

FRUITA 69-kV TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD

INFORMATION SHEET
COLORADO

PROJECT OVERVIEW



The Fruita Transmission Line rebuild includes two key construction activities:

- Decommissioning existing 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line
- Constructing a new 3.5- 4 mile, 69-kV transmission line

Xcel Energy is proposing to replace the 65-year-old Fruita to Uintah 69-kV transmission line near Fruita, Colorado to increase electric reliability and reduce potential safety risks associated with aging poles and equipment.

The 4-mile line is critical to providing reliable service to customers and cannot be taken out of service to be replaced. Xcel Energy is currently studying route options to relocate the electric line.

The existing line runs approximately 4 miles in Mesa County, from the Fruita Substation (south of the Colorado River, just east of Hwy-340) to the Uintah Substation (west of Fruita between I-70 and US-50). The existing line crosses land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and private property.

Depending on the route selected, between 3.5 and 4 miles of the transmission line will be rebuilt as a section of the line near the Uintah substation was rebuilt in the 1990s.

Project details:

- Replace existing structures with a combination of 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 length between poles will be 450 feet
- Right-of-way and easement will be approximately 75 feet total (approximately 37 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 us access to build, operate and maintain the infrastructure; the property owner retains ownership and can continue most existing activities

Project description

Xcel Energy is committed to providing safe, reliable electricity for customers throughout Colorado; rebuilding and replacing aging infrastructure is key to this priority. The existing line was built in 1956 and is experiencing signs of aging, which can contribute to power outages, reducing reliability and potentially causing safety issues. Due to natural weathering, lightning damage and unscheduled interruptions in service, the wood pole structures, equipment and components need replacing. The new infrastructure will address aging poles and equipment to improve electric service to homes and businesses in Fruita and Mesa County. Proactive planning for current and future growth will help Xcel Energy reduce the risk of outages and meet the energy needs of homes and businesses for years to come.



Example of 69-kilovolt structure. Structure types can differ based on route selected and other factors.

Schedule and next steps

Xcel Energy is currently studying options to identify potential new route options.

We will work closely with landowners, local governments and agencies to discuss potential options in early 2022.

Based on the siting criteria determined for the project, as well as public and agency feedback, a single end-to-end transmission route will be selected. Environmental and land use permitting will begin in February 2022.

Engineering, design and land rights negotiations and acquisition will be completed in 2022 and 2023. Construction will begin in early 2023; the line is expected to be in-service in summer 2023.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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