

UPDATE

APRIL - JUNE 2005

Power Operations Training Center Open for Business

Southwestern's new Power Operations Training Center (POTC), an in-house facility at the Springfield Operations Center, opened its doors in late April 2005. The POTC was developed to accommodate the educational needs of Southwestern's operators and dispatchers, as well as others in

the electric utility industry, on a space-available basis, who have an interest in learning about the principles and operation of power generation and distribution equipment. Southwestern is also cooperating with Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) so that SPP can hold conferences and training at the new facility.

This past spring, Southwestern was recognized by the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) as a continuing education provider adhering to NERC Continuing Education program criteria. With the establishment of the POTC, Southwestern now provides certified training courses to its own personnel, as well as to employees of other utilities as space allows. Course offerings currently include Electric Power System Restoration, Power Generation Operation and Construction, Power System Switching, NERC Certification, and Power System Dynamics. In addition to structured training courses, the training center is also available for conferences and seminars.

The POTC was conceived in response to new power operations training standards developed by NERC following the Blackout of August 2003, which affected eight U.S. states and the Canadian Province of Ontario. These more stringent standards require that many operators receive additional training. Southwestern determined that an in-house training



REGIONAL POWER SYSTEM OPERATORS ATTEND A CONFERENCE SESSION AT SOUTHWESTERN'S NEW POWER OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER IN SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI.



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center would provide an economical alternative to sending employees off-site for classes, and, because of its centralized location, could also be made available to others, including SPP, whenever possible.

Power Operations Specialist Mike Wech, a certified NERC Continuing Education Provider, has been the project manager for the training center since its inception in October 2004. In addition to developing courses and planning events, Wech oversaw the establishment of the training center in an otherwise under-utilized upstairs space that had previously been occupied by the Springfield Police Department. The costs to refurbish the space and complete the facility have been relatively minor, he says, compared to the value received and the expected savings in training and travel expenses.

The POTC includes an overhead multi-media projector, a motorized eight-foot screen, training tables and chairs, a surround sound system, and VCR and DVD capabilities. In addition, ten computer terminals have been installed and networked to a central server. "This equipment will be used for both interactive courses, as well as online simulation drills for the system operators," says Wech.

Division of Scheduling & Operations Director Stan Mason, whose office is adjacent to the new training center, feels that the POTC can facilitate the kind of communication and cooperation that benefits Southwestern and the entire regional grid. "There's a distinct advantage to sitting alongside your neighbors, comparing experiences, and coordinating system information and black start procedures,"



THE POWER OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER PROVIDES AMPLE ROOM, QUALITY EQUIPMENT, AND A COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE TO FOSTER LEARNING.

he says. "That's quality training." Mason professes a strong belief in developing relationships between employees, divisions, and customer systems. "I think we're just scratching the surface of what we can do here," he says.

The new facility has already been used for two events: a NERC System Operator Certification course hosted in late April in cooperation with SPP and System Operations Success International, and SPP's Spring Power System Operator Conference in early May. Wech reports that both the NERC training, with 21 students from around the country, and the SPP conference, with 51 attendees from around the Midwest, were very well-received, especially the latter for which all available seating sold out within the first week of its advertisement.

"Following the training sessions, we received excellent comments from the attendees. This validated my hopes that we are doing things the right way and providing a service our customers want and need," says Wech. He adds that additional educational opportunities are already on the horizon and that another SPP conference is going to be scheduled for fall 2005.

Mason confirmed the good response. "Allen Klassen, Chair of the SPP Operations Training Work Group, said he would recommend to the Group and to SPP that there be more frequent training opportunities here," he says. "We've received nothing but positive feedback."

"I am most proud of what we were able to achieve in such a short time frame," Wech says, gratified to have the POTC up and running at last. "I really appreciate the assistance and teamwork of our co-workers here at Southwestern in assisting with all it took to get this venture off the ground. We could not have accomplished this project without their help, and for that, I thank them."

More information on the new training center can be found at <http://www.swpa.gov/powerweb/powerweb.htm>. 💧

Southwestern Lauded for Preservation Agreement

Southwestern was awarded the State Historic Preservation Officer's Citation of Merit from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in a ceremony held June 9, 2005, in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Dallas Cooper, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Corporate Facilities Services, accepted the award on behalf of Southwestern.

