

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



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Date: March 19, 2025 (7:00 p.m.)

Subject: Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) Impacted by March 19 Blizzard

LE MARS, IOWA (March 19, 2025) — Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) is responding to extensive damage and systemwide power outages caused by today's severe winter storm across western Iowa.

Restoration efforts were suspended at 4:30 p.m. today due to hazardous road conditions. Heavy snow and strong winds have made many roads impassable or closed entirely. Crews will resume work tomorrow morning, March 20.

At 7:00 p.m., assessment of some areas has not been completed due to limited or impossible access. Crews have successfully restored power to several communities this afternoon, but significant challenges remain. Current impacts include:

- Approximately 18 miles of downed transmission lines
- 20 substations offline
- Over 3,200 service outages across Crawford, Harrison, Ida, Monona, Shelby, and Woodbury counties

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

"Our priority this evening is keeping our crews off the road so road crews, emergency management, and first responders can effectively serve their communities," said NIPCO Executive Vice President and General Manager Matt Washburn. "Our operations team is identifying priority areas to target tomorrow morning, with the goal of restoring power to more communities and members as soon as possible."

NIPCO has secured mutual aid from neighboring Iowa and South Dakota transmission cooperatives to assist with infrastructure repairs. Many transmission lines are down in impossible-to-access areas.

NIPCO maintains close communication with member cooperatives and will provide regular updates as more 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 restoration efforts, please visit <https://www.nipco.coop/2025-winter-storm-outage-updates> or follow Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative on Facebook. **The next update will be provided tomorrow morning - Thursday, March 20.**

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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.