

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Date: March 20, 2025 (4:00 p.m.)

Subject: Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) Makes Progress to Restore Western Iowa Power

LE MARS, IOWA — Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) continues efforts to restore power following the March 19 severe winter storm that caused the worst damage to the NIPCO system since the Halloween Blizzard of 1991.

NIPCO has mobilized crews to priority areas to repair damaged electric infrastructure. Additional support has been secured through mutual aid from neighboring transmission cooperatives Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Humboldt, Iowa) and East River Electric Power Cooperative (Madison, South Dakota). NIPCO has also redirected contracted crews from Watts Electric from ongoing line rebuild work to storm damage repair. Currently, 43 transmission lineworkers are deployed, including eight from NIPCO, eight from East River Electric, fifteen from Corn Belt Power, and twelve from Watts.

Today, crews focused on the hardest-hit locations, particularly in Monona County near Onawa. Work included cleaning up and repairing damaged transmission infrastructure and delivering materials to multiple sites. An aviation contractor, accompanied by a NIPCO crew member, conducted aerial assessments of transmission lines inaccessible from the ground. Crews face challenges including downed transmission infrastructure in difficult-to-access areas and soft terrain from melting snow, which complicates equipment movement and slowing the repair work..

As of 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 20, the situation has improved:

- 18 miles of downed transmission lines
- 232 structures down
- Seven substations energized today; 13 substations remain offline
- Approximately 1,159 member-consumers still without power

Affected members include those served by Harrison County REC, Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO), Western Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (WIMECA), and Woodbury County REC.

NIPCO maintains close communication with member cooperatives and continues to coordinate restoration efforts. We commend our member cooperatives for their dedication to restoring service to their members.

"I'm incredibly impressed by the dedication and work ethic demonstrated by both our internal crews and our assisting partners," said Jayme Huber, Vice President of Engineering and Operations. "These teams are working tirelessly in challenging conditions to restore power to our communities as quickly and safely as possible."

We appreciate the patience and understanding of our member cooperatives and their consumers during this challenging time. The safety of our crews and western Iowa residents remains our top priority as we work to restore service.

For the latest information on restoration efforts:

- Visit: <https://www.nipco.coop/2025-winter-storm-outage-updates>
- Follow: Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative on Facebook

The next update will be provided by NOON on Friday, March 21.

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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 lines 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.