

# Pawnee-Daniels Park 345-kV transmission project

---

## Project overview

Xcel Energy proposes to construct a new, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to connect its existing Pawnee Substation near Brush, Colo., to its Daniels Park Substation south of the Denver metro-area (see map). The

125-mile project is part of the company's Senate Bill 07-100 portfolio and is a critical component of Colorado's long range transmission plan. It will allow for

### PROJECT QUICK FACTS

**Voltage:** 345 kV line

**Estimated length:** 125 miles

**Estimated cost:** \$178 million

**Targeted in-service:** Proposed 2019

the interconnection and delivery of new generation resources, including renewable energy to Front Range customers to meet new load growth and improve system reliability.

Xcel Energy resource plans will require additional generation resources in the future which could be comprised of both conventional and renewable resources. The resource plans may include development of both gas-fired and wind generation in the area east of the Denver-metro area.

The proposed project would interconnect with the existing Missile Site Substation, near Deer Trail, and include a new 345 kV transmission line between the Smoky Hill Substation in Aurora and the Daniels Park Substation. The project includes improvements at several substations and one new substation (Harvest Mile) in Arapahoe County. As part of Xcel Energy's commitment to grid reliability, security and protection, the company is making significant investments to incorporate protection, detection and security perimeters at the most critical locations.

## Regulatory process

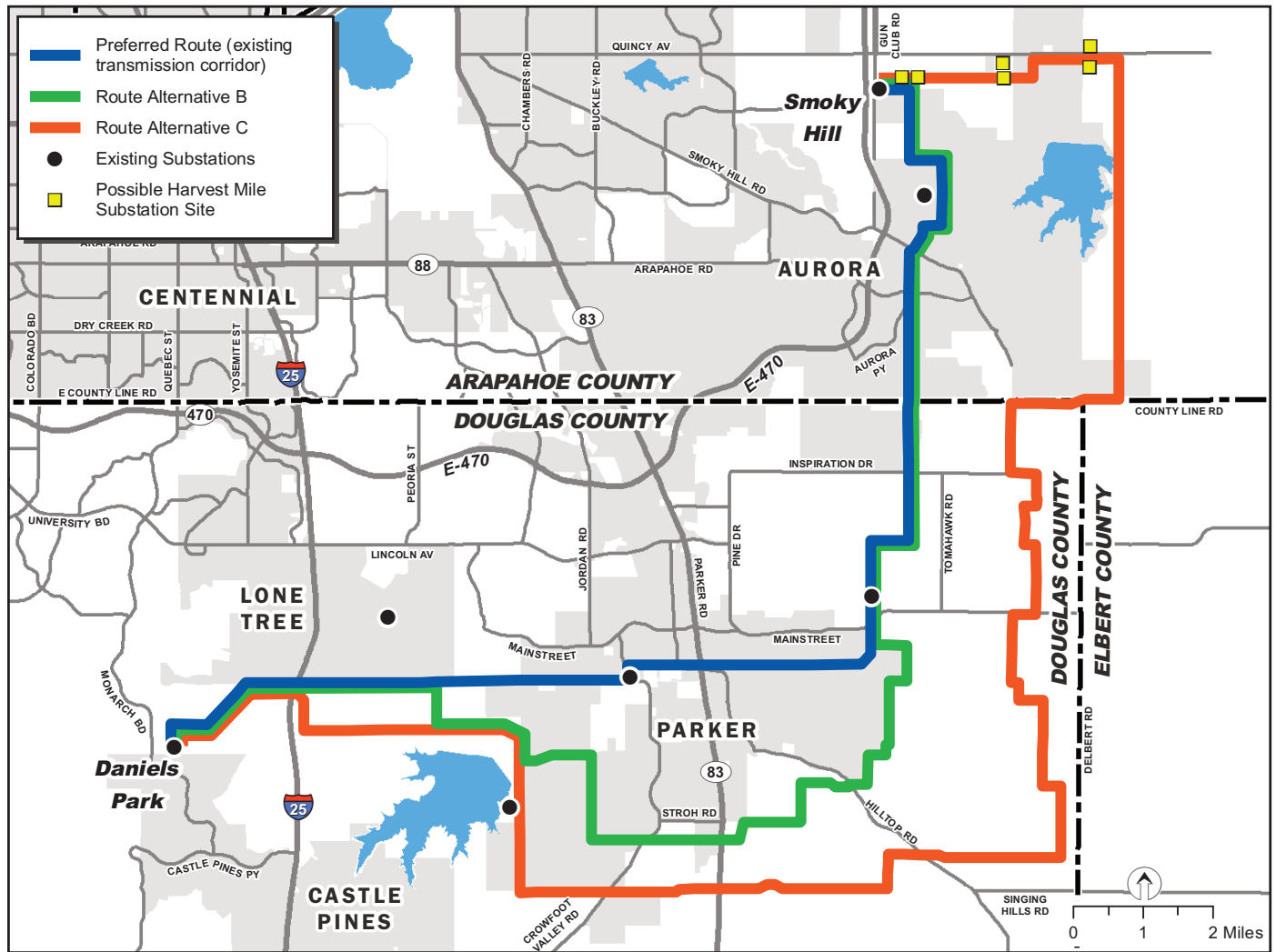
When proposing a transmission line project, the Colorado regulatory process requires a utility to file a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Xcel Energy filed a CPCN application for the project on March 28, 2014. The CPUC approved the CPCN on April 9, 2015. You can view the application and get more information on the CPUC website at <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>. Search for e-filings docket number 14A-0287E. The CPCN process does not decide the final location of the line. The final location and alignment of the transmission line is determined through a separate and extensive local government siting and permitting process.

