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Duck River Electric Crews Head To Louisiana For Storm Restoration

Two four-man crews and a team leader from Duck River Electric Membership Corporation left Tennessee Tuesday morning headed for Franklinton, LA to assist Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative with power restoration efforts following Hurricane Gustav.

Equipped with two line construction trucks and two aerial bucket trucks the crews will be working in Washington, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes to assist in the restoration of electric service to the cooperatives 48,000 members.

According to DREMC President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Allison, the request for assistance was received on Monday, September 1 and was coordinated through the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Michael Watson, DREMC's Director of Operations assembled the crews from volunteer employees from throughout the cooperative's service area. "We are glad to respond to requests for assistance such as this," explained Allison. "You never know when it might be Duck River Electric putting out the call for assistance following a tornado or ice storm. We've never failed to receive assistance from other cooperatives when we've asked for help in the past and we have an obligation to respond when we receive requests to assist others," he noted.

Responding from DREMC, under the leadership of team leader Tommy Adcock, are Joel Potts, line foreman from Columbia; Sean Scheller, lineman from Manchester; Seth Warf, lineman from Lewisburg; Steven Hopkins, lineman from Lewisburg; Jerry Jennings, line foreman from Shelbyville; Heath Nave, lineman from Shelbyville; Lin Rowe, lineman from Lynchburg; and Bryan Burton, lineman from Decherd.



Receiving final instructions before heading to Franklinton, LA to assist Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative with power restoration efforts following Hurricane Gustav are Duck River Electric Membership Corporation employees (from left): Sean Scheller, Manchester; Bryan Burton, Decherd; Heath Nave, Shelbyville; Team Leader Tommy Adcock, Shelbyville; Jerry Jennings, Shelbyville; and Lin Rowe, Lynchburg. These crew members were meeting up with Joel Potts, Columbia; Seth Warf, Lewisburg; and Steven Hopkins, Lewisburg; to round out the full complement of DREMC employees responding to the emergency storm restoration.

Franklinton, LA is located in Washington Parish and is some 70 miles north of New Orleans. The Parish received substantial damage when Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005.

Electric cooperatives throughout the United States have pre-arranged emergency operating agreements which expedite the response of emergency restoration crews and assures that each cooperative that responds will be reimbursed for all costs and expenses related to its response.

“At this time we are not sure exactly how long the DREMC crews will be deployed. We will continue to monitor the success of their response and will likely replace the original responders with fresh crews should they need to stay more 10 days to two weeks,” Watson explained.