

UPDATE

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



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Gore Maintenance

Special thanks to:

SWPA

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- Marshall Boyken
- Michael Brairton
- Tom Green
- Sean Long
- Beth Nielsen
- Carrie Quick
- Dave Sargent
- Carlos Valencia
- Danny Wright

CNI/Bearskin

- Shane Brewer
- Vicki Clarke
- Ruben Garcia
- William Hiller
- Kathy O'Neal

69-kV System Repaired & Enhanced

Southwestern has replaced approximately 170 transmission structures on Line 3320 between New Madrid and Malden, Missouri, over the last three months in order to accommodate new 69-kilovolt (kV) conductors that will provide additional capacity and improve system reliability in the bootheel region.

Following the devastation of the January 2009 ice storm that plowed through northern Arkansas and southern Missouri, Southwestern determined that an opportunity existed to completely re-conductor the 69-kV system that serves New Madrid and Malden as well as Kennett, Missouri, and Piggott, Arkansas. The entire 69-kV system, which had been downed by the storm, was partially repaired using the original conductor with many splices even as the plan to re-conductor was initiated.

"The benefits of the re-conductoring project are increased capacity of the line and lower losses," says Dave Sargent, an Electrical Engineer in Southwestern's Division of Engineering & Planning, who is the lead engineer for the project. The internal structure of the new conductor is more compact and utilizes a steel-supported rather than steel-reinforced configuration, he notes, which means it can carry more load with less sag and fewer losses.

"With this new conductor, the greater cross-sectional area of aluminum provides for less resistance, so there is less loss during transmission," explains Sargent. "Also, less weight-bearing load is transferred away from the steel core as the conductor heats up."

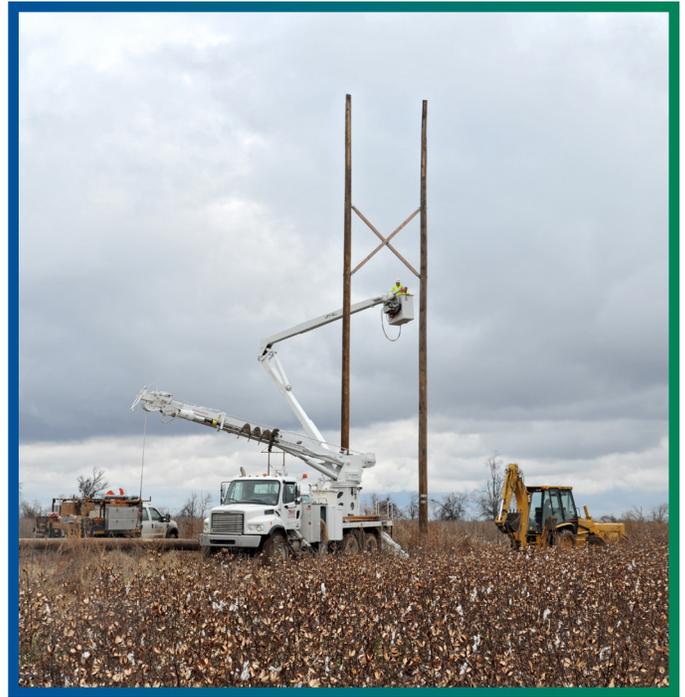


SOUTHWESTERN'S RE-CONDUCTORING OF ITS 69-kV SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY AND IMPROVE SYSTEM RELIABILITY.

69-kV, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



A MEMBER OF THE CONTRACT TRANSMISSION CREW (ABOVE) ATTACHES GROUND WIRE TO THE TOP OF A POLE PRIOR TO ITS BEING RAISED INTO POSITION. HARVESTED COTTON FIELDS (RIGHT) SURROUND CONTRACT CREWS REPLACING H-FRAME STRUCTURES EAST OF MALDEN, MISSOURI.



The new conductor, he adds, can operate within higher temperature tolerances than the old one, making the upgraded line more capable of withstanding increased loading that occurs during outages of the nearby 161-kV line.

Between New Madrid and Malden, the first section of Line 3320 being upgraded, some structures had to be replaced or added to meet current National Electrical Safety Code requirements, which are more stringent than when the line was first built several decades ago. Many poles were replaced with taller structures to provide more room for conductors to sag under extreme ice conditions. Additionally, dead end structures were installed every few miles to limit the “domino effect” of a line collapse in future storms. Contract crews finished the pole work in December, and anticipate pulling the line in January 2010.

