



FOR RELEASE

## **ITC Great Plains Celebrates Groundbreaking for the Hugo-Valliant Transmission Line Project in Oklahoma**

**VALLIANT, Okla., June 21, 2011** – ITC Great Plains, LLC today celebrated the beginning of construction of its first major transmission project as an Oklahoma utility, the Hugo-Valliant high-voltage electric transmission line and substation. At a groundbreaking ceremony near the Valliant substation, ITC welcomed Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb, utility industry officials, representatives from federal, state and local governments and community leaders to mark the start of work on the 18-mile, 345,000-volt (345 kV) transmission line and substation.

“ITC Great Plains is proud to be part of the grid upgrade in Oklahoma and the region,” said Joseph L. Welch, chairman, president and CEO of ITC Holdings Corp. “This project demonstrates the beginning of ITC’s long-term commitment to helping Oklahoma secure its energy future. We believe the Hugo-Valliant project will help open the doors for the increased transmission development and bring more capital investment and jobs to Oklahoma. It also highlights the importance of a partnership approach, because it would not be possible without the support and cooperation of our utility partner in this project, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative.”

“This is a great day for southeast Oklahoma and the future of electric transmission in Oklahoma,” said Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb. “As a transmission-only utility, ITC has the knowledge and experience to strengthen the transmission system to serve a much broader base of Oklahomans more reliably and more efficiently. I welcome ITC to Oklahoma and hope this is just the beginning of a long and prosperous relationship with the state of Oklahoma.”

ITC’s investment in a new high-voltage infrastructure within the Southwest Power Pool region is founded upon open access to the grid and collaboration with key energy stakeholders. The partnership with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative is crucial to making the Hugo-Valliant project a success.

“This new power line project should serve the needs of Oklahoma and the region for many years to come,” said Ron Cunningham, Western Farmers Vice President for Power Delivery. “Having a strong interstate electric system is just as important as an interstate highway system. The Hugo-Valliant project is a great first step in providing that system,” he noted, adding that more projects are expected for the future throughout SPP’s eight-state footprint.

### **About the Hugo-Valliant Project**

The Hugo-Valliant Project is an approximately 18-mile, 345,000 volt transmission line that will run from a new substation near the Hugo power plant west of Fort Towson, Oklahoma, to an existing substation southeast of Valliant. It is part of a larger transmission line project being implemented to reduce system congestion, provide more efficient and cost-effective transmission of energy and increase access to a broader range of generation resources.

For more information on the Hugo-Valliant project, go to

<http://www.itctransco.com/projects/current/itcgreatplains.html>.

**About ITC Great Plains**

ITC Great Plains, LLC was formed in July 2006 as a subsidiary of ITC Grid Development, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp. (NYSE: ITC), the nation's only fully independent electric transmission company. Headquartered in Topeka, Kansas, ITC Great Plains is a transmission-only utility which seeks to build a more robust electric transmission system providing access to reliable, non-discriminatory, competitive and low-cost energy throughout the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) region. ITC Great Plains holds transmission-only utility status in Oklahoma and Kansas with the authority to construct, own, operate, and maintain a regulated, high-voltage transmission system. For more information, please visit <http://www.itctransco.com>.

**About ITC Holdings Corp.**

ITC Holdings Corp. (NYSE: ITC) invests in the electricity transmission grid to improve electric reliability, expand access to markets, lower the overall cost of delivered energy and allow new generating resources to interconnect to its transmission systems. The largest independent electricity transmission company in the country, ITC operates high-voltage transmission systems in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and portions of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, serving a combined peak load in excess of 25,000 megawatts through its regulated operating subsidiaries, ITC *Transmission*, Michigan Electric Transmission Company (METC), ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains. ITC also focuses on new areas where significant transmission system improvements are needed through ITC Grid Development and its subsidiaries. For more information, please visit: <http://www.itc-holdings.com>.

**Media Contact: Joe Kirik** (248.946.3478 office, 248.872.3220 cell, [jkirik@itctransco.com](mailto:jkirik@itctransco.com))