

Power for the Plains

Driving Economic Development and Job Creation



MAY 2019

BUILDING A POWERFUL FUTURE

Nearly 100 miles of new transmission line completed in 2019 in Texas & New Mexico

Xcel Energy's comprehensive commitment to customers is the framework for keeping energy costs affordable, powering economic development, and making the best, most efficient use of this region's natural resources.

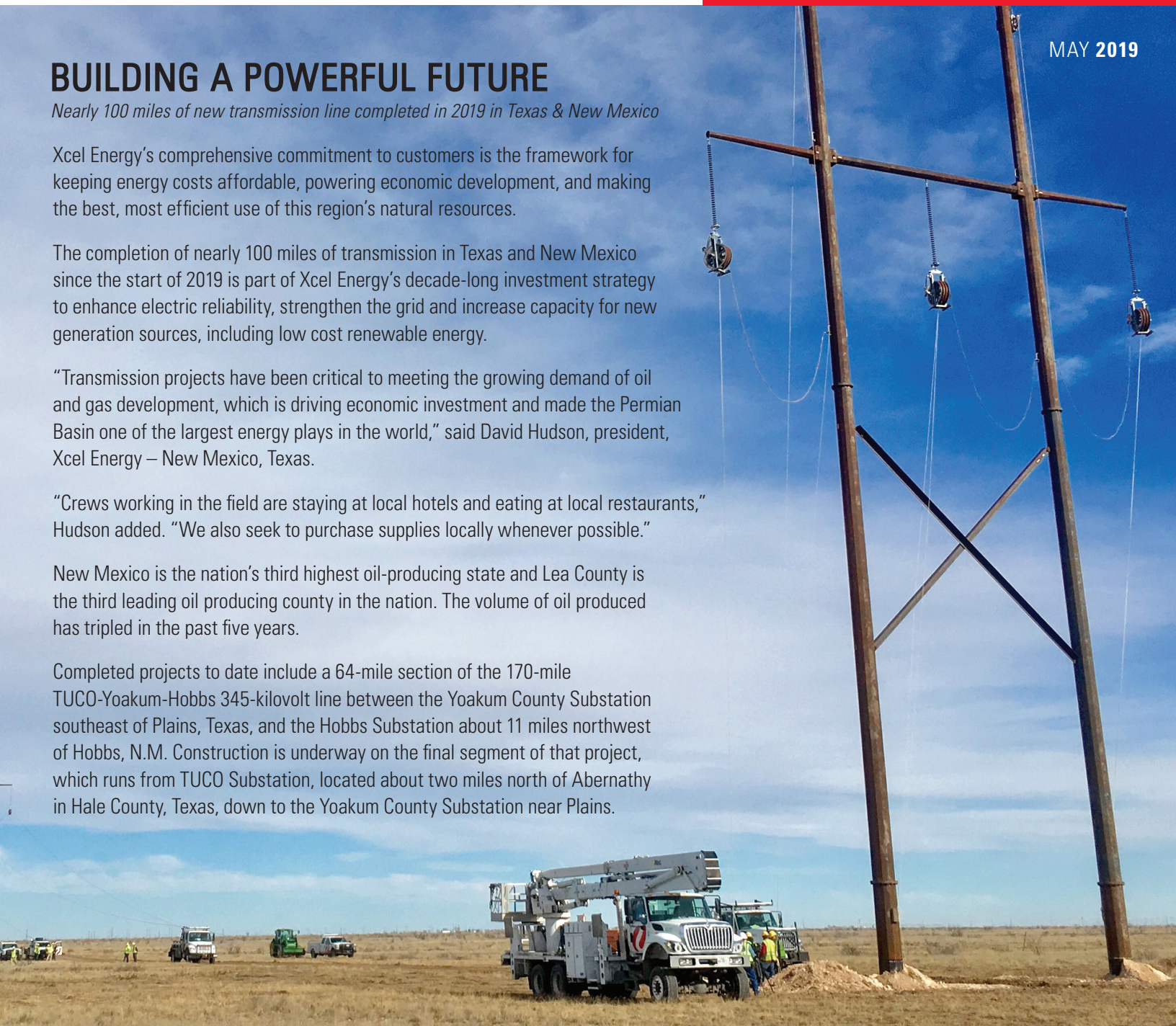
The completion of nearly 100 miles of transmission in Texas and New Mexico since the start of 2019 is part of Xcel Energy's decade-long investment strategy to enhance electric reliability, strengthen the grid and increase capacity for new generation sources, including low cost renewable energy.

