



## RELEASED

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### Sam Houston EC brings six substations online Power could be restored to 19,000 within days

LIVINGSTON – Sam Houston EC has begun the road to recovery after Hurricane Rita, which knocked out service to all of the Cooperative's 64,000 meters. Monday morning, prior to work orders being handed out to 1,000 contract line and right-of-way workers brought in from across the United States to bring the system up, the Cooperative was able to power S.W. Dorrell, Carlisle, Onalaska, Blanchard, Bold Springs and Israel Road substations after the Evergreen to Dorrell 138 kV transmission line was energized.



Member Services Representatives work the night shift Sunday.

Since Rita first took aim at East Texas, CEO Kyle Kuntz, along with the Cooperative's Operations and Engineering staffs, has been in close contact with Entergy to coordinate the critical step of restoring transmission facilities. The Evergreen to Dorrell transmission line is the first of many Sam Houston EC and Entergy plan to bring on line in the next few days in order to feed electricity into the Cooperative's 6,000 miles of distribution network.

S.W. Dorrell is located six miles east of New Waverly on Highway 150. Carlisle is four miles north of Onalaska on F.M. 356. The Onalaska substation is located 2 miles north of town on Old Groveton road. Blanchard is located seven miles west of Livingston on F.M. 3126. Bold Springs is three miles west of Livingston on F.M. 350 North. Israel Road is located north of Livingston on Old Israel Road.

The Security substation, which is eight miles east of Conroe, maintained power throughout the hurricane.

Currently, Cooperative personnel are checking out these substations. Only Feeders 482 (Bold Springs) and 182 and 183 (Israel Road) have load. As soon as it is determined the substations are fully functional, the Cooperative plans to add load, which could potentially bring more than 19,000 meters online in a matter of days.

The Israel Road substation is especially vital, as it provides power to the Memorial Health Care Center, Timberwood Nursing Home, Wal-Mart and the City of Livingston's water department. Currently the nursing home has power. Cooperative officials will work to restore service to the hospital, Wal-Mart, Livingston's water system and various other water districts this morning and afternoon (Monday).

As members' lights come back on, Sam Houston EC asks that you conserve energy. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees and do heavy-duty jobs such as washing and drying clothes in the late evening. When possible, use the microwave instead of the stove, which can heat up the house. The Cooperative also wants you to be aware that rolling blackouts may be instituted in order to bring additional members online.

Many Cooperative employees spent the entire weekend at the Cooperative's offices or in the field. Most of the Cooperative's office building was unairconditioned on Saturday and Sunday. Employees staffing the call center dealt with stifling heat during their twelve-hour shifts as they handled thousands of outage reports called in by members. From answering phones, troubleshooting the network, to cooking and cleaning, Sam Houston EC's finest continued to work through hot and humid conditions in order to restore power as quickly as possible.