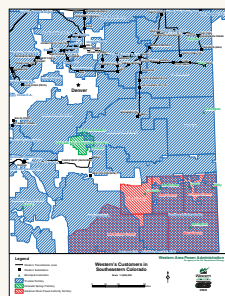


# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Why This Project?

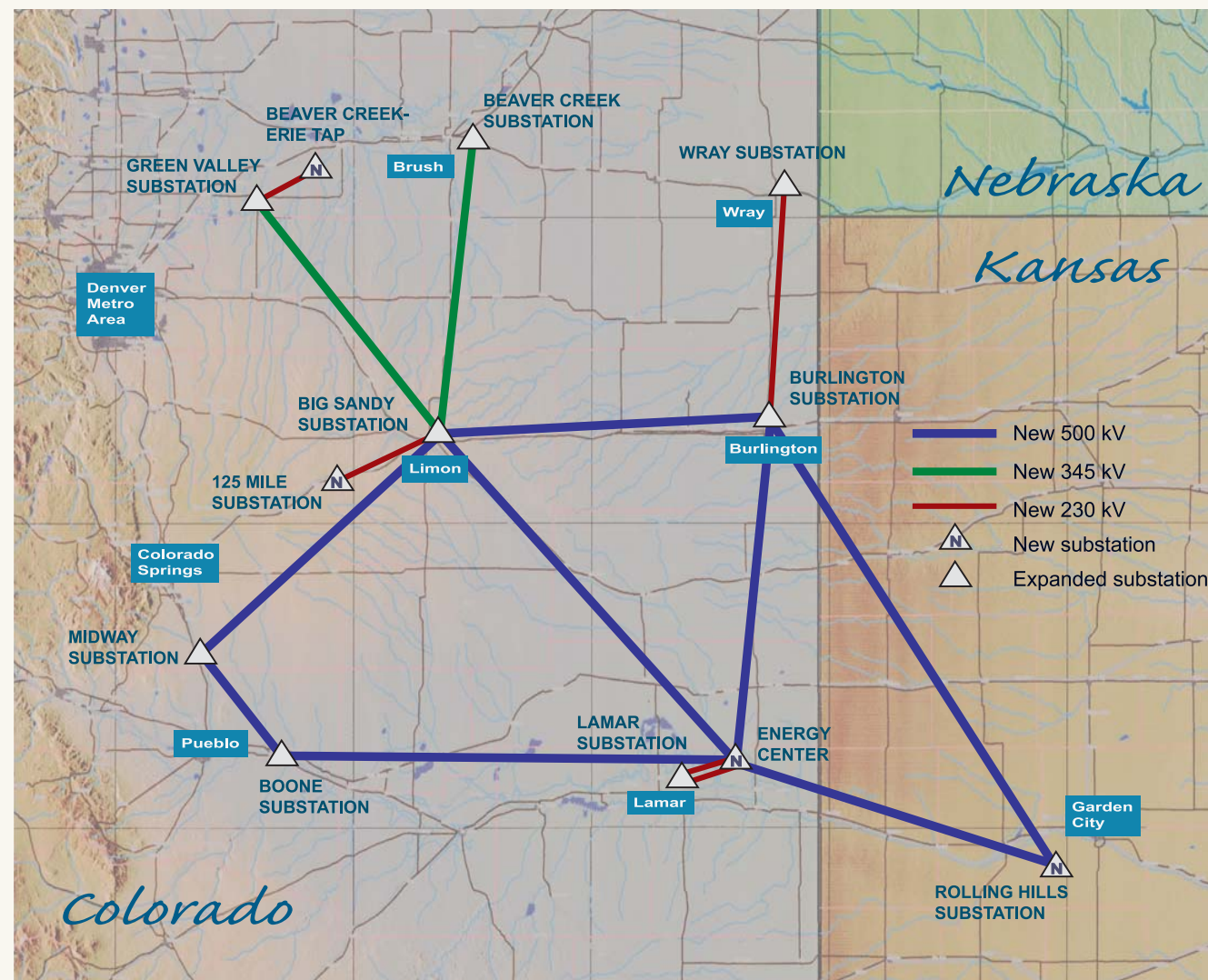


- Western Area Power Administration proposes to participate in the construction of the Eastern Plains Transmission Project with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. in exchange for capacity rights on the transmission lines.
- Western currently lacks adequate transmission capability in southeastern Colorado to serve its customers directly. Western needs additional transmission system capacity to provide more economical, reliable, diverse, and flexible power delivery to customers.

