

Rush Creek Wind and Transmission Project Approved

Xcel Energy has received approval to build, own, and operate the largest renewable energy project in the state. The new 600 megawatt (MW) wind facility, an approximately 83-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, and two new substations will be located in Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson and Lincoln Counties. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2017 (view map and details inside). When completed in 2018, the project will produce enough electricity to power about 325,000 homes.

We will continue to provide updates to landowners and local officials throughout the construction process. If you have questions you can contact us 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.



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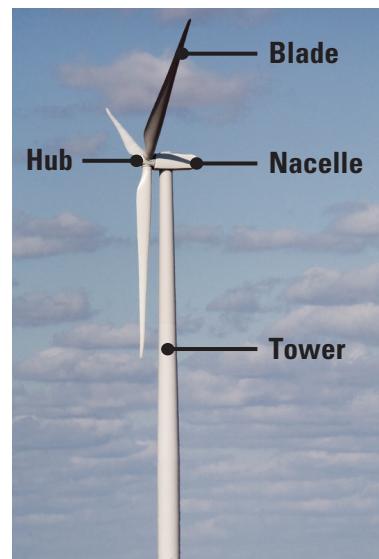
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Contact Us

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Wind farm update

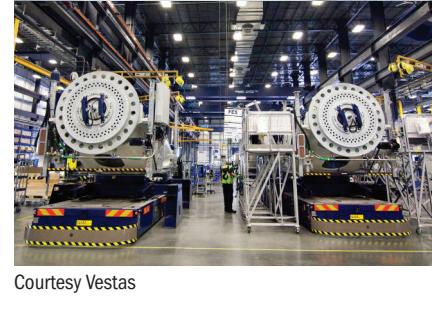
Foundation work for the wind farm is scheduled to begin in May 2017. Each foundation requires approximately 300 yards of concrete and is reinforced with steel. Once the foundations are complete, the turbines can be erected. Wind turbine installation is scheduled to begin in 2018. There are several steps involved in installing the turbines, including setting three tower sections, attaching a hub to a nacelle which houses all of the generating components, setting the nacelle on top of the tower and attaching the blades. Each blade is approximately 180 feet long. The completed wind turbine hub height is approximately 260 feet. Cable must also be buried to connect the turbines to the substations and transmit power to homes and businesses. Two new electric substations are also being built as part of the project. Grading at the site of the Rush Creek I Substation in Elbert County will begin in April. The Rush Creek wind farms will cover 95,000 acres in Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson and Cheyenne Counties. The wind farms are expected to be complete in late 2018.



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You can view a video of the process of installing a wind turbine on the project website at xcelenergy.com/rush creek.

There are several steps to building a wind turbine, including installing the tower, blades, hub and nacelle.

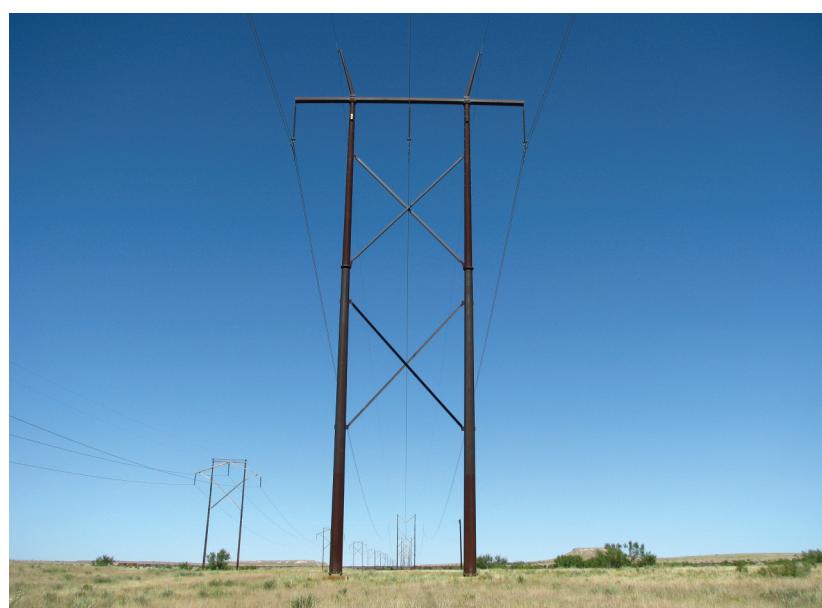


Vestas will manufacture 300 wind turbines for the Rush Creek project at its Colorado facilities in Brighton, Pueblo and Windsor.

Wind farm construction timeline (subject to change)

- **Road work:** Beginning April 2017
- **Substation construction:** April 2017
- **Foundation construction:** Beginning May 2017
- **Wind turbine installation:** Beginning February 2018
- **Wind farm estimated in-service date:** October 2018

Transmission line update



The transmission line structures that will be used on the Rush Creek project are typically 100 to 130 feet tall with a 150 foot wide right-of-way.

