

January 16, 2007

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas send crews to Missouri and Oklahoma

Little Rock, Ark. – Jan. 16, 2007 – On Jan. 15 and today, the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas dispatched 295 right-of-way, construction and linemen workers and equipment to assist electric cooperatives in Missouri and Oklahoma in a major power restoration effort resulting from severe winter weather.

Doug White, vice president of systems services for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, said cooperative staffers have worked closely with cooperatives in Missouri and Oklahoma, and are coordinating the logistics for Arkansas cooperative crews.

"The electric cooperative workers in Arkansas are recognized for their ongoing dedication to assisting cooperative members in Arkansas and in neighboring states," White said. "They are always ready and willing to assist electric cooperatives in times of need."

Pat McClafferty, vice president of the utility sales department for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, said requests for supplies and material, includes items such as splices, fuses and utility poles. Truckloads of supplies are being shipped to impacted areas "around the clock," he said.

Crews assisting in the restoration efforts are from Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., of Little Rock; Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative of Ozark; Clay County Electric Cooperative of Corning; Craighead Electric Cooperative of Jonesboro; First Electric Cooperative of Jacksonville; North Arkansas Electric Cooperative of Salem; Ouachita Electric Cooperative of Camden; Ozarks Electric Cooperative of Fayetteville; Petit Jean Electric Cooperative of Clinton; Rich Mountain Electric Cooperative of Mena; South Central Arkansas Electric Cooperative of Arkadelphia; Southwest Electric Cooperative of Texarkana; and Woodruff Electric Cooperative of Forrest City.

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 460,000 members, or customers, in Arkansas and surrounding states.

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