



ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting Held in the BOCC Meeting Room
February 22, 2023 at 9:00 AM

A. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: PASTOR ANDERSON/BREWSTER

Pastor Anderson provided the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 9:02 AM. County Clerk Rhonda Braun called the roll and all commissioners were present.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approval of Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Dallas Schroeder seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

D. CONSENT AGENDA

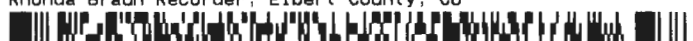
Motion: Approval of Consent Agenda as presented

Commissioner Dallas Schroeder made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

1. Approval of CDS Mylars as needed
2. Approval of Vouchers as needed
3. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Variance Reports
4. Approval of Modification of Premises/ Walmart Beer and Wine License
5. Amended Public Trustee 4th Quarter Report
6. Approval of Confidential Case Processing Policy For Health and Human Services
7. Approval of Conflict of Interest, Nepotism Policy for Human Services



E. ELECTED OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF REPORTS

County Treasurer Sherry Hewlett provided a brief update on the 4th quarter report stating that she discovered an error and the updated report shows the additional funds that were not on the original report.

Facilities Manager Bobby Chevarria provided an update on the new public works facility. Mr. Chevarria explained how much of the budgeted amount has been spent up to date; water and sewer and weather delays in the plumbing. Mr. Chevarria is hopeful that they can get the structure walls and roof in place by March and, once it's dry-in, the process will move much more quickly. Mr. Chevarria stated that bid packets would be going out soon regarding the Admin building's parking lot and HVAC.

Office of Emergency Management, Shane Pynes provided an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and explained that the preliminary plan has been passed by State and Fire and is currently being reviewed by FEMA.

Commissioner Richardson asked that the Hazard Mitigation Plan come before the Board for further discussion at the next meeting.

Community and Economic Development Director Marc Dettenrieder explained that out of the 90 plus properties owned by the county, there is one that has a high value and is around 150 acres. Mr. Dettenrieder expressed the great potential for a public use and would like the Board's permission to further explore this and work with entities that would be interested in creating this kind of area.

Commissioner Thayer asked if Elizabeth Parks and Rec were interested in this property. Mr. Dettenrieder stated that they are and would like to get the information out to the public. The Commissioners agreed and would like Mr. Dettenrieder to explore this further.

F. CITIZEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Richardson explained that two years ago Xcel had started sending flyers out regarding the power pathway. In that time, there have been several different proposed pathways and the County was able to work on the 1041 regulations in order to better be prepared and work with these types of projects. The Commissioners and public have been urging Xcel to move further east, but the new information out there is that they want to go through Kiowa. At this time there is no scheduled pre-application meeting set up or application turned in. Commissioner Richardson explained that until then they would not truly know what the route would be. Commissioner Richardson urged the citizens to reach out to the PUC.

Commissioner Richardson read the emailed citizen comment:

Debbie Cromer - concerned over the new proposed route, feels Xcel is not listening.

Susan & David Knapp - 11340 Copper Canyon Cir. - concerned over proposed power lines.

Mark Kanipe - concerned over power lines and negative impacts on property values and wildlife.

RaeMarie Knowles - 39244 Kiowa-Bennet Rd. - Feels these lines are dangerous for people and animals. Concerned over property values and feels Xcel should use easements that already exist for large power lines.



In-Person Citizen Comment:

Denise Humbert & Bill Coxsey - 12600 CR 134 - Drawn to Kiowa for its beauty and wildlife. Asks the Commissioners to work hard for the citizens to deny the power lines going through the heart of Kiowa.

Joe Price - 11600 Indian Hills Cir. - Feels the information from Xcel is vague and has tried to contact them several times. Would like to know what the County thinks and how this works into their plans. Mr. Price asked how to help citizens engage with the county.

Debbie Ullom - 11195 Copper Canyon Cir. - was told by Xcel that the latest map on their website was not accurate. Ms. Ullom explained that financing for property with these lines in them is nearly impossible to finance. The Town of Kiowa has sent a letter to stand up against these lines.

Kerry Jibblits - 19656 Wedemeyer - concerned about land values and impacts on agricultural land.

Diana Edstrom - 26060 CR 41 - asked what legal actions the County has against this project, are the Commissioners working with other counties going through this and what things can the citizens do. Ms. Edstrom said that Xcel is in the process of contacting land owners for easements and asked if the County is in contact with Xcel.

