

Proceeding No. 21M-0005E
Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHCE)
2021 Rule 3206 Report – Appendix A – Project Sheets

La Junta 115 kV Area Upgrades

Project Sponsor:	Black Hills Colorado Electric
Additional Project Participants:	
Project Description:	Increase load serving capability and reliability in the La Junta and Rocky Ford areas of BHCE’s service territory.
Voltage Class:	115 & 69 kV
Facility Rating:	Varies
Point of Origin/Location:	Varies
Point of Termination:	Varies
Intermediate Points:	
Length of Line (in Miles):	
Type of Project:	Substation & Transmission Line
Development Status:	Cancelled/Replaced
Routing:	
Subregional Planning Group:	CCPG
Purpose of Project:	Improved reliability in the La Junta area.
Estimated Cost (in 2019 Dollars):	N/A
Schedule:	
Construction Date:	N/A
Planned Completion/In-Service Date:	N/A
Regulatory Info:	Approved - Colorado PUC: Decision No. C09-1240
Regulatory Date:	October 28, 2009
Permitting Info:	
Permitting Date:	
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Description. The La Junta 115 kV Area Upgrades project, as initially scoped, consisted of a new parallel 115 kV and 69 kV line between the Tri-State and Black Hills La Junta substations. The connection of the two substations, which are approximately 0.5 miles apart, would provide increased reliability to the local area. An increase in 115/69 kV transformation capacity at the BHCE-owned La Junta substation, a 69 kV capacitor, a larger 115/69 kV transformer at Boone, and local terminal equipment upgrades were also a part of this project to enhance load service in the area. As the project drivers evolved over time, the need to operate the 115 kV tie line normally open became apparent. Joint participation in the project became no longer of value to Tri-State. The scope of the project was reviewed in 2015, and it was determined that the benefits of the project did not justify the cost. The 115 kV and 69 kV lines between the two La Junta substations were thus removed from the project scope, and the other projects remained.

The project included the replacement of the Boone 115/69 kV transformer, which was completed in October 2016 at a cost of \$2.7 million. Other portions of the project as previously planned have not been completed. These include the addition of a second La Junta 115/69 kV transformer (50 MVA), which was previously planned for completion and operation in Q4 2019 at an estimated cost of \$2.0 million. In addition, previously planned upgrades to the La Junta area 115 kV and 69 kV system included replacement of limiting terminal equipment and a new 6 MVAR, 69 kV capacitor. The project also included a planned second 69 kV capacitor, but that addition has been suspended.

Consideration of project alternatives including energy systems (Rule 3206(d)(I)(D)). Not applicable. The project is cancelled.

Decision. In Decision No. C09-1240, the Commission determined that the project was in the ordinary course of business and that a CPCN was not necessary.

Update. The project scope as described in previous filings and ruled on in Decision No. C09-1240 was reviewed in its entirety. Following a recent review of the integrity of the 69 kV infrastructure in the area, it was confirmed that a significant number of lines need to be rebuilt within the near-term planning horizon. Additionally, requests for load interconnection and requests to wheel energy across the BHCE transmission and sub-transmission system were evaluated. These developments impact the overall needs of the local transmission system, so several alternatives were studied to develop the best comprehensive solution for the area. For that reason, the La Junta 115 kV Area Upgrades project, as submitted in previous Rule 3206 and Rule 3627 filings, is no longer considered a “planned” project. It has been replaced by the “South Fowler Substation” and the “Boone-South Fowler 69 kV to 115 kV Conversion” projects as described in this filing.