

# UPDATE

JULY - DECEMBER 2010

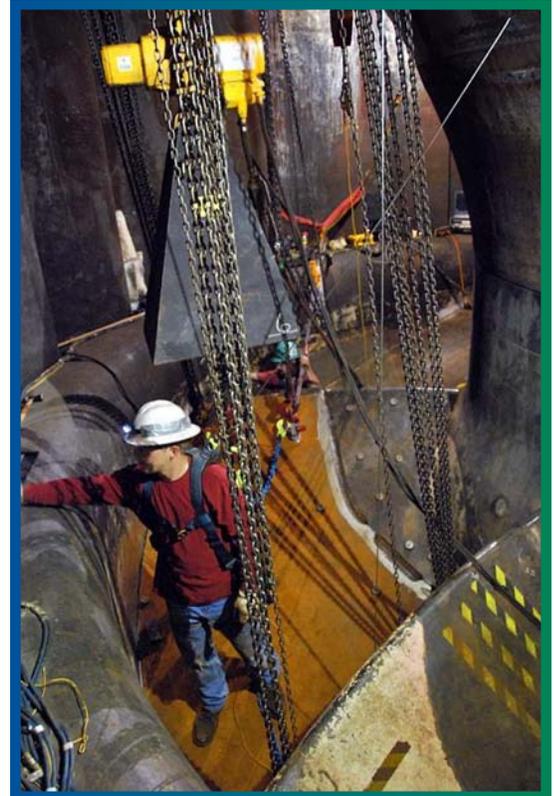
## Blade Repaired, Stockton Back Online

The Stockton Powerplant in Missouri is back online after an extended outage caused when a blade section sheared off of the project's only turbine in February 2009. The nearly five-ton section of blade was reattached in early August 2010 after related repairs had been made to the turbine runner and draft tube. Following thorough inspection and testing, the unit began generating again at full capacity on September 3, 2010.

Restoring hydropower generation at the Stockton Powerplant had been a crucial goal for Southwestern and for the Kansas City District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which operates the multipurpose dam just outside of Stockton, Missouri. Because the powerplant has only one turbine-generator unit, its entire hydropower operation was at a standstill following the blade failure last year.

George "Butch" Boban, Powerhouse Superintendent at Stockton, is pleased to have the power flowing again. "We did some very extensive testing before putting the unit into service," he says, ticking off a list. "We ran tests at 50% speed no load, 100% speed no load, 10 megawatts (MW) load for 30 minutes, 20 MW load for one hour, and others. The unit is now available for full generation."

Southwestern Administrator Jon Worthington expresses his gratitude to the Corps for its steadfastness in resolving the forced outage. "Restoration of the Stockton Powerplant not only stops the loss of valuable, domestically-produced, renewable energy, but it



**A CONTRACTOR WORKS ATOP THE WELDED SECTION OF BLADE AT STOCKTON POWERPLANT, STANDING AMONG THE CHAINS THAT HOISTED IT INTO POSITION FOR REINSTALLATION IN AUGUST 2010.**

also offsets significant quantities of greenhouse gases generated by fossil fuels during the outage," he says. "The Corps' efforts enable Southwestern to continue fulfilling its mission of reliably marketing and delivering Federal hydropower."

On February 4, 2009, a section of blade #5 – an arc of steel with an approximate perimeter of 13 x 4 x 10 x 7 feet – separated from the six-blade turbine runner during generation, coming to rest at the bottom of the draft tube. Divers

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One West Third Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
74103-3502

Voice 918-595-6600  
Fax 918-595-6656

www.swpa.gov

The **UPDATE** is published by and for customers, retirees, and employees of Southwestern Power Administration like:



**Jane Thomas**  
Supply Technician  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Special thanks to:

### SWPA

Marshall Boyken  
Kenny Broadway  
Mike Dawson  
Scott Holland  
Beth Nielsen  
Margaret Skidmore  
Randy Staponski  
Gary Swartzlander  
Ron Sztatmary  
Steve Wall  
Jon Worthington

