

In the case of natural disasters, municipal utilities are entitled to a state match during FEMA-declared disaster to help repair damage to electric lines and infrastructure. Co-ops have access to state funds, but only through an application process with their county office that is not guaranteed. What role should the state play in helping rural electric co-ops turn the lights back on after natural disasters?

Kanne: I believe the lack of guarantee is one of degree of disaster, if the county in question has met a threshold amount of loss to qualify for the FEMA disaster declaration then the state aid also kicks in. It is not the state's responsibility to aid in normal operational losses from low level disasters.