Calla Walker - 11220 Copper Canyon Cir. - shares the concerns of her neighbors and added that her family have cattle that they use to feed themselves and is worried about their health.

Dustin Weland - 14018 Hwy 86 - moved to Elbert County a year ago and found out that Xcel wanted to put a power pole on his five acres. Mr. Weland asked the commissioners to please work for the citizens.

Henry Smith - 25411 CR 105 - his property will have around 13 miles of the power line route. He explained that Xcel told him they would move if the county objects, but understands the role of the PUC.

Commissioner Thayer asked if Xcel had talked money or agreements with anyone.

Mr. Smith stated that there had been no agreements and no payment amounts.

Lee Benjamin - 29691 Hwy 86 - Is a fan of electricity and would not like to go without it, but agrees that these types of lines do not need to go through town and need to move further east.

Public comment closed

Commissioner Richardson explained that the lengthy process and application and hearings are completed. Commissioner Richardson explained that the county had suggested the rush creek line for the new route and that in the 1041 regulations they can request 3rd party studies to be done and paid for by the applicant.

Commissioner Richardson called a recess at 10:13 AM and returned at 10:15 AM.



G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion on setting County Water Plan (Scope and Deliverables)

Community and Economic Development Director Marc Dettenrieder explained that the County Water Plan would tie into the County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Dettenrieder explained the water study from 2018 and the ongoing USGS Well Study will be used in the plan. Mr. Dettenrieder stated that public engagement is vital and creating policies focusing on conservation and how that affects future development will be important.

Commissioner Thayer asked if this would cover the entire County and Mr. Dettenrieder stated that it would. Mr. Dettenrieder also explained that very few counties have created a water master plan and Elbert County will be in the forefront.

Commissioner Schroeder appreciates the public education aspect of the plan.

Commissioner Richardson feels it is important to define the 300-year plan so it is more understandable.

2. Discussion on Draft Elbert County 2023 Employee Compensation Plan

County Manager Shawn Fletcher presented the draft Employee Compensation Plan and provided a background on the study that was completed. Mr. Fletcher stated that pay has been adjusted for employees and they will work on developing positions and working with departments with their needs. Mr. Fletcher stated that it is important to recognize the competing employers and retain employees as well as sustainability.

Commissioner Thayer appreciates the development of a plan.

Commissioner Richardson feels this is a substantial draft and would like this to go out for comments from the departments.

3. Discussion of 2024 Budget Goals

Commissioner Dallas Schroeder presented the draft 2024 Budget Goals. Commissioner Schroeder explained that the draft brings over a lot of last year's goals and a few additional goals. For example, a plan for cash in lieu and use of severance tax.

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consideration of February 8, 2023 Minutes

Motion: Approval of February 8, 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve the Minutes as presented and dispense with the reading. Commissioner Dallas Schroeder seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

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Rhonda Braun Recorder, Elbert County, Co



2. Consideration of Intergovernmental Agreement between Elbert County and Lincoln County

regarding Social Services

Health and Human Services Director Darcy Bolding presented an IGA between Elbert County and Lincoln County to provide child care assistance. Ms. Bolding explained that Lincoln County currently has 4 to 5 cases which will not burden our county and they will reimburse us for those services.

Commissioner Schroeder is glad we are cooperating with other counties.

No public comment

Motion: To Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Elbert County and Lincoln County regarding Social Services

Commissioner Dallas Schroeder made a motion to Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Elbert County and Lincoln County regarding Social Services. Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No – None

3. Second Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for Ambulance Secure Transportation Licensing and Inspection

County Attorney Bart Greer presented the updated IGA for Ambulance Secure Transportation. Mr. Greer stated that the changes were very minor and they incorporated legislation.

No public comment

Motion: To Approve the Updated Second Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for Ambulance Secure Transportation Licensing and Inspection.

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Approve the Updated Second Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for Ambulance Secure Transportation Licensing and Inspection. Commissioner Dallas Schroeder seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

I. BOARD PLANNING

1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. OEM Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Adoption of Compensation Plan
3. Budget Goals
4. Draft Resolution regarding opposition to discharge of weapons

Commissioner Richardson called a recess at 10:46 AM to return at 1:00 PM for the Land Use Hearing.

