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DEMCO makes substantial restoration progress as floodwater recede

CENTRAL, La. – DEMCO continued to make substantial progress in its emergency power restoration efforts as floodwaters began to recede throughout the cooperative’s seven-parish service area.

As of 3 p.m. on Wednesday, DEMCO reported the following outage figures: Ascension, 4,092; East Baton Rouge, 2,521; Livingston, 1,771; St. Helena, 1; West Feliciana 1. There were no reported outages for East Feliciana and Tangipahoa parishes at that time.

System outages during the unexpected and historic flood event peaked at 28,000 of DEMCO’s more than 100,000 meters, according to DEMCO representative David Latona. He said service restoration has been achieved in the following areas:

East Baton Rouge Parish: Carriagewood Estates, Oak Ridge Estates, Evergreen Acres, Elliotts Meadow, Jefferson Park, Chadsford Avenue, Chancellorsville Avenue, Creekhollow Road, Culpepper Avenue, Culps Bluff Avenue, East Fort Pickens Drive, East Rockbridge Avenue, Five Forks Drive, General Forest Avenue, Newwood Avenue, North Lake Shadow Drive, Point Clear Drive, Sharpsburg Avenue, Stones River Avenue, Woods Edge Drive.

Livingston Parish: Lazy Oaks Subdivision, Falcon Crest, Hills Road, Latimer Drive, Partridge Lane, Pine Bluff Road, Rosemont Drive, Sandlewood Court, Shady Bend Drive, Snowdon Avenue, South Point Drive, Springhill Drive, Stonegate Drive, Stoneridge Court, Stoneridge Lane, Sunnybrook Lane, Waterford Court, Whitehall Avenue

Ascension Parish: Bengal Lane, Elmo Lambert Road, Gail Bourgeois Road, Maurice Bourgeois Road, Rita Lambert Road.

Latona noted that the Greater Baton Rouge experienced flooding that exceeded previous levels by more than four inches in the Amite River Basin.

Initially, he said, line crews were forced to wait until flood waters receded in order to access and ultimately repair power substations that were completely under water.

“What we are experiencing is literally unheard of for those of us who have lived in this part of Louisiana all of our lives,” Latona said. “Even though this storm was unexpected and caught many of our members off guard, our emergency restoration plan was activated as soon as it became apparent this storm system was going to stall out over our service area. We moved into action as soon as it was safe for our crews to do so, and we’ve been working around the clock since then.”

While the storm was atypical for this time of year because there was very little wind damage, widespread flooding hampers crews in their efforts to restore power as quickly and as safely as possible, Latona said.

He reminded DEMCO members who sustained extensive flood damage in their homes or businesses that structures must be inspected and deemed safe to receive power before electricity can be restored.

“We appreciate the patience of our members during this very stressful time,” Latona said. “Be assured that we are doing everything possible to achieve 100 percent restoration, although some pockets within some communities may take a little more time as we work through a variety of challenges that come with a historic flood event.

Latona urged members to report outages at DEMCO’s outage hotline: [225-261-1160](tel:225-261-1160).

A service restoration map can be found at www.demco.org.