

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TULSA, OK – Piggott, Arkansas, the last remaining municipality isolated from the electrical grid following a January 26-27, 2009 ice storm in Arkansas and Missouri, was energized by contractors and crews from Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at approximately 3:00 p.m.

With the restoration of electrical power to Piggott, the city will be able to ease its dependency on electrical generators and municipal power generation, both of which have been powering essential services and homes since the onset of the storm.

“We are most happy to be plugged back into the grid,” says Piggott Mayor Gerald Morris. “We are thankful we had the generators and powerplant. Everything is working fine, and we’re glad to be where we are.” Morris says that city residents were grateful to the workers restoring power, with many residents driving out daily to watch the steady progress being made, and regularly yielding traffic right-of-ways to utility trucks.

Three major line segments – Malden to Piggott, New Madrid to Malden, and New Madrid to Kennett – remain out of service. Southwestern crews and contractors continue to make steady progress in these areas removing the hundreds of transmission structures destroyed in the storm and erecting new ones to take their place in preparation for installing new electrical conductor.

Length of Line Restored		
Line Segment	Voltage	Length (miles)
Malden to Piggott	69-kV	8.0
Kennett to Piggott	69-kV	11.6
Sikeston to New Madrid	161-kV	22.6
Jonesboro to Water Valley	161-kV	35.4
Kennett to Paragould	161-kV	28.1
Paragould to Center Hill	161-kV	5.2
Bull Shoals Dam to Hilltop	161-kV	34.4
Dardanelle Dam to Hilltop	161-kV	63.6
Viola to China	69-kV	18.4
	Total	227.3

Length of Line Out of Service		
Line Segment	Voltage	Length (miles)
Malden to Piggott	69-kV	13.0
New Madrid to Malden	69-kV	22.5
New Madrid to Kennett	161-kV	37.2
	Total	72.7

Please see the next update on Southwestern’s restoration efforts on Monday, February 23, 2009.

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.