

Colorado's Power Pathway – Xcel Energy Responses to Referral Agency Comments

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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment_2026-06-24.pdf) Kari Parsons Project Manager El Paso County VIA EMAIL RE: Xcel PowerPathway Segment 5 Northern PortionSite Development Plan Dear Kari Parsons, The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Air Pollution Control Division (APCD or Division) received a request for an air quality administrative review concerning the proposed Xcel PowerPathway Segment 5 project as described in your correspondence dated June 22, 2026. The Division has reviewed the project letter and respectfully offers the following comments. Please note that the following Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) regulations may not be inclusive of the regulations the proposed project will be subject to. It is the responsibility of the involved parties to determine what regulations they are subject to and follow them accordingly. APEN and Regulation No. 3 We note that projects similar to this proposal have included the use of engines and/or generators. In Colorado, most businesses that are or will be emitting air pollutants above certain levels are required to report those emissions to the Division by completing an Air Pollutant Emissions Notice (APEN). This is a two in one form for reporting air emissions and to obtain an air permit, if a permit will be required. While only businesses that exceed the AQCC reporting thresholds are required to report their emissions, all businesses - regardless of emission amount - must always comply with the Colorado AQCC regulations, found here https://cdphe.colorado.gov/aqcc-regulations. APEN and permit reporting thresholds are provided at https://cdphe.colorado.gov/apens-and-air-permits/apen-and-permit-threshold-table. A permit may not be required if it meets the following criteria:¹ • Is a stationary internal combustion engine that is an emergency power generator that operates no more than 250 hrs/year; or • Is a stationary internal combustion engine with uncontrolled actual emissions less than 5 tons per year for each individual criteria pollutant emitted; or • Is a stationary internal combustion engine with manufacturer's site-rated horsepower of less than 50 For additional information on exemptions and permitting requirements, please visit https://cdphe.colorado.gov/apens-and-air-permits/common-apen-or-air-permit-exemptions. Land Development We also note that projects similar to this proposal often involve land development. Under Colorado air quality regulations, land development refers to all land clearing activities, including but not limited to land preparation such as excavating or grading, for residential, commercial or industrial development. Land development activities release fugitive dust, a pollutant regulation by the Division. Small land development activities are not subject to the same reporting and permitting requirements as large land activities. Specifically, land development activities that are less than 25 contiguous acres and less than 6 months in duration do not need to report air emissions to the Division. It is important to note that even if a permit is not required, fugitive dust control measures including the Land Development APEN Form APCD-223 must be followed at the site. Fugitive dust control techniques commonly included in the plan are included in the table below.	Noted. Xcel Energy will apply for a CDPHE APEN for land development prior to construction and follow state standards to control the release of fugitive dust related to construction, if necessary. The APEN will be required for a disturbance greater than 25 contiguous acres and land development activities longer than 6 months.

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Control Options for Unpaved Roadways Watering Use of chemical stabilizer Paving Controlling vehicle speed Graveling Control Options for Mud and Dirt Carry-Out Onto Paved Surfaces Gravel entry ways Washing vehicle wheels Covering the load Not overfilling trucks Control Options for Disturbed Areas Watering Application of a chemical stabilizer Revegetation Controlling vehicle speed Compaction Furrowing the soil Wind Breaks Minimizing the areas of disturbance Synthetic or Natural Cover for Slopes		
Please refer to the website https://cdphe.colorado.gov/apens-and-air-permits for information on land use APENs and permit forms. Click on "Land Development" to access the land development specific APEN form. Please contact KC Houlden, Construction Permits Unit Supervisor, at 303-692-4092, kenneth.houlden@state.co.us if you have any specific questions about APENs and permit forms. If you have any other questions or need additional information, please use the contact info listed above, or e-mail or call me directly. Thank you for contacting the Air Pollution Control Division about your project. Sincerely, Brendan Cicone Air Quality and Transportation Planner General SIP Unit Air Pollution Control Division Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 303-691-7486 // brendan.cicone@state.co.us 1. APEN or Permit Exemptions, CDPHE, https://cdphe.colorado.gov/apens-and-air-permits/common-apen-or-air-permit-exemptions		
EPC Parks Department (EPC Parks Department_2026-06-25_Comment.txt)		
El Paso County Parks and Community Services has reviewed this Site Development Plan for the Xcel Power Pathway Project. As noted in previously reviewed 1041 Permit applications, the 2022 El Paso County Parks Master Plan shows no impacts to existing or proposed parks, trails, bicycle routes, or open space. As such, no trail easements or park land considerations are necessary for this project. El Paso County Parks Department continues to have no objections to the powerline project. Thank you!		Noted.
PCD Project Manager (PCD Project Manager_2026-06-29_Comment.txt, PCD Project Manager_2026-07-15_Comment.txt, PCD Project Manager_2026-07-20_Comment.txt, PCD Project Manager_2026-07-20_002_Comment.txt, PCD Project Manager_2026-07-20_003_Comment.txt)		

