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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dead Trees Still Remain Amid Recent Rains**

LIVINGSTON, Feb. 14, 2012 – Recent rains may be helping to bring back the forgotten green landscape we have all grown accustomed to in East Texas, but Sam Houston Electric Cooperative’s right-of-way crews are still chasing down dead trees taken by the drought.

The unwelcome drought in recent years has resulted in thousands of dead trees that threaten to fall on electric power lines. In 2011, Sam Houston EC added more crews to cut dead and danger trees across its 10-county service territory. Additional crews have helped reduce the risk of power outages and fires along the utility’s right-of-ways.

“Landowners will continue to see a steady flow of tree crews in the coming months,” said Bill Townley, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative construction manager. “Crews will be cutting dead and danger trees along the Cooperative’s right-of-ways, as well as trees that are just outside the right-of-way and in danger of striking electric power lines.”

After being cut down, the dead trees will be moved so that they do not block roads, driveways or ditches. It will be up to the landowner to dispose of the dead trees after they are cut down.

“If a landowner has any questions regarding a dead tree that may have been cut down on their property,” Townley said, “they are welcome to call us and verify that our crews were in their area.”

In a typical year, Sam Houston EC must take down 17,000 dead trees along its 6,000 miles of electric distribution lines. This year, that number is expected to be more than four times that number.

Sam Houston EC received its charter May 16, 1939, and has been providing electricity to East Texas ever since. The Cooperative was founded by a handful of farmers and rural residents who dreamed of bringing “power to the people.” In the early 1940s, there were just over 600 Co-op members. Today, Sam Houston EC serves 51,000 members and 68,000 meters across parts of 10 counties.