

VVEC Restores Service to Several Hundred Members Sunday

(COLLINSVILLE) – Improved weather conditions and additional contract crews helped restore service to several hundred VVEC members on Sunday. The number of co-op members still without electric service has been reduced from 4,500 Sunday morning to 3,750 by 4 p.m. Sunday. At the height of the storm more than 12,000 of VVEC's 24,800 members were without electricity.

As crews continue to repair the extensive damage, more damaged utility poles are being discovered. The number now stands at 1,550 poles; up 150 from Sunday morning.

VVEC is a rural electric cooperative that provides electricity to members through more than 4,500 miles of electric lines running through Nowata, Osage, Rogers, Tulsa and Washington counties in northeastern Oklahoma. It has a service territory of 3,200 square miles. Headquartered in Collinsville, VVEC is the third largest of the state's 26 electric cooperatives.

More than 350 personnel are working to repair the damage caused by the one and one-half inch of ice that accumulated on the co-op's power lines and trees and branches. VVEC Manager of Operations Mike Hall says there are about 75 brush crews and 70 line 2, 3, and 4-man crews working throughout the service territory. He says additional disaster response crews are enroute to VVEC as they are being released from other Oklahoma cooperatives.

VVEC spokesperson Kathy Calico says that although co-op personnel are restoring electric service to more and more members each day, she says it could still be the end of week before some members have electric service. She encourages members to continue to call in and report their outages.

"We appreciate the members' patience as we work diligently to repair the damages and restore electric service."

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