

October 25, 2018

Southwestern Celebrates 75 Years of Service

Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) hosted a celebration of its 75th anniversary at the DoubleTree Hotel at Warren Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Thursday, October 18, 2018.

Attendees included Bruce Walker, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity (OE), and Adrienne Lotto, current Chief of Staff of OE.

Southwestern's customers were in attendance as well as Southwestern Power Resource Association Executive Director Nicki Fuller. Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) included Colonel Robert Dixon of the Little Rock District and Colonel Christopher Hussin of the Tulsa District.

Attendees enjoyed remarks from Walker and Southwestern Administrator Mike Wech and then watched the premiere of [a video commemorating the agency's 75th anniversary](#).

"I think everyone had a good time, and I'm very proud I was able to be part of this special celebration," says Southwestern Administrator Mike Wech.

Additional activities during the celebration included dinner and cake, a photo booth, a trivia contest, and memorabilia related to Southwestern's 75 years in the industry.



Assistant Secretary Bruce Walker talked about the importance of Federal hydropower at Southwestern's 75th anniversary event.



Corps of Engineers personnel took advantage of the photo booth.

Two slide shows were also shown throughout the evening, [one featuring places and equipment](#), and the other featuring [past and present employees and stakeholders](#), including all 14 Administrators and Acting Administrators of Southwestern.

Southwestern was officially created by a Department of Interior (DOI) Order dated September 1, 1943.

Harold Ickes, DOI Secretary, created Southwestern and appointed Doug Wright as the agency's first Administrator.

As Administrator, Wright assumed the obligations of Oklahoma's Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) to finish ongoing construction projects related to Pensacola Dam to support the war effort.

He also contracted for new construction of transmission lines and substations so that the entire output of the project could be marketed and delivered.

In addition to Pensacola, Southwestern was given the responsibility to market power and energy from Norfolk and Denison Dams.

Congress confirmed Southwestern's authority December 22, 1944 with the Flood Control Act of 1944. Southwestern returned control of Pensacola to GRDA in 1946, and additional hydropower projects began to be constructed.

From 1944 through 1989, 24 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects came online within Southwestern's footprint, and Southwestern became the agency responsible for marketing and delivering 2,000 MW of power in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Today, Southwestern has 102 customers who ultimately serve another 8 million end-users.