



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Madison, SD- July 3, 2011*

**Contact: Mike Lynch, Cooperative Communications Manager**

**Company Name: East River Electric Power Cooperative**

**Telephone Number: 605-256-8016**

**Fax Number: 605-256-8057**

**Email Address: [mlynch@eastriver.coop](mailto:mlynch@eastriver.coop)**

## **Power Restoration Continues in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota**

Power restoration continues for rural electric cooperative customers served within eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota after a line of thunderstorms left nearly 160 poles down within East River Electric Power Cooperative's service territory Friday afternoon and evening.

Line crews were mobilized immediately after the storm hit and work continued into the night. By late Saturday night, power had been restored to 13 substations, with several more anticipated to be energized over the next few days. East River's member systems are also in the process of getting their facilities repaired.

East River is receiving assistance from several electric utilities. Dairyland Electric Power in Lacrosse, Wis., has sent 10 lineworkers in addition to needed equipment to aid in the effort. Northwestern Energy is supplying the use of additional track unit to reach rain-soaked locations. East River is now focusing efforts in the Marshall-Tyler (Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative) and the Danube-Redwood Falls (Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association) areas.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association has reported that the Minnesota mutual aid arrangements are providing additional help for Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association and Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative.

"Whenever a widespread outage occurs, it's common for surrounding utilities to pool resources to restore power as quickly as possible," said Jim Edwards, East River Assistant General Manager-Operations. "We very much appreciate this

assistance as well as the understanding from member-owners that we are doing what we can to restore power as soon as we can.”

***East River Electric Power Cooperative***, based in Madison, S.D., is a wholesale electric power supply cooperative serving 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally-owned electric system, which in turn serve more than 92,000 homes and businesses and over 250,000 consumers.

*The 41,000 square mile service area covers the rural areas of 41 counties in eastern South Dakota and nine counties in western Minnesota.*

###