



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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BLUEBONNET RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING SUPPLYING POWER TO AREAS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE IKE

(BASTROP) – Days after Hurricane Ike moved inland and left thousands of Entergy customers without power, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is receiving dozens of phone calls a day asking if it can restore and provide power to Entergy customers in areas surrounded by or adjacent to Bluebonnet’s service territory. In response to the questions, Bluebonnet prepared the following question-and-answer fact sheet.

Q: Can Bluebonnet provide electricity on a short-term basis to Entergy customers who are without electricity as a result of Hurricane Ike?

A: No. Bluebonnet’s and Entergy’s electric distribution systems are not interconnected, so there is no way to provide power to Entergy’s customers.

Q: Can Entergy customers switch to Bluebonnet as their electric provider on a long-term basis?

A: Yes, but only in dually certified areas in which Bluebonnet and Entergy can provide electricity; and only in accordance with Bluebonnet’s tariff.

However, according to Public Utility Commission of Texas rules, the switchover of Entergy customers to Bluebonnet would take a lower priority than power restoration of current outages. Therefore, Entergy customers without power now would not see an immediate restoration of power by Bluebonnet.

Q: What about areas outside a dually certified area; can Bluebonnet provide electricity to Entergy customers who want to switch to Bluebonnet?

A: Outside of dually certified areas, there are legal and regulatory issues that prevent Bluebonnet from serving Entergy customers. Bluebonnet operates within ERCOT’s territory (www.ercot.com), which is its own separate and independent electric grid. Entergy operates in the Eastern electric grid, outside of ERCOT’s region.

Entergy does serve some areas within ERCOT’s region, but would have to “release” those areas to Bluebonnet. If Entergy did release those areas to Bluebonnet, it would have to construct lines to serve those customers, which would take several weeks to complete. This is not a viable short-term solution to providing power to Entergy customers currently without power.

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative serves nearly 80,000 meters and owns and maintains about 11,000 miles of power lines, located across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 southeastern Texas counties. Bluebonnet’s service area stretches from Travis County to Washington County and from Milam County down to Gonzales County. For more information about Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative go to www.bluebonnetelectric.coop.