

Stakeholder Outreach 11.20.2015

Q: Are the line mileage jointly owned part of this total?

A: 100% of the line miles Tri-State has stake in or control over.

Q: On the Burlington-Lamar line is that going to be wood "H" frame 230 wooden line?

A: At this stage, I don't know it's still under design.

Q: There is the 115kv line there already (Burlington-Wray) are you building the 230 and then breaking out the 115 line? When in 2016 is service date?

A: They will run parallel, I don't know the quarter off the top of my head but I'll get that to you.

Q: What you should consider is continuing this on, and closing the loop between Cahone and Lost Canyon, at some time.

A: Chris Pink's response was that the Montrose-Nucla-Cahone line is the one under the most stress, and that the line from Cahone to Lost Canyon, while stressed, has some relief by way of the Anasazi system just south of Cahone

Q: So when you say there are contingencies that have overloaded that line you mean that the contingencies have actually happened or that you anticipate them? (Walsenberg-Camanche Line)

A: We do simulations and the system has to meet criteria under outages. So we will model the system, and then run simulations with the lines tripping and mitigate problems. The system has to work with a single, unexpected outage.

Q: Did you mean you need a new generation source? (San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project)

A: The four corners area is considered a transmission hub because a lot of transmission goes to and from there. There is some expected load growth in this area, and you have to plan the system for a single contingency (which is when any of these lines overloads another one or even worse, an outage in Hesperus.) So the source is not new generation, it's a new transmission line

Q: (Nucla Cahone and San Juan related to TOT2A load serving gets first dibs). Is this the beginning toward perhaps a new circuit on 2A, so that when Nucla is off and the load gets higher and higher, there will be some flow-through capability?

A: Similar to Lamar Front Range, we have not done a Lamar Front Range type study or developed that type of plan for Western Colorado. Lamar Front Range assumes 2000MW of new injection. Is it going to happen? Most likely not, but it provides a guide, so if we are going to build it then it aligns with Lamar Front Range. CCPG Western Slope Colorado Study Group did analyze a potential path of projects that could increase TOT 2A capacity, there is knowledge about there out there but Tri-State does not have any plans to construct any of those projects on our own.

Q: (San Juan Basin Energy Connect) On this line it's on track for in-service date of 2018 and this would satisfy what you were trying to do with your previous San Luis Valley Line?

A: SLV is a little different, it's on an island over here and the primary goal was to increase reliability with Calumet, and that project has been cancelled. We also had a project that went from San Luis Valley to Taos, and that has also been cancelled and this is just the nature of the business. In my world I want to connect electrically this BUS to this BUS, so I simulate that and hand it off to land rights and ROW folks and they have to actually find a path. Sometimes that path is too expensive or too risky and they say "this isn't viable." So San Juan is to serve this part of the system and it's close to this area.

Q: What was the Valley-Corridor Project?

A: That was a 230kV line from San Luis Valley to Taos.

Suggestion: I still think that line to Walsenburg is a good idea

Response: Do you think WAPA could help us get the routing for that? If WAPA is interested in participating, maybe you could help get the corridor.

Response: I think that's Tri-State and PSCo's service load area. I'll leave that to you all.

Q: You have Lamar-Boone as the next element. I believe the shortest element is a 4 mile tie between Pawnee and Story; wouldn't you get benefits as far as moving power? Isn't this like the low hanging fruit of this project, wouldn't you get benefits from doing that small chunk?

A: Pawnee is not a Tri-State generation facility so I can't speak to the resource need of Pawnee. Our primary need is at Lamar, and so I can speak to that need. Maybe this is something we can bring up at CCPG on December 10, 2015.

Q: I would like to get a little more about where you are at on Western Colorado Transmission Project and if you're on target? Are you still in the routing stage or are you in the construction phase?

A: We are rebuilding the line and the goal is to utilize most of the existing right-of-way. I believe over 90% of the project will be built using the existing right-of-way. The challenge is we have to have a system in place that can accommodate an almost year-long outage to each of those lines. You have to simulate contingencies around that. The plan right now is to reconstruct this portion between Nucla and Cahone in 2017 and the portion between Montrose and Nucla in 2018. Yes we are in the routing stage. I believe BLM submitted a draft for public comment on November 3.

Q: I believe that Tri-State has some mobile generation that it can bring in when there are constraints. Are there any plans for that? (Montrose-Nucla-Cahone)

A: So our mobile generator is 2MW. They are Caterpillar Diesel and the idea is that there are areas that are radial and cannot be backed-up on the distribution system anywhere else so the idea is to take this into areas where the loads are low, to serve those loads while you are energizing the system. It's 2MW at sea level, and it just goes down from there.

Q: Have you considered Lamar-Gladstone as a potential project?

A: It was considered within the 20 year scenario within the CCPG Conceptual Working Group and it was considered between Lamar and Clapham east of Gladstone (140 miles of line) but that was done in the context of looking at alternatives, within the study, and what the planner found was that it was more economical to add a second circuit between Boone and Walsenburg. He also found rather than build another line, that you could do some upgrades to the existing system, and make some of the radial networks looped, and serve more loads. So yes it has been considered, but it was too expensive.