“The poles were the big part of this project, from a time standpoint,” says Sean Long, a Contract Specialist in Southwestern’s Division of Acquisition & Facilities Services. “Pulling the line should take less time if the weather stays good.”

Long notes that the contractor plans to utilize a helicopter when the crews pull the line. “The helicopter pilot flies in, drops the workers on top of the pole so they can clip the line and do what they need to do, and then flies them to the next pole,” he explains. “It’s a pretty slick deal. It’s faster, and we’re not down on the ground driving through people’s property.”

Once the completely rebuilt Malden-New Madrid line is re-energized, Southwestern plans to upgrade the remainder of the 69-kV system, beginning with the approximately 12 miles of 69-kV line between Kennett, Missouri, and Piggott, Arkansas. 💧



CREWS ATTACH CROSSARMS BETWEEN MALDEN AND NEW MADRID, MISSOURI, IN PREPARATION FOR RE-CONDUCTORING.

Valencia Heads Up Maintenance Division



Carlos Valencia, a veteran project manager and Electrical Engineer in Southwestern's Division of Engineering & Planning, assumed the role of Director of the Division of Maintenance on November 8, 2009. Valencia, who began his career at Southwestern in 1990, succeeds Tom Green, who will be retiring in January 2010.

Valencia's extensive experience over the years, with an emphasis on managing transmission projects, has frequently involved fieldwork alongside many of the agency's substation and transmission crews and electricians, as well as Southwestern's customers, making him uniquely suited to today's environment of increasing emphasis on system efficiency, reliability, and regulation.

Valencia served from 1979 to 1983 in the U.S. Marine Corps as a noncommissioned officer performing mechanical maintenance on different types of equipment used for maintenance and repair of helicopter squadron aircraft. Upon completion of his four year tour of duty, he attended the University of Arizona where he received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1988.

He began his civilian career in 1988 as a Field Electrical Engineer for Western Area Power Administration. Working out of the district office in Phoenix, Arizona, Valencia prepared preliminary designs, specifications, and drawings for system additions and improvements and directed the technical work of various technicians and electricians on specific assignments. He came to Southwestern in 1990 as an Electrical Engineer and Project Manager, focused on engineering, maintenance, and construction work for a variety of complex projects related to the maintenance, repair, and restoration of high-voltage transmission facilities. Following a divisional re-organization in 2007, Valencia has served as the Section Chief for Substation and Transmission Engineering, managing and directing the work of maintenance personnel, architectural/engineering contractors, technical support contractors, construction contractors, and customers toward the completion of a wide variety of construction and supply projects involving high-voltage transmission.

As Director of Maintenance, Valencia intends to be highly visible and accessible, and wants to build on the relationships he has developed over the last 19 years to facilitate management of the division's 70-plus employees. He and Green visited each of Southwestern's field offices in mid-November to provide an opportunity for the substation and transmission crews to learn what to expect from their new Director and to ask any questions they may have.

"Tom takes a lot of pride in having been your boss, and he has taught me a lot about maintenance over the years," he told each crew on his visits. "Like him, I am committed to Southwestern having a safe and reliable electric transmission system."

"I am here to provide you guys with everything you need to do a good job," he added. "I look forward to working with you. You will be helping me to meet Southwestern's mission." ♦



VALENCIA VISITED ALL THREE OF SOUTHWESTERN'S FIELD OFFICES IN NOVEMBER TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE TRANSMISSION AND SUBSTATION CREWS. HE IS PICTURED HERE WITH EMPLOYEES AT THE GORE MAINTENANCE UNIT, INTRODUCING HIMSELF AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS MANAGEMENT STYLE.

Tom Green Maintains Retirement Plan

After 27 years of service at Southwestern, including 17 as Director of the Division of Maintenance, Tom Green is set to retire on January 2, 2010, after 37 years of Federal service.

Green began his career in 1962 in the U.S. Navy where he served as an Electronics Technician on the U.S.S. Blackfin, a submarine stationed in Pearl Harbor, keeping electronic gear in working order and assisting in the sonar room. He moved into the civilian workforce in 1966, as a Technician at Bendix Corporation, a contractor for the Atomic Energy Commission, in Kansas City, Missouri. He switched to the U.S. Postal Service Bulk Mail Service in Kansas City, Kansas, working the "graveyard" shift while completing a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at the University of Missouri.

