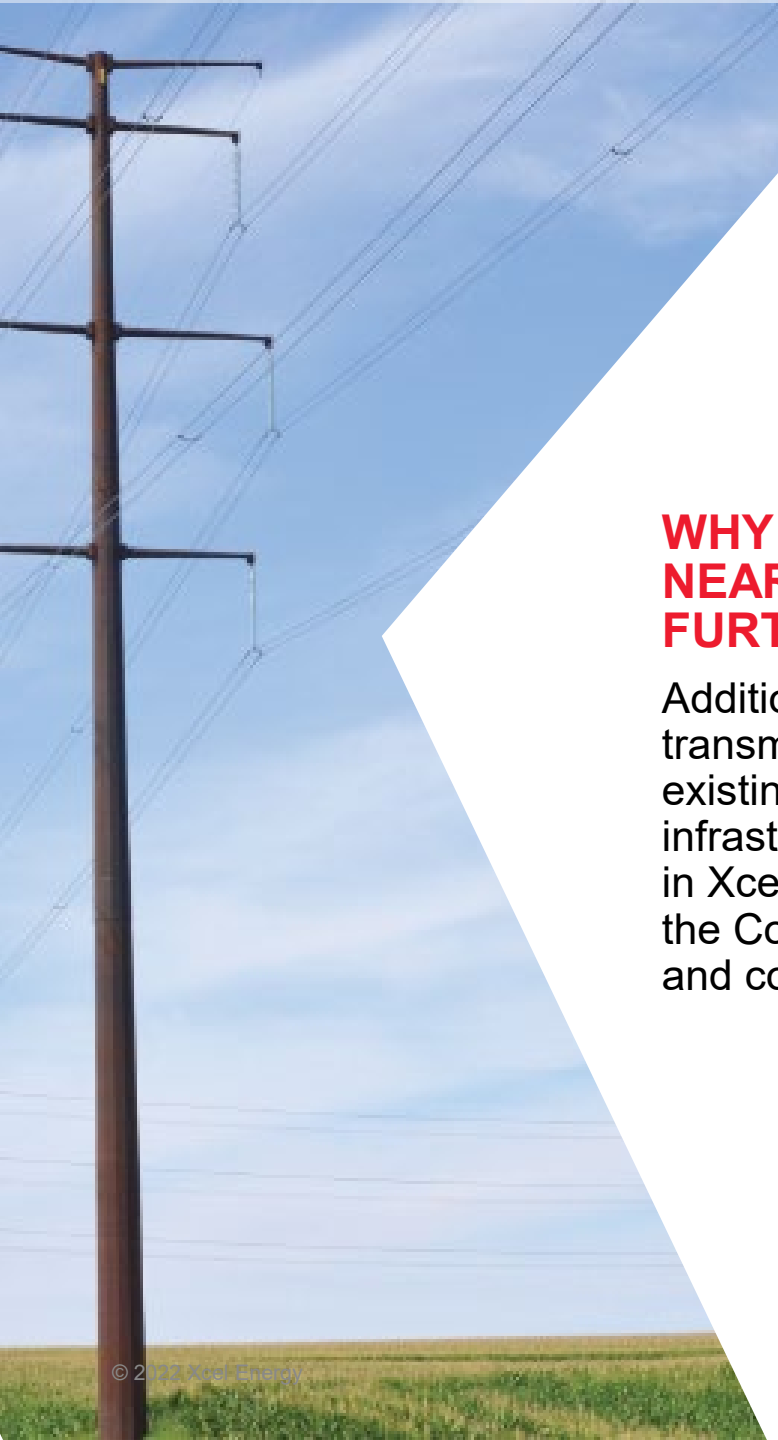
WHEN WILL INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS BE CONTACTED ABOUT COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY?

Project representatives will reach out to individual landowners as the routing process progresses to discuss the preferred transmission line route and easements.

