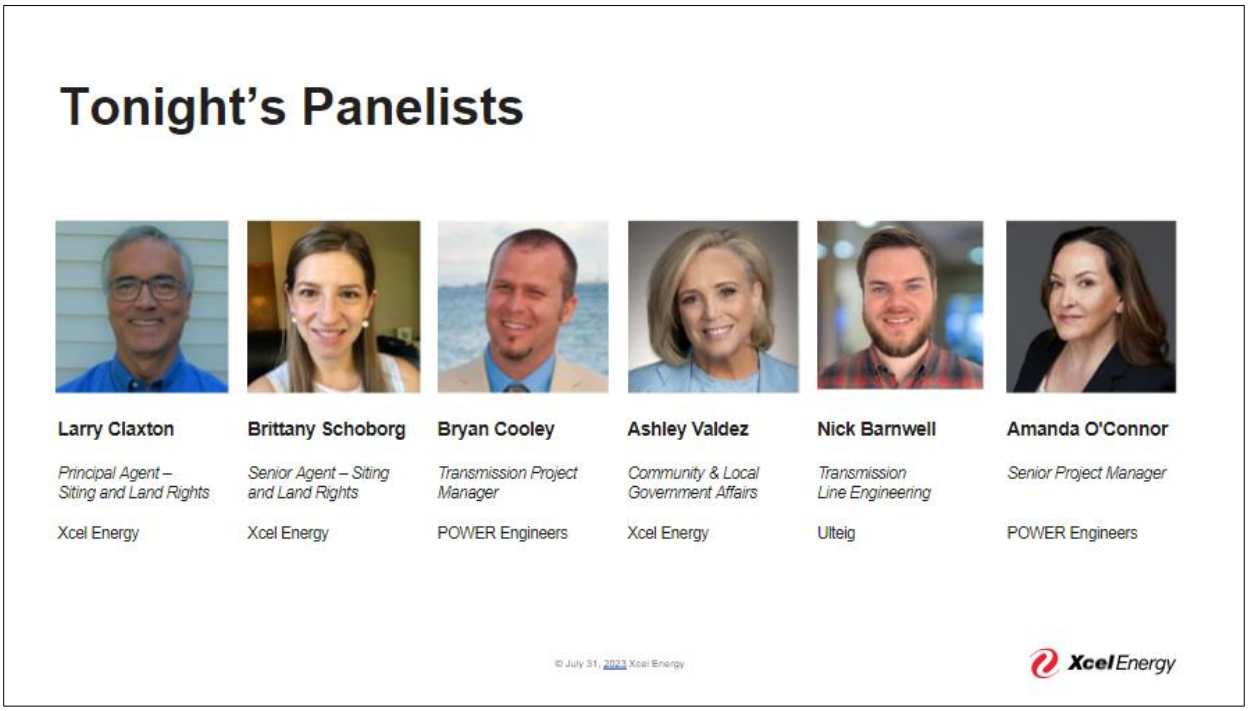
Hi, my name is Ashley Valdez, I am the area lead for Southern Colorado. Thank you for joining us this evening during this virtual open house regarding the Alamosa to Antonito Transmission Line Rebuild Project. This project will increase electric reliability, maintain safe operation of poles and equipment and minimize wildfire risks.

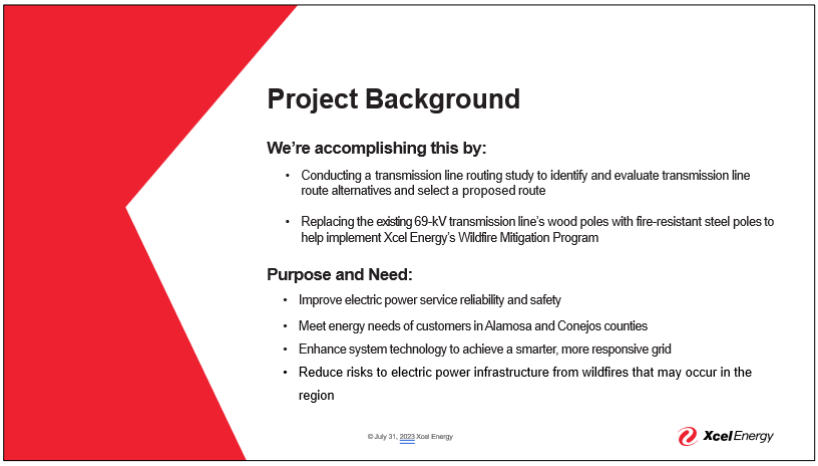


I'd like to take a brief moment to introduce the other presenters with us tonight and their roles on the project.