### CNI/Bearskin

Ashley Butler  
Vicki Clarke  
Ruben Garcia  
William Hiller  
Kathy O'Neal

### KC District Corps

George Boban  
Andre Vasseur

### Tulsa District Corps

Dan Brueggenjohann

### Little Rock District Corps

Lee Beverly

# Keeping Tabs on Rehabs

With four projects out of 24 in Southwestern's marketing area undergoing major rehabilitation, there's plenty of opportunity to observe the inner workings



**ANDREW LACHOWSKY OF AECC, ON A TOUR WITH A COMMITTEE OF FELLOW CUSTOMERS, NAVIGATES SCAFFOLDING ERECTED IN THE DRAFT TUBE AT OZARK IN CONNECTION WITH REHABILITATION WORK AT THAT PROJECT.**

of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) owned hydroelectric powerplant. That's just what some Southwestern customers have been doing this past year while serving on a committee dedicated to learning more about

the ongoing work at Ozark, Stockton, Webbers Falls, and Whitney.

As Southwestern customers and members of the Southwestern Power Resources Association's (SPRA) Federal Power Marketing Committee, Brett Bradford of Paragould, Arkansas; Chuck Bryant of Carthage, Missouri; Tom Gebhard and Christian

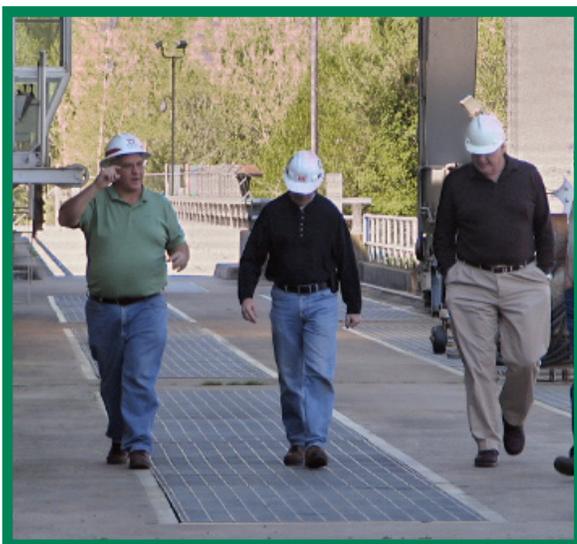
McMurray, representing East Texas Electric Cooperatives; Rick Henley of Jonesboro, Arkansas; Andrew Lachowsky of Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation; Umesh Sadalge of Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority; and Ted Coombes of SPRA have all taken turns getting a first-hand look at the progress being made at each site.

Southwestern staff, too, has benefitted from the site visits. "It's great that the Corps is willing to share information about the status of the work and funding and to conduct tours," says Marshall Boyken, Director of Southwestern's Division of Customer Service. "Employees who are normally in the office writing contracts and other documents related to the rehabilitations have been able to see the actual equipment they are writing about."

Earlier this spring, a group of committee members and Southwestern staff combined a site visit to Ozark, in west-central Arkansas, with a site visit to Ozark's sister plant, Webbers Falls, in east-central Oklahoma. Afterwards, the group agreed that both site visits were valuable, with additional value being added in observing the sister plants on the same day.

"We were told how Webbers Falls staff is using lessons learned at Ozark, which has

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



**DOUG WARD, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OZARK POWERHOUSE; DAVE GLORIT, OZARK PROJECT ENGINEER; AND TED COOMBES OF SPRA, STROLL ACROSS OZARK DAM ON A TOUR OF THAT PROJECT'S REHAB PROGRESS.**



**JOE JACKSON, A CONSTRUCTION REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE CORPS, DESCRIBES A GREASELESS WICKET GATE BUSHING AT OZARK POWERPLANT AS CHUCK BRYANT OF CARTHAGE LOOKS ON.**

# Hello, operator? VoIP is Good Call

Southwestern is rolling out a new Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) telephone system that leverages existing cyber assets to link the agency's offices and facilities. The networked phones connect to the computer network rather than standard phone jacks, marking a shift from analog copper wires to digital Ethernet and fiber optic cable for voice communications. This new system, along with new outside lines at field offices, will provide improved communications reliability, reduced maintenance costs, and enhanced call management.

With VoIP, each phone plugs into the Local Area Network (LAN) at its location, just like a personal computer, and calls are handled like other data traffic across the LAN or the agency's Wide Area Network (WAN). As an Internet-based system, VoIP provides significant advantages, says Mike Dawson, an Electronics Technician in Southwestern's Division of Information Technology (IT).

