

ECONOMIC & RELIABILITY BENEFITS

SPP to Expand RTO Services in 2026

Southwest Power Pool (SPP), headquartered in Little Rock, Ark., will soon become the first organization in the U.S. to provide full regional transmission organization (RTO) services in both the Eastern and Western Interconnections of the nation's power grid. SPP has received commitments from seven western utilities to become full members in the RTO.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Colorado Springs Utilities, Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), Platte River Power Authority, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and three regions of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)—Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP), Rocky Mountain Region (RM) and Upper Great Plains-West (UGP)—are preparing to join the RTO in early 2026.

The expansion of SPP's service territory is expected to create economic and reliability benefits for its member companies through access to a larger generation fleet, greater geographic diversity, and increased trading opportunities in SPP's energy markets.

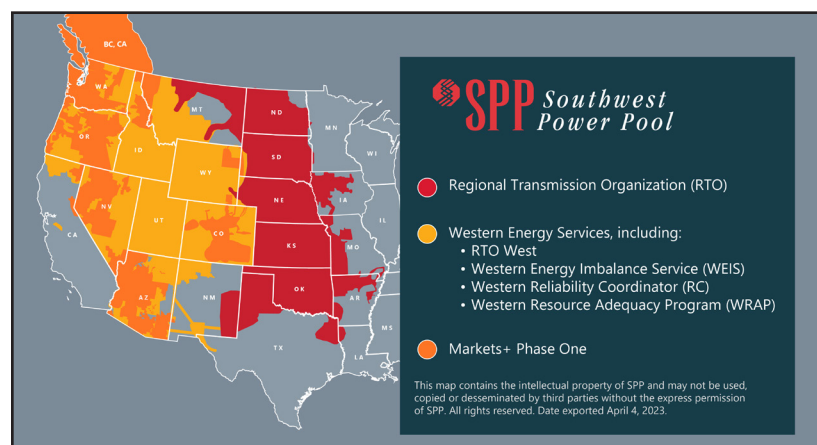
Since October 2020, SPP has been working with parties interested in evaluating the benefits and requirements of RTO membership. In addition to at least \$49 million in annual savings according to a study conducted by the Brattle Group, this group of western utilities also identified opportunities to leverage a number of benefits from SPP services to achieve renewable energy goals, protect reliability, enable more holistic transmission planning, and participate in a day-ahead wholesale electricity market.

WAPA and Basin Electric announced their decision to pursue membership in the SPP RTO this month, rounding out the group of new members that will now prepare for participation in SPP's governance structure, energy

markets, planning processes and other services.

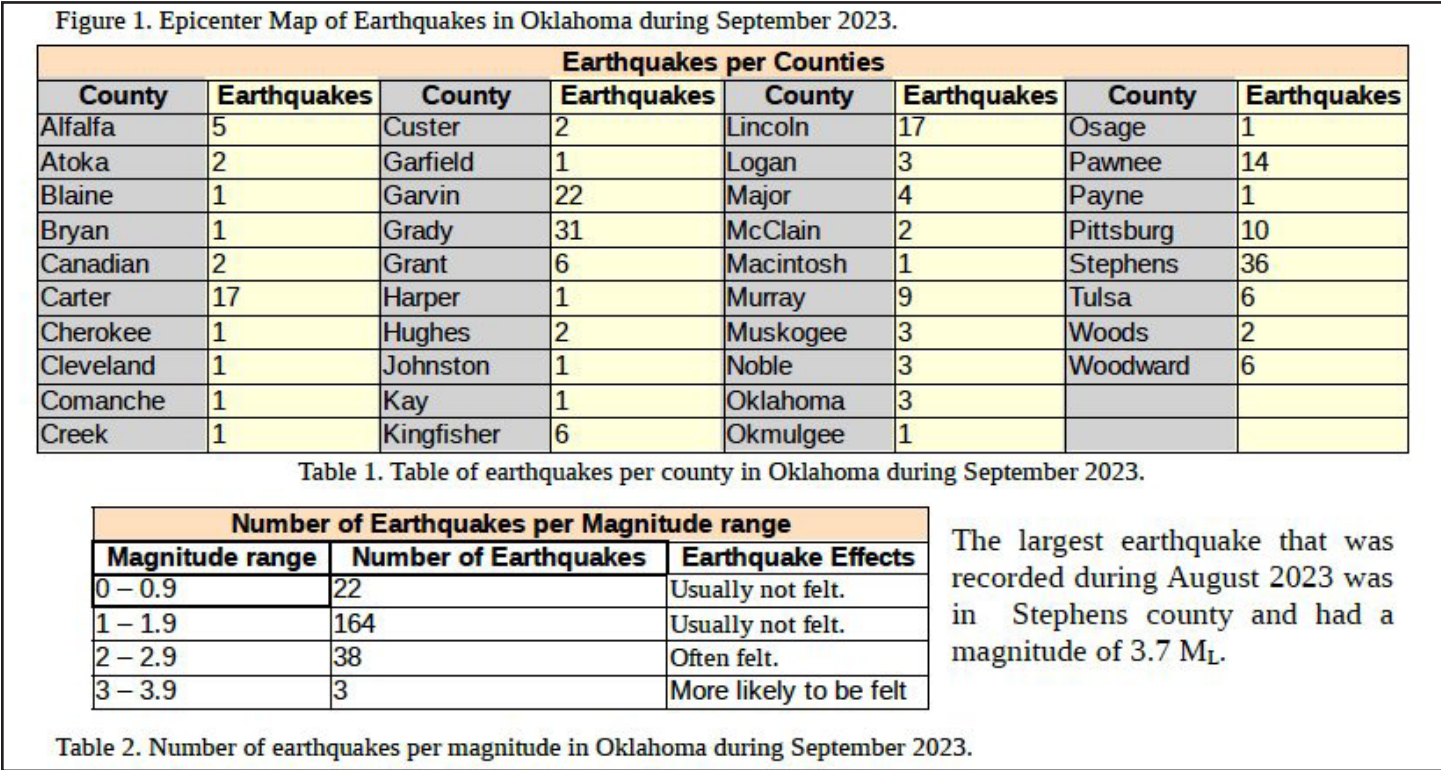
The commitments of these utilities solidifies SPP's long-term strategy for RTO and market expansion to bring increased value to existing and new members. Additionally, this growth will allow SPP and its members to enhance sustainability and reliability in the west and involves optimizing energy markets across three DC ties, creating new opportunities for energy transfers and increased resilience for both current and future members. This is the first major expansion of SPP's RTO service territory since October 2015 when it grew from 9 to 14 states by incorporating the Integrated System into its full suite of market and transmission services.

