



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
10<sup>TH</sup> CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON  
USAF ACADEMY COLORADO

Ms. Erin M. Manning  
Deputy Director  
10th Civil Engineer Squadron  
8120 Edgerton Drive, Suite 40  
USAF Academy CO 80840-2400

Ms. Kari Parsons  
El Paso County  
E.P.C. Planning and Community Development  
2880 International Circle  
Colorado Springs CO 80910

Dear Ms. Parsons

**Subject:** USAFA review of the proposed Xcel Power Pathway (AASI231)

The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) received notification regarding El Paso County's upcoming review for Xcel Power Pathway (AASI231). We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this application and, after a thorough review, we have the following comments.

Prior to the submittal of this project, USAFA collaborated with Xcel Power to ensure that the proposed power lines did not encroach on USAFA's flight training areas in eastern El Paso County. The proposed placement of the power lines confirms that Xcel Power listened and acted on USAFA's concerns, which was noted and appreciated. By placing the proposed power lines outside of our flight training areas, USAFA can continue powered flight training in eastern El Paso County.

Our powered flight program relies on multiple flight training areas in both Elbert County and El Paso County. The 557th Flight Training Squadron's mission is to develop leaders and Air Force pilots among cadets at USAFA. During training, the cadets fly single engine propeller planes (T-53, T-51 and T-41) at low altitudes (500' to 2,000') from USAFA's Davis Airfield to one of the training areas where they have been refining their flying skills over Colorado's open plains since the 1970s. These aircraft operations occur from sunrise to sunset, Monday through Friday and occasionally on Saturdays, with substantial numbers of training aircraft. Again, we appreciate Xcel Power's willingness to work with USAFA to keep the current flight training areas viable for many years to come.

USAFA is also concerned with possible secondary lines that may run west from this main trunk line. We request assurances that any future proposed secondary lines will not encroach

on the flight training areas. These secondary lines may not be as high as the primary lines, but they may still create a hazard if placed underneath the training areas. If needed, USAFA is willing to start a dialog to ensure all interests are considered and protected.

Lastly, Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 77 may require review of this project (including the proposed use of any associated construction cranes) by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). If this review has not been accomplished, the process can be started by going to <https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp>. Instructions for how to determine if a full aeronautical study is required, are on the main page. Once the review is complete, we request that the applicant send a copy of either the page showing no further study is required, or the aeronautical study review number to the email below.

Thank you for the opportunity to review. If you have any questions, please contact our Senior Community Planner, Mr. Matthew Fitzsimmons 10 CES/CENPP, at [matthew.fitzsimmons.4.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:matthew.fitzsimmons.4.ctr@us.af.mil) and [10ces.cenp.usafadevreviewgrp@us.af.mil](mailto:10ces.cenp.usafadevreviewgrp@us.af.mil).

Sincerely

ERIN M. MANNING, GS-14, USAF