- The EPTP would:
  - Provide direct power delivery to Western's customers
  - Improve Western's access to alternative resources and suppliers by expanding the capacity and geographic reach of its transmission system
  - Increase Western's options for purchasing energy to meet contractual requirements
  - Enhance and expand transmission pathways to ensure reliability of the Federal transmission system
- Tri-State's resource development plan includes the construction of high-voltage transmission lines and other facilities in eastern Colorado and western Kansas.
- These new facilities would help Tri-State and Western serve their customers while enhancing reliability of the power delivery system in the region, relieving existing constraints, providing opportunities for additional interconnections for other parties, and maximizing use of transmission corridors.

## Environmental Impact Statement

- Western is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that public input and environmental effects are considered and integrated into Western's decision on participation in the project.
- The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission lines and other facilities. In addition, the EIS will address expansions of existing substations and construction of new substations, access roads, and fiber optic communication facilities.

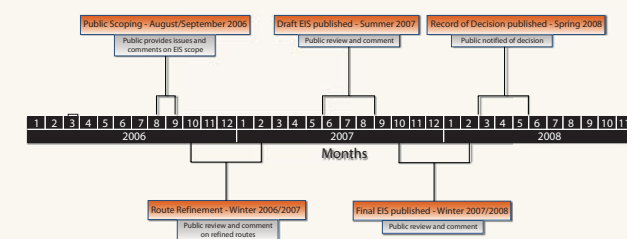


## Project Description

The project includes about 1,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines and related facilities in eastern Colorado and western Kansas, including:

- 15 new high-voltage transmission lines
- Four new substations
- Eight expanded or upgraded substations
- Fiber optic communication facilities

## EIS Schedule



## Joint Construction Project

The EPTP would be a joint construction project between Western Area Power Administration and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

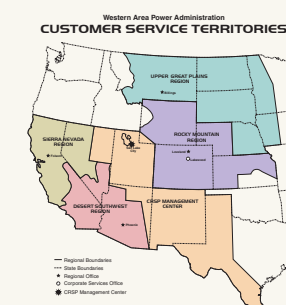
Western's role:

- Construction planning and management
- Acquiring and owning easements for transmission lines, access roads, and other facilities

Tri-State's role:

- Owning, operating, and maintaining most project facilities
- Building new substations and expanding existing substations

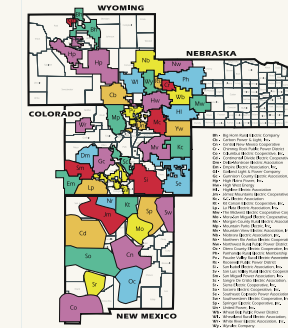
## Western Area Power Administration



- One of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy whose role is to market and transmit electricity from Federally owned and operated multi-use water projects.
- Markets and delivers reliable, cost-based hydroelectric power and related services to cities and towns, cooperatives, irrigation districts, and Native American tribes in 15 Western states, including Colorado and Kansas.

## Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

### Member Distribution Systems



- A wholesale electric power supplier owned by the 44 electric cooperatives that it serves.
- Generates and transmits electricity to its member cooperative systems throughout a 250,000 square-mile service territory across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Wyoming, serving more than 1.2 million end-use consumers.
- Tri-State purchases Federal hydropower from Western on behalf of Tri-State's member cooperative systems, which collectively are one of Western's largest customers.