



# Power for the Plains



**In 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.

**[Powerfortheplains.com](http://www.powerfortheplains.com)**



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