WHAT IS THE WIND RATING OF A TRANSMISSION LINE?

Transmission lines are structurally designed according to the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), which primarily references standards from the American Society of Civil Engineers on structural loading. The NESC requires structures over 60 feet tall to be able to resist loading from various ice and wind scenarios. Transmission lines follow these criteria, while distribution lines are typically shorter and therefore are not required to follow structural loading criteria.

The base design wind speed for eastern Colorado is 90 MPH. This wind speed is part of an equation that also considers terrain, span length between structures and height of the structure to produce an overall wind pressure applied to the wires and the structure of the transmission line. These factors effectively increase the wind pressure applied on the structure as you go up in height. However, the structural capacity of a transmission pole is more typically controlled by icing conditions on the wire since heavy ice greatly increases tension in the wires and therefore the loading on the structure. As a result, transmission lines typically have additional structural capacity for much higher wind speeds than the NESC requires because we account for icing conditions.

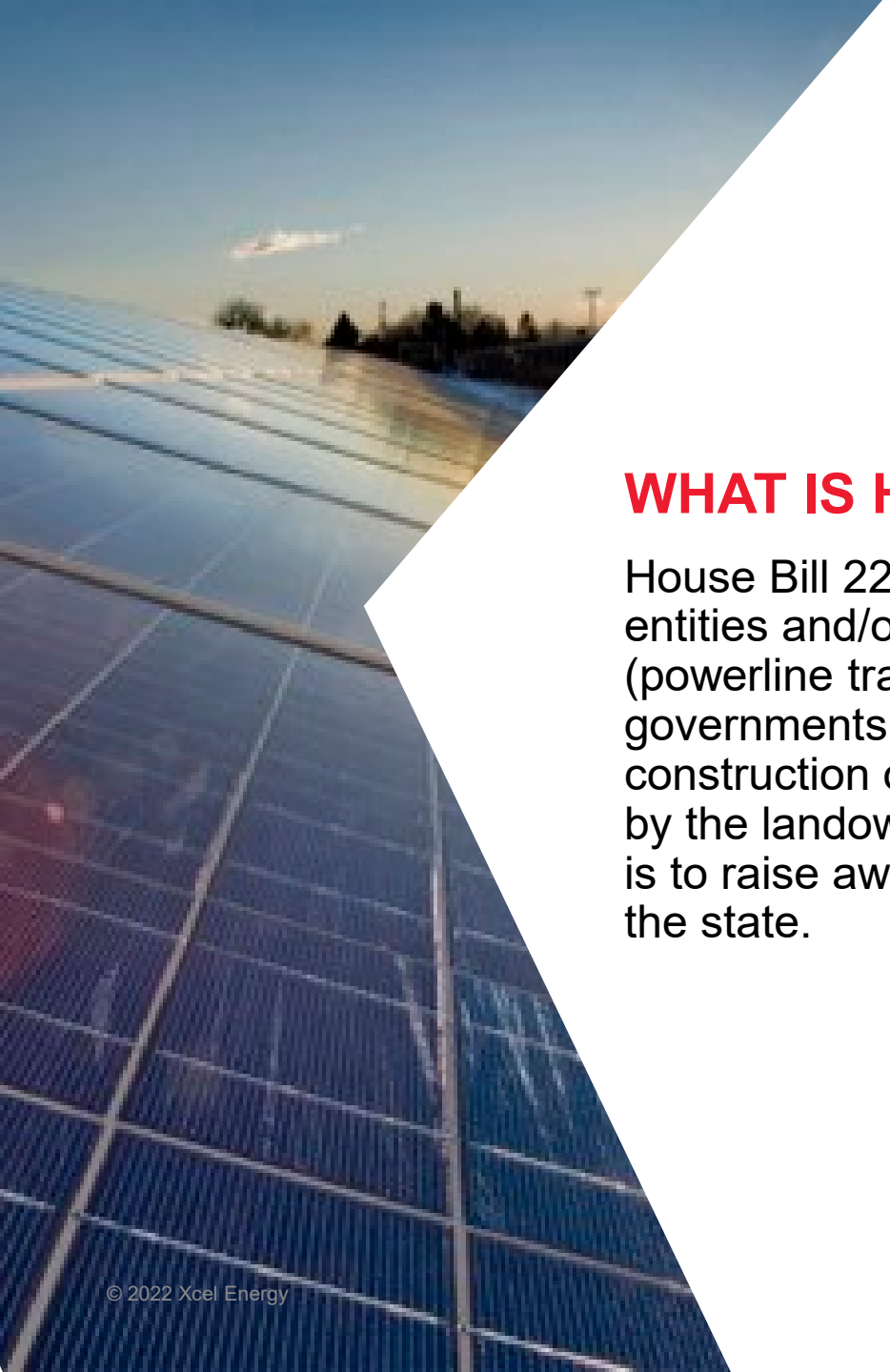


WHY IS THE SEGMENT 5 TRANSMISSION LINE NOT BEING PROPOSED NEAR EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINES, RAILROAD AND INTERSTATE 70 FURTHER EAST?

Additional areas to the east were evaluated in response to public feedback to identify transmission route links where the residential density is lower than to the west and where existing transmission lines, railroads and interstates are present. Paralleling this existing infrastructure further east would add line miles that exceed the estimated mileage outlined in Xcel Energy's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Xcel Energy is held to the mileages and costs outlined in the CPCN and exceeding these would result in penalties.

WHY IS THE SEGMENT 5 TRANSMISSION LINE NOT INTERCONNECTING AT OTHER LOCATIONS LIKE PRONGHORN OR MISSILE SITE??

