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## Xcel Energy announces work in Glenwood Canyon

*Construction information session scheduled for June 5*

**GLENWOOD, Colorado** (May 30, 2019) – In an effort to update the electric transmission and distribution grid in the region, Xcel Energy announced today that it will be replacing and repairing power poles this summer in Glenwood Canyon and other areas within the White River National Forest. The effort is expected to have minimal impact on traffic and other recreational activities.

Construction work, involving use of helicopters, will take place along a five-mile stretch of U.S. Interstate 70 from the Shoshone Hydroelectric Generation Station to Glenwood Springs, with additional efforts taking place in remote locations east of Glenwood Springs, Colo., to Hopkins, Colo. Work will begin the first week of June, with the installation of rockfall mitigation barriers along I-70 to secure the area from future slides.

Xcel Energy noted that construction work will involve temporary single-lane, westbound road closures along I-70. Rolling roadblocks also will occur along I-70, from 9 a.m. MDT to 3:00 p.m. MDT, Mondays through Saturdays. The rolling roadblocks will last for approximately 10-15 minutes at a time, up to several times a day. Absent any unforeseen issues, the interstate or other roads will not be permanently closed. Helicopter flights will originate from near Dotsero or from the company's Hopkins Substation five miles east of Colorado State Highway 82.

In addition, all other surface activities, including hiking, biking and rafting, may be interrupted for approximately 10-15 minutes at a time, also up to several times a day. All of the rolling roadblocks are necessary to accommodate safety, as the helicopters pass overhead with structures. Approximately 30 transmission structures and approximately 10 distribution structures will be replaced during the effort.

Traffic and other surface control measures will be put into place during construction to ensure the safety of the traveling and general public in the project area. Crews will work to ensure the least amount of impact to traffic, rail and recreational or other surface activities.

While the effort to replace the transmission and distribution structures generally is not expected to impact the reliability of electricity service in the area during construction, Xcel Energy will need to take up to several days of planned outages in early August, for up to eight hours a day, primarily for areas east of Glenwood Springs.

Approximate construction dates, all around the first of the month unless otherwise noted, include:

- June 2019 – installation of rockfall mitigation barriers;
- July 2019 – excavation for new structures and removal of existing structures, with helicopter work beginning at this time;

– More –

- August 2019 – installation of new structures using helicopters;
- August 2019 – distribution replacement or repair work and controlled outages; and
- October 15, 2019 – project completion.

“The work is important for maintaining a reliable electric system for the area now and into the future,” said Kelly Flenniken, Xcel Energy community relations manager. “Some of the transmission structures have reached their end-of-life use, with many dating back to initial placement in the early 1900s.”

A construction information open house will be from 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, at the Hotel Colorado, 526 Pine St., Glenwood Springs, Colo. Project updates can be tracked at [xcelenergy.com/glenwood](http://xcelenergy.com/glenwood) and the project hotline at (970) 989.3860. Questions can also be directed to the project hotline or [info@xcelenergyglenwoodcanyon.com](mailto:info@xcelenergyglenwoodcanyon.com).

**About Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com) or follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

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