

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Subject: Cooperatives Send Repair Crews After Storm

Eighteen linemen and equipment from western Iowa electric cooperatives were working Tuesday for electric cooperatives in eastern parts of the state, repairing damage caused by the weekend snow and ice storm.

Crews from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative of Le Mars, and from its member cooperatives North West Rural Electric Cooperative in Ida Grove, Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative of Merville, Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative in Woodbine, and Western Iowa Power Cooperative in Denison all headed east to help electric cooperatives get power back to their member-consumers. The western Iowa cooperative employees took with them 13 pieces of equipment, which included digger-derricks, basket trucks, a dump truck, a pickup truck and pole trailers to assist in the repair and clean-up efforts.

Most of the crews are working for Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, which had a reported 800 electric poles downed in the storm.

The crews left western Iowa after repairing damage to their local electric systems. Western Iowa Power had ice buildup in eastern Crawford County, knocking out two single-phase poles and downing wires in 15 locations. All WIPCO members had power back by Sunday night.

North West REC lost 10 poles in Sioux and O'Brien counties, which were repaired by Sunday evening.

Of the cooperatives served by NIPCO, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in Estherville sustained the heaviest damage. The cooperative reported hundreds of detached or broken lines, along with six broken poles. Nine substations went down during the storm, but all Iowa Lakes members were back online Sunday, with a few scattered outages for repairs on Monday.

Additional crews from western Iowa cooperatives could be sent to the storm damage area later this week. The decision will be made Wednesday or Thursday and will depend on whether the freezing rain, sleet and snow forecast for Tuesday night and Wednesday cause damage locally.

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 630 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 45 states deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 22 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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