



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emily Pennel
Communications Manager
501.614.3337
epennel@spp.org

2008 Southwest Power Pool Transmission Expansion Plan Approved

February 23, 2009, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – The Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) Board of Directors approved the 2008 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan (STEP), including recommendations for improving the electric grid of an eight state region. The 2008 STEP evaluates what changes are needed to keep the power system reliable and efficient over a 10-year horizon. It identifies approximately \$2.7 billion in transmission upgrades, including 1,753 miles of new line construction and 80 new or upgraded transformers.

The SPP Board of Directors directed that financial commitments be made within four years for construction of \$285 million in reliability projects and enhancements, a third of which are new transmission lines. In addition to these shorter-term reliability projects, the STEP includes several proposed economic projects, one of which is the 120 mile 345 kV line in Oklahoma between Woodward County and Oklahoma City, which is proceeding as a sponsored upgrade.

According to President and CEO Nick Brown, "SPP's mission is helping our members work together to keep the lights on...today and in the future. We all depend on a reliable electric grid. These new projects will help ensure efficient electricity transmission in the near-term, while preparing for anticipated future demand growth. Evident in this year's STEP is the importance of providing more access to all generation, including the vast potential for renewable resources in our region."

The 2008 STEP also includes summaries of:

- studies SPP conducted to evaluate adding new generation to the electric grid, and improvements to those study processes;
- local transmission planning efforts;
- regional and interregional economic studies SPP produced in 2008, including the Oklahoma Electric Power Transmission Task Force study, the 2008 Extra High Voltage Overlay Plan, and the Joint Coordinated System plan;
- the new "balanced portfolio" process for economic transmission upgrades, which will allocate those upgrade costs on a "postage stamp" basis across the region; and
- work SPP completed to add three new Nebraska organizations to the SPP footprint.

In 2008, SPP's members completed 98 transmission projects totaling approximately \$325 million. Since 2006, 239 upgrades totaling approximately \$570 million have been completed.

[Read the 2008 STEP](#) (requires [Adobe Reader 8](#)).

###

Southwest Power Pool, Inc. is a group of 53 members across nine states of the Eastern Interconnection. Membership is comprised of investor-owned utilities, municipal systems, generation and transmission cooperatives, state authorities, wholesale generators, power marketers, and independent transmission companies. SPP was a founding member of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation in 1968, and was designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as a Regional Transmission Organization in 2004 and a Regional Entity in 2007. Since 1998, SPP has provided independent security coordination and Tariff administration, pursuant to a FERC-approved Tariff, across its service area with over 40,000 miles of transmission lines and over 56,000 megawatts of capacity resources. SPP.org