait for Entergy’s high-voltage lines to be repaired. Entergy has said Ike is the most destructive hurricane ever to hit its transmission system. Cooperative wholesale energy

supplier **Brazos Electric Power** is assisting in restoring Entergy's transmission grid in the Brazos Valley and areas eastward toward Montgomery and Walker counties.

Here are the latest reports from East Texas cooperatives:

Officials with **Sam Houston Electric Cooperative**, based in Livingston, said power was beginning to return to a few areas of its service territory as 2,500 personnel repaired damage. These areas include parts of Honey Island, Big Sandy, Huntington and Livingston. Ike caused massive damage. Repairs in some of Sam Houston's severely hit areas could take up to three weeks. Check the cooperative's website, www.samhouston.net, for status reports.

Houston County Electric Cooperative is projecting that all services will be restored within the next four days, except for meters served by Entergy. The substations electrified by Entergy's transmission lines are Midway, Trinity, Groveton and Ferguson. "Those services will be down for as long as 3 weeks while Entergy repairs its transmission lines," Pinnell said.

Rusk County Electric Cooperative, based in Henderson, had approximately 9,100 customers remaining without power. Co-op repair crews have arrived from Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and New Mexico and will work around the clock until all meters have been restored.

Mid-South Synergy, based in Huntsville, had 8,500 meters offline Tuesday. Power service in Brazos, Grimes, Walker and Madison counties continued to be maintained by back-feeding from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) grid. However, as crews have been working diligently to finish up work in Grimes County, they were slowed down due to a feeder outage early Tuesday south of Anderson.

Mid-South was successful in restoring power to vital water-pumping facilities at the Trinity River in northern Walker County for the Tenaska Frontier Power Plant in Shiro. The now-working plant is helping to power parts of Entergy's service area, but more working transmission lines are needed.

Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative, based in Douglassville, reported that only 3,000 meters are without power, a great improvement since Sunday morning when 24,000 meters were out, primarily due to transmission outages from Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO). “It’s a lot better than it was,” said Manager Barron Christensen. “By tomorrow evening (September 17), we will be close to being completely repaired.”

San Bernard Electric Cooperative, based in Bellville, reported that more than 90 percent of its meters were restored with power. “We have 719 meters still out,” said President/GM Billy Marricle.

Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, based in Rusk, reported 3,000 outages Tuesday.

Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, based in San Augustine, reported 8,000 outages Tuesday.