

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Date: March 19, 2025

Subject: Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) Responding to Transmission Line Damage from March 19 Blizzard

LE MARS, IOWA — Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) is actively responding to extensive power outages resulting from today's severe blizzard conditions across western Iowa.

As of 1:30 p.m., assessment of system damage is ongoing. Current impacts include:

- Approximately 18 miles of downed transmission lines
- Nine substations and switch stations offline
- Over 1,700 service outages across Crawford, Harrison, Ida, Monona, Shelby, and Woodbury counties

These outages are directly affecting members of Harrison County REC, Nishnabotna Valley REC, North West REC, Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO), and Woodbury County REC.

"Our crews mobilized immediately to assess damage, and we are working to restore power as quickly and safely as possible," said Matt Washburn, NIPCO Executive Vice President and General Manager. "The safety of our crews and the public remains our top priority as we navigate these challenging weather conditions."

Ongoing blizzard conditions—including heavy snowfall, high winds, and low visibility—are significantly hampering restoration efforts. While some NIPCO crews have been temporarily pulled from roads due to safety concerns, restoration work continues where conditions permit. NIPCO has arranged for mutual aid assistance from neighboring transmission cooperatives to help repair damaged infrastructure in the coming days.

NIPCO is maintaining close communication with member cooperatives and local emergency management officials and will provide regular updates as additional information becomes available. We appreciate the patience of our member cooperatives and their member-consumers during this severe weather event.

For the latest information on this evolving situation and the restoration efforts, please visit www.nipco.coop or follow Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative on Facebook.

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Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) is a generation and transmission electric cooperative supplying wholesale electric power to 7 distribution cooperatives covering 6,500 square miles in western Iowa. These distribution cooperatives supply retail power to over 33,000 member-consumers. NIPCO serves these customers with over 950 miles of 69kV transmission line and 82 distribution substations. Incorporated in 1949 and headquartered in Le Mars, Iowa, NIPCO is a Touchstone Energy® electric cooperative and a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative.