

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Date: March 21, 2025 (Noon)

Subject: Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) Progress Continues on Western Iowa Restoration

LE MARS, IOWA - Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) continues its work to restore transmission infrastructure following the March 19 severe winter storm, which caused the most significant damage to the NIPCO system in 34 years.

NIPCO has strategically deployed crews to four priority areas: western Woodbury, Monona, and Harrison Counties near the communities of Salix, Onawa, and Mondamin. NIPCO has secured mutual aid from neighboring transmission cooperatives, including Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Humboldt, Iowa) and East River Electric Power Cooperative (Madison, South Dakota). Additionally, NIPCO has redirected contracted crews from Watts Electric, who were assigned to line rebuild work, to focus on storm damage repair. Currently, 43 transmission lineworkers are in the field, comprising eight from NIPCO, eight from East River Electric, fifteen from Corn Belt Power, and twelve from Watts.

NIPCO has received assistance with procurement of materials from East River Electric, Corn Belt Power, L&O (Lyon and Osceola) Power Cooperative, CIPCO (Central Iowa Power Cooperative), and Mid-American Energy. Additional materials have been provided by material providers Irby, Border States, WESCO, and RESCO. All materials sourced by these organizations have been or will be delivered throughout the day, allowing NIPCO to meet all requirements to replace damaged infrastructure in the coming days.

This morning's operations include continued "wrecking out" (clearing and removal) of damaged structures to prepare for replacement infrastructure. Crews will transition to rebuild operations as the day progresses. Crews face ongoing challenges accessing certain line sections due to difficult terrain and soft ground conditions from melting snow, which impedes equipment movement and slows repair work.

As of Noon Friday, March 21, significant progress has been made:

- 200 structures require replacement, down from 232, as reported yesterday afternoon
- 13 substations remain offline
- Member outages have decreased to 721 from approximately 1,100 reported at 4 p.m. March 20

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 continuous communication with member cooperatives and coordinates all restoration efforts with their operations teams. We commend and thank our member cooperatives for their unwavering dedication to restoring service to their consumers. Restoring power to both transmission and distribution systems requires a concerted effort.

We sincerely 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 8p.m. 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.