

Thousands powerless after Sunday storm

(KAIR)--Snow, ice, and wind left thousands without power Sunday, with some expected to remain without power through Monday.

According to Westar Energy spokeswoman Gina Penzig, Sunday's winter storm left 32,000 customers of the company without power, with 5,000 remaining without as of around 8:30 Sunday night.

In an emailed response to questions posed by MSC News, Penzig said some customers are likely to remain without power until late afternoon, or evening, Monday.

She said crews went to work Sunday as soon as it was safe to do so, and will work throughout the night to make repairs.

However, Penzig said storm damage is widespread, and road and weather conditions are making it difficult for crews to travel and to access outage areas. Additional personnel has been called in to assist with the effort.

According to Penzig, crews are focused on restoring power in their home divisions, and will then move to other areas to assist.

Crews from southeast Kansas, and the Wichita area, will assist with repairs, focused specifically on the Atchison and Leavenworth areas.

According to Penzig, the areas impacted hardest by the storm damage were Atchison, Leavenworth, Topeka, Lawrence, and Ottawa.

Many Signals Communications