It’s important to note that the Segment 5 transmission line is needed to increase the electric power transfer capability of the electric transmission grid. To achieve this, both endpoints of Segment 5 must be terminated at locations that allow Segment 5 to be tightly integrated into the electric grid. Having the north endpoint at Harvest Mile allows achieving the higher power transfer capability objective most efficiently by leveraging the electric grid to circumvent the existing capacity “bottlenecks" that cause electricity flow congestion. Relocating the north endpoint to Missile Site or Pronghorn results in more electricity routing through the existing bottlenecks in the electric grid and thus aggravates the existing congestion. Changing the north endpoint of Segment 5 to Missile Site or Pronghorn would not only prevent achieving the intended objective of higher transfer capability, but it would also exacerbate the existing congestion in the electric transmission grid.



WHAT IS HOUSE BILL 22-1104?

House Bill 22-1104 encourages transmission providers to enter contracts with public entities and/or private landowners to construct and maintain public recreational trails (powerline trails) along transmission corridors. Xcel Energy already works with local governments, parks departments and landowners to facilitate and allow the construction of trails under powerlines where the co-existence of the trail is welcomed by the landowners and consistent with the surrounding land uses. The intent of the bill is to raise awareness of the opportunities to construct recreational trails throughout the state.

DOES HOUSE BILL 22-1104 REQUIRE XCEL ENERGY TO BUILD POWERLINE TRAILS WITHIN THE COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR?

House Bill 22-1104 does *not* require a powerline trail within transmission corridors. Under the new law, Xcel Energy is required to *consider* trails within the Colorado's Power Pathway corridor and notify local governments of the potential for a powerline trail. Xcel Energy already works with local governments, parks departments and landowners to facilitate and allow the construction of trails under powerlines where the co-existence of the trail is welcomed by the landowners and consistent with the surrounding land uses. The intent of the bill by its sponsors is to raise awareness of the opportunities to construct recreational trails throughout the state. The entity owning and constructing the trail will likely be required to carry insurance for the trail and its use.

DOES HOUSE BILL (HB) 22-1104 REQUIRE LANDOWNERS TO CARRY INSURANCE FOR A POWERLINE TRAIL BUILT ON THEIR PROPERTY?

