

Announcement No.: DEU-SW-2009-05

RECRUITING

Vacancy Announcement

Opening Date: January 9, 2009

Closing Date: January 20, 2009

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

OVERVIEW

POSITION:	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR WB-4741-00
SALARY RANGE:	\$22.08 per hour
ORGANIZATION LOCATION:	Southwestern Power Administration Office of Corporate Facilities Division of Maintenance Jonesboro Maintenance Unit
DUTY LOCATION:	Jonesboro, Arkansas
PROMOTION POTENTIAL:	None
NUMBER OF POSITIONS:	1 Temporary

This is a temporary position not to exceed one year.

WHO MAY APPLY

All U.S. citizens may apply. No previous Federal employment is required. All applicants will receive consideration for appointment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, age, or any other non-merit factor.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SOUTHWESTERN

Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) was created in 1943 to market power and energy produced at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hydroelectric power projects. Twenty-four Federal multi-purpose water resource projects (dams) generate electricity that is provided to homes and businesses in a six-state area: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. To integrate the operation of the hydroelectric generating plants, Southwestern maintains 1,380 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, 24 substations, and 46 microwave towers. Seventeen of the 24 generating plants are scheduled directly by Southwestern. Nineteen generating plants contribute to the interconnected system operations. Generation at five projects serves specific customer loads. For more information about Southwestern, visit our Internet web site at: www.swpa.gov.

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

Before appointment, applicant will be required to certify that all information contained on or attached to his/her application is complete, true, accurate, and made in good faith, as well as, provide other suitability information. This certification will be made with the understanding that the information may be investigated, and false or fraudulent information on the application may be grounds for not hiring you, for firing you after you begin work, or be punishable by fine or imprisonment.

DUTIES

1. Operates and maintains large commercial and farm-type tractor equipped with brush cutting attachment and side trimming machines, in the clearing/cutting of heavy brush along transmission line rights-of-way. May cut brush/weeds in substation and pole yard sites.
2. Operates portable saws, hand saw or machete in the felling and trimming of trees and brush along transmission line rights-of-way. May also be required to do same in substation and pole yard sites.
3. Operates large tractor or bulldozer equipment used in excavation, leveling, road building, hoisting, towing and hauling work. Operates pneumatic tools for drilling rock and excavating pole and anchor holes for transmission line maintenance projects.
4. Applies herbicide for brush/tree control to transmission line right-of-way with land owners' permission.
5. Performs periodic inspection and preventive maintenance on equipment and vehicles used by making simple adjustments to equipment used.
6. As required, performs manual labor of loading, unloading or carrying materials, supplies, or equipment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requires physical exertion, such as long periods of standing, walking over and working in rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, and frequent arm and leg movement to manipulate tractor controls. Frequent, recurring loading and unloading of tools and related equipment weighing up to 100 pounds; and working with heavy specialized industrial equipment. The work may require specific, but common, physical characteristics and abilities such as above average agility and dexterity.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work is performed in remote outdoor field locations with exposure to various weather conditions (wind, rain, dust, hot sun, cold weather). Employee is exposed to unpleasant noise levels, vibrations, and jolting from various equipment. Work is performed whereas employee is exposed to danger from an atmosphere of high-voltage electricity. Travels and lodges in remote locations frequently. **(Although not on standby status, the candidate selected is subject to call at any time to perform emergency work and is encouraged to establish permanent residence within a one-hour commuting distance of the duty station.)** The current work schedule is four 10-hour days weekly, Monday through Thursday.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must indicate in their application material that they possess sufficient **specialized experience, knowledge and skills** to satisfactorily perform the duties of an Equipment Operator without more than normal supervision. **The ability to do the work** of an equipment operator **without more than normal supervision** will be used as a **screen-out**, and any applicant not indicating an adequate level of this ability will be eliminated from further consideration. Applicants will be evaluated according to the procedural guidelines in OPM Handbook X-118C, which can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/x-118C/index.htm>

Specialized experience equipment operator: demonstrated experience operating and maintaining large commercial equipment such as hydroaxes or Jarraff type equipment and farm-type equipment with attached brush-cutting and side-clearing machines in the clearing and cutting of heavy brush in rough terrain and along utility rights-of-way. without more than normal supervision.

