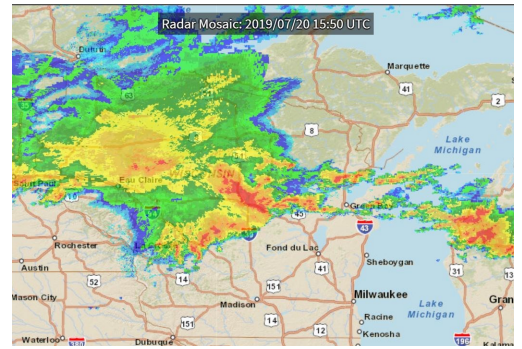


# Mutual aid response showcases power of teamwork

**A**fter strong thunderstorms downed trees and power lines in July, Wisconsin's public power community rallied together to restore service. Beginning late Friday, July 19, MEUW helped to coordinate mutual aid assistance in Barron, Gresham, Kaukauna and Wisconsin Rapids. Crews from 44 member utilities traveled north to assist with power restoration and clean up. Some 10,000 customers lost electric service in Wisconsin Rapids, where more than 100 utility poles needed to be replaced.

Virtually all available resources from public power utilities across the state were used for this mutual aid event, which is believed to be among the largest in-state event MEUW has helped to coordinate. Some utilities that received mutual aid and restored power over the weekend turned around and sent crews to help in Wisconsin Rapids, where it took eight days before power was fully restored. ●



**Above, clockwise from top right** — A radar image from Saturday afternoon, July 20, shows the strong line of storms that cut across northern and central Wisconsin and took aim at Wisconsin Rapids; a large tree fell on a residence in Barron; crews from City Utilities of Richland Center were among those providing assistance; Wisconsin Rapids and the mutual aid crews received hundreds of thank you notes (many from children) and gestures of appreciation from the community; mutual aid crews dealt with extensive damage from fallen trees.

**At left and below** — a Waunakee Utilities crew helped with storm recovery; there was full house for the crew briefing in the Wisconsin Rapids garage on Tuesday morning, July 23.

