

Commissioners Corner

By
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Tri-State Transmission and Generation along with Xcel Energy are reintroducing the Lamar-Front Range Transmission Line Project. The project will consist of new high voltage transmission lines, associated substations and substation improvements. This will improve electric reliability and accommodate development and delivery from new energy sources including renewable energy sources in Eastern Colorado.

Xcel Energy and Tri-State are presently finalizing studies, designs and plans for the project and anticipate filing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in the fall of 2011. No decisions have been made concerning specific route or location of the lines or substations. Siting and routing determinations will be made in consultation with federal and state agencies, local governments and affected landowners following completion of the CPCN process. Pending approval of the CPCN, Xcel and Tri-State anticipate that project construction could start in 2016 after obtaining necessary permits and right of way easements.

The project may include 300 to 400 miles of predominately 345 kV double-circuit line and 230 miles of 230kV single or double circuit line. The project includes lines between substations from Vilas to Lamar; Lamar to Comanche (this could be partially located in Kiowa County, east to west); Lamar to Burlington (this line would cross Kiowa County, south to north); Burlington to Big Sandy and Big Sandy to Missile Site.

The Kiowa County Commissioners are currently planning to issue a resolution supporting Xcel and Tri-State application for the CPCN.

The project area includes Adams, Arapahoe, Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo and Washington counties.