

NEWS



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For Immediate Release:

FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison's failed transmission line causes widespread outages across the southern portion of Huron County

NEWLONDON, OH, March 9, at 10:30 A.M. — Approximately 4,400 member-consumers of Firelands Electric Cooperative located in southern Huron County and northern Ashland County were without power Wednesday afternoon (3/08/17) due to a FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison failed transmission line.

FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison crews patrolled the high voltage transmission line for several hours, bringing additional crews into the area to locate the problem and assess the damaged equipment. The transmission line sustained two broken poles, and this line feeds Firelands' local distribution system, including the cooperative's Fitchville and New London substations. Firelands Electric crews were able to restore power to a portion of its member-consumers in Huron County by back feeding power from another transmission source.

FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison had crews repairing the damage into the evening, which was difficult due to the heavily saturated terrain. Firelands Electric Co-op had crews standing by to observe and assist FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison in any way. Throughout the evening, Firelands' management remained in contact with FirstEnergy to receive updates on the transmission situation.

Firelands Electric Co-op kept its New London office open into the evening, assisting members in any way possible. The cooperative maintained contact with its member-consumers on their outage hotline at 1-800-533-8658, provided updates on their [Facebook](#) page, [Twitter](#) feeds, and outage web map that can be accessed on Firelands Electric's website, www.FirelandsEC.com.

At 9:30 p.m., FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison was able to restore power to their transmission system, but were unable to replace the two broken poles because of the heavily saturated terrain, and plan to replace the broken poles during daylight hours today (Thursday, March 9). **Firelands Electric Co-op will attempt to notify members of any outages that may result while the damaged transmission poles are replaced, but FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison says further outages are not likely.**

Firelands Electric Co-op faced a similar issue on Saturday, March 4, when this same transmission line was taken out of power by someone cutting down trees in the North Fairfield area, which resulted in a transmission outage for both Ohio Edison customers and Firelands Electric member-consumers. Firelands Electric was able to backfeed power and get power restored to its member-consumers in approximately two hours.

"With the severity of the extreme weather tearing through the region and wind gusts of nearly 50 mph, we're very fortunate to receive only minor damage," says Firelands Electric Co-op's General Manager April Bordas. Firelands Electric appreciates members' patience and support during this lengthy outage. The cooperative's dedicated employees wanted to do everything within their power to get electric service restored as quickly as possible, and assist in any way, Bordas added.

Firelands Electric, A Touchstone Energy Partner, is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative providing electric service to approximately 9,000 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain and Richland counties.

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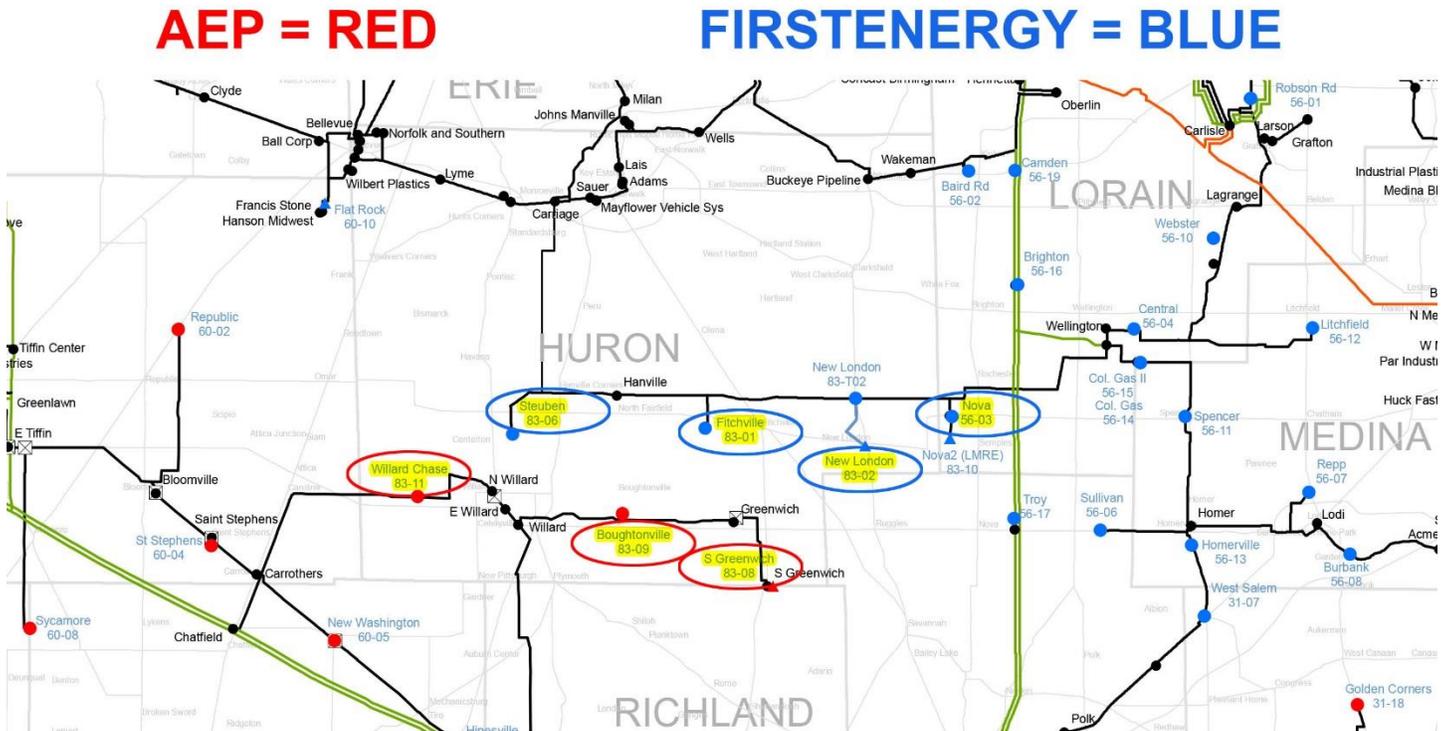
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Here are photos of the two damaged poles that were taken by Firelands Electric's Director of Electric Operations Denny Marugg on 3/08/17.



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The transmission map highlights where the FirstEnergy/Ohio Edison transmission system (shown in blue) ties into Firelands Electric Cooperative's local substations and distribution system.



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