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Please complete the submittal. Do not refer to documents in another closed file or a future document to be submitted. Please upload the report, document, or form to that specific line item required with the site development plan. Please use the application and checklists on our website as previously sent to you. Multiple agencies are reviewing the project and need a complete package submittal for the site development file in EDARP. This is standard practice. Please provide the documentation that the applicant has the private property owners permission to construct or that the acquisition process has been finalized for properties outside of Xcel's ownership. Alternatively, have that private property owner sign the application form. Please provide the link or thumb drives for the County ROW assessment prior to construction. Please provide the site development plan depicting the line, poles and other accessory uses. This should show the exact location of the line & poles, easements, etc in reference to the County ROW and private/public property. Dimensions & details shall be depicted. Please see site development plan checklist as previously provided. No site development plan has been provided at any time in the process for the 1041. Site Dev Plan Map checklist: https://planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com/applications-and-checklists/#docaccess-e321615d4dc43f2a5f0cca4517e37c9a Please provide the requested forms. The forms have not been submitted previously.	Xcel Energy and El Paso County representatives met on July 17, 2026, to discuss items to be provided to the County related to the Pathway project. As of July 22, 2026, all requested items have been provided by Xcel Energy to the County. No further submittals of information in response to these comments are anticipated.
Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. (Mountain View Electric Association, Inc._2026-07-07_Comment.txt, Mountain View Electric Association, Inc._2026-06-29_Comment.txt, and Mountain View Electric Association, Inc._2026-06-29.pdf)	
Please see Comment Letter dated 6/29/2026.	Noted. Please see the response to the comment letter below.
Please see attached comment letter.	Noted. Please see the response to the comment letter below.
Jun 29, 2026 Kari Parsons El Paso County Development Services 2880 International Circle, Suite 110 Colorado Springs, CO 80910 SUBJECT: Engineering Review Comment Mountain View Electric Association Inc. (MVEA) To El Paso County: MVEA has these comments about the following: Project Name: Xcel PowerPathway Segment 5 Northern Portion Site Development Plan Project Number: PPR2617 Description: Proposed installation of 44 miles of overhead transmission line. This area is within Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. certificated area. MVEA currently serves these parcels according to our Line Extension Policy. MVEA will work with applicant to obtain all necessary crossing agreements. Information can be obtained by contacting MVEA's Engineering Department. MVEA will work with the developer on the design of the electric service and to acquire any needed utility easements.	Noted. Xcel Energy is continuing to coordinate with MVEA regarding the necessity of any crossing agreement.

