



PORTS-TO-PLAINS TRADE CORRIDOR

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to North America's Energy and Agricultural Heartland

Groundbreaking Ceremony held for Golden Spread 'Antelope Station'



Representatives from Amarillo-based Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. and officials from the City of Abernathy and Hale County joined other leaders from across the region for a groundbreaking ceremony last week for the construction of Antelope Station, a \$200 million power generation facility, located just outside of Abernathy, Texas.

The site for the new gas-powered facility is located east of Interstate 27 about one mile north of Abernathy on County Road 315. Golden Spread chose the Hale County location for the new facility because there is already infrastructure at the TUCO substation along with two existing gas pipelines and rail and highway access. Another deciding factor was the tax abatement provided by the Hale County Commission. The Industrial Company (TIC) is handling the construction for the facility while Denver headquartered Zachry Engineering that has an office in Amarillo is handling the engineering for the project.

"It is important that we do a date like this to show how we got to this point," commented Mark Schwirtz, Golden Spread President and General Manager. Schwirtz discussed the current pressure on the state's power grid and the growing push toward wind development. "We really believe it's the right decision, at this time, for our members," he said.

The gas-powered facility will contain 18 nine-megawatt reciprocating engine-generator sets capable of generating approximately 168 mw of electricity. During the ceremony, James Driver, Golden Spread Chairman and Executive Vice President and general manager of South Plains Electric Cooperative explained that the new facility will be a good supplement to wind energy that is being developed across the region. [Read full article and view pictures here»](#)

Alstom to construct 115,000 square foot wind turbine assembly facility in Amarillo, Texas

Alstom, a global leader in power generation, recently held a ceremony with officials of the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation and others at the state, county, and local level to commemorate the construction of their 115,000 square foot wind turbine nacelle assembly facility in Amarillo, Texas.

The Alstom wind turbine nacelle assembly facility, which is scheduled to be operational in 2011, will create 275 full time engineering, production, and technical support jobs in Amarillo, Texas when the plant is at full capacity. Alstom discussed the role of the Amarillo facility in supporting the next phase of the company's entry into the North American wind power market at a press conference at the American Wind Energy Association meeting last week.

[Read full press release from Alstom Wind North America here»](#)

Commitments Fulfilled!

Government is often criticized for its lack of long-range commitments. Elected officials come and go with today's term limits. Agency staffs and leadership change. "Priorities" change. Commitments fall by the wayside.

The Ports-to-Plains Alliance would like to thank the state of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Transportation for staying the course and fulfilling its commitment to upgrade U.S. 287 (Ports-to-Plains) from Limon to the Oklahoma border as a concrete Super 2 profile.

On Thursday, May 20, 2010 the current Transportation Commission approved the final \$19 million to fund the last two phases of this project in Lincoln and Cheyenne counties.

The Super 2 project began back in 1992-93 when Don Morrison of Limon and a current member of the Ports-to-Plains Board of Directors, then a member of the Colorado Transportation Commission, and Philip McCullough and John Unbewust, regional transportation directors for CDOT were able to fund a demonstration project to install a concrete Super 2 roadway between Limon and Hugo. [Read full article»](#)



Theodore Roosevelt Expressway signs placed in North Dakota

Congratulations to our Alliance member Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association in successfully having highway signage installed through North Dakota. The Williston and Dickinson North Dakota Department of Transportation Districts placed new Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Signs along the entire Corridor in North Dakota. The 2009 North Dakota Legislature officially declared U.S. 85 in North Dakota as the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway.

The member communities of Bowman, Dickinson, Watford City, and Williston contributed to the funding of the signs and the NDDOT installed signage along the North Dakota route.

Pictured left to right are Theodore Roosevelt Expressway board members: Mark Sovig, Secretary, Brad Bekkedahl, Treasurer, Cal Klewin Executive Director, Gene Veeder, President and Gaylon Baker, Board Member.

Will the Gulf Oil Spill affect PTP Corridor Economies?

"Ports-to-Plains Alliance ... Securing the Benefits of Commerce to North America's Energy and Agricultural Heartland."