"This system is fairly robust, and offers a redundancy that was not available under the old analog system," says Dawson. "Calls between sites now get routed over our fiber optic SONET (Synchronous Optical Network) ring, so if a line goes down somewhere the traffic simply gets routed the other way around the ring instantaneously," he says. "Even if a phone server goes down at a field office, the system will see that and alert IT staff, and within minutes one of the servers at another site is handling the calls."

Dawson notes that VoIP technology represents a merging of Southwestern's communications and IT functions. The communications staff was recently transferred from the Division of Scheduling and Operations into the Division of IT; with IT maintaining telephone services, the need for outside assistance is greatly reduced.

Steve Wall, Director of the IT Division, explains the cost advantages. "The old system was 20-year old technology, and parts were getting difficult and expensive

to obtain. Plus, certifying any of our own people was prohibitively expensive, so we always relied on third parties whenever there was a problem," he says. "Going forward, we plan on performing all of our own support." The new system, he notes, comes with a one year warranty.



**MIKE DAWSON, ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN, AND MATT TIDRICK, LAN/WAN SPECIALIST WITH SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDER BEARSKIN SERVICES, PREPARE TO REPLACE THE OLD TELEPHONE SWITCH WITH DEDICATED SERVERS FOR THE NEW VoIP SYSTEM.**

Scott Holland, an Electrical Engineer in the Division of Engineering and Planning who assisted with the VoIP system selection and installation, agrees. "Previously, we paid for parts as needed, as well as an hourly rate to a vendor-certified tech, but the warranty on the new system is a flat annual fee for parts and our own staff can do the replacements," he explains. "Furthermore, we shouldn't need the new support even half as much as with the old system since there is no certification necessary, our techs are trained, and the system is much simpler."

In addition to cost savings and reliability, there are various time-saving benefits. The new phones communicate with an employee's computer, so there is a software interface

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## Comm Techs Merge into Information Technology

Southwestern moved its Communications Team from the Division of Scheduling & Operations to the Division of Information Technology (IT) effective September 12, 2010. As the disciplines of IT and communications technology continue to overlap, both groups coordinate closely on many projects, so the agency decided on the organizational change.

"Both teams jointly perform network operations and control functions such as shared network management, including troubleshooting, outage coordination and reporting, joint network planning and configurations, hardware and cable management, and the recent Voice-over-IP project," says IT Director Steve Wall, "so this action will help promote synergies that will increase efficiencies, promote teamwork, and yield an overall cost savings to Southwestern."

# Szatmary Named Assistant Administrator

Ron Szatmary, Jr., has been selected to assume the role of Southwestern's Assistant Administrator of the Office of Corporate Services and serve as CFO, to become effective in January 2011.



Szatmary (pronounced ZAT-mary), who reported to Southwestern on September 26, 2010, has over 24 years of financial management experience in both the private sector and the Federal government, and most recently served for three years as Acting Director of the Office of Business Management within the

Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) in Washington, DC. He will succeed Gary Swartzlander, who is retiring in January 2011.

Szatmary's Federal career has included various executive leadership positions within both the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Energy (DOE). At DoD's Military Traffic Management Command he led 120 financial management personnel who were responsible for all of DoD's shipments of personnel and goods throughout the world. He also served as a Division Director for an agency within

the Department of Army responsible for policies affecting multiple activities and over 3,400 personnel. At the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation within DOE's Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Szatmary was responsible for developing the first ever multi-year plan for DOE's submission to Congress. During his service at OCRWM, his areas of responsibility included the management and oversight of the Budget Office, Information Technology Office, Procurement Office, and the Office of Human Capital Management.

Szatmary sees his position at Southwestern as one that greatly influences the agency's role as a service-oriented organization. "I've always been involved with organizations that are managed like a business, selling goods and services to other organizations. Southwestern also has that kind of customer-focused approach," says Szatmary. "My prior experience is really a good fit here, and I look forward to helping Southwestern continue to achieve its mission effectively."

