

**ARAPAHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
May 19, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

SUBJECT: CASE NUMBER: ASI25-001 – COLORADO’S POWER PATHWAY 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE 1041 (AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST)

MOLLY ORKILD-LARSON, PRINCIPAL PLANNER

LOCATION AND VICINITY MAP

The proposed 345kV transmission power line commences at the Harvest Mile Substation (4455 S. Harvest Road) and then heads north to the north side of E. Quincy Avenue. The transmission line then continues east for approximately 11.5 miles and then crosses E. Quincy Avenue and travels east along this road. The transmission line then turns south between S. Tom Bay Road and S. Brick Center Road. The line continues south for five miles until E. County Line Road and then heads east approximately 1.3 miles before turning south into Elbert County.

The subject transmission line is situated in Commissioner District No. 3 and traverses parcels that are zoned Agricultural-One (A-1), Agricultural-Estate (A-E), Floodplain (F), Heavy Industrial (I-2), Heavy Industrial Planned Unit Development (I-2 PUD), and Open (O).



Transmission Line Alignment (shown in red above)

ADJACENT SUBDIVISIONS, ZONING, AND LAND USE

The adjacent parcels are primarily agricultural and zoned A-1, A-E, F, O, and Industrial (I-1, I-2, I-2 PUD).

PURPOSE AND REQUEST

The applicant, Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy), has submitted an Areas and Activities of State Interest (1041 Regulations) application to locate and construct major facilities of a public utility. A Location and Extent application is also being reviewed concurrently with this application.

Xcel Energy proposes approximately 18 miles of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission line (one mile is within the City of Aurora and was approved separately by the City of Aurora). The construction of this project will also include temporary construction areas associated with the construction of the transmission line, including a temporary eight-acre laydown yard (Beichle Laydown Yard). This laydown is located at the northwest corner of E. Quincy Avenue and S. Brick Center Road. It is being reviewed under a temporary use permit (ZTU-2025-0004) through the Zoning Division and is not being reviewed as part of the 1041 or Location and Extent applications.

The transmission lines will connect to the Harvest Mile Substation located at 4455 S. Harvest Road. The Harvest Mile Substation was approved in 2017 (ASI16-004 and L16-006), and the applicant has indicated that they are not altering from what was approved within the substation with the 1041 and Location and Extent applications.

The new 345-kV double circuit transmission line will be constructed using steel poles. A single pole will be used for most transmission pole locations; however, two poles will be required in certain locations where the weight of the conductor requires extra structural support. These are typically 'angle locations' where the line changes direction. Each pole will be placed on a concrete foundation. Voltage, conductor sag, pole type, terrain, length of span between transmission poles, and minimum clearances of existing buildings influence the necessary height of the transmission pole. The transmission poles will be weathering steel in a brown or rust color. The height of these poles can range from 105 to 140 feet, with a maximum height of 199 feet. The typical span between poles is 950 feet, but it can go up to 1,400 feet in order to avoid obstacles such as drainage areas and wetlands.

The transmission lines will be located within a 150-foot easement (75 feet on either side of the center line) and located outside the right-of-way of E. Quincy Avenue and E. County Line Road. Easement agreements with property owners will need to be solidified before the issuance of a construction permit. Staff will make this a condition of approval.

Temporary Construction Areas (TCA) will be used during construction to stage equipment and materials, including construction trailers, cranes, water trucks, traffic control items, BMP materials, and transmission poles. These areas are located within or adjacent to the transmission line easement. Some TCAs may require grading to level out the area for equipment placement and materials storage. TCAs are also necessary when stringing the conductor wire. These areas are required at specific angles to ensure the conductor wire is pulled in line with the transmission poles, thereby limiting the strain on the poles. At the end of each construction phase, all equipment will be removed that was used for that construction phase. No proposed improvements at the TCAs will be permanent and will be restored to preconstruction conditions.

The Beichle Laydown Yard will be used for equipment delivery, storage, and assembly. This area will also be used as a helicopter fly yard, where helicopter assistance is required for transmission pole installation. The use of helicopters will occur during daylight hours, between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and comply with all FAA regulations. As mentioned above, this laydown yard is being reviewed through a Temporary Use Permit.

Construction of the transmission line is expected to occur in phases. It is anticipated that one 12-hour shift per day (Monday through Saturday) from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be worked during transmission line and substation connections. The applicant believes proposing shifts during daylight hours, from early morning to early evening, will assist in reducing disturbance to residential subdivisions in the area. If additional hours are required for a shift, a 24-hour work permit will be obtained in advance from Arapahoe County. The maximum number of construction workers on site for the substation and transmission line on any one day will be approximately 95 in total. At peak construction, there will be an estimated maximum of 30 construction workers at the Harvest Mile Substation.

Portable temporary bathrooms will be provided for the workers and serviced on a regular basis during the construction period. Portable toilets will be used within the transmission line easement and will be trailer-mounted and hauled to the easement in the morning and removed at the end of the workday.

Bottled water will be provided to employees at the Beichle Laydown Yard and also carried in vehicles in coolers. Bottled water is provided by a local commercial vendor.

BACKGROUND

The Harvest Mile Substation was approved in 2017 (ASI16-004, L16-006), and the applicant is not proposing to change what was approved within the substation.

The Eastern Plains region of Colorado is one of the nation's best areas for wind and solar energy generation, but it does not currently have a network transmission system that can integrate these new generation resources into the state's interconnected grid system, which is needed to meet Colorado's legislature's statutory clean energy targets. The Colorado's Power Pathway project (Pathway) will support Xcel Energy's Clean Energy Plan (Xcel Energy 2021) that is estimated to deliver as much as an 85 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and add approximately 5,000 megawatts of new wind, solar, and other energy resources. Pathway is a critical component of Xcel Energy's efforts to meet the state's statutorily required clean energy targets as well as Colorado's growing electricity needs. Pathway will also improve safety, reliability, and energy affordability.

Xcel Energy proposes to construct, maintain, and operate Pathway in eastern Colorado. Pathway is a \$1.7 billion investment proposed by Xcel Energy to improve the state's open, interconnected electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway includes:

- Installation of approximately 550 miles of new 345-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line in 12 counties.

- Construction of four new electric substations (Canal Crossing, Goose Creek, May Valley, and Sandstone).
- Expansion, equipment additions, or equipment upgrades at four existing electric substations (Fort St. Vrain, Pawnee, Harvest Mile, and Tundra).

Pathway will be constructed in five segments. Segment 5 includes approximately 124 miles of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission line within a 150-foot-wide easement, as well as permanent and temporary easements required for access during construction and for operation and maintenance, and temporary construction areas during construction. Segment 5 will be constructed within five counties, including Arapahoe, Elbert, El Paso, Lincoln, and Pueblo. Approximately 17 miles of Segment 5 are within Arapahoe County.

ANALYSIS OF THE 1041 REVIEW APPLICATION

Staff review of this application included a comparison of the proposal to: 1) applicable policies and goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan; 2) 1041 Regulations Governing Areas and Activities of State Interest; and 3) analysis of referral comments.

1. The Comprehensive Plan

The transmission line crosses Lowry Trust Properties, Denver Arapahoe Disposal Site, Employment, Urban Development Area, Future Development Area, Heavy Industrial, and Tier 3, as identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Regulations Governing Areas and Activities of State Interest (1041 regulations) apply to this application for major facilities of a public utility. Major public facilities include transmission lines, power plants, and substations of electrical utilities.

This proposal complies with the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

Policy PFS 6.1 – Continue Collaboration with Utility Companies in the Development Review Process

The applicant believes that this transmission line will improve the state’s electric grid and enable future renewable energy development by providing backbone transmission capacity. The Eastern Plains region of Colorado is one of the nation’s best areas for wind and solar energy generation, but it does not currently have a transmission network that can integrate these new generation resources into the state’s interconnected grid, which is needed to meet Colorado’s clean energy goals. This project will allow developers of energy generation projects to interconnect energy resources located in the areas of the state that are underserved by backbone transmission lines and allow Xcel Energy to deliver energy to electric customers.

Policy PFS 7.1 – Continue Collaboration with Service Providers to Ensure an Adequate Level of Service is Provided to Existing and New Development

Xcel Energy understands and agrees with this policy to ensure adequate levels of service are provided to existing and new development. The applicant indicates that they’re working with each Fire District crossed by the transmission line in Arapahoe County, including the Sable Altura Fire Protection District, the Aurora Fire Rescue District, and the Bennett-

Watkins Fire Rescue District, and have obtained the Letters of Service provided by these fire districts.

Policy NL 5.1 – Implement Actions to Create a Countywide System of Connected Open Space, Public Parks, and Trails

The Powerline Trails Act (Act) was passed in 2022 to help raise awareness and create opportunities for Public Entities defined as “the state, a local government, or a district” to co-locate public recreation trails within transmission corridors.

The applicant has indicated that Xcel Energy is not in the business of building, owning, or maintaining public recreation trails, and its land rights typically do not give it the right to do so. Nor does the Act require transmission providers to allow a powerline trail or any other facility in any of its transmission corridors. Xcel Energy’s role under the Act is limited to facilitating the potential co-location of such trails by providing guidance to public entities. Public entities will ultimately construct powerline trails after consulting with Xcel Energy, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and landowners about the safety and feasibility of such trails after the transmission corridor is constructed.

The Open Spaces Division has indicated that they are not interested in pursuing any trails with the transmission easements at this time, but may in the future.

Policy PFS 12.2 – Consider Utility Needs to Support Growth and Development of the Region

This project will also allow developers of energy generation projects to interconnect energy resources located in the areas of the state that are underserved by backbone transmission lines and allow Xcel Energy to deliver energy to electric customers.

Policy PFS 12.3 – Require Land Use Compatibility when Siting Local and Regional Utility Facilities

This project is sited within mainly agricultural and industrial zone districts within Arapahoe County, and where feasible, the transmission line’s route is co-located alongside existing infrastructure to minimize impacts to the surrounding area. Of the approximately 18-mile transmission line route in the County, approximately 13 miles (76 percent) is co-located along existing electric transmission infrastructure and existing roads.

The applicant has also indicated that they have been working with individual landowners to minimize impacts on their parcels.

Policy NL 2.1 – Require New Development to be Compatible with Existing Residential Neighborhoods

The applicant indicated that the avoidance of residential neighborhoods, subdivisions, and planned developments was a major factor in identifying the preferred and alternative routes.

Policy EH 1.2 – Encourage Environmentally Friendly Businesses and Jobs in Arapahoe County

This project will add a network transmission system that can integrate environmentally friendly wind and solar energy generation sources in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado,

where they are most efficient, to where the energy demand is the highest. The applicant believes this project will increase electric service safety and reliability, boost the regional economy, and create jobs during construction.

Policy NCR 6.2 – Encourage the Development and Use of Alternative Energy Sources

This project will add a network transmission system that can integrate wind and solar energy generation sources in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado. By linking the best areas for generating wind and solar energy with where demand is, this project will improve the state's electric grid and enable future renewable energy development in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado. This project will increase electric service safety and reliability, boost the regional economy, and create jobs during construction.

Policy T3 GM 1.1 – Retain Agricultural Uses in Tier 3

Construction and operation of the transmission line will not inhibit agricultural production or operations. The transmission line will result in minimal permanent impacts to agricultural lands. Aside from the transmission pole foundation footprint, areas under and around transmission lines/poles can continue to be used for agricultural operations after construction has been completed.

Through private agreements with individual landowners, the proposed alignment spans existing irrigation ditches and pivot irrigation in fields. It is designed adjacent to and parallel with section lines, parcel boundaries, and public right-of-way to limit impacts from the development on overall agricultural operation and production in the area.

2. Application of 1041 Approval Criteria.

The approval criteria of the 1041 Regulations, set forth at Section V, Parts A and C therein, apply to this application for a Major Facilities of a Public Utility.

A. General Approval Criteria

- 1) *Documentation that prior to site disturbance associated with the Proposed Project, the applicant can and will obtain all necessary property rights, permits, and approvals. The Applicant is the contract purchaser of the subject property and is pursuing this application with the consent of the property owner. The Board may, at its discretion, defer making a final decision on the application until outstanding property rights, permits, and approvals are obtained.*

Xcel Energy is currently negotiating with all of the landowners for the necessary land rights along the proposed transmission line route. These negotiations include securing an option for a permanent non-exclusive easement for the 150-foot-wide easement of the transmission line, as well as permanent and temporary easements required for access and temporary construction areas during and after construction. In accordance with Section V A.1 the applicant is required to obtain all necessary property rights for the project. Therefore, the applicant is to obtain all easement agreements with all the landowners on which the transmission line crosses prior to the signing of the Location and Extent plan set. This will be a condition of approval.

Federal, state, and local permits and approvals that have been or will be required for the project are listed below.

- FAA Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration
- Construction General Stormwater Permit and Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)
- Land Development Air Pollution Emissions Notice (APEN)
- Access and Crossing Permits
- Determination of Compliance with Historical, Prehistorical, and Archaeological Resources
- 404 Permit, if necessary

Local permits and approvals that will be required by Arapahoe County include:

- 1041 Approval
- Location and Extent Approval
- Street Cut ROW Use Permits
- GESC Permit
- Floodplain Development Permit
- Oversize/Overweight Permits
- Temporary Use Permits

- 2) *The Project considers the relevant provisions of the regional water quality plans.* Pathway will be consistent with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. Water quality will be maintained during construction by using BMPs and the site-specific SWMP. The transmission line will span streams and waterways that cross the corridor. A permanent water supply will not be required for Pathway. Bottled water will be used for employees and construction workers.

Existing stormwater detention facilities at the Harvest Mile Substation are adequate for detention, water quality treatment, and discharge rate control for the previously approved equipment additions since the impervious areas will not exceed the original design assumption. Therefore, this project will be consistent with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

Xcel Energy will comply with County standards and construction protocols to ensure that this project does not violate water quality standards. Before construction, a GESC Permit will be obtained from Arapahoe County for the transmission line, and a SWMP will be obtained from CDPHE.

- 3) *The applicant has the necessary expertise and financial capability to develop and operate the Proposed Project consistent with all requirements and conditions.* Xcel Energy is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company, with operations in eight western and midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.7 million electricity customers and 2.1 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies.

Construction contractors will be chosen prior to construction. Pathway will be constructed in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local permits and authorizations. Construction contractors will work with the appropriate jurisdictions to obtain and follow all related construction permits. The names, addresses, and qualifications of the Xcel Energy representatives responsible for constructing and operating Pathway can be found in 2.2.b Applicant's Qualification and Expertise of the 1041 Regulation narrative.

The applicant has both the financial and technical ability to construct, maintain, and operate Pathway. Xcel Energy held seventy billion, thirty-five million dollars in assets in 2024. As a public utility providing service to customers in Colorado, Xcel Energy is authorized by law to recover the prudently incurred costs associated with providing utility service in rates charged to customers. Xcel Energy finances the construction of electrical infrastructure through both debt and equity and recovers those costs from customers over the life of the infrastructure.

Per the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) approval on June 2, 2022, CPUC determined that Xcel Energy met its burden of proof to establish that Pathway is in the State's public interest and recovery of the anticipated cost of Pathway is appropriate.

4) *The project is technically and financially feasible.*

The applicant has both the financial and technical ability to construct, maintain, and operate Pathway. Xcel Energy is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company, with operations in eight western and midwestern states, and held seventy billion, thirty-five million dollars in assets in 2024. As a public utility providing service to customers in Colorado, Xcel Energy is authorized by law to recover the prudently incurred costs associated with providing utility service in rates charged to customers. Xcel Energy finances the construction of electrical infrastructure through both debt and equity and recovers those costs from customers over the life of the infrastructure.

Per the CPUC CPCN approval on June 2, 2022, in doing so, the CPUC determined that Xcel Energy met its burden of proof to establish that Pathway is in the State's public interest and recovery of the anticipated cost of Pathway is appropriate.

5) *Proposed Project is not subject to significant risk from natural hazards.*

The Karst Areas and Soil Erodibility Maps in the Addendum to Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5 show areas of evaporite basin and soil erodibility within Arapahoe County. Pathway facilities will be located in areas mapped as loams, silts, clays, alluvium, and eolian deposits.

Further geotechnical studies and soil borings at the Harvest Mile Substation site and along the length of the transmission line will be conducted for the project. Engineers will use this study to determine the size and type of foundations needed to support substation equipment and transmission line poles, as well as soil resistivity.

No significant natural hazards have been identified in the areas planned for Pathway development in Arapahoe County. Professional engineers will guide construction and do not foresee any unusual risks. Pathway is designed to withstand seismic considerations and is not anticipated to impact or be impacted by subsidence. Pathway has been sited and will implement BMPs to avoid and minimize erosion impacts to soils.

- 6) *The Proposed Project is in general conformity with the applicable comprehensive plans.*

See 1. The Comprehensive Plan of this report.

- 7) *The Proposed Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the capability of local government to provide services or exceed the capacity of service delivery systems.*

Pathway will not require additional local government services beyond those currently provided in the area. Pathway creates no additional demand for transportation infrastructure, educational facilities, housing, water (other than temporary need for water for Pathway construction), wastewater treatment, or public transportation.

- 8) *The Proposed Project will not create an undue financial burden on existing or future residents of the County.*

Pathway is estimated to cost approximately \$1.7 billion, and the Sandstone to Harvest Mile segment will cost approximately \$372 million. Per the CPUC's CPCN approval on June 2, 2022, in doing so, the CPUC determined that Xcel Energy met its burden of proof to establish that Pathway is in the State's public interest and recovery of the anticipated cost of Pathway is appropriate through the provision of required CPCN application materials and testimony. Revenues associated with Pathway are collected through cost-of-service rates regulated by the CPUC and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Project construction will require substantial amounts of contract labor, while also providing local jurisdictions and host communities with additional tax revenues and potential employment opportunities. Once Pathway has been completed, it will drive ongoing job opportunities and employment in the clean energy projects (wind, solar, etc.) that ultimately interconnect to Pathway.

Xcel Energy currently pays property taxes for its assets located in Arapahoe County. In 2024, Xcel Energy paid \$26,204,914.40 in Arapahoe County property taxes. After the construction of Pathway in Arapahoe County, Xcel Energy will pay additional property taxes based on the valuation of the new facilities located within the County. This amount is estimated to be approximately 1.26% of the installed cost of Pathway in Arapahoe County, which is estimated to be approximately \$440,000 per year based on current cost and rate projections, but subject to change.

Xcel Energy does not anticipate any negative financial impacts or burdens to Arapahoe County residents due to the construction, operation, and maintenance of

Pathway. As described previously in this section, the CPUC gave Xcel Energy CPCN approval for Pathway, and in doing so, determined that Xcel Energy met its burden of proof to establish that Pathway is in the State’s public interest and that recovery of the anticipated cost is appropriate.

- 9) *The Proposed Project will not significantly degrade any substantial sector of the local economy.*

Pathway will deliver short and long-term economic benefits to communities across eastern and southern Colorado, including Arapahoe County. More immediately, Pathway construction will provide local jurisdictions and host communities with potential additional tax revenue and employment opportunities. Xcel Energy anticipates that a crew of up to 95 construction workers will be needed for the construction of Pathway in Arapahoe County. Construction crews may reside in the area during construction. There may also be an increase in revenue for some local businesses, such as restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, and hotels, as well as other local businesses.

- 10) *The Proposed Project will not unduly degrade the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and experience.*

Pathway will not impact the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and experiences. Three existing pedestrian trails are crossed by the proposed Pathway route where it crosses E. Quincy Avenue near the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Senac Creek at E. Quincy Avenue, and Black Shack Creek at E. Quincy Avenue; the three existing transmission lines on the south side of E. Quincy Avenue also cross the existing trails along Senac Creek and Black Shack Creek where these creeks cross E. Quincy Avenue. The Pathway route in Arapahoe County is located approximately one mile north of the Aurora Reservoir. Pathway is not expected to impact or change the character of the Aurora Reservoir recreation area or recreational experiences because of the distance between the recreation resource and Pathway. During construction, trails may need to be temporarily closed during stringing or other construction activities for public safety. Trails will be reopened after work has been completed and will have no long-term impact. Pathway will work with Arapahoe County as needed regarding trail crossings. There are currently no existing trails located on the north side of E. Quincy Avenue where the transmission line route will be located.

The Powerline Trails Act was passed in 2022 to help raise awareness and create opportunities for Public Entities, defined as “the state, a local government, or a district,” to co-locate public recreation trails within transmission corridors.

The Open Spaces Division is aware of the above-mentioned Act, but does not wish to pursue any recreation trail at this time. However, a trail may be pursued in the future.

- 11) *The planning, design, and operation of the Proposed Project will reflect principles of resource conservation, energy efficiency, and recycling or reuse.*

Once Pathway has been constructed, it will drive ongoing development associated with the clean energy projects (wind, solar, etc.) that will ultimately interconnect to

Pathway. Pathway will support Xcel Energy's Clean Energy Plan (Xcel Energy 2021) that is estimated to deliver as much as an 85 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and add approximately 6,500 megawatts of new wind, solar, and other energy resources.

