



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

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *Corn Belt Energy works to address extensive outages caused by winter storm*

**BLOOMINGTON, IL — Tuesday, December 29, 2015**— Over 4,200 members throughout Corn Belt Energy’s service territory remain without power due to severe weather conditions. The extensive outages include several substations, over 100 broken poles, many broken cross arms, downed lines, and numerous trees in the lines. Upstream transmission issues feeding power to Corn Belt Energy’s local distribution system are also causing a delay in power restoration to members.

Corn Belt Energy crews have been actively engaged in the restoration process since approximately 2 am on Monday morning. Due to the extent of outages, Corn Belt Energy 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 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.

As a reminder, 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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