

Third night of storms doesn't undo crews' efforts

Recovery work praised as nearly all customers are back with power

It was déjà vu all over again as another strong storm swept through Western Maricopa County last night. Fortunately, it did not undo the progress APS crews made earlier yesterday and Monday night.

Wrapping up recovery efforts from Sunday's storm in the Gila Bend area, the final two residential customers and a few well bank accounts (used for agriculture and cattle) should be back in service between noon and 1 p.m. today.

For the Western Maricopa/Eastern Yuma county communities hit by Monday night's storm, the communities of Aztec, Bunyan, Dateland, Horn, Hyder and Paloma were back in service shortly after midnight.

In addition, approximately 20 Harquahala Valley area customers were back on by 5:30 this morning. Approximately 75 customers in the area remain out of service, however. The majority of those customers are well banks used for agriculture and cattle. They will be brought back on line throughout the morning today.

APS crews continue working on a section of the 69-kilovolt line in the Harquahala Valley. This will complete the loop system between Buckeye and Gila Bend. The work, which should be completed by mid-day tomorrow (Thursday), will restore the company's ability to serve customers from two sources.

And while all the work is not yet complete, the comments and praise already are coming in.

The Maricopa County Emergency Management Director, in commenting about our crews and those coordinating the cleanup from the outages, said, "You and your folks are simply amazing!"

As the Operations Manager for the Ajo Improvement Company stated, "Thanks for the prompt service; I know it takes a lot of work to get things going again. I worked for Southwest Gas for more than 30 years before coming to Ajo and had to deal with my share of outages."

Even APS crews working the Gila Bend area observed it had been one of the best outages they had been on with respect to the delivery of drinks and food to support them as they worked.

Good work by all those employees involved in and supporting the power restoration efforts.