Under HB 22-1104, the entity owning and constructing the trail is required to carry insurance for the trail and its use, not the landowner.

IS COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY BEING ROUTED WHERE FUTURE WIND AND SOLAR PROJECTS WILL BE PLACED?

Colorado's Power Pathway is being routed through some of the best wind and solar resource zones in Colorado. New renewable energy generation is anticipated to be developed in these zones. The location of these new generation resources is currently unknown and could be located near the new transmission line or many miles away. Generally, new generation resources are expected to interconnect at substations located at segment endpoints. New generation resources would require obtaining land rights and local land use permits that would be subject to local review and approval before being constructed. Permitting approvals for Colorado's Power Pathway will not include new generation resources which would be permitted separately.

HOW IS THE TRANSMISSION LINE'S SAFETY MONITORED?

All power lines in our system are monitored 24/7 for line contact. If there is an unanticipated event, the line is tripped out to protect the public. While designing the line, we follow national design standards to ensure the lines are robust and can withstand several extenuating circumstances.

Power lines are inspected regularly (usually during fall or winter months) to look for the following:

- Non-compatible vegetation and hazards within the right-of-way.
- Equipment needing repair or replacement.
- Right-of-way encroachments, which can be hazardous to safety and reliable operations.
- Anything that might jeopardize safe, reliable operation of the power line.
- Utilities must visit the right-of-way for these inspections, but visits may be minimal, and landowners will be contacted prior to inspections or maintenance. In cases of emergency, advanced contact may not be possible.

WILL AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) BE REQUIRED FOR COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY?

The potential environmental impacts associated with development of Colorado's Power Pathway are being evaluated throughout the routing and siting process, and coordination with applicable federal, state and local agencies and jurisdictions is ongoing. Once the final preferred route for Segment 5 has been identified, we will work with each county to identify and obtain required permits. Studies under the National Environmental Policy Act, including but not limited to an Environmental Impact Statement, are currently not anticipated to be required due to the lack of a federal nexus (e.g., Colorado's Power Pathway does not use federal funding, cross federal lands or require federal permits or approvals). As part of our local permitting efforts and in accordance with jurisdiction-specific requirements, we will assess the existing conditions and evaluate the anticipated impacts of the project along each segment. This evaluation will include desktop and field survey of biological and cultural resources.

Xcel Energy has met with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff at public meetings, project meetings and workshops and has also engaged with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Colorado's Power Pathway and will follow recommended non-disturbance buffers and construction timing restrictions to avoid or minimize impacts on special-status species. Xcel Energy in engaging with Colorado's State Historic Preservation Office regarding Colorado's Power Pathway and has evaluated results of previous surveys as part of our routing and siting process.

HOW IS A TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE DETERMINED AND WHY IS ONE ROUTE PREFERRED OVER ANOTHER?

A multi-step process is used to develop the preferred transmission line route that includes engaging the public, landowners and other stakeholders. When the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 20-mile-wide study areas were identified to begin the initial routing study and estimate costs. The 20-mile-wide study areas were narrowed down to focus areas, areas where the preferred transmission line route could be located. Within these focus areas, preliminary transmission line route options were identified and presented at our first series of public open houses in late 2021. We evaluated feedback received about preliminary transmission line routes and incorporated it into our routing process. Public and stakeholder input helps us determine the need to modify or eliminate route options or consider adding new ones.

Cultural and historical resources, technical and engineering requirements, environmental constraints, existing and planned land use, factors related to the construction and operation of the transmission line and other factors that people have told use are important to consider are evaluated and compared for every possible route option. The final route proposed in the county permitting process will balance all these factors.

WILL THE PRESENCE OF A TRANSMISSION LINE DECREASE MY OVERALL PROPERTY VALUE?

