



RELEASED

29 September 2005 5 p.m.

Cooperative restores power to 24,427 meters

LIVINGSTON – Service has been restored to 24,427 meters as of 5 p.m. Thursday, with 13 substations/metering points being energized. At the height of the storm, 64,000 meters were without service.

Cooperative employees and the more than 1,200 line and tree-trimming contractors from 12 states are working around the clock to restore service to as many members as possible. The eastern portion of the Cooperative territory has suffered significant damage. There are very few meters online in Hardin, Tyler, Liberty and Jasper counties while less than half the meters in Polk County are receiving power.

A base camp has been set up in the Woodville area housing 500 contract workers to help speed the recovery process in this area.

More than 5,000 poles have been broken. Additionally, 1,500 miles of distribution line is on the ground. The Cooperative has 6,000 miles of distribution lines.

However, all of Sam Houston EC's 39 substations and metering points are functional. Entergy Texas transmission lines normally supply the bulk of power used in the Cooperative's service area. However, 288 transmission lines were damaged as a result of Hurricane Rita. Sam Houston will proceed bringing members on-line in Montgomery, Walker and Trinity counties when these services are restored. This is analogous to being a working gas station with no gas.

Because of the excessive heat this week, members who live near the Huntsville area have experienced rolling blackouts under Entergy's load management scheduling. Please visit www.entergy.com for more details regarding this procedure.

Sam Houston EC asks members who have power to conserve electricity as we work to bring meters online.

- Set your thermostat to 20 degrees below the outside temperature
- Use the microwave instead of the oven and stove whenever possible

- Save heavy-duty work such as washing and drying clothes until the evening hours.

We appreciate your patience in this difficult situation. Rest assured, we won't stop working until every light is turned back on.

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