Szatmary holds an associate degree in Applied Science with a major in Accounting from Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia, and a bachelor's degree in Financial Management from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He is a member and former President of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, as well as an active member in the Association of Government Accountants. 💧

## VoIP, FROM PAGE 3

that facilitates directory searches, computer-dialing, voice-mail playback, and other features, reducing the amount of time spent searching or maintaining paper directories or listening to voice menus over a handset.

One more improvement being made to Southwestern's telephone system does not actually stem from the upgrade to VoIP, but rather was realized through a simple, low-tech enhancement. "We just bought more

phone lines," explains Dawson. "Previously, the Gore Maintenance Office only had four external lines, while the Jonesboro Maintenance Office only had three. Now, each effectively has 23 inbound/outbound channels for calls." This additional capacity, he says, will virtually eliminate bottlenecks and busy signals, and will be a definite communications advantage during emergency situations such as ice storms. 💧

# Swartzlander Headed for the Links

Gary Swartzlander proudly notes that he has worked with eight Administrators and held 13 positions during his 30 years at Southwestern. Now, as the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Corporate Services retires in January 2011, he leaves behind a legacy of advanced financial systems technology, multi-faceted management, and spirited involvement in agency events and fundraisers over the years that employees will long remember.



**SWARTZLANDER, PRESENTING AN EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD IN 1993, HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN FOR HIS GENEROSITY, TEAM SPIRIT, AND SENSE OF HUMOR.**

Family, coworkers, and fellow retirees honored Swartzlander at a luncheon on December 9, 2010, where Administrator Jon Worthington presented him with a Distinguished Service Medal from Energy Secretary Steven Chu in recognition of his more than 37 years of public service.

Swartzlander, an Ohio native, began his Federal career with the U.S. Army in 1969. He met his wife while at Fort Sill in Oklahoma and they remained in the Sooner State.

Choosing a path in accounting, Swartzlander worked for a time in the private sector. "My first job out of the Army was at Goodwill Industries in Lawton, Oklahoma. I became their finance director, but ended up managing human resources and facilities at the same time," he recalls. "That was my first experience in a multi-functional situation, and in many ways it prepared me for the kind of environment I would find at Southwestern."

Swartzlander worked as an accountant at Anadarko Hospital while completing a business degree at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. In 1975, he moved to Tulsa as a staff accountant for the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). He transferred to the Corps' Southwestern Division in Dallas, Texas, for a one year "tour," as he calls it, but returned to Tulsa in 1980. He came to Southwestern in April 1980 as a supervisory accountant.

"When I first arrived here, there was zero automated accounting. We had a posting machine, and that was it," Swartzlander says of the technology 30 years ago. "There was a general ledger book, kept in ink. So the first purchase I made was erasable ink, in case I made a mistake."

As Swartzlander settled in, he pursued an MBA from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, completing the degree in 1984. "I did my thesis on Federal financial statements. How boring can you get?" he says with a laugh. "But the nuances of Federal financing and reporting requirements are not understood well out in the general public. I've just always found it interesting."

After being promoted to Accounting Officer, Swartzlander was selected as Director of the Division of Financial Management in 1992, and later also named CFO, the second in Southwestern's history, in 1994. He was selected as Assistant Administrator in 2006.

Swartzlander is proud of the accomplishments under his management over the years. "We now utilize a fully automated, integrated accounting system," he notes. "And we've streamlined the budget process, pushing it back down into the organization, which makes it more realistic and accountable."



**SOUTHWESTERN ADMINISTRATOR JON WORTHINGTON (RIGHT) PRESENTS GARY SWARTZLANDER WITH A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL FROM ENERGY SECRETARY STEVEN CHU, AT A RECENT LUNCHEON HONORING SWARTZLANDER.**



**BACK IN THE DAY, SWARTZLANDER WAS CLEARLY INVESTED IN TEAM-BUILDING AS PART OF A SOUTHWESTERN GOLF TEAM IN 1984.**

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**SWARTZLANDER, FROM PAGE 6**

“But I must emphasize that all of these successes are directly attributable to the Division Directors and their staffs,” he says.

Over the years, Swartzlander has contributed his optimism and energy to many events, notably the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), for which he served as a Loaned Executive during the Greater Tulsa Area’s 2010 campaign. “That was an awesome experience,” he says, noting how pleased he was to have the opportunity during his final year. “It was amazing how generous the 40-plus Federal agencies in this area were during the campaign. Working with the Army, Navy, and Air Force Reserve Centers and the Air and Army

**LEFT: SWARTZLANDER IS FAMOUS AT SOUTHWESTERN FOR HIS ENTHUSIASM AND COSTUMES AT AGENCY AND CHARITY EVENTS.**

National Guard Units was, for me, truly a heartfelt experience.”

