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BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

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BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC RESTORATION EFFORTS CONTINUE IN TORNADO STRICKEN AREAS

Supply, N.C. (February 16, 2021) - Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) continues its restoration efforts in the areas hit hardest by last night's severe weather. As of 11 am the cooperative is reporting around 3,000 outages, down from a peak of 35,000 less than twelve hours ago. BEMC is working with county and city officials to expedite the final restoration efforts.

The storm's strength caused extensive damage to the cooperative's transmission system, including downed poles and trees, with the most significant impact felt in the communities around Ocean Ridge in Ocean Isle Beach.

"We've put the full strength of our resources into the restoration effort and are collaborating with our contractors and local governments to complete it as quickly as possible," said Josh Winslow, BEMC's CEO. "Our thoughts continue to be with all who've experienced this storm's devastation; please know that you are our priority."

BEMC is hoping to complete restoration efforts today and is asking for members' patience as they work with community partners to ensure the safety of all involved.

For your safety, never go near downed or sagging power lines and be aware that fallen lines may be under debris. Always assume power lines are energized and report damage immediately by calling 800-682-5309. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for frequent updates.

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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 more than 98,000 meter 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.