

Pike-San Isabel National Forests &
Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands
810 Front Street
Leadville, CO 80461

December 15, 2022

Submitted electronically via: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//ReadingRoom?Project=62802>

Subject: Amendment to Special Use Permit LDV733 - Xcel Energy Transmission Lines 9254, 9255 and 9257 #62802

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

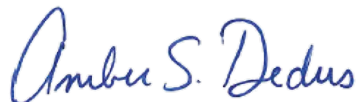
This letter is in response to the U.S. Forest Service's (Forest Service) request for public scoping comment on Xcel Energy's (Xcel) proposal to amend Special Use Permit (SUP) LDV733 to rebuild three 115 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line circuits; 9254, 9255 and 9257 #62802 that cross Pike-San Isabel National Forests lands.

Xcel owns the fourth largest transmission system in the United States, with more than 20,000 miles of electric transmission lines and nearly 1,200 transmission and transmission/distribution substations in eight states, including Colorado. Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), a subsidiary of Xcel, is the owner and operator of 4,718 miles of transmission lines in Colorado. As a regulated utility of Colorado, Xcel is mandated to provide safe and reliable service to their customers (CRS 40-3-101). Additionally, Xcel is required to be reasonable and prudent with ratepayer dollars (CRS 40-3-101 and CRS 40-3-102). The Colorado Public Utility Commission (CPUC) regulates Xcel's projects and utility rates.

Rebuilding the existing 9254, 9255, and 9257 transmission line circuits are essential to maintaining the electric transmission infrastructure of Colorado and the Western United States. Xcel request that the Forest Service complete an expeditious review and approval of Xcel's application to amend their SUP (LDV733) for rebuilding the existing 9254, 9255, and 9257 transmission lines. The rebuild will allow Xcel to maintain their existing infrastructure in a timely and prudent manner, providing safe and reliable service to their customers.

Xcel is committed to minimizing any project impacts and appreciates partnering with the Forest Service on these very important rebuild projects. We thank you for your support and this opportunity to provide scoping comments.

Sincerely,



Amber Dedus
Manager, Siting and Land Rights