



POWERING THE LIVES OF CO-OP MEMBERS FOR OVER 75 YEARS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Weather causes widespread outages impacting Corn Belt Energy members*

**BLOOMINGTON, IL — Monday, December 28, 2015—** Over 5,000 members throughout Corn Belt Energy's service territory are without power due to severe weather conditions. The widespread outages include four substations (Evergreen, Kappa, Goodfield and Tiskilwa), over 80 broken poles, numerous trees in the lines, many broken cross arms and downed lines.

Corn Belt Energy crews have been working to restore power throughout the day and evening. Due to the amount of outages, Corn Belt Energy has requested assistance from other utilities and contract workers. Six other cooperatives are assisting Corn Belt Energy in restoring power to our members, and contract tree crews are helping remove downed trees.

We do not have estimated restoration times for these widespread outages. Even with the outside assistance from other cooperatives, restoration times could be prolonged in some areas. Corn Belt Energy members who experience outages tonight should prepare for an extended outage. Corn Belt Energy encourages members to check on neighbors who may be without power, especially the elderly and those with physical limitations. We urge members who are concerned about prolonged outages to find an alternative location to stay such as a relative or friend's home or a local warming center.

We encourage members to contact us at 1-800-879-0339 to report power outages and downed lines or poles. Our office will be staffed throughout the evening to answer calls.

People should not go near any downed power lines, downed poles, or trees near lines. To check for outage updates, members can call 1-800-879-0339 or use their cell phone to view outage updates at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) or on Facebook or Twitter.

### **About Corn Belt Energy**

Started in 1938 to bring electricity to rural Central Illinois, Corn Belt Energy Corporation now distributes electricity to over 35,000 households and businesses throughout 18 counties. One of the largest cooperatives in Illinois, Corn Belt Energy employs 85 people, maintains over 5,000 miles of line, and distributes electricity from the Wabash Valley Power Association, a generation and transmission cooperative based in Indiana. As a not-for-profit energy cooperative, Corn Belt Energy is owned by the members it serves and is committed to providing reliable, affordable energy. Governed by 13 directors who are themselves residential members, Corn Belt also supports energy efficiency, education, and safety initiatives. Learn more at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com).

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