For now, Swartzlander says he has no immediate retirement plans except a backlog of honey-dos. He and his wife plan to travel, and he notes that he is interested in contracting as a trainer at the Office of Personnel Management. And, of course, there will be golf.

Looking back at his Southwestern career, Swartzlander has no regrets. “You know, I didn’t really expand my management horizons until I came to Southwestern. And these last few years, with so many areas of responsibility under one position – procurement, human resources, finance, and budget – it’s really been quite rewarding.”

## Southwestern CFC: Power for Good

Every fall, Southwestern is privileged to support the Tulsa Area United Way’s annual fund drive through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), and 2010 was no exception. During October, employees and contractors donated nearly \$18,500 through fundraisers at Southwestern’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, headquarters and through pledges to be collected via payroll deductions during 2011. The superhero-themed motto this year was “Southwestern Power for Good.”

Southwestern wishes to express its gratitude to guest speakers who visited, including Sandra Thornton, United Way’s Campaign Division Manager; Mike Diggs, CFC Loaned Executive from the U.S. Postal Service; and Suzy Sharp with Life Senior Services, a local charity.

Southwestern also appreciates the companies that donated food or door prize items, including: Merritt’s Bakery, Coney Islander, Baxter’s Interurban Grill, Panera Bread, Hideaway Pizza, and Bearskin Services, Inc. Additionally, local businesses that set-up for a two-day sale and donated 15% of their proceeds to CFC included: Chuck’s Ties & Accessories; J&B Jewelry; Kelly’s

Soaps, Salts & Fizzies; Kim’s Tupperware; Old World Confectionery; and Scentables Candles. Southwestern is especially grateful to Southwestern Power Resources Association for its sponsorship of a mini golf tournament.

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.



**SOUTHWESTERN’S TULSA EMPLOYEES RALLY AT THE OPENING OF THE AGENCY’S 2010 CFC FUND DRIVE, HELD AT TULSA’S RIVER PARKS.**

## STOCKTON, FROM PAGE 1

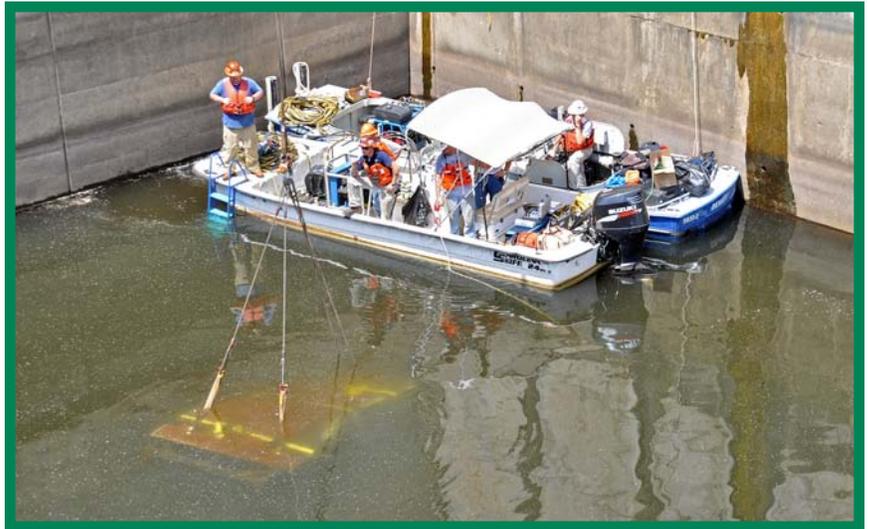
retrieved the blade section, and blade repair contractors cut down its broken surface into a sharper edge, leaving some square points to be used for alignment with the mating edge still attached to the runner. The contractors prepared the mating edge in a similar fashion, and also repaired cracks that had been found in the remaining blades.

