

Attachment 1
Community Benefits Plan

I. Identification of Overburdened Communities

This community is the County and City of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Los Alamos is in the northern section of New Mexico and home to a population of approximately 19,000 people. Los Alamos is located adjacent to the Pueblos of San Ildefonso and Santa Clara as well as the Santa Fe National Forest and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

II. Community Input and Negotiation

The community has expressed interest in an initiative to minimize carbon emissions and to accomplish that goal by converting appliances from natural gas and automobiles from internal combustion to electric vehicles. A study was commissioned to determine the impact on the electric system in the utility and from the results of the study this power line would need to be upgraded in capacity. The age and difficult access to the power line already have the attention of the utility for reliability purposes and the critical need to maintain service to the water and wastewater infrastructure. No alternative route with better access has been identified and it therefore must be upgraded along the existing path.

III. Community Benefits

A. Social Benefits

The benefits include maintaining water supply to the City of Los Alamos and the wastewater treatment plant. If the power line were to have damage, the wastewater treatment plant would be operated on a backup generation unit and water rationing may be required due to the loss of capacity from the wells served by the power line.

B. Economic Benefits

Additional benefits from this power line are backup emergency power to the Barranca Mesa Community and the future plans to provide backup emergency power to the North Mesa Community.

Communities with poor reliability in their infrastructure lead to reduced home value and lack of interest in investment by commercial business. When the commercial viability of a community declines, economic depression occurs.

The addition of the fiber optic cable to the new power line will allow the water production utility to have remote SCADA control of the water production wells served from this power line and better operate the system during off-peak demand hours which will reduce the need for generation capacity on the transmission and generation grid.

C. Environmental Benefits

This project is part of the upgrades identified in the electrification plan commissioned as part of the Climate Action Plan of Los Alamos County. In order to provide electric service to support the conversion of appliances and automobiles to electricity, more capacity on the grid will be required. Additionally, Los Alamos is committed to take delivery of power from a large solar project and this line upgrade will be required to deliver that power to the community.

D. Additional Benefits

An additional benefit is the reduction in maintenance requirements from having a new power line constructed with materials that do not require frequent inspection and maintenance. The new design uses fewer structures that do not deteriorate as rapidly with age.