

## **Open House Landowner Mail Out**

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August XX, 2010

(Full Name)

(Address1)

(Address2)

(City, State Zip)

**Tract Number: (Tract Number)**

RE: Notice of Public Open House Meetings for the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project potentially located in Lubbock, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth, and Wheeler counties, Texas, and Beckham County, Oklahoma

Dear (Full Name),

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, Inc., invites you to attend a public Open House to review and comment on the proposed alternative route segments for the new TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project (Project). The Project consists of approximately 178 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of transmission line circuit, with proposed route segments located in Lubbock, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth, and Wheeler counties, Texas and Beckham County, Oklahoma. The proposed Project will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located approximately 2 miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnect point located between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma approximately 5 miles inside the Oklahoma Stateline.

Your property has been identified as located within 600 feet of one of the proposed alternative route segments. For you and other members of the community to provide comments and ask questions about the proposed alternative route segments, SPS will host four Open Houses (see attached Public Notice for details). The input you provide is important and will help SPS to select the proposed preferred and alternative routes to be included in its application to the PUCT. The meetings will be a "come-and-go" format between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. The materials displayed will also be available for reference at various local libraries, as detailed in the Public Notice.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Public Notice with Open House details, a map of the proposed alternative route segments, survey permission form, and frequently asked questions. Please feel free to attend any of the Open Houses on the Public Notice. If you are unable to attend any of the Open Houses and would like additional information, please contact SPS toll free at (800) 505-3230 or on the web at <http://www.powerfortheplains.com>.

Thank you,  
Southwestern Public Service Company

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS  
FOR THE TUCO TO TEXAS/OKLAHOMA INTERCONNECT  
345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

**MASSIE ACTIVITY CENTER**

513 WEST GEORGIA  
FLOYDADA, TX 79325  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010  
ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 – 7:30 PM

**MEMPHIS CONVENTION CENTER**

721 ROBERTSON STREET  
MEMPHIS, TX 79245  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010  
ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 – 7:30 PM

**THE HOPE CENTER**

117 WEST MAIN STREET  
QUITAQUE, TX 79255  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010  
ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 – 7:30 PM