On July 28, 2010, the blade section, strapped onto a large steel pallet with blocks and wheels, was lowered into the Stockton tailrace by the dive team and maneuvered back down to the elbow of the draft tube, 60 feet below the runner. The divers then inspected and cleaned the three draft tube bulkhead slot seal plates so that the unit could be dewatered for blade reattachment. The repair contractors hoisted the blade up to the runner for welding, positioning it precisely using a system of plumb lines, and carefully monitoring vent measurements and blade clearances as they worked. All repairs were completed over the next few weeks. After some start-up tests, the Corps released the unit for service at 11:15 AM on September 3, 2010.

Boban notes that the Corps will continue to monitor Stockton's turbine performance closely. "We already have a schedule to unwater and inspect the unit in another month or so," he says. 💧



**DURING INITIAL INSPECTION AFTER THE 2009 FAILURE, THE BROKEN BLADE STUB FORETOLD THE LENGTHY OUTAGE.**



**THE REPAIRED BLADE SECTION SEES THE LAST LIGHT OF DAY AS THE DIVING TEAM LOWERS IT TO THE DRAFT TUBE TO PREPARE FOR REATTACHMENT.**



**THE EDGE OF THE REPAIRED BLADE SHOWS THE SPECIAL CARE WITH WHICH IT WAS SHAPED TO MATCH UP AGAINST THE REPAIRED SURFACE OF ITS MATING EDGE ON THE TURBINE.**



**PERSONNEL FROM THE CORPS' KANSAS CITY DISTRICT WERE ON HAND TO WITNESS THE HISTORIC AND UNUSUAL SPECTACLE OF THE BLADE BEING LOWERED INTO THE TAILRACE.**



HOWARD DAVIDSON, PLANT SUPERINTENDENT AT WEBBERS FALLS (THIRD FROM RIGHT), PREPARES TO LEAD A TOUR WITH UMESH SADALGE, OMPA; ANDREW LACHOWSKY, AECC; CHUCK BRYANT, CARTHAGE; BRETT BRADFORD, PARAGOULD; MARSHALL BOYKEN, SOUTHWESTERN; DAN BRUEGGENJOHANN, TULSA DISTRICT CORPS; AND DOUG WARD, POWERHOUSE SUPERINTENDENT AT OZARK.

REHABS, FROM PAGE 2

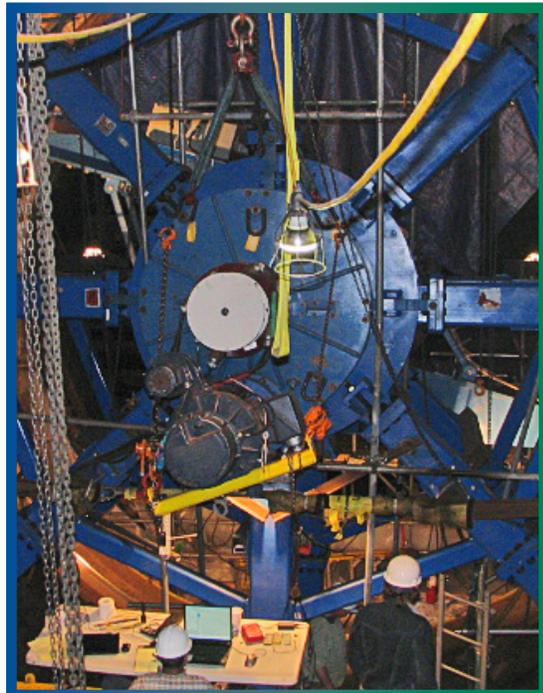
been undergoing rehabilitation longer,” say Boyken. “Webbers workers were very complimentary about the guidance they have received from Ozark regarding best approaches to performing the rehabilitation work.”

In June, members visited Stockton in east-central Missouri and got to take a look not only at the chunk of turbine blade that had broken off the plant in 2009, but also at the turbine itself, which had been dewatered in preparation for a weld repair of the blade.

The group wrapped up the tour of plants currently being rehabilitated with a visit to Whitney in central Texas in July. The tour of the plant included inspection of the new turbine runners and observation of work on the stator windings and rotor field poles. 💧



MARSHALL BOYKEN, SOUTHWESTERN’S DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICE, EXAMINES PIPING AT OZARK POWERPLANT.



