



Before all service was completely restored, more than 170 NSP employees and 18 Minnesota-Company employees, as well as 28 linemen from Wisconsin Public Service Corp., 58 from Wisconsin Power & Light, 32 from Donovan Construction, and 14 independent tree trimmers were involved in the operation.

The first task in piecing the system together was to restore the transmission system. Three of the larger transmission lines were repaired by Wednesday, July 16, and a fourth was in service the next day. Most of the 69 kV lines and substations were operational within 24 hours. Then the massive job of restoring feeders, laterals and primaries began.

Work progressed quickly at first. By Thursday, power had been re-

stored to about half of the Eau Claire, Menomonie and Chippewa Falls areas. Service was restored sooner in many rural areas around Durand, Osseo and Elmwood, but at every new corner was another problem area. To make matters worse, a storm Wednesday night briefly knocked out three substations again.

The relatively efficient work of restoring power to large areas by repairing feeders and laterals, however, gave way to the tedious job of reconnecting primaries and individual services. Three days after the storm, power had been restored to only about 85 percent of Eau Claire and Menomonie customers.

To expedite the work, radio broadcasts urged people to make sure their service masts were re-

paired. And for safety, customers who had installed generators were asked to notify NSP immediately.

When the weekend arrived, workers were still putting in 19-hour days and many customers still did not have power. But by Saturday afternoon, Chippewa Falls and Altoona were in good shape and progress, even though it was slow, was being made in Eau Claire.

By Sunday, most customers outside of Eau Claire and Menomonie were reconnected which enabled more NSP crews from other areas to head for the tangled mess in Eau Claire. The west side, third ward, Birch Street, east side hill, and the Putnam Heights areas were the lingering trouble spots, primarily because of the large number of huge fallen trees. Telephones, which had

