SPP Contracts with InfraSource and PowerWorld for Long Range Transmission Expansion Planning

January 16, 2007, LITTLE ROCK, AR – Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) is contracting with InfraSource and PowerWorld to conduct 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.

According to Jay Caspary, SPP's Director of Engineering, “SPP is anxious to initiate this important project with the help of InfraSource and PowerWorld to create a blueprint for long range transmission expansion plans. SPP encourages stakeholders to provide input in the form of questions or comments to EHVOverlay@spp.org.”

InfraSource Services, Inc. provides power engineering consulting services and designs, builds, and maintains transmission and distribution networks for utilities, power producers, and industrial customers. InfraSource has been involved in engineering, construction, and procurement for several recent EHV projects, including the 500 kV WAPA Path 15 solution in California. InfraSource staff performed ten-year planning assessments for American Transmission Company, which represented $3.2 billion in investments.

PowerWorld Corporation has partnered with IFS to provide technical support using the PowerWorld Simulator tool, which simulates high voltage power system operation. A user-friendly and highly visual product, Simulator demonstrates issues surrounding electrical power flows in a transmission grid.

SPP has scheduled a kick-off meeting with InfraSource and PowerWorld on January 22-23, 2007.

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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.