12) *The Proposed Project will not significantly degrade the environment.*

a. *Air quality.*

Arapahoe County is in attainment with National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the following criteria pollutants: particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and lead; Arapahoe County is in non-attainment for ozone (EPA 2025). Therefore, this geographic area has air quality that fails to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone.

Short-term effects are anticipated from a temporary increase in construction vehicles, which may increase fumes and fugitive dust, construction equipment exhaust (fumes), and clearing and preparing areas for construction (dust). Dust (particulate emissions) will be suppressed using water trucks. The short-term effects are not expected to cause a public nuisance. If a nuisance arises during construction, the nuisance will be mitigated in coordination with Arapahoe County.

It is anticipated that an average of 30 trucks per day will be utilized during the construction of the transmission line. The impact on local roads will vary day by day as the construction moves along the route. The construction of the Harvest Mile Substation equipment additions will involve mostly personal vehicle trips for construction workers, with 10 trips per day.

Concrete truck deliveries will be made daily when the foundations and piers are constructed. Multiple deliveries of yard rock (up to 48 per day) and cement (up to 28 per day) will be required daily at certain stages of construction. Water trucks will be utilized during construction activities to suppress dust from vehicles and equipment as necessary within the Pathway easement and county roads, as per coordination with Arapahoe County.

Xcel Energy will apply for a CDPHE APEN (Air Pollutant Emission Notice) for land development prior to construction and follow state standards to control the release of fugitive dust related to construction if necessary. The APEN will be required for a disturbance greater than 25 contiguous acres and land development activities longer than six months.

During operation, Pathway will not generate trips in excess of those currently experienced, as the transmission line facilities represent a passive use and will not be staffed. Transmission line operations will not require on-site staff and will be monitored remotely. Visits from personnel will be limited to emergencies or maintenance and inspection activities, and increased fumes, exhaust, and dust during operation are not expected.

b. *Visual quality.*

The existing visual landscape in the area around the proposed Pathway transmission line route consists mainly of agricultural land uses, including pivot irrigated crops and pastureland. Trees are sparse, and shrub/scrub and herbaceous land cover dominate the area. Industrial facilities present near Pathway facilities include solar farms, high-voltage electric transmission lines, and industrial development. Electric distribution lines are visible throughout the area and are generally located along roads to serve residential and commercial areas. There are several existing high-voltage transmission lines and electrical substations in Arapahoe County.

Where feasible, the Pathway route through Arapahoe County is co-located along this existing infrastructure to minimize new impacts to the surrounding area. The transmission line will be visible to viewers with direct, open views. Viewers located farther away are likely to experience less visual impact because the existing screening (topography, vegetation, buildings) and distance from the facilities will decrease potential views. Typical transmission pole configurations, representative photographs, and visual simulations of Pathway are included in Plans, Representative Photographs, and Simulations (ASI25-001_LE25-003-Photosim).

c. *Surface water quality.*

The applicant has indicated that the construction of the transmission line will not create runoff in excess of previous site levels and will not change existing topography or adversely affect drainage. No alteration in the pattern or intensity of surface drainage as a result of the construction or operation of the transmission line will occur. Xcel Energy will comply with permit application requirements, County standards, and construction protocol to ensure that Pathway does not violate water quality standards. Prior to construction, a GESC Permit will be obtained from Arapahoe County for the transmission line, and a Storm Water Permit for Construction Activities will be obtained from CDPHE.

Pathway intends to avoid impacts to streambeds to the extent practicable. The span between transmission line poles can be up to 1,400 feet and thus can be sited to avoid placement over streambeds and to span across them. Based on the lengths provided in Table 9 in Section 2.12.c.1 of the 1041 narrative, it is not anticipated that Pathway will result in any impacts to streambeds in Arapahoe County.

Associated access roads, laydown yards, and other appurtenant features of Pathway will also be sited to avoid impacts to streambeds. In the event that a regulated water resource cannot be avoided, Pathway will comply with applicable federal and state regulations, including permit requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). To avoid potential indirect impacts from construction-related erosion and sediment movement during construction,

Pathway will adhere to BMPs outlined in the SWMP as well as the GESC Plan, which will include erosion control and revegetation measures.

d. Groundwater quality.

Construction and operation of Pathway are not anticipated to impact existing aquifers. Pathway will not require permanent drawing out of a well or aquifer.

e. Wetlands, floodplains, streambed meander limits, recharging areas, and riparian areas.

A desktop analysis of the portion of Pathway within Arapahoe County was completed to identify potentially jurisdictional wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) that may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The digital information and site visit were evaluated for the 150-foot Pathway easement and an additional 50-foot buffer on either side of the Pathway easement.

Tetra Tech wetland scientists also conducted site visits within areas where land access has been granted to Xcel Energy to perform wetland evaluations and jurisdictional stream determinations within the transmission line easement. The site visits were conducted in October 2023, February 2024, July 2024, April 2025, and November 2025.

The transmission line will span or avoid any wetlands, streams, lakes, and reservoirs as much as possible. There are poles located in the FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain. Xcel Energy will submit separate floodplain permits for processing by Arapahoe County and SEMSWA, as applicable, to ensure compliance with each jurisdiction's regulations on this matter. A FEMA permit shall be obtained before construction can occur on the subject parcel. This will be made a condition of approval.

Pathway intends to avoid impacts to wetlands and WOTUS features to the extent practicable. The applicant believes no federally jurisdictional wetlands or waters will be impacted by the Project, and 404 CWA permits will not be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The span between transmission line poles can be up to 1,400 feet and thus can be sited to avoid pole placement within and to span across wetlands and other WOTUS features to avoid permanent impacts. Associated access roads, laydown yard, and other appurtenant features of Pathway will also be sited to avoid permanent impacts to wetlands and WOTUS features. In the event that a regulated water resource cannot be avoided, Pathway will comply with applicable federal and state regulations, including permit requirements under Section 404 of the CWA. If a 404 CWA is impacted, a permit will need to be obtained before construction can occur on the subject parcel. This will be made a condition of approval.

Temporary impacts to wetlands and WOTUS during the construction of Pathway will be avoided. To avoid potential indirect impacts from construction-related

erosion and sediment movement during construction, Pathway will adhere to BMPs outlined in the SWMP as well as the GES Plan, which will include erosion control and revegetation measures.

In areas where access roads are not planned to cross a wetland or stream and crossing of a wetland or stream is not necessary for Pathway construction, driving access will be restricted by installing high-visibility construction fencing as a visual aid to prohibit construction subcontractors from driving through aquatic features to avoid impacts to potentially jurisdictional wetlands, State Waters, and WOTUS.

f. Terrestrial and aquatic animal life.

Desktop Information

A desktop analysis of the portion of Pathway was completed to characterize the environmental setting of Pathway and evaluate the potential for the occurrence of special-status species based on available habitat. The analysis included the transmission line route plus a one-mile buffer. The one-mile buffer was used to evaluate biological resources that could be influenced by project construction or operation (i.e., raptor nests).

The above research identified a total of 15 special-status wildlife species occurring within one mile of proposed Pathway facilities, including: Preble's meadow jumping mouse, swift fox, Bald eagle, Ferruginous hawk, Golden eagle, Piping plover, western burrowing owl, Whopping crane, Pallid sturgeon, common garter snake, and Monarch butterfly, Ute ladies'-tresses orchid, and western fringed prairie orchid. The Piping plover, Whopping crane, Pallid sturgeon, and western fringed prairie orchid are unlikely to occur due to unsuitable habitat in the project and vicinity. In addition, the Ute's Ute ladies' tresses orchid has a low chance of occurring due to the habitat in the area.

As per CPW mapping, the proposed transmission line route does cross a portion of the swift fox, ferruginous hawk, and common garter snake range, and the entirety of the proposed route overlaps black-tailed prairie dog high-potential colony occurrence range, Preble's meadow jumping mouse overall range, golden eagle breeding range, and burrowing owl breeding range.

In addition to the above-listed species, CPW tracks and maps data for big game species habitat throughout the state. The mountain lion's overall range and peripheral range are located within the one-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities. Three mule deer concentration areas, one migration corridor, four severe winter ranges, one winter concentration area, and three areas identified as winter range occur within the one-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities. Two pronghorn antelope concentration areas, one winter concentration area, one area identified as winter range, and pronghorn perennial water sources occur within the one-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities. Two white-tailed deer

concentration areas and two areas identified as winter range occur within the one-mile buffer of proposed Pathway facilities.

Field Survey

In addition to publicly available information, windshield and ground-based surveys of proposed Pathway facility locations were completed from September 2021 to the present (where access was available) to identify any potential areas of concern for biological resources and identify habitat for special status species.

Raptor:

Ground-based raptor nest surveys and aerial raptor nest surveys were initially conducted in April and May 2022 to identify potentially active eagles and other raptor nests within 0.5 miles of the proposed transmission line route. Ground-based raptor nest surveys along Segment 5 of Pathway have been ongoing since the initial aerial raptor nest surveys in 2022. Every nesting season since 2022, Tetra Tech biologists have performed ground-based raptor nest surveys to account for changes in the transmission line alignment and newly acquired property access, as well as to verify the presence and activity of previously mapped nests and document newly constructed nests.

Burrowing Owl:

Since May of 2022, burrowing owl habitat/prairie dog colony surveys have also been completed along the transmission easement of Segment 5, where landowner access has been granted. Biologists have made an effort to document potential swift fox dens observed during these surveys, but have yet to encounter any.

Surveys for nesting raptors, burrowing owls, and other ground-nesting birds will continue to be conducted in areas with suitable nesting habitat prior to construction activities of that phase of construction.

Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat and Ute-ladies' tresses:

Surveys to assess areas for suitable Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat and Ute-ladies' tresses habitat were completed in October of 2023, and determined that suitable habitat for both species was not present along Segment 5 within Arapahoe County.

CPW Request:

CPW has requested the following for the applicant to consider.

Aquatic Native Species Conservation Waters: CPW has identified Aquatic Native Species Conservation Waters within the State of Colorado's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. These surface water features provide critical habitat for native aquatic wildlife, such as amphibians and fish, while also providing crucial habitat for mammals, birds, and reptiles that utilize the habitat. Within the proposed Project area, there is a possibility of sensitive aquatic native species (fish and amphibians) present within Coal Creek and Box Elder Creek. CPW recommends no surface occupancy and no ground disturbance (year-round) within 500 feet of

the ordinary high-water mark of all of these surface waters and the implementation of appropriate stormwater and sediment control BMPs.

Mule Deer Severe Winter Range:

Mule Deer Severe Winter Range is defined as the portion of a species' range where 90% of individuals are found during the harshest two winters out of ten, when snowpack is highest, and temperatures are lowest. Within the proposed Project area, Mule Deer Severe Winter Range is present along the proposed transmission route at Township 5S, Range 64W, Sections 3 and 4, and Township 5S, Range 65W, Sections 2 and 4. For the identified portions of the proposed Project area that traverse Mule Deer Severe Winter Range, CPW recommends the following timing limitation be implemented for construction, operation, and decommissioning phases:

- No permitted or authorized human activities from December 1st to April 30th. If this cannot be achieved, CPW recommends starting construction outside of the winter timing to reduce impacts to mule deer during this crucial time of year.

Mule Deer Winter Concentration:

Mule Deer Winter Concentration is defined as the part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten. Within the proposed Project area, Mule Deer Winter Concentration is present along the proposed transmission line route at Township 5S, Range 64W, Sections 3 and 4. For the identified portions of the proposed Project area that traverse Mule Deer Winter Concentration, CPW recommends the following timing limitation be implemented for construction, operation, and decommissioning phases:

- No permitted or authorized human activities from December 1st to April 30th. If this cannot be achieved, CPW recommends starting construction outside of the winter timing to reduce impacts to mule deer during this crucial time of year.

Pronghorn Winter Concentration Area:

CPW defines Pronghorn Winter Concentration Areas as the part of the winter range where pronghorn densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average of five winters out of ten. The Mapped Pronghorn Winter Concentration Area is present within the entire project area except Township 5S, Range 65W, Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. For the identified portions of the proposed Project area that traverse Pronghorn Winter Concentration, CPW recommends that the following timing limitation be implemented for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases:

- Complete construction in these areas outside of the winter season, which falls from January 1st to April 30th. If this cannot be achieved, CPW recommends

starting construction outside of the wintertime to reduce impacts to pronghorn during this crucial time of year.

Burrowing Owls:

Burrowing Owls are listed as State Threatened and are known to nest in active or inactive prairie dog (black-tailed or white-tailed) burrows or the burrows of other terrestrial wildlife. Because burrowing owls are included in the protections afforded by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is important to avoid actions that could negatively impact the owls, nests, and eggs. To best avoid or minimize impacts to Burrowing Owls within the project area, CPW recommends the following:

- If development is proposed to occur in a prairie dog colony that has been active within the past 10 years, CPW recommends conducting surveys consistent with CPW's Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol.
- CPW recommends that targeted surveys be conducted for any activities resulting in ground disturbance between March 15th and October 31st.
- If nesting Burrowing Owls are present, no human encroachment or surface disturbance should occur within a 200-meter buffer of nesting burrows from March 15th to August 31st.
- If Burrowing Owls occupy the site, CPW recommends that earthmoving and other disturbance activities be delayed until late fall after they have migrated.
- If seismic work could disturb or collapse dens containing nests, that work should avoid the nesting period.

Swift Fox Potential Denning Habitat:

Swift fox is listed in Colorado as a species of State Special Concern, and several of the areas of the proposed Project area contain potential swift fox denning habitat. To minimize the impact of future development on occupied, high-quality swift fox habitat, CPW recommends that the developer conduct pre-construction surveys for active den sites in coordination with CPW. CPW also recommends no human encroachment, surface disturbance, or construction activity within 0.25 miles of an active maternal den site from March 15th through June 15th. The

Mountain Plover Nest Sites:

Mountain Plovers are listed in Colorado as a species of State Special Concern. CPW recommends that surveys be completed using USFWS protocols in potential nesting habitats and that any active Mountain Plover nests within the proposed Project area are protected through the application of appropriate spatial buffers, and planning construction activity within nesting habitats outside of critical nesting periods for the species (April 1 through August 15). Mountain Plovers can nest in short-grass prairie, dryland cultivated farms, and prairie dog towns; all of which are located within the proposed Project boundary. Where active nests are identified immediately ahead of construction, CPW recommends that they be flagged and avoided through the application of a seasonal restriction of no human disturbance within 300 feet until the young are hatched and independent of the nest as determined by CPW or a qualified biologist.

Raptors and Migratory Birds:

The proposed Project area contains suitable habitat for nesting raptors and migratory birds. To ensure compliance with the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, CPW recommends consultation with USFWS prior to construction of the proposed Project. All migratory birds are protected from potential take under the MBTA, and any removal or disturbance of an active migratory bird nest requires prior consultation with CPW and USFWS. Both active and potential nest sites, as well as winter night roosts, should be considered when evaluating potential disturbance during construction.

Along with the raptor nest surveys, CPW recommends transmission lines be installed consistent with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) standards and that bird diverters be installed within 1/4-mile of any lake, drainage, or riparian area and within the raptor nesting buffer for all active nests.

The applicant has indicated that they have been conducting ongoing coordination with CPW and the USFWS regarding potential biological resources that may be impacted by Pathway. The feedback received from CPW and USFWS during these meetings has been used in the route and siting of Pathway. Xcel Energy will continue to coordinate with CPW and USFWS through permitting, construction, and operation of Pathway, as needed, to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations.

Staff shall require that the applicant comply with the recommendations of CPW as a condition of approval.

g. Terrestrial and aquatic plant life.

See 12.f above.

h. Soil and geologic conditions.

The Karst Areas and Soil Erodibility Maps in the Addendum to Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5 (ASI25-001_LE25-003-Routing and Siting Study), show areas of evaporite basin and soil erodibility within Arapahoe County. Pathway facilities will be located in areas mapped as loams, silts, clays, alluvium, and eolian deposits.

Pathway will be constructed based on the result of geotechnical studies to effectively site transmission poles and avoid geological hazards. During construction, Xcel Energy's contractor will minimize any soil impacts by strictly adhering to a SWMP regulated by CDPHE and will institute and maintain erosion and sediment control BMPs designed to protect soils and prevent erosion. The pathway is designed to withstand seismic considerations and is not anticipated to be affected by subsidence.

13) *The Proposed Project will not cause a nuisance.*

The project is expected to cause minor impacts, and those will be addressed as follows:

Traffic: During construction, temporary safety fences will be erected along the construction right-of-way in areas where construction activities will occur near a public road or residence. Once the facility is operational, the traffic generated by two employees every 12 hours and deliveries will be minimal.

Dust: Dust suppression techniques, such as watering, will be implemented during construction. The key to dust control is through watering roads and site construction areas. Impacts from the use of heavy equipment will be minimized to the extent possible. All construction will occur during the day; no nighttime construction is expected.

Noise:

The applicant commissioned a noise study for the proposed facility, see Noise and EMF Study.

Installation/Construction: Construction-related noise will result in temporary short-term increases in noise in areas where construction and staging are taking place. Short-term noise will result during substation construction, foundation construction, and assembly and erection of the transmission line poles. Short-term noise is anticipated from construction equipment such as augering machines, cranes, heavy machinery, and trucks. Construction vehicles and equipment will be maintained in proper operating condition and equipped with manufacturer's standard noise control devices (e.g., mufflers or engine enclosures).

Indirect effects from post-construction activities, which include the noise from transmission line inspections and maintenance activities, are anticipated to be negligible because of their short duration and infrequency.

Transmission Lines:

As per the EMF Study, the maximum projected noise level measured at 25 feet from the edge of the Pathway easement is 49.8 dBA. Pursuant to CPUC Rule 3206(f), noise levels below 50 dBA are not subject to further review (4 CCR 723-3). The audible noise level is below all levels deemed reasonable by Commission rule, including the Commission's most stringent 50 dB(A) residential noise limit outlined in Rule 3206(f).

Magnetic Field: Magnetic Fields were analyzed at the edge of the transmission easement, and the magnetic fields from both potential conductor types are below the 150 mG magnetic field level that is deemed reasonable by CPUC Rule 3206(e).

Harvest Mile Substation: The applicant has indicated that the maximum projected noise level at 25 feet from the substation will be 57 dBA. This means that the facility is under the maximum permissible noise level for "industrial use" under C.R.S. § 25-

12-103 (“Noise Statute”), which is the applicable noise standard. As per state statute, the industrial noise levels are 80 dB(A) from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and 75 dB(A) from 7:00 p.m. to the next 7:00 a.m.

Air Pollution:

See 12.a

Septic Systems:

The Arapahoe County Public Health Department (ACPHD) identified two potential septic systems near the transmission line easement that could be affected. These sites are located at 34501 E. Quincy Avenue (the ponds on the Appogee property) and 27901 E. Quincy Avenue (within the City of Aurora-Pronghorn Natural Area and Open Space.) The permit is for the personnel building and shop facility. After discussion with CDPHE and Xcel Energy, ACPHD doesn’t have any concerns with these sites.

Water Wells:

ACPHD had concerns about the transmission line facilities affecting existing water wells. Xcel Energy has identified all wells that are within the proposed transmission line right-of-way and has added the wells to the Location and Extent plan set. One transmission line pole (pole 694) is located within 100 feet of a well. Xcel Energy will include construction fencing around this well to prevent damage to the well during construction, as recommended by ACPHD. This has been made a condition of approval.

Landfill Operations:

The ACPHD identified two landfills potentially within 1,000 feet of the proposed transmission line easement. Both landfills are located east of S. Robertsdale Way; one is north and the other south of E. Quincy Avenue. The applicant’s construction contractor is to conduct methane monitoring within 1,000 feet of the landfill boundary and incorporate response procedures in their construction emergency response plan. ACPHD was satisfied with these recommendations.

Unexploded Ordnance:

The applicant’s construction contractor will include information about unexploded ordnance in their construction emergency response plan. ACPHD is satisfied with this recommendation.

- 14) *The Proposed Project will not significantly degrade areas of paleontological, historic, or archaeological importance.*

The Historic Places Map in Addendum to Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5 (2-ASI25-001_LE25-003-Routing and Siting Study_rev), shows designated historic places and historic districts within Arapahoe County.

Desktop cultural resources reviews were completed in December 2022 and again in April 2025. Cultural resource and paleontological records were reviewed using

archaeological site files and the Colorado Cultural Resource Online Database (Compass) maintained by the Colorado Historic Society Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Included in the Compass database are records of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The cultural resources site file search was conducted for a 150-foot buffer of the transmission line easement and the Harvest Mile Substation within Arapahoe County (the Research Area).

No paleontological resources have been recorded within the Research Area.

