

# COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

INFORMATION SHEET  
COLORADO

PROPOSAL DELIVERS NEW ENERGY ECONOMY BENEFITS  
TO RURAL COLORADO, COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE

Winter 2022 update



Colorado's Power Pathway is a \$1.7 – \$2 billion investment proposed by Xcel Energy that will boost the economy, connect new energy resources in eastern Colorado, increase the reliability of the electric grid and help ensure availability of power during severe weather. If approved by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, approximately 560 to 650 miles of new transmission line plus four new and four expanded substations will be built to carry power to Colorado homes and businesses.

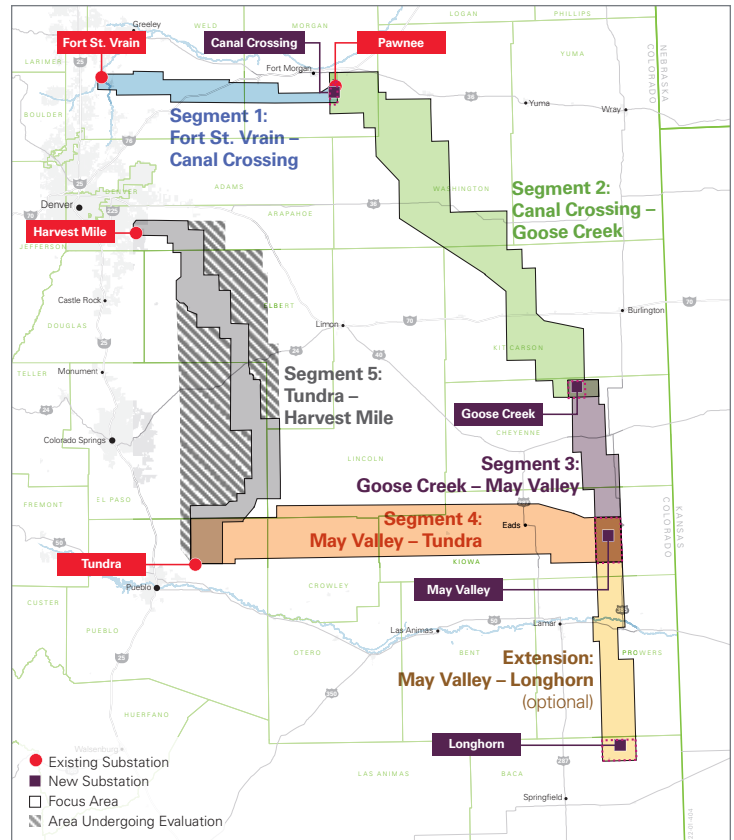
Transmission is the backbone of the electricity network, with lines and poles moving large amounts of high-voltage power across long distances. Colorado has an open transmission system so power lines carry not only electricity generated by Xcel Energy but by utilities and cooperatives around the state too, benefitting everyone who uses electricity. Transmission planning is also coordinated on a statewide level to ensure projects meet customer needs on a cost-effective and reliable basis.

**The Eastern Plains of Colorado is one of the nation's best areas for wind and solar.** New transmission lines encourage and support the construction of wind and solar power plants to bring more low-cost electricity to help meet the needs of our growing state. With these new projects come jobs, lease revenue and increased taxes for rural communities.

For example, in 2020 we completed the Cheyenne Ridge Wind Project in Cheyenne and Kit Carson counties. The 500-megawatts generated and carried by 70 miles of transmission line are enough to power 270,000 average Colorado homes. Over its lifetime, Cheyenne Ridge will produce an estimated \$107 million in landowner payments and \$29 million in new tax revenue for surrounding communities and counties. More than 200 workers built the project and 24 full-time operations and maintenance jobs were created.

**Colorado's Power Pathway supports Xcel Energy's Clean Power Plan, which anticipates building approximately 5,500 megawatts of new wind, solar and other resources through 2030 to meet the state's growing electricity needs reliably and affordably.** The project's proposed 345-kilovolt transmission system will connect eastern Colorado to the Front Range. In March 2021, we took the first step in the approval process by filing an application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. The Commission will review our proposal to determine if it agrees the project is in the public interest.

**While routes for transmission lines have yet to be determined, we estimate the system will span more than a dozen counties, primarily in eastern Colorado.** Portions of the transmission line in Morgan, Washington, Yuma, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Prowers counties could be in-service as early as 2025 with the remainder of the line completed in 2026 and 2027.



For more information about Colorado's Power Pathway, please go to the project web site at [ColoradosPowerPathway.com](http://ColoradosPowerPathway.com), call our project hotline at 855-858-9037 or send an email to [ColoradosPowerPathway@xcelenergy.com](mailto:ColoradosPowerPathway@xcelenergy.com).