Fast Facts

As a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), SPP is mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure, and a competitive wholesale electricity marketplace. SPP also serves as a Regional Entity of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

RTOs are like “air traffic controllers” of the electric power grid. They do not own the power grid, but independently operate the grid minute-by-minute to ensure that power gets to customers and to eliminate power shortages.

Founded in 1941, SPP is a not-for-profit organization in which membership is voluntary. The SPP RTO has 76 members in nine states, including investor-owned utilities, municipal systems, generation and transmission cooperatives, state authorities, wholesale generators, power marketers, and independent transmission companies.

SPP is based in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has approximately 575 employees.

Primary Services Provided to Members and Customers

Reliability Coordination: SPP monitors power flow throughout our footprint and coordinates regional response in emergency situations or blackouts.

Tariff Administration: SPP provides “one-stop shopping” for use of the region’s transmission lines and independently administers an Open Access Transmission Tariff with consistent rates and terms. SPP processes more than 10,422 transmission service requests per month; 2013 transmission service transactions totaled $1.29 billion.

Regional Scheduling: SPP ensures the amount of power sent is matched with power received.

Transmission Expansion: SPP’s planning processes seek to identify system limitations, develop transmission upgrade plans, and track project progress to ensure timely completion of system reinforcements.

Market Operations: The Integrated Marketplace launched in 2014, replacing the Energy Imbalance Service market. It includes a Day-Ahead Market with Transmission Congestion Rights, a Reliability Unit Commitment process, a Real-Time Balancing Market replacing the EIS Market, and the incorporation of price-based Operating Reserve procurement. It is expected to yield its more than 115 participants up to $100 million in annual net savings.

Compliance: The SPP Regional Entity enforces compliance with federal and regional reliability standards for users, owners, and operators of the region’s bulk power grid.

Training: SPP offers continuing education for operations personnel at SPP and throughout the region. SPP’s 2013 training program awarded 25,336 hours of continuing education to more than 900 operators from 27 member organizations.
Transmission and Operating Region*

- **Service territory**: 370k square miles
- **Substations**: 4,103
- **Generating plants**: 627
- **Wholesale demand response**: 1,563 MW (market footprint)
- **Coincident peak demand**: 46,136 MW (August 30, 2013: Reliability Coordinator footprint)
- **Energy consumption**: 230.9 TWh (market footprint)
- **Miles of transmission**: 48,930
  - 69 kV: 12,569
  - 115 kV: 10,239
  - 138 kV: 9,691
  - 161 kV: 5,049
  - 230 kV: 3,889
  - 345 kV: 7,401
  - 500 kV: 93
- **Generating capacity**: 77,366 MW

**Strategic Plan**

SPP’s strategic plan, developed in 2010, contains three foundational strategies, each with associated initiatives, to position SPP for the future while balancing operational priorities and financial considerations.

The strategies align with SPP’s Value Proposition, the five principles that have driven its history and frame its future: Relationship-Based; Member-Driven; Independence Through Diversity; Evolutionary vs. Revolutionary; and Reliability and Economics Inseparable.

**Operating Region**

SPP has members in nine states: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

* As of December 31, 2013
Did You Know?

- On a typical monthly residential electric bill of $100, SPP’s cost represents only 67.5¢.
- SPP’s members serve approximately 6.2 million households.
- Cost to typical residential customer for $1 billion of incremental transmission is $1.34 per month.
- In 2013, SPP members completed 101 transmission expansion projects totaling $586,187,580.
- SPP’s 2013 transmission and wholesale market transactions totaled $2.58 billion.
- The 48,930 miles of transmission lines in SPP’s footprint would circle the earth almost twice!
- SPP’s transmission owners collect about $1.35 billion annually to recoup costs of transmission, and have approximately $8.4 billion in net transmission investment.

Our Mission:

Helping our members work together to keep the lights on … today and in the future.