***“Without more than normal supervision” is defined at the journeyman level as the ability to safely operate and maintain industrial vehicles and equipment with limited instruction, and operate equipment on various terrains and under different weather conditions.**

Note:

Status applicants (current Federal employees) must meet qualifications and time-after competitive appointment requirements within 30 days of the closing of this announcement.

BASIS OF EVALUATION:

Applicants who meet the qualification requirements will be rated on the basis of relevant experience, education, related volunteer experience, training, job-related awards, and the ranking factors listed below. **To receive consideration, ALL applicants MUST address the set of ranking factors listed below by completing a Supplemental Qualifications Statement and include this as a part of their application package. Applications that do not include this Supplemental Qualifications Statement will be considered incomplete and ineligible for consideration.**

TO OBTAIN THE SUPPLEMENTAL QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT, contact: Beverly Yenter, 918-595-6639, bev.yenter@swpa.gov or go to Southwestern's website at: <http://www.swpa.gov/jobopenings.aspx>

Ranking Factors**

1. Ability to do the work of the position without more than normal supervision. **(This is a screen-out* element.)**
2. Ability to operate equipment and utilize materials safely and work safely around high-voltage transmission line rights-of-way and maintenance facilities.
3. Ability to operate equipment with attached or towed auxiliary equipment.
4. Ability to attach and adjust equipment and perform operator maintenance.
5. Ability to interpret and follow instructions.

***Screen-Out Element: Critical knowledge, skills, and abilities which are essential for satisfactory job performance. Applicants must score two points out of a possible four points on the screen-out element to be deemed eligible for consideration.**

****ADDRESS THESE RANKING FACTORS BY answering the questions on the SUPPLEMENTAL QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT that is available at: <http://www.swpa.gov/jobopenings.aspx> or contact Beverly Yenter, 918-595-6639, bev.yenter@swpa.gov for a copy.**

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

1. Applicants must be **citizens of the United States** (or owe allegiance to the United States).
2. Applicants must be at **least 16 years of age** to apply for this vacancy.
3. Public Law 103-356 requires **direct deposit** of Federal wage, salary, travel reimbursement, and retirement payments by electronic funds transfer from recipients.
4. Incumbent is subject to **frequent travel**.
5. **Background Investigation:** This position requires a brief background investigation prior to entering on duty. This brief background investigation may take up to three weeks to successfully adjudicate before selectee may begin employment. A comprehensive background investigation will commence upon effective date of hire and may take up to 9 months to adjudicate. Unsuccessful adjudication will result in the termination of employment.
6. Applicant must possess and retain a **Class "A" Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prior to appointment**.
7. **Pre-employment Physical:** Upon tentative selection, applicant will be required to complete a physical examination. Unsatisfactory results from the physical will result in non-appointment.
8. **Drug/Alcohol Testing:** Upon tentative selection, applicant will be tested for drug/alcohol consumption. A determination of the use of illegal drugs may lead to non-appointment. The incumbent will be subject to future random, unannounced drug/alcohol testing.
10. **Male applicants** born after December 31, 1959, must certify that they have registered with the Selective Service System or are exempt from having to do so under the Selective Service Law.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates may submit a resume, curriculum vitae, or other documents such as an optional Federal employment application (OF-612) or a general employment application form.

- A. Your application must include at a minimum: Announcement number (DEU-SW-2009-05), title (Equipment Operator), and grade of position for which you are applying (WB-4741-00) on front page of application or resume; your full name,

mailing address, telephone numbers; your social security number; country of citizenship; and your work and education background.

