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 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 84 members in 14 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, Ark., 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 4,887 member transmission service requests per month; 2014 transmission service transactions totaled $1.5 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 (EIS) 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. An initial analysis indicates the Integrated Marketplace will yield its more than 115 participants an additional $131 million in annual net savings during its first year of operation (in addition to $170 million in net savings from the EIS market).

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 2014 training program delivered over 24,000 training hours to 75 organizations and awarded 13,120 hours of continuing education to 31 member organizations.
Transmission and Operating Region*

Operating Region

SPP has members in 14 states (Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming).

- **Service territory**: 370,000 square miles
- **Substations**: 4,229
- **Generating plants**: 589
- **Wholesale demand response**: 48 MW (market footprint)
- **Retail demand response**: 1,284 MW
- **Coincident peak load**: 45,301 MW (Aug. 21, 2014: market footprint)
- **Energy consumption**: 234.6 TWh (market footprint)
- **Miles of transmission**: 48,537
  - 69 kV: 12,497
  - 115 kV: 10,063
  - 138 kV: 9,023
  - 161 kV: 4,973
  - 230 kV: 3,362
  - 345 kV: 8,526
  - 500 kV: 93
- **Generating capacity**: 63,604 MW

**Generation mix (capacity)**

- Natural Gas: 46.50%
- Coal: 35.40%
- Wind: 11.45%
- Nuclear: 3.43%
- Fuel Oil: 2.03%
- Hydro: 1.10%
- Other (Solar, Biomass): 0.09%

**Energy consumption (market)**

- Coal: 58.8%
- Natural Gas: 18.9%
- Wind: 11.8%
- Nuclear: 7.9%
- Hydro: 2.5%
- Other (Fuel Oil, Solar, Biomass): 0.1%

* As of December 31, 2014
SPP's 2014 Strategic Plan is driven by our vision for 2020. The strategies and initiatives will evolve as our vision becomes reality over the coming years.

The Strategic Plan envisions change – change that we can only anticipate today. To continue to promote reliability excellence and meet our members’ needs in the footprint, the Strategic Plan is intentionally flexible, providing for the investment in assets that allow both the market and regulation to serve the end users across the footprint in the most effective manner. The Plan positions us to fulfill our mission (“Helping our members work together to keep the lights on ... today and in the future”) over the next decade and beyond.

The 2014 Strategic Plan introduces a fourth foundational strategy, Reliability Assurance, as its bedrock. Upon that bedrock are three foundational strategies: Maintain an Economical, Optimized Transmission System; Enhance and Optimize Interdependent Systems; and Enhance Member Value and Affordability.

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.
Did You Know?

- Without SPP, a typical monthly residential electric bill of $100 would be $106.61.
- 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 2014, SPP members completed 48 transmission projects totaling over $1.86 billion.
- SPP’s 2014 transmission and wholesale market transactions totaled $11.8 billion.
- The 48,537 miles of transmission lines in SPP’s footprint would circle the earth almost twice!
- SPP’s transmission owners collect about $1.4 billion annually to recoup costs of transmission, and have approximately $7.9 billion in net transmission investment.

Our Mission:

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