In 1976, Green went to work for Black & Veatch Consulting Engineers for three years before accepting a position as an Electrical Engineer in the Phoenix, Arizona, district office of Western Area Power Administration. He transferred to Southwestern's Springfield, Missouri, operations center in 1982, serving in what was then the Branch of Substations within the Division of Power Facilities.



ADMINISTRATOR JON WORTHINGTON PRESENTS OUTGOING MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR TOM GREEN WITH A PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION FOR HIS 37 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE AT A RETIREMENT RECEPTION HELD AT THE GORE MAINTENANCE UNIT.



UPON RETIRING, MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR TOM GREEN WILL BE HANDING OFF A NUMBER OF ONGOING TRANSMISSION UPGRADE AND FACILITY EXPANSION PROJECTS TO HIS SUCCESSOR. GREEN TOURED THIS NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AT THE JONESBORO MAINTENANCE UNIT IN MID-NOVEMBER WITH SCOTT CARPENTER, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF CORPORATE FACILITIES; CARLOS VALENCIA, INCOMING MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR; KENNY BROADAWAY, CRAFT SUPERINTENDENT AT THE JONESBORO MAINTENANCE UNIT; AND RON BECK, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF SCHEDULING AND OPERATIONS.

Following the creation of the Division of Maintenance, Green relocated to Southwestern's Gore, Oklahoma, office in 1992 as Director of the Western Maintenance District, which also included the Tupelo, Oklahoma, location. After Tupelo was closed in 1994, he took over Directorship of the Eastern District, which included the Springfield, Missouri, and Jonesboro, Arkansas, offices. Springfield was returned to separate management in 1998, but in 2007 both districts were consolidated with Green assigned as sole Director.

Green's co-workers and crews celebrated his retirement and wished him well at a reception held in his honor on December 8, 2009, at the Gore Maintenance Unit. Green received a Career Service Award from Administrator Jon Worthington, and gifts and remembrances from employees who honored him for his steadfast support of their projects and commitment to the agency's mission. A second reception was held at Southwestern's Maintenance Unit in Springfield, Missouri, on December 10, 2009.



MEMBERS OF THE GORE CREWS (LEFT) WERE ON HAND TO HELP GREEN CELEBRATE HIS RETIREMENT, INCLUDING WALTER EVANS, RONNIE McCARTY, TOMMY YATES, PATRICK STARNES, STEVE SUMPTER, JOHN FRAILICKS, LARRY SELVIDGE, CASEY SLIGER, AND RAY HOUSE.

Upon his retirement, Green plans on spending a lot more time at Fort Gibson Lake in eastern Oklahoma. "I will be diligently working on our lake cabin to try to get it completed by summer," he says. "My other chore for the coming summer is to teach the four grandkids to water ski."

Green says he will always appreciate the people of Southwestern and his years of service at the agency. "Of all the companies where I have had the opportunity to work, Southwestern is number one in my life," he says. "It's not only in the type of work and the everyday challenges on the job; it's the employees that make the difference." 💧



GREEN (ABOVE) TAKES A MOMENT TO PASS ALONG THE OFFICIAL KEYS TO INCOMING MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR CARLOS VALENCIA.



JONESBORO CRAFT SUPERINTENDENT KENNY BROADAWAY (LEFT) JOKINGLY ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT GREEN FROM LEAVING BY CAGING HIM IN THE WAREHOUSE AT THE SPRINGFIELD MAINTENANCE UNIT RETIREMENT CEREMONY.

Washington Update BY MICHAEL BRAIRTON



The Nation's Capitol has been dominated by the ongoing debate in Congress on health care reform. The House passed its version of a sweeping reform package and the Senate is continuing to chip away at a similar version. With only two weeks left in 2009, the "to-do" list for Congress has not gotten any shorter and the Legislature still needs to complete work on a handful of appropriations bills. Congressional leaders are likely to lump the remaining appropriations bills into an omnibus spending measure shortly before the holidays.

At the Department of Energy (DOE), President Obama recently announced the nomination of Patricia Hoffman to be the new Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. This program office is responsible for work on modernizing the nation's electric transmission grid, enhancing the security and reliability of the energy infrastructure, and facilitating recovery from disruptions to the energy supply both domestically and internationally. According to the press release making the announcement, Ms. Hoffman has 14 years of experience at DOE developing and managing technology research programs critical to the electric sector for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability as well as the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. ♦

- Brairton, Southwestern's Deputy Assistant Administrator at the Power Marketing Liaison Office in Washington, D.C., accepted a post in December 2009 as Manager of Federal Legislative Affairs with ITC Holdings, an independent electric transmission company.

