

UPDATE

APRIL - JUNE 2004

Flood Events Affect Spring Operations



LAKE DARDANELLE OVERFLOWED ITS BANKS DURING THE APRIL 2004 RAIN EVENT, AS SHOWN IN THIS PICTURE TAKEN BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ON APRIL 25, 2004.

Even with their state-of-the-art equipment and extensive training in forecasting trends, most meteorologists would probably agree that predicting the weather is more of an art than a science.

Southwestern found this to be especially true during the last weeks of April 2004, when severe weather caused flooding in the White and Arkansas River basins in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

In describing the events of late April, the Little Rock Weather Forecast Office of the National Weather Service reported impressive 72-hour rainfall totals, stating that "areas such as Harrison (Boone County) and Deer (Newton County) received over 8 inches of precipitation (8.47 inches and 9.32 inches respectively) with isolated 10+ inch amounts noted."

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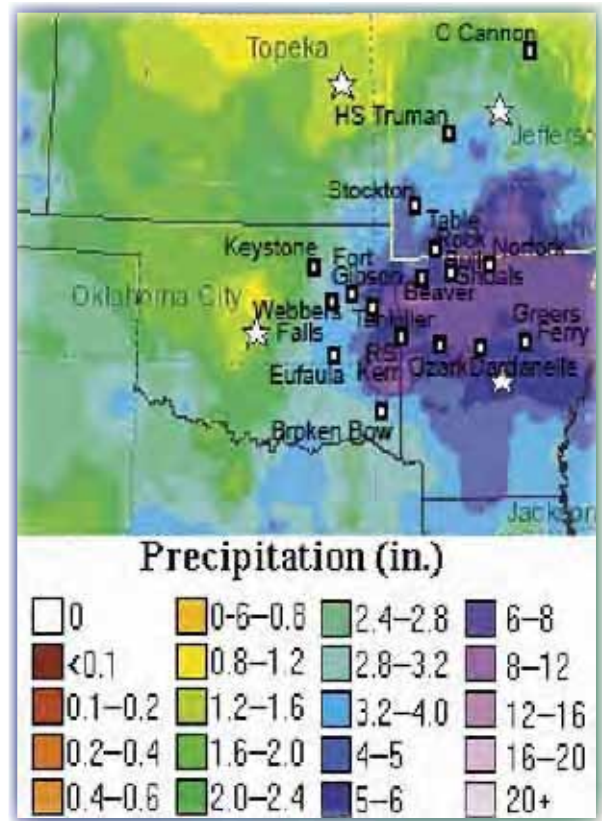
Mary Beth Hudson
Tulsa District COE

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The report also said that the rain not only led to widespread flash flooding, but caused river flooding as well. Southwestern Operations personnel found themselves watching, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and concerned citizens, as levels in some White River and Arkansas River projects rose nearly ten feet in the space of a short 72 hours.

“The system energy in storage rose to 138 percent full by the end of the month, which is about 26 percent above average,” says Southwestern Hydraulic Engineer David Kannady. Kannady says the late April rain event came on the heels of flood control operations in March in the Arkansas and Osage River basins. “Concurrent with the high flows in the Arkansas River basin, we scheduled additional generation at Table Rock in an effort to provide a cushion against possible spill while two of the four units were unavailable due to routine maintenance.”

Kannady explains that the Corps schedules maintenance during the spring and fall, which is when flooding usually occurs, so that all capacity will be available during the peak load periods in summer and winter to meet the electrical demands of Southwestern’s customers.



Copyright © 2004, Spatial Climate Analysis Service, Oregon State Univ. <http://www.ocs.oregonstate.edu/prism/>. Base map created May 12, 2004.

APRIL 2004 PRECIPITATION TOTALS SHOW THAT SIGNIFICANT RAIN FELL IN THE ARKANSAS AND WHITE RIVER BASINS, WHICH FORCED THE CORPS TO IMPLEMENT FLOOD CONTROL OPERATIONS.