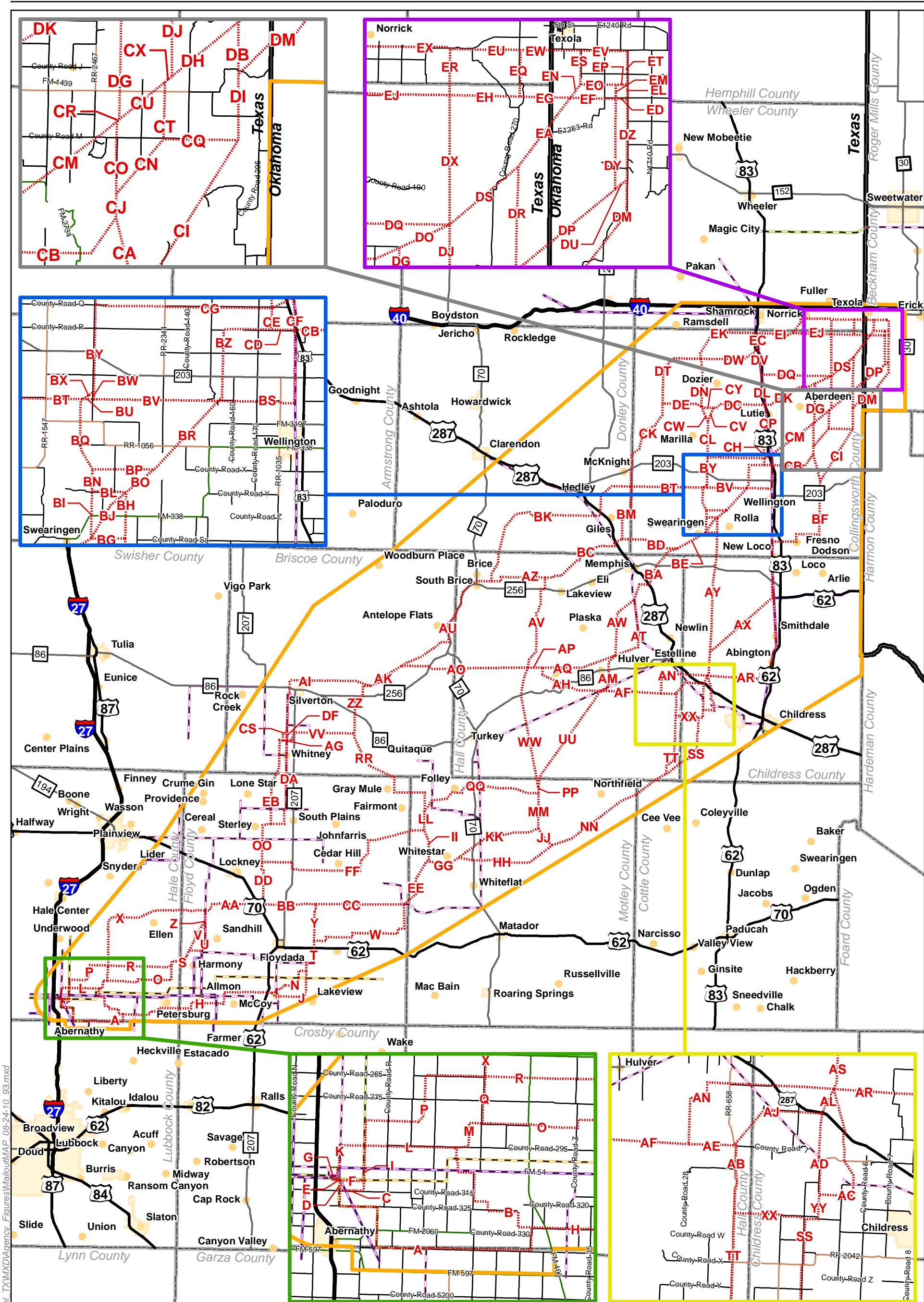
**SHAMROCK COMMUNITY CENTER**

911 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
SHAMROCK, TX 79079  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010  
ANYTIME BETWEEN 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., is proposing to construct a new 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project as part of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) network upgrade. The project consists of approximately 178 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of transmission line circuit, with proposed alternative route segments located in Lubbock, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth, and Wheeler counties, Texas, and Beckham County, Oklahoma. The proposed project will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located approximately 2 miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnect point located between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma approximately 5 miles inside the Oklahoma Stateline.

The proposed alternative route segments were identified by TRC, a consulting company retained by SPS for the project, in compliance with the rules and regulations of the PUCT and the Texas Utilities Code. As part of the on-going routing process, SPS will host four Public Open House Meetings to display the proposed route segments for the project, allowing individuals to provide comments and ask questions about the proposed project. Detailed maps and information will be available at the meetings for review anytime between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Please note there are no formal presentations at the Open Houses. Materials displayed will also be available for reference at the Sayre Public Library, Caprock Public Library, Childress Public Library, Collingsworth Public Library, Burton Memorial Library, Floyd County Library, Petersburg Public Library, Memphis Public Library, Turkey Public Library, Motley County Library, and Shamrock Public Library.

If you have any questions concerning the Open Houses, please contact SPS on the internet at <http://www.powerfortheplains.com> or by calling toll free at (800) 505-3230.



R:\Projects\GIS\2010175634\_Xcel\_TX\MXD\Agency\_Figures\Map\Map\_08-24-10\_03.mxd

**Legend**

- Potential Segments
- Study Area
- City
- County Boundary
- State Boundary
- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Farm To Market Roads
- Ranch Roads
- County Roads

**Existing Transmission**

- 69Kv
- 115Kv
- 138Kv
- 230Kv
- 345Kv

0 5 10 15 Miles

1:775,000

Map Location

**Xcel Energy**

**TRC**

**TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect  
345 kV Transmission Line Project**

Prepared by: R Frazier

AUGUST 2010

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State of \_\_\_\_\_

## **PERMISSION TO SURVEY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County,  
State of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby grant to Southwestern Public  
Service Company, a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, Inc. and its representatives, my  
permission and consent to enter upon the following described land, which is  
either owned and/or leased by me, for the purpose of making a survey for  
boundary determination, archeological inspections, cultural analysis, and soil  
sampling for a possible route for an electric transmission power line.

Section \_\_\_\_\_, Block/Township \_\_\_\_\_, Survey/Range \_\_\_\_\_,  
County \_\_\_\_\_

Tract Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tenant



## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can you tell me more about the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project?

A: Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., is proposing to construct a new 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project as part of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) network upgrade. The project consists of approximately 178 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of transmission line circuit. The proposed project will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located approximately 2 miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnect point located between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma approximately 5 miles inside the Oklahoma Stateline.

