Northern Colorado Area Plan

New infrastructure will deliver improved electric reliability and enhanced customer serving capacity

The Northern Colorado Area Plan would increase electric generation transmission capacity, enhance electric reliability and expand load-serving capability of the Xcel Energy electric transmission system north of Greeley.

The proposed project includes building approximately 20 miles of new 115/230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Western Area Power Authority (WAPA) Ault Substation and a location northeast of Greeley where the new 115/230-kV transmission lines would connect to Xcel Energy's existing 115-kV line near the Cloverly Substation. The project also includes construction of two new substations and the improvement of two existing substation facilities. The project is the first step in a comprehensive plan to upgrade the region's infrastructure and modernize the transmission system. Pending approvals, the project is expected to be complete in 2021.

Construction on the Northern Colorado Area Plan would include single-pole structures ranging between 80 and 130 feet in height.

Project Permits and Public Hearings

Xcel Energy filed a 1041 permit with Weld County in August 2018 to determine approval and final route of the proposed transmission lines. Once the application is deemed complete a review period will take place. Public hearings will take place in late 2018 or early 2019. The dates and locations will be posted here when they are finalized. A Site Plan is anticipated to be filed with the Town of Ault in the fall of 2018.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application on March 1, 2018 to allow Xcel Energy to construct the Northern Colorado Area Plan.

When proposing a high-voltage transmission line project, investor-owned utilities must file a CPCN application with the CPUC. You can review all regulatory filings on the CPUC web site at https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI_Search_UI.search by entering 17A-0146E in the 'Proceeding Number' field. The CPCN process allows the Company to proceed with implementation, but does not decide the specific routes and locations of the transmission lines and substations. Those issues are determined through a separate local government siting process.

Anticipated Schedule

2018 – File local, state, federal permits

2019 – Begin construction of substations

2020 – Begin construction of transmission line

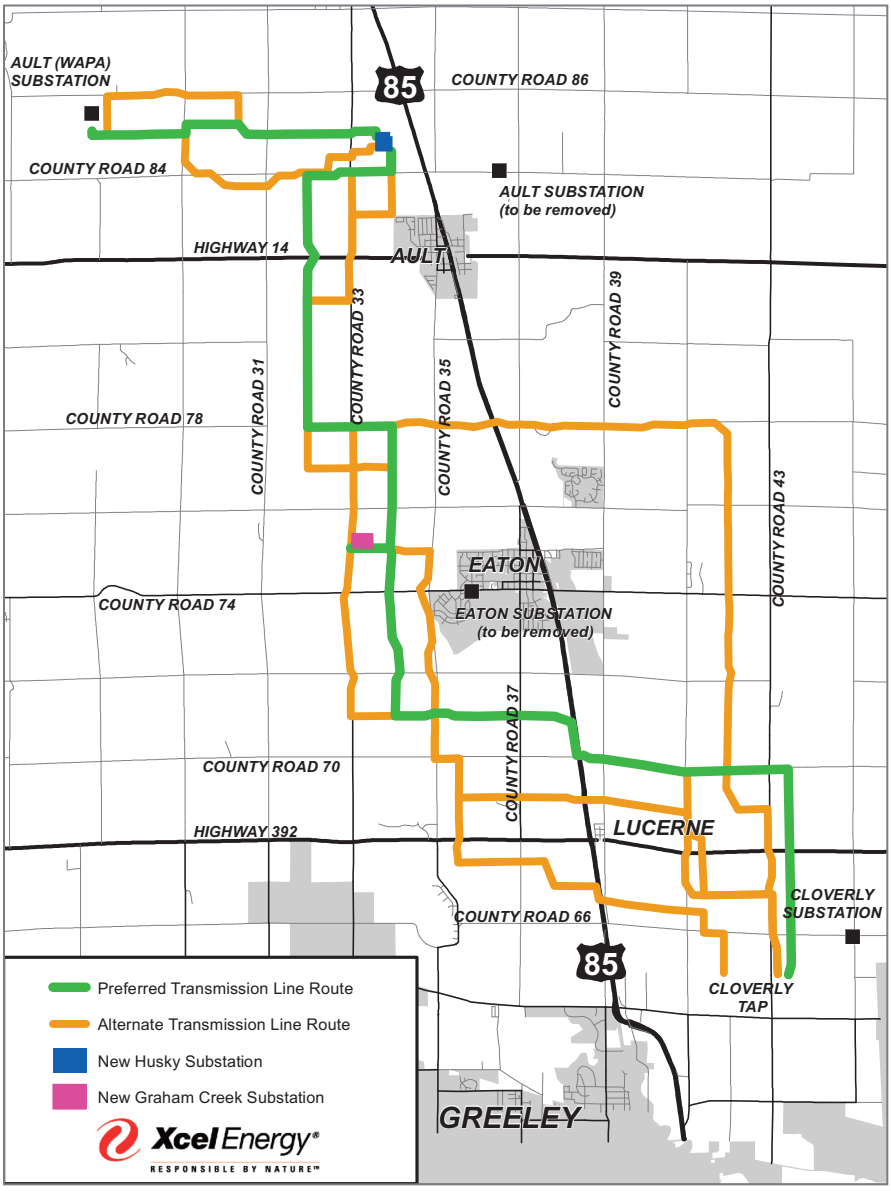
2021 – Project completed

transmission.xcelenergy.com

Project Area

The preferred and alternate transmission line routes are shown on the map. The two new substations will be located near Ault and Eaton and would replace two existing 44 kV substations. The alternative transmission route corridors are shown on the map conceptually, but the actual transmission line would only require a 100 to 150-foot right-of-way.

Northern Colorado Area Plan: WAPA Ault to Husky Transmission Line Project Area



The proposed Northern Colorado Area Plan consists of the following components:

WAPA Ault – Husky 230 kV transmission line

- The line will be built from the existing Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Ault Substation to a new Xcel Energy Husky Substation. The new line would be approximately seven miles long and built double-circuit 230 kV capable. Only one circuit will initially be installed and operated at 115 kV.

Husky Substation

- This new substation would replace the Xcel Energy Ault 44 kV Substation, which would be decommissioned. The Husky Substation would accommodate distribution upgrades that improve system reliability.

Husky – Graham Creek 115kV line

- The new line would be approximately 7.7 miles miles and be built double-circuit 230 kV capable. Only one circuit will initially be installed and operated at 115 kV.

Graham Creek Substation

- This new substation would replace the Xcel Energy Eaton 44 kV Substation, which would be decommissioned. The Graham Creek Substation would accommodate distribution upgrades and improve system reliability.

Graham Creek – Cloverly 115 kV line

- This new line would be approximately eleven miles and be built double-circuit 230 kV-capable. Only one circuit will initially be installed and operated at 115 kV. Eight miles of that new transmission will be built double-circuit 230 kV capable. The remaining three miles are already constructed to be 115 kV capable.

Contact Us

Learn more about the project, view detailed maps, submit questions and leave comments at **xcelenergy.com/NorthernColorado**. You can also reach us at 1-888-678-7640 or by emailing northerncolorado@xcelenergy.com.