

# Kansas Electric Transmission Authority

Kansas Wind and Renewable Energy Conference

Rep. Carl Holmes, Chairman

Topeka  
October 6, 2009

KS Electric  
Transmission Authority  
**KETA**



## KETA

- Created by a 2005 law
- Began operations in 2006
- Seven Board Members
  - Three Appointed by Governor and Confirmed by the Senate
  - Four Year Staggered Terms
  - Four Legislators *ex officio* – Chairs and ranking minority members of Senate and House Utilities Committees

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## Members

- Chairman, Representative Carl D. Holmes
- Vice-Chairman, Earnie Lehman
- Secretary, Tim McKee
- Les Evans
- Senator Pat Apple
- Senator Janis Lee
- Representative Annie Kuether

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## Mission

- Ensure reliable operation of the electrical transmission system
- Diversify and expand the Kansas economy
- Facilitate consumption of Kansas energy through improvements in the state's electric transmission infrastructure

## KETA Authority

- Plan, finance, construct, develop, acquire, own and dispose of transmission facilities
- Function as a public entity and contract for maintenance and operation of transmission facilities

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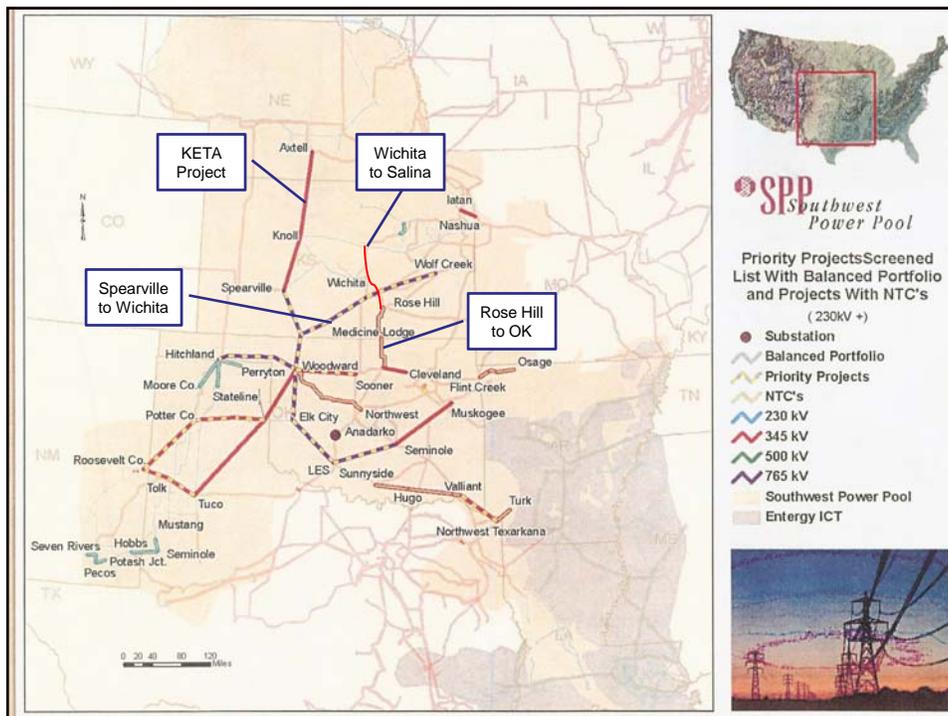
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## Financial Authority

- Contract with Kansas Development Finance Authority to issue bonds and provide financing for projects
- Recover costs through Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization tariffs, through assessments on all Kansas retail customers, and through fees for service

# How Does KETA Do Its Job?

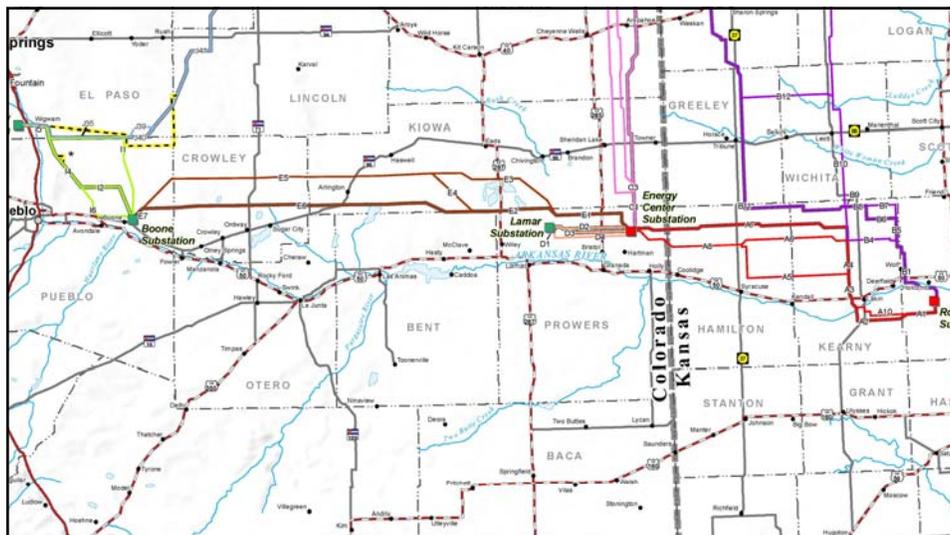
- Identify projects that will benefit Kansas
  - Commissioned an SPP study of economic benefit projects
- Spur utilities to construct important projects
  - Spearville – Axtell, NE (will be built by ITC Great Plains) –“KETA” Project 345 kV or 765 kV
  - Wichita – Reno – Salina (Westar Energy) 345 kV
  - Wichita – Rose Hill – OK Border (Westar Energy) 345 kV
  - Spearville – Wichita – (Prairie Wind and ITC Great Plains) 765 kV



# Key KETA Activities

- Improve understanding of the importance of a robust grid to the expansion of renewable energy generation
  - Public awareness
  - Building bridges to other states with similar infrastructure authorities; Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota

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Source: Eastern Plains Transmission Project  
Western Area Power Administration, 1/16/08

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## Key KETA Activities

- Provide a forum and focus for discussion of transmission issues
  - Monitor the progress many Kansas transmission projects
  - Augment efforts of Kansas' SPP members in cost recovery discussions

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## New Effort

Exploring development of “collector lines” to move renewable energy resources to the high-voltage elements of the grid

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## KETA's Contribution

- Fostering a competitive environment for transmission construction
  - Kansas has gone from little transmission expansion to competing companies desiring to build the same lines
- Challenging the planning process by recognizing benefits hitherto ignored. This will justify more transmission line construction.

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## Challenges of Renewable Transmission

- Accurately capturing proposed project benefits and costs – moving energy generated by renewable resources is expensive
  - Wind farms are located where wind and land are plentiful – usually long distances from customers
  - Distance and resistance to siting make transmission costs very high

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## Opportunities

- Reduce financing costs for KETA sanctioned projects
- Facilitate upgrades to existing transmission lines
- Work with SPP and other states to establish a truly regional and reliable extra high voltage network
- Reduce transmission costs for renewable project developers
- Reduce rate increases for customers

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## Continuing Concerns

- Cost recovery mechanism
  - KCC and SPP roles – complex decisions
- Kansas ratepayer benefits
  - Balancing direct and indirect benefits never easy
- Will Wind developers build along proposed transmission routes?
  - Who “blinks” first?

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## Contact Information

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