Q: Where will the new transmission line be located?

A: The location of the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect transmission line is currently under study as part of the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity regulatory process. The proposed project will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located approximately 2 miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnect point located between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma approximately 5 miles inside the Oklahoma Stateline. The study area includes the Texas counties of Lubbock, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth, and Wheeler, and Beckham County, Oklahoma.

Q: When will the lines be built?

Transmission line construction is expected to occur in the summer of 2011 after a public process to determine routing. The Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application for the transmission line will be filed with the PUCT in December 2010; and a decision is expected in summer 2011. Schedules can change, so please continue to check the website at [www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com) and read your local newspaper for continued information.

Q: Who will benefit from the transmission improvements?

All electricity customers in the project area and the surrounding region in Texas will benefit from a more robust and reliable electric transmission system. The TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect Project will address potentially serious local reliability issues in the area. Reliable and affordable electricity is the backbone to a robust economy and vibrant community.

Q: How will landowners be affected?

A: SPS representatives will contact all potentially affected landowners by letter as part of the Public Open House process. Potentially affected landowners whose property is within 500 feet of one of the proposed alternative route segments will be advised of the possibility that the transmission line route may cross or be near their property. This will give them an opportunity to participate in the review and routing process. Once the final route has been selected by the PUCT, landowners affected will again be contacted. Surveys for protected environmental resources as well as engineering elements will be completed as part of the routing process, and SPS representatives will ask permission from affected landowners prior to entry on their land.

Q: How can I get involved?

Open Houses are designed to communicate with the public and solicit important input for routing decisions. All comments, information and suggestions are valued and taken into consideration during development of the proposed project. Additionally, feedback can be provided to SPS representatives through toll-free phone number (800) 505-3230, or the website at [www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com). In addition, landowners are free to communicate directly to the PUCT.

Q: How will SPS choose a route for the transmission lines?

A: Alternative routes are determined by routing studies conducted by SPS and its contractors. Engineers and scientists identify potential alternative route segments using aerial photography, field review, and helicopter flyover. Residents, public officials, government agencies and other concerned parties are invited to attend Open House Meetings. These meetings are to inform the public of the proposed alternative route segments and to gather important input for routing decisions. Information regarding the proposed project is also made available for viewing in public locations and on the project website at [www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com).

SPS relies upon information from the residents, landowners, and all concerned parties to make informed decisions when evaluating and ultimately selecting the alternative routes to be submitted to the PUCT as part of the application for a CCN. Ultimately the PUCT will select the final route of the transmission line and issue a final order to that effect.

Q: What do transmission line structures look like?

A: SPS plans to use H-frame structures for the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project. H-frame structures are two wood or steel poles with cross bracing and conductor supports. They can be embedded in the ground without a foundation and vary in height from 75 to 150 feet; spans between structures range from 600 to 900 feet.

Q: What impact will the proposed projects have on property values?

Property values are impacted by various factors. The proposed project is just one of many market factors which could be perceived to impact a property's value. SPS is not able to speculate as to the exact nature of any impact on a property; however, fair compensation will be paid for the acquisition of the easements in accordance with eminent domain laws of the state.

Q: How much will SPS pay for an easement?

A: The SPS utilities will provide fair compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host power lines. Property owners retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. For more information on transmission line easements, please visit the project website at [www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com).

Q: Are transmission lines safe?

A: Every effort is made to ensure safety in construction, operation and maintenance of transmission lines. Lines and line infrastructure are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions. Protective devices at line terminals stop the electricity flow under any abnormal operating circumstances. Utility practices meet or exceed standards set by national electric safety codes as well as those adopted by local governments.

**Q: Why can't the transmission lines be placed underground?**

A: SPS is proposing overhead lines because of reliability and cost. While it is common for lower voltage transmission lines to be buried (lines less than 69 kV), it is rare to build high voltage transmission lines underground. Underground high-voltage transmission lines generally cost up to 10 times more than overhead high-voltage lines. The technology to build lines underground for long distances is also extremely difficult to manage. With overhead lines, air cools the lines and keeps them at a safe operating temperature. Underground lines require cooling mechanisms, which increases cost and decreases reliability. Locating and repairing underground line failures also takes longer, leading to longer outages. Installing underground high voltage transmission lines requires lengthy, disruptive construction techniques. Design concerns such as capacity and heat dissipation are frequent limitations. Underground systems are justified primarily in heavily populated downtown urban centers, where right-of-way is severely limited for overhead lines.

