



**TRI-STATE**

Generation and Transmission  
Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



# BIG SANDY—LINCOLN—MIDWAY

## 230-kV Transmission Line

## Environment and Lands

### RUS

Tri-State is requesting the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS), to provide financial assistance for the proposed thermal upgrade project. Serving as the lead federal agency, RUS is responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be developed which will enable RUS to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project.

### Environmental Assessment

The EA will provide a description of the project, the need for the project, alternatives to the project, an analysis of the affected environment and potential effects to the natural and human environment, mitigation, and monitoring measures. The EA will also describe the public involvement process, including tribes, individuals, organizations, and agencies consulted in accordance with NEPA.

### Range of Topics to be evaluated

The upgrades will occur within an existing transmission right-of-way (ROW), on an existing transmission line. The EA will analyze the affected environment and potential effects on the following human and natural environmental resources:

- Existing and Future Land Use including Agriculture
- Geology, Minerals, and Soils
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Water Resources
- Wetlands and Floodplains
- Vegetation Resources including Noxious and Invasive Weeds
- Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
- Threatened or Endangered Species
- Recreation



- Visual Resources
- Economic and Social Values
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials or Solid Waste
- Public Health and Safety
- Cultural Resources
- Transportation and Access
- Electrical Characteristics and Public Safety
- Radio and Television Interference

Disturbance will be limited to the existing ROW and will be short term, primarily during the construction period. No significant impacts to natural resources, cultural resources, recreation, or land use are expected. The project is not expected to result in significant impacts to public health and safety or to the social values and economies of the communities within the project area.

## Working with Landowners

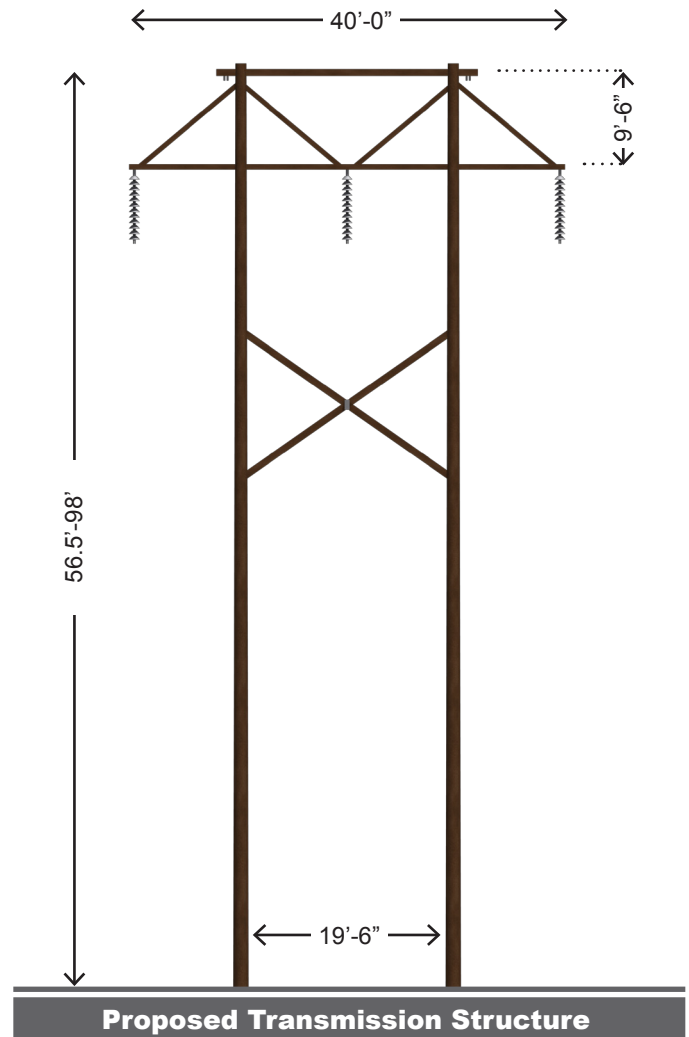
If you own land that already has an easement for the existing Big Sandy–Lincoln–Midway 230-kV transmission line, a land services agency would contact you to discuss construction, and request permission for workers and contractors to enter your property. The landowner would retain title to the land and may continue to use the property in ways that are compatible with the transmission line.

The following measures will be taken to mitigate impacts from construction on private property:

- Tri-State will notify all fee property owners located on the transmission line right-of-way prior to beginning of construction activities.
- The contractor shall limit movement of crews, vehicles, and equipment on the right-of-way and approved access routes to minimize damage to property and disruption of normal land use activity.
- Construction trails not required for maintenance access shall be restored to the original contour and made impassable to vehicular traffic.
- Access to the right-of-way is restricted in order to respect the property rights of the affected land owners.
- The contractor shall maintain all fences and gates during the construction period. Any fence or gate damaged during construction will be repaired immediately by the contractor.
- The contractor shall coordinate with the landowners to avoid impacting the normal function of irrigation devices during project construction and operation.
- The contractor shall level, fill, and grade, or otherwise eliminate, at the earliest opportunity, all construction ruts that are detrimental to agricultural operations and/or hazardous to movement of vehicles and equipment.
- Damage to ditches, tile drains, culverts, terraces, local roads, and other similar land use features shall be corrected as necessary by the contractor.
- The land and facilities shall be restored as nearly as practicable to their original condition.
- At the conclusion of the construction period, Tri-State would promptly stabilize disturbed areas to protect them from wind and water erosion.

- Disturbed areas would be seeded using a seed mix recommended by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ag Extension Office, and/or the County Weed Control Officer. All seed would be certified weed-free.

Maintenance crews would periodically inspect, repair, and maintain the line. Ground inspections are usually performed one time each year. Landowners would be compensated for any crop and property damage caused by construction or maintenance of the transmission line.



### Contact Information

**Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association  
Transmission-Environmental Department**  
1100 W. 116th Ave., Westminster, Colo. 80234  
Phone: 800-332-0498  
For more information, visit [www.tristategt.org](http://www.tristategt.org)