

# FACT SHEET:

## Estes-to-Flatiron Facts and History



December 2012

Western currently has two 16-mile, 115-kilovolt, double wood-pole structure transmission lines between Estes Park, Colo., and Flatiron Reservoir in Larimer County, Colo. Here are some facts about these lines that deliver electricity to Estes Park, Loveland and nearby Front Range communities.

### Lines originally built:

- **The northern line:** Estes-to-Lyons line (E-LS), runs the entire 16 miles from Estes Park to Flatiron Reservoir was built in 1938
- **The southern line:** Estes-to-Pole Hill line (E-PH), runs from Estes Park to the Pole Hill Switchyard; and the Flatiron-Pole Hill (F-PH) line continues on to the Flatiron Reservoir was build in 1953

**Current situation:** The Estes Park community has grown since the 1930s and 1940s as more people have come to call the mountain area home. Reliable, dependable energy for the area remains a high priority for Western. Records indicate that because the lines are more than 60 years old, about 70 to 80 percent of the 32 miles of transmission lines would require replacement in the near future. This would require replacing transmission line structures along both existing ROWs.

**The proposal:** Western proposes to consolidate the two existing 115-kV lines onto a single right-of-way using double circuit structures. This would replace the aging and deteriorating transmission lines.

**Project requirements:** The transmission line rebuild is needed to:

- Ensure reliable and cost-effective electricity is provided to Estes Park, Loveland and other Front Range communities.
- Improve transmission safety by updating facilities and rebuilding 60-70+ year-old transmission lines to be compliant with current standards.
- Improve emergency and maintenance access to the line.

**What's included in the proposal:** As part of the proposal, Western is looking to:

- Remove about 16 miles of the existing transmission line.
- Use existing rights of way, if possible.

**NEPA process timeline:** Western is committed to fulfilling the National Environmental Policy Act requirements for reviewing this project. The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest is a cooperating agency on the EIS.

**Where we are in the NEPA process:**