**Q: How will my electric rates be affected by the construction of these transmission lines?**

A: Retail electric rates are regulated by the PUCT. Integrated electric utility companies like SPS must file a petition with the PUCT, called a rate case, justifying the cost of the transmission component of their retail electric rate.

**Q: What is EMF?**

A: Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are created by anything that conducts electricity, including transmission lines, household appliances and business equipment. These fields are strongest closest to their source, so the farther away you are from the source, the less EMF reaches your body. EMF exposure from transmission lines, which are high in the air and outside the negotiated easement, is minimal. Decades of scientific and medical research, reviewed by science organizations and government agencies, have found no cause/effect evidence of threats to human health from EMF. For more information, as well as an extensive list of references, review a booklet prepared by the National Institute of Environmental Health Services, National Institute of Health, on their website at [www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/).

## Questionnaire

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## TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project Questionnaire

1. I attended the Open House held in:

- ☐ Floydada (Floyd County)  
☐ Memphis (Hall County)

- ☐ Quitaque (Briscoe County)  
☐ Shamrock (Wheeler County)

☐ None

2. I first became aware of Open House Meetings:

- ☐ From a personal mailing  
☐ From a newspaper notice  
☐ From a friend or neighbor

- ☐ From internet website  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. A proposed alternative route segment is:

- ☐ On my land  
☐ Near my business

- ☐ Near my home  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. If you own property near a proposed alternative route segment, please indicate all of the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture  
☐ Commercial  
☐ Residential

- ☐ Industrial  
☐ Conservation Easement  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. I have owned/resided in the area:

- ☐ 0-5 years  
☐ 6-10 years  
☐ 11-15 years

- ☐ 16-20 years  
☐ 21+ years  
☐ I do not own/reside in the area

6. I feel the information provided this evening adequately explains the need for the SPS transmission line proposed in my area: Yes No

If no, what further information would be of use to you?

7. Have you seen the aerial photos with the alternative route segments? If not, please ask to be directed to them and study the features on these photos. Are the features on the maps accurately located? Yes No

Do the aerials properly represent present land use and structures? Yes No

If no, please let an SPS representative know so the additions/corrections can be added to the maps.

Are you aware of any additional features that are not shown or that are not correctly depicted? Yes No

If yes, let an SPS representative know so the additions/corrections can be added to the maps.

8. Do you have any comments regarding the routing of the alternative route segments?

**List of Alternative Route Segments** (Alternative Route Segments are shown on the aerial photographs)

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Comments

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9. Please provide the tract number(s) for your property. (Tract numbers are listed on the mailed notices and are also available at the Landowner/Right-of-way station with the computers.)

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10. If you would like to provide your name and address please do so below.

Name:

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Mailing Address:

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City, State, Zip Code:

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Property Address (if different):

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City, State, Zip Code:

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Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further comments or wish to submit this questionnaire at a later time (prior to November 1, 2010) please mail or fax SPS to the attention of:

Ms. Anastacia Santos, Project Manager  
505 East Huntland Drive, Suite 250  
Austin, TX 78752  
Phone: (800) 505-3230  
Fax: (512) 329-8750  
Email: [tuco@trcsolutions.com](mailto:tuco@trcsolutions.com)

Thank you for your comments,  
Southwestern Public Service Company

## **Additional Affected Landowner Mail Out**

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March 02, 2011

(Full Name)

(Address1)

(Address2)

(City, State Zip)

**Tract Number:** (Tract Number)

RE: Notice of Proposed Alternative Route Segments for the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project potentially located in Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth, and Wheeler counties, Texas, and Beckham County, Oklahoma

Dear (Full Name),

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., is proposing to construct a new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in the Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma known as the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Project). The Project consists of approximately 180 to 200 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of transmission line circuit, with proposed alternative route segments located in Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth, and Wheeler counties, Texas and Beckham County, Oklahoma. The proposed Project will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located approximately two miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnection point located between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma approximately three miles inside the Oklahoma Stateline.

In September 2010, SPS hosted public open houses in Floydada, Memphis, Quitaque, and Shamrock, Texas. Using public input collected at these open houses as well as other data received, a thorough review of all proposed preliminary route segments was conducted. As a result of this review, some existing preliminary route segments have been modified and newly proposed alternative route segments created. One of these newly proposed alternative route segments has been identified as located directly on your property, or within 500 feet of a habitable structure on your property.

