

April 17, 2024

Lorianne Thennes, Project Manager, Office of Development Assistance  
City of Aurora  
15151 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012

RE: Letter of Introduction, Colorado's Power Pathway (#1708633, DA-2384-00)

Dear Lorianne Thennes,

Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation conducting business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy), is seeking approval of a Conditional Use Permit Application and Site Plan for a Minor Utility use (Application) from the City of Aurora to construct and operate a portion of Colorado's Power Pathway (Pathway) located in Aurora. Pathway is a \$1.7 billion investment 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 550 miles of new 345-kilovolt (kV) double-circuit transmission line; four new electric substations; and expansion, equipment additions or equipment upgrades at four existing electric substations.

Pathway will be constructed in five segments with each new or expanded electric substation serving as an endpoint for the transmission line segments:

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

In March 2021, Xcel Energy filed a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) Application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) describing the purpose, need, and public benefits of constructing Pathway. In February 2022, the CPUC provided verbal approval, and in June 2022, it provided written approval of the CPCN for Segments 1–5, based on a determination that Pathway is in the public interest. The CPUC did not approve construction of the May Valley – Longhorn Extension (Extension) in the January 2024 Phase II Decision regarding Xcel Energy's Electric Resource Plan and Clean Energy Plan. Xcel Energy may bring a proposal to construct the Extension and Longhorn Substation forward again in the future but has paused its further development as part of Pathway. 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 easement negotiations with landowners and land use permits in the applicable jurisdictions where Pathway components will be located. Preferred transmission line routes and substation sites for Pathway have been selected after completion of routing and siting studies, coordination with permitting entities, and conducting public outreach.

Pathway land use permitting is occurring concurrently with Arapahoe, El Paso, Elbert, Lincoln and Pueblo counties for the portions of Segment 5 that occur in those jurisdictions. Coordination is ongoing with additional jurisdictions for other segments as described in Section 2 of the Application.

This Letter of Introduction and the Application provide information about Pathway in Aurora, including specific information required by the Aurora Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and the Site Plan Manual (Table 1), with additional detail about Pathway as a whole provided in Section 2 of the Application. The applicant has uploaded this Application onto Aurora’s Development Application Review website. The Application fee will be paid following Aurora’s completeness review of this Application and instructions for paying the fee online.

**Table 1: Compliance with Letter of Introduction Requirements**

<b>Requirement*</b>	<b>Description</b>
Description of the type of land use proposed	Minor utility; approximately 1 mile of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission line.
Location of the project	Approximately 1 mile through Aurora jurisdiction, parallel to and north of East Quincy Avenue within land zoned as Parks and Open Space (POS). See the Vicinity Map in Attachment B of the Application.
Size of the project in acres	Pathway transmission line facilities in Aurora are approximately 1 mile long (length) and includes a 150-foot right-of-way (ROW; width). The total size of Pathway facilities in Aurora is approximately 18 acres.
Intensity of development	During operation, the transmission line represents a passive use and will not be staffed. Transmission line operations will not require on-site staff and will be monitored remotely. Visits from personnel will be limited to emergencies or maintenance and inspection activities. The intensity of the development will be similar to other transmission lines located in proximity and on the south side of East Quincy Avenue.
Outline of justification and mitigation for each proposed adjustment of the city code. Analysis of the adjustment criteria requirements in Section 146-5.4.4.	Xcel Energy is requesting a waiver of the submittal of GIS and CAD files for addressing purposes as an Administrative Adjustment in accordance with Section 146-5.4.4.F of the UDO. The transmission line will not require an address since it is an unstaffed linear facility. Regarding the criteria for approval in Section 146-5.4.4.F.3(a-g) of the UDO, none of the criteria directly apply to the request for waiver of the submittal of GIS and CAD files for addressing purposes, therefore Pathway would not be inconsistent with the criteria for approval.

