



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Xcel Energy/SPS mark 70 years of service in Dalhart**

*More than \$36 million invested in upgrades as region continues growth*

DALHART, Texas – Xcel Energy’s Southwestern Public Service Company is marking 70 years of service to Dalhart as it stakes a claim on the area’s future with millions of dollars invested in recent electric system improvements.

Southwestern Public Service Company has played a role in Dalhart’s development since it purchased the local electric system from West Texas Utilities Company in 1946. At the time, one of the largest users of power was an ice plant that supplied ice for fruit trains stopping in from California on their way to eastern markets.

In the post-war period, electric demand grew with irrigated agriculture and associated agribusinesses, and SPS grew along with the local economy. Now the company is boosting its system to sustain new growth in dairies and food processing, and to create more opportunities for the core businesses that have been here all along.

“We’ve been a partner with Dalhart and the surrounding region through many years of ups and downs,” said Jesse Shuffield, Xcel Energy’s manager for Community & Economic Development. “Through it all, we’ve developed a power system that helps the region remain competitive and provide the jobs that keep the economy moving.”

In December 2015, Xcel Energy completed a \$22 million upgrade of an existing transmission line from the Amarillo area, boosting its carrying capacity from 115,000 kilovolts to 230,000 kilovolts (a kilovolt is one thousand volts). As part of this [Power for the Plains](#) project, Xcel Energy built a new facility called XIT Substation in Dalhart to provide a terminus for the new line. In 2011, Xcel Energy completed a \$14.5 million transmission line between the Dallam County and Sherman County substations – a distance of more than 37 miles.

“Both of these projects have vastly improved our ability to serve industrial growth in Dallam County,” Shuffield said.

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Xcel Energy is a utility holding company with four distinct operating companies. Its Texas-New Mexico operating company, Southwestern Public Service Company, is based in Amarillo and serves more than 360,000 retail and wholesale customers in a 52,000 square-mile territory that includes eastern and southeastern New Mexico, the Texas Panhandle and the Texas South Plains.

In Dalhart, Xcel Energy serves more than 4,000 customers, and pays more than \$300,000 in taxes and franchise fees to support local governments, in addition to spending thousands of dollars with local vendors and suppliers.

Even as Xcel Energy provides the power for the local economy, it also stimulates the development of community life through Xcel Energy Foundation grants, corporate sponsorships and support of the United Way. Additionally, Xcel Energy provides matching grants for employee donations and volunteer hours.

“Our employees are active in the communities we serve, and the company supports their efforts in a variety of ways,” Shuffield said. “We offer dollar-for-dollar matches on employee gifts to nonprofits, and through our Dollars for Doing program, we pay nonprofits \$10 for every hour our employees spend in volunteer service to their favorite causes.”

Shuffield said community support is a core value of Xcel Energy, which understands that the company is only as strong as its communities.

“This has been our home for 70 years, and we have no plans to leave,” he said. “It is important to us that our home communities have every opportunity to thrive.”

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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