Within the Research Area, four (4) previous cultural resource surveys have been conducted (report numbers AH.LG.NR8, MC.AE.R26, MC.CH.R3, and MC.E.R35). These surveys include approximately 1.0 miles of Segment 5. Within the Research Area are four (4) previously recorded cultural resources. These include: a prehistoric lithic scatter (5AH.73), a prehistoric open camp (5AH.414), a historic fence (5AH.1642), and a historic transmission line (5AH.1643). The open camp, fence, and transmission line have been determined Not Eligible, and the lithic scatter is Unevaluated. "Unevaluated" means the site has been identified during a survey but has not yet undergone the necessary testing or assessment to determine if it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or state-level registers.

Higher voltage transmission lines are generally installed crossing over lower voltage lines to avoid potential interference. Pathway will cross the historic transmission line. Note that the exact location of the historic transmission line cannot be provided within public documents in accordance with the required confidentiality agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office. If needed, the Pathway transmission poles on either side of the historic transmission line will be designed to be taller to increase the clearance. Pathway will span site 5AH.1642. Site 5AH.73 will be re-surveyed, and an official determination of eligibility will be obtained before the construction of this project phase, and the site will not be impacted. No transmission line poles will be constructed within the site boundaries, and the sites will not be impacted. No permits need to be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office.

15) *The Proposed Project will not result in an unreasonable risk of releases of hazardous materials.*

a. *Plans for compliance with federal and State handling, storage, disposal, and transportation requirements.*

No hazardous materials will be used, stored, or generated on the site of Pathway facilities. Hazardous materials used during construction and operation may include:

- 6,500 cubic yards of concrete
- Unleaded fuel
- Diesel fuel
- Hydraulic fluid

Unleaded and diesel fuel will be delivered by authorized vendors, and concrete will be transported by concrete vendor trucks. Unleaded and diesel fuel will be stored at the following locations in Arapahoe County:

- Beichle Laydown Yard
- Harvest Mile Substation

b. Use of waste minimization techniques.

Enclosed containment will be provided for trash disposal. Construction waste, including trash and litter, garbage, other solid waste, petroleum products, and other potentially hazardous materials as described above in 15.a and will be removed and taken to a disposal facility authorized to accept such materials.

Construction, operation, and maintenance activities will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use of hazardous substances. Construction activities will be performed by methods that prevent entrance or accidental spillage of solid matter, contaminants, debris, and other pollutants and waste into flowing streams or dry watercourses, lakes, and underground water sources. All activities will follow BMPs for the management of wastes to avoid and minimize effects from potential spills or other releases to the environment.

c. Adequacy of spill prevention and response plans

To prevent accidental release and exposure to harmful substances and to mitigate environmental impacts, the following procedures will be implemented:

- Training and Protocol Adherence: All project vendors must complete environmental training and adhere to the Colorado's Power Pathway Spill Response Protocol.
- Immediate Response: In the event of a spill, Mears Group will respond immediately. The individual who discovers and reports the spill will contain it until Mears Group arrives for official cleanup.
- Spill Kits: Standard spill kits are distributed to all vendors and laydown yards.
- Notification: Once a spill has occurred Pathway team will contact QISG Environmental team and QISG safety team, to respond to proper clean up and disposal.
- Contaminated Material Removal: Contaminated soil and materials used to contain the spill will be removed and transported to Buffalo Ridge Landfill in Keenesburg, Colorado.
- Concrete Procurement and Transport: Approximately 6,500 cubic yards of concrete are required for 132 structures in Arapahoe County. American Eagle Ready Mix will procure and transport the concrete, prioritizing local vendors.
- Accidental Discharge Response: In case of accidental discharge, spill kits will be used to contain the material, which will then be taken to a designated recycling center. The QISG Environmental Team will be notified immediately to determine any additional measures needed.

Hazardous materials used during construction and operation will be used and disposed of in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Pathway construction in Arapahoe County will comply with the Spill Prevention and Response Procedures. Pathway activities will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use of hazardous substances, and activities will follow BMPs for the management of waste to avoid and minimize effects from potential spills or other releases to the environment.

- 16) *(Only Applicable to Major Permit Review) The benefits accruing to the County and its citizens from the proposed activity outweigh the losses of any resources within the County or the losses of opportunities to develop such resources.*

The applicant anticipates that Pathway will provide economic benefits to Arapahoe County. The short-term economic benefits of Pathway are driven by the \$1.7 billion investment in electric transmission assets in Colorado, which includes payments for land acquisitions and easements, as well as the creation of construction jobs and indirect economic stimulus of construction activities. More immediately, Pathway construction will provide local jurisdictions and host communities with potential additional tax revenue and employment opportunities. Revenue may increase during construction for local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, and other local businesses.

Once Pathway has been constructed, it will facilitate ongoing job opportunities and employment associated with the clean energy projects (wind, solar, etc.) that may ultimately interconnect to Pathway, which will also provide tax revenues and employment opportunities. Expected long-term benefits include tax payments to the counties that will be crossed by the transmission line over the life of the project.

- 17) *The Proposed Project is the best alternative available based on consideration of need, existing technology, cost, impact, and these regulations.*

Several alternatives to Pathway were considered, including non-structural alternatives, structural alternatives, and design alternatives (Addendum to Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5 [ASI25-001_LE25-003-Routing and Siting Study]).

Alternate locations and routes, alternative types of facilities, use of existing easements, joint use of easements with other utilities, and upgrades to existing facilities were analyzed. Pathway routing and siting efforts were divided by segment and documented in a series of routing and siting studies. Each routing and siting study is interrelated due to the overlap in segment Study Areas and shared substation endpoints. Resources that influenced the selection of the proposed route in Arapahoe County included: existing linear infrastructure, location of proposed route to the south of Arapahoe County, location of existing Harvest Mile Substation, residences, existing land uses (solar facilities, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora Reservoir, Peter Binney Water Purification Facility), future proposed projects, and Air National Guard flight training areas.

The Army Aviation conducts low-altitude flight training east and south of Aurora Reservoir. This training is routinely performed below 200 feet at high speeds, which will affect the transmission line construction. Risk can be mitigated by ensuring air crews are accurately informed of the changes and timelines. To do this, the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) would need a better timeline of construction locations as well as the method of assembly (crane or helicopter use).

On March 19, 2024, Xcel Energy met with Buckley Space Force Base authorities, including those from the AASF, Defense Mission Task Force, and 240th Civil Engineer Flight, amongst others, to discuss their concerns regarding potential interference of the original preferred route on training activities on Colorado State Land Board property outside of the base area within Arapahoe County. Subsequent to this conversation, Xcel Energy revised the original preferred route to avoid the areas of concern and updated the route to what is being proposed with this application.

On April 2, 2024, Xcel Energy met with Buckley Space Force Base, including a representative from the AASF, to discuss the proposed transmission line route. During this meeting, Buckley Space Force Base confirmed that the updated preferred route addressed their concerns relative to training areas on State Land Board property and confirmed that Pathway is not anticipated to impact training activities. The updated preferred route that was approved by Buckley Space Force Base is the same route included in the 1041 and Location and Extent applications. From these discussions, the Colorado Army National Guard requested that they be contacted before and during the construction of this project. Staff have made this a condition of approval.

Given the small area occupied by the transmission poles and the substation footprint, and the minimal anticipated visual impact, landscaping is not proposed as part of Pathway. The type of steel used for the transmission poles will be determined through consultation with the local jurisdictions. Access to the transmission poles from E. Quincy Avenue is shown on the Location and Extent plan set and will be confirmed before construction.

18) *The Proposed Project will not unduly degrade the quality or quantity of agricultural activities.*

The transmission line alignment avoids existing irrigation ditches and pivot irrigation in fields to minimize effects on existing productive agricultural operations. Current uses adjacent to the Pathway facilities will be able to continue mainly unchanged after the construction of this project. Areas disturbed during construction will be restored in coordination with the landowners and their current land use.

19) *Cultural Resources. The Proposed Project will not significantly interfere with the preservation of cultural resources, including historical structures and sites, agricultural resources, the rural lifestyle, and the opportunity for solitude in the natural environment.*

Pathway is not located within any historic and archaeological areas of importance. No permits are required.

20) *Land Use. The Proposed Project will not cause significant degradation of land use patterns in the area around the Proposed Project.*

The applicant indicates that the current land uses adjacent to the Pathway facilities will be able to continue mainly unchanged after construction of this project. The transmission line alignment avoids existing irrigation ditches and irrigation in fields to minimize effects on existing agricultural operations. Areas disturbed during construction will be restored in coordination with the landowners and their current land uses.

21) *Compliance with Regulations and Fees. The applicant has complied with all applicable provisions of these regulations and has paid all applicable fees.*

The applicant has complied with all applicable provisions and has paid all applicable fees.

C. Additional Criteria Applicable to Major Facilities of a Public Utility

1. *Areas around major facilities of a public utility shall be administered so as to minimize disruption of the service provided by the public utility.*

The transmission line will have an easement of 150 feet wide, 75 feet on either side of the centerline. Xcel Energy will maintain the transmission line easement in accordance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation standard FAC-003-5 (NERC 2022) vegetation management standards and Arapahoe County weed management regulations.

Vegetation management within the transmission line easement will be required prior to, or in conjunction with, construction. Trees and tall vegetation growing within or near the Pathway easement can cause downed lines, power outages, and wildfires. Vegetation management crews will work to prevent these situations from occurring. Vegetation management involves the use of various types of treatment, including removing, pruning, and mowing vegetation, and the treatment of vegetation with herbicides to ensure safe operations. The transmission line will be inspected regularly (at least annually) to look for the following:

- Non-compatible vegetation and hazards within the Pathway easement.
- Equipment needing repair or replacement.
- Pathway easement encroachments, which can be hazardous to safety and reliable operations.
- Anything that might jeopardize the safe, reliable operation of the power line.

Operations and maintenance staff must visit the Pathway easement for these inspections, but visits typically are minimal, and landowners will be contacted prior to on-site inspections or maintenance. However, in cases of emergency, advanced contact may not be possible.

2. *Areas around major facilities of a public utility shall be administered so as to preserve desirable existing community and rural patterns.*

Current land uses adjacent to the Pathway facilities will be able to continue mainly unchanged after construction of Pathway. Areas disturbed during construction will be restored in coordination with the landowners and their current land use.

3. *Where feasible, major facilities of a public utility shall be located so as to avoid direct conflict with adopted local comprehensive, State, and regional master plans.*

The project's transmission line location does not conflict with any adopted local, comprehensive, state, and regional master plans. This includes the Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan.

4. *Where feasible, major facilities of a public utility shall be located so as to minimize the dedication of new right-of-way and construction of additional infrastructure (e.g., gas pipelines, roads, and distribution lines).*

Pathway will negotiate with landowners to grant new transmission line easements, and Xcel Energy will construct new infrastructure, limited to the facilities discussed in this application. Of the approximately 18-mile transmission line route in Arapahoe County, approximately 13 miles (76 percent) is co-located along existing electric transmission infrastructure and existing roads. Pathway is sited in areas already encumbered by linear facilities and does not prohibit adjacent development. Pathway will interconnect at the existing Harvest Mile Substation within the existing fenceline; no additional land adjacent to the existing substation will be necessary for Pathway.

No additional demand for infrastructure, facilities, housing, water (other than trucked-in water for construction), wastewater treatment, or public transportation will be created.

4. Referral Comments

Comments received during the referral process are summarized in the chart attached to this report. Any late responses will be conveyed verbally at the public hearing. One public comment was received regarding this application through an email to staff.

This individual had concerns regarding the location of the powerline alignment near Box Elder Creek and believed the lines should be relocated to run along CR 129 to avoid impacts to wildlife on Box Elder Creek and ensure Buckley Air Force Base training can proceed safely without the concerns of powerlines. The initial alignment south of E. Quincy Avenue was moved to the east, away from Box Elder Creek and out of the training zone for the Airforce. The applicant conveyed this to this individual, and he no longer has any concerns.

5. Neighborhood Meetings and Outreach

On March 18, 2025, a neighborhood outreach meeting was held at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds for the Arapahoe County 1041 and Location and Extent permit applications for

Pathway. A total of seven people attended the meeting, and the only comment received is as follows:

- “I appreciate the experts they had on hand to answer all the questions. Great to see the private sector working so proactively to get information about the future expansion and needs of Colorado. Thank you!”

Staff believes the applicant has adequately fulfilled the requirement of neighborhood outreach.

STAFF FINDINGS

Staff have visited the site and reviewed the plans, supporting documentation, referral comments, and public input in response to this application. Based upon the review of applicable policies and goals in the Comprehensive Plan, review of the 1041 regulations, and analysis of referral comments, our findings include:

1. The proposed ASI25-001, Colorado’s Power Pathway 345-kV Transmission Line - 1041 generally conforms to the Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan.
2. The proposed ASI25-001, Colorado’s Power Pathway 345-kV Transmission Line - 1041 complies with the General Submittal Requirements contained in Section 2-4 of the Arapahoe County Development Application Manual and Section III, Parts C and E of the Regulations Governing Areas and Activities of State Interest in Arapahoe County - 1041 Regulations.
3. The proposed ASI25-001, Colorado’s Power Pathway 345-kV Transmission Line - 1041 complies with the approval criteria in Section V, Parts A and C of the Regulations Governing Areas and Activities of State Interest in Arapahoe County - 1041 Regulations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Considering the findings and other information provided herein, staff recommends approval of Case No. ASI25-001, Colorado’s Power Pathway 345-kV Transmission Line - 1041, subject to the following conditions of approval listed under the Planning Commission’s Conditional Recommendation to Approve.

CONCURRENCE

The Public Works and Development Planning and Engineering Services Divisions have reviewed the application, and the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department is recommending approval of this case.

The Planning Commission has alternatives that include the following:

1. Recommend to approve the proposed 1041 with conditions proposed by staff or with other conditions.
2. Continue to a date certain for more information.
3. Recommend to deny the proposed 1041.

PLANNING COMMISSION DRAFT MOTIONS -ASI25-001, COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE 1041 (AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST)

Conditional Recommendation to Approve

In the case of ASI25-001, Colorado's Power Pathway 345-kV Transmission Line - 1041, I have reviewed the staff report, including all exhibits and attachments, and have listened to the applicant's presentation and any public comment as presented at the hearing, and hereby move to recommend approval of this application based on the findings in the staff report, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the signature of the final copy of these plans, the applicant must update the Location and Extent Plan Set consistent with comments received from Public Works and Development staff as transmitted to the applicant on March 16, 2026, and add reception numbers to the Plan Set as per the email dated April 23, 2026.
2. Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG) shall be provided advance notice of all construction dates and construction-related ground activities on the specified property as soon as reasonably possible. Notice shall be provided to Greg White, Aviation Safety Officer, at 720-250-1601. Specified property: State of Colorado property (south and east of the Aurora Reservoir) and portions of the transmission line along E. Quincy Avenue that is north and adjacent to the State of Colorado property.
3. Transmission Pole 694 is within 100 feet of an existing water well and therefore requires protection. A protective construction fence around this well to prevent damage during the construction of the transmission line is required.
4. As defined by the Clean Water Act, if Waters of the United States are impacted, inclusive of wetlands, a CWA Permit 404 shall be obtained prior to construction.
5. No surface occupancy and no ground disturbance (year-round) within 500 feet, where reasonably possible, of the ordinary high-water mark of all of Box Elder and Coal Creek's surface waters shall be allowed. Where occupancy or ground disturbance outside the 500-foot buffer is not reasonably possible, then the applicant shall install appropriate stormwater and sediment control according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Stormwater Management Plan and/or Arapahoe County Grading Erosion Sediment Control Plan to protect the creek and any associated wetlands from erosion and sedimentation.
6. If grading or construction is to occur on the project between January 1 through April 30, the applicant shall conduct a survey to determine if Pronghorn are present. The results of the survey shall be submitted to Colorado Parks and Wildlife ("CPW") and the Planning Division for their review. If Pronghorn are present, no construction and grading is permitted during those dates, unless CPW advises the County that the survey results do not support the need to limit construction or grading.

7. If grading or construction is to occur on the project between December 1 through April 30, the applicant shall conduct a survey to determine if Mule Deer are present. The results of the survey shall be submitted to CPW and the Planning Division for their review. If Mule Deer are present, no construction and grading is permitted during those dates, unless CPW advises the County that the survey results do not support the need to limit construction or grading.
8. The applicant shall conduct a pre-construction survey to determine the presence of burrowing owls following CPW's protocol for vegetation clearing activities resulting in ground disturbance between March 15 through October 31 . The survey results shall be submitted to CPW for their review. If burrowing owls are found, the applicant shall coordinate with CPW to determine appropriate avoidance buffers or monitor active nest sites until determined to be inactive.
9. If grading or construction is to occur from March 15 to June 15, the applicant shall conduct a survey to identify and locate swift fox den sites in the construction area within the swift fox overall range. The survey results shall be submitted to CPW and the Planning Division for their review. If a den is identified and located, no human encroachment, surface disturbance, or construction within 0.25 miles of an active maternal den unless CPW advises the County that the survey results do not support the need to limit said activities.
10. If grading or construction is to occur from April 1 to August 15, the applicant shall conduct a survey for Mountain Plover Nest Sites. If active nests are identified and the applicant cannot restrict human disturbance within 300 feet of the nest through the seasonal restriction, then disturbance may be allowed if CPW advises the County that the survey does not support limiting such activities.
11. Prior to construction, if vegetation clearing cannot occur during the nonbreeding season of raptors, migratory birds and burrowing owls (September 1 through April 15), the applicant shall conduct surveys per USFWS and CPW guidance to identify avian nesting activity and determine appropriate avoidance buffers or monitor active nest sites until determined to be inactive. If construction activities must occur inside CPW recommended buffers of an active raptor nest, a qualified biologist will be assigned to monitor the active raptor nest during project construction to ensure nesting raptors do not become disturbed and abandon their nest.
12. Transmission lines shall be installed consistent with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards, and bird diverters shall be installed within 0.25 miles of any lake, drainage, or riparian area and within the raptor nesting buffer for all active nests.

Staff provides the following Draft Motions listed below as general guidance in preparing an alternative motion if the Planning Commission reaches a different determination:

Recommendation to Deny

In the case of ASI25-001, Colorado's Power Pathway 345-kV Transmission Line - 1041, I have reviewed the staff report, including all exhibits and attachments, and have listened to the applicant's presentation and any public comment as presented at the hearing, and hereby move to recommend denial of this application based on the following findings:

1. State new findings in support of denial as part of the motion.

Continue to Date Certain

In the case ASI25-001, Colorado's Power Pathway 345-kV Transmission Line - 1041, I move to continue the hearing to [*date certain*], 6:30 p.m., to obtain additional information and to further consider the information presented.

Attachments:

Engineering Staff Report

Referral Comments and Applicant's Response

Plan Set

Attachments



Planning Commission’s Summary Report

Date: March 24, 2025
To: Arapahoe County Planning Commission
Through: Molly Orkild-Larson, Planning Division
From: Sue Liu, PE., Engineering Services Division
Case name: LE25-003 Power Pathways – LE
ASI25-001 Power Pathways 1041 Permit Application

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to communicate the Engineering Services Staff findings, comments, and recommendations regarding the land use application(s) identified above.

Scope/Location:

Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation conducting business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy), is seeking approval of a Location and Extent Permit with 1041 application to construct and operate a portion of Colorado’s Power Pathway (Pathway) in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

Pathway is an investment proposed by Xcel Energy to improve the state’s electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway will increase electric reliability, boost the regional economy, and include the installation of approximately 550 miles of new 345-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line and four new and four expanded substations, which serve as endpoints for the transmission line segments. Pathway facilities proposed in unincorporated Arapahoe County include 17 miles of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission line and equipment additions within the existing fence line at Harvest Mile Substation. No new land acquisition is required for the substation equipment additions. Proposed activities in Arapahoe County will also include seeking approval of all temporary construction areas associated with construction of the Pathway facilities for the duration needed to complete Pathway construction, including a laydown yard.

Engineering Services Staff has reviewed the land use application(s) and has the following findings and comments:

1. Quincy Ave - The County's Transportation plan identifies Quincy Ave as 4-lanes from Harvest to Watkins Rd with a right-of-way section of 114'. The rest of Quincy Ave within the project boundary should be treated as 114' ROW as well. The Transportation Plan states a strategy to preserve section line roadway alignments for future widening. Based on this strategy, staff recommend that the proposed easements be located outside of the future rights-of-way as well as the pole locations. Or at least to place the pole outside of the future ROW. Please know that County does not plan to pursue the additional ROW at this time but may be a future desire by the County.
2. County Road 194 – County has 30' ROW north of the section line. The County's Transportation plan identifies County Road 194 as 4-lanes Rural Arterial (114'). staff recommend that the proposed easements be located outside of the future rights-of-way as well as the pole locations. Or at least to place the pole outside of the future ROW. Please know that County does not plan to pursue the additional ROW at this time but may be a future desire by the County.
3. Watkins Rd has 120' ROW at the intersection of Watkins/Quincy and the pole location should be outside of the ROW.
4. The pipeline crosses Murphy Creek, Black Shack Creek West Tributary, Black Shack Creek, Senac Creek, Tributary to Senac Creek, Coal Creek, Box Elder Creek, and Tributary to Kiowa Creek. Most of the tributaries are unmapped drainageway. The delineation of the 100-year floodplain for these unmapped tributaries has not been established. The County defines a floodplain as any drainageway with a tributary area of 130 acres or more. The tributaries that meet the County's definition of a floodplain should be identified.
5. A Floodplain Development Permit (FPDP) is required for all activities within the designated floodplain, regardless of impact. Even when it is apparent that there are no adverse impacts to the floodplain, a FPDP is required for administrative purposes to ensure that the County is aware of the activities within the floodplain and that they have been evaluated for compliance with the County's requirements. An Floodplain Certification of No Impact is also required for the FDP.
6. Construction activities that disturb one acre or more are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain a Construction Stormwater Permit.
7. County Line Rd in the project area is maintained by Elbert County. Elbert County's access permit is required if this roadway section is used as access for the project.
8. Please note that a Street Cut and Right-of-Way Use Permit (for access), Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Permit, Floodplain Development Permit, and possible Oversize/Overweight Vehicle Permit will be necessary for this application.

