

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Mike Wech Named Administrator of Southwestern

June 12, 2018

Contact: Beth Nielsen

Phone: 918-595-6762

Email: elizabeth.nielsen@swpa.gov

Mike Wech Named Administrator of Southwestern, Effective May 2018

Tulsa, OK - Mike Wech (pronounced "way"), was named Administrator of Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) effective May 2018. Wech has served as Deputy Administrator since November 2016 and has served in the role of Acting Administrator since August 2017.



Mike Wech
Administrator

In his new role, Wech plans to continue his efforts to reduce costs where possible, meet Department of Energy (DOE) objectives, align business functions, and put more focus on activities critical to Southwestern, DOE, and Southwestern's customers.

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity," he says. "I am committed to the agency's success, and I look forward to working with my fellow employees, our customers, Assistant Secretary Bruce Walker, and the Office of Electricity at DOE headquarters to adapt and plan for the long-term."

Wech brings over three decades of experience to the position, including both hands-on and supervisory skills in maintenance, engineering, dispatch, operations, training, and regulatory compliance.

He has been with Southwestern since 2003 and has served in multiple roles at the agency, including Deputy Administrator over the Offices of Power Delivery, Corporate Compliance, and Corporate Operations; Vice President of Operations; System Operations Supervisor; Regulatory Compliance Officer; Manager for Operations Training; Operations Trainer; and Power System Dispatcher.

He came to Southwestern from Western Area Power Administration, where he worked in multiple Power System Operations roles from 1997 to 2003. Prior to his Federal service, he was employed from 1989 to 1997 at Nebraska Public Power District, where he worked in Power System Maintenance and System Operations.

Wech began his electric utility career in 1984, interning with electrical contractors during the summers while pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Nebraska. He is an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) member and a Certified System Operator under the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).

Wech resides in Springfield, Missouri, with his wife Lori.