

# Power restored across area

BY GREG OLIVER AND RILEY MORNINGSTAR  
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SENECA — All utility customers in Oconee County affected by outages from Tropical Storm Zeta have had their services restored, according to officials.

Duke Energy and Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative officials told The Journal all customers in Oconee County had services restored by Sunday evening. The two providers reported there more than 30,000 combined customers without power early Thursday morning after heavy wind gusts and rain from Zeta.

Duke spokesman Ryan Mosier said the company appreciated patience in what was a "multi-day power restoration process" that brought in crews from outside of South Carolina.

"This weekend our crews entered the final phase of restoration, which included some of the most challenging and lengthy repairs to replace broken utility poles and restring power lines in hard-to-access and often remote areas," Mosier said in an email to The Journal. "By sunrise Sunday, we had restored more

than 90 percent of the 500,000 customers that were without power in the Carolinas after Zeta came through Thursday morning, causing significant damage. That included the Upstate region. The damage

destroyed poles and wires throughout the Upstate. These repairs do not happen quickly, but there were nearly 7,000 workers on the ground in both states working long hours to return service to every customer."

Mosier said some outages were reported Sunday night in the Carolinas from high winds stemming from a separate weather system.

Blue Ridge spokesman Terry Ballenger

said late Sunday afternoon that the remaining trouble spots the provider had included 22 separate locations where broken poles had been encountered. Repair crews had been on site at each of those locations in an effort to restore power.

Seneca utilities director Bob Faires said the city's crews reported around 1,000 outages, and all were restored before midnight on Friday. Westminster interim city administrator Rebecca Overton said all city customers had power restored by late Friday morning.

**'There were nearly 7,000 workers on the ground in (South Carolina and North Carolina) working long hours to return service to every customer.'**

**Ryan Mosier**  
Duke Energy spokesman