According to the Oklahoma SHPO, the award recognizes Southwestern's contribution in the broad range of activities that foster preservation of Oklahoma's rich heritage. Specifically, Southwestern was recognized for its preservation planning initiative demonstrated through the execution of a Programmatic Agreement with the Oklahoma SHPO and the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to take into account possible impacts of the agency's construction work on historic resources.

"The Programmatic Agreement is a formal way of complying with the National Historic Preservation Act," says Larry Moore, Cultural Resource Specialist with Southwestern's support services contractor Wyandotte Net Tel (WNT). "It's not a required thing, but it does give Southwestern transparency, and it adds a significant piece to Southwestern's Cultural Resource Management Plan, which is required by the Department of Energy."

Moore, who worked with the Oklahoma SHPO and Southwestern employees Darlene Low, Special Assistant, Aviation, Environment, Safety and Health, and Haden Holcomb, WNT Environmental Specialist, to finalize the agreement in September 2004, explains that transparency is a particularly significant aspect of the agreement because it gives those outside the agency a chance to become familiar with Southwestern's cultural resource program and processes.

Moore says the inclusion of Native American tribes within Oklahoma was especially important. The Caddo Tribe, the Chickasaw Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation, the Creek Nation, the Seminole Nation, the Osage Nation, and the Wichita & Affiliated Tribes were all solicited for comment by Southwestern and were offered the option of signing the agreement or a separate one with similar content.

Several of the tribes did provide feedback, Moore says, and Southwestern went through the process of addressing these and other comments received from the public at large before finalizing the agreement. He adds that in the case of similar agreements Southwestern developed with the SHPOs of Arkansas and Missouri, the Shawnee Nation not only commented, but also asked to be a signatory.

Within the Oklahoma agreement, Southwestern pledged to consult with Native American tribes that may be affected by Southwestern maintenance activities if a maintenance activity requires review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Section 106 grants legal status to historic preservation in Federal planning, decision making, and project execution. It requires all Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties, and provide the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a cabinet-level group of citizens appointed by the President, experts in the field, and Federal, state, and local government representatives, with a reasonable opportunity to comment on those actions and the manner in which Federal agencies are taking historic properties into account in their decisions.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DR. BOB L. BLACKBURN PRESENTS DALLAS COOPER WITH THE SHPO CITATION OF MERIT.

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Moore says Southwestern consulted with the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Oklahoma SHPO, and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey to determine that many of Southwestern's maintenance activities may affect historic or culturally significant properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and therefore, these maintenance activities may be subject to review under Section 106.

The agreement also cites Section 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act, which delineates Federal responsibility on any actions that may directly and adversely affect a National Historic Landmark, as applying to Southwestern maintenance activities as well.

"There are a lot of archeological sites on Southwestern's rights-of-way," Moore says. "Some have more historic interest and significance than others, but it's Southwestern's obligation to be aware of them all and to be prepared to consult with the appropriate authorities as necessary."

The agreement states Southwestern's intentions of making sure it is prepared to do just that by conducting historic preservation sensitivity training within its maintenance areas; completing a survey of its properties for historic purposes by year-end 2006; and keeping an up-to-date database of historic properties and other culturally significant resources found within the boundaries of its transmission lines, rights-of-way, substations, communication sites, maintenance facilities, and ancillary features.

Moore says during the development of the agreement, he was especially focused on minimizing impacts to Southwestern's routine maintenance work. He included Southwestern's maintenance managers in the review process to ensure their support, and says he received valuable feedback as a result.

Within the agreement, specific day-to-day activities, including maintenance and replacement of transformers and breakers, patrol of transmission lines, and maintenance of microwave and other communication towers, are categorically excluded from review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), which grants an agency the opportunity to determine whether a proposed Federal action has the potential to cause effects on historic properties.

For projects that are less routine, but generally do not involve major construction, such as modifications to existing substations, upgrades of access roads, and mechanical clearing of rights-of-way areas, the agreement provides for Southwestern's discretionary decision as to whether the Oklahoma SHPO and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey would review the project under Section 106. Specific steps are included in Southwestern's discretionary decision-making process, including determining if the project affects an area with a historic property, and determining the severity of the disturbance the project is likely to cause, if any.

