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**For Immediate Release**

## **Linemen Head South to Aid Electric Co-ops Impacted by Hurricane Matthew**

**Glen Allen, Va.** — More than 100 experienced line workers from electric cooperatives across Virginia and Maryland hit the road on Friday, Oct. 7 to aid their sister co-ops in North and South Carolina.

As Hurricane Matthew churned north from Florida, distribution cooperative members of the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) activated mutual assistance plans to send line crews, trucks and supplies to affected co-ops along the coast.

“Co-ops from these states have aided our members in times of need, and now it’s our turn,” said Jim Huggard, VMDAEC Manager of Safety Services who helped coordinate the relief effort. Huggard explained that co-op crews traveled south in three waves to be ready to assist with restoration work by Sunday:

First wave: Crews from Southside Electric Cooperative are aiding Black River Electric Cooperative in Sumter, SC, crews from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative are aiding Coastal Electric Cooperative in Walterboro, SC, and crews from Northern Neck Electric Cooperative are aiding Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Eastover, SC.

Second wave: Crews from Mecklenburg, Central Virginia, Choptank and Shenandoah Valley electric cooperatives are aiding Edisto Electric Cooperative in Bamberg, SC.

Third wave: Crews from NOVEC and Choptank electric cooperatives are aiding Santee Electric Cooperative in Kingtree, SC; crews from A&N, Mecklenburg, and Prince George electric cooperatives are aiding Four County EMC in Burgaw, NC.

“Once they arrive, some of these crews may be reassigned to co-ops with greater need,” explained Alan Scruggs, VMDAEC Vice President of Safety Training, adding “Whenever the principle of ‘cooperation among cooperatives’ is put into practice, it means co-op members can get their lights on more quickly.”

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives that serve Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The Glen Allen, Va.-based Association provides its member cooperatives with safety education and training, government relations and legislative support, and communications services, including the publishing of *Cooperative Living* magazine. For more information, visit [www.vmdaec.com](http://www.vmdaec.com), [www.gaff-n-go.com](http://www.gaff-n-go.com) or [www.co-opliving.com](http://www.co-opliving.com).

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