



# POWER FOR THE PLAINS

DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION

## ELECTRIC GRID EXPANSION SUPPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE REGION, LARGEST WIND FARM IN NEW MEXICO TO COME ONLINE IN 2020

### Nearly 200 miles of new transmission and distribution line completed in 2019

Xcel Energy is upgrading and expanding the electric grid in portions of New Mexico and Texas, improving electric reliability, enabling future economic development and meeting growing demand for new generation.

"We are committed to our customers, and finding affordable options to utilize our industry leading capabilities to make smart investments for future growth," said David Hudson, president, Xcel Energy – New Mexico, Texas. "These projects are important for creating construction jobs and fueling future job creation for the region."

Construction began this month on the new 34-mile, 345-kilovolt Eddy-Kiowa transmission line in Eddy County, N.M. Xcel Energy is investing \$65 million to build the project, which will create additional capacity for electric load growth in the area, much of it due to oil and gas expansion.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, more than 300 million barrels of crude oil will be produced in New Mexico in 2019. New Mexico is now the third-largest oil-producing state, behind Texas and North Dakota. "We don't foresee the growth in the oil and gas industry slowing down here anytime soon," said Robert McEntyre, New Mexico Oil & Gas Association Director of Communications. "The industry is important for tax revenue for state and local government, and we couldn't do it without electricity. That's why Xcel Energy's investment in the electric grid is important."

In 2019, Xcel Energy built nearly 100 miles of new transmission line and nearly 100 miles of new distribution line in southeast New Mexico. In 2020, more than 100 miles of additional transmission line and nearly 300 miles of new distribution line will be built in the region.

The largest Power for the Plains project, the 168-mile TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs 345-kilovolt line, is expected to be energized in June 2020. All structures are now set, and conductor stringing is taking place on the final 105-mile section of line between the Yoakum County Substation southeast of Plains, Texas, and the TUCO Substation north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas.

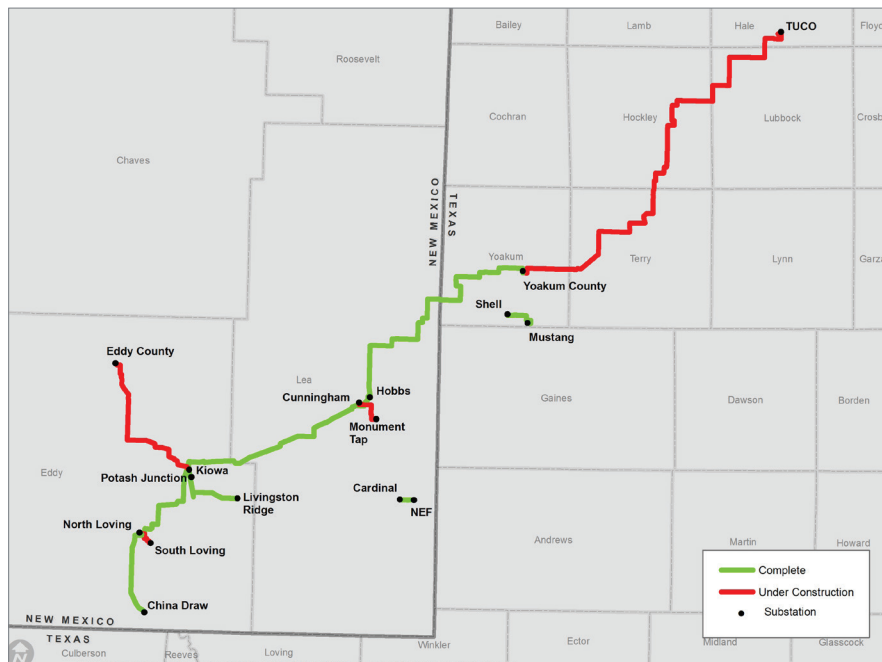
Transmission lines transport electricity to where it is needed. The power is converted to a lower voltage at a substation before being sent out over distribution lines to residents and businesses.



The last structure is set on the final segment of the TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs transmission line. The final segment will be energized in June 2020.

**ABOUT POWER FOR THE PLAINS** As part of 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.

## 2019 POWER FOR THE PLAINS PROJECTS



### Sagamore Wind Groundbreaking

Construction kicked off on New Mexico's largest wind farm—the 522-megawatt Sagamore Wind Project in Roosevelt County, N.M. The project, to be complete in 2020, includes 240 turbines with a new 14-mile line to transport the renewable generation to the transmission grid and on to the customers.

### Sagamore Wind Benefits



ENOUGH TO  
POWER ABOUT  
194,000 HOMES



400  
CONSTRUCTION  
JOBS



\$131.5 MILLION IN  
STATE AND LOCAL  
BENEFITS OVER LIFE  
OF PROJECT



### Life of a Lineman

Cody Williams, journeyman lineman, has been with Xcel Energy for nine years. Cody is one of approximately 150 employees and

contractors working on the TUCO-Yoakum-Hobbs project.

#### Q. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB?

A. In storm situations, getting the lights back on so people can go back to their everyday lives. I also like passing the torch of knowledge down to new employees so they can, one day, also pass that torch to others.

#### Q. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TAKING PART IN THE TUCO-YOAKUM-HOBBS PROJECT?

A. It feels good to be part of such a big project. You get to see a lot of different things. I like seeing it all come together.

#### Q. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR SOMEONE LOOKING TO BE A LINEMAN?

A. Take it all in. Watch your surroundings all the time and keep focused on the task in front of you. Never be scared to ask questions and don't be afraid to speak up. Speaking up respectfully applies to safety, and when you see a potentially better way to complete a task. It's a brotherhood out there -- we always stick together and always watch each other's backs.

### Stressing Safety

Crews conduct briefings at the start and end of each day to discuss safety impacts and mitigate potential hazards on the job.



"Safety is important because we want to make sure everybody goes home the same way they came to work," says journeyman lineman Brock Baker, Xcel Energy Field Safety representative.