Engineering Services Staff is recommending the land use application(s) favorably subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant agrees to address the remaining redlines on the engineering & planning documents.
2. The applicant agrees to enter the Roadway Damage Agreement.
3. All pipeline easements for the project are required and must be in place prior to approval of the project. All executed easements must be submitted to the County for files.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

**Arapahoe County
Public Works and Development
Planning Division**

6924 S. Lima Street
Centennial, Colorado 80112
Phone: 720-874-6650
www.arapahoegov.com

Land Development Application

This form must be **complete**.

Land Development Application materials received after 2pm shall be date stamped received the following business day.

APPLICANT NAME: Public Service Company of Colorado, an Xcel Energy Company	ADDRESS: 1800 Larimer Street, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202 PHONE: 303-285-6533 EMAIL: Jennifer.L.Chester@xcelenergy.com	CONTACT: Jennifer Chester TITLE: Senior Manager, Siting and Land Rights
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OWNER(S) OF RECORD NAME(S): Permitting Consultant: Tetra Tech, Inc.	ADDRESS: 390 Union Blvd, Suite 400 Lakewood, CO 80228 PHONE: (303) 980-3515 EMAIL: stephanie.phippen@tetrattech.com	SIGNATURE(S): Contact: Stephanie Phippen _____
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ENGINEERING FIRM NAME: Public Service Company of Colorado, an Xcel Energy Company	ADDRESS: 3500 Blake St Denver, CO 80205 PHONE: (303) 285-6724 EMAIL: Stanley.P.Wrozek@xcelenergy.com	CONTACT: Parker Wrozek, PE TITLE: Sr. Manager Transmission Line Engineering
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Pre-Submittal Case Number: Q 24 - 096 Pre-Submittal Planner: Molly Orkild-Larson Pre-Submittal Engineer: Sue Liu

State Parcel ID No. (AIN no.): Substation: 2071-07-1-02-001, Transmission Line: various

Parcel Address or Cross Streets: Substation: South Harvest Road and East Quincy Avenue. Transmission Line: East Quincy Avenue, County Line Road

Subdivision Name & Filing No: Substation Parcel: Parcel B South Harvest Mile Road Subdivision Exemption Plat Ex M/R's; Transmission Line: various

	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Zoning:	A-1, A-2, A-E, I-2, I-2 PUD, O, F	no change
Project Name:	Substation: Harvest Mile Substation	Substation: Harvest Mile Substation Transmission Line: Colorado's Power Pathway
Site Area (Acres):	Substation: Approx. 3 acres	Substation: Approx. 3 acres Transmission Line: Approx. 17 miles 150 foot ROW; Total approx. 312 acres
Density (Dwelling Units/Acre):	N/A	N/A
Building Square Footage:	N/A	N/A
Disturbed Area (Acres):	N/A	N/A

CASE TYPE (S)

Location and Extent _____ _____

THIS SECTION IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Case No:		Assigned Planner:		Assigned Engineer:	
TCHD Fee:	\$	Planning Fee(s):	\$	Engineering Fee(s):	\$

This land use application shall be submitted with all required application fees. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Submittal of this application *does not* establish a vested property right in accordance with C.R.S. 24-68-105(1). Processing and review of this application may require the submittal of additional information, subsequent reviews, and/or meetings, as outlined in the Arapahoe County Land Development Code.

April 10, 2025

Jason Reynolds, Planning Program Manager
Arapahoe County Planning and Land Development
6924 S. Lima St.
Centennial, CO 80112

RE: Letter of Intent: Site Selection and Construction of Major Facilities of a Public Utility
Permit Application for Colorado's Power Pathway

Dear Manager Reynolds,

Our Company, Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation conducting business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy), is seeking approval of a Site Selection and Construction of Major Facilities of a Public Utility Permit (1041 Permit) from Arapahoe County to construct and operate a portion of Colorado's Power Pathway (Pathway) in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

Pathway is a \$1.7 billion investment proposed by Xcel Energy to improve the state's electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway will increase electric reliability, boost the regional economy and create jobs during construction. Pathway includes the installation of approximately 550 miles of new 345-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line and four new and four expanded substations, which serve as endpoints for the transmission line segments.

Pathway will be constructed in five segments:

- Fort St. Vrain – Canal Crossing (Segment 1)
- Canal Crossing – Goose Creek (Segment 2)
- Goose Creek – May Valley (Segment 3)
- May Valley – Sandstone – Tundra (Segment 4)
- Sandstone – Harvest Mile (Segment 5)

In March 2021, Xcel Energy filed a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for Pathway. In February 2022, the CPUC provided verbal approval, and in June 2022, the CPUC provided written approval of the CPCN for Segments 1-5.

Preferred transmission line routes and substation sites have been selected after completion of routing and siting studies, coordination with permitting entities, and conducting public outreach.

Pathway facilities proposed in unincorporated Arapahoe County include 17 miles of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission line and equipment additions within the existing fence line at Harvest Mile Substation. No new land acquisition is required for the substation equipment additions. Proposed activities in Arapahoe County will also include seeking approval of all temporary construction areas associated with construction of the Pathway facilities for the duration needed to complete Pathway construction, including a laydown yard. The proposed Pathway route is planned to cross parcels within unincorporated Arapahoe County in portions of

Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, 31 and 32, Township 5 South, Range 63 West; Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12, Township 5 South, Range 64 West; Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, Township 5 South, Range 65 West of the 6th Principal Meridian. The proposed Pathway route is located within unincorporated Arapahoe County in the following zone districts: A-1 (Agricultural-1), A-2 (Agricultural-2), A-E (Agricultural Estate), I-2 (Heavy Industrial), I-2 PUD (Heavy Industrial Planned Unit Development), O (Open) and F (Floodplain) (Arapahoe County 2022). The existing Harvest Mile Substation is also located in parcels zoned as A-1 (Agricultural-1) and in portions of Section 7, Township 5 South, Range 65 West of the 6th Principal Meridian.

As Pathway is a public utility project, the Letter of Intent requirements regarding density, FAR, and percentage of open space are not applicable to Pathway.

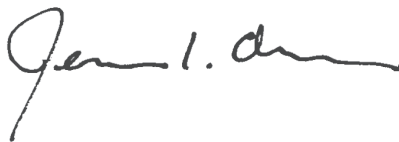
The Segment 5 transmission line and associated new substations and substation expansions or equipment additions will be completed in 2027, assuming required approvals are obtained. Upon completion, Pathway will be operated and monitored remotely 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to provide safe and reliable electric service.

Project representatives met with County staff on May 25, 2023, and November 21, 2024, for the 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit Pre-submittal Meeting where Xcel Energy provided information about Pathway and responded to questions from County representatives, and which meeting also served as the statutory consultation meeting required under C.R.S. § 29-20-108(4)(a). This 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit application has been prepared per the requirements outlined in the Arapahoe County §1041 Regulations and the direction provided by Arapahoe County representatives during the Pre-submittal Meeting.

On January 24, 2025, Xcel Energy submitted a 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit application to Arapahoe County. This 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit application has been revised and resubmitted pursuant to Arapahoe County's preliminary pre-check for application completeness provided to Xcel Energy via email on February 7, 2025, and additional direction provided via email by Molly Orkild-Larson, Principal Planner, and Roy W. Rimer, Zoning Inspector.

We look forward to working with you during the permit process. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (303) 285-6533 or email at jennifer.l.chester@xcelenergy.com, or contact Cory Miller at (303) 571-7759 or cory.r.miller@xcelenergy.com, or our environmental consultant Stephanie Phippen with Tetra Tech Inc. at (303) 980-3515 or at stephanie.phippen@tetrattech.com.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Chester
Xcel Energy
Siting & Land Rights, Manager
Telephone: (303) 285-6533
jennifer.l.chester@xcelenergy.com



1800 Larimer Street
Denver, CO 80202

January 22, 2025

Arapahoe County Public Works & Development
Planning Division
6924 S Lima St
Centennial CO 80112

Attn: Planning Division

I, Jennifer Chester (person's name) of Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation conducting business as Xcel Energy ("Xcel Energy") (company name), property owner, hereby authorize Stephanie Phippen (name of consultant(s)) of Tetra Tech, Inc. (name of consulting firm(s)) to prepare and sign application materials and otherwise represent the owner(s) regarding the 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit and Location and Extent Permit (insert land development case type here) for the Colorado's Power Pathway (insert name of project here) located at approximately 17 miles of 345-kV double-circuit transmission line within Segment 5 and equipment additions within the existing fence line at Harvest Mile Substation (insert street address here or legal); generally located in the area east of E-470 and south of I-70 and Watkins and is oriented in a west to east direction; the proposed route runs parallel to East Quincy Avenue south of Watkins and Strasburg and west of Brick-Center Road (County Road 129) (insert parcel number here).

This authorization is limited to the submission of application materials to Arapahoe County Public Works and Development for the above referenced land development project.

By: Jennifer Chester

Property Owner or Authorized Agent printed Name

Jennifer Chester

Date: 1/22/2025

Property Owner or Authorized Agent Signature

State of Colorado

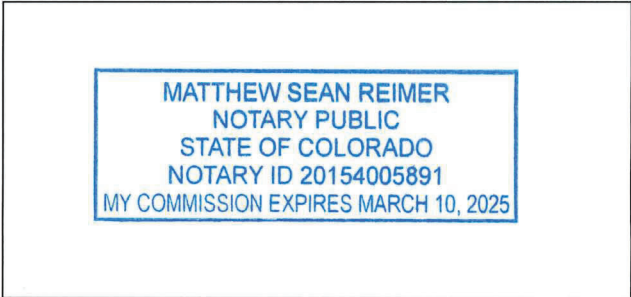
County of Denver

Before me, the undersigned notary public, in and for said state, personally appeared,

Jennifer Chester (insert name of owner here), personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to the individual(s) whose name(s) is (are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged he/she executed the same.

Witness my hand and official seal:

Matthew S. Reimer
Notary Public Signature



CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I, Kristin Westlund, do hereby certify that I am the Assistant Secretary of Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation (the "Company"), and I do hereby further certify the authority of the Jennifer L. Chester, Manager, Siting and Land Rights, on behalf of the Company has authority to act on behalf of the Company.

In witness whereof, the undersigned has hereunto set their hand as of the 4th day of May, 2023.



Kristin Westlund

Kristin Westlund
Assistant Secretary

Referral Agency	Referral Agency Comments	Applicant's Response
DEN - DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	DEN appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. DEN has no comments.	Noted.
FAA- FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION-DIA	DEN appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. DEN has no comments.	Noted.
COLORADO ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITY/BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE	<p>Add a condition of approval that Mr. White from the COARNG will be contacted before the construction of Segment 5/Harvest Mile. This condition should read: "Prior to and during construction of Segment 5/Harvest Mile, the following COARNG contact shall be consulted."</p> <p>We would like to have better coordination with our municipalities during the construction process. We are having a disconnect with Aurora about crane notification during the construction process as our airfield is regularly seeing construction cranes that they have not been notified about.</p> <p>Army Aviation conducts low-altitude flight training east and south of Aurora Reservoir. This training is routinely performed below 200 feet at high speeds, which this powerline construction affects. It appears that the only construction segment impacting Army Aviation is Segment 5/Harvest Mile. We can mitigate risk by ensuring our air crews are accurately informed of the changes and timelines. To do this the AASF would need a better timeline of construction locations as well as the method of assembly (crane or helicopter use) Who would provide this information during the construction process?</p>	Xcel Energy agrees to communicate with Buckley SFB before and during construction, as requested. Staff will make a condition of approval that COARNG be contacted before and during the construction of this project.
AURORA FIRE RESCUE	This district can serve the facility.	Noted.
BENNETT - WATKINS FIRE RESCUE	Xcel Energy has provided BWFR with a fire prevention plan, fire prevention and mitigation training materials, Xcel Energy's emergency response procedures, and a vicinity map illustrating existing and proposed infrastructure. This district has no objections to this development and can provide fire protection and emergency medical services for this project.	Noted.

Referral Agency	Referral Agency Comments	Applicant's Response
SABLE ALTURA FIRE DISTRICT	This district can provide Fire and Emergency Services for this project.	Noted.
SOUTH METRO FIRE-REFERRALS	The proposed work and route are outside this district's jurisdictional boundaries.	Noted.
ARAPAHOE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - BUILDING DIVISION	Pursuant to Article 90.2(D)5 of the 2023 National Electrical Code, we do not have jurisdiction over transmission line installations. In the absence of a building as part of the scope, the IBC also does not appear to apply. Unless a structure should emerge as part of the scope or as part of a sub-station / facility type installation, the Building Division does not have any comments or jurisdictional oversight authority at this time.	Noted.
ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES	<p>Open Spaces has the following comments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Spaces has made previous comments and inquiries regarding the possibility of a public recreation trail adjacent to and underneath the power lines. Open Spaces does not wish to pursue any recreation trail easements at this time. This may be a future desire by Open Spaces and will inquire in the future, but not at this time. 2. Open Spaces has concerns with impacts to the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds events during the construction phase of the project. We read that Xcel is asking for a TIS waiver. The traffic numbers during construction are low, but what is of concern is what will traffic impacts will be along Quincy Ave, access to staging areas, offloading of poles etc. Narrative speaks to future traffic control plans. Xcel needs to be aware that Quincy is a 2-lane road. The Fairgrounds and Aurora Reservoir are destination recreation and event areas that hold large-scale events that generate large amounts of visitors and vehicle traffic. Lane and road closures cannot coincide and be implemented during major events at these locations. Open Spaces feels that more detail on traffic control and Quincy Road impacts, and coordination on schedules, is imperative. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Text has been added to Section 2.3.a.6 of the 1041 Application Narrative to address this comment: Xcel Energy's construction contractor will prepare Traffic Control Plans for E. Quincy Avenue and will coordinate with Arapahoe County regarding lane and road closures. Construction materials will not be loaded or offloaded along E. Quincy Avenue. Vendors will be directed not to park on public roadways around the construction of staging areas. Traffic Control Plans have been submitted to Arapahoe County with the Temporary Use Permit Application (record number ZTU-2025-00004) for the Beichle Laydown Yard. 3. Noted.

Referral Agency	Referral Agency Comments	Applicant's Response
ARAPAHOE COUNTY WEED MANAGER	<p>3. Traffic Control Plans will be prepared and followed during construction. Traffic control will be implemented where required for the safety of the construction crews and the traveling public.</p> <p>1. Weed control measures should be implemented not only for the disturbed areas of this project but for the entirety of the easement.</p> <p>2. The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires all landowners, public and private, to control noxious weeds, and the applicant is reminded that existing infestations should be managed to lessen their impact on planned disturbances.</p> <p>3. Arapahoe County routinely manages the adjacent County rights-of-way to this project for noxious weeds.</p>	<p>Per email communication on February 18, 2026, with Russell Johnson, Arapahoe County Weed Control Specialist, Russell Johnson has clarified that for any easement that is on private property, weed control of existing populations is the responsibility of the property owner. Xcel Energy understands that precautions should be taken not to spread or introduce new infestations to areas that will be disturbed by Pathway and tracts of land that are owned by Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation conducting business as Xcel Energy, should be maintained to the standards of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act.</p>
ARAPAHOE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	<p>1. Landfill Operations: There are two landfills that are potentially within 1000 feet of the proposed transmission line route: AR-001E and AR-001F. Flammable gas from decomposing organic matter in landfills may travel up to 1,000 feet from the source. If construction and or excavation is planned for this property, including any minor excavation for signage, etc., we recommend ONE of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A flammable gas investigation should be conducted to determine if flammable gas (methane) is present in the subsurface soils at the property within the 1000-foot radius of the landfill mass edge. The plan for the investigation should be submitted to ACPH for review. ACPH will review the results of the 	<p>1. Xcel Energy's construction contractor will include methane monitoring and response procedures in their construction emergency response plan as recommended by the Arapahoe County Public Health Department.</p> <p>2. Xcel Energy has coordinated with CDPHE and ACPH regarding the locations of two septic systems that were identified that may be within the</p>

Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>investigation. If the investigation indicates that methane is not present at or above 20% of the lower explosive limit for methane (1% by volume in air) in the soils, no further action is required; OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACPH recommends that methane monitoring and response procedures be included in the Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) to ensure the safety of site workers and the public during earth-disturbing activities where excavation is within 1000 feet of the edge of the landfill mass. If excavation for the project reveals landfill material, waste, or evidence of subsurface impacts associated with landfill operations, additional methane screening provisions within the HASP may be necessary. <p>2. Septic Systems: Properties located along the proposed transmission line route may be served by onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). ACPH recommends that the applicant review the locations of the transmission line routes to determine the encroachment potential on OWTS. Please note on the plans that locations of properties with septic systems have been identified along the route. If encroachment is anticipated, additional coordination may be necessary to determine whether adjustments to the transmission line realignment or OWTS configuration would be required, subject to applicable OWTS permitting by ACPH. To mitigate encroachment, a 100-foot separation distance between OWTS and the transmission line is strongly recommended, as historical repairs or expansion of OWTS may not have been completed through proper permitting. OWTS records are available online and can be found at https://gis.arapahoegov.com/septicSearch/.</p> <p>3. Drinking Water: ACPH-2026-00020 ACPH notes that drinking water will be provided to the construction personnel.</p> <p>4. Monitoring Wells:</p>	<p>Pathway easement. On February 18, 2026, Steve Chevalier of ACPH confirmed that ACPH and CDPHE have no concerns with Pathway encroachment of existing septic systems within Arapahoe County.</p> <p>3. Noted.</p> <p>4. Xcel Energy has identified all wells that are within the proposed transmission line right-of-way and has added the wells to the Location and Extent Plan set. One transmission line pole (pole 694) is located within 100 feet of a well. Xcel Energy will include construction fencing around this well to prevent damage to this well during construction, as requested by Arapahoe County Public Health.</p> <p>5. Noted.</p> <p>6. Noted.</p>
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Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>Existing monitoring or groundwater extraction wells may be in the vicinity of the proposed routes. The applicant may conduct a due-diligence review of records maintained by the Colorado Division of Water Resources https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/WellPermits to identify any existing wells along the route. Please note on the plans that locations of monitoring wells or groundwater extraction wells have been identified along the route.</p> <p>Where wells are within or close to transmission line routes, ACPH recommends that wells be protected during construction by clearly marking and delineating the area around each well so they are visible to vehicle operators and construction crews (e.g., stakes, colored tape, or orange plastic netting). A 100-foot separation distance between wells and the transmission line support structures is strongly recommended.</p> <p>5. Unexploded Ordinances: The project is located within areas associated with the Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range. There is a potential for munitions or unexploded ordnance (UXO) to be present, which could pose a serious safety risk. The applicant should have procedures in the HASP to recognize, retreat, and report suspected UXO, including immediate notification of emergency services (911). Additional information is available at https://cdphe.colorado.gov/former-lowry-bombing-and-gunnery-range. UXO recognition and response procedures were not identified in the application documents.</p> <p>6. Sanitary and Solid Waste Disposal: The application needs to specify how sanitary and solid waste will be handled during the construction phase; the provision of portable restrooms was noted in the application. At a minimum, trash dumpsters, handwashing stations, and portable toilets will be necessary during construction. ACPH has no objection to the use of portable toilets and handwashing stations during construction,</p>	
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Referral Agency**Referral Agency Comments****Applicant's Response**

	provided they are for temporary use only and properly maintained. It is recommended that the applicant identify the number, locations, vendors, and service intervals for these facilities.	
ARAPAHOE COUNTY R&B REFERRALS	No comments.	Noted.
ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT	No comments.	Noted.
ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - LAND USE REFERRALS	No comments.	Noted.
CITY OF AURORA – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Aurora Planning and Development Services wants to confirm if the transmission lines are buried. Planning Staff wants to confirm so that we ensure that there are no issues with landscaping along public rights-of-way. 2. Comments on the Location and Extent plan set 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City of Aurora approved a Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan for Pathway on August 28, 2024. Rachid Rabaa was the planner who processed the application. As described in these permit application materials, the Pathway alignment through the City of Aurora jurisdiction will consist of overhead transmission lines. The transmission lines will not be buried. 2. The City of Aurora approved a Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan for Pathway on August 28, 2024 (DA-2384-00). On November 12, 2025, Xcel Energy emailed the City of Aurora staff that provided comments to the Arapahoe County Location and Extent Plan, as well as Rachid Raaba, City of Aurora Planner assigned to Xcel Energy's

Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

		<p>Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan application to clarify that as the City of Aurora's comments were considered in DA-2384-00 and approved by the City of Aurora Planning Commission, Xcel Energy will have assumed that the request for additional improvements and cash-in-lieu would have been made during that effort.</p>
<p>CDPHE/ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT - STATE OF COLORADO</p>	<p>1. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Air Pollution Control Division (APCD or Division) received a request for an air quality administrative review concerning the proposed Colorado Power Pathway Location and Extent project as described in your correspondence dated April 17, 2025. The Division has reviewed the project letter and respectfully offers the following comments. Please note that the following Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) regulations may not be inclusive of the regulations the proposed project will be subject to. It is the responsibility of the involved parties to determine what regulations they are subject to and follow them accordingly.</p> <p>2. Land Development</p> <p>We also note that projects similar to this proposal often involve land development. Under Colorado air quality regulations, land development refers to all land clearing activities, including but not limited to land preparation such as excavating or grading, for residential, commercial or industrial development. Land development activities release fugitive dust, a pollutant regulated by the Division. Small land development activities are not subject to the same reporting and permitting requirements as large land activities. Specifically, land development activities that are less than 25 contiguous acres and less than 6 months in duration do not need to</p>	<p>1, 2, 3. The construction contractor will obtain and meet the requirements related to the proposed material storage yard Air Pollution Emissions Notice (APEN) with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), if necessary. The APEN will be required for land disturbance greater than 25 contiguous acres and land development activities with a duration longer than 6 months. There are not areas along the proposed project transmission route that exceed 25 contiguous acres. In addition there will be no land disturbance longer than 6 months in one designated location along the project transmission route.</p>

Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

report air emissions to the Division. It is important to note that even if a permit is not required, fugitive dust control measures including the Land Development APEN Form APCD-223 must be followed at the site. Fugitive dust control techniques commonly included in the plan are included in the table below.

