

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TULSA, OK – Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), continues to make steady progress in its efforts to restore transmission lines in Arkansas and Missouri damaged during a January 27-28, 2009 ice storm.

Each day, Southwestern crews continue to remove damaged poles and other transmission equipment and set new poles into position in anticipation of installing replacement conductor and returning lines to service. Crews also continue to work with area utilities to assist in the overall regional restoration effort.

Crews from North Houston Pole Line, Tessco, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), a Power Marketing Administration based in the western United States, have reported for duty and are currently assisting in restoration efforts.

Since the storm, Southwestern has restored the following line segments:

- Sikeston to New Madrid, 161-kV
- Jonesboro to Water Valley, 161-kV
- Kennett to Paragould, 161-kV
- Paragould to Center Hill, 161-kV

The following 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

Piggott, Arkansas is the only municipality on the Southwestern transmission system that remains isolated from the electric grid and currently serving all restored customer load utilizing city diesel generating units. The city of Malden, Missouri has obtained a temporary transmission interconnection with Ameren, a neighboring utility company.

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.