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Have You Felt the Ground **SHaking** Lately?

Have you ever wondered just how many earthquakes occur in Oklahoma? This table details earthquake activity as analyzed by the Oklahoma Geological Survey (University of Oklahoma) for September 2023. During September, a total of 227 earthquakes, including 28 quarry blasts, were detected and reviewed. That represents a decrease of 9 earthquakes as compared with the previous month, August 2023, during which 236 earthquakes were detected and reviewed. The cumulative number of earthquakes from January through September 2023 is 2,312. During September 2023, Stephens County recorded the most seismic activity with 36 earthquakes, followed by Grady County with 31 earthquakes.



Source: Oklahoma Geological Survey (University of Oklahoma)

Looking for Ideas...



What would you like to see published in *The Link*? We are looking for ideas that will help expand the topics included. Has your cooperative been working on a project or providing safety demonstrations to students in the service territory, manning booths at job fairs or meetings ... or simply providing any other community services.

If you have this kind of information or have any ideas for articles in this publication that is sent to several audiences, including WFEC employees, cooperative management and communicators, along with WFEC and Cooperative board members, please send them..

Also, if you know of someone who would like to be added to the email list to receive *The Link* at your respective cooperative, please send that information to Sondra Boykin @ s_boykin@wfec.com or call 405-760-7659.

We appreciate any ideas you might have.

COOPERATIVE WAY

2023 Annual Meetings Conclude

Annual Meetings for WFEC's member distribution cooperatives have concluded for 2023, with an assortment of options, including in-person meetings, drive-thru events, or both, at each of WFEC's 21 members. Thirteen of WFEC's cooperatives host their meetings between July and October, with the other eight being hosted in March, April and May.

Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) hosted their 84th Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the REC Multi-Purpose Center in Lindsay. This in-person meeting followed a drive-thru event on Thursday, Oct. 5, in which 482 members registered, exceeding the quorum count of 323 members. This quorum was met within the first hour of the drive-thru. An additional 259 members registered at the in-person meeting, bringing the total count to 741.

Each registering member received a \$25 bill credit and a registration gift. Members were also entered into a drawing for 75 -- \$75 electricity gift certificates and the three grand prizes of \$500 electricity gift certificates. Entertainment was also provided.



An REC member (top photo) places her ballot in the box, while others visit, prior to the annual meeting. Shown at back-center is REC Board President Gary Jones, who is also a member of WFEC's Board of Trustees. (at left) Vehicles line up for the drive-thru portion of the cooperative's annual meeting. Some 482 members registered at the drive-thru event.

Communication Coordinator Sondra Boykin attended the meeting on behalf of WFEC and manned an information booth and answered questions from members.



Kiamichi Electric Cooperative (KEC), headquartered in Wilburton, hosted their annual meeting on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the SE Expo Center in McAlester.

