



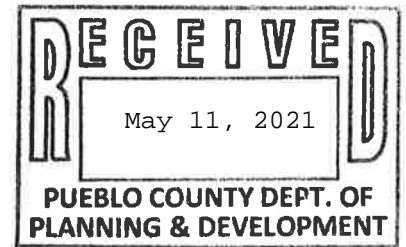
**Cristin Cochran – Contract Right of Way Agent**

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May 11, 2021

1041 2019-003

Ms. Carmen Howard  
Director of Planning and Development  
Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development  
229 West 12th Street  
Pueblo, Colorado 81003  
[HowardCA@pueblocounty.us](mailto:HowardCA@pueblocounty.us)



RE: Black Hills Energy 1041 Permit No. 2019-003 – Project Status Report

Dear Ms. Howard,

As per Planning and Development Resolution No. 20-037 Condition 5, Black Hills submits this report detailing the overall status and viability of the Canon West Reliability Project [Project]. This report is organized according to permit conditions and a copy of Resolution No. P&D 20-037 is attached for reference. Going forward, please advise of any organizational or formatting changes needed.

Permit Condition 1. No exemption from other permits or regulations.

Coordination with other permitting agencies continues. Analysis of permitting needs, such as review of FEMA maps to ascertain floodplain permitting requirements, continues.

Permit Condition 2. Built according to November 20, 2019 plans and information.

Black Hills is designing the Project in accord with the November 2019 plans.

Permit Condition 3. P&D Approval of all site plans.

90% plans are in design and will be submitted as completed.

Permit Condition 4. Provide subsequent permit approvals to P&D within 60 days of receipt.

Black Hills anticipates submitting the following permits to P&D as they are received:

- CDPHE SWMP
- Pueblo West SWMP
- Pueblo West RoW crossing permits
- Pueblo County Road Right of Way (excavation) permits
- Pueblo County Road access permits
- Pueblo County Floodplain permit
- FAA obstruction notifications

Permit Condition 5. Report on status and viability of the project

As noted herein, work continues on the Project. All easements in Pueblo County have been obtained. Design is nearing 90% and permit applications for stormwater management

and Federal Aviation Administration clearance will be submitted soon. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in spring, 2022 pending issuance of all required permits.

Permit Condition 6. Mitigation plans

In addition to the state mandated erosion control and revegetation measures included in Black Hills' Stormwater Management Plan, additional detail regarding floodplain protection will be included in the Pueblo County Floodplain permit. Closer to construction, biological surveys for species of concern and any resultant mitigation plans will be shared with P&D. Finally, arrangements may be made with the land rights holders to provide a copy of the Nature Conservancy's March 29, 2021 Conservation Value Analysis Update Letter if needed.

Permit Condition 7. County Road permitting

Black Hills will permit all county road crossings closer to construction. In addition, if there are any county access permits required to access the utility right of way, Black Hills will promptly apply for same and comply with all permitting requirements.

Permit Condition 8. Pueblo West permitting

Closer to construction, Black Hills will file a metropolitan district stormwater management permit application.

Permit Condition 9. Cooperation with the Nature Conservancy.

Black Hills received the Nature Conservancy's Conservation Value Analysis Update Letter from Mr. Mike Figgs on March 29, 2021. That letter commended the November 2019 route as reducing impacts to species of concern and further requested that no temporary construction yards be established within the conservation easement areas at Walker Ranch. Black Hills will comply with the Nature Conservancy recommendations including conducting an in season biological survey at the one point of concern to determine if any of the four vegetative species of concern are present in that area and, if so, Black Hills will engage construction monitors and set up recommended protective measures. In addition, prior to construction, Black Hills will identify and map invasive species within the right of way corridor.

The Canon West Reliability Project is viable and targeted for completion in 2023.

Please call or write with any concerns or if any further information would be helpful.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cristin Cochran".

Cristin Cochran, Contract Right of Way Agent for  
Black Hills Energy

Enclosure: P&D Resolution No. 20-037