

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

CASE NO. 6396

---

IN THE MATTER OF THE DESIGNATION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AND ELECTRIC UTILITY GENERATION FACILITIES FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IS REQUIRED OR THE FILING OF A FORMAL DETERMINATION THAT NO CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED.

---

**ORDER OF THE COMMISSION PERTAINING  
TO CERTIFICATION OF FACILITIES**

---

---

Mailed Date: June 27, 2003

Adopted Date: June 25, 2003

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement**

1. Sections (d) and (e) of *Rule 18 of the Commission's Electric Utility Rules, 4 Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-3, require each Colorado electric utility to file a schedule of its proposed new construction or extensions of generation and transmission facilities for the next three calendar years no later than April 30 of each year.

2. Rules 18(d)(2) and (e)(2) further provide that the Commission shall issue its decision on whether a certificate of public convenience and necessity, or a formal determination regarding the necessity of a certificate, is required within 60 days of April 30 of the calendar year in which the data are filed.

3. Rule 18(g) provides that the information filed by each utility shall be public information, available for inspection at the offices of the Commission during regular business days and hours. The rule further provides that the Commission will give notice of the filing of

data to all those who, in the opinion of the Commission, are interested persons, firms, or corporations. Any interested person, firm, or corporation may file comments about the identified projects within 15 days of the filing of the data.

4. The Commission issued notice of the data filing on May 27, 2003, and a 15-day period for comments ended June 12, 2003. Comments were filed by the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners stating that proposed projects need to adhere to their land use regulations.

5. The following utilities submitted proposed projects:

Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.  
Public Service Company of Colorado  
Intermountain Rural Electric Association, Inc.  
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.  
Aquila, Inc. (formerly WestPlains Energy)  
Holy Cross Energy  
La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

6. New projects were reported as listed below by company:

Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.

Meridian Ranch Substation Transformer  
City of Colorado Springs Water Pumping Station

Public Service Company of Colorado

Arapahoe-Sheridan 115 kV Line Upgrade  
Broomfield-Semper 115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line  
Comanche 230-115 kV Autotransformers  
Comanche-Reader 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade  
San Luis Valley 230-115 kV Autotransformers  
Shoshone-Rifle 69 kV to 115 kV Upgrade (erroneously reported as  
new reporting)  
Soda Lakes 230-115 kV Autotransformer

Intermountain Rural Electric Association, Inc.

Deer Creek Substation Modification  
Castle Rock- Crystal Valley 115 kV Transmission Line

Crystal Valley-Greenland-Palmer Lake 115 kV Transmission Line  
Palmer Lake Substation Modification  
Bennett Substation Modification  
Strasburg Substation Upgrade  
Strasburg Transmission Substation Upgrade

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

Garnet Mesa 115 kV Loop Service  
Red Willow-Wauneta 115 kV Line Reconductor  
Richard Lake-Wellington 115 kV Loop Project  
Bayfield-Pagosa 115 kV Loop Project  
San Luis-Walsenburg 230 kV Line Project  
Durango-Hesperus 115kV Loop (inadvertently omitted from original list)

Aquila, Inc. (formerly WestPlains Energy)

Hyde Park Substation  
Desert Cove Substation  
Colorado Springs Water Project  
West Station Breaker Addition  
Reader Substation Upgrade  
Airport Industrial Park Substation Addition  
Canon West Substation Capacitor Bank Upgrade  
Freemary Substation Addition  
PDA 115kV Transmission Line  
PDA Substation  
Pueblo West Substation

Holy Cross Energy

Snowmass Substation and 115 kV line

La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

Bodo-Elmore 46 kV Uprate  
Elmore-Bayfield 46 kV Uprate

**II. ORDER**

**A. The Commission Orders That:**

1. No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be required for the following Mountain View Electric Association, Inc., projects:

Paddock 115/69 kV Substation, in-service August 2003

Meridian Ranch 115/69 kV to 12.5 kV Substation Transformer, in-service August 2005  
 Apple Tree Substation, in-service August 2004  
 City of Colorado Springs Water Pumping Station, in-service 2005

2. No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be required for the following La Plata Electric Association, Inc., projects:

Bodo-Elmore 46 kV Uprate, in-service July 2003  
 Elmore-Bayfield 46 kV Uprate, in-service August 2004

3. No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be required for the following Holly Cross Energy project:

Snowmass Substation and 115kV Line, in-service April 2004

4. No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be required for the following Public Service Company of Colorado projects:

Calpine Combined Cycle Generation Addition – covered in the 1999 IRP  
 Rocky Mountain Energy Center 230/345kV Interconnection, in-service May 2004 (formerly Green Valley-Calpine Double Circuit 345kV Transmission Line) – covered in 1999 IRP  
 Green Valley-Spruce (formerly Box Elder) 230/345kV Transmission Line, in-service May 2004, - covered in 1999 IRP  
 Sky Gen/Calpine Combustion Turbine Generation Addition - covered in 1999 IRP  
 Valmont-Boulder Terminal 115kV Transmission Line Upgrade, in-service June 2005  
 Boone-Lamar Uprate, in-service December 2003  
 Arapahoe-Sheridan 115 kV Line Uprate, in-service May 2003  
 Broomfield-Semper 115 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line, in-service May 2006  
 Comanche 230-115 kV Autotransformers, in-service December 2004  
 Comanche-Reader 115 kV Transmission Line Upgrade, In-service December 2004  
 San Luis Valley 230-115 kV Autotransformers, in-service October 2003  
 Shoshone-Rifle 69 kV to 115 kV Upgrade, in-service May 2006  
 Soda Lakes 230-115 kV Autotransformer, in-service May 2004  
 Steamboat Looped Transmission, in-service September 2004 (CPCN granted per Decision No. C03-0335)

