



Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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SSVEC Crews, Mutual-Aid Partners Continue Major Willcox Storm Restoration

WILLCOX, Ariz. — August 12, 2026 — Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative crews, supported by mutual-aid teams from neighboring electric cooperatives, continued Wednesday to rebuild portions of the electric system in the Willcox area following extensive storm damage that began Monday night.

The storm caused widespread damage to both SSVEC's transmission and distribution systems and initially left approximately 1,100 members without power. Crews responded Monday night, assessing damage and restoring service where conditions allowed.

Initial assessments identified 33 damaged transmission poles and 10 damaged distribution poles. Crews worked through the night to isolate damaged sections of the system and restore power to much of the affected area.

By Tuesday morning, additional damage had been identified, including 15 downed distribution poles. Crews from across SSVEC's service territory were deployed to Willcox with the goal of replacing the damaged distribution poles and restoring service to as many members as possible. At the same time, SSVEC began contacting neighboring electric cooperatives for mutual-aid assistance because replacement of the heavily damaged transmission system would require a larger and longer-term rebuilding effort.

As assessments continued, the full extent of the storm damage grew to 33 transmission poles and 27 distribution poles.

Crews made significant progress Tuesday replacing poles, rebuilding lines and restoring service. Graham County Electric Cooperative provided mutual-aid assistance during the

day, while SSVEC crews continued work on both the distribution and transmission systems.

By Tuesday evening, crews had restored service to many of the remaining affected members. Approximately 55 members were restored Tuesday, leaving about 53 members without power in the Willcox area Wednesday morning.

Restoration work continued overnight Tuesday into Wednesday. The Willcox night crew hauled a load of transmission poles from Sierra Vista and set four transmission poles as crews continued rebuilding a damaged transmission line.

Additional storms moved through SSVEC's service territory Tuesday night, creating new outages and additional challenges for restoration crews. One pole was damaged in Sierra Vista and another in Bowie, requiring SSVEC to divide some of its crews Wednesday morning to respond to those outages while continuing the Willcox restoration.

Mutual-aid support increased Wednesday to help offset those demands. Crews from Graham County Electric Cooperative returned to assist with the restoration effort, while crews from Mohave Electric Cooperative and TRICO Electric Cooperative also joined SSVEC crews.

The primary focus Wednesday remains rebuilding the damaged transmission system while completing remaining distribution work and restoring service to the members who have experienced the longest outages.

"This has been an extraordinary restoration effort, and we remain deeply grateful for the patience and support of our members as crews continue working safely and as quickly as possible to restore power," said Jason Bowling, CEO of SSVEC. "We are also especially thankful to our employees and mutual-aid partners for their dedication, teamwork and outstanding response throughout this event."

The City of Willcox has opened its City Council Chambers as a cooling center for residents who remain without electricity. City officials have indicated the cooling center will remain available for the duration of the outage.

SSVEC employees and mutual-aid crews have worked around the clock throughout the event, assessing and isolating damaged areas, replacing poles, rebuilding transmission and distribution lines, and restoring service as safely and quickly as conditions allow.

Members are reminded to stay well away from downed poles and power lines and to always assume a downed line is energized and dangerous. Members should never approach or attempt to move a downed line and should keep children and pets away from affected areas.

SSVEC will continue providing updates as restoration work progresses.