Entertainment, a kid's corner, food and lots of door prizes were all a part of this year's meeting. Some 366 members registered, with around 850 needed for a quorum.

Custom swag bags, with calendars, strip plugs, koozies and more, were given out to each member registering. Among the many various door prizes was the grand prize of a \$600 bill credit.

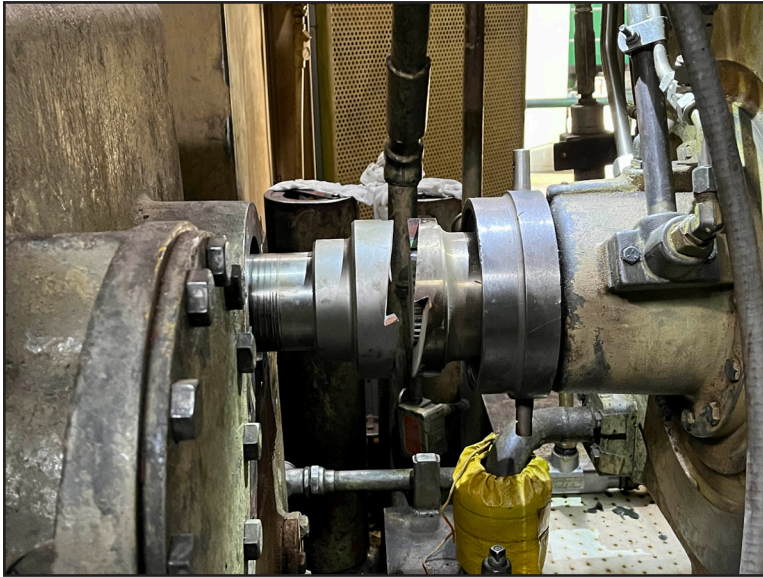
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The KEC Board is seated as the annual meeting gets underway. Seated at the right (above photo) is David Ray, a KEC Board member, who is also a member of WFEC's Board of Trustees. (below) KEC General Manager Brett Orme addresses the audience and provides an update of projects and other news for the year.



Photos courtesy of respective cooperatives.



During the existing outage currently being performed on Anadarko Units 5 & 6, a newer style of clutch assembly was installed. Previously, the original, old style clutch/jaw assembly was utilized. These were recently replaced with a Synchronous-Self-Shifting (SSS) clutch assembly that promises higher reliability during startup and shutdown, plus fewer maintenance issues.

A graphic for National Co-op Month. It features a large, stylized sunflower with yellow and orange petals on a dark purple background. In the center of the sunflower is a circular inset showing a worker in a hard hat and safety harness climbing a utility pole against a blue sky with white clouds.

October is National Co-op Month

From booming suburbs to scenic
countrysides, electric co-ops play a vital role
in shaping the local communities they serve.

CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
VOTE.COOP



America's Electric Cooperatives understand what's important to our homes and our communities, and we understand that registering to vote and voting in every

election is vital to protecting our way of life. So is building relationships with elected officials, so they understand the unique issues we face.

Co-ops Vote is designed to boost voter turnout, develop relationships with candidates and elected officials, and ensure that issues that matter in rural America are heard everywhere, from local councils all the way up to the U.S. Capitol.

Co-ops Vote provides the tools to help build those relationships and educate co-op employees, directors and consumer members prior to hitting the polls for every election.

Please join us, and make sure our elected leaders know that we expect them to represent all the people electric cooperatives serve. Learn more at vote.coop.

Follow **CO-OPS VOTE** on social media and stay updated



@CoopsVote

WHAT IS CO-OPS VOTE?

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan campaign focused on enhancing the political strength of electric cooperatives through relationship building and voter engagement. The main goal of the campaign is to boost voter turnout in cooperative areas, making sure that our members exercise one of their most basic rights - the right to vote. Working in collaboration with states and local co-ops, this effort will educate and engage candidates and voters on important issues like:

- Expanding broadband coverage throughout rural America.
- Ensuring continued access to reliable electricity.
- Promoting the work of co-ops within the communities they serve.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- ✓ **833** distribution and **62** G&T cooperatives, a total of **905** co-op members.
- ✓ Serve a total of **42 million** people in **47 states**.
- ✓ Generate 5% of the total electricity in the United States.
- ✓ Own and maintain **2.6 million miles** or **42%** of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering **56%** of the U.S. landmass.
- ✓ Serve **19 million**, businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in **88% of US counties**.



WHY IS THE CO-OPS VOTE PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

- We must elect public officials who identify with America's Electric Cooperatives and will vote to support the issues important to 42 million electric cooperative members across the nation.
- Electric cooperatives are a trusted resource in the communities we serve. Voters want to hear from community leaders (like electric co-ops) about important issues.

For more information on **Co-ops Vote** please visit vote.coop or cooperative.com/coopsvote.