To better understand if the presence of transmission facilities impacts property value, Xcel Energy has retained independent third-party experts to conduct a study focused on answering this question to inform Xcel Energy on how best to respond to property value concerns. Study results will be available in late 2022 or early 2023. At this time, we do not expect a formal written report will be issued; however, we may release a prior study performed to educate landowners on why a direct impact on property values is not expected.

Landowners are typically given a one-time payment based on fair market value for easement rights to their land, traditionally based on the appraised land value. We will use market data from recent sales of similar properties to determine fair and appropriate compensation for the easement. Most land will still be usable for the same purpose after construction of the transmission line and activities, such as agriculture, can continue outside of the small area occupied by the transmission structures.

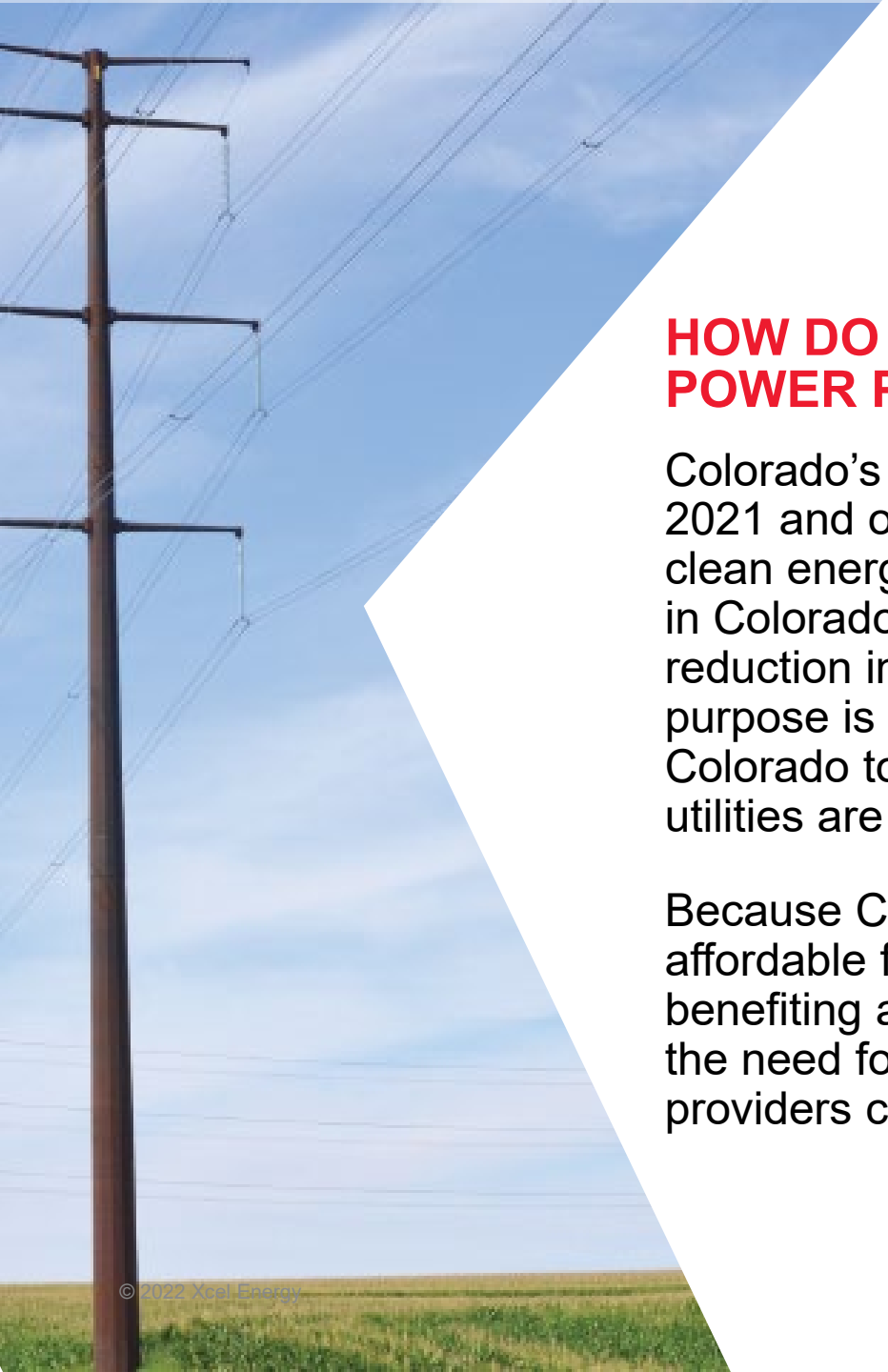
WILL XCEL ENERGY REIMBURSE RESIDENTS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROPERTY VALUE THAT OCCUR DUE TO THE TRANSMISSION LINE EVEN IF THEY DO NOT HAVE AN EASEMENT ON THEIR PROPERTY?

