

# THE TRANSMISSION LINE

ITC GREAT PLAINS LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2025



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.

## SPP BOARD APPROVES HISTORIC PLAN FOR TRANSMISSION BUILDS, UPGRADES



At its October meeting, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Board of Directors approved a historic \$7.7 billion plan to expand and upgrade the region's transmission capacity. The initiative represents a major milestone in serving increasing demand for reliable electricity throughout the regional transmission organization's (RTO) service territory.

SPP's 2024 Integrated Transmission Plan (ITP) marks a historic milestone, with projects tailored to meet critical needs in Kansas and Oklahoma revealed by Winter Storms Uri and Elliott. In recent years, Kansas and Oklahoma have faced increasingly severe winter storms, bringing challenges like higher energy costs for families, and significant damage to utility infrastructure. These hardships highlighted the need for a stronger, more resilient grid.

Several key projects in the ITP portfolio are designed to address these specific challenges. These initiatives not only aim to bolster the grid against future extreme weather but also promise exceptional value. They're expected to pay for themselves quickly, delivering benefits that outweigh costs by at least 8-to-1. These

projects represent a big step forward for energy reliability and affordability, ensuring communities are better prepared for whatever the future holds

"This is a significant milestone for Kansans, ensuring they will benefit from a more reliable and resilient energy grid. This historic investment in the SPP Integrated Transmission Plan will not only advance the electricity infrastructure in Kansas but will fortify grid security, enhance reliability against extreme weather, and provide dependable energy for customers when they need it the most," said Patrick Woods ITC Great Plains Director of Business Affairs.

The 2024 ITP portfolio is the product of 27 months of study and approximately 150 meetings of 11 working groups and committees comprising representatives of SPP's member organizations. SPP evaluated more than 2,000 potential solutions to anticipated system needs, arriving at 13 projects that represent 510 miles of new transmission and 141 miles of transmission rebuilds specific to both Kansas and Oklahoma.



FOR THE GREATER GRID.

THIS ISSUE

- Future Forward Indeed for ITC Great Plains
- Wind Energy Technology Program
- Reliable Energy for Winter
- Pillars of the Community Awards Banquet



## FUTURE FORWARD INDEED FOR ITC GREAT PLAINS

**IN NOVEMBER, ITC GREAT PLAINS HAD THE HONOR OF PARTICIPATING IN THE FUTURE FORWARD: KANSAS ENERGY ECONOMY CONFERENCE IN MANHATTAN, KS.**

ITC's Nathan Benedict, Director of Regulatory Strategy and Patrick Woods, Director of Business Affairs along with Derek Brown of Evergy and Joann Knight of Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation explored the critical topic of transmission competition and its role in powering Kansas' energy future. Incumbent utilities ensure transmission lines are built to withstand extreme Great Plains weather. Our construction standards and ongoing maintenance activities are designed to ensure the long-term resilience and reliability of the grid.



## CORAL LOPEZ NAMED AREA MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR ITC GREAT PLAINS

Coral joined ITC Great Plains in mid-August as Area Manager of Local Government and Community Affairs, based in the Dodge City office. Coral is a graduate of Dodge City Community College. She spent nearly a decade of her career as a general manager in the private sector before transitioning into local government. Most recently, she worked with the Dodge City-Ford County Development Corporation as their Main Street Director, where she led many efforts to revitalize the downtown area.



## ITC GREAT PLAINS PRESENTS CHECK FOR THE WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

ITC Great Plains employees proudly supported the 43rd Annual Scholarship Auction hosted by the Cloud County Community College (CCCC) Foundation. The CCCC Foundation helps make students' academic dreams possible by providing scholarships and resources that promote success with the Annual Scholarship Auction serving as their largest annual fundraiser. ITC Great Plains Customer and Business Solutions Manager Kim Goodnight and Local Government and Community Affairs Regional Manager Ernestor De La Rosa hosted the ITC Great Plains table at the event in addition to presenting a scholarship check for the Wind Energy Technology program in April. The Wind Energy Technology program began in the fall of 2007 and has a proven track record of 100% graduate placement for students who want to enter the wind energy industry. The event is attended by generous individuals, local business leaders and other organizations who help continue the Foundation's mission to advance support endeavors of CCCC.

## ITC GREAT PLAINS TAKES PART IN PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

Pillars of Community is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the Ford County Fair Association and supporting the Ford County 4-H Youth Development Program. Through 4-H, young members explore individual projects based on their interests, setting goals, building skills and showcasing their work at events like the county fair, speaking contests and livestock exhibitions.

Each year, Pillars of Community hosts the Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction to celebrate the hard work of Ford County's youth livestock exhibitors. Thanks to generous donations, all proceeds from this event directly benefit local youth.



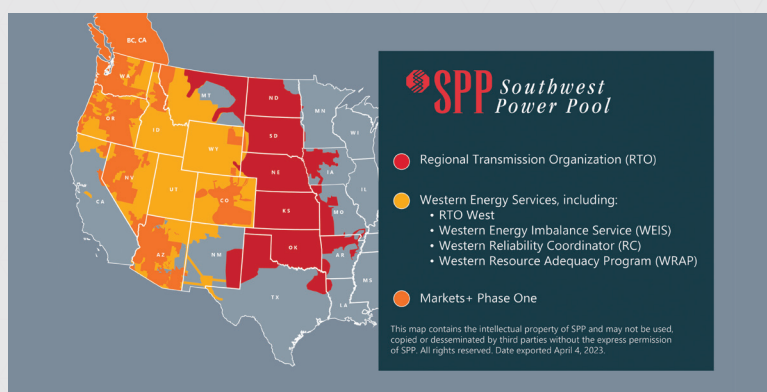
*Andrew Baker, Manager of Marketing & Communications*

## ANDREW BAKER NAMED MANAGER OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITC GREAT PLAINS

Andrew joined ITC Great Plains in mid-July as Manager of Marketing & Communications, based in the Topeka office.

Baker is a graduate of the University of Kansas, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism. He spent eight years of his career as a broadcast journalist in local television news at 6News TV in Lawrence, KS. He also worked for Eergy in Kansas City as its Senior Communications Manager where he maintained relationships with local media and external stakeholders.

Most recently, he was the Director of Communications at Morton Salt where he led all communications efforts for a company that has become a staple within the United States.



## RELIABLE ENERGY EXPECTED FOR WINTER 2024/25

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which oversees electric reliability across a 14-state region in the central U.S., projects sufficient power generation to meet energy demand this winter.

SPP conducts an annual winter assessment (December–March) to identify and address potential risks to energy reliability.

“Transmission plays a vital role in delivering power over long distances, ensuring homes, businesses and industries have the energy they need,” said Andrew Baker, ITC Great Plains Manager, Marketing & Communications. “As a member of the SPP, ITC Great Plains is committed to delivering reliable energy this winter to the communities we serve.”

This year’s analysis considered historical and forecasted electricity use, weather predictions, wind energy variability, drought conditions and potential generation or transmission outages.

The results are reassuring: SPP estimates a 98.5% probability of having enough resources to meet peak electricity demand and maintain energy reserves throughout the season. With regional reserves factored in, the likelihood of meeting demand increases even further.

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## ITC GREAT PLAINS SUPPORTS LOCAL FOOD BANKS TO FIGHT HUNGER

To support the fight against food insecurity and foster greater giving, ITC Great Plains donated to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in McAlester. This contribution will directly impact Choctaw and McCurtain counties, areas in Oklahoma where help is needed the most. ITC Great Plains remains committed to partnering with food banks to make a meaningful difference and help put an end to hunger.