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BECi Crews Battle the Elements for Power Restoration

1,100 utility workers dedicated to full restoration

DeRidder— Roughly one week after Hurricane Laura’s historic landfall, Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BECi) continues its rebuilding efforts.

Hurricane Laura’s Category 4 winds caused a BECi system-wide outage when the storm made landfall. Assisted by 1,100 utility workers from nearly 12 states, the co-op has since restored power to roughly 5,100 of its 43,000 members in the New Llano, Pickering, Merryville, DeRidder and Oberlin areas. Full power restoration to all BECi members is expected to take an additional three weeks.

“The effort required to recover from this storm will be a marathon, not a sprint,” said BECi General Manager Kevin Turner. “But the pace of this restoration would not be possible without all of the help we are receiving from other co-ops and contractors. These linemen are working in the heat and battling the elements to get power back on to all of our members.”

BECi is repairing damage to distribution and service lines while its power providers work to rebuild transmission lines that feed BECi substations.

“We know no one wants to be without power,” BECi spokesperson Danielle Tilley said. “Most of our employees don’t have power at their own homes – if they even have a home to go back to. Despite those personal challenges, our entire team is focused on helping the community recover by making daily progress to get the lights back on as soon as possible.”

As of September 5, 2020, 2:00 PM, here are the current outage totals.

Parish	Members Served	Total Number of Members Without Power	Total Number of Members Restored to Date	Percentage of Parish Still Out	Percentage of Parish Restored
Allen	5509	4656	853	84%	16%
Beauregard	14943	13796	1147	92%	8%
Calcasieu	12402	12325	77	99%	1%
Evangeline	50	24	26	48%	52%
Jeff Davis	336	326	10	97%	3%
Rapides	1487	1402	85	94%	6%
Vernon	8172	5348	2824	65%	35%
Total	42889	37877	5022	88%	12%