

## **WFEC crews continue making repairs; majority of substations back in service**

Ice storm repairs are continuing into the weekend across the Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) service territory. However, progress is being made, with WFEC crews working round the clock, along with the assistance of contract crews and better weather conditions.

In addition to reconstruction efforts, WFEC crews are also still evaluating the areas where damage is severe. Aerial inspections began on Friday, which is expected to continue into the weekend.

Preliminary damage estimates indicate that some 173 transmission structures were downed during the ice storm, with totals expected to rise as aerial evaluations continue. This total includes both single poles, as well as H-structures, which have two poles.

Grady County reportedly has the most downed transmission structures for WFEC, with some 142 being found as of Friday. This includes the 19-mile stretch of downed line near Tuttle.

County totals for structure damage include: Grady – 145; Caddo – 13; Canadian – 11; Blaine – 3; and Comanche – 1. Some 15 crossarms were also destroyed, with others being damaged across the same counties.

Also, in several areas, 345 kV lines were downed on top of WFEC's lines, causing minimal damage.

As of Friday afternoon, contract crews had made headway on the long stretch of downed 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, on both sides of Tuttle, which includes some 61 structures that will need to be replaced. Crews have demolished and leveled several miles of the estimated 19 miles of line that was downed. There are some nine structures per mile.

While some of the contract crews are involved with the clearing and leveling process of the damaged structures, others are beginning to pre-stage the poles by assembling the grounds. Framing is expected to be begin soon.

As far as substations, most are back in service at this time. However, problems are still being found at some locations. WFEC staff is hopeful that Fay and Watonga substations will be energized today. Additional information regarding these two substations, as well as Concho Substation, will be known later on Saturday.

Two generators have been delivered to the Tuttle Substation, with three more expected to be on site later today. These generators will provide power while transmission service is being restored in this area.

WFEC personnel are supervising the offloading of the transformers, with fuel tanks and fuel to be delivered over the weekend. Once the transformers are set, connections can start to be made to the substation bus.

Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is expected to be ready to begin making connections on Monday morning to return service to areas served by this substation.