



Date: June 18, 2025

To: Bernalillo County Neighborhood Association Contacts

From: Russell Brito, PNM Land Use & Permitting Administrator (applicant)

Subject: Action to Change the Electric Facilities Plan Project List (Special Project Review)

Dear Neighborhood Association Contact,

PNM is requesting a single action that will add a project to and amend a project listed in the Facility Plan: Electric System Transmission and Generation (2010-2020) "EFP". This application proposes no changes to the EFP standards, procedures, or its administration and PNM is not submitting or requesting a zone change, special use permit, or site plan for approval of any specific projects listed in Table 5, Description of Proposed Electric Facility Projects.

PNM is submitting the application for a hearing before the **County Planning Commission** on **August 6, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Ken Sanchez Commission Chambers at the Bernalillo County @ Alvarado Square building, 415 Silver SW. If you have questions about the review process, please contact BernCo Staff Planner, Karl Redmon at 505.314.0006. If you have any questions about the application, you can contact me, Russell Brito, at 505.241.2798.

There is one interconnected electric grid that serves the larger metropolitan area within and across all jurisdictional boundaries. The EFP, a rank two facility plan adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in November 2011, contains broad information about the electric grid that powers homes, businesses, and institutions located in Bernalillo County, Albuquerque and other incorporated areas. Electric facilities, such as substations and transmission lines, are located ubiquitously throughout the region to equitably serve all users of electricity.

Details of the requested action for two changes to the EFP's informational Table 5:

- Add one new project, the 345kV (kilovolt) Pajarito to Rio Puerco Transmission Line, to the Project List and the corresponding Figures 4 and 6.
- Update the description of **Project number 22**, Pajarito to Prosperity, from a 115kV transmission line to a 345kV transmission line.

These two changes to Table 5 will support the continued provision of sufficient, safe, and reliable electric service to the metropolitan area within Bernalillo County as well as Sandoval and Valencia Counties. Population growth in the metro area is not increasing as quickly as in previous years but electricity usage has steadily grown over the past decade and will continue

to drive necessary changes to the electric grid. These 345kV transmission lines will also help facilitate implementation of the State's Energy Transition Act (ETA).

The new Pajarito to Rio Puerco 345kV transmission line will connect the Rio Puerco Substation in southern Sandoval County to the Pajarito Substation in southwestern Bernalillo County. Project number 22, the Pajarito to Prosperity transmission line will continue this transmission of electricity at 345kV from the Pajarito Substation to the Prosperity Substation located east of I-40 for these purposes and needs:

- Enhance the reliability and resilience of the transmission system, especially during extreme weather events.
- Provide additional grid support and load serving capacity for Albuquerque metro and surrounding areas to enable system improvements.
- Support retirement of gas generation facilities in conjunction with bringing more renewable generation online, while maintaining system reliability.

Functioning like a loop or by-pass road, this new west-southwest transmission line will introduce an additional route for bulk electricity transmission into the metro area to enhance the grid system's reliability and resilience. It will also enhance PNM's ability to transmit renewable power from disparate sources to metro area customers. And not coincidentally, much of the planned, approximately 30-mile transmission line corridor is proposed to adjacently parallel the NMDOT's planned Paseo del Volcan alignment.

The action to update EFP Table 5 to add the Pajarito to Rio Puerco Line and change the description of existing Project number 22 would then be reflected on the corresponding Figure 4 and Figure 6 maps. The details of this requested action for the two changes are as follows:

Below are excerpts from Table 5 with the two actions shown in ~~strikethrough~~/underline format to illustrate the updated information for existing Project number 22 and the new Pajarito to Rio Puerco 345kV Line Project (xx):

TABLE 5
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ELECTRIC FACILITY PROJECTS FOR 2010-2020
(with edits)