Today we'll review the efforts of the project team since the three open houses in March of last year. We'll provide:

An overview of the process the team used to evaluate and compare the preliminary routes in the routing study
Let you know about modifications to the preliminary proposed route we presented in March.
Describe the next steps in the project schedule and provide information about contacting Xcel Energy representatives.
We will then open the floor for question and answers. Now I will turn it over to Larry Claxton, Larry?

[Larry Claxton]
As a review of the Purpose and Need for the project.



This project will increase electric reliability, meet the energy needs of our customers in Alamosa and Conejos counties, and reduce risk to the electric power infrastructure from any wildfires that may occur in the region.

It's important to note that the existing 39-mile 69-kV line is critical to providing reliable service to customers in the San Luis Valley and must remain in service until replaced. For that reason, we cannot simply replace the existing line in the same alignment.

Thus, we conducted a transmission line routing study to identify, evaluate, and compare route alternatives for the transmission line, and to select a route that minimizes impacts to the community and environment while meeting engineering and safety standards.

Typical 69-kV Pole Design

- Fire-resistant, single-pole
- 69-kV single-circuit
- Distance between structures: 500 to 750 feet
- Average height range: 70 to 110 feet
- Pole diameter: 18 to 48 inches
- Transmission line right-of-way width: 75 feet

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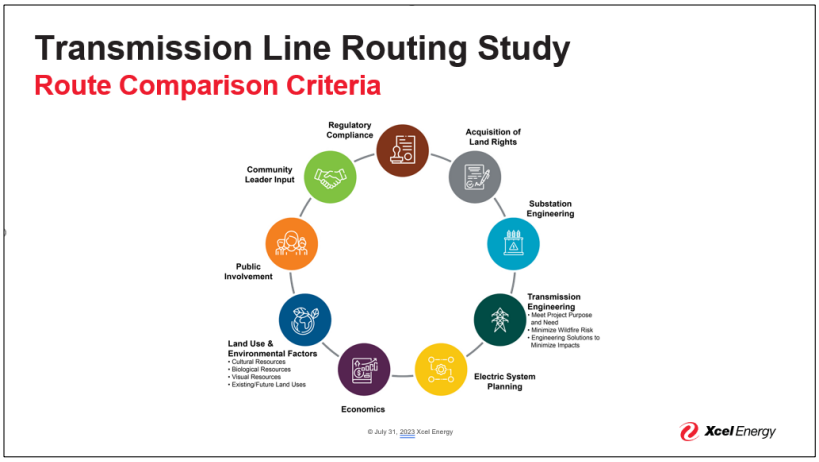
This picture depicts the typical transmission pole characteristics.

We are proposing a single-pole design with heights of the poles to be between 70 and 110 feet, and distances between poles of 500 to 750 feet. The diameter of the poles will range from about 18 to 48 inches. We are proposing a right-of-way width of 75 feet.

As shown here, Xcel Energy considered many factors during the routing study to make preliminary and final decisions.



First, electric system planning discloses the need for a project and its location. Then, the project team relies on input from the public for local perspective and insight. The team must consider:

- Sensitive environmental issues.
- Design requirements associated with transmission engineering and maintenance.
- Acquisition of land rights.
- The economics associated with the project.
- Local jurisdiction comprehensive plans, future land use planning documents and other guiding documents.

Most importantly, Xcel Energy must comply with safety- and construction-related regulatory requirements.

