

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Date: June 12, 2008

Subject: Storms Damage NIPCO Transmission Lines

Crews from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative were working Thursday morning to repair electric transmission lines and poles downed during tornadoes and storms Wednesday evening in three locations across western Iowa.

Damaged lines all were de-energized immediately and power was restored using alternate transmission routes.

Eight poles were down along Early Avenue about three miles southeast of Blencoe in Monona County. The poles and conductor fell across the road, which was closed to traffic Wednesday evening because of the debris. The road was expected to be cleared and re-opened sometime Thursday. NIPCO crews will work through the weekend to replace those poles and repair conductor wire.

In southeastern O'Brien County, five poles were pulled loose by the storm and left leaning at a 45-degree angle. NIPCO crews were expected to finish resetting those poles Thursday.

Near Aspinwall in southeast Crawford County, four poles were broken along Iowa 141. Those poles were scheduled to be replaced Friday.

While the pole damage disrupted electric service to some electric cooperative members, most outages were measured in minutes. However, in the Little Sioux and Mondamin areas, there was an outage of just less than one hour, while the town of Manilla in southeastern Crawford County had a two-hour outage when MidAmerican Energy and NIPCO lines on a shared transmission pole became entangled by strong winds.

NIPCO, a Touchstone Energy cooperative headquartered in Le Mars, is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned by six rural electric cooperatives and also by a full-service municipal electric cooperative serving six western Iowa towns. Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 660 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a long-standing commitment to communities.

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