

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



July 23, 2018

Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)
 Attn: Laurie Moye, Coordinator Regulatory Project & Public Participation
 2401 Aztec NE, Z200
 Albuquerque, NM 87107

Dear Ms. Moye,

The Planning Department received your request for an administrative amendment to the *Rank II Facility Plan: Electric System Transmission and Generation (2010-2020)* (the “Electric Systems Plan”). The primary Goal of the Electric Systems Plan is to ensure that the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have an electric transmission and generation system capable of delivering electric energy in the amount and locations needed currently and in the future.

Request

The two proposed amendments would result in revisions to Table 5: Description of Proposed Electric Facility Projects for 2010-2020 (p. 25):

1. Project #23: Proposed change to rebuild the 115kV transmission line between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Huning Switching Station in Belen, instead of between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Pajarito Switching Station.

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	Description	Proposed Action	In-Service Year	Facility Purpose/ Function	Location
Existing	WB 115 kV Line Rebuild West Mesa-Pajarito	Upgrade the WB 115kV transmission line between West Mesa and Pajarito	2020	Increase contingency capacity in the southern Albuquerque area	City and County
Amended	WD 115kV Line Rebuild West Mesa-Huning Switching Station	Upgrade the WD 115kV transmission line between West Mesa and Huning Switching Station	2020	Increase contingency capacity in the southern Albuquerque metropolitan area	City and County

2. Project #26: Proposed change to the in-service year and area served.

	Description	Proposed Action	In-Service Year	Facility Purpose/ Function	Location
Existing	Pajarito Station	Build a new 345 kV & 115kV switching Station	2020	Increase contingency capacity in the southern Albuquerque area	County
Amended	Pajarito Station	Build a new 345 kV & 115kV switching station	2025	Increase contingency capacity in the southern Albuquerque metropolitan area	County

Process

The approval process for an amendment to the Electric Systems Plan depends upon the scope of the request. Section IV, Item C explains the various approval processes (Electric Systems Plan, p. 9). The processes are summarized in Table 1, p. 20 for the City and Table 3, p. 22 for the County.

If a request falls within the parameters for an insignificant action, it can be approved administratively by Staff. Minor actions are approved by the Development Review Board (DRB). Major actions and new projects are approved by the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC). Adoption of the Electric Systems Plan is by the City Council.

Analysis

Regarding Project #26, the Pajarito Switching Station, the project location is in the County (see Figure 6, p. 31), so the request will also need to be directed to the County. The change of in-service year is an insignificant action. Insignificant Actions in the County are also approved administratively by the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building or a designee (see Table 3, p. 22).

Regarding Project #23, rebuilding the 115kV transmission line between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Huning Switching Station in Belen, instead of between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Pajarito Switching Station, has a couple of implications. Until the Pajarito switching station is built, a 115kV transmission line is not needed to serve it. This means that the 115kV transmission line that was split into two lines (WD and WB) will have to run somewhere else in the meantime.

This change in timing and location of a proposed project is an Insignificant Action. Insignificant Actions in the City are approved administratively by the Director of the Planning Department or a designee (see Table 1, p. 20). To the extent that the proposed project serves unincorporated Bernalillo County, it would also need to be approved through the County process.

It is worth noting that, when the Pajarito Switching Station is built, it will need to be served by either rerouting and/or splitting a transmission line or by adding a new transmission line as a new project. Note that adding a new project falls under the parameters for a Minor Action, which goes to the DRB for approval.

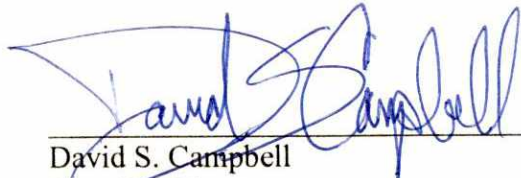
Findings

1. This is a request for two amendments to the *Rank II Facility Plan: Electric System Transmission and Generation (2010-2020)* (the “Electric Systems Plan”). Specifically, the amendments would modify Project Number 23 and Number 26 in Table 5: Description of Proposed Electric Facility Projects for 2010-2020.
2. The amendments are as follows:
 - A. Project #23: Change to rebuild the 115kV transmission line between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Huning Switching Station in Belen, instead of between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Pajarito Switching Station.

- B. Project #26: Change to the in-service year of the Pajarito Switching Station and the area served.
3. The amendments further the Goal of the Electric Systems Plan because they will help ensure that an electric transmission system is available and capable of delivering electric energy in the amount and locations needed currently and in the future.
 4. Project Number 26 pertains to the Pajarito Switching Station, which is located in the County (see Figure 6, p. 31). The request is an Insignificant Action, which will also need to be approved administratively by the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building or a designee (see Table 3, p. 22).
 5. Project Number 23, rebuilding the 115kV transmission line between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Huning Switching Station in Belen, instead of between the West Mesa Switching Station and the Pajarito Switching Station, is an Insignificant Action because it is a change in timing and location of a proposed project. To the extent that Project Number 23 serves Bernalillo County, it would also need to be approved through the County process.
 6. Insignificant Actions in the City are approved administratively by the Director of the Planning Department or a designee (see Table 1, p. 20). To the extent that the proposed project serves unincorporated Bernalillo County, it would also need to be approved through the County process to ensure consistency of the project table in both the City and the County.

Decision

Pursuant to the authority granted to me by the Electric Systems Plan, I approve the amendment to Project Number 23 and Project Number 26.



David S. Campbell
Planning Director

7/24/18

Date