

THE TRANSMISSION LINE

ITC GREAT PLAINS NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2024



Welcome to the ITC Great Plains newsletter. We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the activities of ITC Great Plains and our investments in the regional electricity transmission system. If you have any comments, questions or feedback, please contact us at 1-877-482-4829.



ROFR LEGISLATION ENSURES A RELIABLE, RESILIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE TRANSMISSION GRID

MESSAGE FROM PATRICK WOODS, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS

As you may know, Right of First Refusal (ROFR) legislation has been introduced in both the Kansas and Oklahoma legislatures during the 2024 legislative session. ROFR laws essentially allow incumbent transmission providers, including ITC Great Plains, to have the first option to build regional, cost-shared high-voltage transmission line projects that have been approved through the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) planning process.

Many other states have ROFR legislation in place, including Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, Alabama and Mississippi. Oklahoma has had ROFR legislation on the books for several years, but it does not currently include projects at 300,000 volts (300 kV) and above. The higher voltage transmission lines typically move bulk electricity from generation sources to the distribution utilities that serve electric consumers.

The ROFR bills under consideration in Kansas and Oklahoma include different language in each state, but both ensure that each respective state has control of the utilities that build and operate the transmission system. This helps ensure prompt local responses to power outages 24/7/365.

A reliable, resilient and cost-effective transmission grid is essential to support our growing economy. Electricity is required

for the quality of life we all enjoy. We all take it for granted that the lights will come on when we flip the switch, our refrigerators will stay cold, and we can heat and cool our homes. Large-scale customers with hundreds or thousands of employees need access to the reliable, low-cost, clean, renewable energy delivered through the electric grid. A modernized electric grid works to keep utility bills as low as possible.

As a Kansas-based utility, ITC Great Plains owns and operates a transmission system that helps manage energy costs and assure reliable service. However, there is a great deal of misinformation about proposed ROFR legislation floating around the internet and coming from lobbyists for out-of-state energy interests at the State Capitols.

The record is clear: When out-of-state companies have built electric transmission projects, they have a proven history of low-balling their bids, building with lower-quality materials, disregarding landowner preferences, and, finally, raising the price before construction is completed. When locally-based utilities build large-scale electric transmission projects, the construction standards are higher and the final costs over the life of the transmission lines are lower for ratepayers.

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FOR THE
GREATER GRID.

IN THIS
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- David Cohen and Ernestor De La Rosa join ITC Great Plains
- Monarch Habitat Planted
- Safety First for Spring Planting

continued, from cover:

CONSIDER THESE FACTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED ROFR LEGISLATION:

- **ROFRs are cost competitive.** When local incumbent transmission companies build transmission projects, they solicit competitive bids for the construction of the projects. This ensures a cost-effective approach that minimizes impacts for electric consumers.
- **ROFRs provide reliability benefits.** Incumbent utilities ensure transmission lines are built to withstand extreme Great Plains weather. Our construction standards and ongoing maintenance activities ensure long-term system resiliency and reliability of the grid. The potential of having a low-cost transmission project with lower construction standards connecting to our network could affect the reliability and integrity of our system. This would be detrimental to Kansas and Oklahoma electric consumers.
- **ROFR means local utilities can get the power back on faster following storms.** When extreme weather strikes, Kansas and Oklahoma based electric utilities have the personnel, materials and other resources strategically in place across the region to ensure prompt response to storm-related outages.
- **ROFR ensures local control of local impacts.** The incumbent utilities use existing rights of way wherever possible and have a track record of obtaining a high voluntary easement rate with landowners. Kansas and Oklahoma utilities have demonstrated responsible stewardship of the land and respect for landowners. Out-of-state companies have no vested interest in our region and will rely more frequently on eminent domain to build projects.

Kansas and Oklahoma residents want to keep decisions about who builds large infrastructure projects within the control of each respective state. By passing ROFR legislation, lawmakers can help ensure a seamless continuation of the reliable, resilient and responsive electricity grid that is key to the region's continued growth.



THINK SAFETY WITH ELECTRICITY DURING SPRING PLANTING

Farm fields and rural roads are bustling with spring planting activity. For farmers and non-farmers alike, it is important to follow safety rules, especially when working near electric lines and poles.

