

FRUITA 69-KV TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD

INFORMATION SHEET
COLORADO

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Xcel Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable electricity for customers throughout Colorado; rebuilding and replacing aging infrastructure is key to this priority. We propose to replace the 65-year-old Fruita to Uintah 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line near Fruita, Colorado to increase electric reliability and reduce potential safety risks associated with aging poles and equipment.

The Fruita Transmission Line rebuild includes two key construction activities:

- Decommissioning existing 69-kV transmission line
- Constructing a new 4.4 mile, 69-kV transmission line

The 4-mile line is critical to providing reliable service to customers and cannot be taken out of service to be replaced. Xcel Energy has studied route options and determined a preferred route to relocate the electric line (see map).

Project details:

- Replace existing wooden structures with a combination of steel, single-pole and H-frame structures, including up to three 'dead-end' structures that may require additional support.
- Pole height will range from 60 to 85 feet, 10 to 25 feet taller than existing structures
- Average distance between poles will be 450 feet
- Right-of-way and easement will be approximately 50 feet total (approximately 25 feet on either side of the centerline of the transmission line), and we will attempt to share right-of-way with existing public areas, such as state or county roads
- If the new line crosses private property, we will purchase an easement granting access to build, operate and maintain the infrastructure; the property owner retains ownership of the property and can continue most existing activities

Project need

The existing line was built in 1956. It is experiencing signs of aging, which can contribute to power outages, reduce reliability and potentially cause safety issues. Due to natural weathering, lightning damage and unscheduled interruptions in service, the wood pole structures, equipment and components need replacing. The new line will improve electric service and meet the energy needs of homes and businesses in Fruita and Mesa County for years to come.



Schedule and next steps

Xcel Energy worked closely with landowners, local governments and agencies throughout 2022 to discuss potential options. Xcel Energy conducted a routing study as well as public outreach, including several neighborhood meetings, to choose a preferred route.

Based on the siting criteria determined for the project, as well as public and agency feedback, a single end-to-end transmission route was selected. Environmental and land use permitting will begin in February 2023.

Engineering, design and land rights negotiations and acquisition will be completed in 2023. Construction will begin in 2024; the line is expected to be in-service in fall 2024.

For additional information
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