



United States Department of Agriculture

## Forest Service

White River National Forest  
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# News Release

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## Forest Service seeking comments on the Holy Cross Energy Avon-to-Gilman 115-kV Transmission Line project

**MINTURN, Colo.** – The Forest Service is hosting a public open house to discuss the proposed Holy Cross Energy Avon-to-Gilman 115kV Transmission Line project. The informational meeting will be held at the Holy Cross Ranger Station located at 24747 U.S. Hwy 24 in Minturn, Colorado on Thursday, March 12, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Forest Service and Holy Cross Energy staff will be present to answer questions about the project.

The meeting is aimed at providing information and soliciting comments on Holy Cross Energy's application to the Forest Service for a Special Use Authorization to construct, operate, and maintain a 115-kV electric transmission line that would provide circuit connectivity between the Avon and Gilman substations. The entire proposed line is 8.9 miles in length, however the route would cross approximately three miles of National Forest System (NFS) land. The proposed action includes construction of new power structures; right-of-way clearing and hazard tree removal; conductor stringing and splicing work; staging and access via vehicle, ATV, and helicopter; and minor maintenance and patrolling. About three miles of the transmission line is anticipated to be buried underground, and the remainder of the line would be hung on overhead transmission structures. If approved, construction would take approximately eight months and occur during late spring through fall when weather conditions are favorable. The Special Use Authorization would also authorize the use of existing and new access roads for the associated construction and future maintenance activities.

Public input will assist the White River National Forest in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. The EA will include an analysis of the potential effects of issuing a Special Use Authorization to construct and operate the transmission line on NFS lands.

Acting Eagle-Holy Cross District Ranger, Adam Bianchi, stated, "The meeting will be an opportunity for interested members of the public to understand the proposal, our analysis process, and some general timelines. We are looking forward to answering questions and gathering feedback."



Forest Service



## Opportunities to Comment

Project information can be found on the WRNF website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57224>

To subscribe to project updates, including receiving emails regarding upcoming opportunities to comment: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=NEPA\\_57224\\_S](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic_id=NEPA_57224_S)

The Forest is seeking input from interested members of the public. Public comments will assist the Forest in determining the scope of the analysis to be conducted and the range of alternative courses of action to be considered within the EA. Public comments are a key part of the review process as required by NEPA.

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Glenwood Springs Post Independent. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period any further. Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, electronically, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor, c/o Matt Klein, Realty Specialist, White River National Forest, PO Box 190, Minturn, CO 81645; FAX (970) 827-9343. Comments may also be submitted online at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=57224>

Persons commenting should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, and the organization represented, if any; 2) title of project for which the comment is being submitted (Holy Cross Energy Avon-to-Gilman Electric Transmission Line); and 3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.

Additional information may be obtained from: Matt Klein, Realty Specialist for the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District, [matthew.klein@usda.gov](mailto:matthew.klein@usda.gov) or (970) 827-5182.

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