



**NEWS
RELEASE**

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Xcel Energy completes North, East Amarillo upgrades

Upgraded power line boosts transmission network to meet growing demand

AMARILLO, Texas – Xcel Energy crews are in the final stages of upgrading a north Amarillo high-voltage transmission line, capping a multiyear Power for the Plains project to upgrade the reliability and capacity of the power delivery system that feeds electricity to the northern and eastern parts of the city.

The new, \$3.5 million line is an upgrade of an existing transmission line from 69 kilovolts to 115 kilovolts. The original line, roughly five miles in length, ran from the East Plant Substation near Grand Street and N.E. Third Avenue to the Hastings Substation on Hastings Avenue at Broadway Drive. The upgraded line follows the same path but now terminates, by way of Hastings, at the new Rolling Hills Substation on Cherry Street. Additionally, the East Plant Substation has been upgraded to accommodate 115-kilovolt service.

Last year the company invested more than \$20 million to build the new Rolling Hills Substation and a new 115-kilovolt line from Rolling Hills to the Hastings Substation near Broadway and Hastings. With the East Plant link complete, total new investment in the north and east Amarillo transmission network is approximately \$26 million.

“This project, along with the other Amarillo transmission enhancements, helps prevent and minimize outages by providing alternate routes for power to flow in the case of outages on the network,” said David Hudson, president of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company. “These lines also boost the long-term capacity of the system, which helps us meet the growing demand for electricity in north Amarillo and around the entire city.”

Transmission lines are the “highways” of the power grid, moving power from generation sources to the distribution substations within regional towns and cities.

The Amarillo projects were identified and ordered as necessary improvements in a 2010 study by the Southwest Power Pool, the regional transmission organization that coordinates reliability on the transmission system serving portions of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.

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Xcel Energy's Southwestern Public Service Company subsidiary serves 80 communities in the Panhandle and South Plains of Texas and 14 communities in eastern and southeastern New Mexico. The company's transmission system reaches even farther, taking in the Oklahoma Panhandle and portions of southwestern Kansas.

More information about Xcel Energy's Texas-New Mexico transmission line projects, including the Rolling Hills-to-Hastings transmission line, can be found at www.powerfortheplains.com.

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in eight Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.5 million electricity customers and 1.9 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information is available at www.xcelenergy.com.

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