



Policy

TITLE: Transmission Planning, Design and Construction Policy

Purpose: This policy provides overarching direction to Platte River staff on issues involving the planning, design and construction of transmission facilities, including substations.

Policy:

Transmission infrastructure is critical to the reliable delivery of power. For most members of the general public, transmission infrastructure is also the most visible component of the bulk power system. Consistent with the organizational objectives of Platte River, the planning, design and construction of the transmission system should promote system reliability, yet be responsive to community visions and the surrounding environment while also being cost-effective. These objectives present unique challenges in the context of transmission infrastructure.

It is the intent of the Board that this policy will position Platte River to fully consider and balance each of the listed organizational objectives through a proactive and transparent planning, design and construction process that serves to inform and consider the feedback received from all relevant stakeholders. The Board also wishes to continue the policy of providing distribution substation siting incentives to the Municipalities when appropriate to minimize high-voltage infrastructure and environmental impacts.

The principles outlined in this policy are intended to provide comprehensive guidance for transmission policy, but staff is encouraged to pursue innovative processes and sustainable solutions as future challenges and opportunities are presented.

- Transmission Planning:
 - When planning for future generation resources the staff is directed to take into account the transmission necessary for each resource option, consider the impacts of the necessary transmission on the surrounding community and environment, and make reasonable attempts to mitigate impacts whenever possible.
 - Use of existing utility easements and corridors is favored when appropriate for reasons of cost and to minimize environmental impacts.
 - Necessary planning approvals should be identified at the onset of the planning process.
 - Resource and transmission planning activities must be reported routinely to the Joint Technical Advisory Committee (JTAC). A charter will be created, and updated as necessary, for the JTAC as a process document supporting this policy.
 - Invitations to JTAC meetings should include representatives from community planning departments and other appropriate liaisons as designated by the local communities.
 - Proactive public outreach is required at every step of the planning process.

- Transmission Design:
 - The engineering and design of transmission facilities, including substations, will employ best practices as set forth in industry and regulatory standards.
 - Platte River will comply with all applicable regulatory standards.



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- Regulatory standards that do not apply to Platte River due to its non-jurisdictional status will be employed where appropriate, specifically Colorado Public Utilities Commission standards for electric and magnetic fields and noise.
 - Transmission design will incorporate technologies to minimize noise to levels in compliance with applicable state statutes.
 - Overhead construction offers certain advantages, including reduced construction and replacement costs, ease of operation and maintenance, and increased reliability.
 - Underground construction may be appropriate for engineering, safety or environmental reasons or if other parties are willing to fund cost differentials between the initial costs of overhead and underground construction.
 - Community values, such as sensitivities about localized impacts and overall aesthetics, will be taken into account through a public process during the design stage.
 - Responses to requests to relocate existing transmission facilities will apply this policy and must recover the costs necessary to make Platte River whole as to the expenses associated with relocation.
- Transmission Construction:
 - Construction will employ practices that are sensitive to the environment and the neighboring community.
 - Construction schedules and working hours will take into account impacts upon the neighboring community.
 - The affected community will be informed concerning construction schedules and activities.
 - A staff member will be designated as an outreach resource for the affected community and appropriate contact information will be made available.
 - Substation Siting:
 - In order to encourage efficient use of resources and minimize land use impacts, Platte River will offer incentives to the Municipalities to site new substations proximate to existing transmission facilities.
 - Staff is directed to develop a process document providing substation siting guidelines for municipal delivery points, which guidelines will include a methodology for the establishment of incentive payments to the Municipalities.

The General Manager is directed to keep the Board fully informed regarding transmission activities and the implementation of this policy. Informational vehicles for this purpose will include routine operations reports, the budget process, the strategic planning process, and topical reports as necessary.

Implementing Parties and Assigned Responsibilities:

The General Manager will have primary responsibility for implementation.



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Associated Items (if applicable):

The General Manager will oversee development and documentation of any necessary procedures.
Process and Incentive Guidelines for Cities Siting of New Substations
Charter of the Joint Technical Advisory Committee (JTAC)
Pole Attachment Process

Definitions (if applicable):

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