Control Options for Unpaved Roadways	
- Watering	- Use of chemical stabilizer
- Paving	- Controlling vehicle speed
- Graveling	
Control Options for Mud and Dirt Carry-Out onto Paved Surfaces	
- Gravel entry ways	- Washing vehicle wheels
- Covering the load	- Not overfilling trucks
Control Options for Disturbed Areas	
- Watering	- Application of a chemical stabilizer
- Revegetation	- Controlling vehicle speed
- Compaction	- Furrowing the soil
- Wind Breaks	- Minimizing the areas of disturbance
- Synthetic or Natural Cover of Slopes	

3. Federal General Conformity
 The federal General Conformity rule applies to federally funded projects in federal nonattainment and air quality maintenance areas, such as the Denver Metro/North Front Range severe ozone nonattainment area.1 Within these areas, the general conformity rule applies to any “Federal action” not specifically exempted by the Clean Air Act or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, i.e., any non-exempt activity by a federal governmental department, agency or instrumentality, or any activity that such an entity supports in any way, provides financial assistance for, or licenses, permits, or approves.

Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>The federal general conformity rule and associated EPA guidance provides for a federal department or instrumentality to determine if the estimated emissions resulting from a proposed action in a nonattainment or maintenance area are below EPA's de minimis levels (https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-emission-levels) for the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).² Note that Arapahoe County is located in the Denver Metro Carbon Monoxide and PM10 maintenance areas as well as the Denver Metro/North Front Range 2015 serious and 2008 severe ozone nonattainment areas. EPA has confirmed that General Conformity requirements associated with Carbon Monoxide and PM10 no longer apply in those maintenance areas, as each of the areas demonstrated 20-years of continued attainment of the applicable NAAQS, as of January 14, 2022 and October 16, 2022.</p> <p>The General Conformity de minimis levels for the 2015 Denver Metro/North Front Range serious ozone nonattainment area are 50 tons per year of the ozone precursors VOCs or NOx and 25 tons per year for the 2008 Denver Metro/North Front Range severe nonattainment area. If a federal department or instrumentality determines that its action will result in emissions that are below the de minimis levels, the action is exempt and detailed air quality analysis is not required. Information about the general conformity rule, including training and frequently asked questions, is available at https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity.</p>	
<p>EAST ARAPAHOE COUNTY/ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION</p>	<p>No exceptions taken on either application.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>CDOT - REGION 1 - METRO DENVER</p>	<p>No comments.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>CDOT-DEP. OF TRANSPORTATION/ STATE OF CO-REGION ONE</p>	<p>No comments.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

<p>CORE</p>	<p>CORE and Xcel are working together to address common engineering and clearances between the proposed facilities and CORE's existing facilities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed access routes are within CORE transmission easements will require encroachment documents and approvals from CORE. 2. CORE will require the applicant to provide a plan and profile for each CORE transmission facility crossing. 3. CORE will require the applicant to request encroachment approvals from CORE prior to securing easements. 	<p>Xcel Energy will continue to work with CORE Electric Cooperative and will secure the applicable encroachment approvals from CORE prior to securing easements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where Pathway access is proposed within CORE's easements, Xcel Energy will coordinate with CORE regarding construction plans and restoration activities associated with Pathway as well as future Operation & Maintenance access needs through the encroachment review process. 2. As of 5/23/25, CORE has reviewed and approved all wire crossings within Arapahoe County for Pathway. The review of the subject crossings included plans and profiles. 3. Xcel Energy will continue to coordinate with CORE on any required encroachment reviews.
<p>XCEL ENERGY - PSCO ROW & REFERRALS</p>	<p>Public Service Company of Colorado's (PSCO) Right of Way & Permits Referral Desk has reviewed the Colorado Power Pathway Location and Extent and 1041 Project, and currently, there is no apparent conflict.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>SOUTHEAST METRO STORMWATER AUTHORITY (SEMSWA)</p>	<p>See the Engineering Services staff report.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>COLORADO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY - STATE OF COLORADO</p>	<p>No comments.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE - ENERGY REFERRALS</p>	<p>The mission of CPW is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system, and to provide enjoyable</p>	<p>1. Xcel Energy has included CPW High Priority Habitat data on</p>

Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. CPW has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado and to promote a variety of recreational opportunities throughout Colorado. One way we achieve this goal is by responding to referral comment requests, as is the case for this Project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The Importance of High Priority Habitats</u> Developers and permitting agencies can help avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife from their projects by working with CPW. High Priority Habitats (HPH) are defined as sensitive habitats where CPW has recent maps regarding sensitive wildlife use, plus scientifically-backed best management practice (BMP) recommendations. HPHs are a subset of CPW's species activity maps that are collected and updated for a variety of species and their particular habitats; CPW provides these maps to the public and regulatory agencies to assist in project siting and design that avoid and minimize potential adverse impacts to sensitive wildlife species in Colorado. 2. <u>Aquatic Native Species Conservation Waters HPH</u> CPW has identified Aquatic Native Species Conservation Waters within the State of Colorado's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. These surface water features provide critical habitat for native aquatic wildlife, such as amphibians and fish, while also providing crucial habitat for mammals, birds, and reptiles that utilize the habitat. Within the proposed Project area, there is a possibility of sensitive aquatic native species (fish and amphibians) present within Coal Creek and Box Elder Creek. CPW recommends no surface occupancy and no ground disturbance (year-round) within 500 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of all of these surface waters and the implementation of appropriate stormwater and sediment control BMPs. 3. <u>Mule Deer Severe Winter Range HPH</u> 	<p>Attachment O, Terrestrial, Avian and Aquatic Animals and Habitat Map, of the 1041 Permit Application. CPW High Priority Habitat is discussed in Section 2.12.f Terrestrial, Avian, and Aquatic Animals and Habitat of the 1041 Permit Application. Pathway is not anticipated to negatively impact high priority habitat defined by CPW.</p> <p>2. Pathway intends to avoid impacts to wetlands and WOTUS features to the extent practicable. The potential wetlands and WOTUS identified through desktop analysis of NWI data that may be impacted by construction of Pathway will be verified in the field and inventoried and/or delineated to determine the actual locations and extent of wetlands prior to construction of Pathway. In the event that a regulated water resource cannot be avoided, Pathway will comply with applicable federal and state regulations, including permit requirements under Section 404 of the CWA. Staff has made this condition of approval.</p>
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Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>Mule Deer Severe Winter Range is defined as the portion of a species' range where 90% of individuals are found during the harshest two winters out of ten, when snowpack is highest, and temperatures are lowest. Within the proposed Project area, Mule Deer Severe Winter Range is present along the proposed transmission route at Township 5S, Range 64W, sections 3 & 4, and Township 5S, Range 65W, sections 2 & 4. For the identified portions of the proposed Project area that traverse Mule Deer Severe Winter Range, CPW recommends that the following timing limitation be implemented for construction, operation, and decommissioning phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permitted or authorized human activities from December 1st to April 30th. If this cannot be achieved, CPW recommends starting construction outside of the winter timing to reduce impacts to mule deer during this crucial time of year. <p>4. <u>Mule Deer Winter Concentration HPH</u> Mule Deer Winter Concentration is defined as the part of the winter range where densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten. Within the proposed Project area, Mule Deer Winter Concentration is present along the proposed transmission line route at Township 5S, Range 64W sections 3, & 4. For the identified portions of the proposed Project area that traverse Mule Deer Winter Concentration, CPW recommends the following timing limitation be implemented for construction, operation, and decommissioning phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permitted or authorized human activities from December 1st to April 30th. If this cannot be achieved, CPW recommends starting construction outside of the winter timing to reduce impacts to mule deer during this crucial time of year. <p>5. <u>Pronghorn Winter Concentration Area HPH</u></p>	<p>Temporary impacts to wetlands and WOTUS during construction of Pathway will be avoided to the extent practicable. If wetlands cannot be avoided, matting and other protective temporary measures will be used. Depending on the condition of the wetland soil and hydrology, matting may be used in some cases to protect wetlands from rutting. To avoid potential indirect impacts from construction-related erosion and sediment movement during construction, Pathway will adhere to erosion and sediment control BMPs outlined in the SWMP, which will include erosion control and revegetation measures.</p> <p>Transmission poles will not be placed in streams or wetland areas. Xcel Energy will follow up directly with CPW if Pathway is unable to follow the recommendations outlined in CPW's guidance documents. Prior to construction, a Storm Water Permit for Construction Activities will be obtained from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and a site-specific and Stormwater Management Plan</p>
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Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>CPW defines Pronghorn Winter Concentration Areas as the part of the winter range where pronghorn densities are at least 200% greater than the surrounding winter range density during the same period used to define winter range in the average five winters out of ten. Mapped Pronghorn Winter Concentration Area is present within the entire project area except Township 5S Range 65W sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. For the identified portions of the proposed Project area that traverse Pronghorn Winter Concentration, CPW recommends the following timing limitation be implemented for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete construction in these areas outside of the winter season, which falls from January 1st to April 30th. If this cannot be achieved, CPW recommends starting construction outside of the winter time to reduce impacts to pronghorn during this crucial time of year. <p>6. <u>Burrowing Owls</u> Burrowing Owls (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>) are listed as State Threatened and are known to nest in active or inactive prairie dog (black-tailed or white-tailed) burrows or the burrows of other terrestrial wildlife. Because burrowing owls are included in the protections afforded by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), it is important to avoid actions that could negatively impact the owls, nests, and eggs. To best avoid or minimize impacts to Burrowing Owls within the project area, CPW recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If development is proposed to occur in a prairie dog colony that has been active within the past 10 years, CPW recommends conducting surveys consistent with CPW's Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol. • CPW recommends that targeted surveys should be conducted for any activities resulting in ground disturbance between March 15th and October 31st. 	<p>(SWMP) will be developed. To avoid potential indirect impacts from construction-related erosion and sediment movement during construction, Pathway will adhere to erosion and sediment control best management practices outlined in the SWMP, which will include erosion control and revegetation measures.</p> <p>3. Xcel Energy acknowledges this recommendation. To avoid or minimize potential project impacts to Mule Deer, permitted and authorized human activities associated with Pathway construction, operation and decommissioning phases occurring within the currently mapped Mule Deer Severe Winter Range will be conducted outside the December 1st to April 30th timeframe. If this cannot be achieved, these activities will begin outside the winter timing.</p> <p>4. Xcel Energy acknowledges this recommendation. To avoid or minimize potential project impacts to Mule Deer, permitted and authorized human activities associated with Pathway construction, operation and decommissioning phases occurring</p>
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Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If nesting Burrowing Owls are present, no human encroachment or surface disturbance should occur within a 200-meter buffer of nesting burrows from March 15th to August 31st. • If Burrowing Owls occupy the site, CPW recommends that earthmoving and other disturbance activities be delayed until late fall after they have migrated. • If seismic work could disturb or collapse dens containing nests, that work should avoid the nesting period. <p>7. <u>Swift Fox Potential Denning Habitat</u> Swift fox (<i>Vulpes velox</i>) is listed in Colorado as a species of State Special Concern, and several of the areas of the proposed Project area contain potential swift fox denning habitat. To minimize the impact of future development on occupied, high-quality swift fox habitat, CPW recommends the developer conduct pre-construction surveys for active den sites in coordination with CPW. CPW also recommends no human encroachment, surface disturbance, or construction activity within 0.25 miles of an active maternal den site from March 15 through June 15. The “Ongoing survey efforts” section of the development review letter provided by Xcel dated September 11, 2024, does not mention any surveys for Swift Fox to date or future plans to conduct surveys. CPW recommends completing these surveys moving forward to confirm that there are no denning habitats within the proposed Project area.</p> <p>8. <u>Mountain Plover Nest Sites</u> Mountain Plovers (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>) are listed in Colorado as a species of State Special Concern. CPW recommends that surveys be completed using U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocols in potential nesting habitats and that any active Mountain Plover nests within the proposed Project area are protected through the application of appropriate spatial buffers, and planning construction activity within nesting habitats outside of critical nesting periods for the species (April 1 through August 15).</p>	<p>within the currently mapped Mule Deer Severe Winter Range will be conducted outside the December 1st to April 30th timeframe. If this cannot be achieved, these activities will begin outside the winter timing.</p> <p>5. Xcel Energy acknowledges this recommendation. To avoid or minimize potential project impacts to Pronghorn, permitted and authorized human activities associated with Pathway construction, operation and decommissioning phases occurring within the currently mapped Pronghorn Winter Concentration will be conducted outside the January 1st to April 30th timeframe. If this cannot be achieved, these activities will begin outside the winter timing.</p> <p>6. Xcel Energy acknowledges this recommendation. If Pathway vegetation clearing cannot occur during the nonbreeding season, vegetation clearance surveys, nest surveys, and burrowing owl surveys may be conducted per USFWS and CPW guidance to identify avian nesting activity and determine appropriate avoidance buffers or monitor active nest sites until</p>
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Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>Mountain Plovers can nest in short-grass prairie, dryland cultivated farms, and prairie dog towns; all of which are located within the proposed Project boundary. Where active nests are identified immediately ahead of construction, CPW recommends that they should be flagged and avoided through the application of a seasonal restriction of no human disturbance within 300 feet until the young are hatched and independent of the nest as determined by CPW or a qualified biologist.</p> <p>9. <u>Raptors and Migratory Birds</u> The proposed Project area contains suitable habitat for nesting raptors and migratory birds. To ensure compliance with the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, CPW recommends consultation with USFWS prior to construction of the proposed Project. All migratory birds are protected from potential take under the MBTA, and any removal or disturbance of an active migratory bird nest requires prior consultation with CPW and USFWS. Both active and potential nest sites, as well as winter night roosts, should be considered when evaluating potential disturbance during construction.</p> <p>Along with the raptor nest surveys, CPW recommends transmission lines be installed consistent with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) standards and that bird diverters be installed within 1/4-mile of any lake, drainage, or riparian area and within the raptor nesting buffer for all active nests.</p> <p>CPW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Arapahoe County portion of Xcel's power pathways transmission in northeastern Colorado. CPW requests that Xcel and Arapahoe County continue to involve our staff as the development of this Project continues. CPW would like the opportunity to review the results from all biological surveys conducted by Xcel so we can provide more specific site-based recommendations. CPW</p>	<p>determined to be inactive. Xcel Energy will continue to coordinate with USFWS and CPW to address concerns regarding wildlife impacts throughout planning, design, and construction of Pathway, and will comply with all applicable regulatory requirements.</p> <p>7. Pathway's proposed route in Arapahoe County does cross the Swift Fox Overall Range (mapped by CPW). Xcel Energy will conduct preconstruction surveys for swift fox den sites along the Pathway right-of-way and other areas of disturbance within swift fox overall range. If potential swift fox den sites are observed within the Pathway right-of-way, pre-construction den activity surveys will be conducted for such identified dens.</p> <p>8. CPW recommendations (CPW 2021) will be incorporated where practicable. Xcel Energy acknowledges this recommendation. To avoid or minimize potential project impacts to Mountain Plovers, surveys will be completed in accordance with USFWS protocols. Construction activities will be conducted outside the critical nesting periods (April 1</p>
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Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

	<p>appreciates the collaboration with Xcel and SWCA as we jointly strive for responsible land use development that effectively protects sensitive wildlife species and their habitats.</p>	<p>through August 15). If Xcel Energy identifies an active Mountain Plover nest and cannot restrict human disturbance within 300 feet of the nest during the seasonal restriction, Xcel Energy will coordinate with CPW accordingly.</p> <p>9. Xcel Energy has been coordinating with USFWS about Pathway since May 2022 and will continue to coordinate with the USFWS as needed. Xcel Energy acknowledges this recommendation and incorporated CPW's input in August 2024 in identifying bird diverter locations for Pathway.</p> <p>Pathway has been sited to avoid known eagle nest and roost locations to the extent practicable. Xcel Energy is a member of APLIC and the transmission line will be designed in accordance with the "Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines, the State of the Art in 2024" and the "Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012" documents.</p> <p>To avoid or minimize potential project impacts to eagles and other migratory birds and raptors,</p>
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Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

		<p>tree/vegetation clearing will be conducted during the nonbreeding season for birds, if feasible. If vegetation clearing cannot occur during the nonbreeding season, vegetation clearance surveys, nest surveys, and burrowing owl surveys may be conducted per USFWS and CPW guidance to identify avian nesting activity and determine appropriate avoidance buffers or monitor active nest sites until determined to be inactive. Bird flight diverters or other marking devices will be used in select areas based on CPW's prior recommendations.</p>
<p>EAST END ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p>	<p>No exceptions taken on either.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Public</p>	<p><u>Email dated March 21, 2025</u> Hello Jeff, Jason & Arapahoe County Team, A lot has been going on in my area of Arapahoe County! I attended the Xcel Power Pathways meeting at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds this week. I was happy to see that Xcel has determined not to proceed with the Pathway down Box Elder Creek and will instead travel farther down Quincy, cutting south just before CR 129. I still believe the Pathway should follow CR 129 South to limit the impact of additional power lines. However, Xcel claims moving the Pathway to CR 129 is not doable. This change does avoid the certain impact of wildlife on Box Elder Creek and ensures Buckley Air training can proceed safely without the concerns of power lines, perhaps a fair compromise.</p>	<p>The powerline alignment south of E. Quincy Avenue has been moved further to the east away from Box Elder Creek. Xcel Energy met with Mr. Frasier and is pleased to learn that his concerns related to the Pathway Project have been satisfied.</p>

Referral Agency**Referral Agency Comments****Applicant's Response**

	<p>While at this meeting, I became aware that GMT is planning to add two oil and gas pads, North Rim and Black Canyon on the eastern edge of Lowry Range on the west side of Box Elder Creek. Hopefully, a study is done, and the pads are far enough away on Lowery Ranch not to impact wildlife on Box Elder. I want to confirm through you and the county that if these sites are to be developed that GMT follows the same rules, regulations, and requirements that have been established for the Civitas Crestone Peaks Resources PADs going in on the West side of Lowery Ranch near Blackstone and the Aurora Reservoir. While we may not have as many homeowners on the eastern side of Lowery Ranch, we are equally as close to the pad sites and should be afforded the same regulations and guidelines. Additionally, I would like to ensure GMT limits their light pollution on the sites. All of us living in the area appreciate the scenic views of the Lowery Ranch and the Front Range Mountains. We hope we can work with GMT to avoid damaging these priceless views.</p> <p>Finally, I also recently became aware that 4 water wells will be dug on Box Elder Creek near CR 194 and CR 29. Very close to the proposed oil and gas pads. The water sourced from these wells will be going to Sky Ranch a new development near Watkins. My concern is for my HOA and the 18 homes that source our water from personal wells in this area. Has the county established how much water will be sourced and sent to Sky Ranch and it impact on our existing wells? Is this source sustainable and for how long? Box Elder runs intermittently throughout the year. What is the plan should this source run dry for Sky Ranch and my development bordering these wells pulling water from us to a new development?</p> <p>I sincerely appreciate the job that you do and your response to these inquiries.</p> <p>Rick Frasier</p>	
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Staff sent referrals to the following agencies and did not receive a response:

Referral Agency

Referral Agency Comments

Applicant's Response

- ARAPAHOE COUNTY ASSESSOR-COMMERCIAL
- ARAPAHOE COUNTY ENERGY SPECIALIST
- ARAPAHOE COUNTY/PWD ENG/TRAFFIC OPS
- AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT
- US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- CITY OF AURORA – ENGINEERING REFERRALS
- DENVER PLANNING SERVICES-CPD
- ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF- OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OEM)
- ARAPAHOE COUNTY/SHERIFF/CRIME PREVENTION UNIT
- DEER TRAIL & EAST ADAMS CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- WEST ARAPAHOE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- TOLLGATE CROSSING SUBDIVISION

COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

**To deliver new energy economy benefits to rural Colorado,
communities across the state**

ARAPAHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Case Numbers: ASI25-001 and LE25-003

May 19, 2026



WHAT WE'LL COVER TODAY

1. Who is Xcel Energy?
2. Colorado's Power Pathway
3. County-specific Project Information
4. Questions & Answers



Nathan Steele
Community Relations and Local
Government Affairs

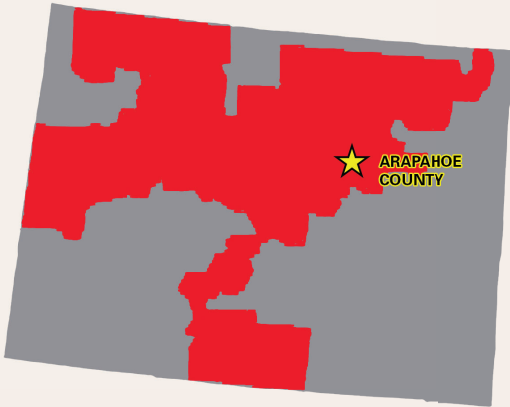


Jennifer Chester
Siting and Land Rights
Senior Manager



Cory Miller
Siting and Land Rights
Principal Agent

XCEL ENERGY COLORADO CUSTOMERS



1.5 million
Electric
Customers



1.4 million
Natural Gas
Customers



99.9%
Electric
Reliability

CPCN FILING AND COLORADO PUC DETERMINATIONS

Pathway requires Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approval for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN).

