

SPP Fall System Operator Conferences Deemed Success

10/27/05 -- The Operations Training Working Group (OTWG) of Southwest Power Pool, in conjunction with Southwestern Power Administration held two Southwest Power Pool Fall Power System Operator Conferences October 3rd, 4th, and 5th and October 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2005.

Each event offered seven different topics which included: Regional Equipment Outage Planning, Power Marketing Impacts on Power System Control Areas, Power System Switching, Communication Skills Improvement and Critical Decision Making, Power System Restoration Principles and Regional Black Start Planning.

Nearly 60 Power System Operators from throughout the region attended the events. Some of the utilities represented in the conference were: Southwest Power Pool, Southwestern Power Administration, Grand River Dam Authority, Empire Electric District, Westar Energy, Aquila Networks, Sunflower Electric Cooperative, Independence Power and Light, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Kansas City Board of Public Utilities, Calpine Corp., American Electric Power, and Associated Electric Cooperative.

Operators who attended the conference and successfully achieved course objectives were awarded 14 hours of North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) continuing education credit. These Continuing Education Hours contribute toward the annual requirement for NERC Certified System Operators to retain their accreditation.

Reviews by the Southwest Power Pool Operations Training Working Group (OTWG), deemed the conference a success and recognized its importance for filling the growing need of providing training to earn NERC Continuing Education Hours. The OTWG and Southwestern Power Administration are currently planning for multiple conferences in 2006, all to be held in Springfield, Missouri.