

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TULSA, OK – All the poles have been set in place to restore one of the last two transmission line segments remaining out of service following a January ice storm that damaged 300 miles of transmission line and more than 400 structures owned by Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern).

The 22 miles that separate Malden and New Madrid, Missouri, are ready to be fitted with new conductor, and the 37.2 mile stretch from New Madrid to Kennett, Missouri, continues to see progress as new transmission structures are constructed daily.

Staff from Southwestern’s Operations Division reports that the efforts of Southwestern crews and contractors have been somewhat hampered by inclement weather. Nearly nine inches of snow fell near Kennett, Missouri, this past weekend, and wet conditions caused by snow and rain continue to impede the progress of the reconstruction effort.

Length of Line Restored		
Line Segment	Voltage	Length (miles)
New Madrid to Kennett	161-kV	10.0
Malden to Piggott	69-kV	21.0
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	250.3

Length of Line Out of Service		
Line Segment	Voltage	Length (miles)
New Madrid to Malden	69-kV	22.5
New Madrid to Kennett	161-kV	27.2
	Total	49.7

Please see the next update on Southwestern’s restoration efforts on Monday, March 9, 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.