CPUC approved Pathway on June 2, 2022, providing Xcel Energy the authority and direction to move forward with Pathway for all five segments.

The CPUC determined that:

- Meeting 2030 carbon emission reduction targets depends on the timely completion of the transmission line.
- The Project is appropriately sized to accommodate injection of up to 5,000 megawatts of new generation.
- The looped transmission line configuration provides additional resiliency and reliability benefits while avoiding costs.
- Cost estimates and timelines for the Project, along with magnetic field and noise level requirements, are reasonable.
- Undergrounding is not in the public interest due to cost and other factors.

Xcel Energy’s application and CPUC’s approval are on [E-Filings page](#) on the [CPUC website](#) under Proceeding No. 21A-0096E.

Filing materials are also on [Colorado’s Power Pathway Regulatory Filings](#).

Hearing Exhibit 100, Verifec Application
Proceeding No. 21A-XXXXE
Page 1 of 28

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF) COLORADO FOR A CERTIFICATE OF) PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY) FOR COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY) 345 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT AND) ASSOCIATED FINDINGS REGARDING) NOISE AND MAGNETIC FIELD) REASONABLENESS)	PROCEEDING NO. 21A-XXXXE
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**VERIFIED APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR COLORADO'S
POWER PATHWAY 345 KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED
FINDINGS REGARDING NOISE AND MAGNETIC FIELD REASONABLENESS**

In accordance with § 40-5-101, C.R.S., 4 CCR 723-3-3002, 4 CCR 723-3-3102, and 4 CCR 723-3-3206, Public Service Company of Colorado ("Public Service" or the "Company") hereby requests that the Colorado Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") grant a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to construct Colorado's Power Pathway 345 kilovolt ("kV") Transmission Project (the "Pathway Project" or the "Project")

I. THE PATHWAY PROJECT

The Pathway Project is a proposed 560-mile, 345 kV double circuit network transmission system between four existing substations and three new substations.¹ The Project will connect the Front Range to areas of northeastern, eastern, and southeastern Colorado that are rich with renewable energy resource development potential, but do not

¹ The three new substations will be 345 kV switching stations. A switching station is a type of substation that operates at a single voltage level.

Colorado PUC E-Filings System

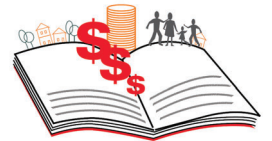
PATHWAY WILL DELIVER ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES, LIKE ARAPAHOE COUNTY, ACROSS EASTERN AND SOUTHERN COLORADO OVER THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM



POSITIVE IMPACT



JOBS & REVENUE



AND MORE...

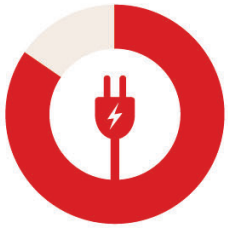
Short Term and Local:

- Tax revenue
- Revenue to local businesses during construction
- Xcel Energy directly serves over 278,000 electric customers in Arapahoe County
- Pathway will connect directly to the existing 230kV Harvest Mile Substation that serves Arapahoe County

Long Term and Regional:

- New energy generation projects will be able to interconnect to Pathway
- Ongoing job opportunities and tax revenue
- Improve the state's electric reliability, therefore benefiting all consumers in Colorado

COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY BY THE NUMBERS



80%

Electric utility greenhouse gas emissions reduction required by 2030 per Colorado House Bill 19-1261

2016
Last major addition or upgrade to backbone transmission in eastern Colorado

The energy capacity provided by Colorado's Power Pathway is the equivalent of powering

2,500,000

Colorado homes annually



30+

Resources evaluated to identify transmission line routes and substation sites



2,900+

Miles of transmission route options shared with the public to solicit feedback

175,000+
Postcards mailed

9,500+
Newsletters emailed

750,000+
Facebook public meeting ad views

80+
Meetings with agencies, cities and counties

235,000+
Website page views

87,000+
Unique website visitors
ColoradosPowerPathway.com

424
Miles permitted of

14
Land use permits approved

24
Jurisdiction hearings for land use permits

532
Miles total

10
Jurisdictions

47 Public meetings*

42
Open houses / community meetings

5
Virtual town halls

2,600+
General questions and comments received

1,643
Public comment forms received



3,268 Public meeting attendees

164 Newspaper ads in
35 Local papers*

425 Radio ads on
12 Stations*

*Spanish materials available

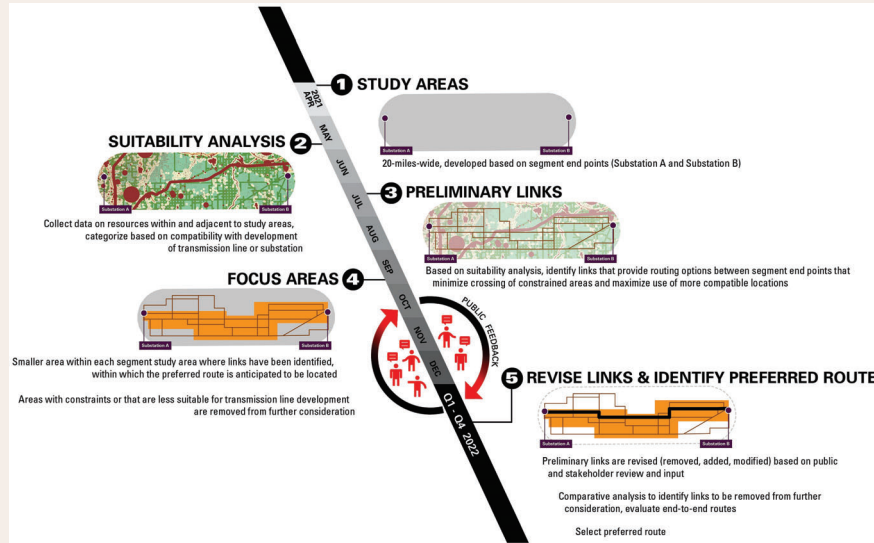
Revision Date: 03/19/2026

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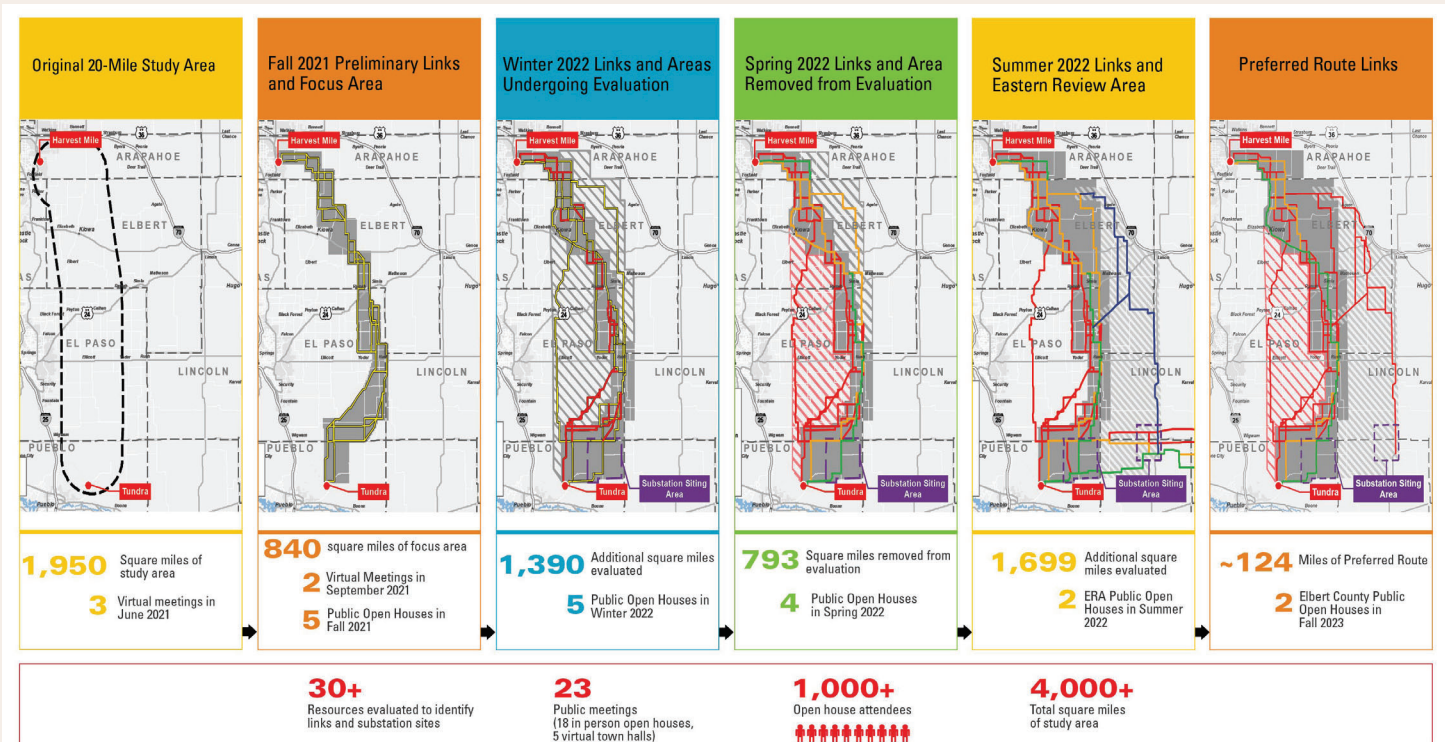
ROUTING AND SITING CONSIDERATIONS AND PROCESS

Criteria	Acquisition of Land Rights	Substation Engineering	Transmission Engineering	Electric System Planning
Consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing easements and fee-owned property Jurisdiction and land ownership Formally designated areas with restrictions that prohibit development of transmission lines Existing and planned developments (residential, commercial, other) that may not have enough space for easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacant developable land Available for purchase 60-acre site Accessibility for construction and operation – located adjacent to maintained public roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topography/slope Proximity to buildings (homes, businesses) Transportation infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads Railroads Airports Military and other special use airspace Oil & gas infrastructure such as wells and pipelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacency to existing transmission lines – reliability and redundancy Electric system interconnections (substations) Line length

Economics	Environmental and Cultural Resources	Public Involvement	Renewable and Other Generation Resources	Regulatory Compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall route length Construction, operation, and maintenance needs such as access Structure types required for straight sections for turns/angles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use/land cover Proximity to residences and structures Designated scenic areas Special status and protected species habitat, critical habitat Wetlands and waterways Cultural and historic sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowner feedback Stakeholder discussions Comments received during public open houses and through Project website, email, and hotline Proximity to homes Noise EMF Wildlife impacts Agricultural operations Traffic Visual impacts Landowner interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and planned utility-scale wind and solar facilities Renewable generation zones Future electric system interconnections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local land use permitting requirements such as zoning and setbacks Coordination with Colorado Parks & Wildlife and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense and/or other military airspace requirements Army Corps of Engineers for wetlands/waterways



SEGMENT 5 ROUTING HISTORY

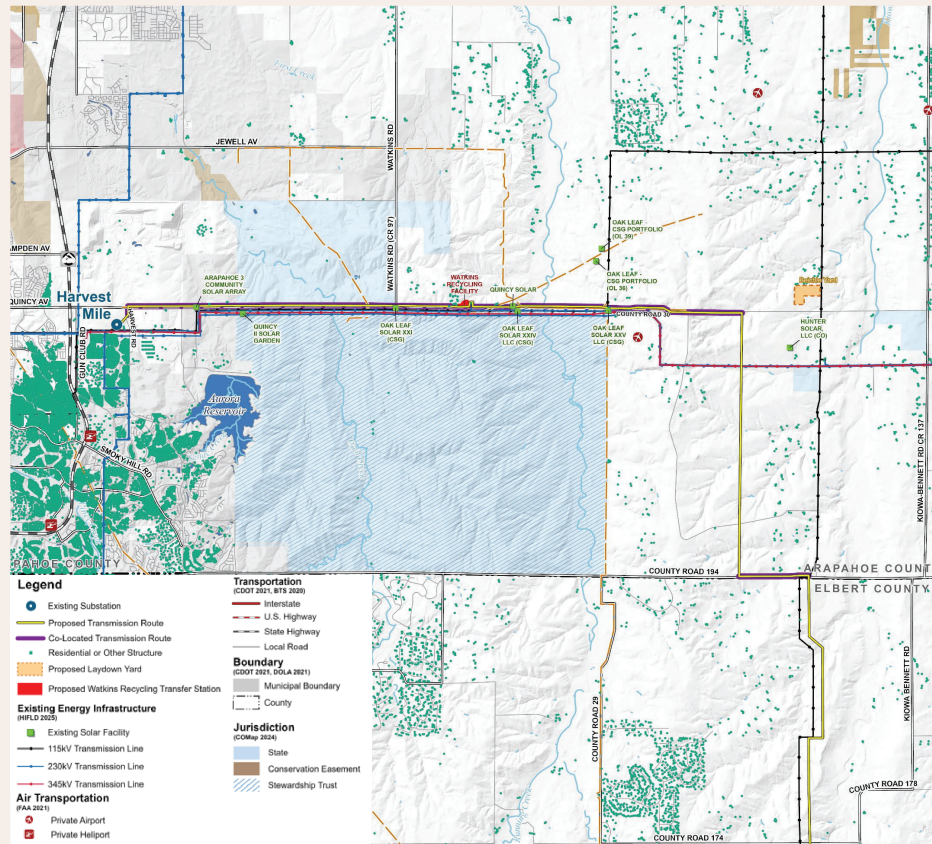


ROUTING CONSIDERATIONS

Resources that influenced the selection of the proposed route in Arapahoe County included:

- Colorado State Land Board Stewardship Trust lands
- Training areas associated with Air National Guard at Buckley Space Force Base
- Existing electric infrastructure
- Feedback from the public and jurisdiction staff
- Existing and proposed residential development
- Existing land use patterns, including conservation easements (Natural National Landmark)
- Existing solar development
- Aurora Reservoir
- Location of proposed route south of Arapahoe County
- Access for construction and maintenance

Approximately 12 miles (66 percent) of the Pathway transmission line in Arapahoe County are co-located along existing roads and electric transmission infrastructure



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

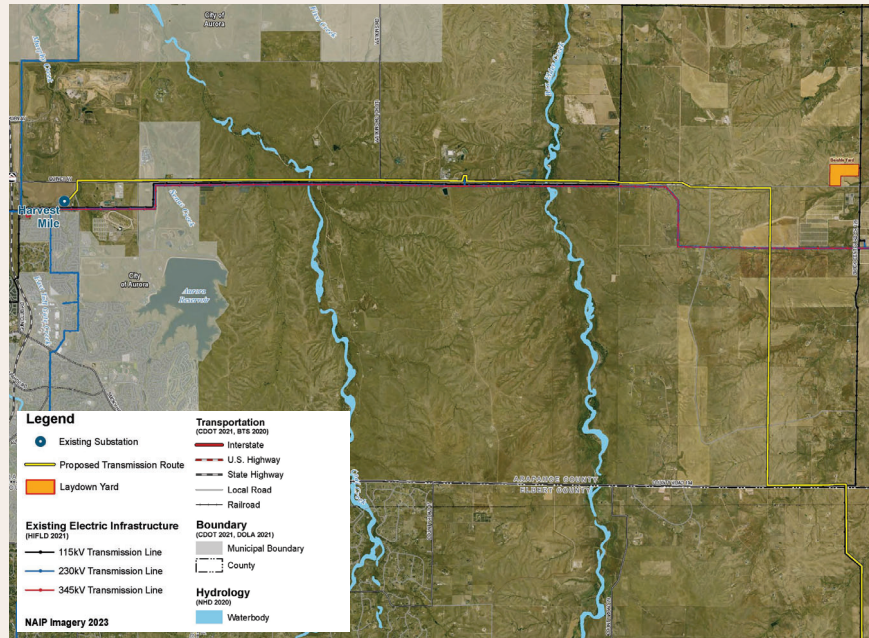
Pathway will be constructed in segments, with a portion of Segment 5 located in Arapahoe County.

Pathway facilities proposed for approval under the 1041 and L&E Permit Applications in Arapahoe County include:

- Approximately 18 miles of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission line; and
- Temporary construction areas for conductor stringing areas associated with construction of the Pathway facilities.

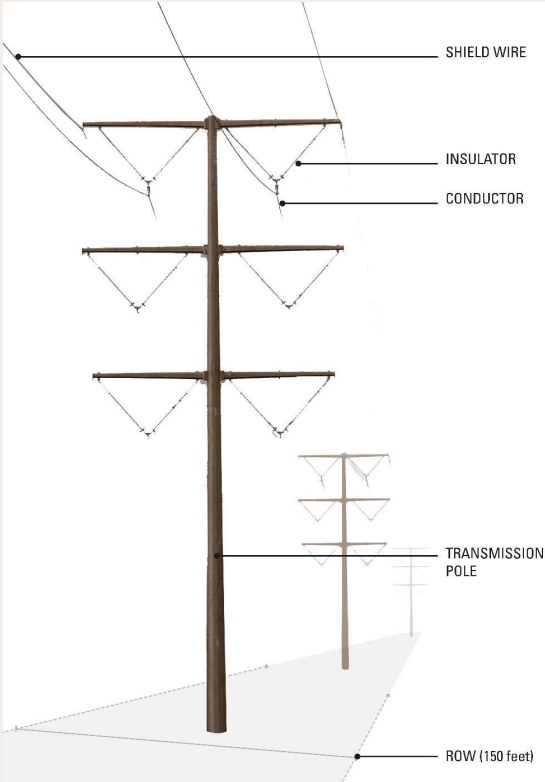
The equipment additions for the Harvest Mile Substation were permitted through the Pawnee-Daniels 345kV Transmission Line project in 2017 (case numbers ASI16-004 - 1041 Case File, L16-006 - Planning Case File, and EL16-006 - Engineering Case File).

The approximately 80-acre laydown yard was permitted via Temporary Use Permit Number ZTU-2025-00004.