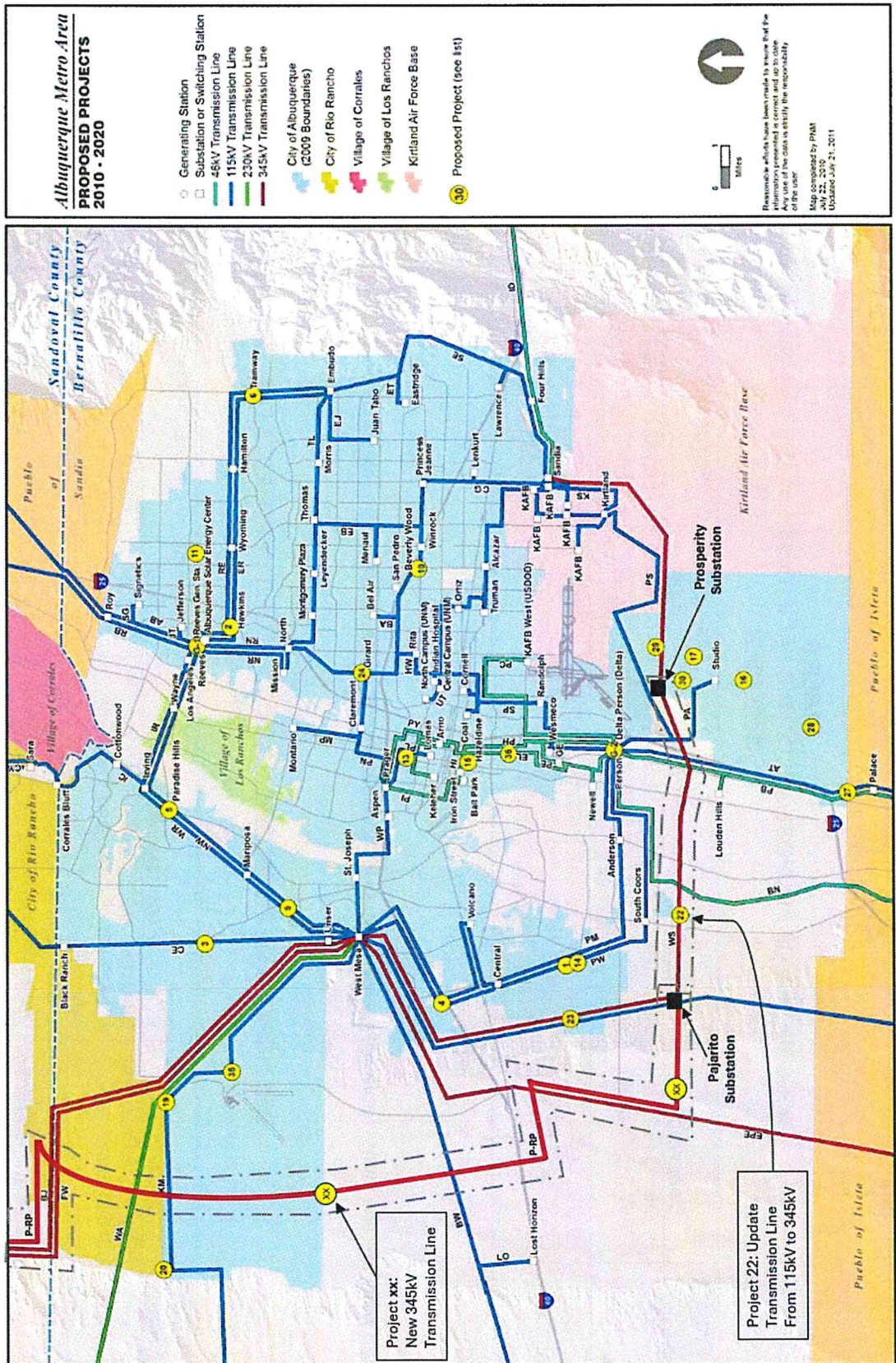
Project Number	Description	Proposed Action	In-service Year	Purpose/function of Facility	Location: CoA/BC
22	Pajarito to Prosperity 415kV <u>345kV</u> Line	Build new 415kV <u>345kV</u> transmission line between the new Pajarito and new Prosperity switching Substations.	2020 <u>2028</u>	Establish a new source into the southern <u>Bernalillo County</u> / Albuquerque metro area	CoA/BC
<u>xx</u>	<u>Pajarito to Rio Puerco 345 kV Line</u>	<u>Build a new 345 kV transmission line between the existing Rio Puerco and Pajarito Substations west of Albuquerque</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>Introduce another route for bulk electricity transmission to the southern Bernalillo County/Albuquerque metro area</u>	<u>CoA/BC</u>

And here are the same Table 5 excerpts with all Project description edits incorporated (clean version):

TABLE 5
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ELECTRIC FACILITY PROJECTS FOR 2010-2020
(clean)

Project Number	Description	Proposed Action	In-service Year	Purpose/function of Facility	Location: CoA/BC
22	Pajarito to Prosperity 345kV Line	Build new 345kV transmission line between the Pajarito and Prosperity Substations.	2028	Establish a new source into the southern Bernalillo County / Albuquerque metro area	CoA/BC
xx	Pajarito to Rio Puerco 345 kV Line	Build a new 345 kV transmission line between the existing Rio Puerco and Pajarito Substations west of Albuquerque	2028	Introduce another route for bulk electricity transmission to the southern Bernalillo County/Albuquerque metro area	CoA/BC

Proposed Action: Reflecting Table 5 changes, Figure 4 will show the potential route for the new Pajarito to Rio Puerco 345kV transmission line in red ("P-RP" and labeled "xx") connecting to existing project number 22 at the Pajarito Substation.



