GLENWOOD SPRINGS – MITCHELL CREEK ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT

INFORMATION SHEET
COLORADO

Xcel Energy®

Xcel Energy's Transmission Project

The electric grid is a complex network of independently owned and operated power generation facilities and transmission lines that deliver energy to local communities. In Glenwood Springs, transmission lines owned by Xcel Energy deliver electricity to the Glenwood Springs Electric Department's substations and distribution system, which then serves local users. Glenwood Springs Electric Department purchases wholesale wind power from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) to serve the city's power needs.

Need to Rebuild

One of Xcel Energy's electric transmission lines that provides power to Glenwood Springs runs 2.25 miles between the Glenwood Springs Substation (northeast of the Glenwood Hot Springs pool) and Mitchell Creek Substation (northwest of the Glenwood Meadows shopping center). This line was originally built in the 1940s and a portion was rebuilt in the 1960s. We have determined this line must be rebuilt because it has reached the end of its useful life. The line will be rebuilt to current design standards that include additional measures to reduce wildfire risk. This project will ensure continued safe, reliable electric service to our customers in Western Colorado. Replacement of the line is anticipated to begin in 2021.

Location and Design

The existing line location was set more than 70 years ago, when about 10,000 people lived in Garfield County, compared to about 60,000 today. Limited access to the Glenwood Springs-Mitchell Creek transmission line makes construction and maintenance challenging. We've studied alternatives for the electric line location, and evaluated technical design requirements and potential impacts on the environment, community, residents and businesses in Glenwood Springs. Rebuilding the line along the current route would use the existing transmission line corridor and access routes where possible.

The rebuilt transmission line will be constructed with steel monopole structures. The height and final design of the structures depends on location and conditions such as slope, soil conditions and distance between poles. The new poles are expected to be placed within existing easements or rights-of-way, but additional easements may be required in some areas to insure construction and operational safety and to provide access to the transmission line.

Current and Planned Work on the Project

Geotechnical investigations are planned along the rebuild route in May and June 2020. The results of these studies will provide information on the soils and other below-ground conditions that we will use to determine placement and design of the new poles along the route. Before the work begins, Xcel Energy will be contacting landowners in the areas where these studies are planned.

We are also reviewing the 2.25-mile-long line to identify where access is limited and where additional clearances may be required to determine the safest route for construction and future maintenance of the line. This information will be combined with the results of the line engineering and design work to develop a detailed plan for the line rebuild.

During the rebuild process, we will:

- Engage landowners and the surrounding community to provide details about the planned rebuild and address questions or concerns
- Clear vegetation along access routes and within transmission line right-of-way
- Determine pole locations and finalize structure design
- Identify construction and maintenance access routes
- Remove 38 existing structures and the conductor wires connecting them
- Install new transmission line structures and conductor wires
- Test and energize the rebuilt transmission line

Anticipated Project Schedule (Subject to Change)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT	
Evaluate the project route	2019 – Summer 2020
Work with landowners on transmission line and access route easements	Spring 2020 – Spring 2021
Transmission line design and engineering	Spring – Summer 2020
Identify and obtain any necessary Glenwood Springs and Garfield County permits	Summer to end of 2020
Begin construction via ground equipment and helicopter	Mid-2021
Complete construction, restore work areas and energize line	2021

We look forward to working with the community throughout the process. Xcel Energy will provide a public forum to share information regarding the electric transmission line rebuild and will notify landowners and other stakeholders when a date has been set. We will continue to work with the City of Glenwood Springs and Garfield County to obtain any necessary permits.

Contact Us

Toll-free hotline: **833.947.2040**

Email: **info@XcelEnergyGlenwoodRebuild.com**

Website: **XcelEnergyGlenwoodRebuild.com**

Xcel Energy®