April-May 2004 Operations Summary (17-Project Interconnected System)

Project	Net Generation MWh	Spill MWh	Percent Of Total Spill ¹
Keystone ²	67,083	37,193	6.3%
Fort Gibson ^{2 3}	48,816	65,381	11.1%
Webbers Falls ^{2 3}	73,371	60,823	10.3%
Tenkiller	34,562	33,234	5.7%
Eufaula	26,608	0	0.0%
RS Kerr ^{2 3}	156,079	101,043	17.2%
Ozark ^{2 3}	91,727	90,387	15.4%
Dardanelle ³	172,954	168,794	28.7%
Beaver	26,560	6,133	1.0%
Table Rock ²	159,179	23,061	3.9%
Bull Shoals ²	96,611	0	0.0%
Norfolk	30,595	0	0.0%
Greers Ferry ²	17,425	0	0.0%
Stockton ²	14,078	1,796	0.3%
HS Truman ²	81,680	0	0.0%
C Cannon ²	7,407	0	0.0%
Broken Bow ²	17,391	0	0.0%
Total	1,122,126	587,844	100.0%

¹Total spill of interconnected system = 100%

²Unit(s) out for maintenance

³Run-of-river projects

During flood events, Southwestern generates whenever possible to minimize the amount of water spilled, but if a required release exceeds the capacity of a project’s turbines, any excess water must be released through the spillway.

Kannady says that Southwestern tries to maximize the resources available from its mix of storage and run-of-river projects while planning for low water years. “Since we have such small amounts of power storage in Southwestern’s marketing area, enough for about three months of peaking generation versus three years in other areas, and since all of our inflow comes from rain, instead of from a mix of rain and snowmelt, we have to be careful about drawing down the projects just to prevent spill caused by significant rain events like the one that occurred in late April. With the run-of-river projects where storage is limited, spill is common in most flood events, although of course we try to minimize spill there as well.”

All storage projects from which Southwestern markets energy, including those in the White River and Arkansas River basins, were built first and foremost for flood control. In situations where lives or property may be threatened, these projects have proven extremely valuable in minimizing damage.

In a story appearing in a late April edition of the *Heber Springs SunTimes*, Jan Jones, Chief of the Corps' Reservoir Control Branch of the Little Rock District, reiterated this fact by saying, "Although flood stages were exceeded and some homes and farms have been flooded, the White River projects have provided valuable benefits, as designed. Without the projects in place, flood peaks and damages would have been much higher."

Southwestern's Kannady agrees. "The production of hydropower is one of the most important uses of Federal lakes, but the safety of people and property always comes first." 💧

Federal Teamwork Keeps Power Flowing

When it rains, it pours, both in the case of spring flood events and in the case of scheduled and unscheduled maintenance at Federal hydropower projects. During April and May, Southwestern maintenance personnel teamed up with Powerplant crews from the Corps' Little Rock District to turn extra water into extra benefits for Southwestern's customers.

At Table Rock during the worst of the late April flooding, two units out for regularly scheduled maintenance were finished ahead of schedule so they would be ready to generate when downstream flooding at Branson, Missouri, receded.

Southwestern's Springfield Substation crew stepped in when the regular contractor couldn't get to the job in time and finished testing newly installed equipment on one unit, and Corps Powerplant personnel finished ahead of schedule in their work replacing the cooling water piping on the other unit. Knowing the importance of the generating capacity of the two units, both groups made a special effort to bring the units back online. As floodwaters passed through the project on Sunday, April 25th, all four generators were in full operation.

At Dardanelle, generation was restored ahead of schedule in late May after a component of the automatic activation system for the generator fire protection system failed. Once again in a situation where floodwaters had to be evacuated around the clock, and recognizing the value of any lost generation to Southwestern and its customers, the Little Rock District searched for a solution. Within just a few hours, it was determined that the generators could be safely restarted. The determination was chiefly due to the fact that better insulation had been installed during the 1999 major rehabilitation work on the generator windings, but it was also due to the presence of Powerplant personnel who were available 24x7 to manually activate the generator fire protection system should it become necessary.

Gene Reeves, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Corporate Operations, praised the efforts of Southwestern's crews and the Corps, saying, "Thanks to the willingness of the Little Rock District to think beyond 'business as usual,' Southwestern is sincerely thankful to everyone involved for their professionalism and for a job well done."

Southwestern Ready for Emergencies

Recent world events have forced many private businesses and government agencies, especially those responsible for our country's critical infrastructure, to take a hard look at how they will respond in case of a catastrophic event or emergency. Southwestern is no exception.

