

September 8, 2003

Dear :

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission will take public comment concerning a transmission line dispute between Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. and San Miguel County at a public hearing from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, September 18. The hearing will be in the Sheridan Opera House, 110 N. Oak Street, in Telluride.

At issue is the proposed upgrade of Tri-State's existing 69kV transmission line between its Nucla Substation in Montrose County and its Sunshine Substation in San Miguel County.

San Miguel County has imposed a number of conditions on the construction of the project, including requirements that Tri-State construct portions of the line underground at the company's expense, limit the height of above-ground structures to 60 feet, and submit a construction plan that identifies Tri-State's plans to mitigate environmental impacts to the county for approval prior to construction.

Tri-State has appealed San Miguel County's decision to the PUC, stating that some of the conditions will impair the company's ability to provide safe, reliable and economic service to the public.

The PUC's role is to balance local government determinations with the broader statewide interest of meeting growing demands for electric service. Interested persons may testify at the public hearing on September 18. Individual members of homeowners associations that have formally intervened in the case will not be allowed to comment at the public hearing. Comments by these individuals should be included with formal testimony filed by the group.

A formal evidentiary hearing in this matter is scheduled for October 20-24 at the PUC offices in Denver.