- Motorists should be on the lookout for slow moving tractors with wide implements as well as large self-propelled sprayers throughout planting season. Drivers should slow down and be cautious when meeting or passing farm equipment on roadways.
- Today's large tillage equipment, planters and sprayers can extend 12 feet into the air or higher, especially when folded for transport. Farmers should be aware of the height of their equipment – tractors, implements, sprayers, etc. – and the location of any overhead lines or guy wires to maintain a safe distance between them.
- Guy wires, which are used to stabilize poles, can be easily snagged by tillage equipment, planters and sprayers. If a guy wire is damaged, farmers should contact the appropriate utility company to evaluate the situation and make proper repairs. Spotters should be used as necessary to ensure safety.
- Farmers should assess the proximity of power lines to their farmsteads and fields to identify potential hazards. All farm workers and family members should be trained to recognize the potential dangers of large machinery and electricity, and utilize proper safety procedures.
- GPS systems and autosteer are now commonly used to improve efficiency in tillage, planting, spraying and related activities. Please be mindful of utility poles and guy wires located in or close to fields to accurately map GPS to avoid contacting facilities which can cause injuries and outages, as well as damage equipment and property.
- When moving equipment on public roads from field to field, farmers should watch for overhead power lines and plan a route that helps ensure safety.



Jeremy Peters and Robert Wimer of Engie, Dustine Laudick of Enel, Jeremy Kennedy, Len Couture and Kendall Greene of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Sam Larson of Evergy and Frank Hayward of Capital Power attend Partners In Business hosted by ITC Great Plains' Manager of Customer & Business Solutions/ Stakeholder Relations Kim Goodnight

ITC GREAT PLAINS HOSTS PARTNERS IN BUSINESS DINNER

On January 25, ITC Great Plains Manager of Customer and Business Solutions Kim Goodnight hosted personnel from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and four windfarms – Engie, Enel, Evergy and Capital Power – interconnected at ITC Great Plains' Clark, Saddle and Ironwood substations. The informal event took place in Dodge City, Kansas and provided an opportunity for utility stakeholders in the Great Plains service territory to learn about the company's operations and maintenance program and the benefit to their interconnected generation resources.

The gathering marked ITC Great Plains' first Partners In Business. "The intention is to continue to attract future interconnection projects by highlighting the benefits of working with ITC Great Plains," said Goodnight. "Additionally, the event provided an opportunity to thank stakeholders for their patience and communications throughout the years." He indicated that he plans to host another event in the fall and continue the bi-annual cadence thereafter.



ITC Great Plains planted 11 acres of pollinator habitat at the Thistle Substation near Medicine Lodge, Kansas.

Thistle Substation



MONARCH HABITAT PLANTED AT THISTLE SUBSTATION

In keeping with a longtime commitment to conservation efforts and good land stewardship, ITC Great Plains planted 11 acres of pollinator habitat at the Thistle Substation near Medicine Lodge, Kansas on December 12.

Pollinators like the monarch butterfly are necessary for more than a third of crop production and have suffered drastic population losses over the past 20 years. In response to this decline, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has taken proactive measures and created a nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) designed to enhance conservation efforts that benefit the monarch butterfly. To help stabilize and restore the species, ITC Great Plains contracted with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc (ECT) to design, install and manage vital conservation efforts at the Thistle Substation.

"The pollinator planting ITC Great Plains is undergoing will enhance pollinator habitat at the Thistle Substation that is essential to the survival of monarchs," said ECT Landscape Ecologist Elizabeth Hill. "Additionally, it will support many other conservation values including reduced runoff and a naturalized and aesthetically pleasing landscape."

Through its conservation programs, ITC has enrolled 98,000 acres across six states in federal programs to protect and grow habitat for the threatened monarch butterfly in communities served by the company.





DAVID COHEN NAMED MANAGER OF REGULATORY AFFAIRS FOR ITC GREAT PLAINS

David Cohen joined ITC Great Plains in mid-January as Manager of Regulatory Affairs, based in the Topeka office.

David brings with him significant experience in the energy and regulatory space, with the past seven years spent as an attorney representing renewable energy generators, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Kansas Corporation Commission. Most recently, David served as the Assistant General Counsel to the Kansas Corporation Commission, where he represented the Commission on appeal, drafted orders for approval, and served as an advisor to the Commissioners on electric utility proceedings.

