

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

<b>Date: 10/06/05</b>	<b>Contacts:</b> Beth Nielsen William Hiller	<b>Phone:</b> 918-595-6762 918-595-6697	<b>Email:</b> elizabeth.nielsen@swpa.gov william.hiller@swpa.gov
-----------------------	-------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

**SOUTHWESTERN HELPS RESTORE POWER  
AFTER HURRICANE RITA**

**JASPER, TX** – The efforts of the Southwestern Power Administration last week helped to bring power back to the people of southeast Texas sooner than expected following Hurricane Rita's devastating landfall on September 24, 2005.

The killer storm downed hundreds of thousands of trees in the region and left thousands of people and businesses in Jasper County and surrounding areas without electricity and telecommunications, isolated from the rest of the power grid due to an outage of a critical transmission feed line from Entergy.

Southwestern, at the request of Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative (JNEC) and the City of Jasper, Texas, coordinated efforts with JNEC, the City of Jasper, Vinton Public Power Authority, Sam Rayburn Dam Electric Cooperative, Sam Rayburn Dam Municipal Authority, and the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to help restore power to over 20,000 customers and residents in the affected areas using Sam Rayburn Hydroelectric Powerplant (Rayburn), a Corps-operated facility located in north Jasper County.

System restoration began on October 1, 2005, after JNEC confirmed the integrity of the necessary transmission lines. Southwestern continued to monitor progress as crews got the lines energized through the City of Jasper to the Kirbyville Substation, adding critical loads up to a total of approximately 2 megawatts (million watts). Rayburn's generator maintained stability with good voltage and frequency control throughout the process.

By the end of October 2, Texas Utilities was able to repair and connect transmission towers in the area. The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) energized a line to Rayburn, and the Corps transferred load to ERCOT in order

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

<b>Date: 10/06/05</b>	<b>Contacts:</b> Beth Nielsen William Hiller	<b>Phone:</b> 918-595-6762 918-595-6697	<b>Email:</b> elizabeth.nielsen@swpa.gov william.hiller@swpa.gov
-----------------------	-------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------

to provide increased system restoration and stability for customers. Rayburn then synchronized its generator to ERCOT's system to provide ongoing voltage support as needed.

According to Bethel Herrold, Lead Hydraulic Engineer for Southwestern, the operation was a huge success in getting critical services up and running sooner rather than later. He had nothing but praise for the crews on the ground in Texas. "All the hard work was done down there at JNEC and the City of Jasper, making sure the lines were clear and the loads were balanced," he says. "The Sam Rayburn Powerplant people and the local cooperatives and cities did an excellent job in getting power up and going for the community."

– 30 –

---

**Southwestern Power Administration** is an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy. Its mission is to market and reliably deliver Federal hydroelectric power with preference to public bodies and cooperatives. This is accomplished by maximizing the use of Federal assets to repay the Federal investment and participating with other water resource users in an effort to balance their diverse interests with power needs within broad parameters set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and implementing public policy.