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MVEA existing electric facilities are located within the proposed parcels. Xcel Energy is required to coordinate with MVEA to obtain all necessary crossing agreements prior to the commencement of any construction activities.. If additional information is required, please contact me at (719) 494-2685. Our office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday. Sincerely, LAURA J. HUTSON, Right-of-Way Specialist	
EPC Environmental Services (EPC Environmental Services_2026-06-29_Comment.txt)	
Please provide the documentation as requested.	No information was requested by Environmental Services. See the response to the PCD Project Manager comments.
Colorado Springs Airport Advisory Commission (Colorado Springs Airport Advisory Commission_2026-07-06_Comment.txt)	
This project lies outside the Airport overlay, the Airport has no comments.	Noted.
E911 Authority (E911 Authority - El Paso-Teller County_2026-07-08_Comment.txt)	
No action for E911 on this submittal. Thank you. Justin	Noted.
Upper Black Squirrel Creek GWMD (Upper Black Squirrel Creek GWMD_2026-07-08_Comment.txt)	
The Upper Black Squirrel Creek GWMD does not have any comments at this time but does respectfully reserve the right to comment on any future submittals.	Noted.
Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (Pikes Peak Regional Building Department_2026-07-09_Comment.txt)	
Enumerations has no comment. Thank you, Becky Allen Enumerations Plans Examiner Pikes Peak Regional Building Department O: 719-799-2707 W: pprbd.org E: beckya@pprbd.org	Noted.
EPC DPW Development Services - Inspections (EPC DPW Development Services - Inspections_2026-07-13_Comment.txt)	
No Comments for Inspections	Noted.
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Colorado Parks and Wildlife_2026-07-14.pdf)	
Southeast Region 4255 Sinton Road Colorado Springs, CO 80907 PH: (719) 227-5200 13 July 2026 Kari Parsons El Paso County Planning & Community Development 2880 International Circle, Suite 110	Noted. Xcel Energy continues to coordinate with CPW regarding Pathway and will continue to do so in response to these comments. All comments provided herein were initially raised in 1041 application and no new concerns are noted in this referral response.

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Colorado Springs, CO 80910 PH: 719.520.6306 kariparsons@elpasoco.com Re: CPW comments on the proposed Xcel Power Pathway Segment 5 Northern Portion Site Development Plan in El Paso County, File #: PPR2617 Dear Kari Parsons, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed Xcel Power Pathway Segment 5 Northern Portion Site Development Plan (the Project) in El Paso County, Colorado. CPW staff members are familiar with the location of the Project and have reviewed documents provided in the application package and in previous agency referrals. CPW provided comments to Xcel in April 2025 for development of the Project within El Paso and Pueblo County (see Attachment A for CPW comments dated April 24, 2025). Since the Project plan in El Paso County does not appear to have changed since April 2025, CPW refers to the attached comment letter for our comments. We appreciate El Paso County's consideration of our comments and recommendations. As always, CPW staff members are available to work with El Paso County or Project developers on how best to minimize development impacts to wildlife and their habitats. If you have questions or would like clarification about any of our comments, please contact District Wildlife Manager Sarah Watson at 719-227-5200 or sarah.watson@state.co.us, District Wildlife Manager Philip Gurule at 719-828-4960 or philip.gurule@state.co.us, or Renewable Energy Liaison Victoria Poulton at 719- 661-7269 or victoria.poulton@state.co.us. Sincerely, Travis Sauder Assistant Area Wildlife Manager - Area 14 P 719.227.5267 C 719.439.9635 4255 Sinton Rd. Colorado Springs, CO 80907 travis.sauder@state.co.us Cc: Tim Kroening - Area Wildlife Manager -tim.kroening@state.co.us Sarah Watson - District Wildlife Manager - sarah.watson@state.co.us Philip Gurule - District Wildlife Manager - philip.gurule@state.co.us Appendix A. CPW Comments on Xcel Power Pathway 1041, El Paso and Pueblo Counties, Colorado, April 29, 2024	
Elbert Fire Protection District (Elbert Fire Protection District_2026-07-19_Comment.txt)	
This project appears to lie outside the jurisdiction of the Elbert Fire Protection District, the District has no comments.	Noted.
EPC Environmental Services (CommunityResourcesDepartmentEnvDivision_7-20-26.pdf)	
The El Paso County Environmental Division has completed its review of the Xcel Power Pathway Segment 5 Site Development Plan PPR2617. Our review consisted of the following items: wetlands, federally listed threatened or endangered species, general wildlife resources, migratory birds and noxious weeds.	Xcel Energy's response to this similar comment from the Responses to the First Referral Agency Comments, submitted to El Paso County on January 13, 2025, is provided: Xcel Energy anticipates avoiding impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) or wetlands in El Paso County and therefore does not anticipate that Pathway facilities in the county will require a Nationwide Permit 57 or other U.S. Army