SPS will file a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application with the PUCT for the Project in the spring of 2011. **The CCN application will include a route designated by SPS as the "preferred route"; however, any of the proposed alternative routes and/or their segments may be selected by the PUCT.** Once the CCN application is filed, direct notice of the filing will be mailed to all directly affected landowners and owners of habitable structures within 500 feet of the centerline of any proposed route segment. Maps of the preferred and alternative routes will be available on the Project website, at selected local libraries, and by direct request. Enclosed is a map showing your property in relation to a newly proposed segment, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions document, which addresses general questions regarding the Project. If you would like additional information, please visit the project website at [www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com), call toll free at (800) 505-3230, or send an email to [TUCO@trcsolutions.com](mailto:TUCO@trcsolutions.com).

Thank you,  
Southwestern Public Service Company

Enclosures

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## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can you tell me more about the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project?

A: Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., is proposing to construct a new 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project as part of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) network upgrade. The project consists of approximately 180 to 200 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of transmission line circuit. The proposed project will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located approximately two miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnection point located between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma approximately three miles inside the Oklahoma Stateline.

Q: Where will the new transmission line be located?

A: The location of the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect transmission line is currently under study as part of the PUCT's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) regulatory process. The proposed project will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located approximately two miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnection point located between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma approximately three miles inside the Oklahoma Stateline. The study area includes the Texas counties of Lubbock, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth, and Wheeler, and Beckham County, Oklahoma. Although included in the study area, no alternative route segments are proposed in Lubbock County or Swisher County.

Q: When will the lines be built?

A: Transmission line construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2013. The CCN application for the transmission line will be filed with the PUCT in the spring of 2011; and a decision is expected late spring of 2012. Schedules can change, so please continue to check the website at **[www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com)** and read your local newspaper for continued information.

Q: Who will benefit from the transmission improvements?

A: All electricity customers in the project area and the surrounding region in Texas will benefit from a more robust and reliable electric transmission system. Reliable and affordable electricity is the backbone to a robust economy and vibrant community.

Q: How will landowners be affected?

A: Landowners of property directly affected or near a proposed preliminary alternative route segment in the study area were notified of such and were invited to participate in the four Open House Meetings held in September 2010. Once SPS files the CCN application with the PUCT, direct notice of the filing will be mailed to all directly affected landowners and owners of habitable structures within 500 feet of any proposed route segment in the application.

Q: How can I get involved?

A: Although the Open House Meetings have already been held, SPS representatives value all comments, information, and suggestions and will be available to discuss the proposed project. Inquiries can be directed to SPS representatives through the toll-free phone number (800) 505-3230, through the website at **[www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com)**, or through the project email [TUCO@trcsolutions.com](mailto:TUCO@trcsolutions.com). In addition, landowners are free to communicate directly to the PUCT. A brochure developed by the PUCT will be included with the landowner notification packet that explains the process and how landowners can participate after the CCN application has been filed.

Q: How will SPS choose a route for the transmission line?

A: Ultimately, the PUCT will select the final route of the transmission line and issue a final order to that effect. However, SPS first identified alternative routes through routing studies conducted with contractors. Engineers and scientists identified potential alternative route segments using aerial photography, field review, and helicopter flyover. These preliminary alternative route segments were presented at four Open House Meetings held during September 2010, to inform the public of the proposed segments and to gather important input for routing decisions. Landowner input received at and following these meetings was factored into further refinement of the preliminary alternative route segments, which caused additional property to be potentially affected.

Once SPS files the CCN application with the PUCT, direct notice of the filing will be mailed to all directly affected landowners and owners of habitable structures within 500 feet of any proposed route segment, and information regarding the proposed project will also be made available for viewing in public locations and on the project website at [www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com). Landowners and concerned parties can provide information and feedback directly to SPS as described above, or to the PUCT.

SPS relies upon information from the residents, landowners, and all concerned parties to make informed decisions when evaluating and ultimately selecting the alternative routes to be submitted to the PUCT as part of the application for a CCN.

Q: What do transmission line structures look like?

A: SPS plans to use steel H-frame tangent structures for the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project. The H-frame tangent structures SPS proposes to use in this project consist of two tubular steel poles with cross bracing and conductor supports. They may be embedded in the ground without a concrete foundation and the typical structure height will be 90 to 140 feet; typical span length between structures range from 800 to 1,000 feet. In some special cases due to constraints the span length may be as much as 1700 feet with structure heights as tall as 175 feet. The corner and angle structures will be three pole tubular steel structures on concrete foundations.