Requirement*	Description				
<p>List of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the property owner and any project consultants</p>	<p>The names and addresses of the surface owners within the Pathway ROW in Aurora as available in the Aurora Assessor's database are shown in Attachment E of the Application. Xcel Energy is currently negotiating with the potentially affected landowners for necessary land rights along the proposed transmission line route. These negotiations include securing an option for a permanent non-exclusive easement for the 150-foot-wide ROW of the transmission line as well as permanent and temporary easements required for access and TCAs during and after construction. Once land surveying, final engineering design, and permitting have been completed, Xcel Energy will exercise the options and record the final easements. The easements for each phase of Pathway will be secured and recorded prior to construction starting on that phase.</p> <table data-bbox="451 667 1472 1213"> <tr> <td data-bbox="451 667 943 940"> <p><b>Applicant:</b> Jennifer Chester Manager, Siting and Land Rights Xcel Energy 1800 Larimer Street, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202 303-285-6533</p> </td> <td data-bbox="943 667 1472 940"> <p><b>Surveyors:</b> Corey Herring Project Manager LW Survey 12345 W. Alameda Pkwy, Ste 205 Lakewood, CO 80202 303-515-3337</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="451 951 943 1213"> <p><b>Engineer:</b> Josh Peterson, P.E. Principal Transmission Engineer Xcel Energy 1800 Larimer Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202 303-571-6559</p> </td> <td data-bbox="943 951 1472 1213"> <p><b>Consultant:</b> Stephanie Phippen Project Manager Tetra Tech, Inc. 390 Union Blvd, Suite 400 Lakewood, CO 80228 303-980-3515</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Applicant:</b> Jennifer Chester Manager, Siting and Land Rights Xcel Energy 1800 Larimer Street, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202 303-285-6533</p>	<p><b>Surveyors:</b> Corey Herring Project Manager LW Survey 12345 W. Alameda Pkwy, Ste 205 Lakewood, CO 80202 303-515-3337</p>	<p><b>Engineer:</b> Josh Peterson, P.E. Principal Transmission Engineer Xcel Energy 1800 Larimer Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202 303-571-6559</p>	<p><b>Consultant:</b> Stephanie Phippen Project Manager Tetra Tech, Inc. 390 Union Blvd, Suite 400 Lakewood, CO 80228 303-980-3515</p>
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<p>A justification for how the site plan conforms to the site plan criteria in Section 146-405(F) in the City Code</p>	<p>Pathway compliance with the site plan criteria in Section 146-405(F) is addressed in Section 6, Site Plan Criteria for Approval, of the Application.</p>				

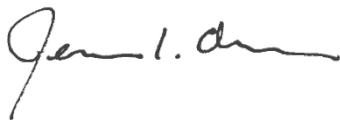
\*Requirements for the Letter of Introduction per Section 2 of the Aurora Site Plan Manual (Aurora 2024).

A portion of Pathway's Segment 5 is proposed to be located in Aurora, within land zoned as Parks and Open Space (POS). The proposed use is classified as a Minor Utility by the UDO, which includes above-ground electric transmission lines of public utilities (Section 146-6.2.U). Pathway facilities proposed in Aurora include approximately 1 mile of new 345-kV double-circuit electric transmission line. Segment 5 enters Aurora from the west, northeast of the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, and proceeds directly east for approximately 1 mile through Aurora jurisdiction, parallel to and north of East Quincy Avenue. Pathway facilities in Aurora parallel an existing 115-kV transmission line that runs parallel and south of East Quincy Avenue.

Project representatives met with Aurora staff on May 18, 2023, for the Pre-Application Meeting during which Xcel Energy provided information about Pathway and responded to questions from Aurora representatives. Project representatives met with Aurora staff on April 5, 2024, for the Pre-Submittal Meeting during which Aurora representatives provided information on the application submittal process. This Application package was prepared per the requirements of the Aurora UDO (Sections 146-5.3.3, 146-5.4.3.A, and 146-5.4.3.B) and the Site Plan Manual. This Application was also prepared pursuant to guidance and discussion provided during the Pre-Application Meeting attended by representatives of Aurora and Xcel Energy on May 18, 2023.

We look forward to working with you during the permit process. Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (303) 285-6533 or email at [jennifer.l.chester@xcelenergy.com](mailto:jennifer.l.chester@xcelenergy.com), or contact Xcel Energy's Siting & Land Rights Agent Cory Miller at (303) 571-7759 or [cory.r.miller@xcelenergy.com](mailto:cory.r.miller@xcelenergy.com), or contact Xcel Energy's permitting consultant, Stephanie Phippen with Tetra Tech Inc., at (303) 980-3515 or [stephanie.phippen@tetrattech.com](mailto:stephanie.phippen@tetrattech.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer L. Chester". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jennifer Chester  
Xcel Energy  
Siting & Land Rights, Manager  
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[jennifer.l.chester@xcelenergy.com](mailto:jennifer.l.chester@xcelenergy.com)