

## WFEC crews making headway on repairs; service restored to majority of substations

Restoration efforts continued going strong into Friday morning, as Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) crews, plus contractors, work at rebuilding stretches of downed transmission structures in several portions of WFEC's service territory. The damage caused by the devastating ice storm that started on Monday has impacted thousands across the state.

Progress was made on Thursday as WFEC crews were able to energize several substations, some of which returned power to many cooperative members who had been without electricity since the beginning of the ice storm. Several of WFEC's member distribution cooperatives also made headway, as weather conditions improved, allowing for progress to be made. However, for some, the warmer temperatures, accompanied by high winds, also led to additional problems, with melting ice on the sagging power lines.

As of Friday morning, four substations remained off, including Concho, Watonga, Fay and Tuttle. These substations are located in the areas hardest hit by the early season ice storm that affected much of state. Several substations are also being backfed to return service to some areas.

The Chickasha substation was energized shortly after 10 p.m. on Thursday, with the El Reno substation coming back on just after midnight. Also during the early morning hours on Friday, service was returned to the Canna and Calumet substations.



At last count, with assessment still continuing in some areas, over 85 transmission structures were downed or damaged. Also numerous crossarms are needing to be replaced, along with other equipment on the structures and lines. Damage repairs are being hampered by muddy conditions in some areas.

On Friday, WFEC crews will be concentrating on repairs to two lines, one of which (Watonga SW to Watonga), should energize the Watonga and Fay substations. Other crews will be working on the Sickles to Hydro line. Some lines are still sectionalized in a few areas with the most extensive damage.

Two of the contractors, consisting of three 10-men crews, will continue working on the Tuttle Junction to Bridge Creek line that consists of some 19 miles of downed 138 kilovolt transmission line, including over 75 structures, on both sides of Tuttle.

A third contractor, with two 10-men crews, will be working on the Concho Junction to Concho line.

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*WFEC and contract line and substation crews are working round the clock on damage repairs from this week's ice storm. Crews have been working in adverse weather conditions through muddy and hard-to-reach areas. In the top photo, near the Calumet area (taken by Devon Berndsen, a WFEC power line technician), crews replace damaged equipment on a transmission structure; while in the bottom photo, along the Anadarko to Tupelo line (taken by Tony Kemp, a light equipment operator), crews remove a damaged crossarm.*



*Ice in some areas was up to 3 to 4 inches on power lines, causing massive destruction when facing the adverse weather conditions, including high winds that snapped the heavy power lines. (Left photo by Glen Fogle, a WFEC lead power line technician - top photo from CKenergy Electric Cooperative, which suffered extensive damage across their service area).*



*High voltage transmission structures and substations were no match for the heavy ice accumulations. Numerous transmission structures were twisted and mangled, with long stretches of downed or damaged structures in some areas.*

*The Concho Substation was among those covered in layers of ice (taken by Sammy Stubbs, a lead power line technician), while large transmission structures succumbed to the weight of the ice-covered lines (taken by James Lindsey, apprentice IV power line technician).*

