

EPTC to remain in present location 10 more years

Following a recent lease-signing with Denver West, the Electric Power Training Center, including the video studio, will remain in its current location in Building 19 for 10 more years.

Encompassing 14,468 square feet on the first floor, the Center is updating its look and expanding its function for the first time since the early 1980s.

Western believes moving the facility would be cost prohibitive and that keeping it at its present location will provide the best continuity of services to the agency and the utility industry as a whole. Time and dollars involved in disassembling and reassembling the training simulators, as well as the loss of instruction time, would not be in anyone's best interest.

The space also contains other highly technical training equipment installed

according to specialized electrical needs. The cost to duplicate the equipment and meet these needs in a different location would greatly exceed the rental rate of a succeeding lease.

The facility provides specialized training for powerplant operators, generation and transmission dispatchers, power systems operators and various relay-testing and maintenance engineers. It also provides introductory power system training classes for nontechnical employees at Western and elsewhere.

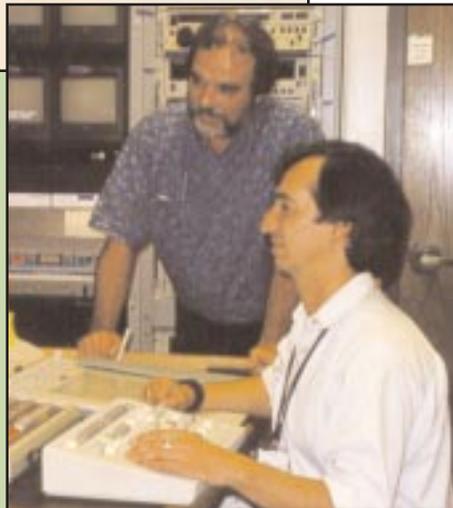
Employees from Western, private industry, the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, power marketing administrations and more than 50 public and private utilities throughout the U.S. and Canada train at the EPTC.

The EPTC plans to add new computer-based Dispatch Training Simulators, which are less expensive to replace as well as easier to modify than current workstations. The Center is undergoing an extensive "facelift" that includes new classrooms, lighting, carpeting and furniture.

Western expects the EPTC to become an independent, financially self-sustaining business unit in the near future. All students, including Western employees, will pay for classes beginning in FY 2000.



Kaye Weinant, training technician, points to a sign indicating major renovation work in the EPTC.



Greg Brown, left, and Larry Holgerson, video specialists, edit a tape in the video studio. Part of the Electric Power Training Center, the studio will remain in Building 19 for 10 more years.