

Pawnee-Daniels Park Transmission Line Project Summary

May 2013

What is the Project?

The project consists of a new 345kV transmission line from the Pawnee Substation in northeastern Colorado to the Daniels Park Substation, south of the Denver metro-area. The Project includes:

- 21-miles of new line and structures between the Smoky Hill Substation in Aurora to the Daniels Park Substation in Douglas County. The new line would be built on land owned by Xcel Energy in an exiting corridor that contains an existing transmission line,
- 13-miles of new 345kV conductor on existing structures from the Missile Site Substation to a point near the Town of Byers,
- 29-miles of rebuilding the existing line and structures to the east of Smoky Hill substation, and upgrading the capacity from single circuit 230 kV to double circuit 345 kV, and
- Construction of a new electric substation in Arapaho County, just east of the Smoky Hill substation.

Why is the Project needed?

- It will improve the overall system reliability of Xcel's grid by creating a 345kV backbone from Comanche Generation Station in Pueblo to the Pawnee Generation Station in Brush.
- It will allow for the interconnection and delivery of new generation resources necessary to meet new load growth. It is part of Colorado's Senate Bill (SB) 100 portfolio of new transmission projects, and is a critical component of Xcel's long-range system improvement plan.
- Xcel Energy's load forecast for Colorado shows the need for significant amounts of additional generation resources beginning in 2018, with 550 MW or more needed by 2020.
- Xcel expects that natural gas-fired generation facilities will be the energy supply of choice because they are economically favorable, key to managing intermittency of wind generation and have lower pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Most new gas-fired generators will locate in northeast Colorado due to access to natural gas fields and pipelines. The new line will provide capacity needed to inject and deliver these new energy resources to the grid.

Where will it be and why?

- The Smoky Hill – Daniels Park portion of the project is the last remaining link to complete a 345kV "backbone" along the Front Range from Pueblo to Morgan County. This is an important component of Xcel's infrastructure build out plan for system reliability and sustainability. (SEE PAWNEE-COMANCHE MAP)
- In the 1960s Xcel purchased land for two transmission lines in this corridor, recognizing the eventual need for a second line. (SEE SMOKY HILL-DANIELS PARK MAP)
- Xcel will complete a siting study to determine if any feasible alternatives exist for developing a new corridor between Smoky Hill and Daniels Park, in lieu of using the existing corridor.

What is the schedule?

A final schedule is not yet established, but the projected in-service date is in the 2018-2019 timeframe. Tentative milestone dates are:

- Q3, Q4 2013 - Provide project information to, and seek input from local governments, property owners, business groups and other stakeholders
- Q4 2013 - Submit Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to the Colorado PUC
- 2014 - Local Land Use Permitting Begins (actual start will depend on date of CPUC decision on CPCN application)
- 2015 - Local Land Use Permitting Completed (actual completion will depend on dates of CPUC and local government permitting decisions)
- 2016 - 2017 - Construction Start
- 2018 – 2019 - Projected In-Service