

Pawnee-Daniels Park 345-kV transmission project

Project overview

Xcel Energy proposes to construct a new, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect its existing Pawnee Substation near Brush, Colo., to its Daniels Park Substation south of the Denver metro-area (see map).

The 125-mile project is part of the company's Senate Bill 07-100 portfolio of transmission plans and is a critical component of the Colorado long-range transmission plan. The project will allow for

PROJECT QUICK FACTS

VOLTAGE: 345 kV line

ESTIMATED LENGTH: 125 miles

ESTIMATED COST: \$178 million

TARGETED IN-SERVICE: 2019

the interconnection and delivery of new generation resources, including renewable energy to Front Range customers to meet new load growth and improve system reliability.

Xcel Energy resource plans will require additional generation resources in the future which could be comprised of both conventional and renewable resources. The resource plans could include the development of both gas-fired and wind generation in the area northeast of the Denver-metro area.

The proposed project would interconnect with the existing Missile Site Substation, near Deer Trail, and include a new 345kV transmission line between the Smoky Hill Substation in Aurora and the Daniels Park Substation. The project includes improvements at several substations and one new substation in Arapahoe County.

It is expected that the majority of the project will utilize right-of-way owned by Xcel Energy adjacent to existing transmission lines.

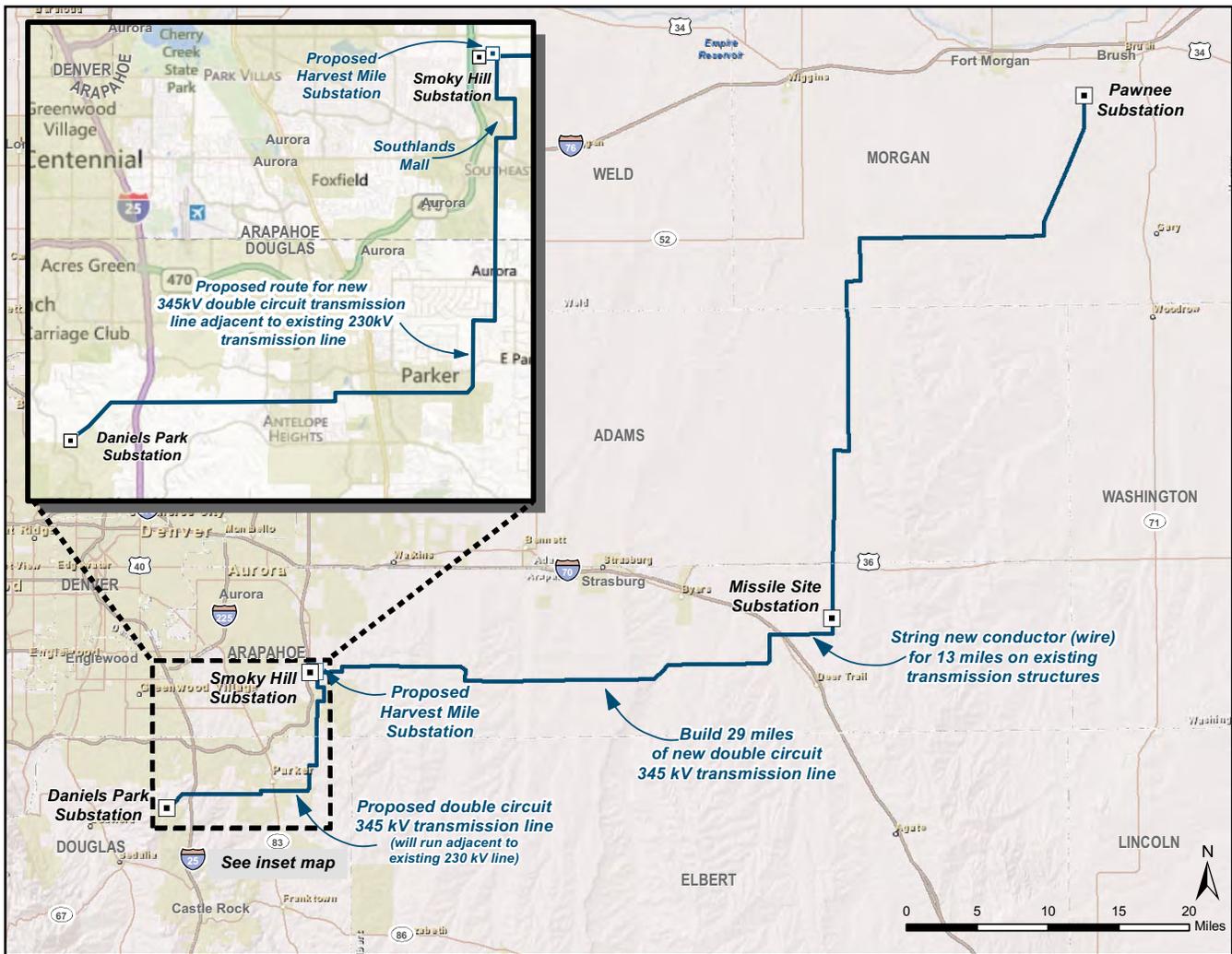
Regulatory process

When proposing a transmission line project, the Colorado regulatory process requires a utility to file a Certificate of Public

Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). A CPCN application must include the following:

- Statement showing how the proposed transmission line is required for the public convenience and necessity;
- Description of the proposed transmission line;
- Estimated cost;
- Anticipated construction time frame and in-service date;
- Maps showing the general area of the line, population centers, major highways, and county and state boundaries;
- Electrical diagrams of the proposed line;
- Information on alternatives studied and the criteria used to rank such alternatives;
- Report on prudent avoidance measures relating to exposure to magnetic fields associated with the proposed line; and,
- Information concerning projected audible noise levels associated with the line and cost-effective mitigation measures.

Xcel Energy filed a CPCN application for the project on March 28, 2014. You can view the application and get more information on the CPUC website at <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>. Search for e-filings docket number 14A-0287E. The CPCN process does not decide the final location of the line. The final location and alignment of the transmission line is determined through a separate and extensive local government siting and permitting process.



Routing process

The project area includes Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, City of Aurora and Town of Parker. The majority of the proposed line parallels existing transmission lines and utilizes existing right-of-way.

Information will be provided and public input sought on the project at public meetings that will be held in 2014.

Statutory mandate

Colorado Senate Bill 07-100 (SB 100) directs Xcel Energy, as a rate-regulated utility, to:

- Designate Energy Resource Zones (ERZs);
- Develop plans to construct or expand transmission facilities necessary to deliver power consistent with the timing of energy resources located in or near the ERZs;
- Consider how transmission can be provided to encourage local ownership of renewable energy facilities; and,

- Submit plans and applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for review.

PSCo has designated five ERZs. The Pawnee-Daniels Park project will relieve transmission constraints and accommodate new generation resources in ERZ 1 and 2. It is also a critical component of a comprehensive long-term transmission plan for Colorado.

Public information and outreach

Xcel Energy is committed to working with all residents, landowners, local communities and officials, business groups, state agencies and other stakeholders to explain the need for the proposed transmission line and to determine the most preferable route. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the regulatory process by attending public meetings and hearings and providing information to the CPUC and Xcel Energy. You can find more information and submit comments on www.sb100transmission.com or by calling 303-318-6307.