

# POWER FOR THE PLAINS UPDATE

Construction crews expanding the electric transmission infrastructure in southeast New Mexico and portions of Texas are having a busy year. Approximately 90 miles of new transmission lines are complete and serving customers and another 150 miles are expected to be complete by the end of 2018.

The work is part of Xcel Energy's Power for the Plains initiative to expand and update the electric grid – improving electric reliability, meeting growing customer demand and providing an outlet for renewable energy at the lowest cost possible.

"We continue to see a lot of development in oil and gas production and processing, especially in southeast New Mexico," said Bryan Kauffman, Xcel Energy director of Business Customer Relations. "Right now, most of the large requests are related to natural gas processing facilities. We expect to connect nearly ten of these facilities by the end of 2018."

This year, Xcel Energy expects to hook up as much as 220 megawatts of new load in southeast New Mexico, and an additional 100 megawatts over the next couple of years, much of it from oil and gas production.

"Without Xcel Energy and the energy you are bringing to the area, growth wouldn't happen," said Finn Smith, Chair of Lea County Economic Development Corporation. "It not only benefits the commercial users but helps folks that are moving here to work and other businesses that are byproducts of the growth."



As part of Power for the Plains, Xcel Energy has invested in over 800 miles of new transmission lines since 2011 in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. More than 700 additional miles of transmission line is planned to be constructed through 2021. Since 2011, over 30 new substations have been built and nearly 40 others upgraded. Another 27 substations will be built or upgraded through 2021. The transmission expansion represents more than \$3 billion in investment.



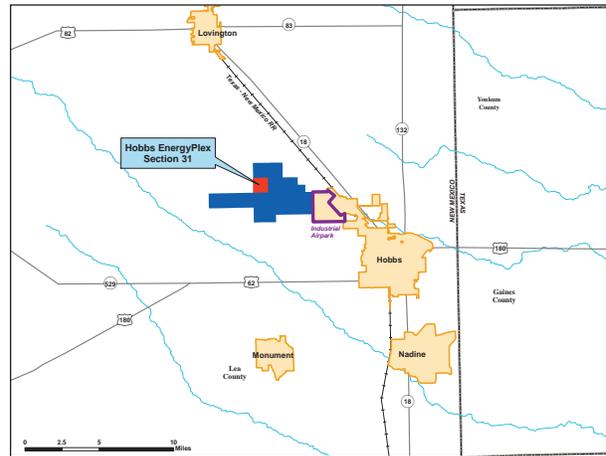
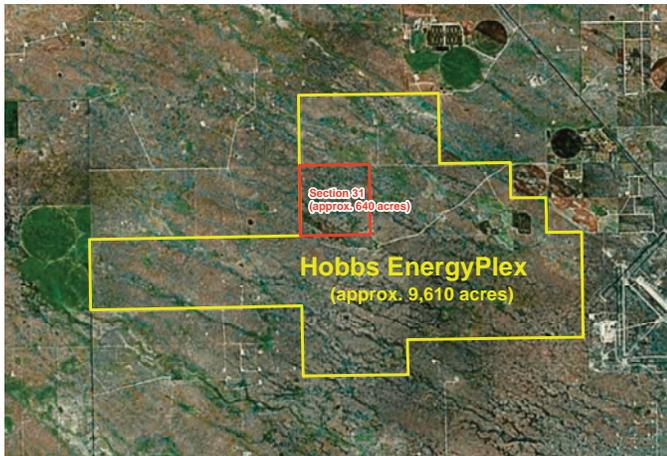
**Crews work on setting a structure outside of Kiowa Substation northeast of Carlsbad.**

## BOOSTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transmission investment in the region is giving communities a competitive edge for boosting business. Xcel Energy has launched a new Certified Site Program, to promote industrial growth within the communities we serve.

The focus of the program is an online inventory of prime industrial locations that is complete with detailed site information a site selector will need when researching business expansions or relocations.

A third party verifies key attributes, which helps speed the process and provides area communities a competitive advantage as they work to bring new businesses and jobs to the area. A 9,600 acre industrial park in Hobbs is among the first to be added. Real estate located in Xcel Energy's service territory and marketed through the program can be found at [www.economicdevelopment.xcelenergy.com/real-estate](http://www.economicdevelopment.xcelenergy.com/real-estate)



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Approximately 90 miles of new transmission line have been energized in 2018. Work on converting the 40-mile Kiowa-Roadrunner 230 kV transmission line to 345 kV is expected to be complete by the end of April. And the new 90-mile 345 kV Hobbs-China Draw transmission line is scheduled to be serving customers in June. The project links the Hobbs Plant Substation, located about 11 miles northwest of Hobbs, with the new China Draw Substation located about 22 miles south of Carlsbad.

Final approval from the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission came in November 2017 for the last segment of the nearly 170-mile TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs 345 kV project. Construction is underway in Texas. When complete in 2020, the line will run between the TUCO substation about two miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to the Hobbs Substation about 11 miles northwest of Hobbs, N.M.



