

# Working with landowners



Colorado's renewable energy future

**A** right-of-way (ROW) is the land area acquired by a utility for a transmission line. The ROW for SB100 projects will vary and is developed based on several factors, including transmission line voltage, structure spacing, conductor tension, operational safety and maintenance. Safety



requirements are determined by the National Electric Safety Code. The ROW required by SB100 projects is 150 feet for 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and 200 feet for 345 kV transmission lines.

Other project characteristics include:

- ▶ Both transmission line ROWs and access easements will be required for the projects.
- ▶ Transmission structures located within the ROW will be between 100 and 150 feet tall.
- ▶ The lowest conductors will be about 28 feet above the ground when the lines reach maximum operational temperatures. Additional clearance may be required in areas with high snow accumulation or to accommodate agricultural operations.
- ▶ A combination of steel lattice structures and steel single pole structures will be used for the 230 kV projects. The choice of structure type will be based on the appropriateness of a structure at a given location and the location's design conditions. Only single pole structures will be used for the 345 kV projects.
- ▶ Structures will be placed about 800 to 1,200 feet apart, maximizing span length where possible to fully use the ROW.
- ▶ If structures are not as tall, more structures will be used due to the required shorter spans
- ▶ Specific details will be provided to landowners once the design details are finalized.



## EASEMENT ACQUISITION AND SURVEY PERMISSION

An easement is a permanent right authorizing a utility to use the ROW to build and maintain a transmission line. Access easements will be needed for construction and long-term maintenance of the transmission line. The easement agreements will identify the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) as the grantee.

To assist with transmission line engineering and design, PSCo and/or consultants will acquire temporary access or survey permission from landowners. Engineering, environmental, cultural and land survey studies will be conducted to develop the transmission line route.

PSCo will use market data from recent sales of similar properties to determine fair and appropriate compensation. Every effort to reach a fair and reasonable settlement will be made. When negotiations are unsuccessful, which is rare, PSCo may have to exercise its eminent domain authority.

## WORKING IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Normally, landowner access within the transmission line easement is not restricted, and agricultural activities can still occur. Activities not permitted within the easement are those that jeopardize structure integrity or reduce the ground-to-line clearance, such as building construction.

Landowners need to exercise caution when operating all equipment, moving irrigation pipes, fueling vehicles or conducting other activities within the easement to prevent electrical shock or contact with the line.

## EASEMENTS AND AGRICULTURE



### Center pivots

Irrigation equipment will be avoided to the extent possible. Site-specific circumstances will be addressed with applicable landowners.



### Planting and harvesting

ROW agents will work with individual landowners to determine when to avoid construction during the planting and harvesting seasons. If crop damage cannot be avoided, compensation for crop loss will be offered.



### Livestock

In coordination with the landowner, fence segments may be removed or access gates may be installed during line construction. Crews will construct temporary fences and work with landowners to minimize impacts and to protect livestock.