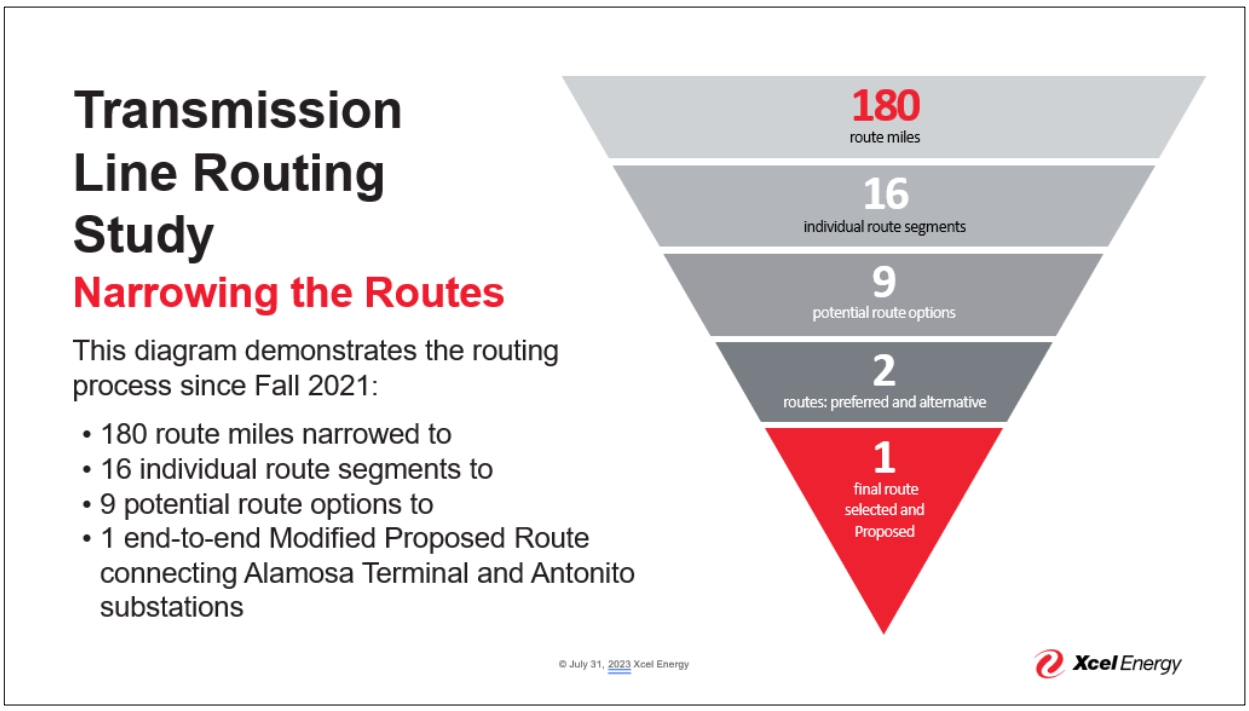
Once those factors were considered, we looked for opportunities for routing. This included identifying potential routes parallel to existing linear features such as U.S. Highway 285, county roads, the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad, and other power lines.

We do our best to avoid existing and planned residential areas; schools, parks, recreation areas, and designated open spaces; important cultural resources; known special-status species of plants and/or wildlife or their critical habitats; and wetland/riparian areas. If these can't be avoided, then we determine what potential effects there may be and develop measures to mitigate those effects. The major categories of route comparison criteria are:

- Existing land uses
- Cultural resources
- Biological resources
- Visual resources
- Safety and engineering considerations

Subcategories are assigned sensitivity and constraint levels and include low, moderate, high, and exclusion. Areas identified as low to moderate are less sensitive and present less constraints for routing a transmission line.

Moderate-high and high areas present a more noticeable constraint. Exclusion areas are locations where transmission lines are not feasible, such as around or near airports. We avoid routing transmission lines in or near exclusion areas and do our best to avoid high, moderate-high, and moderate sensitivity areas. If these can't be avoided, then we determine what effects there may be and develop measures to mitigate those effects.



This image illustrates the routing process since Fall 2021, led by input from community members and stakeholders who offered feedback along the way.

At the beginning of the routing process, Xcel Energy developed a network of route links, which are the basic building blocks for route analysis. The links largely follow existing linear features to the extent practicable. After developing the network of route links, we grouped the links into three distinct sections: a north section starting at Alamosa Terminal Substation and ending at the Town of La Jara, a central section beginning in La Jara and ending at Romeo Substation, and a south section beginning at Romeo Substation and ending at Antonito Substation. The total mileage of route links in these three sections is approximately 180 miles.

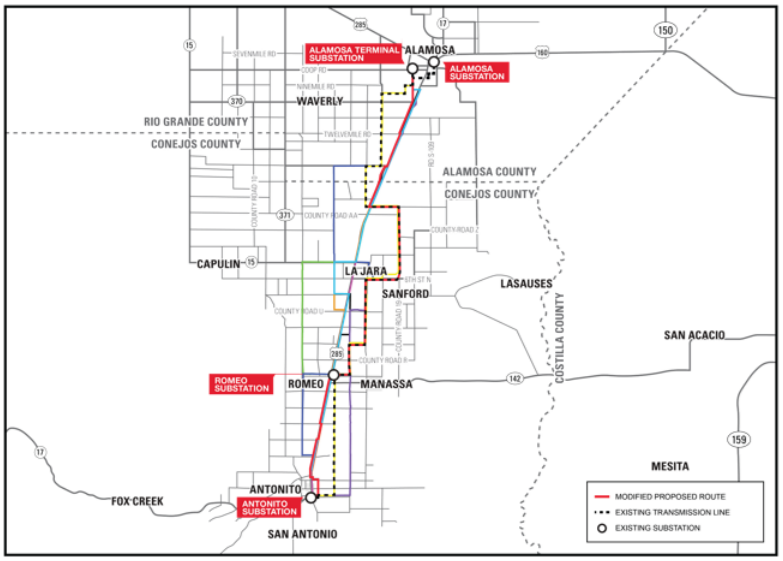
Xcel Energy then combined the route links in each section to form longer route segments. Five route segments were created in the north section, five segments in the central section, and six segments in the south section for a total of 16 route segments. We then connected these 16 segments in different combinations to form 9 end-to-end route alternatives. Each end-to-end route alternative begins at Alamosa Terminal Substation and ends at Antonito Substation.

