
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER PATRICK LYONS

PRESS CONTACT » CARLOS PADILLA » 505-827-4446 » CARLOS.PADILLA2@STATE.NM.US

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Patrick Lyons Elected Chairman of Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee

SANTA FE – Commissioner Patrick Lyons, who represents the eastern half of the state for the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, has been selected to play a vital role in the western and central regions of the country.

Commissioner Lyons was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman of Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Regional State Committee (RSC) during the RSC's quarterly meeting held Monday, October 26 in Little Rock, Ark. Chairman Lyons' term is set to begin on January 1, 2016. Lyons served as Vice Chairman of the RSC for 2015, but will assume the leadership role moving forward.

"I look forward to serving as Chairman of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee in 2016," Lyons stated Wednesday afternoon, October 28. "The RSC will be addressing some very important issues next year, including how to maintain system reliability, considering the aggressive timelines and requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. SPP believes a state-by-state compliance approach will be more expensive to administer than a regional approach, and I will be working hard to determine which is best for New Mexico and its residents and ratepayers."

Southwest Power Pool Inc. manages the electric grid and wholesale power market for the central United States. As a regional transmission organization, the nonprofit corporation is mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale electricity prices.

Southwest Power Pool and its diverse group of member companies coordinate the flow of electricity across approximately 56,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, spanning 14 states, including New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, and Montana. The company is headquartered in Little Rock, Ark.

"Additionally, on October 1, 2015, SPP welcomed the Integrated System, including Western Area Administration's Upper Great Plains Region, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Heartland Consumers Power District," Commissioner Lyons concluded. "I am excited to work with these companies and their respective regulators on the RSC."

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