

**XCEL ENERGY-KESTREL 230 kV
INTERCONNECTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q. Will developers in the study area be able to access power from the proposed transmission line?

A. The proposed transmission line for the Kestrel 230-kV Interconnection is dedicated to the customer, QTS, requesting the service. This proposed transmission line will not serve other customers or renewable energy developers at this time.

Q. How will the proposed transmission line affect future development plans of businesses/companies in the study area?

A. The proposed transmission line will not affect future development plans in the study area. The proposed transmission line for the Kestrel 230-kV Interconnection is dedicated to the customer, QTS, requesting the service.

Q. How can developers in the project area access power from Xcel Energy's system for their future development?

A. Parties interested in accessing power from Xcel Energy's system would have to apply with Xcel Energy for an interconnection with the system or use existing infrastructure in the area. Xcel Energy will work with each interested party to evaluate the level of service needed, schedule for development, and proceed with plans to provide the power needed.

Q. Will construction activities of the proposed line affect access to businesses and/or properties in the area?

A. Xcel Energy will work with local businesses to plan construction activities considering accessibility to their operations. Xcel Energy will minimize area of construction activities and construction timeframes to the extent feasible and will coordinate with affected businesses to keep them informed about construction plans.

Q. Will an easement across privately owned property be acquired?

A. Yes, the route alternatives identified and evaluated all cross privately owned lands. Xcel Energy will contact and negotiate an easement purchase with the property owners along the route that is selected for the transmission line.

**Q. Will the proposed line affect sensitive equipment and instruments inside our plant?
[Niagara Bottling]**

A. No. Electric and magnetic fields emitted by a transmission line are strongest surrounding the source and weaken with distance. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission has determined that magnetic fields for new power lines of 150 milligauss* of less are reasonable at the edge of the right-of-way. The fields would have no effect on equipment and instruments inside the building. [*Electric fields are measured in units of volts meter; magnetic fields are measured in gauss or milligauss (1/1000 gauss).]

Q. Will this project increase or reduce current rates?

A. The project will be funded entirely by the customer, QTS, eliminating the need for cost recovery from Colorado customers. Bringing new large-load customers onto Xcel Energy's

electric system helps keep all customer bills low across the board, as it spreads out infrastructure and maintenance costs required to manage the grid.

Q. Can the transmission line be installed underground?

A. Overhead, high-voltage transmission lines are a reliable, easily maintained and established method to transport bulk electricity. Unlike lower-voltage distribution power lines that deliver electricity to homes and business, high-voltage transmission lines are not frequently installed underground because of a number of factors, primarily related to the high cost of building the infrastructure underground. Underground transmission lines require insulated underground cables and a concrete trench with truck-size manholes along the length of an underground line, increasing construction costs 10 times or more. Additionally, burying transmission lines results in more impacts on the environment than placing them overhead.

Q. What is the difference between an easement and a right-of-way?

A. An easement is an agreement between Xcel Energy and the property owner which gives Xcel Energy the authority to build, operate and maintain our power line where the landowner generally retains ownership of the property. A right-of-way is the physical land upon which the facilities (transmission line, roadway, etc.) are located.

Q. How are landowners paid for an easement?

A. Landowners typically are given a one-time payment based on fair market value for easement rights to their land, traditionally based on the appraised land value at the time the easement is purchased.