

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date:

02/09/09

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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 that were damaged during an ice storm on January 27-28, 2009.

Crews from North Houston Pole Line, TESCO, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), a Power Marketing Administration based in the western United States, have responded to requests for assistance from Southwestern and are currently working to restore transmission lines between Piggott, Arkansas, and Malden, Missouri; Kennett, Arkansas, and Piggott, Arkansas; and Dardanelle Dam and the Hilltop Switching Station near Marshall, Arkansas.

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
- Bull Shoals Dam to Hilltop, 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
- Viola to China, 69-kV

Piggott, Arkansas, is the only municipality on the Southwestern transmission system that remains isolated from the electric grid, and the city is currently utilizing city diesel generating units to serve all restored customer load. 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.