

CONSTRUCTION

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XCEL ENERGY BOOSTS EASTERN PANHANDLE POWER GRID



Xcel Energy completed a major high-voltage transmission project in Gray and Wheeler counties in the eastern Texas Panhandle that will

help sustain industrial development and will position the regional economy for continued growth as electricity demand increases.

The company energized a new 115-kilovolt, 38-mile transmission line between the Bowers Substation near Lefors in Gray County and the

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Howard Substation in the city of Wheeler in Wheeler County. The \$39 million project also includes significant upgrades at both the Bowers and Howard substations to accommodate the new line.

“The demands on the transmission network have grown over the past decade with increased oil and gas drilling and the ensuing growth in industries that add value to these raw materials,” said Donnie TeBeest, Xcel Energy project manager. “Without the new line, it would have been a challenge to regulate the flow of power in that area while meeting the growing needs for electricity.”

The new line was envisioned six years ago when the Southwest Power Pool identified possible bottlenecks and voltage issues in the eastern Panhandle, which had not seen significant upgrades in power infrastructure in decades. Xcel Energy took on the project as part of its Power for the Plains transmission enhancement initiative and started planning the project in 2012.

“The Bowers-to-Howard project is one of dozens of high-value improvements we have completed in recent years,” said David Hudson, president of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company.

“We’re pleased to be partners with regional industries as we make a lasting contribution to job opportunities and economic development for decades to come.”

Since July 2014, Xcel Energy has invested \$1 billion in new power lines, substations, and upgrading power-generating facilities across its Texas-New Mexico service area. Through 2020, that number is expected to exceed \$3 billion in improvements.

According to Xcel Energy, the Power for the Plains initiative is not only improving the reliability and capacity of the region’s high-voltage transmission network, but also is providing opportunities to tap cheaper sources of power. New transmission connections to the east are saving approximately \$60 million annually in purchased power costs. Additionally, the improvements are providing pathways to move wind and solar power generated in this region to new markets. Xcel Energy has added 750 MW of additional wind energy capacity to its regional energy mix since 2015. ↴

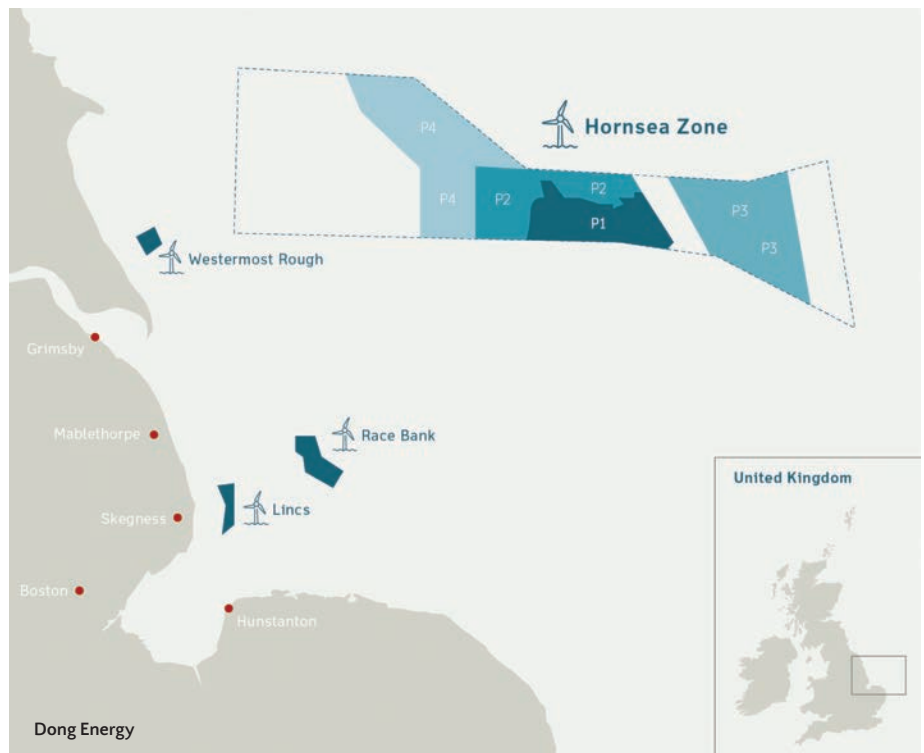
— Source: Xcel Energy

For more information, go to www.powerfortheplains.com.