Five end-to-end route alternatives were presented to the public during the November 2021 public open houses. Two additional end-to-end route alternatives were identified and evaluated following the November 2021 public open houses. These two route alternatives were presented to the public during the March 2022 public open houses.

In November 2022, we selected the previously proposed route for which landowners received a route selection announcement. Since this announcement in November 2022, we have continued to consider community input in planning and engineering and have since selected a Modified Proposed Route.

Transmission Line Routing Study

Preliminary Route Alternatives Studied



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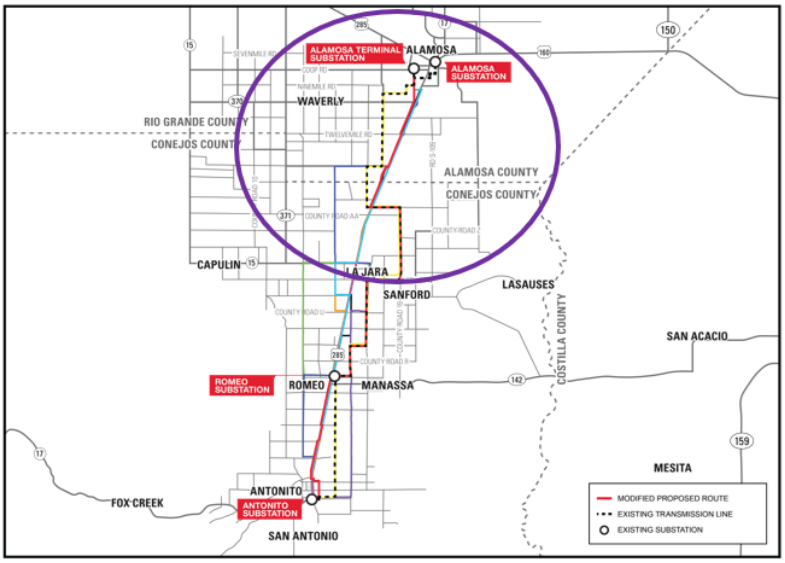
This slide shows the end-to-end route alternatives that we identified, evaluated, and compared in the Routing Study.

Transmission Line Routing Study

Preliminary Route Alternatives Studied



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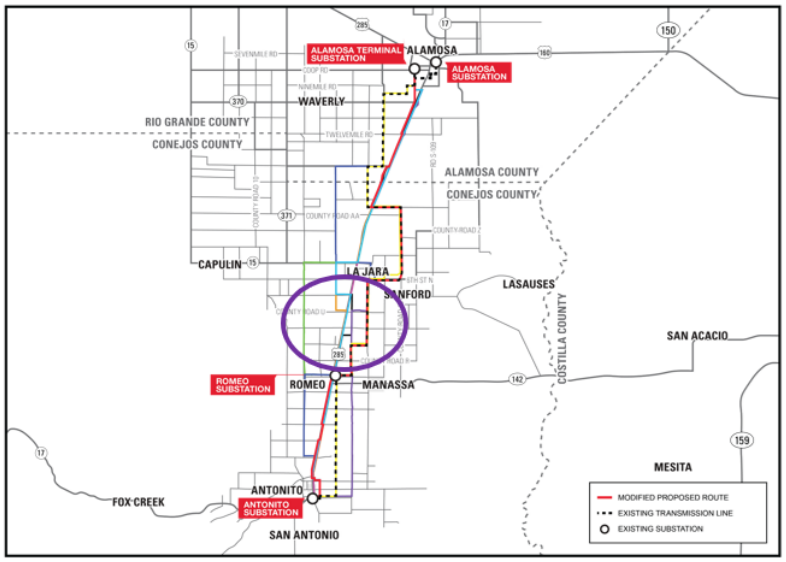
This map highlights the northern section of the project.