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1. General agency comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or a completed USACE permit shall be provided to the Planning and Community Development Department prior to project commencement if ground-disturbing activities will occur in intermittent, perennial, or wetland aquatic resources. Documentation from the Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) shall be provided to the Planning and Community Development Department prior to project commencement if ground-disturbing activities will occur in state waters which are defined as "Any and all surface and subsurface waters which are contained in or flow in or through the state" (besides certain exclusions) C.R.S 25-8-103 (19). The applicant is hereby on notice that the USACE and WQCD have regulatory jurisdiction over wetlands and other aquatic resources. It is the applicant's responsibility, and not El Paso County's, to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Clean Water Act and Colorado House Bill 24-1379/Regulation 87.	Corps of Engineers (USACE) permitting under the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 404. Associated access roads, laydown yards, and other appurtenant features of Pathway have been sited to avoid permanent impacts to wetlands and WOTUS features. In the event that a regulated water resource cannot be avoided, Pathway will comply with applicable federal and state regulations, including permit requirements under Section 404 of the CWA. Temporary impacts to wetlands and WOTUS during construction of Pathway will be avoided to the extent practicable. If wetlands cannot be avoided, matting and other protective temporary measures will be used. Depending on the condition of the wetland soil and hydrology, matting may be used in some cases to protect wetlands from rutting. To avoid potential indirect impacts from construction-related erosion and sediment movement during construction, Pathway will adhere to erosion and sediment control BMPs outlined in the SWMP, which will include erosion control and revegetation measures.
2. Documentation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding threatened and endangered species shall be provided to the Planning and Community Development Department prior to project commencement. The applicant is hereby on notice that the USFWS has regulatory jurisdiction over threatened and endangered species. It is the applicant's responsibility, and not El Paso County's, to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to, the Endangered Species Act.	See the response to the previous comment. Xcel Energy's response to this similar comment from the Responses to the First Referral Agency Comments, submitted to El Paso County on January 13, 2025, is provided: Xcel Energy will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
3. Be advised that migratory birds and the nests and eggs of these species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The applicant is hereby on notice that the USFWS has regulatory jurisdiction over migratory bird species. It is the applicant's responsibility, and not El Paso County's, to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the MBTA.	Xcel Energy's response to this similar comment from the Responses to the First Referral Agency Comments, submitted to El Paso County on January 13, 2025, is provided: Xcel Energy will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
4. The project may interfere with wildlife habitat. Information regarding wildlife protection measures such as fencing requirements, garbage containment, and protection/buffer zones shall be provided as appropriate. Information can be obtained from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.	See the responses to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife comments.