J. LAND USE HEARINGS 1:00 P.M.



The Land Use Hearing was called to order at 1:00 PM. County Clerk Rhonda Braun called to roll and all commissioners were present.

1. Prairie Ridge Buffalo Range Special Use by Review (case SU-19-0089) - Staff recommends continuance to May 10th, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Motion: To Open a Public Hearing for Prairie Ridge Buffalo Range Special Use Review SU-19-0089

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to open a Public Hearing for Prairie Ridge Buffalo Range Special Use Review SU-19-0089 . Commissioner Dallas Schroeder seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

Public Hearing Opened at 1:01 PM

CDS Director Greg Thompson requested a continuance to May 10th at 1:00 PM to allow the applicant more time to resolve water resource comments/issues.

Motion: To Continue Prairie Ridge Buffalo Range Special Use by Review SU-19-0089 to May 10, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to Continue Prairie Ridge Buffalo Range Special Use by Review SU-19-0089 to May 10, 2023 at 1:00 PM . Commissioner Dallas Schroeder seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

Motion: To Close a Public Hearing for Prairie Ridge Buffalo Range Special Use Review SU-19-0089

Commissioner Grant Thayer made a motion to close a Public Hearing for Prairie Ridge Buffalo Range Special Use Review SU-19-0089 . Commissioner Dallas Schroeder seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

Public Hearing Closed at 1:03 PM

K. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To Adjourn

Commissioner Dallas Schroeder made a motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Grant Thayer seconded the motion.

Yes - Chris Richardson, Grant Thayer, Dallas Schroeder

No - None

The meeting Adjourned at 1:04 PM.



Amanda Moore

From: noreply@civicclerk.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 6:42 AM
To: ClerktoBOCC
Cc: debbiecromer@fairpoint.net
Subject: [External] Public Comment Submission

Submitted by: Debbie Cromer
Email Address: debbiecromer@fairpoint.net

Commented on event: <https://elbertcoco.civicclerk.com/web/player.aspx?id=463>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: I want to express my concern about the latest proposed route for Xcel's high power line. I attended several of the previous meetings and do not recall this route being considered. I think the better plan is farther east, parallel to County Road 149 or farther east. The worst plan is across the basin as proposed. It doesn't seem like Xcel is listening to any suggestions, but I hope our county commissioners can prevail and stop them from coming across the Bijou Basin. Thank you.



Amanda Moore

From: susan knappandknapp.com <susan@knappandknapp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 4:58 PM
To: ClerktoBOCC
Subject: [External] Colorado Power Pathway

Attn: Honorable Chris Richardson Dist 1
Honorable Dalla Schroeder Dist 2
Honorable Grant Thayer Dist 3

February 22, 2023

My hope was to initially meet each of you in person and attend the meeting today. My brother, David Knapp and I purchased the home at 11340 Copper Canyon Circle, Kiowa, Colorado 80117 on September 14, 2022. The quality of construction and views from Villa del Vesper that was built by Bob and Ursula Hummel (sellers) to Perfection, which my brother refers to loosely as the "cabin" with Views beyond my dreams.

There was NO mention of potential Power lines along Kiowa Bennet Road or it might have affected our decision for this location. If additional interest looks to this location, I fully intend to be informed and Voice any concerns that my brother and I might have.

We are 4th generation Coloradoans with mother and Grandparents from Flagler and Arriba. Dad was from Ft Lupton. We Love this area. I was on the Arapahoe County Planning Commission for 17 years and respect a land owners right to use their property, but in respect and balance to others.

I have asked the Clerk to keep me on the list of interested citizens in the event of future discussions.

Sincerely,
Susan Knapp
susan@knappandknapp.com
David Knapp



February 18, 2023
Elbert County Commissioners
Re: Xcel Power Pathway

Attn: Commissioner Richardson
Commissioner Schroeder
Commissioner Thayer

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the current preferred and alternate routes for Segment 5 of Xcel Energy's Colorado Power Pathway.

With Colorado's growth along the front range, and the increasing demand for more energy, new transmission facilities are needed. The residents of Elbert and other rural counties in Colorado, are greatly impacted by the needs and decisions of those in larger, metropolitan communities. When a commissioner for the PUC is quoted as saying, "We are going to be slathering the Eastern Plains with wind and solar," it indicates that our communities are not a priority, our way of life does not matter, and the only thing perceived as being of value is our resource of open space and land to benefit the metro communities' demands for more energy.