Proposed Action: Reflecting Table 5 changes, Figure 6 will show the potential route for the new Pajarito to Rio Puerco 345kV transmission line in red ("P-Rp") and project number "xx" connecting to existing project number 22 at the Pajarito Substation.

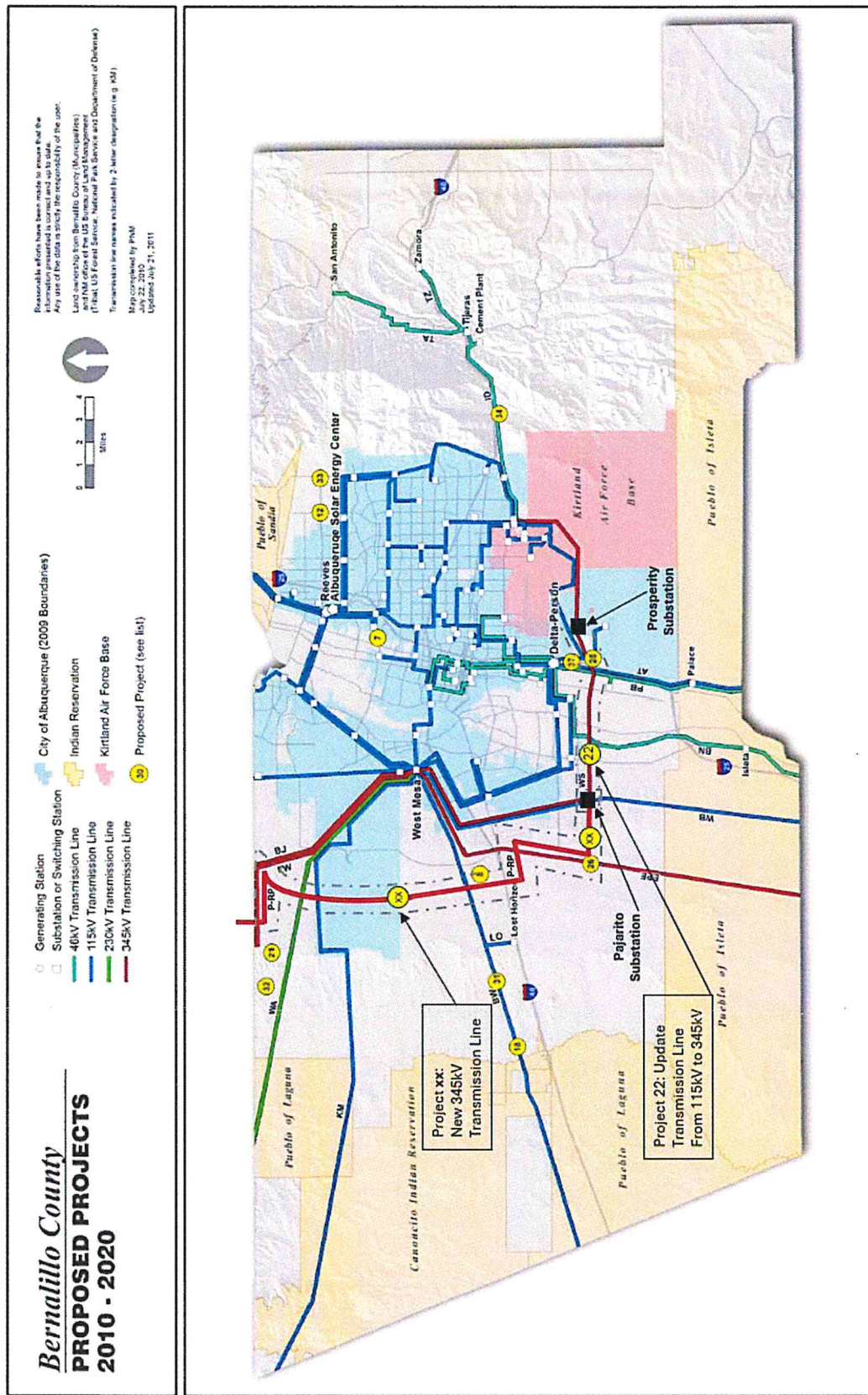


FIGURE 6

