

Power, Water Systems in City Hit

Missouri Utilities Co. workmen, battling against terrific odds, worked through the night restoring power lines to the water plant on Cape Rock Drive in an effort to build up the reservoir of water there, only source left to the city when pumps at the plant went out of service as power lines were downed.

J. M. McLain, superintendent of electric distribution, estimated that service would be restored sometime after 1 a. m. today. He said all crews in the city were concentrated in that area, rather than on distribution lines down elsewhere from the tornado.

Mr. McLain explained that there was no cessation of water service and no danger that there would be a stoppage unless a major fire should break out. This, he said, would have rapidly depleted the supply and cause a shortage of water in the city.

This was the first need, he said, and the six crews working out of the local office concentrated their efforts on power lines to the water plant to get the pumps operating.

Mr. McLain said there was no way of estimating when service in the Red Star, Marble City Heights, Perry avenue, West Broadway, Highway 61 and other areas would be restored.

Working with the six local crews were others from Illmo and Chaffee. Four trucks from Sikeston were ordered to report here at 7 a. m. to work on the demolished power lines. The entire force of men would probably number about 80, Mr. McLain estimated.

The distribution superintendent said the wind cut service to Gordonville, along Highway 61 to Jackson, Greensferry Road at Jackson, Egypt Mills, Perryville Road, North Sprigg street road as well as the points in town.

No transmission lines to the south were put out of service.

Three foremen in charge of the crews working during the night were Murrel McLain, Ray Clingingsmith and Oscar Hartle.

On the hill of Missouri avenue the damage, to new and old houses, frame and brick, was especially severe. All houses near Dunklin and Missouri were torn down or badly damaged. A car and a truck on the street were battered there as if tons of rock had been tossed on them.