Transmission Line Routing Study

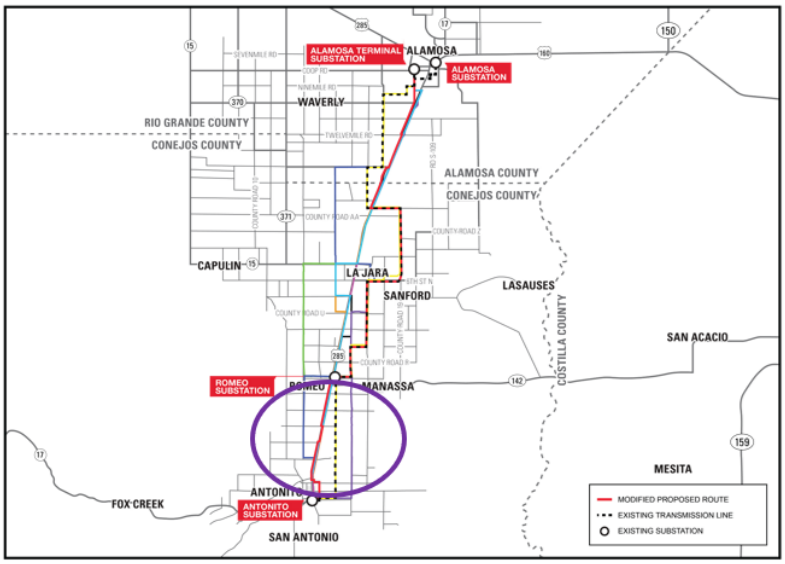
Preliminary Route Alternatives Studied



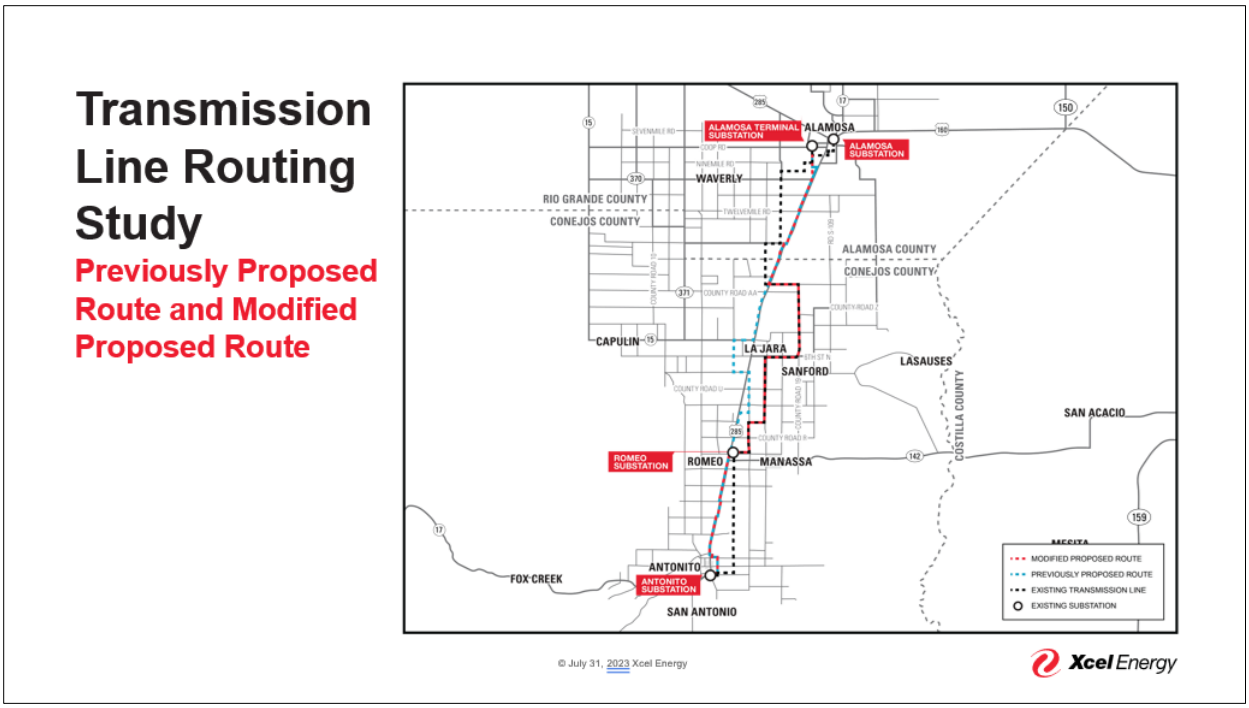
This map shows the central portion of the project; all the segments add up to the 180 total miles analyzed.