DONG ENERGY REACHES AGREEMENT WITH THE CROWN ESTATE FOR HORNSEA ZONE

Dong Energy has reached an agreement with the Crown Estate, an independent commercial business created by the an Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom, to re-configure the Hornsea zone as part of the company’s Round 3 offshore wind development zones.

Following Dong Energy’s acquisition of the remainder of the Hornsea zone from Mainstream Renewable Power and Siemens Financial Services in 2015, Dong Energy has concluded its zone appraisal process, which resulted in project-specific agreements for lease being agreed on for three projects: Hornsea Project Two, Hornsea Project Three, and Hornsea Project Four.



The previously identified Hornsea Project Three has been split into two separate projects — Hornsea Project Three to the east of Hornsea Project Two and Hornsea Project Four to the west of Hornsea Project Two.

This follows Dong Energy’s recent announcement that it will build the 1.2-GW Hornsea Project One, which is expected to be capable of powering well over 1 million U.K. homes.

“We are pleased to have reached this agreement with the Crown Es-

tate for the Hornsea projects, which highlights once again our absolute commitment to the U.K. offshore wind market,” said Brent Cheshire, Dong Energy’s U.K. country chairman. “Having just confirmed that we are building Hornsea Project One — the world’s biggest offshore wind farm — we see these projects as a vital part of our post-2020 pipeline.”

Hornsea Project Two has been identified as having a capacity of up to 1.8 GW. A planning consent

decision for Hornsea Project Two is expected to take place later this year.

Hornsea Project Three, which will shortly be taken forward to external consultation, is estimated to have the potential for 1-2 GW capacity. Hornsea Project Four could add around a further 1 GW. ↴

— Source: Dong Energy

For more information, go to www.dongenergy.com.

BLM ISSUES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PHASE I WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT FOR CCSM PROJECT

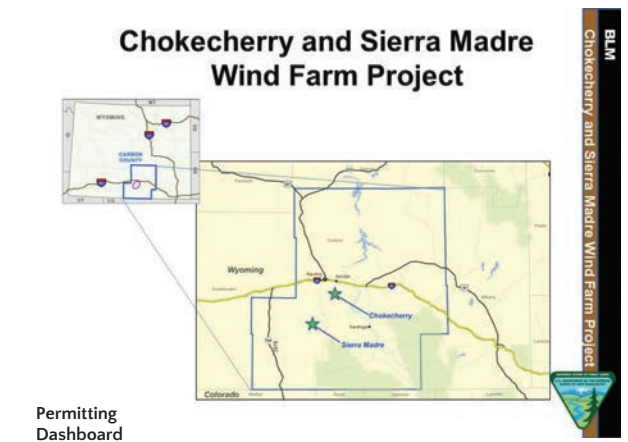
The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Rawlins Field Office has released the second of two environmental assessments, along with a draft “Finding of No New Significant Impact,” for Phase I of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy (CCSM) Project, a 1,000-turbine wind farm being developed by Power Company of Wyoming LLC (PCW).

This environmental assessment analyzes and evaluates PCW’s site-specific plan of development for the initial 500 wind turbines, turbine access roads, and associated facilities. The environmental assessment is tiered to the 2012 project-wide Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, which approved the CCSM Project site as suitable for wind energy development. The 500 wind turbines in Phase I are located within the western portion of the Chokecherry Wind Development Area and within the western portion of the Sierra Madre Wind Development Area.

The Phase I development area totals approximately 75,000 acres of private, federal, and state land. However, the long-term surface disturbance will only amount to approximately 849 acres, or 1.1 percent of the land.

Reflecting six major revisions and many more minor revisions, the Phase I layout is designed to avoid and minimize potential impacts to birds and other wildlife by using over five years’ worth of scientific data gathered through methods approved by the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

PCW has voluntarily set aside more than 105,000 acres, or approximately 33 percent, of the 320,000-acre Overland Trail Cattle Company ranch as specific turbine no-build areas — a significant proactive



conservation measure. Additionally, PCW intends to place 27,500 acres of private land into a conservation easement for the benefit of greater sage grouse and other wildlife.

Phase I of the CCSM Project — which is at 1,500 MW of nameplate capacity — is estimated to produce nearly 6 million MWh of clean electricity per year, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by millions of tons annually.

Documents related to the CCSM Project environmental impact statement (EIS) and the two environmental assessments are available from the BLM Rawlins website or from the BLM ePlanning website. ↴

— Source: The Power Company of Wyoming LLC

For more information, go to www.powercompanyofwyoming.com.