With the publication of its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Southwestern has clearly defined how it will attain operational capability within 12 hours and sustain operations for 30 days or longer in the event of a catastrophic event.

COOP was developed in response to the requirements of National Security Presidential Directive 67 and other laws, statutes, executive orders, and Federal mandates related to continuity of operations during an emergency.

"The restoration and operation of the electrical power infrastructure after a catastrophic event is a top priority," says Southwestern Administrator Mike Deihl. "This COOP is vitally important to assure Southwestern employees can return to full operational status in a safe, timely, efficient, and orderly manner."

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SPRA Meeting A “Capitol” Success



Uncle Sam and Betsy Ross were just two of the many politically flavored costumes at the 47th Annual Southwestern Power Resources Association (SPRA) meeting, held April 13-15, 2004, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This year's theme was “Federal Hydropower – What a Capitol Idea.”

SPRA members, who represent over 90 percent of Southwestern's customers, spent their first day being briefed about Southwestern's current Regional Transmission Organization initiatives and the status of hydropower operations. After the first day's business was concluded, SPRA members joined Southwestern staff for an All-American barge ride and barbeque dinner.

ABOVE: VERONICA CARSON, JENNIFER GROTH, CHRISTINE BAX, AND SHIRLEY SHUMATE “SET SAIL” ON THE PORT OF CATOOSA; RIGHT: AN AUDIENCE IN RAPT ATTENTION LEARNS THE BENEFITS OF THE NAVIGATION COMPETING USE; BELOW: LAW², LARRY YADON AND RALPH GILLIS, ESQ., VIE AS RUNNING MATES FOR BEST PHOTO OP.



The second day of the meeting brought discussion on competing uses, Federal power marketing, and rates. Administrator Mike Deihl had high praise for the cooperation between Southwestern staff and SPRA members.

“Southwestern staff did an excellent job of handling three areas of challenge. The Hydropower Operations Committee meeting went well, with the customers agreeing to Southwestern's Plan of Action based upon the Committee's Strategic Plan. The Transmission Committee and Southwestern engaged in open discussion to begin the difficult and highly complex task of determining the best course of action in joining a Regional



Transmission Organization like the Southwest Power Pool. Finally, the "not-so-pleasant" task of explaining why we need to increase power rates was understood and received by the customers in a positive manner."

The second evening, attendees gathered to share a meal and try their skill at "Race for the Presidency," a relay race game in which contestants had to 1) kiss a baby, 2) sit for a photo opportunity, 3) retrieve a campaign contribution, and 4) shovel political "poop."



ABOVE: GARY SWARTZLANDER (MR. WASHINGTON) AND BARBARA DELGROSSO (MS. ROSS) SHIMMY LIKE THE SUPREMES; LEFT: MARILYN AND DAVE SARGENT DISPLAY THE FLOWER POWER OF THEIR HOME STATE OF KANSAS.