"Southwestern probably could have taken care of its cultural resource obligations with an internal policy document," says Moore, "but in my mind this is better because it gets Southwestern's procedures and policies out in the open where everyone is aware of them."

Dallas Cooper agrees and says he is proud of the teamwork that went into getting the agreement into place with the Oklahoma SHPO, as well as the SHPOs of Arkansas and Missouri. He says he believes the agreements will relieve



SOUTHWESTERN'S 1,380 MILES OF TRANSMISSION LINES CONSIST OF EXTENSIVE PROPERTIES AND EASEMENTS WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY CONTAIN ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS.

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It's No Mystery - SPRA Conference A Success



WEBBERS FALLS TOUR

Before sessions began on the first day, representatives from SPRA and Southwestern traveled down to Webbers Falls Powerhouse. The group met with Corps personnel and took a tour of recent improvements such as the new generator cooling system. They also saw first-hand the need for additional rehabilitation work to repair turbine #3, which is currently out of commission due to a cracked turbine shaft.



RECEPTION ATTENDEES MEETING AND GREETING

The second day included discussions on the status of various competing uses, such as water reallocations, Southwestern's Federal power marketing activities, transmission issues, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission compliance.

The second evening, SPRA members and Southwestern staff gathered for a meal and a mystery, as Tulsa's Ultimate Murder Mystery troupe launched a dinnertime show where bodies accumulated, Lt. Columbo scrutinized,

Not much sleuthing was needed to find representatives from Southwestern at the 48th Annual Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) meeting, held April 12-14, 2005, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The theme was "Solving the PMA Budget Mystery," and Southwestern employees put their heads together with SPRA's membership to figure it all out. SPRA members represent over 90 percent of Southwestern's customers.



EVERYBODY LOVES A MYSTERY!

That afternoon, the meeting got started as Southwestern briefed SPRA attendees on rates-related issues and the current status of hydropower operations. At the conclusion of the day's business, SPRA members joined Southwestern staff for a reception where, alongside the scattered tables of friendly conversation, the SPRA 6 Volt Tinker Toy Transmission System was being constructed from schematics produced by Southwestern Electrical Engineer Dave Sargent. With an approximate load of 4500 milliwatts, it burned brightly that evening and for the rest of the conference.



EDISON WANNA-BES TINKERING WITH ELECTRICITY



“INDIANA” HARP

and no one was safe from the suspicions of their colleagues. Attendees were, naturally, encouraged to come in costume, so that the dining room was populated with the likes of Dick Tracy, Hercule Poirot, Shaggy and Scooby Doo, Sonny Crockett, Miss Marple, Magnum P.I., and other assorted detectives and enigmatic crime stoppers.



GLASS EYE OF THE LAW



SUPER SLEUTHS PORING OVER EVIDENCE

On the last day of the meeting, SPRA Executive Director Ted Coombes reported on the state of the SPRA organization, and Mike Deihl gave the Administrator’s Report. Following an unscheduled visit by “Karnack,” who fielded sealed questions about budgets, fish, and rate structures, Worth Hager took to the podium as the keynote speaker. Hager, President of the National Waterways Conference, informed attendees about the economic importance of America’s waterways and the impact of the President’s 2006 budget proposal on Corps of Engineers projects.

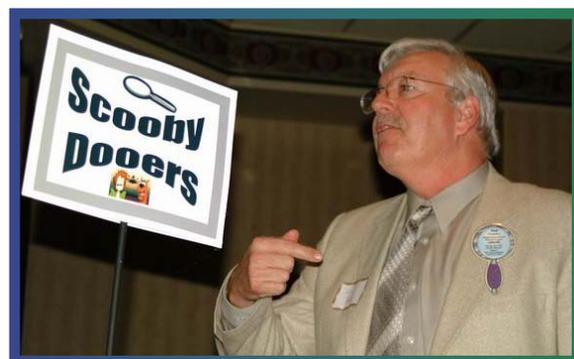


HIDDEN IDENTITIES



MASKED MARAUDER

The meeting concluded with the election of SPRA board members and a buffet luncheon in the hotel’s atrium. 💧



DO YOU HAVE TO ASK WHODUNIT?