Based on third-party real estate appraiser analysis, the proximity of a transmission line to properties without an easement does not affect property value. This outcome has been routinely studied by Xcel Energy over the last decade and has been repeatedly demonstrated.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN HOUSES IN MAY?

After the conclusion of open houses in early May:

- We will determine the need for additional public meetings in areas where the preferred transmission line route has not been identified.
- Link-specific feedback will continue being incorporated into the routing process.
- Engineering design work will start in segments where the preferred transmission line route has been identified.
- The county land use permitting process will start for Segments 2 and 3. Additional public input opportunities will take place at the county level during public hearings for the land use permit in each jurisdiction.
- Project representatives will reach out to individual landowners as the routing process progresses to discuss preferred transmission line route and easements.



HOW DO SEGMENT 5 RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY?

Colorado's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap was released in January 2021 and outlines the actions the state is taking to reduce pollution and transition to clean energy. According to the roadmap, "the current legal and regulatory framework in Colorado creates a pathway for the state's electric utilities to reach an 80% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030." Segment 5's primary purpose is to bring wind and solar power produced in southern and southeastern Colorado to load, which will help support this state-mandated goal that all electric utilities are required to comply with.

Because Colorado has an open transmission system, it will be easier and more affordable for utility providers to interconnect with Colorado's Power Pathway, benefiting all Colorado electricity users. Colorado's Power Pathway may also reduce the need for additional transmission line construction by other utilities since those providers can utilize the line to help meet their own carbon emission goals.

WHAT STEPS IS XCEL ENERGY TAKING TO REDUCE IMPACTS TO LARGE MAMMALS LIKE PRONGHORN, DEER OR ELK?

Electric transmission lines most commonly affect large mammals in forested areas where removal of tall vegetation (such as trees) is required. Most of Colorado's Power Pathway crosses short vegetation and cropland, resulting in fewer changes to habitat than lines through forested areas. Large mammals tend to avoid active construction areas and return after crews finish their work.

As part of our local permitting efforts and in accordance with jurisdiction-specific requirements, we will assess the existing conditions and evaluate the anticipated impacts of Colorado's Power Pathway along each segment. This evaluation will include desktop and field surveys of biological resources. Xcel Energy will continue to engage with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and will follow recommended non-disturbance buffers to avoid or minimize impacts on special-status species.

WILL I GET POWER FROM XCEL ENERGY INSTEAD OF MY CURRENT UTILITY PROVIDER AFTER COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY IS COMPLETE?

Colorado's Power Pathway will provide bulk electric transmission capacity in eastern Colorado and will not change local electric service providers. If you currently receive electric service from Mountain View Electric Association, CORE, YW Electric or others, they will continue to provide that service after Colorado's Power Pathway is operational. Colorado has an open transmission system, so Xcel Energy's power lines also carry electricity generated by other utilities and cooperatives around the state, benefitting everyone who uses electricity. All transmission providers in Colorado will have access to Colorado's Power Pathway to deliver clean, renewable energy to its customers, who will still be serviced by their current power provider.