Transmission Line Routing Study

Preliminary Route Alternatives Studied



This slide highlights the southern section of the project.

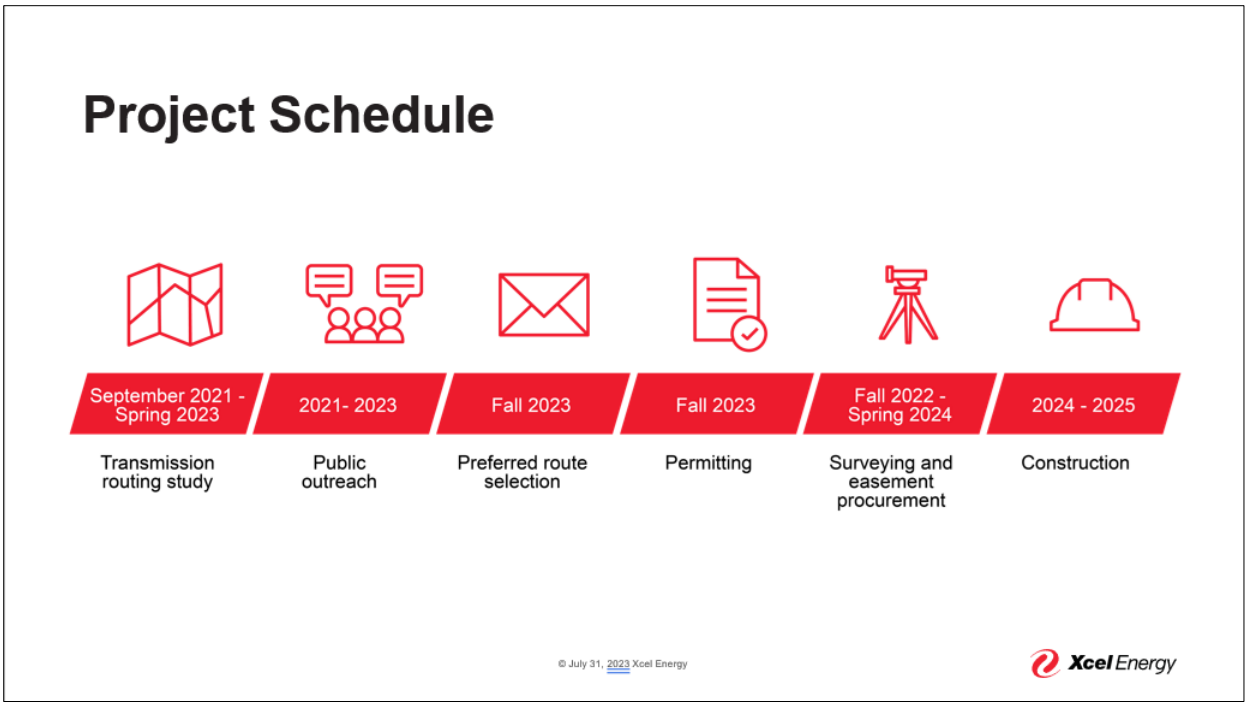


This slide shows the Previously Proposed Route as a blue dashed line and the Modified Proposed Route as a red dashed line. The existing electric transmission line is shown as a black dashed line.

The Previously Proposed Route, presented to the public last year, paralleled existing linear features, including U.S. Highway 285, county roads and the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad for approximately 81 percent of the route.

Since our last open house, we considered community feedback to continue to review the route for solutions to reduce impacts on residences and land uses in the area of La Jara (the central portion of the route). Our engineering team identified creative engineering and construction solutions to safely build the transmission line adjacent to the existing line for a portion of the route to avoid the community of La Jara (see the red dashed line in the central portion of the project). The Modified Proposed Route parallels existing linear features for 97 percent of the route which is higher than the 81 percent of the Previously Proposed Route.

Xcel Energy is proposing this Modified Proposed Route for permitting and construction. The Modified Proposed Route parallels existing linear features, including U.S. Highway 285, county roads, the San Luis and Rio Grande Railroad and transmission lines for 33.8 miles of its 34.8-mile length This route utilizes field edges next to existing roads to minimize impacts on active agricultural operations. Only 5 percent of the route is located adjacent to center-pivot irrigation systems and will be placed on field edges in those locations.

