



## **CRA International Consultants Study High Voltage Transmission in the Southwest Power Pool**

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BOSTON, Nov 17, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- CRA International, Inc. (Nasdaq: CRAI), a worldwide leader in providing management, economic, and financial consulting services, today announced its role in preparing a study about the economic benefits if approximately 1,200 miles of extra-high voltage transmission are built in the Southwest Power Pool. The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) manages the transmission system in all or part of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and east Texas outside of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The study, titled First Two Loops of SPP EHV Overlay Transmission Expansion, Analysis of Benefits and Costs, reveals the economic benefits of building the proposed extra-high voltage transmission in the region outweigh the costs. It was prepared for Electric Transmission America, LLC (a joint venture of subsidiaries of AEP and MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company), Westar Energy and OGE Energy Corp.

The study evaluated a SPP proposal to build approximately 600 miles of 765-kV lines in western Kansas and Oklahoma by 2014 and another 600 miles of 765-kV transmission in the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma by 2016. The study concluded that:

- Building the projects would save approximately \$2.8 billion in annual power supply costs throughout SPP by enabling development of more than 14,000 megawatts of renewable wind generation, which is enough to supply 20 percent of SPP's electricity demand.
- The 14,000 megawatts of renewable wind generation that would be produced would eliminate 30 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.
- \$100 million in benefits would be realized by reducing line losses (electricity loss during transmission).
- Construction of the wind generation and transmission lines would result in more than 10,000 construction jobs, 5,000 permanent jobs and more than \$60 million per year in property taxes.
- The transmission projects will provide net economic benefits of more than \$600 million per year.

"CRA has a deep understanding of the issues facing the energy industry and environment sector, including issues around transmission infrastructure," said James C. Burrows, CRA's President and Chief Executive Officer. "This study is an example of where our expertise in providing strategic insight to market participants can help inform different parties, such as trade groups, the government and regulators, about effective actions that create fiscally responsible transmission solutions for 21st century energy issues."

CRA vice presidents who led the study included Ralph Luciani and Alex Rudkevich. To access a copy of the report, click [here](#).

### About CRA International's Energy and Environment Practice

CRA's Energy and Environment Practice provides expert economic and business consulting services to a wide range of electricity industry clients around the world. With years of industry experience and exceptional strength in analytics, our consultants offer management and economic expertise in every phase of the electricity production cycle--from fuel procurement to retail strategy--as well as hands-on experience helping clients manage market power, environmental policy, and regulatory issues. We have pioneered techniques and models that have become industry standards, including competitive market designs, efficient bidding mechanisms, creative financial transactions and methodologies to assess market power.

Electric transmission system owners, operators and users, as well as the regulatory agencies that oversee them, turn to CRA for our unique combination of economic and engineering expertise in transmission issues. Our consultants have provided input for all of the major U.S. regulatory policy debates, and we have authored more publicly-reviewed cost/benefit studies of Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) than any other consulting firm. Whether developing tariff design or performing strategic studies, we deliver rigorous economic analyses of the industry's most technical function.

### About CRA International

Founded in 1965, CRA International is a leading provider of management consulting services and economic and financial expertise. Working with businesses, law firms, accounting firms and governments, CRA is a preferred consulting firm for complex assignments with pivotal and high-stakes outcomes. The firm is distinguished by a unique combination of credentials: deep vertical experience in a variety of industries; broad horizontal expertise in a range of functional disciplines; and rigorous economic, financial and market analysis. CRA offers a proven track record of thousands of successful engagements in regulatory and litigation support, business strategy and planning, market and demand forecasting, policy analysis and engineering and technology management. Headquartered in Boston, the firm has offices throughout the North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Detailed information about CRA is available at [www.crai.com](http://www.crai.com).

Statements in this press release concerning the future business, operating results, estimated cost savings, and financial condition of the Company, and statements using the terms "anticipates," "believes," "expects," "should," or similar expressions, are "forward-looking" statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon management's current expectations and are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties. Information contained in these forward-looking statements is inherently uncertain and actual performance and results may differ materially due to many important factors. Such factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statements made by the Company include, among others, the Company's restructuring costs and attributable annual cost savings, changes in the Company's effective tax rate, share dilution from the Company's convertible debt offering and stock options, dependence on key personnel, attracting and retaining qualified consultants, dependence on outside experts, utilization rates, factors related to its recent acquisitions, including integration of personnel, clients, offices, and unanticipated expenses and liabilities, risks associated with acquisitions it may make in the future, risks inherent in international operations, the performance of NeuCo, changes in accounting standards, rules and regulations, changes in the law that affect its practice

areas, management of new offices, the potential loss of clients, the ability of customers to terminate the Company's engagements on short notice, dependence on the growth of the Company's business consulting practice, the unpredictable nature of litigation-related projects, the ability of the Company to integrate successfully new consultants into its practice, intense competition, risks inherent in litigation, and professional liability. Further information on these and other potential factors that could affect the Company's financial results is included in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company cannot guarantee any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievement. The Company undertakes no obligation to update any of its forward-looking statements after the date of this press release.

SOURCE: CRA International

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