



RELEASED

27 September 2005 6 a.m.

Cooperative restores 17.5 percent of service

LIVINGSTON – As of 11 p.m. Monday, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative has energized 11 substations resulting in 17.5 percent of its the system being restored. These substations, which allow the Cooperative to distribute electricity to nearby communities, are Israel Road, Blanchard, Bold Springs, Onalaska, Rich and Carlisle in Polk County, Security in Montgomery County; Huntsville in Walker County; and Shepherd, Wolf Creek and Coldspring in San Jacinto County.

Rich, Shepherd, Wolf Creek and Coldspring are hot but currently do not have load. However, Sam Houston Electric is working to add feeders to these substations. The other substations are in the process of adding load, with Security leading the way with all four of its feeders online and Blanchard and Israel Road nearing their capability to carry their full loads.

These areas, which are near or west of U.S. 59, have experience rapid progress in the last 24 hours. Entergy Texas has begun to re-energize vital transmission lines that feed into Sam Houston Electric's distribution system. The restoration of the Evergreen to S.W. Dorrell 138-kV transmission line allowed the Cooperative to energize six substations, allowing critical loads such as Memorial Medical Center to be transferred off backup generation.

As Entergy lines up its transmission service in the western part of Sam Houston EC's service territory, many members in this area should begin seeing their power restored.

East of U.S. 59, much of the Cooperative's territory lies within the FEMA major disaster declaration area. These are Tyler, Jasper, Hardin and Liberty counties. Eastern Polk County also suffered severe damage.

To help speed up the restoration process, 500 of the 1,000 line and vegetation contractors will be staged in the Woodville area to be closer to the heavy work load. Contractors will also be staged in Livingston (200) and Cleveland (300). Sam Houston EC has also requested an additional 300 workers to help expedite this process.

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative appreciates the patience our 50,000 members have shown in the wake of Hurricane Rita. Be assured that your electric Cooperative is working around the clock to turn on your lights.

Sam Houston Electric serves 50,000 member-owners in 10 East Texas counties including all or parts of: Polk, Tyler, San Jacinto, Montgomery, Walker, Liberty, Hardin, Jasper, Angelina and Trinity.