Glenwood Springs – Mitchell Creek Electric Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Garfield County Board of County Commissioners: July 13, 2020

Xcel Energy Project Representatives

- Kelly Flenniken, Director, Community Relations
- Ted Morris, Senior Siting & Land Rights Agent
- Braileigh Jay, Principal Siting & Land Rights Agent
- Joshua Peterson, Principal Transmission Engineer
- Scott Borecki, TerraCon/Geotech Contractor
- Jennifer Chester, Tetra Tech/Siting & Permitting Consultant

Proposed Rebuild

- End of life replacement of the existing electric transmission line between Glenwood Springs Substation and Mitchell Creek Substation
- Will be rebuilt to current design standards, include additional measures to reduce wildfire risk
- Ensure continued safe, reliable electric service to customers in Western Colorado

Need for the Project

- Originally built in 1940s, a portion rebuilt in the 1960s
- Replace deteriorating infrastructure to ensure continued delivery of reliable electric service to customers in Western Colorado

A Year Long Look at Location

- Evaluated whether feasible alternative routes exist by analyzing:
  - Topography, geology, land cover, river crossing impacts
  - Construction & maintenance access, technical design requirements, existing development
  - Impacts to community, residents and local businesses
- Performed field reconnaissance
- Reviewed existing transmission line location
  - Rebuilding the line would use the existing corridor and access routes where possible

Designing the Rebuild Line

- Geotechnical investigations to determine:
  - Placement and design of new poles
  - Determine safest route for construction and future maintenance of the line
  - Right-of-way requirements
- Xcel Energy is in the process of contacting landowners about planned geotechnical work which may include boring or soil resistivity testing

Photos courtesy of TerraCon

Existing and Planned Structures/Poles

- The height and final design of the structures depends on location and conditions such as easement width, slope, soil conditions and distance between poles.

Characteristic	Existing Structures	Rebuild Structures	Additional Information
Material, Color	Wood, brown	Steel monopole (weathering), brown/rust	Steel poles comply with updated design standards and may increase longevity
Right-of-way Width	30’ for transmission line	30' to 60’ for transmission line	Additional right-of-way may be needed based on transmission line design to provide sufficient clearance to existing buildings and/or to reduce number and height of structures
Height of Structures	40' to 65', average 50'	70' to 95', average 80'	Increased height needed to comply with current design standards and to provide for future increase in operating voltage of the transmission line
Access Required	Ground access for maintenance	Ground and helicopter access for construction, ground access for maintenance	Where access is difficult, helicopters can be used to limit ground disturbance from new road construction
Additional Easements	Existing easement review underway	Up to an additional 30' for transmission line, ground access for construction and maintenance and helicopter fly zones	The existing easements date back to as early as the 1920s

Rebuild Process and Schedule*

2019 – Summer 2020	Spring 2020 – Spring 2021	Spring 2020 – Summer 2020	Summer 2020 – end of 2020	Mid 2021	2021
• Evaluate alternative locations and select rebuild route	• Contact landowners and the surrounding community to provide details about the rebuild • Work with landowners on transmission line and access route easements	• Geotechnical studies • Determine pole locations and finalize structure design • Identify construction and maintenance access routes	• Identify and obtain any necessary Glenwood Springs and Garfield County land use permits • Identify and obtain any necessary construction permits	• Clear vegetation along access routes and within transmission line right-of-way • Remove existing structures and conductor wire • Install new transmission line structures and conductor wire using ground equipment and helicopter	• Complete construction, restore work areas, test and energize transmission line

* Preliminary information, subject to change

Where to Find Project Information

- Website: XcelEnergyGlenwoodRebuild.com
- Call toll-free: 833-947-2040
- Email: Info@XcelEnergyGlenwoodRebuild.com

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