FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stacy Duckett
VP, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary
Phone: (501) 614-3550 · Fax: (501) 664-9553 · sduckett@spp.org

SPP Issues EHV Overlay RFP for Long Range Transmission Expansion Planning

December 4, 2006, LITTLE ROCK, AR – Southwest Power Pool issued a Request For Proposal from Transmission Design/Engineering Consultants and Architecture & Engineering Firms for a strategic assessment regarding long-term reliability and economic needs via a 345-kV, 500-kV, and 765-kV or higher voltage transmission system to overlay the SPP footprint. This assessment will investigate potential integration with neighboring systems to address future transmission needs and ensure an efficient and optimal transmission system.

The EHV Overlay report will be a necessary complement to SPP’s existing expansion planning process. SPP is finalizing its 2006-2016 SPP Transmission Expansion Plan, which includes $1.4 billion of transmission expansion projects over a ten year planning horizon. The plan will also address reliability needs, firm obligations for new service, and the incorporation of other planned projects in the footprint.

According to Jay Caspary, SPP Director of Engineering, this RFP is an integral part of SPP’s long-term vision for the bulk power system. “An EHV overlay on the existing SPP system is expected to increase reliability margins and reduce capacity planning margins.”

SPP is soliciting input on how it should proceed with optimizing existing transmission assets within the SPP footprint, e.g., replacing and/or upgrading existing facilities and standardizing future transmission designs. This RFP requests recommendations regarding increased HVDC ties or synchronous operations with ERCOT and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

Responses are due December 29. The contract will be awarded in January, with completion targeted for mid-2007. The RFP is posted at www.spp.org/publications/EHV_Overlay_RFP.doc

###

Southwest Power Pool is a group of 47 members serving more than four million customers across eight 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 an independent transmission coordinator. SPP has served as a regional reliability council of the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) since 1968, and was designated a regional transmission organization (RTO) by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 2004.

Since 1997, SPP has provided independent security coordination and tariff administration, pursuant to a FERC-approved tariff, across its service area with over 33,000 miles of transmission lines and a gross plant investment approaching $4 billion.