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CONTACT: KRISTY OZMUN
512 413 2221
kristy@ozmun.com

HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WORKS TO RESTORE POWER TO MEMBERS

AUSTIN-The Houston County Electric Cooperative (HCEC) has reported 7, 982 outages, about 42 percent of their members.

“Because HCEC receives its power from Entergy Texas, we are working closely with Entergy representatives to coordinate our restoration efforts,” said Melody Pinnell, general manager of HCEC. She continued, “We want to complete our repairs so that we are ready to receive power from Entergy as soon as they are able to bring their system back on line.”

Entergy reported to the Texas Public Utility Commission that damage caused by Hurricane Ike is more extensive than Hurricane Rita in 2005, and will take longer than the three weeks needed to repair the damage caused by Hurricane Rita.

HCEC crews are working steadily to help restore power and repair damaged components of their system. Fallen trees on power lines and broken cross arms are responsible for the majority of the damage and subsequent outages. HCEC reports less than 20 broken poles. Although progress has been steady, debris removal is a slow process and restoration is estimated to be within seven to 10 days.

HCEC is expecting service crews from five sister cooperatives: Pedernales, Bandera, and Taylor.

In 1939 the Houston County Electric Cooperative was established, providing service to Houston, Leon, Trinity, Anderson, Walker, Angelina, Cherokee, Madison and Freestone counties. Today over 15,000 members spanning over 19,000 meters receive power from HCEC. The cooperative is one of 10 non-profit electric distribution cooperatives within the umbrella group of East Texas Electric Cooperative.

For on-going updates on HCEC’s progress, please visit
<http://www.houstoncountyelec.com/index.asp>.