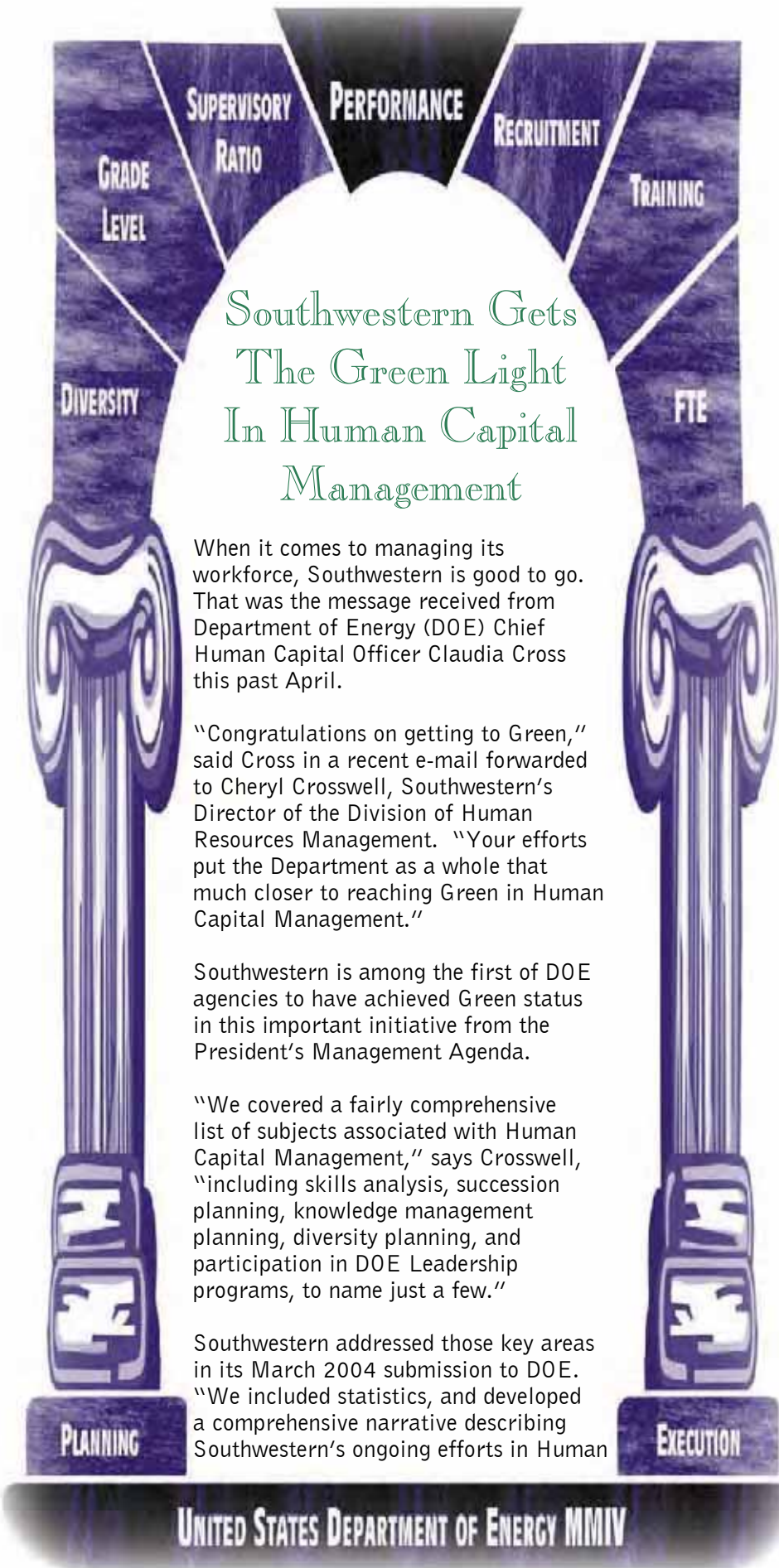
The last day of the meeting, Mike Deihl gave the Administrator's Report, and SPRA Executive Director Ted Coombes reported on the state of the SPRA organization. Attendees were then treated to a talk on preference power by Carolyn Herr Watts, Senior Vice President of Competitive Strategies at the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.

The meeting concluded with the election of SPRA officers and a buffet luncheon at the hotel. 💧



ABOVE LEFT: UNCLE TED WANTS NEW SPRA MEMBERS; ABOVE RIGHT: KEITH HARTNER AND RICKY BITTLE MAKE THE COVERS OF PRESTIGIOUS MAGAZINES; RIGHT: IMPLEMENTS FOR PLAYING POLITICS.





Capital Management," explains Public Utility Specialist Jerry Martin, who played a key role in developing the plan.

"For example, in the area of diversity, we stated that although Southwestern is a relatively small Federal agency, minority and female employees occupy managerial, professional, and other positions throughout the organization."

Crosswell says that Southwestern's work in Human Capital Management is far from finished. "We will have to resubmit our plan in late May 2004," she says, "and one of the things we were asked to do is to show a link between Human Capital Management and our FY 2006 budget."

As far as Crosswell is concerned though, Southwestern is on track to continue its consistently high marks in Human Capital Management. "We definitely plan to keep our Green status," she says emphatically. ♣

Springfield "Last Mile" Upgraded

The network at Southwestern's Springfield Operations Center was upgraded in late April 2004 to make the "last mile" connection more secure and reliable.

The "last mile," in the parlance of telecommunications, describes the connection from a backbone network to the premises of a customer's residence or business. Historically, it's been the most difficult to connect because the options for doing so were either limited due to the scarcity of providers, or expensive due to the cost of services and equipment necessary to make the connection.

