
In The Matter Of The Application Of)	Fifth Set of
Public Service Company Of Colorado (A))	Discovery Requests
For A Certificate Of Public Convenience)	From
And Necessity For The San Luis Valley To)	
Calumet To Comanche Transmission)	CPUC Staff
Project, (B) For Specific Findings With)	
Respect To EMF And Noise, And (C) For)	
Approval Of Ownership Interest Transfer)	
As Needed When Project Is Completed.)	
)	
Docket No. 09A-325E)	Dated September 16, 2009

Discovery Request CPUC5-1

Discovery Request CPUC3-3, Response C and the Poncha Junction 230-115kV transformer.

- a. In PSCo's Discovery Request CPUC3-3, Response C, you use the words "constructability issues." What do you mean by this phrase/words?
- b. In PSCo's Rule 3206 Report filed April 30, 2009, on page 43, reference is made to a Poncha Junction 230-115kV transformer with an in-service date of May 31, 2013. It appears that this transformer was left out of the power flow cases used to study the benchmark case and the San Luis-Calumet-Comanche project. Why was the 230-115kv transformer left out of the cases?

RESPONSE:

- a. By "constructability", we mean the ability to design, construct and operate the transmission line or facility. There are many obstacles associated with upgrading or Constructing the 115 kV line to 230 kV without the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet – Comanche Project in service. Some of the known Constructability issues include:
 1. Operational Issues. Public Service is not willing to take the line out of service for an upgrade (in the absence of the proposed Project), since the ability to serve customers in the valley depends on both the 230 kV line and the 115 kV line being in service at all times.
 2. Siting Issues. For example, the 115 kV line traverses over Poncha Pass through several miles of rugged federally-owned lands on revocable land rights. Any modifications to existing transmission lines in this area will be subject to federal review processes. In addition, such modifications would be subject to, at a minimum, CPCN and local land use permitting processes.

Discovery Request CPUC5-1 Cont'd

3. Delivery Issues. PSCo has no transmission rights from the 230 kV WAPA Poncha substation to the PSCo load center that would enable delivery to customers along the Front Range.
 4. Interconnection Issues. Public Service does not own the Poncha Substation, and thus would need a contract with the Western Area Power Administration.
- b. The Poncha 230/115 kV autotransformer is a new project that was developed as an enhancement to the CPCN project. We believe the project could provide some enhanced operational flexibility. Since the concept for an autotransformer at Poncha was developed after the technical studies were completed for the CPCN submittal, it was not included as part of the CPCN submittal.

Sponsor: Gerald Stellern

Response Date: 09/28/09