These high voltage transmission lines will:

- Negatively impact our community (health concerns, views, landowner rights)
- Negatively impact the abundant wildlife in the area (change migration patterns, affect nesting)
- Decrease property values up to 45% ([Valuation study, WSJ](#))
- Increase the threat of wildfire in an area with tall grass and many trees
- Not benefit Elbert County (power is for the greater Denver Metro area)
- Bring wind and solar facilities to the area, which are even more impactful to the environment and community

I understand that you recently updated the 1041 Zoning Regulations, whose purpose is to facilitate the identification, designation, and regulation of areas or activities of state interest in Elbert County. Within these revised regulations, Section D, 4.5 says: "For new transmission lines and wind energy generation facilities and turbine installations, existing easements shall be used to the extent possible and expansion of existing easements is preferable to acquiring new easements".

I propose that having Xcel use and/or expand in existing rights of way by using the existing line along Quincy (east/west) and then down through the Rush Creek area (north/south), or by using the easement along I70 and down through Rush Creek. This would reduce the impact to residents of the county, facilitate the needs of the larger metropolitan communities, and respect the 1041 regulations. While there may be a cost increase to this alternative, it is but a small percentage of the overall project, and will be amortized across the years of depreciation to the consumer who is benefiting from the project, as opposed to the great cost that would be incurred by rural residents who receive no benefit if the current proposed routes are used.

We are counting on you to do your due diligence to protect the citizens of Elbert County and this beautiful place where we live.

Respectfully,
Mark Kanipe



Amanda Moore

From: noreply@civicclerk.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 3:10 PM
To: ClerktoBOCC
Subject: [External] Public Comment Submission

Submitted by: RaeMarie Knowles
Email Address: rmgordonknowles@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://elbertcoco.civicclerk.com/web/player.aspx?id=463>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Good Morning, Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments, to be placed on record, for the Board of County Commissioners Meeting. I would have preferred to speak in person, but as my business provides services to American Ranchers and two customers with an emergency need for my services had to come first. My name is RaeMarie Knowles and I live on Kiowa Bennett Rd. – Right in the new proposed path of this project – Which would go right through my front yard and over my house and our shop. I submit this comment to you and implore you to listen to me and your other constituents in Elbert County with regard to this Excel Power Pathways project. I have been in the fight from the start. As a 4th generation local, it breaks my heart in two to see a proposal that will bastardize the county I love so much, all in the name of the highly subsidized “Green New Deal”. Knowing that the County as a whole does not support this extreme government overreach program, I wanted to make sure you understood that Elbert County does not want these high voltage lines where we live. Since it is always best to speak about how it affects me as a person, let me be very frank. Allowing this company to put these massive towers right up the guts of Highway 86 and Kiowa Bennett Rd is unconscionable. You cannot let them bury your constituents under these dangerous high voltage lines for many reasons. First, it is dangerous. It absolutely insane and completely abhorrent, that these lines will literally go over the top of people’s homes . . . Like mine. You can try and search Google and find out if EMF’s and radiation can damage people under these high voltage lines through a documented process called, “Stray Voltage”, and you might find something buried in the “big money” rhetoric . . . But I can tell you, there is ample evidence that they do! Stray Voltage from these high powered lines can be directly attributed to premature animal deaths, human infertility, cancer, and even leukemia in children. I can assure you, the “science” is out there, if you look in the right places, there is a lot of data and studies that support these claims . . . Second, a study we have been circulating among Elbert County citizens, surely you have seen it by now, by The Wall Street Journal, gives strong evidence to the fact that property values plummet when these monstrous power lines go through their property . . . A whopping 50% if they are in your yard and 18% if they are just in your lines of sight! For someone like me, who will have to live directly under these dangerous power lines, I probably won’t be able to give my house away! And with the new proposal to cover the small acreage properties along Highway 86 and Kiowa Bennett Road, these massive towers will go right through many of our front yards. Most of Elbert County small acreage landowners, me included, will be completely upside down on our mortgages, almost overnight. That is completely unacceptable! Now, we do not want to see these lines anywhere in our beautiful county. That is a fact, but probably not feasible. However, there has to be a better option than burying many, many small acreage residences under these dangerous towers and taking away the value of their biggest asset in life – For most of us, that is the equity we have in our homes. There are other options, whether Excel likes them or not. There is more land further east, that would not force people to live in their homes, directly under this dangerous monstrosity. They can be placed a safe distance from residences and in many times, out of the line of sight of people’s homes. (And I am talking way out East, away from people!) More importantly, there are easements along Highway 287, I-70, and the Railroad that can and SHOULD be used for this project – Areas that are literally not over the tops of people’s houses. It is unacceptable to treat so many of our citizens this way and completely unnecessary for Excel to build these massive lines, literally, in our front yards for the benefit of Denver! These lines, if they HAVE to go through so many small properties, can be buried underground. More cost, yes. Safer from EMF’s also, yes. Out of line of sight and protects our home values, yes. I would like to cite the local county commissioners who made that happen in Chino Hills, CA: This is the most recent update on