The above statement in quotations is how the Ports-to-Plains Alliance has described the Corridor. The Alliance has supported the need for a North American all-energy strategy both for our economy and North American energy security. Then a disastrous event happens in the Gulf of Mexico on an offshore drilling rig and it may affect these goals.

One of our members, the Consumer Energy Alliance, had a letter from its President David Holt in its latest newsletter that addressed the current questions. The Ports-to-Plains Alliance encourages each of our members to read the letter below and communicate these ideas to your Congressional delegations and to candidates for federal office. We must not allow the current spill to result in policy and regulatory decisions being made on the basis of emotion rather than careful consideration of the entire event. It is critical that all the facts are in place before decisions are made that will result in loss of jobs and further affecting an economy just coming out of a recession.

[Read letter from David Holt, President of Consumer Energy Alliance»](#)



Lethbridge on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor

Written for the *Lethbridge Herald* by Mayor Bob Tarleck, May, 2010

No one better appreciates the benefits of transportation corridors than the citizens of Lethbridge. One hundred years after the completion of a railway bridge that ensured its position as the business hub of south west Alberta, the City is poised to benefit from another transportation link, the Ports-to-Plains Corridor.

Stretching from the Mexican border, through Texas, Colorado, Montana and adjacent Midwest states to northern Alberta, the Corridor connects the economies of nine states and one province to important trading and shipping centres in Mexico, Alberta, and the Pacific Northwest. The US portion of the corridor alone extends about 3,700 km, with Alberta serving as the northern anchor.

Ports-to-Plains describes itself as "a grassroots alliance of communities and businesses whose mission is to advocate for a robust transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agriculture heartland."

Global competitiveness of the agriculture and manufacturing sectors requires both improvements in transportation infrastructure and the harmonizing of trucking regulations. The Alliance has pressed for steps to remove bottlenecks in the highway system and to accelerate the construction of four-lane highways in key parts of the corridor. It has also directed a light on the patchwork pattern of trucking regulations that frustrate the trucking industry.

Ports-to-Plains is a major North American energy corridor. In addition to the significant reserves of conventional oil, gas, and coal, there are new reserves in the form of shale gas and oil sands. At an April, 2010 energy conference in Broomfield, Colorado, Alberta Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Iris Evans, noted that in 2008 the United States imported 9.8 million barrels of crude oil, 30% of which was from Alberta. This underlines the importance of the US market to the Alberta economy and the importance of Alberta exports to US energy security.

But the corridor also has promising potential for alternative energy. The wind profile for the Ports-to-Plains corridor is one of the most favourable in North America, which explains the significant wind generating capacity either developed or planned in Texas, Colorado, Montana, and Alberta.

While the solar and geothermal sectors are not as fully developed as wind energy at this time, they are growing fast and the Ports-to-Plains region is characterized by abundant hours of sunshine. With its strong agricultural infrastructure, the corridor is also well positioned to take advantage of the emerging biofuels industry.

Research and development of new technologies is critical to the health of all sectors of the alternative energy cluster. Texas Tech University in Lubbock has the only Ph.D. program in wind technology in North America and Lethbridge College has Canada's only internationally-certified waste-to-energy program. Important work is also being done in the corridor on solar, geothermal, wind technology, and biofuels. Ports-to-Plains is actively promoting research partnerships involving government, industry, and academic and research institutes.

In the face of growing concerns regarding global food scarcity, the traditional role of the Ports-to-Plains corridor as a major breadbasket will take on new importance. The American members of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance account for approximately 40% of US agricultural production. On the Canadian side of the border, Alberta and Saskatchewan play a comparable role in food production by virtue of their productive dry land and irrigated operations. With a focus on global competitiveness in agriculture firmly in mind, Ports-to-Plains can become a powerful voice against those interests advocating for trade barriers that would hurt consumers and agricultural producers on both sides of the 49th parallel.

In summary, Ports-to-Plains is a trans-national alliance of communities and businesses committed to building global competitiveness in agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and emerging technologies.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Ports-to-Plains Annual Conference

Sept. 8-10, 2010

Rapid City, South Dakota

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