MURDER AND MAYHEM PUNCTUATED THE EVENING.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER WORTH HAGER



DICK TRACY AND TOKYO ROSE

Cooperating Agencies Turn River Bottom Into Improved Habitat for the Birds

Nestled near the western shore of the Arkansas River in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the little man-made stretch of rocks and sand called Zink Island doesn't look like much. Its scruffy appearance, however, belies its special role in the community as both an idyllic summer home for the interior least tern, and as a tribute to the intergovernmental cooperation necessary for making that happen.



TULSA CITY/COUNTY DOZERS DREDGE UP AN ISLAND FROM THE STREAM. THIS MAN-MADE HABITAT WILL HOST BREEDING TERNS FOR YEARS TO COME.

Zink Island, which was originally dredged up from the river bottom to be a scenic focus for Zink Lake, is a tern-friendly location where these migratory seabirds can nest and raise their young every summer. Located just south of the 11th Street Bridge near downtown Tulsa, the island is an attractive stopover for the birds due to its generally barren surface and the water that separates it from shore, which acts as a moat against predators.

The interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) starts appearing along gravelly shores up and down the Arkansas River in late May or early June. Zink Island's importance as a tern nesting ground – one of the

largest in Oklahoma – requires that it be ready year after year to receive its guests. This means ensuring minimal plant growth and sufficient elevation to keep nests above any potential flood-stage water flows downstream from Keystone Dam.

Preparing for the terns' arrival requires the coordinated efforts of the Oklahoma Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Tulsa City and County, the River Parks Authority, and Southwestern. Representatives from these agencies have formed a least tern committee to coordinate activities related to protecting Zink Island.

Historically, river floods could have kept the island clear of woody vegetation and reinforced its sandy beaches with fresh sediment. However, Keystone Dam prevents most of the flooding, and this circumstance allows bushes to encroach on the high ground and the beaches to slowly erode. After a marked decrease in nesting sites last year, the least tern committee decided that Zink Island was due for some rehabilitation.

In March, Southwestern coordinated with the Corps to begin reducing water flows from Keystone, so that a land bridge would form between Zink Island and the riverbank. The following week, on March 21, 2005, bulldozers and backhoes from Tulsa County chugged across to Zink Island, razed the woody vegetation, and pushed tons of sand up from the surrounding water to increase the island's height. The operation was supervised by River Parks and the Corps, and was completed successfully in one day.

The multi-agency approach extends well beyond the rehabilitation projects which occur every few years. On April 27, 2005, the least tern committee "kicked off" the 2005 least tern season by conducting a final review of the

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In Memory of Ron Wilkerson

Former Southwestern Power Administrator Ron Wilkerson passed away March 14, 2005. Wilkerson served as Administrator of Southwestern from 1984 to 1988.

Wilkerson served in the U.S. Navy before attending Montana State University, where he majored in Electrical Engineering and graduated with honors in 1960. He began his career working as an Engineer and Manager with Bonneville Power Administration. He later became Administrator of Southwestern, and following his tenure there, served as Manager of Montana Electric Generating and Transmission Cooperative.

According to his family, Wilkerson had many passions in his life. First among those were his wife and children. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sharon; their four children, Rod, Mark, Dan, and Shanna; five grandchildren; and by his brother Larry. His family and friends will remember him as a devoted teacher, mentor, and counselor to his children and grandchildren. All say they have benefited enormously from his exemplary life.

An avid outdoorsman who grew up in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, Wilkerson loved backpacking, hunting, and fishing. During the 14 years he lived with cancer, he is said to have measured his quality of life and health by his ability to travel, hunt, and fish, and, based on those measures, his family reports that his last 14 years were great.

Wilkerson's family requests that in lieu of memorials, those wishing to remember and honor him should hug their children and grandchildren. ♦

SCADA System Getting an Upgrade

Southwestern's mission-critical Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system is undergoing a renovation. Following a FY 2004 analysis of Southwestern's IT systems, it was determined that Southwestern's existing SCADA would require additional functionality to meet new requirements from the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) for better alarming capabilities and situational awareness.

To address this need for additional functionality, Southwestern evaluated the possibility of upgrading its existing SCADA versus switching to a personal-computer-based SCADA / Automatic Generation Control power control system (PCS) that had been developed by Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). The results showed WAPA's PCS to be more economical, more efficient, and easier for Southwestern's system operators to use; plus it could be customized for Southwestern's operations.