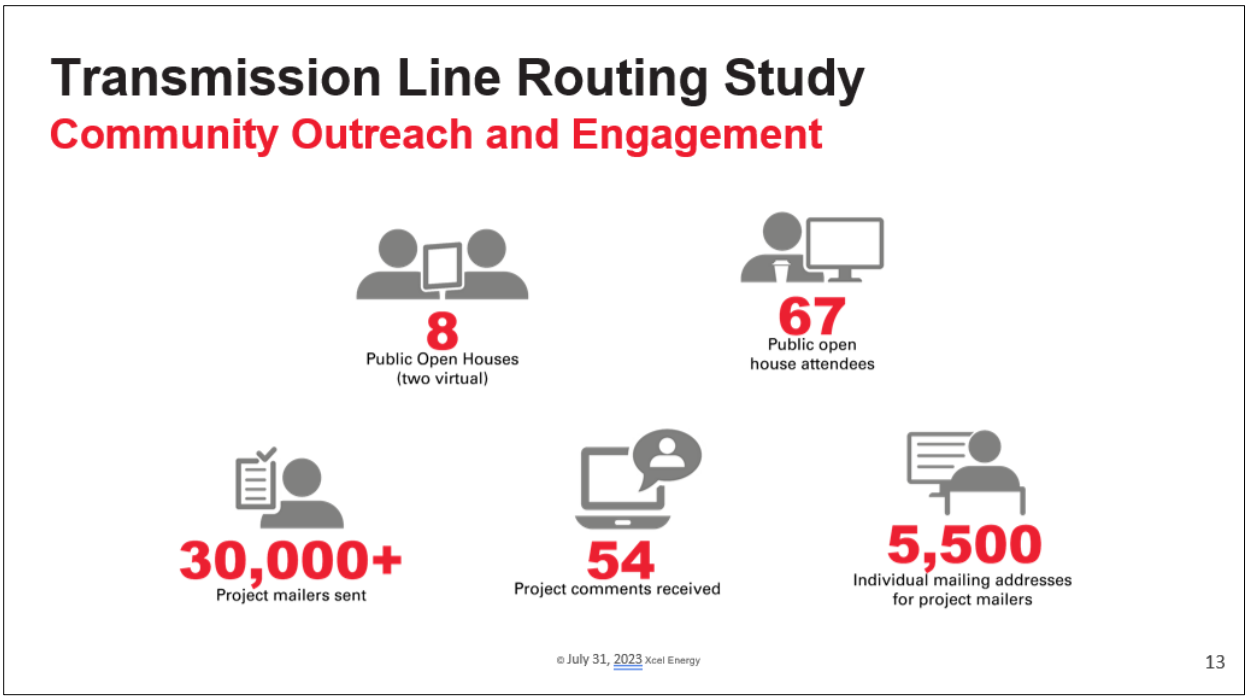


Here is the project timeline. This is our best estimate on the schedule at this time. It is subject to change, knowing many factors can influence this schedule including material procurement and other supply chain economics that are outside of Xcel Energy's control, as well as landowner negotiations for obtaining rights-of-way on affected parcels.

During 2023, Xcel Energy will submit two land use permit applications for Project approval, one application to Alamosa County and one application to Conejos County. Public hearings will be scheduled before the:

- Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners
- Conejos County Planning Commission
- Conejos County Board of County Commissioners following a recommendation by the Planning Commission

When the Alamosa County and Conejos County land use offices deem their respective permit applications to be complete, they will schedule the hearings noted above. When the hearings are scheduled, each county will provide public notice of the hearings' dates, times, and locations. Xcel Energy will also include this information on this project website and will send a mailer to affected landowners along the Modified Proposed Route with the hearing dates, times, and locations.



Xcel Energy is committed to reaching out and listening to what the public has to say about the project and has conducted extensive community outreach and engagement. To summarize:

Xcel Energy hosted five public open houses (two during Fall 2021, and three in Spring 2022 with one held virtually).

We scheduled tonight's virtual open house in addition two open houses to be hosted in person this week.

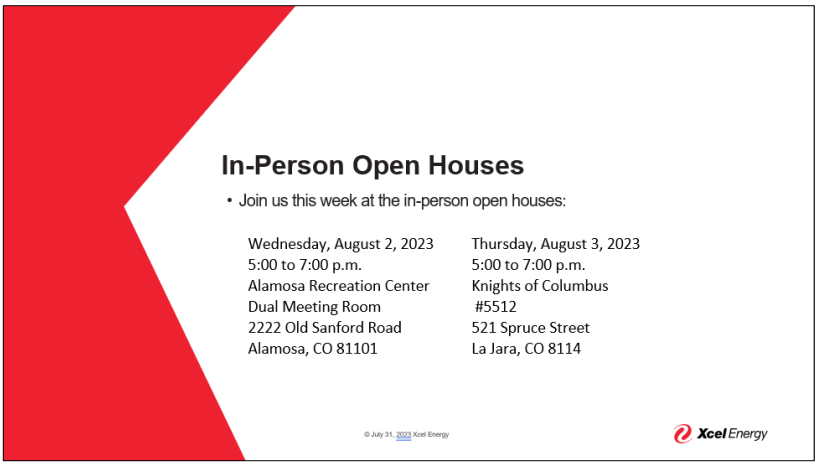
Throughout the project Xcel Energy has maintained a list of 5,500 names and addresses for sending Project notices.