their website: Southern California Edison's project to underground the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission began in September of 2013 and is essentially complete. Multiple contractors constructed the project in order to reduce the impact on Chino Hills residents. The TRTP line was energized in the fourth quarter of 2016. This one of many places that held the power companies feet to the fire in an effort to keep their county constituents safe, with their property values still intact. It can be done and if Excel insists on hurting so many Elbert County home owners it should be pursued at all costs. In conclusion, please help us. I am calling on all of you to stand with us against Excel to protect Elbert County homeowners from being victimized by this incredible overreach. Utilize all of your resources. Confer with the County Attorney. Protect us "little guys" who don't have a team of high-powered lawyers at our disposal. We are your constituents, we voted you into office and we need your help. We are "Elbert County" and we need you to stand tall and stand up for us. Thank you for your time. RaeMarie Knowles 39244 Kiowa Bennett Rd. Kiowa, CO



Amanda Moore

From: noreply@civicclerk.com
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2023 8:18 PM
To: ClerktoBOCC
Cc: lugriffhl@hotmail.com
Subject: [External] Public Comment Submission

Submitted by: Amy Espinoza
Email Address: lugriffhl@hotmail.com

Commented on event: <https://elbertcoco.civicclerk.com/web/player.aspx?id=463>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: I oppose Xcel's Power Pathway through Elbert County because these high voltage transmission lines will:

- Negatively impact our community (health concerns, views, landowner rights)
- Negatively impact the abundant wildlife in the area (change migration patterns, affect nesting)
- Decrease property values up to 45% (Valuation study, WSJ)
- Increase the threat of wildfire in an area with tall grass and many trees
- Not benefit Elbert County (power is for the greater Denver Metro area)
- Bring wind and solar facilities to the area, which are even more impactful to the environment and community

I propose that having Xcel use and/or expand in existing rights of way by using the existing line along Quincy (east/west) and then down through the Rush Creek area (north/south), or by using the easement along I70 and down through Rush Creek. This would greatly reduce the impact to residents of the county, facilitate the needs of the larger metropolitan communities, and respect our 1041 regulations. While there may be a cost increase to this alternative, it is but a small percentage of the overall project, and will be amortized across the years of depreciation to the consumer who is benefiting from the project, as opposed to the great cost that would be incurred by rural residents who receive no benefit if the current proposed routes are used. Life, Integrity and Goodness for Elbert County and Colorado as a whole. Thank you, Amy



Amanda Moore

From: noreply@civicclerk.com
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 9:48 PM
To: ClerktoBOCC
Cc: lanecarter707@gmail.com
Subject: [External] Public Comment Submission

Submitted by: Lane & Debbie Carter
Email Address: lanecarter707@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://elbertcoco.civicclerk.com/web/player.aspx?id=463>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: February 22, 2023 Dear County Commissioners, Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns and recommendation regarding the proposed Colorado's Power Pathway being built across Elbert County by Xcel Energy that will provide electricity to the Denver and Front Range communities with a new 345-kilovolt electric transmission line. Despite tremendous opposition, Xcel Energy has proposed to cross Highway 24 about a mile west of Simla. They disregarded many suggestions to move it a few miles further east. By doing this, Xcel can utilize their EXISTING transmission line right-of-way that crosses Highway 24 between Matheson and Limon and crosses Highway 86 a few miles west of I-70. This creates a win-win situation. Since there is already a transmission line there, it does not affect any additional residences; the eagles and birds in this area are already at risk; it will not destruct any additional land that will permanently scar the beautiful views; and Elbert County will receive the same compensation from Xcel Energy. While moving the proposed transmission lines to Xcel's EXISTING pathway will increase the cost of the project, it is a cost that can be recovered as they supply electricity to Denver and the Front Range. And they may have to make an additional request to the PUC. But this is the least destructive and most desirable plan for the residents of Elbert County. Please deny Xcel Energy's current plan and encourage them to use their EXISTING right-of-way for their new Colorado's Power Pathway project to cross Elbert County. Thank you for your consideration and support! Lane & Debbie Carter 24800 County Road 117 Simla, Colorado 80835



