



Department of Energy
Southwestern Power Administration
One West Third Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-3502



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For 75 years, Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) has proudly served our customers and millions of citizens in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas with clean, resilient, cost-based hydroelectric power and energy.

While our network of transmission lines, substations, and communications sites cover thousands of miles in four states today, our footprint was considerably smaller when we started out, even as our mission was proudly rooted in support of the United States government.

During World War II, the Nation was in full production mode, cranking out munitions and other materials in support of the war effort. Cheap power was key to the Nation's success, and the government understood this. With the Pensacola Dam and powerplant nearing completion in Oklahoma and several other projects due to come online in the next few years, President Franklin D. Roosevelt instructed his Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes to create a Federal agency to market the power, and thus, on September 1, 1943, Southwestern Power Administration was created.

The original Southwestern mission? To market power and build transmission lines and substations, or to obtain transmission service from other utilities in the area, so that hydroelectric power and energy from the newly constructed power facilities could be delivered to factories, businesses, and towns in support of the war effort.

Because Southwestern had been created largely under the President's war power authority, additional congressional authority was needed for Southwestern's post-war operation.

When Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1944, Southwestern was given the authority to market all surplus power from dams built in its marketing area by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and, from that, our expanded legacy of service to preference power customers, such as not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives, municipalities, and Federal military installations, was born.

For three-quarters of a century, Southwestern has successfully marketed and delivered clean, resilient, cost-based hydroelectric power and energy, while leading the way in balancing the needs of diverse water resource interests, meeting regulatory compliance requirements, and implementing public policy.

Happy Birthday Southwestern! Congratulations on 75 years of service to our customers and to the Nation. You have a proud history and great new opportunities in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Wech".

Mike Wech, Administrator