HOW WILL XCEL ENERGY REDUCE TRANSMISSION LINE IMPACTS TO HAWKS, EAGLES, OSPREY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES?

Xcel Energy uses several strategies to protect birds from being injured or killed from contact with power lines or electrical equipment. The strategies include:

- Preventive – conducting risk assessments and installing avian- safe standards where possible. When appropriate, Avian Protection Plans are developed, and equipment will be installed to divert birds away from power lines.
- Reactive – documenting mortalities, notifying resource agencies and applying remedial measures where appropriate
- Proactive – educating employees and being involved in organizations that conduct avian interaction research

Because transmission line structures and equipment can be attractive to birds for building nests, Xcel Energy also uses nest management programs include installing nest boxes or platforms in safe areas on or near structures, where warranted. Additionally, utility personnel are educated on nest reporting, nest removal and platform construction.

DO COLORADO UTILITIES BUY POWER FROM, AND SELL POWER TO, EACH OTHER?

Most, if not all, electric utilities in North America, not just in Colorado, buy and sell power to/from each other to minimize the cost of electricity provided to their customers. These so-called Economic Power Transactions use transmission lines to move electricity into and out of Colorado, as well as for moving electricity around the state to deliver power to homes, businesses and other consumers. Such electricity commerce is feasible because Colorado (like the rest of North America) has an open transmission system and an interconnected grid.

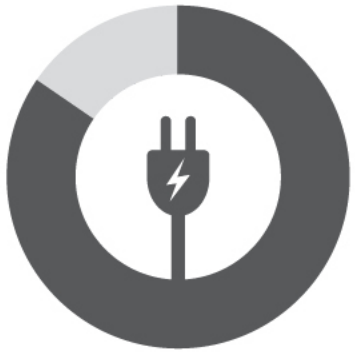
WHAT IS XCEL ENERGY DOING TO HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES?

Safety is a core value at Xcel Energy, and we recognize that wildfires can pose a threat to our customers, communities, and state as a whole—and we proactively take steps to minimize ignition risks associated with operating our system. Our comprehensive and robust Wildfire Mitigation Program is designed to protect lives, homes and property from the threat of wildfire and includes:

- Accelerating inspections in identified Wildfire Risk Zones to further identify and address potential safety concerns.
- Replacing equipment and poles that pose an increased risk and exploring the use of new technologies.
- Analyzing the strength and ability of transmission and distribution structures to withstand higher than normal windspeeds.
- Conducting enhanced vegetation management in the areas around structures, corridors and equipment.
- Improving protocols and fire-safe work practices.
- Working directly with communities, first responders and other stakeholders to inform, educate, gather and incorporate feedback for our programs.

COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY BY THE NUMBERS

Xcel Energy®



80%
Electric utility greenhouse gas emissions reduction required by 2030 per Colorado House Bill 19-1261

2016
Last major addition or upgrade to backbone transmission in eastern Colorado

The energy capacity provided by Colorado's Power Pathway is the equivalent of powering

2,500,000
Colorado homes annually

30+
Resources evaluated to identify transmission line routes and substation sites

2,000
Miles of transmission route options shared with the public to solicit feedback

151,000+
Postcards mailed

3,000+
Newsletters emailed

700,000+
Facebook public meeting ad views

50+
Meetings with agencies, cities and counties

51,000+
Website pageviews

14,000
Unique website visitors
ColoradosPowerPathway.com

39
Public meetings*

- **4** Upcoming open houses
- **30** Open houses previously held
- **5** Virtual town halls

545
General project questions and comments received

1,205
Public commentors

2,039
Public meeting attendees

130 Newspaper ads in
35 Local papers*

425 Radio ads on
12 Stations*

*Spanish materials available

A copy of this presentation is available at ColoradosPowerPathway.com/Library