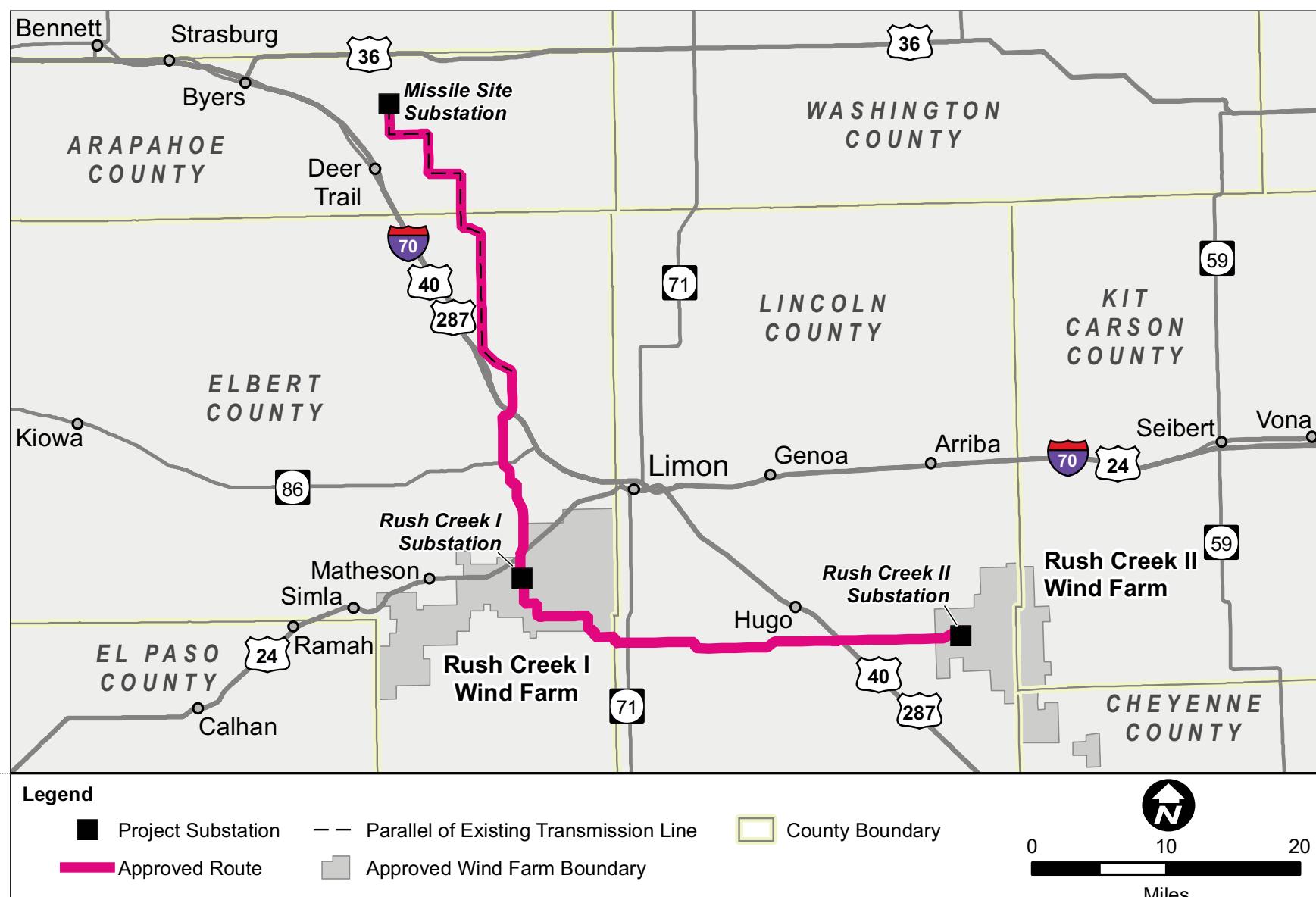
Construction of the transmission line is expected to commence in April 2017 with road access work, and structure setting beginning in June. The majority of the structures will be installed using direct embed foundations, which involves driving the structures into the ground. A few of the structures will sit on top of concrete foundations. The structure's pieces are set into place using a crane. Landowners will be notified prior to work beginning on their land.

Xcel Energy identified the route for the new 83-mile 345 kV transmission line after consulting with local, state, and federal agencies, holding public open houses with a comment period, studying environmental and land use factors. Engineers identified eight alternative routes and after additional analysis, selected and submitted a preferred alternative to each County for review and approval.

Transmission line construction timeline (subject to change)

- **Road access work:** Beginning April 2017
- **Structure setting:** Beginning June 2017
- **Conductor stringing:** Anticipated to begin in late 2017 or early 2018
- **Transmission line estimated in-service date:** October 2018

Rush Creek Wind and Transmission Project Approved Route



Economic benefits

- Create hundreds of jobs and bring more than \$1 billion into the regional economy
- Build 300 Vestas wind turbines at facilities in Brighton, Pueblo and Windsor
- Provide the lowest-cost wind energy on our Colorado system
- Deliver clean, renewable power
- Eliminate one million tons of carbon each year
- Support energy industry innovation in the state