## Local permitting process

As part of the permitting process for a transmission line, a utility is required to obtain a local land use permit from each local jurisdiction the line would cross. The project area includes Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, City of Aurora and Town of Parker. Xcel Energy filed a local land use permit application with the Town of Parker on February 24, 2016. The Parker Town Council approved the application on July 5, 2016.

In September 2016 Xcel Energy filed a 1041 application and a Location and Extent application with Arapahoe County in conjunction with the local permitting process. The county planning commission and the board of county commissioners will hold public hearings on the two applications in early 2017. Xcel Energy filed a Location and Extent application with Douglas County on 11/21 and is anticipating a hearing in front of the planning commission on February 6, 2017. A Site Plan application will be filed with the City of Aurora in early 2017.

## Pawnee-Daniels Park 345 kV Transmission Project Preliminary Route Alternatives



### Project start date

The CPCN includes an in-service date for the project of May 2022 with construction beginning in 2020. However, Congress recently extended the Production Tax Credit for new wind generation projects, but with a declining recovery schedule for projects that start construction after 2016. As a result of this, Xcel Energy filed a petition to the CPUC in May 2016 asking them to modify their previous decision in order to accelerate the in-service date to October 2019 and the construction start date to January 2019 for the Smoky Hills-Daniels Park transmission line portion of the project. Construction of the Harvest Mile Substation would start in February 2017 with an in-service date of October 2018. In September 2016, Xcel Energy, along with multiple parties, agreed to a settlement that included moving the in-service date of the line to 2019. The settlement agreement and accelerated ISD was approved

by the PUC on 10/20/2016. Advancing the in-service date of the project will help ensure that customers reap the tax credit benefits which significantly reduce the cost of wind generation.

### Public outreach

Xcel Energy is committed to working with all residents, landowners, local communities and officials, business groups, state agencies and other stakeholders to explain the need for the proposed transmission line and to determine the most preferable route. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the local permitting process by attending public meetings and hearings and providing information to the respective local governments and Xcel Energy. You can find more information and submit comments on [transmission.xcelenergy.com](http://transmission.xcelenergy.com) or by calling 303-318-6307.