
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER PATRICK LYONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Lyons Applauds Xcel Energy's Launch of 240-Mile Transmission Line

SANTA FE – New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Patrick Lyons welcomed the news that construction crews have started work in southeast New Mexico on the first of several high-voltage transmission line segments that will come together as a single, 240-mile “Power for the Plains” corridor. This corridor will link Texas and New Mexico to deliver a more reliable, abundant and economic electricity supply to customers in both states while providing a new renewable energy outlet.

A 90-mile line between Hobbs and the new China Draw substation located southeast of Carlsbad and approved by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission is now under construction, according to an announcement released by Xcel Energy Tuesday, April 18.

“This is fantastic news for the people of New Mexico,” Commissioner Lyons stated on Tuesday. Lyons represents the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission’s District 2, which comprises the eastern half of the state. “By this summer, close to 250 workers will be involved in the development of this line, and additional line segments to be built by 2020 will connect the New Mexico line to TUCO Substation north of Lubbock, Texas. The combined cost of the completed line segments is estimated at \$400 million.”

A similar transmission project was completed in 2014, connecting the TUCO Substation to a substation near Woodward in northwestern Oklahoma. When all the segments between TUCO and China Draw are completed, a 345-kilovolt line will stretch more than 400 miles from western Oklahoma to southeastern New Mexico.

The Hobbs-to-China Draw portion of the 345-kilovolt transmission line project links the Hobbs Plant Substation – located about 11 miles northwest of Hobbs – with the new China Draw Substation – located about 22 miles south of Carlsbad. The estimated cost of the China Draw project is \$163 million.

The project will be constructed in three segments: 1) from the Hobbs Plant Substation to the new Kiowa Substation, located about 15 miles northeast of Carlsbad; 2) from the Kiowa Substation to the new North Loving Substation, located about eight miles southeast of Carlsbad; and 3) from the North Loving Substation to the China Draw Substation.

As part of Power for the Plains, Xcel Energy has invested in 800-plus miles of new transmission lines since 2011 in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma in all. Construction plans call for more than 700 additional miles of transmission line through 2021.

Since 2011, more than 10 substations have been built or upgraded as part of the Power for the Plains initiative, and more than 25 substations will be built or upgraded through 2021. The transmission expansion represents more than \$3 billion in investment.

Xcel Energy's general service area covers more than 50,000 square miles, including most of the Texas Panhandle, the Texas South Plains region, and eastern and southeastern New Mexico. Xcel Energy also owns transmission lines in Oklahoma and Kansas. Xcel Energy's electric facilities include 7,228 miles of transmission and 433 substations.

Rural electrical cooperatives and municipal-owned utilities lie within the Xcel Energy service area. Power provided to these entities is produced at various generating plants and transported over Xcel Energy transmission lines.

Xcel Energy Inc. 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 two million natural gas customers through its four operating companies. Xcel Energy's headquarters is located in Minneapolis.

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