Where In the World is Jon Worthington?

Administrator

Jon Worthington has been logging mileage to visit with customers and other hydropower stakeholders throughout the late fall.

In September 2009, he attended a Change of Command ceremony at the Southwestern Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Dallas, Texas, as Tulsa District Commander Colonel Anthony Funkhouser received the command flag from outgoing Commander Brigadier General Kendall Cox.



WORTHINGTON (SECOND FROM LEFT), WITH GLEN CHEATHAM, OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WATERWAYS ADVISORY BOARD, AND MARSHALL BOYKEN, SOUTHWESTERN'S DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICE, CHAT WITH COLONEL DONALD JACKSON, COMMANDER OF THE CORPS' LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, AT A CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY IN DALLAS, TEXAS.

October found Worthington in Washington, D.C., meeting with the Office of Management and Budget regarding various initiatives being undertaken by Southwestern. Later that month, he attended a meeting of the Federal Executive Board in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Worthington has also visited with many of Southwestern's customers this fall. In addition to attending the September quarterly meeting of the Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) in Osage Beach, Missouri, on the Lake of the Ozarks, Worthington visited with members of several customer organizations at their respective meetings, including those of the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority in Edmond, Oklahoma; Kansas Municipal Energy Agency in Wichita, Kansas; and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., in Salina, Kansas. ♦



Southwestern Opens a Can of Caring

Under the motto of "United We Can," Southwestern employees and contractors participated in the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in support of the Tulsa Area United Way's annual fund drive during the month of October. With a series of fundraising events at the Tulsa headquarters and through monthly pledges to be collected via payroll deductions during 2010, Southwestern raised almost \$18,000 for charity.

"Southwestern employees and contractors in the Tulsa office stepped up and pledged \$17,901 to people in need, making it one of the most successful campaigns in the history of our CFC program," exclaimed Administrator Jon Worthington. "The total contributions represent \$1,401 over our goal of \$16,500."

Riffing off the "can-do" motto with catchy event names and décor that evoked soup cans, the Tulsa staff engaged in a variety of events, including one-time get-togethers like a chili cook-off, recurring competitions like lunch-time video game tournaments, and long-running events like a book sale, in order to keep people engaged, having fun, and making donations.

Southwestern expressed its gratitude to the United Way guest speakers who made time to inspire and motivate employees at the start of the campaign. These included Mark Graham, Chief Executive Officer, and Sandra Thornton, Campaign Division Manager.

Southwestern also thanked the employees who coordinated the events, and the local companies that donated items for the auction and door prizes, including: North Carolina Furniture Mart; The Glass Station; CNI Professional Services; Indian Springs Country Club; Bellissima Spa and Salon; Metropolitan; Sonic Corporation; and Starbucks. Additionally, Tulsa-based businesses who set-up for a two-day sale and donated 15% of their proceeds to CFC included: Homemade Gourmet; J&B Jewelry; Kelly's Soaps, Salts & Fizzies; Kim's Tupperware; Old World Confectionery; and Scentables Candles.

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



CRIS VAN HORN, SOUTHWESTERN'S DIRECTOR OF ACQUISITION & FACILITIES SERVICES, SERVED AS A LOANED EXECUTIVE FOR THE UNITED WAY'S 2009 CAMPAIGN.



WII CANOE RACES, DAY OF CARING, CANNED LAUGHTER, CHILI COOK-OFF, AND A CRAFT FAIR WERE SOME OF THE CFC CHARITY AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS TO SUPPORT UNITED WAY.

SPARKS OF INTEREST

THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE SOUTHWESTERN POWER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION (SPRA) will be held January 19-21, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel at Warren Place in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The 53rd Annual Meeting will be held April 20-22, 2010, 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

KAILEY YARMER, STUDENT TRAINEE
DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

ASHLEY CORKER, CIVIL ENGINEER (HYDROLOGIC)
DIVISION OF RESOURCES & RATES

JOHN ORR, STUDENT TRAINEE
DIVISION OF RESOURCES & RATES

RETIREMENTS

TOM GREEN, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE

RICK HIXSON, LEAD IT SPECIALIST
DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DIANNE PECK, POWER SYSTEM DISPATCHER
DIVISION OF SCHEDULING & OPERATIONS

JACK WAYER, SENIOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE, JONESBORO

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