



Siting and Land Rights

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June 25, 2015

Michele Gregg
Office of Public Utility Counsel
P.O. Box 12397
Austin, TX 78711-2397

Dear Ms. Gregg:

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., has filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or Commission) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity in order to construct and operate a new 345-kilovolt (kV) single-circuit transmission line within Yoakum and Gaines Counties, Texas and certain upgrades described below (Proposed Project) (***Application of Southwestern Public Service Company to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) for a Proposed 345-kV Transmission Line Within Yoakum and Gaines Counties, Texas***) – Docket No. 44726. SPS is requesting the approval of the Commission for the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is needed for reliability purposes associated with increased SPS network loads.

The Proposed Project will involve the construction of a new 345-kv single-circuit transmission line that will begin at the existing Yoakum County Substation located in Yoakum County, approximately six miles southeast of the city of Plains, and will extend generally southwest until it reaches the Texas State Line in either Yoakum County or Gaines County, depending on the route selected. The Yoakum County Substation will be expanded and will require upgrades including the addition of a 345/230-kV 560 MVA transformer, and a 345-kV bus that will accommodate the connection of the 345-kV transmission line. This Proposed Project represents the Texas portion of the Yoakum to Hobbs Project, which is part of a larger TUCO to Yoakum to Hobbs Project. The Southwest Power Pool (“SPP”) identified the Proposed Project as needed for reliability to alleviate loading violations on the underlying network and voltage violations due to insufficient power supply to network load additions. The SPP has issued a Notification to Construct for the Proposed Project.

The proposed 345-kV single-circuit transmission line will be constructed using primarily two-pole H-frame steel structures for tangents and light angles. High angle structures and

dead-end structures will be three-pole steel structures. The proposed 345-kv single-circuit transmission line will be constructed entirely on new right-of-way with a proposed easement width of 150 feet. In some circumstances, a wider easement may be necessary, however these locations and easement widths cannot be determined until the selected route is surveyed. In addition to the permanent easement, for construction purposes, SPS proposes a temporary easement of 50-feet with a 300 ft. x 300 ft. temporary easement for angles greater than 45 degrees.

The proposed 345-kV single-circuit transmission line is presented with 13 alternative routes consisting of a combined 40 links and is estimated to be approximately 20 to 48 miles depending on which route is selected.

Depending on the route chosen, the total cost of the Proposed Project, including the transmission line and substation costs, is estimated to be between approximately \$35.4 million and \$70.0 million.

Enclosed are a copy of a written description of the links to be used for the alternative routes and a map of the proposed project. **All routes and route links included in this notice are available for selection and approval by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.** A copy of the complete application, which includes larger, more detailed maps, is available for review at SPS's offices at Chase Tower, 600 S. Tyler Street, Suite 1800, Amarillo, Texas, 79101. The complete application is also available for review on the PUC's website at www.puc.state.tx.us, by using the PUC's filing retrieval system and the Docket No. assigned to the application. Information about the proposed project is also accessible on Xcel Energy's website *Power for the Plains* at <http://www.powerfortheplains.com>.

Persons who wish to intervene in the docket or comment on the application should mail the original and 10 copies of their requests to intervene or comments to:

Public Utility Commission of Texas
Central Records
Attn: Filing Clerk
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is August 10, 2015, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the Commission by that date.

The PUC has a brochure titled "Landowners and Transmission Line Cases at the PUC." Copies of the brochure are available from Lance Kenedy at 806-378-2435 or James Bagley at 806-378-2868 or may be downloaded from the PUC's website at www.puc.state.tx.us. To obtain additional information about this docket, you may contact the PUC's Customer Assistance Hotline at 512-936-7120 or 888-782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the

PUC's Customer Assistance Hotline at 512-936-7136 or toll free at 800-735-2989. In addition to the intervention deadline, other important deadlines may already exist that affect your participation in this docket. You should review the orders and other filings already made in the docket.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Lance Kenedy or James Bagley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sean L. Frederiksen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean L. Frederiksen, Supervisor
Siting and Land Rights

Enclosures