Happy New Year!

SPP accomplished a lot and celebrated many successes in 2014 – both corporately and organizationally. With my first blog post of 2015, I thought it would be fun to reflect on those successes by creating a Top 10 list of SPP’s 2014 accomplishments.

The following does not list everything SPP accomplished nor is it an official ranking. Rather, these are my thoughts on activities that really stood out.

**SPP’s Top 10 Accomplishments in 2014**

10. **Order 1000 Compliance** – SPP implemented new processes in 2014 needed to comply with FERC’s Order 1000. One of these was soliciting detailed project proposals for use in our transmission-planning efforts. Under this new process, we estimate the number of project proposals received for evaluation in the near-term and 10-year planning assessments to be at least 3-4 times greater than what has previously been received. This process should improve the quality of projects selected to address future transmission needs.

9. **Transmission Service Studies Record** – Thanks to implementation of a FERC-approved queue backlog-clearing process, SPP was able to complete a record four transmission service studies in 2014. This allowed SPP to significantly improve its customer satisfaction in this area and facilitates further process improvements later this year.

8. **Interregional Coordination** – FERC in March approved an SPP-filed service agreement requiring MISO to compensate SPP for its usage of SPP’s transmission system. This was a giant step forward in SPP’s long-standing efforts to reach agreement with MISO on this issue and should ensure more equitable transmission-cost assignment between SPP’s customers and MISO’s, pending successful conclusion of settlement discussions.

7. **Three Winter Peaks** – Despite extreme weather conditions last year, SPP maintained reliable transmission operations during our three highest winter electric demands ever experienced, through the end of last year.

6. **Peak Wind Generation** – Wind-generated energy produced on SPP’s system reached 8,311 megawatts Dec. 23, a 22 percent increase over the 2013 high. This was our largest ever delivery of this clean source of low-cost energy to customers.

5. **Clean Power Plan Leadership** – SPP performed a reliability assessment of the EPA’s proposed Clean Power Plan and filed comments with the agency in October. SPP was the first RTO to draw attention to the reliability risks associated with the EPA’s proposed rulemaking. I believe SPP’s leadership in this area increased industry’s acknowledgement of reliability implications associated with the EPA’s proposal.

4. **Integrated System Membership** – We were able to successfully negotiate membership terms and conditions with Western Area Power Administration, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and Heartland Consumers Power District, collectively known as the Integrated System (IS). These efforts began in 2013 and received requisite board approvals last summer. This expansion will provide significant benefits to both SPP’s existing members and the IS.
3. **Record Transmission Expansion** – About 1,440 miles of new transmission lines were constructed within the SPP region in 2014 – more than twice our previous annual high. With this added transmission capacity, SPP will be able to increase our ability to operate reliably, reduce high-cost congestion, and facilitate more delivery of renewable energy.

2. **Integrated Marketplace** – On March 1, SPP became the first RTO to develop its markets on schedule and on budget. This was a huge success that will provide over $100 million of annual energy cost savings to the region, and was a result of a lot of work by both staff and SPP members. Not only did we achieve our goal of implementing the market on time, but we operated successfully throughout the year with very few issues – despite experiencing polar vortex conditions and our third-highest winter peak ever the weekend we went live!

1. **Best Place to Work in Arkansas** – “For its dedication to employees, fostering an environment where they can grow professionally and personally ...” SPP was publically recognized last fall by *Arkansas Business* as being the best place to work in Arkansas. SPP’s corporate and organizational culture is what allows SPP to be as successful as it is and was in 2014. I attribute much of our successes, not only in 2014, but both before and beyond to our award-winning culture.

I am very proud of all of these accomplishments. I am even prouder of the fact that we did all of this and kept the lights on through high-quality performance of our day-to-day responsibilities, which is no small feat.

These are my thoughts ... I would love to hear yours.

Read more from Lanny on our website. Questions and comments can be emailed to communication@spp.org.