Although the Springfield Operations Center has had last mile service since the facility opened in 1995, the connection has been solely dependent

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MMIV

on the availability of local phone service. The April upgrade changed all that by using a cable modem to provide redundant service.

"It's part of Southwestern's high availability network," says Ken Hollis, Senior Network Manager with Southwestern's support services contractor, Wyandotte Net Tel. "The existing connection could be taken out by accident, like when someone runs over the wires with a backhoe or something and knocks out service. The cable modem makes 24x7 access to the internet more reliable."

Network redundancy is becoming increasingly important to Southwestern as operations activities continue to migrate toward electronic exchanges of data over the internet. "More and more of the Control Center activities we perform depend on internet access," says Katherine Thomas, Director of the Division of Information Technology. "The cable modem will provide important backup for operations."

Thomas says the new connection also adds security from the standpoint of recovering from any catastrophic event. "We have a failover in place," she says, "but if the local telephone company is hit, Southwestern would be unable to connect to its internet service provider. The cable modem is not dependent on telephone service. It's just another way to make sure our Information Technology systems support Southwestern's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Providing redundant communication paths for continuous reporting of operations data, such as tagging and scheduling information, is an important part of the COOP."

Ken Hollis maintains that Southwestern was able to get a good price on the new equipment as well. "It was fairly inexpensive since the connection was already in place," he says. Katherine Thomas agrees, saying, "In the long-term, it was the most cost-effective solution." 💧

SPARKS OF INTEREST

The Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will welcome a new commander effective June 30, 2004. **Colonel Miroslav Kurka** is a native of Chicago, Illinois. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Corps in 1980 from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a bachelor's degree in Science. He also holds a master's degree in Administration from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.



Southwestern Power Resources Association's Quarterly Meeting will be held July 6-8, 2004, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. For registration and meeting information, contact Barbara DelGrosso at 918-622-7800.

The formal consultation and comment period for Southwestern's proposed increase of approximately 8% in Integrated System revenues runs from June 4, 2004, through September 2, 2004. Comments and questions can be submitted in Microsoft Word format to Forrest E. Reeves, Assistant Administrator, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, One West Third Street, Tulsa, OK, 74103. Also, a Public Information Forum, in which Southwestern staff will give an "on-the-record" explanation of the revenue increase and rate design process, is scheduled for June 29, 2004, at 9:00 am in Room 1402 of Southwestern's Headquarters in Tulsa; and a Public Comment Forum, scheduled for July 27, 2004 at the same time and location, will present the public with an opportunity to formally comment on the proposed revenue increase and/or rate design. Persons interested in attending the sessions must indicate in writing their intent to do so by submitting a letter to the address above or by faxing a notice to the attention of Forrest E. Reeves at 918-595-6656. The deadline for submitting notice of intent to attend the Public Information Forum is June 22, 2004. The deadline for submitting notice of intent to attend the Public Comment Forum is July 20, 2004. If Southwestern receives no notifications of intent to attend the sessions, they will not be held. The complete content of Southwestern's notice in the Federal Register can be viewed on the Government Printing Office web site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. To access the notice, type the page number of the notice, "31608," in the 2004 (Volume 69) search box.

NEW EMPLOYEES

SEAN LONG
SUPPORT SERVICES ASSISTANT
DIVISION OF ACQUISITION AND
FACILITIES SERVICES

ANNA SMITH
STUDENT TRAINEE
DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Southwestern's COOP defines special operations specific to Southwestern's locations in Tulsa, Gore, Jonesboro, and Springfield. The main objective of the plan is to direct and guide appropriate actions to assure the capability exists to continue core business functions and activities and to achieve an orderly recovery from emergency situations.



**COOP WILL HELP SOUTHWESTERN
RESPOND TO CATASTROPHIC EVENTS,
SUCH AS THE AUGUST 14, 2003
BLACKOUT.**

According to Electrical Engineer Dave Sargent, who coordinated its development, Southwestern's COOP will be revised annually according to an ongoing Testing and Exercise Program (TEP) that evaluates its effectiveness. Sargent says the TEP includes training, tests, and exercises to improve the overall response capability of Southwestern.

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