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AUGUST 2012

## Celebration kicks off Thumb Loop line construction in Tuscola County

**Thumb Loop** 345 kV  
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

ITC hosted an appreciation event at the newly constructed Bauer substation in Tuscola County to celebrate the start of construction of our 140-mile Thumb Loop high voltage transmission line. This event recognized the cooperative efforts of our contractors, vendors, local officials and community leaders in the Thumb Area who helped advance the project.

Gregory Ioanidis, president of ITC Michigan, expressed his appreciation to our partners for helping to advance the project and provided an overview of the benefits of the Thumb Loop project. "The Thumb Loop project is the largest single project we have ever undertaken and is critical to supporting transmission upgrades in this region of Michigan," he said.

Ioanidis praised our Michigan-based general contractor, M.J. Electric, for getting the project off to a great start and thanked all the local vendors and suppliers who are providing support services and products.

Also speaking to the crowd were Tod Fackler, Tuscola Township Supervisor; Jerry Peterson, Tuscola County Commissioner; and Kurt Damrow, Michigan's 84th District Representative. Each expressed their appreciation to ITC and applauded the progress and the professionalism of the work completed so far.

Construction is underway on the first transmission line segment, a 62-mile segment from Bauer through Tuscola County to the new Rapson substation site in Huron County, east of Bad Axe. There will be 25 miles of line in Tuscola County and 37 miles in Huron County.

ITC estimates that the current phase of Thumb Loop construction is providing more than 70 direct employment jobs, including contractors, vendors and suppliers, many of which are local. The area economy benefits from the demand for motel rooms, restaurants, concrete, hardware, fuel, gravel and trucking services, among other needs.



Line construction on the Phase 1 segment will continue into 2013. Crews are drilling and pouring concrete pole foundations, installing steel monopole and lattice structures and stringing the conductors (wires). ITC has worked with landowners along the route to negotiate easement agreements and establish access points for equipment and materials along the 200-foot-wide transmission corridor.

After the luncheon, ITC Field Supervisors Darren Long and Rob Angell, along with Thumb Loop Project Manager Curt Carroll, led guests on a tour of the Bauer substation. *(photo, left)* ■



*from L to R: Tod Fackler, Kurt Damrow, Gregory Ioanidis, Gary Kirsh and Jerry Peterson*



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## Photos from the Tuscola construction celebration

More than 60 guests braved high temperatures and wind to help ITC celebrate the start of the Thumb Loop line construction in Tuscola County.



## Construction Update

Construction of Phase 1 of the Thumb Loop transmission line started in western Tuscola County at the Bauer substation site in Tuscola Township (see map at right). Work is proceeding north past Reese, then northeast past Unionville to the Huron County line. The map shows the progress of each step in the construction process: foundations installed (yellow line), poles erected (blue line) and conductors (wires) strung (red line).

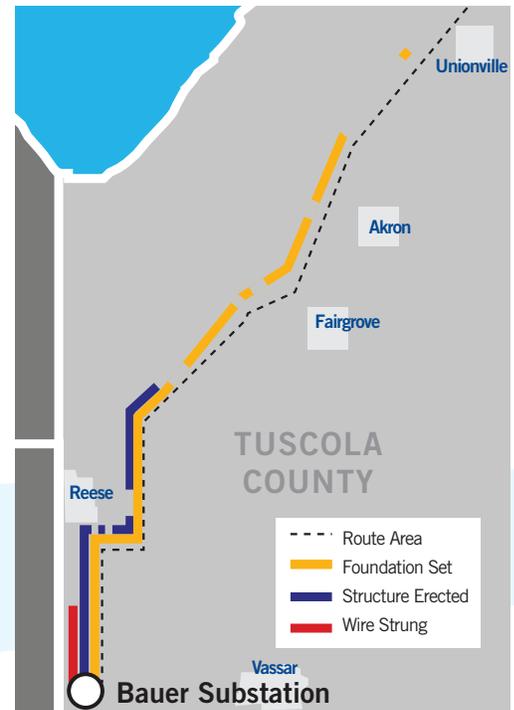


There will be 149 poles and towers in Tuscola County. Once the right-of-way is prepared, crews drill the foundations with large augers, lower the bolt cages and pour concrete. The foundations range from six to 12 feet in diameter and 25 to 60 feet deep.

Once the concrete cures, the steel monopoles are assembled on the ground, lifted into the foundations with cranes and bolted to the foundations.

As of the end of July, all 149 poles for the Tuscola County segment have been delivered to their locations on the right of way. About 70 percent of the foundations have been completed in Tuscola County and approximately 48 poles have been erected. Crews started stringing conductors in mid-July and a little over two miles of wire are up so far.

Also, preliminary work is underway at the Rapson substation site in Sigel Township, northeast of Bad Axe. ■



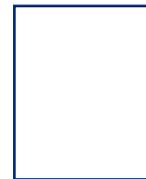
## Safety Reminder

Safety is always ITC's top priority during construction projects. There is frequent truck traffic in the construction areas, so we ask everyone to be careful and alert for unexpected large vehicles on county roads in the area. Also, we ask that the public remain clear of construction zones so that everyone remains safe.



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Return Service Requested



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## FAST FACTS:

- Line length:** Approximately 140 miles
- Line route:** Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair counties
- Voltage:** 345,000 (345 kV)
- Right-of-way width:** Approximately 200 feet
- Structure type:** Steel monopole, double circuit
- Structure height:** 130-180 feet. Majority are 150 feet.
- Distance between structures:** Approximately 800 to 1,100 feet
- Structures per mile:** Typically six
- Substations:** Bauer (Tuscola County), Rapson (Huron County), Banner (Sandusky County), Fitz (St. Clair County).

## KEY DATES & TIMELINE:

- Feb. 25, 2011:** Michigan Public Service Commission issued expedited siting certificate.
- Second Quarter 2011:** Right-of-way discussions with landowners began.
- Fourth Quarter 2011:** Construction began on Bauer substation.
- First Quarter 2012:** Construction began on first line segment (Tuscola County to Huron County).
- Fourth Quarter 2013:** Target in-service date for first segment.
- Fourth Quarter 2015:** Complete line enters service.

## About ITC Transmission

International Transmission Company (d/b/a ITC Transmission) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp., the nation's largest independent electricity transmission company. Based in Novi, Michigan, ITC Transmission owns, operates and maintains approximately 2,800 circuit miles of transmission line in southeast Michigan, serving a population of 5.1 million. For more information, please visit <http://www.itctransco.com>. ■



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If you have questions about the Thumb Loop project:

- Visit <http://www.itctransco.com/projects/current/itctransmission.html>
- Email [thumbloop@itctransco.com](mailto:thumbloop@itctransco.com)
- Call 877.ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829)

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