Approximately 67 people attended the five public open houses prior to this week and Xcel Energy received approximately 54 comments via letters, emails, or comment forms provided at the public open houses and as a result of the Previously Proposed Route announcement in November 2022.

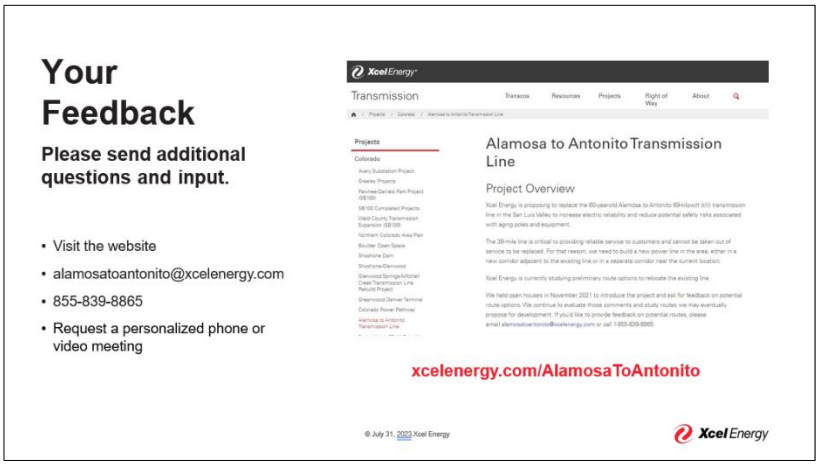
We sent a project mailer in July 2023.

Xcel Energy considered stakeholder comments in completing this Routing Study. Xcel Energy also conducted conference calls with officials from the City of Alamosa, Town of La Jara, Town of Romeo, and Alamosa and Conejos counties throughout the Routing Study process to provide Project updates and answer questions.

As mentioned, in addition to tonight's virtual open house, we have two in-person open houses planned for later this week. The meeting info is listed on the screen. The first on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at the Alamosa Recreation Center and the second open house on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at the Knights of Columbus in La Jara. Both meetings are from 5 to 7 pm.

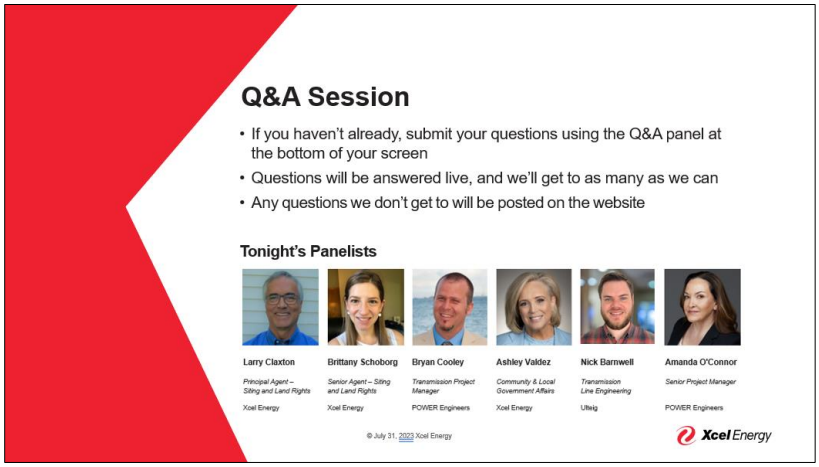


[Ashley Valdez]
On your screen, you can see the various options for contacting Xcel Energy about this project. We invite you to reach out. You can request a meeting or schedule a phone call with an Xcel Energy project representative to discuss your specific questions or comments.



Also, note our website address is xcelenergy.com/AlamosaToAntonito. The website presents information on the project, as well as the email address and phone number for contacting us.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted questions, and we invite you to continue submitting your questions. All questions and answers from this session are will be posted on the project webpage.



Thank you! More ways to talk to us:

XcelEnergy.com/AlamosaToAntonito

Visit the project page to request a meeting with an Xcel Energy representative or to submit a comment

alamosatoantonito@xcelenergy.com
855-839-8865

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