CONTRACTORS MONITOR BORING AT THE WEBBERS FALLS POWERPLANT DURING THE CUSTOMER COMMITTEE’S VISIT IN APRIL 2010.

WEBBERS FALLS IS ONE OF FOUR PROJECTS IN SOUTHWESTERN’S MARKETING AREA UNDERGOING MAJOR REHABILITATION.



# Skidmore Named HR Director

Margaret Skidmore has been selected for the position of Director of Southwestern's Division of Human Resources, effective October 24, 2010.

Skidmore's extensive Federal career has consistently focused on personnel management. In the 1980s, she began as a civilian employee in the Personnel Office of the U.S. Army's Los Angeles Procurement District in Pasadena, California. She also worked for the Department of Energy's Nevada Operations Office in Las Vegas, Nevada, for two years. After returning to Tulsa, Oklahoma, her hometown, she served as a Human Resources (HR) Specialist with the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and came to Southwestern in 1993 working in the same capacity.

Then, in 1997, Skidmore did an interesting thing: she retired from Federal service. However, after several years in the private sector, she returned to Southwestern in 2007 as a contractor in the HR Division. She was soon re-activated as a Federal employee, serving once more as an HR Specialist.

"It was rather unique, like déjà vu all over again," says Skidmore of her return to Southwestern. "It was good to see friends here, and to get back to the kind of work I really enjoy doing."

Skidmore is looking forward to guiding Southwestern's HR Division through what she calls exciting times. "Human Resources is undergoing significant change. I think changes in the hiring process and methods of doing business are making Federal employment highly competitive with private industry," she says. "Southwestern is a prime example. We are attracting the highest quality candidates." Skidmore notes that Southwestern's workforce is a strong combination of experienced and knowledgeable professionals that represent the best and brightest, adding, "It would be impossible to present a snapshot of our work force because everyone is moving - always forward." 💧



## SPARKS OF INTEREST

**COLONEL ANTHONY J. HOFMANN ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE KANSAS CITY DISTRICT** of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on July 23, 2010. Col. Hofmann, a certified Project Management Professional, has held a variety of troop assignments, primarily in divisional mechanized combat engineer battalions, including experience in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Intrinsic Action in Kuwait. He previously commanded the Walla Walla District of the Corps' Northwestern Division and served in the New Orleans District of the Mississippi Valley Division as a project engineer, project manager, and Chief of Safety, Security and Occupational Health.



**SOUTHWESTERN ADMINISTRATOR JON WORTHINGTON WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE OKLAHOMA FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)** on October 20, 2010. "It is a great honor to step into the Chairman's shoes," he says. "The board members are of the highest caliber, and as far as FEBs go, Oklahoma is widely regarded as one of the best." The mission of the Oklahoma FEB, he adds, is to increase the effectiveness of Federal agencies throughout the state by allowing executives to share best practices and resources through training and planning programs. The executive development facilitated by the FEB benefits over 75 agencies and over 79,000 Federal employees in Oklahoma, especially in the areas of meeting Federal initiatives, he says. Worthington's term as Chairman will be for one year.

**THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE SOUTHWESTERN POWER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION (SPRA)** will be held January 18-20, 2011, at the Doubletree Hotel at Warren Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The organization's 54th Annual Meeting will be held April 12-14, 2011, at the same location. For registration and meeting information, contact Barbara DelGrosso, SPRA's Director of Operations, at 918-622-7800 or bdg18@sbcglobal.net.

## NEW EMPLOYEES

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**Paul Abbott**  
POWER SYSTEMS DISPATCHER  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**Troy Arnold**  
POWER SYSTEMS DISPATCHER  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**Aaron Brown**  
LINEMAN HELPER  
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**Jace Buford**  
STUDENT INTERN  
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**John Chartkoff**  
ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN  
GORE, OKLAHOMA

**Ed Ervin**  
POWER SYSTEMS DISPATCHER  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**Todd Jullian**  
STUDENT INTERN  
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

**Ron Szatmary, Jr.**  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

**Jimmy Wheeler**  
POWER SYSTEMS DISPATCHER  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**Keeth Works**  
POWER SYSTEMS DISPATCHER  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

## RETIREMENTS

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**David Dotson**  
SENIOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR  
GORE, OKLAHOMA

# WATTS INSIDE?



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