Q: What impact will the proposed projects have on property values?

A: Property values are impacted by various factors. The proposed project is just one of many market factors which could be perceived to impact a property's value. SPS is not able to speculate as to the exact nature of any impact on a property; however, fair compensation will be paid for the acquisition of the easements in accordance with eminent domain laws of the state.

Q: How much will SPS pay for an easement?

A: SPS will provide fair compensation in the form of a one-time easement payment to property owners who host power lines. Property owners retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures.

Q: Are transmission lines safe?

A: Every effort is made to ensure safety in construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission lines. Lines and line infrastructure are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions. Protective devices at line terminals stop the electricity flow under any abnormal operating circumstances. Utility practices meet or exceed standards set by national electric safety codes as well as those adopted by local governments.

Q: Why can't the transmission lines be placed underground?

A: Underground systems are justified primarily in heavily populated downtown urban centers where right-of-way is severely limited for overhead lines, which is not the case in this project. SPS is proposing overhead lines because of reliability and cost. Underground high-voltage transmission lines generally cost up to 10 times more than overhead high-voltage lines. The technology to build lines underground for long distances is also extremely difficult to manage. With overhead lines, air cools the lines and keeps them at a safe operating temperature. Underground lines require cooling mechanisms, which increases cost and decreases reliability. Locating and repairing underground line failures also takes longer, leading to longer outages. Installing underground high voltage transmission lines requires lengthy, disruptive construction techniques. Design concerns such as capacity and heat dissipation are frequent limitations.

Q: How will my electric rates be affected by the construction of these transmission lines?

A: Retail electric rates are regulated by the PUCT. Integrated electric utility companies like SPS must first receive PUCT approval of its CCN, and upon completion of construction, SPS must seek approval from the PUCT in order to recover the costs associated with construction of new transmission lines.

Q: What is EMF?

A: Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are created by anything that conducts electricity, including transmission lines, household appliances, and business equipment. These fields are strongest closest to their source, so the farther away you are from the source, the less EMF reaches your body. EMF exposure from transmission lines, which are high in the air, is minimal. Decades of scientific and medical research, reviewed by science organizations and government agencies, have found no cause/effect evidence of threats to human health from EMF. For more information, as well as an extensive list of references, review a booklet prepared by the National Institute of Environmental Health Services, National Institute of Health, on their website at [www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/).

## **Project Update Postcard**

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**I**n spring 2010, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) approved a series of new transmission lines in several Xcel Energy states, including Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, to help improve electric reliability, strengthen the existing transmission grid and provide outlets for additional renewable wind generation. SPP is a regional transmission organization, mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale prices of electricity.

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., and a member of SPP, launched the Power for the Plains initiative – a \$1 billion transmission expansion plan consisting of new transmission lines and related facilities to be constructed in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma during the next six years.

## **TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Transmission Line Project**

As part of Power for the Plains, SPS is proposing the TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project in the Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma. The project consists of the construction of approximately 180 to 200 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of new transmission line that will connect the existing SPS TUCO Substation, located about two miles north of Abernathy in Hale County, Texas, to a proposed interconnection point between Texola and Erick in Beckham County, Oklahoma, about three miles inside the Oklahoma state line. The project study area includes portions of Lubbock, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Donley, Collingsworth and Wheeler counties, Texas, as well as Beckham County, Oklahoma.

## **Project Update**

In September 2010, SPS hosted public open houses in Floydada, Memphis, Quitaque and Shamrock, Texas. Using public input collected at the open houses as well as other data received, a thorough review of all proposed preliminary route segments was conducted. SPS will file a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application for the project with the PUCT in spring 2011. Once the CCN is filed, maps of the proposed alternative routes will be available on the project website, [www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com), at selected local libraries, and by direct request.

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**Powerfortheplains.com**



505 East Huntland Drive, Suite 250  
Austin, Texas 78752



Presorted  
First-Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Saint Paul, MN  
Permit No. 3302



## Contact Us

TUCO to Texas/Oklahoma Interconnect 345 kV Project  
ATTN: Anastacia Santos  
505 East Huntland Drive, Suite 250  
Austin, Texas 78752

1-800-505-3230  
TUCO@trcsolutions.com  
[www.powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com)