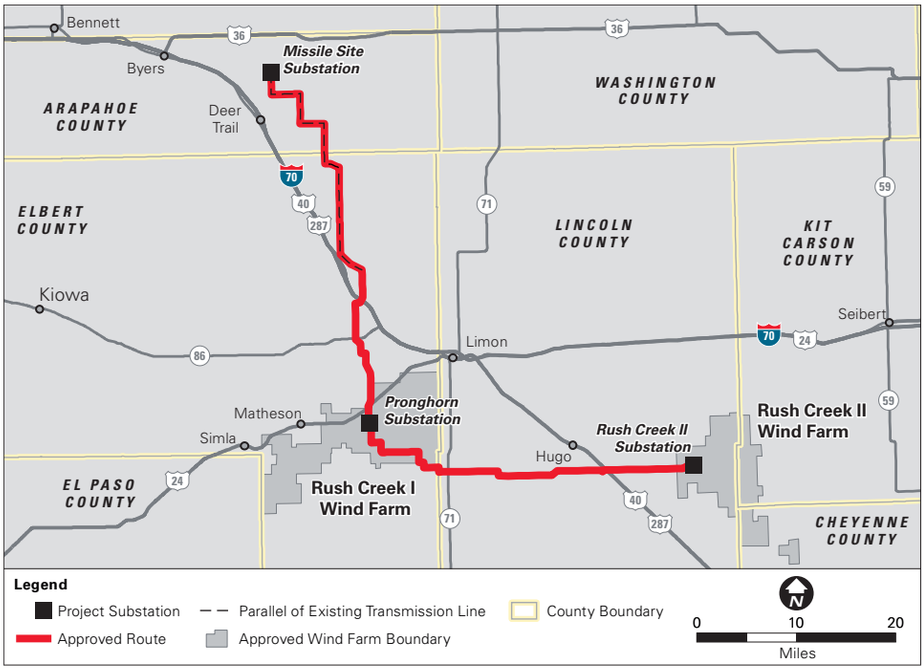
Rush Creek Wind and Transmission Project

February 2018

On schedule for 2018 start-up

Taking advantage of strong wind resources in our backyard, Xcel Energy is building one of Colorado's largest wind power projects. When completed at the end of this year, the Rush Creek Wind Project will deliver enough low-cost, clean, renewable energy to power approximately 325,000 homes. The project is also creating economic development opportunities and supporting rural communities and local schools across the eastern plains.

Rush Creek—which includes two wind farm sites and 83-miles of transmission line—is located in parts of Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, and Lincoln counties. In Colorado, renewable energy accounts for nearly 30 percent of our total energy supply.



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You can submit questions or comments by calling 800.274.6992 or by sending an email to rushcreek@xcelenergy.com. The latest project information is also available at xcelenergy.com/RushCreek.

Wind farm update

Construction of the first of 300 wind turbines was completed in January near Matheson, Colorado. Crews recently completed construction of 190 turbine foundations at the Rush Creek I farm and 110 turbine foundations at the Rush Creek II farm. The turbine towers top out at approximately 250 feet and come in three sections. A smaller crane sets the first two sections of the tower before a larger crane is brought in to set the third section, place the nacelle with hub on top of the tower and attach the three blades. On average, crews can erect between 10 and 15 wind turbines in a week. Cable has been buried to connect the turbines to two new electric substations that are also being built as part of the project. There are approximately 320 construction workers on the project. The targeted wind farm in-service date is October 2018.

Project safety

To provide a safer work environment for crews working on wind turbine foundations, engineers added a handrail to provide fall protection for workers standing on the top of foundation forms.

The first of three blades is lifted for attachment to the hub. Each blade is approximately 180 feet. They are being fabricated in Brighton and Windsor by Vestas.

We erect the wind turbines using a 310-foot crane with a lifting capacity of 880,000 pounds. It requires up to 27 trucks to deliver all of the crane pieces to the job site.

Crews work on a concrete pour at the Rush Creek II Substation site.

Nearly 90,000 cubic yards of concrete has been used on the project to construct the 300 wind turbine foundations—enough concrete to build a five foot wide sidewalk from Denver International Airport to Grand Junction.

Transmission line update

All of the transmission structures have been erected on the 43-mile segment between the new Pronghorn Substation and Missile Site Substation. The majority of the structures were installed using direct embed foundations where a structure is placed in a hole and backfilled with compactible concrete, although a few of the structures sit on top of concrete foundations. A helicopter is being used to help string conductor (wire). Structures are also being set on the 40-mile segment between Pronghorn Substation and Rush Creek II Substation. A helicopter will not be used on this segment. The in-service date for the transmission line is July 2018.

Transmission structures are 100 to 130 feet tall with a 150 foot right-of-way.

Crews install duct bank at the new Pronghorn Substation.

We will use a helicopter to assist in the stringing of conductor, which enables installation in difficult-to-access areas and helps protect sensitive environmental areas.