"Transmission projects have been critical to meeting the growing demand of oil and gas development, which is driving economic investment and made the Permian Basin one of the largest energy plays in the world," said David Hudson, president, Xcel Energy – New Mexico, Texas.

"Crews working in the field are staying at local hotels and eating at local restaurants," Hudson added. "We also seek to purchase supplies locally whenever possible."

New Mexico is the nation's third highest oil-producing state and Lea County is the third leading oil producing county in the nation. The volume of oil produced has tripled in the past five years.

Completed projects to date include a 64-mile section of the 170-mile TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs 345-kilovolt line between the Yoakum County Substation southeast of Plains, Texas, and the Hobbs Substation about 11 miles northwest of Hobbs, N.M. Construction is underway on the final segment of that project, which runs from TUCO Substation, located about two miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, down to the Yoakum County Substation near Plains.



About Power for the Plains

Since 2011, Xcel Energy has invested in over 800 miles of new transmission line in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. Through 2021, an additional 700 miles of transmission line will be constructed. The expansion represents an investment of over \$3 billion. View information on current and planned transmission projects at powerfortheplains.com.

"By investing in transmission, we are finding a way for low-cost, zero carbon energy sources—including wind and solar—to reach customers," said Michael Lamb, Xcel Energy senior vice president, Transmission. "Transmission moves energy to where it is needed. We need this infrastructure to meet Xcel Energy's ambitious vision to be carbon free by 2050, while keeping customer costs low, ensuring reliability and helping the environment."

Xcel Energy has approximately 150 employees and contractors working on the TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs line.

Other projects completed this year include several stretches of 115-kilovolt transmission line: 7 miles in Eunice, N.M., 15 miles in Carlsbad, N.M., and 9 miles in Yoakum County, Texas.



A foundation is poured for the Yoakum Substation expansion near Plains, Texas.



Crews build a rebar cage that will be used for a foundation on the final segment of the TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs transmission line in Hale County, Texas.



Crews finish stringing work on the Yoakum-Hobbs transmission line project near Hobbs, N.M.