Amanda Moore

From: noreply@civicclerk.com
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 8:41 PM
To: ClerktoBOCC
Cc: justamerefamily@q.com
Subject: [External] Public Comment Submission

Submitted by: James Williamson
Email Address: justamerefamily@q.com

Commented on event: <https://elbertcoco.civicclerk.com/web/player.aspx?id=463>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Colorado's current wind fleet has 4,500 MW of installed capacity and routinely generates (only) 2,000 MWh, however, between Dec 30 2022k and Jan 2 2023, Colorado's "alternative energy" grid (wind & solar) produced NEGATIVE amounts of electricity (they had to USE electricity to keep the wind turbines from freezing up and breaking). It was FOSSIL FUELS that saved Coloradans from freezing to death (like the 210 people in TX in Feb '21 and 6 people earlier this year) and we are STILL allowing Xcel to pursue this nonsense? When this wind & solar fantasy is finally dispatched (as is being done in Europe now), Elbert County landowners will be left to deal with the consequences of this stupidity for decades to come.





TOWN OF KIOWA
PO Box 237
404 Comanche Street
Kiowa, CO 80117
Phone: 303-621-2366
Fax: 303-621-2595

February 10, 2022

Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Power Pathway through Elbert County

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you at the request of the Town of Kiowa Board of Trustees in opposition of Xcel's proposed "power pathway," which is planned to come through the eastern plains of Colorado and right up to the Town's backdoor by fall of 2025. Kiowa is the County Seat of beautiful Elbert County. Xcel's proposed project is calling for hundreds of miles of high-voltage transmission lines, wind turbines and new substations, which will run directly through the eastern plains and up to the eastern town limits of Kiowa. While the new proposed route no longer comes through the center of Kiowa itself, the Town still has many concerns associated with this proposed project. For instance:

- The health effects associated with the high-voltage line in areas with high farming and ranching concentrations, which describes portions, if not all, of the proposed route.
- Arguably, the line would curb planned housing development and/or real estate valuations along the eastern plains because potential residents would be leery of living near the line.
- It can also lead to a variety of other impacts on wildlife, including behavioral changes and direct mortality. Such as the millions of migratory birds killed each year by collisions with wind turbines. This project's infrastructure only serves to fragment or even eliminate the high-quality wildlife habitat of the eastern plains, including behavioral changes and mortality rates. We feel these projects would be better located in developed areas that already have little wildlife habitat, not in areas such as ours rich in wildlife.

Those benefitting from this power line majorly are not the one's being affected the most by this route. We ask that you take the above into consideration as you plan this project's path. The things we have listed above are the things that bring people from inner city areas out here to the eastern plains – they seek the wildlife, beautiful scenery, clean air, etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Kimberly Boyd, MPA
Town Administrator

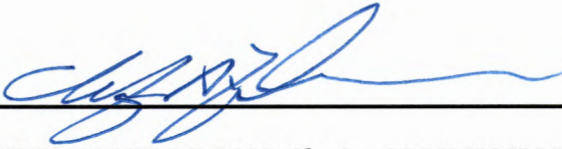
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Rhonda Braun Recorder, Elbert County, Co



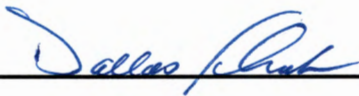
Submitted by
Rhonda Braun

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO



CHRIS RICHARDSON, Chair, COMMISSIONER District 1



DALLAS SCHROEDER, COMMISSIONER District 2



GRANT THAYER, Vice-Chair, COMMISSIONER District 3

ATTEST: Amanda Moore

Deputy Clerk

BY: 

Deputy Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

