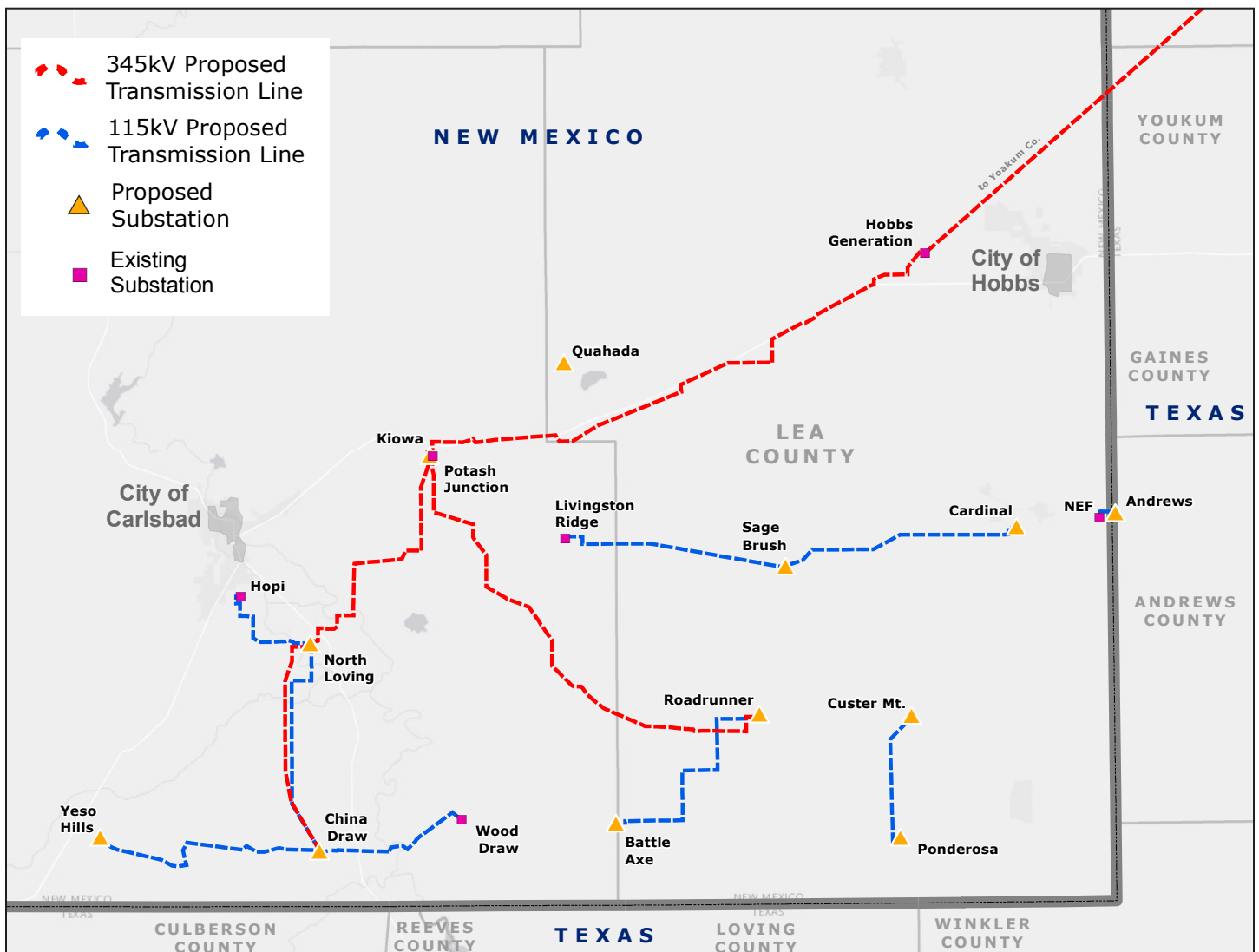




## Power for the Plains SE New Mexico Transmission Infrastructure



Steel poles are delivered near the site of the new Roadrunner substation southeast of Carlsbad.



The Southwest Power Pool approved cost-effective solutions to meet growing infrastructure needs as part of a regional High Voltage Incremental Load study. As a result of the study, Xcel Energy has a plan to build approximately 400 miles of new transmission lines and 12 new substations in southeast New Mexico and West Texas. Transmission projects that are 345 kilovolt and above also require approval from the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

## Substation Expansion

Construction is underway at several substation locations. Grading is complete at the China Draw 115 kV substation located about 22 miles south of Carlsbad, and concrete foundation work has started at the North Loving 115 kV substation site, located about eight miles southeast of Carlsbad.



Grading is underway at the new Roadrunner substation site.



Grading is underway at the Quahada 115 kilovolt (kV) substation in western Lea County. Foundation construction is expected to begin next month.

## Potash Junction-Roadrunner 345 kV, energized at 230 kV

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission approved Xcel Energy's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity application for the Potash Junction-Roadrunner 345 kV transmission line on December 23.

The proposed Potash Junction-Roadrunner project consists of 40 miles of new 230 kV transmission line between the new Roadrunner substation, located about 45 miles southeast of

Carlsbad, and the existing Potash Junction substation located approximately 15 miles northeast of Carlsbad. The proposed line will be constructed at 345 kV but initially operated at 230 kV. The conversion to 345 kV has an in-service date of 2015. Grading at the Roadrunner substation began December 1; foundation work is scheduled to start in February 2015.

A majority of the structures will be two-pole H-frame steel ranging from 80 to 140 feet tall. The project will improve reliability and meet growing electricity demand in Eddy and Lea counties. It will also supply additional capacity in the existing 115 kV system. The Potash Junction-Roadrunner transmission line project is expected to be in-service in 2015. The estimated cost is \$53 million.

## Hopi-North Loving-China Draw 115 kV

The Hopi-North Loving-China Draw 115 kV transmission line project consists of about 30 miles of new transmission line including nine miles of 115 kV transmission line from the Hopi substation which is located about five miles southwest of Carlsbad, to the new North Loving substation. An additional 21 miles of 115 kV transmission line will be constructed between North Loving substation and the new China Draw substation, where construction began in September 2014.

The project will provide additional transmission capacity and electric service near Loving south along State Highway 285 to the Texas state line.





## Distribution expansion in Southeast New Mexico

Xcel Energy continues to rebuild and construct distribution lines in southeast New Mexico to support the local delivery of low voltage electricity between the transmission system and the oil and gas industry. In 2014, the company constructed and rebuilt approximately 153 miles of distribution lines in and around Hobbs and Carlsbad. To continue to meet growing electricity demand in the area, Xcel Energy expects to construct more than 100 miles of distribution lines in Lea and Eddy counties in the “rst half of 2015.



Learn more about all of the projects and contact us with questions or comments on [Powerfortheplains.com](http://Powerfortheplains.com).

1/5/2015