SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION	PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: 02/05/09	**Contacts:** Beth Nielsen William Hiller	**Phone:** 918-595-6762 918-595-6697	**Email:** elizabeth.nielsen@swpa.gov william.hiller@swpa.gov

TULSA, OK – Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is continuing to work with other area utilities to recover from a severe ice storm that damaged area transmission systems in Arkansas and Missouri on January 27-28, 2009.

Primary damage to Southwestern's system is centered in northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri and will require the replacement or repair of 355 69-kV and 64 161-kV structures, associated conductors, and fiber optic shield wire.

Since the storm, Southwestern has restored two major line segments, Sikeston to New Madrid, and Jonesboro to Water Valley. The following seven Southwestern line segments remain out of service:

- Malden to Piggott, 69-kV
- Kennett to Piggott, 69-kV
- New Madrid to Malden, 69-kV
- New Madrid to Kennett, 161-kV
- Dardanelle Dam to Hilltop, 161-kV
- Bull Shoals Dam to Hilltop, 161-kV
- Viola to China, 69-kV

Southwestern crews continue to work on damaged lines. In addition, crews from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and two private entities are arriving to assist. Replacement components have been procured and all transmission structure supplies are expected to be on site within the next several days.

Southwestern will continue to provide updates on its restoration efforts by e-mail and at www.swpa.gov as they become available.

Southwestern Power Administration is an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy. Its mission is to market and reliably deliver Federal hydroelectric power with preference to public bodies and cooperatives. This is accomplished by maximizing the use of Federal assets to repay the Federal investment and participating with other water resource users in an effort to balance their diverse interests with power needs within broad parameters set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and implementing public policy.