

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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WREC Answers the Call with Historic Mutual Aid Response

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) has deployed the largest mutual aid workforce in the cooperative's history to support fellow Florida electric cooperatives recovering from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Isaias.

In response to requests for assistance, WREC initially sent 59 employees, including 48 linemen and 11 support personnel, to assist Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (CHELCO) in Florida's Panhandle. The deployment included warehouse personnel, mechanics, crew leaders, bucket trucks, digger trucks, and other heavy equipment needed to help restore power and rebuild damaged infrastructure.

As restoration efforts continued, WREC sent additional crews to support both CHELCO and Talquin Electric Cooperative, demonstrating the cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Upon arriving in the DeFuniak Springs and Baker areas, WREC crews encountered difficult conditions, including extensive tree damage, debris-covered roadways, broken poles, and downed power lines. In some cases, crews were forced to clear fallen trees just to leave their lodging and reach restoration sites.

"Our employees answered the call without hesitation," said WREC General Manager David Lambert. "When fellow cooperatives need help, we stand ready to assist. This deployment reflects the dedication, professionalism, and cooperative spirit of our employees, who are committed to helping restore power and bring a sense of normalcy back to affected communities."

Working alongside crews from other electric cooperatives, WREC personnel have been repairing damaged infrastructure and restoring electric service to homes, businesses, and critical facilities throughout the storm-impacted region.

The historic deployment represents more than a restoration effort. It highlights the unique cooperative model, where electric cooperatives support one another during emergencies to ensure communities receive help when they need it most.

"Our crews are proud to represent the Members we serve across Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Sumter, and Polk counties," Lambert said. "They carry our community's spirit of service wherever they go,

and we are grateful both for their commitment and for the families supporting them while they are away."

When hurricanes and other major storms impact communities, electric cooperatives across the nation routinely assist one another through mutual aid agreements, providing skilled personnel, equipment, and resources to accelerate power restoration efforts.

"This was the largest mutual aid deployment in WREC history and a powerful example of the cooperative difference," Lambert said. "When the need is greatest, cooperatives come together."

About Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WREC):

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit electric cooperative established in 1947. WREC proudly serves more than 281,000 homes and businesses across Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Polk, and Sumter counties. WREC is dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy and services while actively supporting the communities it serves.

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Pictured below: First group of 59 WREC employees with General Manager David Lambert



Pictured below: WREC crew heading out to support Talquin Electric Cooperative



Pictured below: WREC additional crews to support to CHELCO



Pictured below: WREC additional crews to support to CHELCO



Pictured below: WREC crew with GM David Lambert in the field after Hurricane Isias



