GLENWOOD SPRINGS – MITCHELL CREEK ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD

INFORMATION SHEET
COLORADO

Xcel Energy®

Xcel Energy's Transmission

Xcel Energy is building a better, cleaner energy future by taking steps to create a smarter and stronger energy grid, for a more secure energy supply. This commitment includes replacing infrastructure reaching the end of its useful life.

In Glenwood Springs, transmission lines owned by Xcel Energy deliver electricity to the Glenwood Springs Electric Department's substations and distribution system, which then serves local users. Glenwood Springs Electric Department purchases wholesale wind power from the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) to serve the city's power needs.

Need to Rebuild

One of Xcel Energy's electric transmission lines that provides power to Glenwood Springs runs 2.25 miles between the Glenwood Springs Substation (northeast of the Glenwood Hot Springs pool) and Mitchell Creek Substation (northwest of the Glenwood Meadows shopping center). This line was originally built in the 1940s and a portion was rebuilt in the 1960s. We have determined this line must be rebuilt because it has reached the end of its useful life. We plan to rebuild the line to current design standards that include additional measures to reduce wildfire risk, which involves replacing wood poles with steel poles. This project will ensure continued delivery of economic, safe and reliable electric service to our customers in Western Colorado. Replacement of the line should begin in spring 2024.

Location and Design

The existing line location was built more than 80 years ago, when about 10,000 people lived in Garfield County, compared to approximately 60,000 today. Limited access to the Glenwood Springs-Mitchell Creek transmission line makes construction and maintenance challenging. We've studied alternatives for the electric line location, and evaluated technical design requirements and potential impacts on the environment, community, residents and businesses in Glenwood Springs. Rebuilding the line along the current route was identified as the preferred alternative because it will result in the fewest new impacts along the line.

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

Current and Planned Work on the Project

Xcel Energy continues to work through the land use permitting processes with Garfield County and City of Glenwood Springs. Permit hearings are anticipated to occur in late 2023 and early 2024. Please visit the project website for hearing details.

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We plan to begin construction work in spring 2024, after permit approvals, and work will last approximately 4-6 months.

During the rebuild process, we will:

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

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Timeline	Activity
Winter 2021 (complete)	Construction material delivery
Spring 2024	Permanent improvements
Spring 2024	Vegetation management
Spring 2024/Summer 2024	Construction of transmission poles
Spring 2024/Summer 2024	Removal of existing poles
Summer 2024	In service
Summer 2024/Fall 2024	Restoration

Contact Us
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