



RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC CONTINUES POWER RESTORATION EFFORT IN CHALLENGING CONDITIONS

SUPPLY, N.C. (Sept. 17, 2018, 5:00 p.m.) – Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) continues to make progress restoring power to its membership. As of 5:00 pm Monday, approximately 12,000 members were awaiting restoration, down from a high of 82,911 during the worst of Hurricane Florence.

“Steady progress has been made,” said Heather Holbrook, BEMC spokesperson. “Our power restoration efforts are continuing despite numerous hazards as crews work to restore service as safely and as efficiently as possible.”

The cooperative’s line technicians and support crews total more than 500 and have been systematically repairing damage to the circuits, poles, and distribution lines that serve BEMC’s widely-affected rural and coastal communities throughout Brunswick and Columbus counties.

“As the water rises, so does our commitment to restoration,” said Don Hughes, BEMC General Manager and CEO. “We thank our members for their patience, as well as for the gratitude they’ve shared with restoration personnel. Crews will work around the clock until power is restored to everyone.”

Damage is so widespread that it could take restoration personnel several more days or even weeks to fully restore power in Brunswick and Columbus counties, particularly where there is extreme flooding and in areas where trees pulled down power lines and winds snapped poles.

High water and flooding are the second phase of this storm. It can make accessing outage locations extremely hazardous. From Boardman to Southport, these conditions are hampering our work in many areas to restore power to our consumers. Even though the worst of the storm is behind us, flooding will continue as the heavy rainfall in other areas of the state flows down rivers and streams. And in many cases, roads that we need to travel are closed.

Please continue to report damage as well as outages to (800) 682-5309. Stay tuned to the facts at bemc.org for the outage map, all storm press releases and safety information, and follow Brunswick Electric on Facebook and Twitter.

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BEMC is a locally owned and operated not-for-profit corporation. It is the second largest electric cooperative in North Carolina and serves nearly 97,000 member locations in Brunswick, Columbus, and parts of Bladen and Robeson counties. Founded in 1939, BEMC has a longstanding commitment to the communities it serves, providing support for a wide variety of activities that contribute to the quality of life for all citizens.