- B. Additional information/completed forms should be submitted if applicable:
- Most recent copy of your SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action (if applicable)
 - Supplemental Qualifications Statement (mandatory for consideration)**
 - Ethnicity and Race Identification form (SF-181) (optional)
 - DD-214 if requesting Veterans' Preference

Failure to submit requested information/documents may result in non-consideration or a lower rating in the evaluation process. **Applications that do not include the Supplemental Qualifications Statement will be considered incomplete and ineligible for consideration.**

IMPORTANT: Applications must be RECEIVED in Southwestern's Human Resources Management Office (address below) *on or before the closing date*. Hand-delivered or mailed application packages must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the closing date. Application packages which are e-mailed or faxed must be received by midnight on the closing date. Do not send original documents; applications will not be returned. **Applications mailed in Government-franked envelopes, faxed using government fax machines, or emailed using Government email accounts will NOT be accepted.**

Submission of the form, *Ethnicity and Race Identification form* is voluntary and can be found at Southwestern Power Administration's website at: <http://www.swpa.gov/jobopenings.aspx>

Submit complete application package to:

**Southwestern Power Administration
Attn: Beverly Yenter, S-6200
One West Third Street
Tulsa, OK 74103**

**E-mail: bev.yenter@swpa.gov
Phone: (918) 595-6639
Fax: (918) 595-6656**

BENEFITS AND OTHER INFORMATION

No relocation benefits are offered.

Placement Assistance Programs:

Individuals entitled to priority consideration under the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) and/or Department of Energy's Career Transition Assistance Program **MUST** submit the documentation listed below with their application package:

1. RIF separation notice; a letter from OPM or your agency documenting your priority consideration status;
2. Current (last) performance appraisal rating of record (must be successful or equivalent—or better);
3. Narrative statement addressing the knowledge, skills, and ability factors listed under Qualification Requirements in this announcement; and
4. Documentation showing the promotion potential of the position from which you may be or have been separated. (Applicants are eligible for consideration only for vacancies that have no higher promotion potential.)

Eligible employees must be determined to be well qualified for this position. Well-qualified means an eligible employee possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities that clearly exceed the minimum qualification requirements for the position.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify this agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

NOTES:

The Defense Authorization Act of November 18, 1997, extended veterans' preference to persons who served on active duty during the Gulf War from August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992. The law grants preference to persons otherwise eligible and who served on active duty during the period, regardless of where the person served or for how long. The law also authorized the Secretary of each military department to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Bosnia during the period November 20, 1995, to a date to be determined. The award of the Medal is qualifying for veterans' preference.

Executive Order 13154, signed by the President on May 3, 2000, established the *Kosovo Campaign Medal*. The medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces for service in Kosovo or its contiguous waters or airspace after March 24, 1999, and before a terminal date to be set by the Secretary of Defense. Presidential Executive Order 13289 extended veterans preference to those who participated in or served in the support of Global War on Terrorism operations on or after September 11, 2001, and to a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense; eligible service members were authorized the *Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal* or the *Global War on Terrorism Service Medal*.

CHANGE IN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY VETERANS' PREFERENCE ELIGIBILITY: According to the Office of Personnel Management, on February 6, 2007, the Merit Systems Protection Board issued a decision in *Hesse v. Department of the Army*, 104 M.S.P.R. 647 (2007), that affects eligibility for veterans' preference based on a service-connected disability under section 2108(2) of Title 5, United States Code. The Board decided that the term "active duty" as used in 5 U.S.C. 2108(2) "...may consist entirely of service for training purposes."

More information on veterans' preference is available in the VetGuide that may be found on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management web site at <http://www.opm.gov/veterans>.

CONTACT:

For further information, you may contact Beverly Yenter at 918-595-6639 or at bev.yenter@swpa.gov

This job announcement is only one source of candidates the selecting official can use to fill positions. Management reserves the right to fill multiple positions from this announcement within six months of the closing date.

***THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.
A HARASSMENT-FREE WORK ENVIRONMENT IS SOUTHWESTERN'S POLICY.***