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5. A Noxious Weed Management Plan shall be provided to the Planning and Community Development Department. It is the applicant's responsibility, and not El Paso County's, to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and the El Paso County Weed Management Plan.	Pathway will comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Pathway provided information on noxious weed control measures as Attachment D of the 1041 application.
The applicant must obtain the necessary approvals from all federal, state and county agencies as a part of their planning process. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (719) 520-7845.	Xcel Energy will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
EPC DPW Development Services – Engineering (EPC DPW Development Services - Engineering_2026-07-20_Comment.txt, EPC DPW Development Services - Engineering_2026-07-20.pdf, EPC DPW Development Services - Engineering_2026-07-20_002_Comment.txt)	
DPW Engineering review has comments on the following documents - Drainage Report	See the responses to the PCD Manager Drainage Report Comments.
Please sign and return the attached Road Impact Fee Acknowledgement form. [Provision of Road Impact Fee Acknowledgement Form]	The signed Road Impact Fee Acknowledgement form is provided concurrent with this response document.
Per the meeting on 7/17/26 - Please include the permanent access permit information with the next submittal in the same format as the temporary accesses. - Please include the link to the webviewer for the road condition survey.	The permanent access permit information has been emailed directly to Bret Dilts by Jennifer Chester on 7/22/26 as directed in the meeting with Mr. Dilts and Mr. Martyn.
Review by Bret Dilts, PE bretdilts@elpasoco.com 719-520-6864	Xcel Energy has completed the preconstruction road condition assessment and will provide El Paso County with the link to the web viewer as soon as it is available.
EPC DPW Stormwater (EPC DPW Stormwater_2026-07-20_003_Comment.txt)	
Review 1: EPC DPW Stormwater comments have been provided (in orange text boxes) on the following uploaded documents: - GEC Plan - GEC Checklist Reviewed by: Mikayla Hartford, P.E. Senior Engineer - Stormwater 719.339.5053 MikaylaHartford@elpasoco.com	See the responses to the GEC Plan and GEC Checklist comments below.
EPC DPW Stormwater GEC Plan Comments (EPC DPW Stormwater_2026-07-20_002_Comment.txt, EPC DPW Stormwater_2026-07-20_002.pdf)	
GEC Plan comments	See the responses to the GEC Plan comments below.
GEC Checklist Item X - within the GEC Plan include sheets for all proposed TCEs.	Temporary Control Measure details for prescribed structural control measures have been added as sheets 37-50 in the GEC Plans.

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Make this memo an attachment to the SWMP and then the actual details should go within the GEC Plan details sheets. But the details should be a part of the GEC planset with the border and title block, not just an attachment.	VT Memo appended to SWMP Tab 6, alongside all potential control measure details (structural and non-structural) as a conservative effort. Temporary Control Measure details for prescribed structural control measures have been added as sheets 37-50 in the GEC Plans.
EPC DPW Stormwater GEC Checklist comments (EPC DPW Stormwater_2026-07-20_Comment.txt, EPC DPW Stormwater_2026-07-20.pdf)	
GEC Checklist comments	See responses to the GEC Checklist comments below.
Highlighted text: Details for all proposed temporary construction control measures	Temporary Control Measure details for prescribed structural control measures have been added as sheets 37-50 in the GEC Plans.
PCD Manager Drainage Report Comments (PCD Project Manager_2026-07-21_Comment.txt, PCD Project Manager_2026-07-21.pdf)	
Drainage Report Comments	See responses to Drainage Report comments below.
Please place the signature over the seal.	Signature revised to overlap seal.
Joshua J. Palmer	Updated.
basins within El Paso County will end in "G", these may be removed (Pueblo County)	Noted; basins and FIRM panels outside of El Paso County removed.
Current effective date for FIRM maps is 12/7/2018, please update	Updated.
as discussed, these are in Pueblo Co and may be removed.	Noted; basins and FIRM maps outside of El Paso County removed.
this panel may be removed	Noted; basins and FIRM panels outside of El Paso County removed.
USAFA Base Planner (USAFA Base Planner_2026-07-21_Comment.txt)	
The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) has received the Northern Portion Site Development Plan (PPR2617) review request. We initially provided our review on Xcel Power Pathway (AASI231) on 17 April 2025. It is our understanding that any future secondary lines will coordinate with USAFA as part of the El Paso County permitting process. USAFA has no additional comments regarding the proposed construction.	Xcel Energy's response to this similar comment from the Responses to the First Referral Agency Comments, submitted to El Paso County on January 13, 2025, is provided: Xcel Energy is not currently planning any secondary lines as part of Pathway. Any transmission lines that may be proposed in the future will require permits from El Paso County and coordination with USAFA as part of the El Paso County permitting process.