

Western moves forward with tribal allocations

by **Melissa Chiechi**

During the June 16 Electricity Reliability Summit in Phoenix, Secretary Richardson discussed the importance of providing tribes access to the Federal power system. Over the past eight months, CRSP and DSW employees have been working to do just that.

Western employees received compliments from tribal representatives at a recent meeting held in Phoenix with Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and the Intertribal Council of Arizona. ITCA representatives thanked Western for working to get 100 percent of eligible tribes to submit

Applicant Profile Data forms. Data forms were requested from all entities wanting to apply for power allocations from the Salt

Lake City Area/Integrated Projects.

Power Marketing Contracts Manager **Mary Oretta** said, "Aside from all the hard work the working group did to get the information out, and they did a lot of work, I also believe that Secretary Richardson's support and visits out to the Southwest to meet with the tribes helped tremendously."

Current power contracts expire in September 2004 and Western plans to allocate 7 percent, or about 100-MW, of power to new customers, including tribes in the Colorado River Basin.

In partnership with the Intertribal Council of Arizona and the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, CRSP and DSW have worked to establish a resource pool for new customers in the region. Part of this effort was to help tribes complete the application process, including the profile data forms.

Workshops give overview of Western

In December 1999, three tribal workshops on Salt Lake City Area/Integrated Projects hydropower allocation were held throughout the Southwest. These sessions gave an overview of Western, facilitated dialogue with the tribes, introduced the Applicant Profile Data submission requirements and presented the schedule of the process for allocation determination.

Additional sessions to assist tribes to complete data forms were held in January. Western employees also performed extensive outreach to tribes to ensure they received the technical assistance necessary. The dedication of CRSP Public Utilities Specialists **Lyle Johnson** and **Dave Snow** and CRSP Contracts and Energy Services Manager **Burt Hawkes** helped obtain full participation of tribes in the APD collection process. DSW Power Marketing personnel **Mary Oretta**, **Gary Stein** and **Steve Szarka** also assisted CRSP staff.

By the end of the summer, Western expects to have proposed preference power allocations ready for public review. Next steps include allocation determinations, contract workshops, delivery arrangements and contract-signing over the next three years.



Energy Secretary Bill Richardson shakes hands with DSW Power Marketing Manager **Tony Montoya** at the June 16 Phoenix reliability summit. Looking on are **Gary Stein**, DSW public utilities specialist and **Lyle Johnson**, CRSP public utilities specialist.