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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Corn Belt Energy continues to make progress on outage restoration*

**BLOOMINGTON, IL — Wednesday, February 13, 2019** — Corn Belt Energy continues to make progress on outage restoration in the wake of a winter storm where heavy ice and strong winds wreaked havoc on our northern service territory. Downed lines, broken poles and loss of transmission feed to several Corn Belt Energy substations are examples of the types of storm damage we are encountering.

Corn Belt Energy continues to make safety and restoration of power a top priority. Corn Belt Energy has restored power to 90% of the members initially impacted by the storm with approximately 343 members remaining without power. Of the remaining outages, the majority are individual line outages.

Corn Belt Energy has crews from both regions working to restore power as well as crews from our sister cooperatives, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, EnerStar Electric Cooperative, Menard Electric Cooperative, Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative and Shelby Electric Cooperative. “All of the line crews are working extremely hard to restore power to our members and we are proud to report that they’ve been able to do so safely and efficiently.”, stated Kacy Wickenhauser, Vice President of Utility Services.

Weather is still largely impacting our restoration efforts as icy conditions remain an issue and any additional wind gusts could cause more damage to our system. Wind in combination with the ice may cause blinks as well as further outages. “We’re very hopeful that before sundown tomorrow all Corn Belt Energy members will have power restored.”, said Wickenhauser.





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 36,000 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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