Implementing WAPA's PCS versus maintaining Southwestern's existing SCADA will result in significant savings – essentially zero dollars (\$0) for the software – so Southwestern entered into an agreement with WAPA to cost-share the enhancements and testing of a customized PCS, to the benefit of both power administrations.



DAVE SCHILDER

The new PCS will be implemented this year at the Springfield Operations Center as an upgrade/replacement of the existing SCADA. To meet this goal, Southwestern recently hired Dave Schilder, one of the principal architects of WAPA's PCS, to tailor the system specifically to Southwestern's needs. Schilder, a 30-year WAPA veteran, will work on a term basis out of WAPA's Upper Great Plains Operations Office in Watertown, South Dakota. ♦

SPARKS OF INTEREST

JEFFREY CLAY SELL WAS SWORN IN ON MARCH 21, 2005, AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY at a ceremony held at the Department of Energy (DOE) headquarters in Washington, DC. Sell was sworn in by DOE Secretary Samuel W. Bodman after being unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 17, 2005. As Deputy Secretary, Sell will serve as DOE's Chief Operating Officer. Since February 2004, Sell served as a Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, and prior to that he served as a member of the President's National Economic Council and as a Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, with a focus on energy and natural resources issues. From January 2000 to July 2003, he served as Staff Director and Republican Clerk for the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. Previously, he was a staff member for Congressman Mac Thornberry of Texas. Sell holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.



ALL SOUTHWESTERN CUSTOMERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INFORMAL RATES MEETING in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at 10:00 am on June 21, 2005, at Southwestern Headquarters. The meeting is being held to discuss preliminary findings from the Power Repayment Study (PRS) of Southwestern's Integrated System. For more information, contact Southwestern Public Utilities Specialist Stephanie Bradley at 918-595-6676 or stephanie.bradley@swpa.gov.

AUGUST 9-10, 2005 – THE STRATEGIC HYDROPOWER WORKSHOP #2 will be hosted by the Corps' Tulsa District in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at a location to be announced. Representatives from the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Corps Headquarters, Divisions, and Districts, the Power Marketing Administrations, and all hydropower customers will meet for the purpose of identifying key hydropower program issues and performance metrics in order to develop national strategies for the future of hydropower. The session is a continuation of a prior workshop, held in July 2004 in Denver, Colorado. For further information, contact Southwestern Hydraulic Engineer Marshall Boyken at 918-595-6646, or e-mail marshall.boyken@swpa.gov.

THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE SOUTHWESTERN POWER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION (SPRA) will be held September 20-22, 2005, in San Antonio, Texas. For registration and meeting information, contact Barbara DelGrosso, SPRA's Director of Member Services, at 918-622-7800 or bdg18@sbcglobal.net. SPRA's July meeting has been cancelled.

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responsibilities and protocols that govern such issues as which agency notifies the others about the birds' arrival, who monitors for nesting activity, who gives notice of flood control or low flow operations, etc. This plan of action, which encompasses not just Zink Island but all nesting sites in Oklahoma, stays in effect through the end of tern-nesting season in August in order to provide maximum stewardship of the statewide habitat.

Southwestern is proud of its contributions toward protecting the least tern, and has been active on the least tern committee since its formation in 2001. The interior least tern has been listed as endangered since 1985 due to nationwide habitat loss attributed to dams, channelization, and other changes to inland river systems. ♠

NEW EMPLOYEES

DAVE SCHILDER

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST
DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA

RETIREMENTS

WOODY FUGATE

PUBLIC UTILITIES SPECIALIST
DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE
TULSA, OKLAHOMA



HAVE A GREAT JULY 4TH!

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Southwestern's maintenance organization of some of the potential red tape that may have impeded routine tasks.

"I am very pleased Southwestern went ahead with formalizing these agreements. Not only will it keep our Cultural Resource Management Plan current, it will also streamline our maintenance activities by allowing crews to go about their day-to-day business secure in the knowledge that they are not impacting this nation's historic properties or cultural resources." 💧

WATTS INSIDE?



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CONTACT PAO@SWPA.GOV TO RECEIVE THE **UPDATE** VIA E-MAIL.