



Virtual Open House Presentation Question / Answer

Q: Is there currently a preferred or more likely route?

A: We are evaluating many routes by taking public comments from all of the landowner meetings recently completed. We are compiling all the comments, information, and suggestions by landowners and compiling multiple routes and routing information and submitting some of those routes to the regulatory agencies.

Q: If a home or property is condemned how long would we have to complete sale and vacate the property?

A: Our plans are not to impact any dwellings or habitable structures, and the routes that we have vetted to date do not impact any of those. Because of this, there will be no reason to provide relocation assistance or have anybody relocate. With condemnation, we will go through the condemnation process as it comes about.

Q: What does the construction schedule look like?

A: Construction is expected to start in Q1 of 2029 and end in Q2 of 2031. It is an approximate two-year time frame.

Q: Where can we find the latest proposed routes for the transmission lines?

A: You can find them on our website: [Potter-Crossroads-Phantom 765-kV Transmission Line Project – Xcel Energy Transmission Projects](#). Please note that there aren't actually any routes; they are just links.

Q: Why isn't there a path from the Crossroads substation that follows the nearby existing 345-kV line?

A: We had some early discussions early on in the routing process with the New Mexico State Land Office, and they notified us of some conservation areas in the area coming out of Crossroads, which is why we didn't have the links parallel the existing transmission line immediately out of Crossroads.



Q: I have been contacted by a solar farm company about the use of my land, how will this project affect that?

A: We will work with everybody that has leases on their lands by developers and work out solutions that best fit for both, so we can coexist. Our transmission line and the solar project as well.

Q: Who will inspect and certify that the towers meet design and safety standards before energizing?

A: Before we go into mass production of the tower types, they will be tested in a lab setting to make sure that the tower designs meet the loading conditions that they're being designed for. During construction, there will be a number of inspectors that will be on site. The construction contractor will have QA/QC, and Xcel Energy and the Engineering firm will have inspectors as well as field engineers on site making sure that the design and the drawings are being followed and everything is being constructed to the right construction specs in the drawings.

Q: What if Xcel Energy accidentally damages an irrigation line or an irrigation well as part of the construction process?

A: Xcel's team will be contacted, and we will work with the landowner to remedy the situation, either through taking care of the damage ourselves or undoing the damage done.

Q: Are there any additional proposed substations along the paths?

A: No additional proposed substations except for Tecovas and the Bandit substations unless something significantly changes. That being said, there could be massive generation sites or massive load profiles that could materialize in areas that we don't currently plan for or exist today. There are conceptual concepts of continuing the 745-kV line beyond Potter in the future, but those are still in the design phase today.

Q: This project cuts through at least one major proposed wind farm in Deaf Smith County, how do your towers coexist with wind turbines? What are best practices around minimum distances apart from one another?

A: Our centerline is 500 feet off of any of the turbines, so there's enough right-of-way that we can get the transmission line to fit in between existing wind turbines and to keep us outside of any fall-down distance, so if any wind turbines were to fall down they would not interfere and knock over one of our towers.



Q: Are EMF concerns for nearby homes being taken into consideration and out to what distance from the lines?

A: For the lines there is a 250-foot right-of-way, and when you get to the edge of the right-of-way, the frequency that lines operate is at a 60Hz frequency. At that 60Hz frequency, it drops off considerably and is within safe limits that are set by different standards and codes for the electric and magnetic fields. This is another reason we are keeping structures outside of the right-of-way. We also have an EMF factsheet on our website: [Potter-Crossroads-Phantom 765-kV Transmission Line Project – Xcel Energy Transmission Projects](#).

Q: When will routing be finalized?

A: Routing will be finalized when the Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUCT) approves the final route. We are currently putting those packages together and hope to file sometime in March 2026. The routing will be influenced by the public's comments, and the PUCT will take that into account when determining the final route. In New Mexico, we will be refining all of the routes to come up with one, then we will work with the BLM and State Land to determine that route and then submit that information to the Public Regulation Commission of New Mexico (PRC) for them to complete their analysis and approve the route.

Q: Is the power line project being built currently around Amarillo connect to the Potter – Crossroads – Phantom project later on?

A: No, not at this time. This is the first project of this magnitude, 765-kV, being built in our service territory.

Q: Is there a lease for right-of-way?

A: No, there will not be any leases. Xcel Energy, Southwestern Public Service secures the rights-of-way through easements.

Q: How will public comments be used in the decision-making for routing, mitigation, and design?

A: We will take your comments and review your suggestions and use that to influence the links to help us determine which will be the best route.



Q: How will the project be funded, and what portion will be borne by local ratepayers?

A: This project will go through our commissions and will be approved. Once this is complete and the project is built and gone into service, SPS will have to put their project into the rate base. Projects like this that were identified by the Southwest Power Pool have a cost-sharing mechanism that other states and customers in other states do pay a portion of this project. When we go to the PUCT and the PRC, these topics are heavily dug into by interveners, by the commissioners themselves, and by commission staff.

Q: If EMF impacts are negligible outside of the right-of-way, why was I notified of the project?

A: The decision was made to notify everyone within a half mile of the centerline. This was done so we could get as many comments as we possibly could to inform the routing process.

Q: What are the estimated costs per mile in total of the line and how does that compare with other recent 765-kV projects?

A: The total cost of this project is \$3.6 billion, with the cost per mile coming in around \$5.8 to \$5.9 million per mile. When we were putting together these estimates we looked at the Mid-continent independent system operator, MISO, which is an RTO to the east of the service territory along with ERCOT, as they were developing multiple 765-kV projects, and our costs are in alignment with what we're seeing in other jurisdictions.

Q: When will monetary offers be made to landowners and how will they be calculated?

A: The right-of-way acquisition process starts in Q3 of 2026, after we receive state approval in Texas, and go through Q4 of 2028 for acquisition in New Mexico. The way we approach working with landowners is that we look at market sales in the vicinity of the project and come up with evaluations based on market data and market analysis that we've done across the project area and determine our compensation based off of this information.

Q: How will the project handle emergencies such as storms, outages, and tower failures? What is the reliability benefit for the local service?

A: Our crew at Xcel Energy / SPS will be handling the operation and maintenance of the line during all emergency needs. The typical process for Xcel Energy is that we will have the materials for the towers and wire and hardware on hand to go and replace as needed in a storm. There are lay down yards where a certain amount of hardware is stocked and ready to go for storm restoration. The exact number of stocking has not been discussed yet.



Q: What vegetation structures will need to be cleared?

A: We will do vegetation management within the 250-foot right-of-way, and anything above a certain height will be removed.

Q: Will Xcel use eminent domain? If so, under what conditions?

A: Our goal is to work with all landowners on the project to avoid using any kind of eminent domain. If negotiations come to a halt, we can deploy the eminent domain process.

Q: What if the resale of my home is lowered if I decide to sell in the future?

A: Typically, you don't see a diminishment in value, but we look at all of the individual characteristics of each property as we route the transmission line, and if there's a diminished value, we negotiate that at the time of the purchase of that easement.

Q: Is this the largest project for Xcel ever?

A: Yes, this is our largest project in the Southwestern Public Service Company operating company territory.