345-KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE

Characteristic	Anticipated Design
Typical height	105 - 140 feet (no pole will exceed a 199-foot maximum height)
Right-of-way	150 feet total width, 75 feet on each side of the centerline
Span length	Typically, 950 feet between transmission poles, up to 1,400 feet
Material/color	Weathering steel, brown or rust color
Clearance	Maintain all clearances as required by National Electric Safety Code



PHOTOGRAPHIC SIMULATION: KOP 1

- KOP 1: Quincy Ave & Quincy Ave Diversion to Ridge View School
- Looking East along Quincy Avenue
- Pathway is along the left-hand side of the image (north side of Quincy Avenue)



EXISTING CONDITION



KEY LOCATION MAP



SIMULATED CONDITION

Viewpoint Number:	1
Viewpoint Location:	Quincy Ave + Quincy Ave
Date of Photograph:	4/11/2022
Time of Photograph:	1:25PM (MST)
Latitude:	39.638210° N
Longitude:	-104.856992° W
Viewing Direction:	East
Weather Condition:	Partly Cloudy
Ground Elevation + Camera Height:	5.5 feet

IMAGE DATA

PHOTOGRAPHIC SIMULATION: KOP 2

- KOP 2: Quincy Ave & Manila Road
- Looking West along Quincy Ave
- Pathway is along the right-hand side of the image (north side of Quincy Ave)



EXISTING CONDITION



KEY LOCATION MAP



SIMULATED CONDITION

Viewpoint Number:	2
Viewpoint Location:	Quincy Ave at Manila Rd
Date of Photograph:	4/11/2022
Time of Photograph:	11:43AM (MST)
Latitude:	39.637295° N
Longitude:	-104.528959° W
Viewing Direction:	West
Weather Condition:	Partly Cloudy
Ground Elevation + Camera Height:	5.5 feet

IMAGE DATA

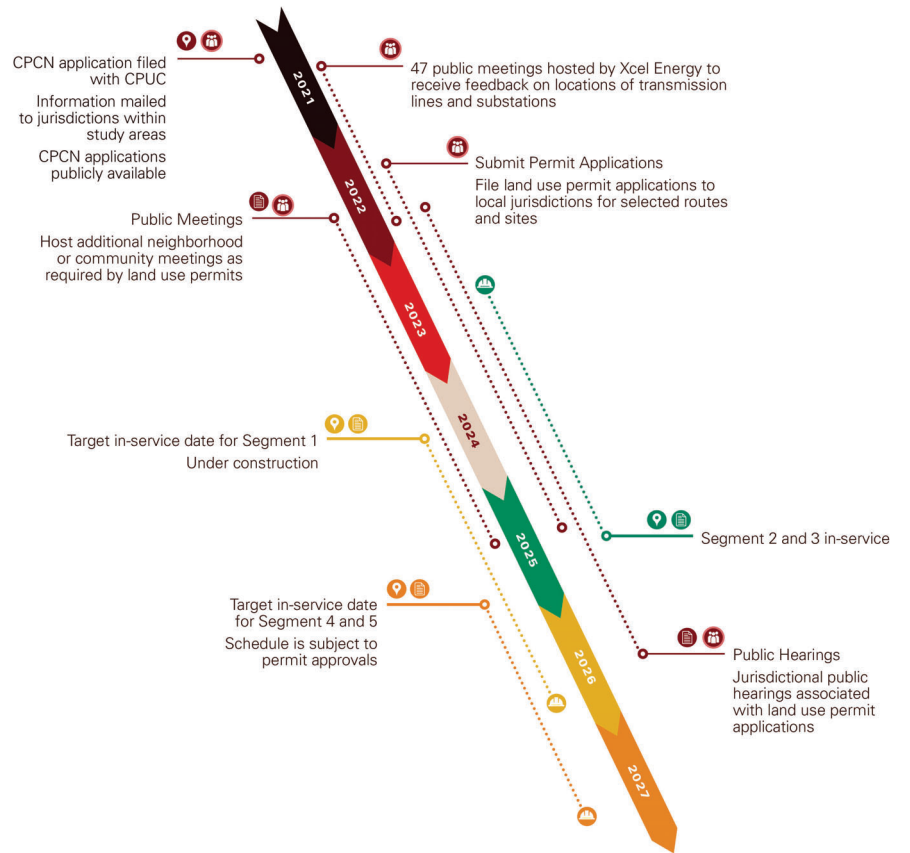
ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

For more information about Colorado's Power Pathway:

Visit [ColoradosPowerPathway.com](https://coloradospowerpathway.com)

Call 855-858-9037

Email ColoradosPowerPathway@xcelenergy.com



ARAPAHOE COUNTY 1041 APPROVAL CRITERIA

Regulations Governing Areas and Activities of State Interest in Arapahoe County Article V §A, General Approval Criteria

The routing and site selection, construction, maintenance, and operation of Pathway will comply with applicable general approval criteria

Regulations Governing Areas and Activities of State Interest in Arapahoe County Article V §C, Additional Criteria Applicable to Major Facilities of a Public Utility

The routing and site selection, construction, maintenance, and operation of Pathway will comply with applicable approval criteria applicable to Major Facilities of a Public Utility

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria	Compliance
<p>(1) Documentation that prior to site disturbance associated with the Proposed Project, the applicant can and will obtain all necessary property rights, permits and approvals. The Board may, at its discretion, defer making a final decision on the application until outstanding property rights, permits and approvals are obtained.</p>	<p>Local permits and approvals that may be required by Arapahoe County include, but are not limited to, 1041 Permit, Location and Extent Permit, Street Cut Right-of-Way (ROW) Use Permits, GESC Permit; Floodplain Development Permit; Oversize/Overweight Permits, and Temporary Use Permits. Any necessary construction-related authorizations, which are typically administrative in nature, will be obtained between the time local land use permits are approved and when construction begins. State approvals anticipated for Pathway may include permits for road, bridge and highway crossings or road occupancy permits from CDOT and stormwater discharge permits and APEN from CDPHE. Xcel Energy will negotiate easements with the Colorado State Land Board for the portions of the Pathway transmission line on state-owned lands. The CPUC has provided written approval of the CPCN for Segments 1 through 5 based on a determination that Pathway is in the public interest. All necessary land use, environmental, and construction permits, approvals and authorizations will be obtained prior to the start of and during construction as required.</p>
<p>(2) The Proposed Project considers the relevant provisions of the regional water quality plans.</p>	<p>Pathway will not be inconsistent with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (Colorado Water Conservation Board 2022). Water quality will be maintained during construction by using BMPs and the site-specific specific SWMP and the GESC Plan. The transmission line will span streams and waterways that cross the corridor. A permanent water supply will not be required for Pathway.</p>

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria

(3) (Only Applicable to Major Permit Review) The applicant has the necessary expertise and financial capability to develop and operate the Proposed Project consistent with all requirements and conditions.

(4) (Only Applicable to Major Permit Review) The Proposed Project is technically and financially feasible.

(5) The Proposed Project is not subject to significant risk from natural hazards.

(6) The Proposed Project is in general conformity with the applicable comprehensive plans.

Compliance

Xcel Energy has both the necessary expertise and financial capability to develop and operate Pathway. Per the CPUC CPCN approval on June 2, 2022, in doing so, the CPUC determined that Xcel Energy met its burden of proof to establish that Pathway is in the State's public interest and recovery of the anticipated cost of Pathway is appropriate. All necessary land use, environmental, and construction permits, approvals and authorizations will be obtained prior to the start of and during construction as required, and BMPs will be implemented to address public health, safety, and welfare and in accordance with permit conditions.

Per the CPUC CPCN approval on June 2, 2022, in doing so, the CPUC determined that Xcel Energy met its burden of proof to establish that Pathway is in the State's public interest and recovery of the anticipated cost of Pathway is appropriate. All necessary land use, environmental, and construction permits, approvals and authorizations will be obtained prior to the start of and during construction as required, and BMPs will be implemented to address public health, safety, and welfare and in accordance with permit conditions. Xcel Energy's 2024 Annual Report is provided as 1-ASI25-001-Annual Report.

Pathway has been sited and will implement BMPs to avoid and minimize erosion impacts to soils. Pathway does not contain any mapped natural hazard areas or unique natural features. Pathway is designed to withstand seismic considerations and is not anticipated to impact or be impacted by subsidence.

Pathway is a necessary capital improvement to expand the existing electric transmission grid system in Colorado. Pathway complies with the following policies of the 2018 Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan (Arapahoe County 2022): Growth Management; Public Facilities and Services; Neighborhood Livability; Economic Health; Transportation and Mobility; Natural and Cultural Resources and Environmental Quality; Rural Area; and Tier 3. A summary of Pathway compliance with each of these policies is provided in Section 3.4 of the 1041 Permit Application. Compliance with the applicable subgoals and polies of each of these policies are discussed in more detail in 2-ASI25-001_LE25-003-Consistency with Comp Plan.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria	Compliance
<p>(7) The Proposed Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the capability of local government to provide services or exceed the capacity of service delivery systems.</p>	<p>Given the relatively small size of the crews needed for construction of Pathway, no impacts to availability of public services or service delivery systems are anticipated.</p>
<p>(8) (Only Applicable to Major Permit Review) The Proposed Project will not create an undue financial burden on existing or future residents of the County.</p>	<p>Xcel Energy does not anticipate any negative financial impacts or burdens to Arapahoe County residents due to construction, operation, and maintenance of Pathway. Per the CPUC CPCN approval on June 2, 2022, in doing so, the CPUC determined that Xcel Energy met its burden of proof to establish that Pathway is in the State’s public interest and recovery of the anticipated cost of Pathway is appropriate.</p>
<p>(9) (Only Applicable to Major Permit Review) The Proposed Project will not significantly degrade any substantial sector of the local economy.</p>	<p>Pathway will not degrade any substantial sector of the local economy. Pathway will deliver short- and long-term economic benefits to Arapahoe County. More immediately, Pathway construction will require substantial amounts of contract labor while also providing local jurisdictions and host communities with additional tax revenues and potential employment opportunities. Once Pathway has been constructed, it will drive ongoing job opportunities and employment associated with the clean energy projects (wind, solar, etc.) that will ultimately interconnect to Pathway.</p>
<p>(10) The Proposed Project will not unduly degrade the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and experience.</p>	<p>Pathway will not impact the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and experiences. Three existing pedestrian trails are crossed by the proposed Pathway route where it crosses E Quincy Avenue near the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Senac Creek at E Quincy Avenue, and Black Shack Creek at E Quincy Avenue (see the Recreational Uses Map [1-ASI25-001-Recreational Uses Map]); the three existing transmission lines on the south side of E Quincy Avenue also cross the existing trails along Senac Creek and Black Shack Creek where these creeks cross E Quincy Avenue. The Pathway route in Arapahoe County is located approximately 1 mile north of the Aurora Reservoir. Pathway is not expected to impact or change the character of the Aurora Reservoir recreation area or recreational experiences because of the distance between the recreation resource and Pathway. During construction, trails may need to be temporarily closed during stringing or other construction activities for public safety. Trails will be reopened after work has been completed and will have no long-term impacts. Pathway will work with Arapahoe County as needed regarding trail crossings.</p>

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria	Compliance
(11) The planning, design and operation of the Proposed Project will reflect principals of resource conservation, energy efficiency and recycling or reuse.	Once Pathway has been constructed, it will drive ongoing development associated with the clean energy projects (wind, solar, etc.) that will ultimately interconnect to Pathway. Pathway will support Xcel Energy's Clean Energy Plan (Xcel Energy 2021) that is estimated to deliver as much as an 85 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and add approximately 6,500 megawatts of new wind, solar, and other resources.
(12) The Proposed Project will not significantly degrade the environment. Appendix "A" includes the considerations that will be used to determine whether there will be significant degradation of the environment. For purposes of this section, the term environment shall include:	
(a) Air quality.	Pathway is not expected to generate smoke. Dust (particulate emissions) will be suppressed using water trucks. Xcel Energy will apply for a CDPHE APEN prior to construction if needed and will follow state standards to control the release of fugitive dust related to construction, if necessary. The APEN will be required for a land disturbance greater than 25 contiguous acres and land development activities with a duration longer than 6 months.
(b) Visual quality.	The Pathway transmission line route through Arapahoe County has been co-located along existing transmission infrastructure and county roads as much as possible to reduce visual impacts. In addition, the weathering steel poles will oxidize to resemble a natural brown look and existing vegetation will be preserved to the extent possible to maintain visual contrast in the landscape.
(c) Surface water quality.	Impacts to water quality will be addressed through erosion and sediment control measures will be outlined in the SWMP as well as the GES Plan. Construction of the transmission line will not create runoff in excess of previous site levels and will not change existing topography or adversely affect drainage. There will be no alteration in the pattern or intensity of surface drainage or any impacts to lakes or reservoirs as a result of construction or operation of the transmission line.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria	Compliance
(12) The Proposed Project will not significantly degrade the environment. Appendix "A" includes the considerations that will be used to determine whether there will be significant degradation of the environment. For purposes of this section, the term environment shall include:	
(d) Groundwater quality.	Impacts to groundwater are not anticipated because the transmission poles will not be installed at a depth that is below the water table.
(e) Wetlands, flood plains, streambed meander limits, recharge areas, and riparian areas.	The transmission line will be sited to span floodplains, wetlands, and riparian areas to the extent practicable. Pathway will adhere to BMPs outlined in the SWMP as well as the GESC Plan, which will include erosion control and revegetation measures.
(f) Terrestrial and aquatic animal life.	Pathway will avoid sensitive habitats and known nesting locations to the extent practicable and will implement BMPs to avoid and minimize impacts to terrestrial and aquatic habitat, nesting and migratory birds, and listed species.
(g) Terrestrial and aquatic plant life.	Pathway will avoid or minimize impacts to vegetation as practicable. Impacts to most vegetation will be temporary and limited to the 150-foot-wide Pathway ROW and temporary construction areas. The Pathway ROW will be cleared of tall vegetation for ongoing maintenance. Measures will be implemented to minimize the spread of noxious weeds in the Pathway ROW. To avoid or minimize impacts to aquatic habitat within the Pathway ROW, surface waters, riparian areas, and wetlands in areas less than 1,400 feet width at the crossing will be spanned as practicable. Pathway will adhere to BMPs and erosion control measures outlined in the SWMP.
(h) Soils and geologic conditions.	Pathway will be constructed based on the result of geotechnical studies to effectively site transmission poles and avoid geological hazards. During construction, Xcel Energy's contractor will minimize any soils impacts by strictly adhering to a SWMP regulated by CDPHE and will institute and maintain erosion and sediment control BMPs designed to protect soils and prevent erosion. Pathway is designed to withstand seismic considerations and is not anticipated to impact or be impacted by subsidence.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria

(13) The Proposed Project will not cause a nuisance.

Compliance

Nuisance vibrations or odors are not anticipated during construction or operation of Pathway. The CPUC provides reasonableness determinations associated with noise and requires CPCN applicants to evaluate the expected level of noise of the proposed transmission facilities. Xcel Energy is required to meet state standards as outlined in the Colorado Public Utilities Commission's Rules Regulating Electric Utilities 4 CCR 723-3. Xcel Energy is required to meet state standards as outlined in 4 CCR 723-3. The CPUC provides reasonableness determinations associated with noise and requires CPCN applicants to evaluate the expected level of noise of the proposed transmission facilities. Based on the noise study conducted for Pathway (Noise and EMF Study [1-ASI25-001-Noise and EMF Study]), the maximum projected noise level measured at 25 feet from the edge of the Pathway ROW is 49.8 A-weighted decibels (dBA), and the maximum projected noise level at 25 feet from the Harvest Mile Substation is 57 dBA. Per CPUC Rule 3206(f), noise levels below 50 dBA are not subject to further review (4 CCR 723-3). The Harvest Mile Substation is not located on land for which there is a zoning-dependent noise level limit deemed reasonable by PUC Rule 3206(f) as Rule 3206(f) does not identify an audible noise level that is deemed reasonable for land zoned agricultural. The projected noise levels from the Pathway transmission line and Harvest Mile Substation were deemed reasonable by the CPUC.

(14) The Proposed Project will not significantly degrade areas of paleontological, historic, or archaeological importance.

A Class I cultural resources desktop analysis identified areas previously surveyed and known cultural resources within a 150-foot buffer of the transmission line ROW. Within the Research Area, 4 previous cultural resource surveys have been conducted. These surveys include approximately 1.0 miles of Segment 5. Within the Research Area are 4 previously recorded cultural resources. These include: a prehistoric lithic scatter, a prehistoric open camp, a historic fence, and a historic transmission line. The open camp, fence, and transmission line have been determined Not Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the Colorado Historic Society Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (OAHP), and the lithic scatter is Unevaluated (the site's eligibility for listing in the NRHP has not been evaluated by archaeologists or the OAHP). No transmission line poles will be constructed within site boundaries. BMPs will be implemented to avoid and minimize any potential impacts to these resources. Pathway is not located within any historic and archaeological areas of importance.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria

Compliance

(15) The Proposed Project will not result in unreasonable risk of releases of hazardous materials. In making this determination as to such risk, the Board's consideration shall include:

(a) Plans for compliance with federal and State handling, storage, disposal and transportation requirements.

No hazardous materials will be used, stored, or generated on site of Pathway facilities. Pathway activities will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use of hazardous substances, and activities will follow BMPs for the management of wastes to avoid and minimize effects from potential spills or other releases to the environment.

(b) Use of waste minimization techniques.

Waste generated during construction activities will be properly disposed of. Enclosed containment will be provided for trash disposal. Construction waste, including trash and litter, garbage, other solid waste, petroleum products, and other potentially hazardous materials, will be removed and taken to a disposal facility authorized to accept such materials. No hazardous materials will be permanently used, stored, or generated on site of Pathway facilities. Pathway will not require transportation of hazardous materials. Construction, operation, and maintenance activities will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use of hazardous substances. Construction activities will be performed by methods that prevent entrance or accidental spillage of solid matter, contaminants, debris, and other pollutants and wastes into flowing streams or dry watercourses, lakes, and underground water sources. All activities will follow BMPs for the management of wastes to avoid and minimize effects from potential spills or other releases to the environment. The substation and transmission line will require few maintenance visits during operation and can be considered a passive use of land. Waste will not be generated on an ongoing basis.

(c) Adequacy of spill prevention and response plans.

Pathway activities will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use of hazardous substances, and activities will follow BMPs for the management of wastes to avoid and minimize effects from potential spills or other releases to the environment.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria

(16) (Only Applicable to Major Permit Review) The benefits accruing to the County and its citizens from the proposed activity outweigh the losses of any resources within the County, or the losses of opportunities to develop such resources.

(17) The Proposed project is the best alternative available based on consideration of need, existing technology, cost, impact and these regulations.

Compliance

Pathway is anticipated to provide economic benefits to Arapahoe County. The short-term economic benefits of Pathway are driven by the \$1.7 billion investment in electric transmission assets in Colorado, which includes payments for land acquisitions and easements, as well as the creation of construction jobs and indirect economic stimulus of construction activities. More immediately, Pathway construction will provide local jurisdictions and host communities with potential additional tax revenue and employment opportunities. Revenue may increase during construction for local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, and other local businesses.

Once Pathway has been constructed, it will facilitate ongoing job opportunities and employment associated with the clean energy projects (wind, solar, etc.) that may ultimately interconnect to Pathway that will also provide tax revenues and employment opportunities. Expected long-term benefits include tax payments to the counties that will be crossed by the transmission line over the life of the project.

Several alternatives to Pathway were considered, including non-structural alternatives, structural alternatives, and design alternatives (Addendum to Routing and Siting Study for Segment 5 [2-ASI25-001_LE25-003-Routing and Siting Study]).

Alternate locations and routes, alternative types of facilities, use of existing ROWs, joint use of ROWs with other utilities, and upgrades to existing facilities were analyzed. Pathway routing and siting efforts were divided by segment and documented in a series of routing and siting studies. Each routing and siting study is interrelated due to the overlap in segment Study Areas and shared substation endpoints. Each Routing and Siting Study documents the process utilized to review and consider reasonable siting and routing alternatives for the new major electrical facilities (pursuant to CRS 29-20-108(4)(a) and (b)). The Addendum to Segment 5 Routing and Siting Study provides an alternatives analysis to address this requirement. Resources that influenced the selection of the proposed route in Arapahoe County included: existing linear infrastructure, location of proposed route to the south of Arapahoe County, location of existing Harvest Mile Substation, residences, existing land uses (solar facilities, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Aurora Reservoir, Peter Binney Water Purification Facility), future proposed projects, and Air National Guard flight training areas.



REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART A, GENERAL APPROVAL CRITERIA

Approval Criteria	Compliance
(18) The Proposed Project will not unduly degrade the quality or quantity of agricultural activities.	The transmission line will be compatible with agricultural uses. The transmission line alignment avoids existing irrigation ditches and pivot irrigation in fields to minimize effects to existing productive agricultural operations. Current uses adjacent to the Pathway facilities will be able to continue mainly unchanged after construction of Pathway. Areas disturbed during construction will be restored in coordination with the landowners and their current land use.
(19) Cultural Resources. The Proposed Project will not significantly interfere with the preservation of cultural resources, including historical structures and sites, agricultural resources, the rural lifestyle and the opportunity for solitude in the natural environment.	A Class I cultural resources desktop analysis identified areas previously surveyed and known cultural resources within a 150-foot buffer of the transmission line ROW. Within the Research Area, 4 previous cultural resource surveys have been conducted. These surveys include approximately 1.0 miles of Segment 5. Within the Research Area are 4 previously recorded cultural resources. These include: a prehistoric lithic scatter, a prehistoric open camp, a historic fence, and a historic transmission line. The open camp, fence, and transmission line have been determined Not Eligible for listing in the NRHP by the OAHP, and the lithic scatter is Unevaluated (the site's eligibility for listing in the NRHP has not been evaluated by archaeologists or the OAHP). No transmission line poles will be constructed within site boundaries. BMPs will be implemented to avoid and minimize any potential impacts to these resources. Pathway is not located within any historic and archaeological areas of importance.
(20) Land Use. The Proposed Project will not cause significant degradation of land use patterns in the area around the Proposed Project.	Current land uses adjacent to the Pathway facilities will be able to continue mainly unchanged after construction of Pathway. The transmission line alignment avoids existing irrigation ditches and pivot irrigation in fields to minimize effects to existing agricultural operations. Areas disturbed during construction will be restored in coordination with the landowners and their current land uses.
(21) Compliance with Regulations & Fees. The applicant has complied with all applicable provisions of these regulations and has paid all applicable fees.	Xcel Energy will comply with all applicable provisions of the § 1041 Regulations and has paid all applicable fees concurrently with the submittal of this Application.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART C, ADDITIONAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO MAJOR FACILITIES OF A PUBLIC UTILITY

Approval Criteria

(1) Areas around major facilities of a public utility shall be administered so as to minimize disruption of the service provided by the public utility.

(2) Areas around major facilities of a public utility shall be administered so as to preserve desirable existing community and rural patterns.

Compliance

The transmission line will have a typical ROW of 150 feet wide, 75 feet on either side of the centerline. Vegetation management within the transmission line ROW will be required prior to, or in conjunction with, construction. Trees and tall vegetation growing within or near the Pathway ROW can cause downed lines, power outages, and wildfire. Vegetation management crews will work to prevent these situations from occurring. Vegetation management involves the use of various types of treatment including removing, pruning, and mowing vegetation and the treatment of vegetation with herbicides to ensure safe operations. The transmission line will be inspected regularly (at least annually) to look for the following:

- Non-compatible vegetation and hazards within the Pathway ROW.
- Equipment needing repair or replacement.
- Pathway ROW encroachments, which can be hazardous to safety and reliable operations.
- Anything that might jeopardize safe, reliable operation of the power line.

Operations and maintenance staff must visit the Pathway ROW for these inspections, but visits typically are minimal, and landowners will be contacted prior to on-site inspections or maintenance. However, in cases of emergency, advanced contact may not be possible.

Current land uses adjacent to the Pathway facilities will be able to continue mainly unchanged after construction of Pathway. Areas disturbed during construction will be restored in coordination with the landowners and their current land use.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING AREAS AND ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST IN ARAPAHOE COUNTY ARTICLE V PART C, ADDITIONAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO MAJOR FACILITIES OF A PUBLIC UTILITY

Approval Criteria

(3) Where feasible, major facilities of a public utility shall be located so as to avoid direct conflict with adopted local comprehensive, State and regional master plans.

(4) Where feasible, major facilities of a public utility shall be located so as to minimize dedication of new right-of-way and construction of additional infrastructure (e.g., gas pipelines, roads, and distribution lines.)

Compliance

There are no known conflicts with adopted local comprehensive, state, and regional master plans. Pathway is a necessary capital improvement to expand the existing electric transmission grid system in Colorado.

Pathway will require landowners to grant new transmission line ROW easements and Xcel Energy will construct new infrastructure, limited to the facilities discussed in this Application. Of the approximately 18-mile transmission line route in Arapahoe County, approximately 13 miles (76 percent) is co-located along existing electric transmission infrastructure and existing roads. Pathway is sited in areas already encumbered by linear facilities and does not prohibit adjacent development. Pathway will interconnect at the existing Harvest Mile Substation within the existing fenceline; no additional land adjacent to the existing substation will be necessary for Pathway. No additional demand for infrastructure, facilities, housing, water (other than trucked-in water for construction), wastewater treatment, or public transportation will be created. Pathway will not require additional local government services beyond those currently provided in the area.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE SECTION 5-7.3.B, LOCATION AND EXTENT GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

Requirement	Compliance
<p>(1) Applicability</p> <p>(a) No road, park, public way, ground, or space, no public building or structure, and no major facility of a public utility shall be constructed or authorized in the unincorporated areas of Arapahoe County unless and until the proposed location and extent thereof has been submitted to and approved by the Arapahoe County Planning Commission.</p> <p>(b) Routine extensions of public utility lines and minor modifications to existing utility lines and/or facilities shall not be subject to this procedure.</p>	<p>The applicant, Xcel Energy, is requesting Arapahoe County's approval to construct, maintain, and operate Pathway, a major facility of a public utility, in unincorporated Arapahoe County. Therefore, a Location and Extent Permit Application must be submitted to and approved by the Arapahoe County Planning Commission.</p>
<p>(2) Procedures</p> <p>(a) Location and Extent applications shall follow the application procedures in Section 5-2.1.B.</p> <p>(b) When the application is determined to be complete, staff will set a hearing date before the Planning Commission.</p> <p>(c) If the Planning Commission disapproves the proposed public facility, or approves it with conditions the applicant is not willing to accept, the applicant may appeal such decision to the Board of County Commissioners, and the Planning Commission shall communicate the reasons for such disapproval to the Board, who may overrule such disapproval by a majority vote.</p>	<p>Xcel Energy understands that this Location and Extent Permit Application will follow the application procedures in Section 5-2.1.B, including the public hearing requirements and appeal process.</p>

ARAPAHOE COUNTY LOCATION AND EXTENT GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

Arapahoe County Land Development Code Section 5-7.3.B, Location and Extent General Requirements and Procedure

The routing and site selection, construction, maintenance, and operation of Pathway will comply with applicable general requirements and procedure

ARAPAHOE COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE SECTION 5-7.3.B, LOCATION AND EXTENT GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

Requirement/Procedure	Compliance
<p>(3) Public Notice</p> <p>(a) The applicant shall be responsible for providing public notice prior to the Planning Commission hearing in compliance with the public notice requirements in Section 5-2.2 of this Code.</p> <p>(b) If a Planning Commission decision is appealed, the applicant shall be responsible for providing notice of the Board of County Commissioners hearing in compliance with the requirements in Section 5-2.2 of this Code.</p>	<p>Xcel Energy provided all required public hearing notices for the Location and Extent Permit Application in compliance with the public notice requirements in Section 5-2.2 which include mailings to adjacent property owners 15 days prior to the hearing and posting signs 15 days prior to the hearing. Xcel Energy understands that if the Planning Commission hearing is appealed, Xcel Energy will provide notice of the Board of County Commissioners hearing in compliance with the requirements in Section 5-2.2.</p>
<p>(4) Decision and Findings</p> <p>(a) The Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners, when applicable, may approve the facility as submitted, approve it with conditions, or deny the facility. The conditions to be imposed are those necessary, at the discretion of the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners, to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts of the proposed facility on the surrounding area, and may include the posting of sufficient performance guarantees with the County to guarantee the construction of any improvements.</p> <p>(b) Upon approval of the Location and Extent, a photographic mylar or equivalent, prepared in accordance with the standards established in the Development Application Manual, Part 5, shall be submitted to the PWD Department for the Planning Commission's signature. The mylar will be kept on file at the PWD Department Planning Division.</p>	<p>Xcel Energy understands that the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners, when applicable, may approve Pathway as submitted, approve it with conditions, or deny Pathway. Xcel Energy understands that the conditions to be imposed are those necessary, at the discretion of the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners, to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts of Pathway on the surrounding area, and may include the posting of sufficient performance guarantees with the County to guarantee the construction of any improvements. Upon approval of the Location and Extent Permit Application, Xcel Energy will submit a photographic mylar or equivalent, prepared in accordance with the standards established in the DAM, Part 5, to the Arapahoe County Public Works and Development Department.</p> <p>Pathway complies with the following policies of the 2018 Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan (Arapahoe County 2022): Growth Management; Public Facilities and Services; Neighborhood Livability; Economic Health; Transportation and Mobility; Natural and Cultural Resources and Environmental Quality; Rural Area; and Tier 3. A summary of Pathway compliance with each of these policies is provided in Section 2.2 of the Location and Extent Permit Application. Compliance with the applicable subgoals and polies of each of these policies are discussed in more detail in 2-ASI25-001_LE25-003-Consistency with Comp Plan and was previously discussed in this presentation under 1041 Approval Criteria Article V Part A.6: <i>The Proposed Project is in general conformity with the applicable comprehensive plans.</i></p>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



xcelenergy.com



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

**Colorado's Power Pathway 345-kV
Transmission Line
1041 and Location and Extent
AS125-001 and LE25-003**

Planning Commission Public Hearing

May 19, 2026



Applicant: Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel Energy)



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

Project Proposal: Construct a 345 kV transmission line

Project Location: Located along E. Quincy Road and east of the Colorado Land Board property

Staff: Case Engineer – Sue Liu

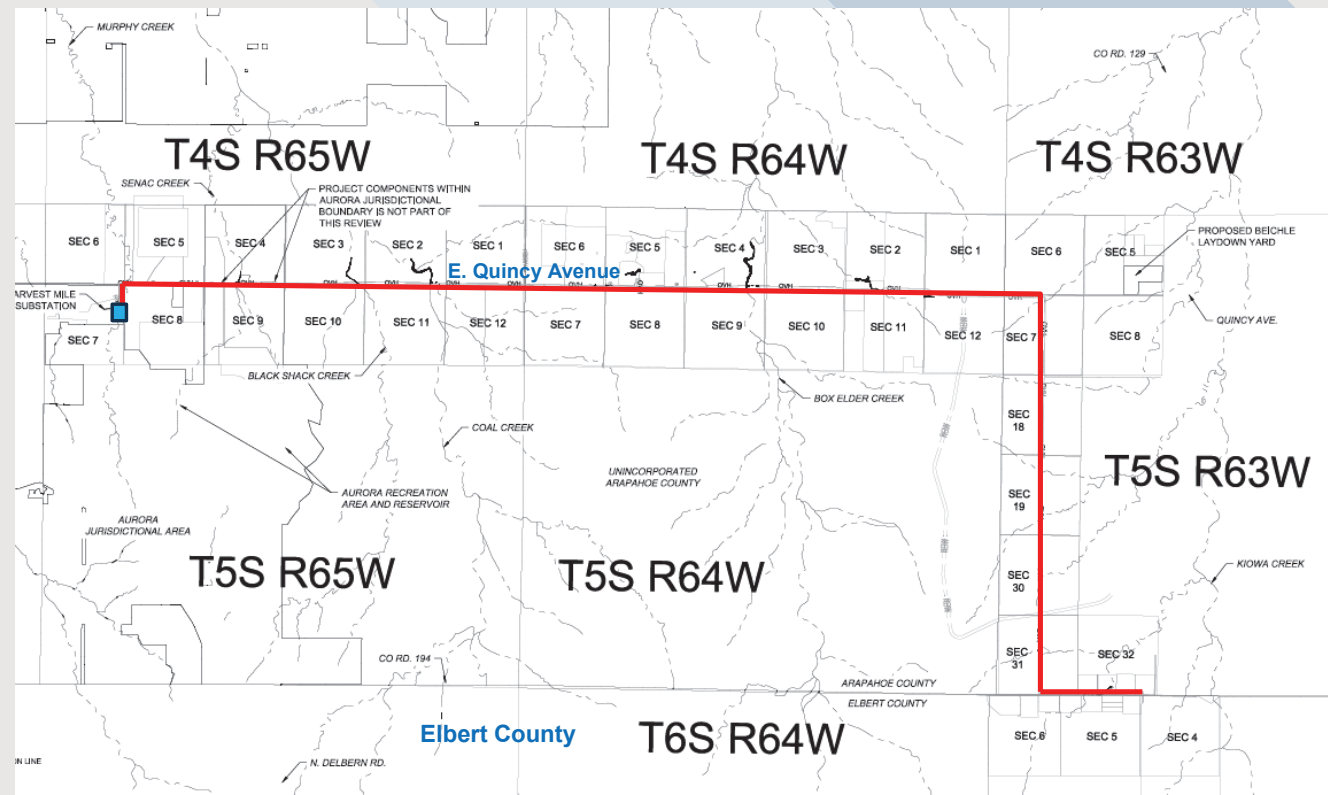


Vicinity & Zoning Map



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

vacant,



Process



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

- Reviewed through the Location and Extent – PC makes a decision.
- Reviewed through the 1041 Regulations for a Major Electric Facilities of a Private Utility – PC makes a recommendation to the BOCC.
- Must comply with the 1041 Regulation approval criteria in Section V, Parts A and C.



Project Details



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

- The Eastern Plains region in Colorado is one of the best areas for wind and solar energy, but presently doesn't have a way to connect to the state's grid system.
- The Colorado's Power Pathway project (Pathway) will support Xcel Energy's Clean Energy Plan, which the applicant estimates will deliver as much as an 85 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and add approximately 5,000 megawatts of new wind, solar, and other resources.
- Pathway is Xcel Energy's efforts to meet the Colorado's legislature's statutory clean energy targets as well as Colorado's growing electricity needs.
- Pathway consists of five segments. This application is part of Segment 5, which starts at the Harvest Mile Substation and extends to the proposed Sandstone Substation to be located in El Paso County.



Project Details



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

- The proposed transmission lines are to connect to the Harvest Mile Substation.
- Approximately 18 miles of new 345-kV double circuit electric transmission line (one mile in the City of Aurora).
- Proposing temporary construction areas that are needed for the construction of the transmission line.
- Steel poles will be weathering steel in a brown or rust color.
- Typical height is 105 to 140 feet tall, with a maximum of 199 feet.
- Typical span between poles is 950 feet but can go up to 1,400 feet.
- Beichle Laydown Yard is proposed at the northwest corner of E. Quincy Avenue and S. Brick Center Road. Reviewed through a temporary use permit with the Zoning Division.
- The maximum number of 95 employees, working a 12-hour shift, Monday through Saturday.
- Portable toilets and bottled water will be used.
- Low-flying helicopter exercises occur over Colorado State Land Board property. Applicant moved the alignment further to the east to avoid any conflict.



Comprehensive Plan



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

The proposed transmission line complies with the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- *Policy PFS 6.1 – Continue Collaboration with Utility Companies in the Development Review Process*
- *Policy PFS 7.1 – Continue Collaboration with Service Providers to Ensure an Adequate Level of Service is Provided to Existing and New Development*
- *Policy NL 5.1 – Implement Actions to Create a Countywide System of Connected Open Space, Public Parks, and Trails*
- *Policy PFS 12.2 – Consider Utility Needs to Support Growth and Development of the Region*
- *Policy PFS 12.3 – Require Land Use Compatibility when Siting Local and Regional Utility Facilities*
- *Policy NL 2.1 – Require New Development to be Compatible with Existing Residential Neighborhoods*
- *Policy EH 1.2 – Encourage Environmentally Friendly Businesses and Jobs in Arapahoe County*
- *Policy NCR 6.2 – Encourage the Development and Use of Alternative Energy Sources*
- *Policy T₃ GM 1.1 – Retain Agricultural Uses in Tier 3*



Referral and Public Comment



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

- Referral comments received.
 - Applicant working with Bennett-Watkins, Aurora Fire Rescue, and Sable Altura Fire District.
 - Colorado Army Aviation Support Facility/Buckley Space Force Base - COARNG wants to be notified before and during the construction of the transmission line.
 - Arapahoe County Open Spaces Division-applicant agrees to work with the County on traffic control on Quincy. This division does not want to pursue a trail within the transmission line easement at this time.
 - Arapahoe County Public Health Department - had concerns regarding the impacts the easement may have on existing water wells and OWTS. Also, concerns in easement proximity to two landfills.
 - Colorado Parks and Wildlife commented on wildlife and how to reduce impacts.



Referral and Public Comment



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

- Referral comments received.
 - CORE- indicated that the proposed access routes are within CORE transmission easement. Applicant is working with is agency to prevent conflicts.
 - Public- One comment from the public. Wanted the alignment moved further east away from Box Elder Creek and the training exercise by Buckley.



Neighborhood Meeting



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

Neighborhood Meeting – held on March 18, 2025, a neighborhood outreach meeting was held at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds. A total of 7 people attended the meeting, and the only comment received is as follows:

“I appreciate the experts they had on hand to answer all the questions. Great to see the private sector working so proactively to get information about the future expansion and needs of Colorado. Thank you!”



Condition of Approval – L&E and 1041



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

L&E Condition:

1. Prior to the signature of the final copy of these plans, the applicant must update the Location and Extent Plan Set consistent with comments received from Public Works and Development staff as transmitted to the applicant on March 16, 2026, and add reception numbers to the Plan Set as per the email dated April 23, 2026.

1041 Conditions:

1. Prior to the signature of the final copy of these plans, the applicant must update the Location and Extent Plan Set consistent with comments received from Public Works and Development staff as transmitted to the applicant on March 16, 2026, and add reception numbers to the Plan Set as per the email dated April 23, 2026.
2. Colorado Army National Guard (COARNG) shall be provided advance notice of all construction dates and construction-related ground activities on the specified property as soon as reasonably possible. Notice shall be provided to Greg White, Aviation Safety Officer, at 720-250-1601. Specified property: State of Colorado property (south and east of the Aurora Reservoir) and portions of the transmission line along E. Quincy Avenue that is north and adjacent to the State of Colorado property.
3. Transmission Pole 694 is within 100 feet of an existing water well and therefore requires protection. A protective construction fence around this well to prevent damage during the construction of the transmission line is required.
4. As defined by the Clean Water Act, if Waters of the United States are impacted, inclusive of wetlands, a CWA Permit 404 shall be obtained prior to construction.
5. No surface occupancy and no ground disturbance (year-round) within 500 feet, where reasonably possible, of the ordinary high-water mark of all of Box Elder and Coal Creek's surface waters shall be allowed. Where occupancy or ground disturbance outside the 500-foot buffer is not reasonably possible, then the applicant shall install appropriate stormwater and sediment control according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Stormwater Management Plan and/or Arapahoe County Grading Erosion Sediment Control Plan to protect the creek and any associated wetlands from erosion and sedimentation.
6. If grading or construction is to occur on the project between January 1 through April 30, the applicant shall conduct a survey to determine if Pronghorn are present. The results of the survey shall be submitted to Colorado Parks and Wildlife ("CPW") and the Planning Division for their review. If Pronghorn are present, no construction and grading is permitted during those dates, unless CPW advises the County that the survey results do not support the need to limit construction or grading.



Condition of Approval – L&E and 1041



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

7. If grading or construction is to occur on the project between December 1 through April 30, the applicant shall conduct a survey to determine if Mule Deer are present. The results of the survey shall be submitted to CPW and the Planning Division for their review. If Mule Deer are present, no construction and grading is permitted during those dates, unless CPW advises the County that the survey results do not support the need to limit construction or grading.
8. The applicant shall conduct a pre-construction survey to determine the presence of burrowing owls following CPW's protocol for vegetation clearing activities resulting in ground disturbance between March 15 through October 31. The survey results shall be submitted to CPW for their review. If burrowing owls are found, the applicant shall coordinate with CPW to determine appropriate avoidance buffers or monitor active nest sites until determined to be inactive.
9. If grading or construction is to occur from March 15 to June 15, the applicant shall conduct a survey to identify and locate swift fox den sites in the construction area within the swift fox overall range. The survey results shall be submitted to CPW and the Planning Division for their review. If a den is identified and located, no human encroachment, surface disturbance, or construction within 0.25 miles of an active maternal den unless CPW advises the County that the survey results do not support the need to limit said activities.
10. If grading or construction is to occur from April 1 to August 15, the applicant shall conduct a survey for Mountain Plover Nest Sites. If active nests are identified and the applicant cannot restrict human disturbance within 300 feet of the nest through the seasonal restriction, then disturbance may be allowed if CPW advises the County that the survey does not support limiting such activities.
11. Prior to construction, if vegetation clearing cannot occur during the nonbreeding season of raptors, migratory birds and burrowing owls (September 1 through April 15), the applicant shall conduct surveys per USFWS and CPW guidance to identify avian nesting activity and determine appropriate avoidance buffers or monitor active nest sites until determined to be inactive. If construction activities must occur inside CPW recommended buffers of an active raptor nest, a qualified biologist will be assigned to monitor the active raptor nest during project construction to ensure nesting raptors do not become disturbed and abandon their nest.
12. Transmission lines shall be installed consistent with Avian Power Line Interaction Committee standards, and bird diverters shall be installed within 0.25 miles of any lake, drainage, or riparian area and within the raptor nesting buffer for all active nests.



Conclusion



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS & DEVELOPMENT

- Based on the findings in the staff report, staff is recommending approval for the L&E and 1041 applications.

