

## CAPITAL PROJECT PROFILE:



# Elm Creek-Summit Transmission Line

The Elm Creek to Summit project will improve the reliability of the grid in central Kansas, allowing the grid to continue to meet required standards of reliability. It will benefit residents and businesses in central Kansas and beyond by easing congestion across the transmission network and improving the efficiency of the grid. It also will provide tax revenue, construction jobs and local expenditures, and will expand capabilities for future investment in area industry.

## THE PROJECT:

The Elm Creek to Summit Project is a new 60-mile, 345,000-volt (345 kV) line linking the existing 345 kV Summit Substation southeast of Salina, Kansas, to a new 345 kV substation southeast of Concordia, Kansas, to be located near the existing 230 kV Elm Creek Substation. ITC Great Plains, LLC (ITC), under a co-development agreement with Mid-Kansas Electric, LLC (MKEC), will construct, co-own with MKEC and operate the northern section of the line, and Westar Energy, Inc. (Westar) will construct, own, and operate the southern section. The project is scheduled to be complete and in service in 2018.

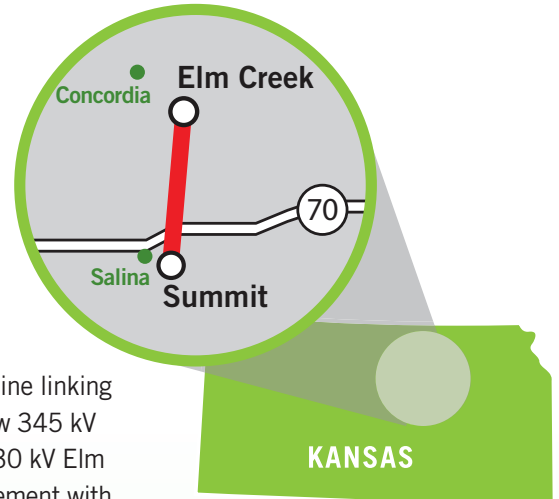
## THE ROUTING PROCESS:

A routing study is currently underway that is expected to result in three potential routes intended to minimize adverse impacts to residents, their land and the natural environment while providing a technically viable and cost-effective transmission line. As part of the transparent review/input process, ITC and Westar will meet with state and local officials, local business leaders, landowners, residents and environmental organizations to fully discuss the project, review proposed routes and answer any questions. The routes will be presented to potentially affected landowners during community open house events in December 2012 in each county along the route. Landowners along the proposed routes will have the opportunity to review the routes and provide input to Westar and ITC. The companies will consider input from all stakeholders equally in developing a final preferred route to submit to the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). The KCC has the final authority to determine where the line will run.

## WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS:

ITC, Mid-Kansas and Westar are committed to open, honest and frequent communications with landowners. We will work respectfully with landowners throughout the siting, design, and construction process to minimize impacts to their properties.

Following route approval by the Kansas Corporation Commission, the companies will contact landowners who have property on the line route to obtain Right of Entry Agreements. These agreements provide the basis for accessing property for surveying, environmental studies and soil boring. This is followed by easement acquisition offers, based on the results of a market study conducted by a local appraiser on the fair market value of the land that will be subject to the easement. The easement grants the right to use a strip of land approximately 150 to 200 feet wide for construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. Property owners retain ownership of the land and can continue most uses of it.





## ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

### Q: What will the line look like?

**A.** The types of structures to be used on this project have not yet been determined. Structure height will vary based on terrain, clearances to the ground, objects under the line and structure spacing, but typically range between 120 and 160 feet. The span lengths between structures could be approximately 800 to 1,500 feet, with an average span of 900 feet.

### Q: Who will build the lines and manage the construction?

**A.** Westar will provide project management services and coordination for the engineering and construction of the south half of the line. ITC will provide the same for the north half.

### Q: Who approved this project?

**A.** The project has been reviewed and approved by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the organization designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to oversee the high-voltage grid in the multi-state region that includes Kansas.

### Q. Who will pay for transmission line and facilities?

**A.** Because the line will benefit the entire region in terms of improved reliability and increased efficiency, the cost will be recovered from all customers in the Southwest Power Pool region which includes Kansas, Oklahoma and parts of Nebraska, Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas and Missouri.

### Q. Why are you starting this process now if the line won't be finished until 2018?

**A.** Planning and building a transmission line is a multi-year process. An important part of the current process is to develop a more accurate cost estimate based on a more precise route for the line. Additional time is required for regulatory approvals, securing the necessary right of way, finalizing design, ordering materials, and hiring contractors. Construction could take a year or more (see projected timeline, right).

### Q. What environmental impacts will be considered with the siting of the project?

**A.** We work closely with appropriate agencies and organizations to take reasonable precautions to assure any direct environmental impact is appropriately identified and addressed. We adhere to all state and federal regulations to protect native plants, threatened or endangered species, wetlands and water and air quality.



### KEY DATES & TIMELINE

**Fall 2012** – Preliminary routing & community outreach

**December 4-6, 2012** – Public Open House events in Miltonvale, Bennington & Salina

**Q1-Q2 2013** – Route selection & refined cost estimate; Southwest Power Pool review & approval

**Q3 2013** – Route application filed with the Kansas Corporation Commission

**Q4 2013** – KCC route approval anticipated

**2014-2015** – Right-of-way acquisition

**2014-2015** – Engineering design

**2016-2017** – Construction

**2018** – Project in service

#### ITC Great Plains

ITC Great Plains, LLC, based in Topeka, is a transmission-only utility with authority to construct, own, operate and maintain a regulated, high-voltage transmission system in the Southwest Power Pool region. It is a subsidiary of ITC Grid Development, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp., the nation's largest independent electric transmission company. (itctransco.com)

#### Westar Energy, Inc.

Westar is the largest electric energy provider in Kansas, dedicated to operating the best electric utility in the Midwest and providing quality service at below average prices. Headquartered in Topeka, Westar provides generation, transmission, and distribution to more than 687,000 customers in much of east and east-central Kansas. (westarenergy.com)

#### Mid-Kansas Electric, LLC (MKEC)

Mid-Kansas is a coalition of five rural electric cooperatives and one wholly-owned subsidiary serving approximately 200,000 people through central and western Kansas. Mid-Kansas and ITC have collaborated on transmission projects since 2008, and in early 2012, an agreement was reached to further partnership for the continued growth of the transmission system in Kansas. (midkansaselectric.net)

[www.itctransco.com](http://www.itctransco.com)  
**877.ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829)**

[westarenergy.com](http://westarenergy.com)  
**(785) 575-6300**

[midkansaselectric.net](http://midkansaselectric.net)  
**(800) 354.3638**