**A view of 345 kilovolt structures outside of Kiowa Substation.**



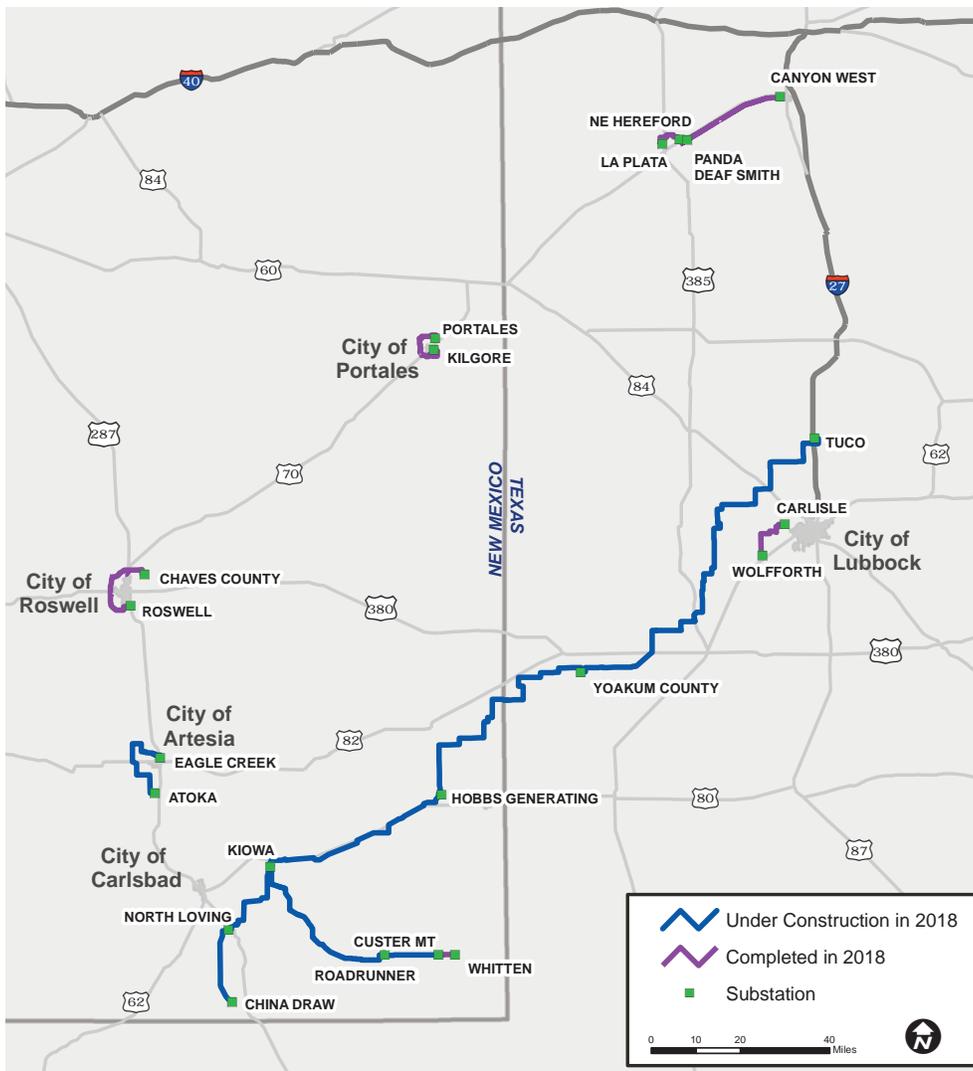
**One of the construction challenges on the Hobbs-China Draw project included building the transmission line across the Pecos River near Loving, New Mexico.**

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATES continued

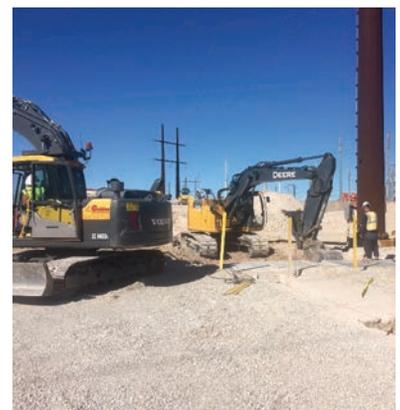
## Projects completed in 2018 or under construction

Name	State	Voltage	Length	In-Service Date
Roswell Loop	NM	115 kV	24 miles	1/31/18
Custer Mountain-Whitten	NM	115 kV	4 miles	1/24/18
Portales Loop	NM	115 kV	17 out of 21 miles complete	3/3/18
Wolfforth-Carlisle	TX	230 kV	13 miles	3/27/18
NE Hereford-La Plata	TX	115 kV	8 miles	3/30/18
Canyon West-Dawn-Panda-Deaf Smith	TX	115 kV	23 out of 26 miles completed on 4/4/18	12/14/18
Kiowa-Roadrunner	NM	345 kV	42 miles	4/27/18
Atoka-Eagle Creek	NM	115 kV	25 miles	5/1/18
Hobbs-China Draw	NM	345 kV	86 miles	6/1/18
Roadrunner-Custer Mountain	NM	115 kV	10 miles	6/1/18
TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs	NM/TX	345 kV	168 miles	6/1/20

## Power for the Plains 2018 Transmission Construction



Conductor is installed on the Roswell Loop project.



Excavation takes place outside the Hobbs Generation Substation.