

COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY

**ATTACHMENT V: CULTURAL RESOURCE DESKTOP REVIEW FOR
COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY IN EL PASO COUNTY**

CULTURAL RESOURCES DESKTOP REVIEW FOR COLORADO'S POWER PATHWAY IN EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

December 2022



Prepared for



Xcel Energy, 1800 Larimer Street, Suite 1600
Denver, CO, 80202

Prepared by



390 Union Blvd, Suite 400,
Lakewood, CO, 80228

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1

2.0 RESULTS OF DESKTOP REVIEW FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES 1

 2.1 Previous Cultural Resource Investigations..... 1

 2.2 Previously Identified Cultural Resources..... 1

3.0 CONCLUSIONS 2

List of Tables

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Investigations within the Research Area..... 1

Acronyms and Abbreviations

COMPASS	The GIS site database maintained by the Colorado Historic Preservation Office
IF	Isolated find
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
Pathway	Colorado's Power Pathway
ROW	Right-of-way
Tetra Tech	Tetra Tech, Inc.
UDP	Unanticipated Discovery Protocol

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to describe the results of a site file search and literature review for Public Service Company of Colorado, a Colorado corporation conducting business as Xcel Energy in support of Colorado's Power Pathway (Pathway) in El Paso County, Colorado. Pathway facilities proposed in El Paso County include 45 miles of 345-kilovolt double-circuit transmission line, with a right-of-way (ROW) of 150 feet total width, 75 feet on either side of the transmission line corridor centerline. Pathway will be located on private and state lands. A Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) archaeologist conducted the search of the transmission line ROW and a 150-foot buffer (the Research Area).

2.0 RESULTS OF DESKTOP REVIEW FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

A site file search and literature review were completed by requesting inventory and GIS data from the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation online platform COMPASS, the cultural resource database in December 2022. The COMPASS database includes records of previously recorded historic sites, precontact sites, paleontological sites, isolated finds (IFs) and properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The COMPASS data provided for Pathway was produced by digitizing site locations from an electronic map. Although the digitization of these locations may be accurate, it is based upon data collected from multiple sources over a 40-year span and therefore may not accurately represent a given site location or site boundary's full extent.

2.1 Previous Cultural Resource Investigations

The COMPASS data provided indicate that within the Research Area, three cultural resource investigations have been conducted (Table 1). The prior investigations consist of cultural resource surveys conducted for storm repair, a pipeline, and a transmission line. These surveys briefly intersect the transmission line ROW.

Table 1. Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Investigations within the Research Area

Doc. No.	Title	Authors	Date
MC.E.NR11	Tri-State Lincoln-Midway Transmission Line, Cultural Resource Reconnaissance for Emergency Storm Damage Repair, Elbert and El Paso Counties, Colorado (1420-04-02).	Carl Spath for the Department of Energy	2005
MC.FH.R1	Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of Lincoln to Midway 230kV Transmission Line, Lincoln, Elbert, and El Paso Counties, Colorado.	Robert Wunderlich, Erick Hendrickson, and David Killam for the USDA Rural Development	2009
EP.SC.NR21	El Paso Limited Results Cultural Resource Survey Form on Private Lands	Lana Pearson of the NRCS	2010

2.2 Previously Identified Cultural Resources

No cultural resources have been recorded within the transmission line ROW. Within the 150-foot ROW buffer, one cultural resource has been previously documented. The resource consists of a prehistoric IF (5EP.6331). The IF has been recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

No cultural resources have been recorded within the transmission line ROW. One previously recorded cultural resource has been identified in the 150-foot transmission line ROW buffer in El Paso County. This resource, a prehistoric IF, has been recommended not eligible for listing in the NRHP. Isolated finds must meet certain requirements to be found eligible for listing in the NRHP. This IF does not meet these requirements. The transmission line will not have an adverse effect on any cultural resources in El Paso County.

The low density of sites identified within the Research Area may be a function of a general lack of surveys and archaeological investigations in the region rather than an actual lack of sites, as a large portion of the Research Area has not been previously surveyed. Tetra Tech advises that undocumented cultural resources may be present within the Research Area and recommends that a detailed Unanticipated Discovery Protocol (UDP) be developed and implemented in the event that an unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources or human remains occurs. The UDP should detail the specific protocols and notifications required by Colorado Revised Statutes Title 24- Article 80 Section 13 (CRS 24-80-1301 to CRS 24-80-1305) for discovery of human remains or previously unknown archaeological resources.