

WINDSTORM AFTERMATH

## Pockets of Franklin County still in the dark

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An American Electric Power official said yesterday that the company hoped to have electricity restored to 99 percent of its Ohio customers by midnight last night.

A week after high winds knocked out power to hundreds of thousands, dark pockets persisted in Clintonville and other parts of Columbus, according to AEP's Web site.

By 10:30 p.m. yesterday, 10,168 Ohio customers and 3,974 Franklin County customers, all in Columbus, were without power. That was down from 17,863 in Columbus yesterday morning.

That leaves about 1 percent left without power, AEP spokesman Jeff Rennie said.

Restoration of power is taking longer than expected because of the severity of damage, Rennie said. "We are running into a lot of areas (where) the damage is a lot more extensive than we originally thought," he said.

Customers on the southern side of Columbus may not see power until midnight Tuesday, and those on the northern side, until midnight Wednesday, Rennie said.

At 10:30 last night, 9 percent of AEP customers in Mount Vernon, 2 percent in Newark and less than 1 percent in Zanesville were without power. That translates to 1,380 customers in Newark, 1,851 in Mount Vernon and 109 in Zanesville.

An official with South Central Power Co., which had widespread outages in Fairfield County after the storm, said all customers there are back online.

A Dayton Power & Light spokesman said the company expected to have 90 percent of the more than 300,000 customers who lost power back up and running by last night. Work on pockets of outages will continue this week, Tom Tatham said.

A week later, effects of the storm lingered.

Landscaper Scott Teegardin said he and two members of his crew tried to help an elderly Upper Arlington resident clear away her brush and mow her yard yesterday but were stopped by police.

A nearby resident complained to police that Teegardin was violating a city ordinance that prohibits some noisy commercial work such as mowing and building on Sundays, said Sgt. Michael Nagode.

Teegardin said he knew about the ordinance but hoped the rules could be bent because of the storm.

The ordinance allows clearing debris around power lines, but mowing isn't an exception, and violators can be fined, Nagode said.

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