Prior to David's employment with the state of Kansas, he served as an attorney and Policy Director for Renew Missouri, a renewable energy advocacy non-profit focused on statutes, rules and regulations concerning renewable generation. In this role, he represented the organization before the Missouri Public Service Commission and the Missouri Legislature. David earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and an MBA from Kansas State University. He then earned his law degree from Washburn University School of Law, where he served as a member of the editorial staff for the Law Journal.



KIM GOODNIGHT NAMED MANAGER, CUSTOMER AND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

In November, Kim Goodnight transitioned to the new role of Manager, Customer and Business Solutions for ITC Great Plains. In his previous

position over many years, Kim was fulfilling the duties as Regional Manager of Community Affairs while also leading Stakeholder Relations to ensure the business unit establishes and maintains effective relationships with external and internal stakeholders – a key function of the Manager, Customer and Business Solutions role. Kim's natural aptitude for customer service and sales will be instrumental in working with key historic partners Sunflower Electric Power Corp. and Midwest Energy to coordinate maintenance and planned outages. In addition, Kim will be working with utilities and developers to help manage generation interconnection projects to the ITC Great Plains transmission system.



ERNESTOR DE LA ROSA NAMED MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR ITC GREAT PLAINS

Ernestor De La Rosa has been hired as the new Regional Manager of Local Government and Community Affairs for ITC Great Plains. He will primarily be based in the Topeka office, but will spend time in the Dodge City office as well.

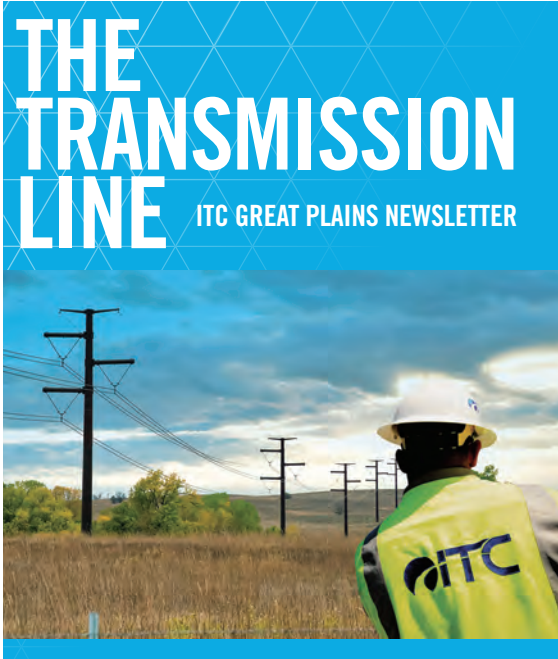
Ernestor brings significant experience to ITC Great Plains in the local government and community development space, with the past decade spent working in city management posts in Kansas. Most recently, Ernestor served as the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer for the City of Topeka. In this role, he oversaw the development and implementation of the city's DEI and community engagement plans, and also managed the divisions of Human Resources (HR) and Community Engagement. As the leader of Community Engagement, he worked with the city's Neighborhood Improvement Associations to develop Topeka's strategic plan for community redevelopment and capital investment. Ernestor earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Fort Hays State University and a Master of Public Administration from the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs at Wichita State University. Ernestor's professional affiliations include Kansas Association of City/County Management (KACM), the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM), International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and the Aspen Institute's Thrive Rural Theory of Change Working Group. He serves as a member of the Kansas Association of Community Foundations and was appointed by the Governor to serve as a member of the Kansas Hispanic & Latino Affairs Commission. Ernestor maintains residences in both Topeka and his home community of Dodge City.



FOR THE
GREATER GRID.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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ITC Great Plains' Director of Business Affairs Patrick Woods (left), Manager of Regulatory Affairs David Cohen, Manager of Customer & Business Solutions Kim Goodnight, Manager of State Government Affairs JR Behan, and Director of Strategic Planning Chris Winland attended the 2024 Oklahoma Speaker's Ball in Oklahoma City. The annual event provided attendees the opportunity to engage with state and local elected officials, business leaders and community champions.

WOODS ELECTED TO KANSAS CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In early March, **Patrick Woods** was elected to the Kansas Chamber Board of Directors. The board includes more than 50 business leaders from across the state of Kansas, representing all industries and sizes of companies and organizations who support them.



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