

Appendix B

Public Involvement

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July 28, 2011
(Via Mail)

Name
Address
City, TX Zip


Dear Landowner,

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a division of Xcel Energy, is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line in Hale County, Texas. The proposed Kiser to Cox transmission line will be approximately 8 miles long, depending upon the route approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. The proposed transmission line will connect the proposed Kiser Substation (located in the City of Plainview, Texas at the intersection of Date Street and E 24th Street) to the existing Cox Substation (located near the City of Plainview, Texas south of the intersection of County Road 95 and County Road EE). Please see the enclosed map.

You are receiving this notice regarding the aforementioned proposed project because one or more of the preliminary alternative routes for the proposed transmission line may require an easement or other property interest across your property, or the centerline of one of the preliminary alternative routes may be located within 300 feet of your property.

SPS is committed to routing the proposed transmission line in a manner consistent with the values of the local communities, the Texas Utilities Code, the Public Utility Commission of Texas Rules and Policies, and the need to provide reliable electric service to this area of North Texas. In support of the routing process, SPS is holding a public participation meeting to solicit input for use in identifying alternative routes for the proposed transmission line and to share information about line routing alternatives. The public meeting will be held Thursday August 11, 2011, at the Plainview ISD Education Complex Boardroom located at 2411 Yonkers in Plainview, Texas from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

POWER Engineers, Inc. (POWER) a consulting firm retained by SPS, has identified preliminary alternative transmission line routes for consideration which are shown as dashed lines on the map and will be available at the meeting to discuss these routes. Maps with greater detail will be exhibited at the meeting. Individuals attending this "come and go" open house meeting will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide information to representatives and technical experts from SPS and POWER regarding the routing of the proposed transmission line. These preliminary alternative routes are subject to modification based on further study and information received at the public meeting. If you have any questions concerning this meeting, please contact Kelli D. Boren at (806) 378-2725. If you are unable to attend the open house, we encourage you to visit the project website, <http://www.powerfortheplains.com/projects>, to find more information.

Sincerely,

Kelli Boren
Xcel Energy
Enclosure

Kiser to Kress
Interchange 115-kV
Electric Transmission
Line Project



Kiser to Cox
Interchange 115-kV
Electric Transmission
Line Project

We welcome your comments on the Kiser to Kress and Kiser to Cox Interchange 115-kV transmission line projects. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions. To ensure that your comments will be incorporated in the analysis of alternatives, please return this form at the open house or not later than August 25, 2011 to the following address: Xcel Energy P.O. Box 1261 Amarillo, Texas 79105. You may also submit your comments by email to Mel.D.Boren@xcelenergy.com. To find more information, we encourage you to visit the project web site: <http://www.powerfortheplains.com/projects>

Commenter #: _____

1. Please provide your name and address:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

4. Are you a resident in the project study corridors?

... Yes

... No

2. Which project are you commenting on with this form?

... Kiser to Kress

... Kiser to Cox

... Both

5. If you answered 'no' to the question above, please indicate any affiliation that has led to your interest in this project.

... Agency City or Town

... Developer Landowner

... Other: _____

3. Which segment is closest to you or are you concerned about? Segment _____

6. Xcel Energy has identified several key potential issues associated with the preliminary alternatives. Below is a table that lists these key potential issues. Please mark your concern level for each of the key potential issues:

Key Potential	High Concern	o o o o o o o o o o	Least Concern
Proximity to residences			
Mechanized Agriculture			
Flood Irrigation			
Dry land/Pasture			
Agricultural Wells			
Livestock Operations			
Agricultural Out structures			
Aesthetics			
Adjacent to existing transmission/distribution lines			
Other			

7. What additional comments would you like to make related to the alternative segments(s) displayed?

8. What additional comments do you have regarding the project overall?

Thank you for your comments. Write on the back or attach additional pages if necessary. You may also send additional comments or questions to the address listed on this form.

Project Area and
Preliminary Segments



Print Date: July 27, 2011



Legend

Project Features

- Proposed Substation Site
- Study Area Boundary
- Preliminary Route Segment and Label
- Preliminary Route Segment Node

Land Use

- Airport/Landing Strip
- Landing Strip

Existing Utilities

- Substation
- Transmission Line

Jurisdictional Boundaries

- City Boundary
- County Boundary

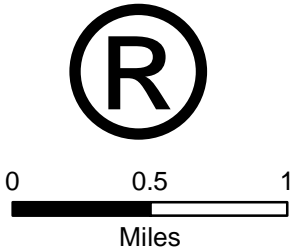
Transportation

- Railroad
- Interstate
- US Highway
- FM/Ranch Road
- Local Road

Water

- River or Stream
- Waterbody

Note: Some legend symbols are enlarged for easier identification
Base Map: USGS Topographic Map from ESRI



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Kiser to Kress
Interchange 115-kV
Electric Transmission
Line Project



Kiser to Cox
Interchange 115-kV
Electric Transmission
Line Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can you tell me more about the Kiser to Kress Interchange 115 kV Electric Transmission Line Project?

A: Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project as part of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) network upgrade. The project consists of approximately 16 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of transmission line circuit. The proposed project will connect the proposed Kiser Substation located at the intersection of Date Street and E 24th Street in Hale County, Texas to the existing Kress Substation located south of the intersection of County Road 10 and County Road Y in Swisher County, Texas.

Q: Where will the new Kiser to Kress Interchange 115 kV Electric Transmission Line transmission line be located?

A: The location of the Kiser to Kress Interchange transmission line is currently under study as part of the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity regulatory process. The proposed project will connect the proposed Kiser Substation located at the intersection of Date Street and E 24th Street in Hale County, Texas to the existing Kress Substation located south of the intersection of County Road 10 and County Road Y in Swisher County, Texas. The study area includes the Texas counties of Hale, and Swisher.

