

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 22, 2021

Statement from Southside Electric Cooperative CEO Jeff Edwards on Continued Power Restoration Efforts

CREWE, VA – Jeff Edwards, CEO of Southside Electric Cooperative, offered the following statement on continued power restoration efforts:

“Power restoration efforts are complex. There is no way around that fact. Individual poles must be dragged hundreds of feet into muddy terrain to be set by hand. This work is dangerous even in the best of conditions, and the wet weather we continue to see has made for extremely hazardous conditions. We know these conditions are dangerous for you as you try to maintain normal life without power. Our hearts break for you because we truly know what you are facing. We want to assure you that we are working as hard and fast as we can, but safety always must come first.

We are focused on the task at hand—restoring your power. We know there are issues that need to be addressed and discussed with our members. We will have a frank and transparent discussion as soon as the lights are back on. Thank you for your patience and prayers for the safety of our line crew.”

As of 5:00 PM today, crews have restored power to 37,800 members, at the peak of the storm more than 48,000 members were without power. Crews have repaired 263 poles and replaced 77 out of 625 broken poles. More than 900 crew members are working in the field to repair damaged infrastructure.

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