

POWER FOR THE PLAINS

DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

ELECTRIC HIGHWAY LINKS NEW MEXICO, TEXAS

Construction on the largest project to date is nearing completion.

The 168-mile long, 345-kilovolt transmission line that stretches between the TUCO Substation north of Lubbock, Texas, to Hobbs, New Mexico, will be complete in June when the final link is finished.

That final link is a section of line between Yoakum Substation southeast of Plains, Texas, and TUCO substation north Abernathy in Hale County.

The nearly \$400 million investment is part of Xcel Energy's vision to deliver safe, affordable and progressively cleaner power to customers. Lower fuel costs have resulted in lower total bills over the last 3 years, thanks to efficiencies built into the regional grid and pathways to import less expensive energy from the wider power market.

"The Power for the Plains transmission projects are designed to provide customers, communities and businesses with reliable power at an affordable price," said David Hudson, president, Xcel Energy New Mexico, Texas.

"Our goal is to deliver savings over the coming years through investing in needed transmission and transitioning to a carbon-free fleet," Hudson said.

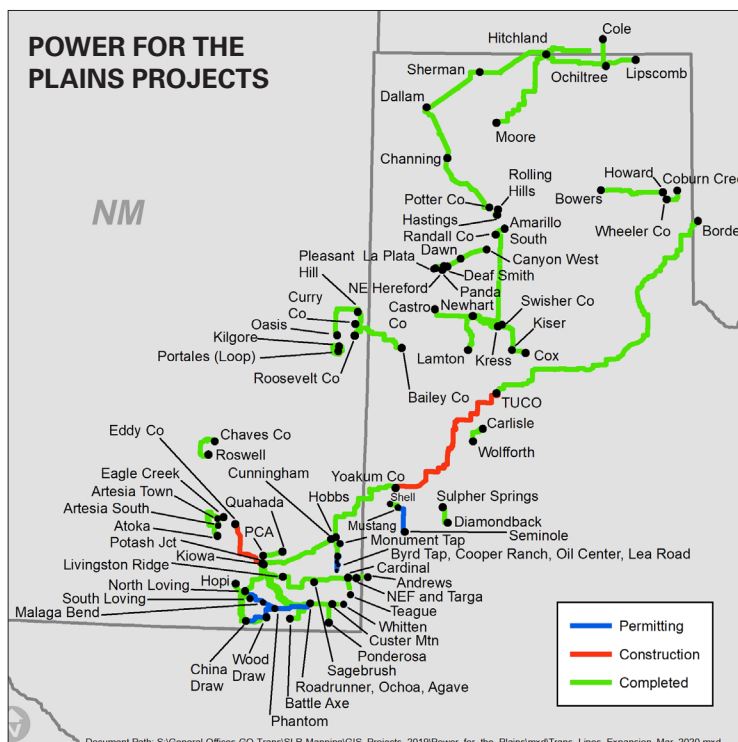
Southeast New Mexico build continues at brisk pace

Powering southeast New Mexico will require 300 miles of new distribution and 100 miles of transmission line to be built this year.

Currently, work is underway on a \$65 million, 345-kilovolt transmission line stretching 34-miles in lower Eddy County, New Mexico. The Eddy-Kiowa transmission line is expected to be complete in November 2020. Here's a few fun facts:

- 185 structures, a combination of H-frame and three-pole, are in the line.
- Foundations require an estimated 3,466 cubic yards of concrete and are 98% complete.
- Line is designed to operate at conductor temperatures up to 392 degrees Fahrenheit.

Crews set an h-frame steel structure in Eddy County, New Mexico.



ABOUT POWER FOR THE PLAINS Xcel Energy has invested in over 1,300 miles of new transmission lines since 2011 in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. Another 200 additional miles of transmission line is planned to be constructed through 2021. Since 2011, over 75 new substations have been built or upgraded. Another 11 substations will be built or upgraded through 2021. The transmission expansion represents more than \$3 billion in investment.

Sagamore Wind

Work on the new 522-megawatt Sagamore Wind Project in Roosevelt County, New Mexico continues. Crews have completed more than 150 of the 240 wind turbine foundations.

The project represents roughly 400 construction jobs and \$45 million in gross tax receipts. Over Sagamore's lifetime, the project will generate close to 30 full-time jobs and nearly \$132 million in state and local benefits.

Wind turbine components are currently arriving by train to Hobbs, New Mexico (the railhead is located at State Highway 18 and Jack Gomez Boulevard).

Base sections will arrive first, followed by generators and blades. Xcel Energy estimates it will require 1,920 shipments to deliver all the components over a six-month period.

Trucks will travel nearly 100 miles by way of Highway 18 to Lovington, and State Highway 206 north of Lovington to Dora. Components will then travel to each turbine site at various turnoffs from State Highway 206.

The Sagamore Wind Project is putting us on a path to achieve our vision to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

As wind technologies continue to improve, prices decline, making it possible to operate a reliable, affordable power grid with significant levels of renewable generation. Residential rates in Texas and New Mexico have declined over 3 years, thanks to increasingly cleaner energy and fuel savings.

Xcel Energy and our contractors are taking extra precautions to stay safe during the COVID-19 illness, including limiting visitors on job sites. To learn more about Xcel Energy's response to COVID-19 visit our website at xcelenergy.com/covid-19_response.

We are powering through this together. Thank you to our linemen and women who are getting essential work completed during the COVID-19 pandemic. #XEProud #PoweringThruTogether



Crews pour concrete for the base of a wind turbine foundation.

