

Populus to Ben Lomond

New transmission project to help meet area's growing need for electricity

Project overview

To meet customers' increase need for electricity, Rocky Mountain Power is constructing a new double-circuit 345kV transmission line from the new Populus substation built near Downey, Idaho to the existing Ben Lomond substation in Box Elder County, Utah.

Project purpose and need

Rocky Mountain Power is committed to providing safe, reliable electrical service to its customers in the most efficient manner. Due to population growth and the increasing needs of existing customers, the company will need additional transmission capacity throughout the region to meet its obligation to serve customers. The new transmission line will connect the southeast Idaho transmission system to the Wasatch Front to serve the growing electrical needs of customers.

The new transmission line and substation are required to provide improved operational flexibility with existing and future generation resources, including renewable resources such as wind.

Project description

The project will consist of the following new or expanded facilities:

- A new 345kV substation (Populus) located near Downey, Idaho along an existing high-voltage transmission line corridor will be the northern terminating point of the new transmission line. Initially, a 345kV substation yard is being developed at Populus, but it also is being configured to facilitate additional transmission lines in the future.
- A new 345kV double-circuit transmission line is being constructed in a new right of way corridor from the Populus substation to the existing Ben Lomond substation in Box Elder County, Utah, a distance of approximately 90 miles.
- The Ben Lomond substation is being expanded on company-owned property to accommodate the new line.
- Construction of new access roads and improvement to existing access roads was needed along the 345kV transmission lines between Ben Lomond and Populus to provide for construction and maintenance activities.
- Temporary work areas were developed for construction activities and site preparation work.
- Restoration and revegetation efforts started Spring 2010 and will be ongoing through Fall 2011 to allow for the growing season.



This map shows the Populus to Ben Lomond transmission corridor project area.

Route selection process

Rocky Mountain Power conducted an in-depth substation and transmission line siting study. Numerous route and substation alternatives were considered for the location of the new facilities. Criteria used to identify the preferred route and substation site included: community, social, environmental, technical and land-use factors and the economic aspects of these alternatives.

Structure type

- Single-pole steel structures, approximately 125-150 feet tall, are being used for the transmission line.
- Structures are being placed 600-900 feet apart, or about 6-8 structures per mile.

Project timeline

Rocky Mountain Power met with agencies and the public to gather their input regarding the project. Public open house meetings, scheduled in January 2008, provided local residents project information. Permits were obtained and construction began in early 2009. The timeline for the project is:

November 2007 – October 2008

- Informational meetings

December 2007 – April 2009

- Project permitting

February 2009 – December 2010 (estimated)

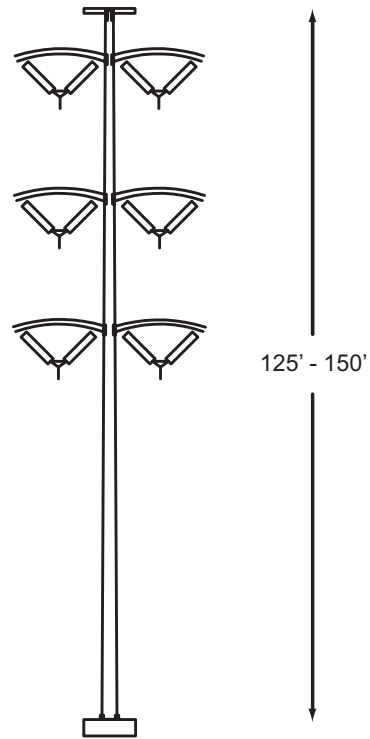
- Project construction

December 2010

- Estimated in-service date

Spring 2010 – Fall 2011

- Restoration and revegetation



Typical 345kV structure used in the new transmission line project.

For more information, please contact us:

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Information for this project can be found by clicking on "Populus to Ben Lomond."

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**Please specify Populus to Ben Lomond project in your inquiry.*



Let's turn the answers on.