



1800 Larimer Street
Denver, CO 80202

June 30, 2022

Nicole Hay, Director
Morgan County Planning and Zoning Department
231 Ensign Street, P.O. Box 596
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701

RE: 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Application for Colorado's Power Pathway

Dear Ms. Hay,

Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), a Colorado corporation doing business as Xcel Energy, is seeking approval of a 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit from Morgan County to construct and operate a portion of Colorado's Power Pathway (Pathway) located in Morgan County. Pathway is a \$1.7 to \$2 billion investment proposed by PSCo to improve the state's electric grid and enable future renewable energy development around the state. Pathway will increase electric reliability, boost the regional economy and create jobs during construction. Pathway includes the installation of approximately 560 to 650 miles of new 345-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line and four new and four expanded substations, which serve as endpoints for the transmission line segments.

Pathway will be constructed in five segments, with an optional sixth segment:

- Fort St. Vrain – Canal Crossing (Segment 1)
- Canal Crossing – Goose Creek (Segment 2)
- Goose Creek – May Valley (Segment 3)
- May Valley – Tundra (Segment 4)
- Tundra – Harvest Mile (Segment 5)
- May Valley – Longhorn (Extension)

Pathway facilities proposed in Morgan County include approximately 48 miles of 345-kV transmission line within Segments 1 and 2, minor equipment additions at the existing Pawnee Substation, and the proposed new Canal Crossing Substation. The proposed route in Morgan County is generally located in the area south of Wiggins and Fort Morgan, oriented in a west to east direction. The proposed route is south of Highway 76 and would cross Highway 71 south of Brush. The proposed Canal Crossing Substation would be located approximately 5 miles south of the existing Pawnee Substation, off Road I.

In March 2021, PSCo filed a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) describing the public benefits of constructing Pathway. In February 2022, the CPUC provided verbal approval and in June 2022, the CPCN provided written approval for the CPCN for Segments 1-5, and conditional approval for the Extension, determining Pathway is in the public interest. While the CPUC determines the need for Pathway, it does not determine the location of the components; the location and land use permissions will be granted through non-exclusive easement agreements reached with landowners and land use permits in the applicable jurisdictions where Pathway components will be located.

Preferred transmission line routes and substation sites have been selected after completion of routing and siting studies, coordination with permitting entities, and conducting public outreach.

Project representatives met with County staff on April 6, 2022, for the 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit Pre-Application Conference where PSCo provided information about Pathway and responded to questions from County representatives. This 1041 Areas and Activities of State Interest Permit application has been prepared per the requirements outlined in the Morgan County §1041 Regulations and the direction provided by Morgan County representatives during the Pre-Application Conference.

Note that Xcel Energy has not yet ordered title commitments along the proposed transmission route and cannot provide details of existing encumbrances located on these parcels. Xcel Energy has submitted a related request for waiver immediately following this cover letter.

We look forward to working with you during the permit process. Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (303) 571-7159 or email at Rita.C.Ruderman@xcelenergy.com or contact permitting consultant, Stephanie Phippen with Tetra Tech Inc., at (303) 980-3515 or stephanie.phippen@tetratech.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rita Ruderman", is displayed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Rita Ruderman, Principal Agent
Siting & Land Rights
Xcel Energy
Telephone: (303) 571-7159
Rita.C.Ruderman@XcelEnergy.com