5. No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be required for the following Intermountain Rural Electric Association, Inc., projects:

Sulphur 230kV Substation, in-service April 2004  
Lemon Gulch 230kV Substation, in-service August 2004  
Lemon Gulch 230kV Transmission Line, in-service August 2004  
Sulphur-Parker 115kV Line, in-service December 2003  
Fairplay Substation, in-service July 2005  
Wolfensberger Substation, in-service August 2003  
Greenland Substation Modification, in-service October 2005  
Castle Rock Substation Terminal Addition, in-service October 2004  
Deer Creek Substation Modification, in-service May 2004  
Castle Rock- Crystal Valley 115 kV Transmission Line, in-service  
January 2005  
Crystal Valley-Greenland-Palmer Lake 115 kV Transmission Line, in-  
service October 2005  
Palmer Lake Substation Modification, in-service January 2006  
Bennett Substation Modification, in-service September 2005  
Strasburg Substation Upgrade, in-service September 2005  
Strasburg Transmission Substation Upgrade, in-service September 2005

6. Public Service Company of Colorado shall file for a certificate of public convenience and necessity or for a formal determination that no certificate of public convenience and necessity is required for the following projects: a) Midway-Daniels Park 345kV Line, in-service June 2005 (formerly Midway-Smoky Hill 345kV line); b) Denver Terminal-Dakota-Arapahoe 230 kV Line, in-service May 2005; and c) Chambers 230/115kV Transmission Intertie Project, in-service May 2005 (formerly Sky Ranch-Smoky Hill 230kV Transmission Line Connection to the Havana-East 115kV Transmission Line). The filing shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- (a) a map showing the general area or actual locations where facilities will be constructed, population centers, major highways, state boundaries, county boundaries;
- (b) electric one line diagrams including substation one line diagrams;
- (c) information on alternatives studied, costs for those alternatives, criteria used to rank or eliminate alternatives;

- (d) justification for the preferred alternative, including technical and/or economic studies;
- (e) demonstration that the public convenience and necessity of Colorado consumers require granting of the application; and
- (f) a report of prudent avoidance measures considered and justification for the measures selected to be implemented.

7. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., shall file for a certificate of public convenience and necessity or for a formal determination that no certificate of public convenience and necessity is required for the following projects: a) Durango-Hesperus 115kV Loop Project, in-service December 2005; b) Bayfield-Pagosa 115kV Loop Project, in-service December 2006; and c) San Luis-Walsenburg 230kV Line Project, in-service December 2006. The filing shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- (a) a map showing the general area or actual locations where facilities will be constructed, population centers, major highways, state boundaries, county boundaries;
- (b) electric one line diagrams including substation one line diagrams;
- (c) information on alternatives studied, costs for those alternatives, criteria used to rank or eliminate alternatives;
- (d) justification for the preferred alternative, including technical and/or economic studies;
- (e) demonstration that the public convenience and necessity of Colorado consumers require granting of the application; and
- (f) a report of prudent avoidance measures considered and justification for the measures selected to be implemented.

8. No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be required for the following Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., projects:

Black Squirrel-Monument 69kV Line Uprate, in-service December 2004  
Cahone-Nucla 115 kV Transmission Line Uprate, in-service  
December 2004  
Erie Switch-Rinn Valley 115 kV Project, in-service September 2004  
I-25 Corridor 115 kV Loop Project, in-service December 2003

Hotchkiss-Spring Creek Tap 115 kV Line Uprate, in-service  
December 2004  
Bayfield-Durango 115 kV Line Uprate, in-service December 2005  
Granby-Windy Gap 138 kV Transmission Line Project, in-service  
December 2006  
Montrose-Nucla 115 kV Transmission Line Reconductor, in-service  
December 2006  
Garnet Mesa 115 kV Loop Service, in-service December 2005  
Red Willow-Wauneta 115 kV Line Reconductor, in-service June 2005  
Richard Lake-Wellington 115 kV Loop Project, in-service  
December 2005.

Colorado/New Mexico 230 kV Interconnection, in-service June 2005  
(CPCN granted with stipulations per Decision No. R01-1074)

Nucla-Telluride 115 kV Transmission Line, in-service December 2005  
(CPCN granted per Decision No. C01-1059)

9. No certificate of public convenience and necessity shall be required for the following Aquila, Inc., projects:

Arequa Gulch Substation (formerly Squaw Mountain Substation), in-  
service 4th quarter 2007  
Canon West-Arequa Gulch (formerly Squaw Mountain) 115 kV  
Transmission Line, in-service 4th quarter 2007  
Pueblo West Substation, in-service November 2003  
Hyde Park Substation, in-service 4th quarter 2004  
Desert Cove Substation, in-service 2nd quarter 2003  
Colorado Springs Water Project, in-service 3rd quarter 2005  
West Station Breaker Addition, in-service 2nd quarter 2005  
Reader Substation Upgrade, in-service 2nd quarter 2005  
Airport Industrial Park Substation Addition, in-service 2nd quarter 2005  
Canon West Substation Capacitor Bank Upgrade, in-service 2nd quarter  
2004  
Freemary Substation Addition, in-service 4th quarter 2004  
PDA 115kV Transmission Line, in-service 2nd quarter 2004  
PDA Substation, in-service 2nd quarter 2004

10. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
June 25, 2003.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

POLLY PAGE

JIM DYER

Commissioners

CHAIRMAN GREGORY E. SOPKIN  
ABSENT.