

# El Paso Electric announces new senior VP

## Bates to continue tenure until 2010 retirement

The El Paso Electric Board of Directors has announced George Williams as senior vice president and chief operating officer effective Oct. 5. Williams will oversee the generation, transmission and distribution operations for El Paso Electric.

Williams has 26 years of experience in the electric utility industry and most recently served as senior vice president of operations for Commonwealth Edison, a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corp. Before joining Commonwealth, Williams served as vice president of operations at Energy Nuclear South, as general manager of Nuclear Assurance for PPL Susquehanna and as director of corporate planning and analysis at PECO Energy Co.

J. Frank Bates, who has served as EPE president and chief operating officer, will continue to serve as EPE president and will assist in the transition until his retirement in March 2010.

During his 37 years at EPE, Bates has served in various capacities, including interim president and CEO, executive vice president and chief operating officer and vice president of transmission and distribution, operations and customer services. He currently serves on the boards of the Sun Bowl Association, the Children's Miracle Network and is a member of New Mexico State University's College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council.

"We're grateful for the more than 37-years that Frank has served El Paso Electric. His dedication and commitment to EPE, as well as his strong knowledge of its operations, will be missed and we appreciate that he has agreed to assist with the transition to a new COO," said David Stevens, EPE CEO. "We're also very pleased that George will be joining the El Paso Electric team. His extensive experience in the electric utility industry will be an asset to EPE as we plan for the future and its challenges."

El Paso Electric is a regional electric utility providing generation, transmission and distribution service to approximately 363,000 retail and wholesale customers in a 10,000-square-mile area of the Rio Grande valley in west Texas and southern New Mexico. EPE has a net dependable generating capability of 1,643 MW.