SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION
SITE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1993

TULSA, OKLAHOMA
WILLIAMS CENTER TOWER I
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SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION
P. O. BOX 1619
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74101

MASTER

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DURING CY 93, SOUTHWESTERN WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY PROGRAMS THAT HAD A DIRECT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, INVOLVING ENDANGERED SPECIES, PROTECTION OF WETLANDS, OR INCREASED ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION. SOUTHWESTERN CONTINUED TO FUNCTION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN AN OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE POSTURE WITH MINOR SUBSTATION PROJECTS. SOUTHWESTERN RECEIVED AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AUDIT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT (EH-24), DURING CY 1992. THE PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT WAS TO GIVE SOUTHWESTERN, DOE HEADQUARTERS, AND THE SECRETARY AN INDICATION OF THE STATUS OF SOUTHWESTERN MANAGEMENT'S EFFECTIVENESS IN DISCHARGING ITS DUTIES IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER. THE AUDIT IDENTIFIED 17 FINDINGS. AN ACTION PLAN WAS DEVELOPED AND REMEDIATION OF THE FINDINGS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. SEVERAL STRENGTHS WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE AUDIT WITH REGARD TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AT SOUTHWESTERN. MOST IMPORTANTLY, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AT SOUTHWESTERN HAS TAKEN ACTIONS TO INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGHOUT THE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS EVIDENCED BY THE CREATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SECURITY OFFICE.
INTRODUCTION

THE SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION (SOUTHWESTERN) IS A POWER MARKETING AGENCY OF THE DOE CREATED IN 1943. SOUTHWESTERN MARKETS HYDROPOWER THAT IS PRODUCED BY 23 FEDERAL DAMS OPERATED BY THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN OKLAHOMA, ARKANSAS, MISSOURI, AND TEXAS. MARKETING THIS HYDROPOWER AND ENSURING ITS RELIABLE DELIVERY CONSTITUTE THE CORE OF SOUTHWESTERN’S PROGRAM. SOUTHWESTERN MAINTAINS 1,380 MILES OF HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS SYSTEM IS PROVIDED BY AN AREA-WIDE MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. THIS SYSTEM INTERFACES WITH THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS’ MICROWAVE SYSTEM AND INCLUDES TELEMETERING, SCADA (SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION), MOBILE RADIO BASE STATION CONTROL, COMPUTER DATA TRANSMISSION, AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS. THESE FACILITIES, PLUS THE CORPS’ GENERATING FACILITIES, MAKE UP THE SOUTHWESTERN FEDERAL POWER SYSTEM. THE AGENCY IS HEADQUARTERED IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA WITH ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES LOCATED IN SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI; JONESBORO, ARKANSAS; GORE, OKLAHOMA; AND TUPELO, OKLAHOMA. THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES IN TULSA PROVIDE A COMPLETE RANGE OF SUPPORT FUNCTIONS INCLUDING LEGAL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT, AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING, ENGINEERING, AND POWER MARKETING. SOUTHWESTERN’S LEGISLATIVE MANDATE IS SECTION 5 OF THE FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1944. THIS LAW REQUIRES SOUTHWESTERN TO GIVE PREFERENCE IN SALES TO PUBLIC BODIES AND COOPERATIVES AND TO ACHIEVE WIDESPREAD USE OF THE POWER.

COMPLIANCE SUMMARY
COMPLIANCE STATUS

Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) conducted its operations and maintenance during the calendar year with no identified environmental problems or issues. The on-going program to remove all testable PCB equipment between 50-499 ppm is continuing. Most of Southwestern's non-testable (assumed 50-499 ppm PCB) equipment is electrical bushings. They will be utilized for their useful life. As the bushings are changed out, they are properly disposed of as PCB contaminated.

The following major environmental statutes and Executive Orders are discussed:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act (CERCLA)
  Southwestern currently has no facilities listed on or under consideration for the CERCLA; the National Priorities List (NPL); or the Federal Facilities Compliance Docket.

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
  Southwestern has developed a Waste Management Program and a Waste Minimization Plan.

- Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)
  Southwestern has notified State and Local officials of sites containing chemicals in amounts exceeding the threshold reporting requirements.

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  Southwestern is in compliance with NEPA requirements.

- Clean Air Act (CAA)
  Southwestern does not have any radioactive sources; therefore, does not perform any radiation or radionuclide monitoring.

- Clean Water Act (CWA)/Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
  Southwestern utilizes city water at its manned facilities. At six unmanned sites, there is one potable well and five non-potable wells; these are tested by the state. Southwestern is considering closing some of these wells in the immediate future.
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

Southwestern has an on-going program to dispose of equipment containing PCB-contaminated oil. Southwestern currently has no testable pieces of equipment which contain 500 ppm or greater PCB. Southwestern has a plan in place to dispose of all testable PCB-contaminated equipment containing 50-499 ppm PCB. Southwestern strives to dispose of any PCB-contaminated equipment within 30 days of removal from service.

- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

Southwestern does not utilize herbicides in its right-of-way management program. Small quantities of unrestricted herbicides are utilized within the confines of the electrical substations for weed control. Most of this effort is contracted to certified agents. No restricted herbicides are utilized.

- Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Southwestern has no major construction projects; therefore, there is minimal involvement with this Act.

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Southwestern has no major construction projects; therefore, there is minimal involvement with this Act.

- Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management"

Southwestern has no major construction projects; therefore, there is minimal involvement with this Order.

- Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands"

Southwestern has no major construction projects; therefore, there is minimal involvement with this Order.

Southwestern personnel review changes to the above Acts and Orders but have minimal opportunity to utilize any of them.

OTHER MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Southwestern did not have any significant environmental issues unresolved at
the end of CY 93.

Southwestern underwent a DOE Environmental Audit during the last quarter of CY 92.

The Environmental Audit Team identified 17 findings in the audit of Southwestern. None of the findings reflect situations that present an immediate danger to public health or the environment. A brief summary of the findings is: (1) Organizational Structure: lack of clarity in the roles, responsibilities, and accountability for environmental performance; (2) Environmental Commitment: Southwestern’s need to address factors limiting its commitment; (3) Environmental Protection Programs: Southwestern’s lack of formal programs; (4) Formality of Environmental Programs: lack of guidance and formal systems; (5) Internal and External Communication: lack of formal channels across the organization; (6) Staff Resources, Training, and Development: insufficient environmental staffing and documenting environmental duties; (7) Program Evaluation, Reporting, and Corrective Action: non-conformance with the Secretary’s self-assessment policy; (8) Environmental Planning and Risk Management: lack of a formalized, integrated, and organized system to address environmental risk.

The scope of the Southwestern Environmental Audit was comprehensive, covering all environmental media; applicable Federal, state, and local regulations, requirements, and best management practices; and Southwestern Orders and procedures, with the exception of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Several strengths were identified during the Audit with regard to the environmental programs at Southwestern. Perhaps most importantly, senior management at Southwestern has taken actions to increase environmental awareness throughout the organization which is evidenced by the creation of the ESH&S Office in February 1991. Southwestern has also worked closely with their contractor, Black & Veatch, in developing nine Southwestern draft Orders that address a number of program elements of DOE 5400.1, and other Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations. Southwestern has established a position in the field which focuses primarily on environmental management activities. Additionally, Southwestern has been very proactive in the Total Quality Management (TQM) arena since 1989. The Audit identified a Noteworthy Practice associated with the initiation of a joint study undertaken with the State of Arkansas and other concerned organizations on the issue of dissolved oxygen levels in rivers.

All of these examples of strengths attest to the fact that Southwestern’s environmental consciousness is increasing. All findings required corrective action, but none were found to reflect situations that presented an immediate risk to public health or the environment. Southwestern’s Action Plan has been implemented. All actions should be completed by 1st quarter, FY 95.

SUMMARY OF PERMITS

Gore, Oklahoma Maintenance Facility - EPA Identification Number (PCB)
Southwestern's major involvement in the environmental field is with PCB electrical equipment. Southwestern set a goal to change-out and dispose of all testable PCB equipment over 500 ppm PCB by FY 90. This goal was achieved. Southwestern has had no spills and/or releases. Southwestern has accomplished minor substation construction to include a new Operations and Maintenance facility, to be completed during FY 95. Southwestern completed one Environmental Assessment, Power Marketing Policy, during CY 93. No Environmental Impact Statements were initiated during CY 93.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS
See Summary of Permits (Above)
Southwestern has no radiological involvement.

NON-RADIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

NPDES - Southwestern conducted a study to determine if additional involvement is required in this area. The study indicated that no NPDES permits were required at Southwestern facilities.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION - Southwestern conducted a study to determine if additional involvement is required in this area. The study which included ranking the substations utilizing CERCLA criteria as applicable to Southwestern, testing and sampling the soil and groundwater at the substation that had the highest total from the ranking system and analyzing the data, Southwestern determined that additional groundwater monitoring is not required.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS - Southwestern has had no spill of reportable quantity of hazardous materials.
TOXIC CHEMICAL INVENTORY - Southwestern utilizes batteries for emergency backup power at various locations (Substations and radio stations). In some instances, the quantity of sulfuric acid present exceeds the threshold limits.

QUALITY ASSURANCE - Southwestern has developed a Quality Assurance Program. The program provides Headquarters and field units the capability to ensure that quality assurance is considered and applied in all areas.