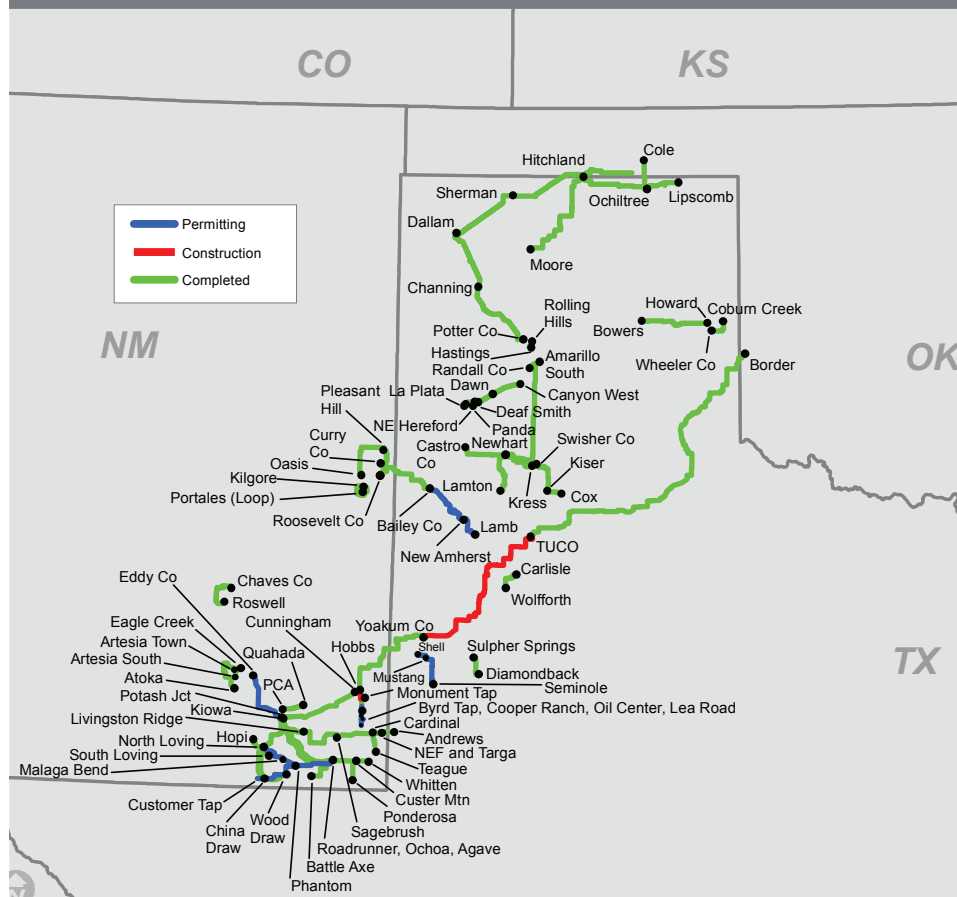
The TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs project will include:

- More than **20,000 cubic yards** of concrete
- **948 steel structures**
- Nearly **1,000 miles of conductor**



The 115-kilovolt Potash Junction-Livingston Ridge transmission line was placed in-service in April 2019 in Eddy County, N.M.

Power for the Plains Projects 2011-2021



COMING UP

Xcel Energy plans to invest another \$165 million on two new 345-kilovolt transmission lines in southeast New Mexico. The proposed Eddy County-Kiowa and China Draw-Phantom-Roadrunner projects are in the permitting stages, and are expected to be in-service by 2021.

Transmission projects completed and under construction

Title	State	Voltage	Length (miles)	In-service date	Cities	Counties
NEF-Cardinal	NM	115 kV	7 miles	3/20/19	Eunice	Lea
Potash Junction-Livingston Ridge	NM	115 kV	15 miles	4/13/19	Carlsbad	Eddy
Mustang-Shell	TX	115 kV	9 miles	4/30/19	Denver City	Yoakum
North Loving-South Loving	NM	115 kV	3 miles	12/15/19	Loving	Eddy County
TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs	NM/TX	345 kV	168 miles (64 miles complete)	6/1/20	Abernathy, Brownfield, TX, Hobbs, NM	Hale, Lea, Lubbock, Hockley, Terry, Yoakum

Anticipation in the wind

Since last June, the Texas South Plains has been bustling with the construction of 239 wind turbines – turbines now spinning while the final tasks and tests are executed at the Hale Wind Project in Hale County, Texas.

In a handful of weeks, the Hale Project will be producing enough electricity to power at least 184,000 homes, with its 478-megawatt capacity producing at a factor of 54 percent – connected to the grid through a newly built 14-mile transmission line and substation.

Xcel Energy harnesses some of the best wind resources in the country to deliver clean, low-cost renewable energy to Southwest customers.



Today, wind energy accounts for nearly 20 percent of the region's power we supply in the region. In 2022, wind energy will more than double, and zero-carbon electricity will account for 49 percent of the electricity serving customers.

Xcel Energy's commitment to customer value is not just a single pillar in our strategy; it is the foundation that underlies all of our initiatives: Smart investments that benefit customers and ensure safe, reliable and affordable energy well into the future for Texas and New Mexico communities.