Q: Can you tell me more about the Kiser to Cox Interchange 115 kV Electric Transmission Line Project?

A: Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), a subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., is proposing to construct a new 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line project as part of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) network upgrade. The project consists of approximately 8 miles (depending on the route selected by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)) of transmission line circuit. The proposed project will connect the proposed Kiser Substation located at the intersection of Date Street and E 24th Street in Hale County, Texas to the existing Cox Substation located south of the intersection of County Road 95 and County Road EE in Hale County, Texas.

Q: Where will the new Kiser to Cox Interchange 115 kV Electric Transmission Line be located?

A: The location of the Kiser to Cox Interchange transmission line is currently under study as part of the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity regulatory process. The proposed project will connect the proposed Kiser Substation located at the intersection of Date Street and E 24th Street in Hale County, Texas to the existing Cox Substation located south of the intersection of County Road 95 and County Road EE in Hale County, Texas.

Q: When will the new lines be built?

A: Transmission line construction for both projects is expected to occur in the fall of 2013. The Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application for the transmission lines will be filed with the PUCT in December 2011; and a decision is expected in late 2012 or early 2013. Schedules can change, so please continue to check the website at 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. The Kiser to Kress and Kiser to Cox Interchange Projects 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 300 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?

A: 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 1 800 505 8230, or the website at 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.

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 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: 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.

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: SPSs 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 increase cost and decrease 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/

AGENCIES CONTACTED

FEDERAL

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

STATE

- Railroad Commission of Texas
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - ¾ Executive Director
 - ¾ Lubbock Regional Director
- Texas Department of Transportation
 - ¾ Aviation Division
 - ¾ Environmental Affairs Division
 - ¾ Lubbock District
 - ¾ Planning and Programming
- Texas General Land Office
- Texas Historical Commission
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Texas Water Development Board

LOCAL

- City Officials (Kress and Plainview)
- Hale and Swisher Counties Farm Bureau
- Hale and Swisher Counties Historical Commission
- Hale and Swisher Counties Offices
- School ISDs (Kress and Plainview)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE CRITERIA FOR TRANSMISSION LINE EVALUATION

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Length of alternative route

Total number of habitable structures¹ within 300 feet of the ROW centerline

Length of ROW parallel and adjacent to apparent property boundaries²

Length of ROW using existing compatible ROW

Length of ROW parallel and adjacent to existing transmission line ROW

Length of ROW parallel and adjacent to existing pipelines

Total length of route parallel and adjacent to existing corridors (including apparent property boundaries)

Percentage of route parallel and adjacent to existing corridors (including apparent property boundaries)

Length of ROW through cropland

Length of ROW through pasture/rangeland

Length of ROW through land irrigated by traveling systems (rolling or pivot type)

Number of pipeline crossings

Number of transmission line crossings

Number of railroad crossings

Number of Interstate, U.S. and State highway crossings

Number of farm-to-market (FM) and ranch road (RR) crossings

Number of cemeteries within 1,000 feet of the ROW centerline

Number of private airstrips within 10,000 feet of the ROW centerline

Number of heliports within 5,000 feet of the ROW centerline

Number of FAA registered airports with at least one runway more than 3,200 feet in length located within 20,000 feet of the ROW centerline

Number of FAA registered airports having no runway more than 3,200 feet in length located within 10,000 feet of the ROW centerline

Number of commercial AM radio transmitters within 10,000 feet of the ROW centerline

Number of FM radio transmitters, microwave towers, and other electronic installations within 2,000 feet of the ROW centerline

¹ Single-family and multi-family dwellings, and related structures, mobile homes, apartment buildings, commercial structures, industrial structures, business structures, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, schools or other structures normally inhabited by humans or intended to be inhabited by humans on a daily or regular basis within 300 feet of the centerline of a transmission project of 230 kV or less.

² Apparent property boundaries created by existing roads, highway, or railroad ROW are not “double-counted” in the length of ROW parallel to property lines criteria.

³ Defined as parks and recreational areas owned by a governmental body or an organized group, club, or church.

€One-half mile, unobstructed.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE CRITERIA FOR TRANSMISSION LINE EVALUATION

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Number of parks/recreational areas³ within 1,000 feet of the ROW centerline

Estimated length of ROW within foreground visual zone of Interstate, U.S. and State highways

Estimated length of ROW within foreground visual zone of FM roads

Estimated length of ROW within foreground visual zone of park/recreational areas³

Length of ROW across NWI mapped wetlands

Length of ROW across known habitat of federally listed endangered or threatened species

Length of ROW across open water (lakes, ponds)

Number of stream crossings

Number of river crossings

Length of ROW parallel (within 100 feet) to streams or rivers

Length of ROW across 100-year floodplain

Number of recorded historic or prehistoric sites crossed by ROW

Number of recorded historic or prehistoric sites within 1,000 feet of ROW centerline

Number of additional National Register listed or determined eligible sites crossed by ROW

Number of additional National Register listed or determined eligible sites within 1,000 feet of ROW centerline

Length of ROW through areas of high archaeological/historical site potential

¹ Single-family and multi-family dwellings, and related structures, mobile homes, apartment buildings, commercial structures, industrial structures, business structures, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, schools or other structures normally inhabited by humans or intended to be inhabited by humans on a daily or regular basis within 300 feet of the centerline of a transmission project of 230 kV or less.

² Apparent property boundaries created by existing roads, highway, or railroad ROW are not “double-counted” in the length of ROW parallel to property lines criteria.

³ Defined as parks and recreational areas owned by a governmental body or an organized group, club, or church.

One-half mile, unobstructed.