

Biography

U.S. Department of Energy
Southwestern Power Administration
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 • [REDACTED]



Mike Wech

Administrator
Southwestern Power Administration
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Mike Wech (pronounced “way”) is Administrator of Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern). He has over three decades of experience in the electric utility industry, including both hands-on and supervisory skills in Maintenance, Engineering, Dispatch, Operations, Training, and Regulatory Compliance.

Wech began his electric utility career in 1984, interning with electrical contractors during the summers while pursuing his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nebraska.

After graduation, Wech took a job with the Nebraska Public Power District, where he worked in Power System Maintenance and System Operations.

He began his Federal career with Western Area Power Administration (Western), where he worked in Power System Operations from 1997 to 2003.

Wech transferred from Western to Southwestern in 2003, working as a Power System Dispatcher in Southwestern’s Springfield, Missouri Operations and Dispatch Center. In 2006, he became a Power Operations Specialist, where he was responsible for launching Southwestern’s internal training center and coordinating technical training for Southwestern’s Dispatchers. His duties expanded shortly thereafter to include responsibility for Southwestern’s regulatory compliance efforts.

In 2008, he was promoted to Supervisory Power Systems Dispatcher, where he supervised Southwestern’s System Operations group. In 2010, he assumed full responsibility for Southwestern’s Springfield Office as Director of Scheduling and Operations.

Following an agency-wide reorganization in 2015, Wech became Vice President of Operations for Southwestern. The following year, he was named Acting Deputy Administrator over the Offices of Power Delivery, Corporate Compliance, and Corporate Operations. He assumed the role on a full-time basis in late 2016, and served until being named Administrator of in May 2018.

Wech is an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) member and a Certified System Operator under the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). He resides in Springfield, Missouri with his wife Lori, and splits his time between Southwestern’s Springfield and Tulsa Offices.

Southwestern Power Administration is an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy. Its mission is to market and reliably deliver Federal hydroelectric power with preference to public bodies and cooperatives. This is accomplished by maximizing the use of Federal assets to repay the Federal investment and participating with other water resource users in an effort to balance their diverse interests with power needs within broad parameters set by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and implementing public policy. For more information, see <http://www.swpa.gov>.