

**INFO-2020-5**

**Informational Study Report**

**6/4/2021**

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## 1.0 Summary

Customer has requested an informational evaluation of the interconnection of a 300MW Solar PV Generating Facility interconnection on the Craig – Meeker 345kV line. The expected Commercial Operation Date of the Generating Facility is December 31, 2024 and requested an evaluation for Energy Resource Interconnection Service.

**The Maximum Permissible Energy Resource Interconnection Service of INFO-2020-5 before Network Upgrades is 300MW.**

**Energy Resource Interconnection Service of INFO-2020-5 is 300MW.**

The ERIS identified does not include an evaluation of the TOT5 capacity. The TOT5 West – East capacity is fully subscribed. The maximum available ERIS of INFO-2020-5 will also depend on the as-available capacity of TOT5 path during real-time operating conditions.

The total estimated cost of the transmission system improvements to interconnect INFO-2020-5 is \$24.339 Million (Tables 3 and 4).

The construction of a new 345kV Switching Station at the POI to accommodate the INFO-2020-5 interconnection on the Craig – Meeker 345kV line will require a CPCN. The total estimated time frame for regulatory activities (CPCN) and to site, design, procure and construct the switching station at the POI is approximately 36 months after authorization to proceed has been obtained. The COD of INFO-2020-5 is dependent on obtaining the CPCN.

The study did not identify any impacts to the Affected Systems.

Note – This report is an informational study and does not grant any Interconnection Service or Transmission Service. The results are based on the modeling assumptions and study scope specified by the Customer, which may or may not reflect the standard modeling assumptions followed for the LGIP studies.

## 2.0 Introduction

This report is the informational study for a 300MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Generating Facility with a Point of Interconnection (POI) on the Craig – Meeker 345kV line.

The proposed Commercial Operation Date (COD) of INFO-2020-5 is December 31, 2024. The geographical location of the Transmission System near the POI is shown in Figure 1.

The request is referred to as “INFO-2020-5” and studied for Energy Resource Interconnection Service (ERIS)<sup>1</sup>.

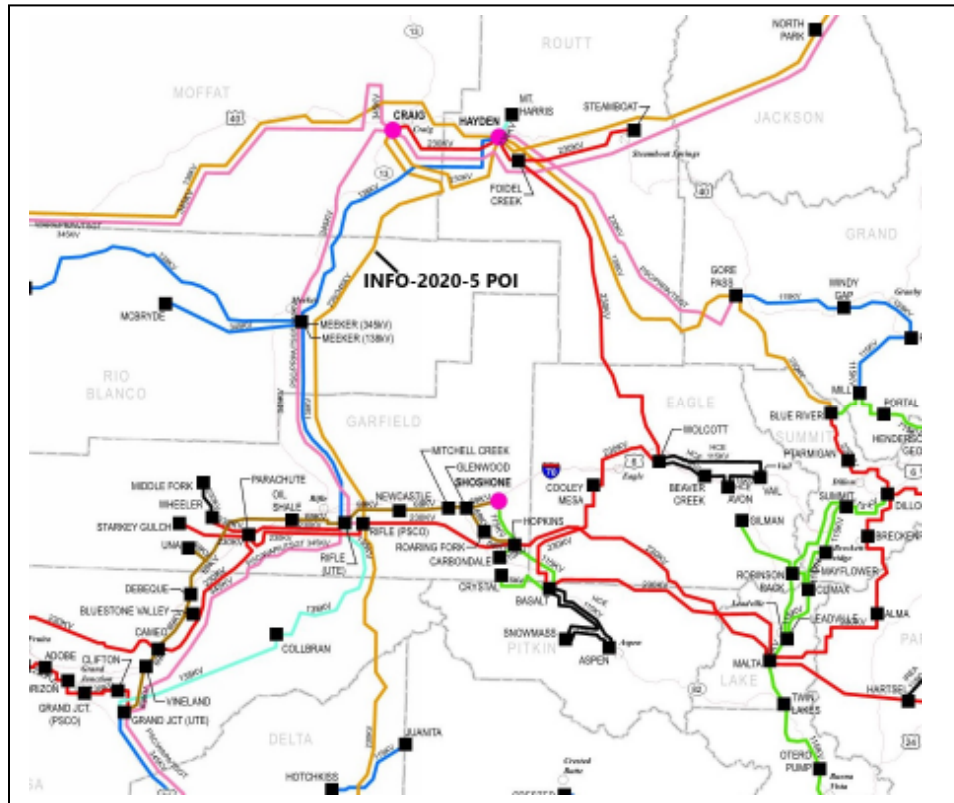


Figure 1 – INFO-2020-5 Point of Interconnection

### 3.0 Study Scope

The study was performed using the modeling assumptions specified by the Interconnection Customer. The scope of the study only includes power flow analysis to evaluate the steady-state thermal and voltage limit violations in the PSCo Transmission System and Affected Systems resulting from the addition of INFO-2020-5 for ERIS on the Craig – Meeker 345kV line. The study identified the maximum permissible ERIS before upgrades, and upgrades required to allow full

<sup>1</sup>**Energy Resource Interconnection Service** shall mean an Interconnection Service that allows the Interconnection Customer to connect its Generating Facility to the Transmission Provider’s Transmission System to be eligible to deliver the Generating Facility’s electric output using the existing firm or non-firm capacity of the Transmission Provider’s Transmission System on an as available basis. Energy Resource Interconnection Service in and of itself does not convey transmission service.

ERIS. The scope of this report also includes cost estimates for Interconnection Facilities, Station Upgrades and Network Upgrades.

### 3.1 Study Pocket Determination

As shown in Figure 1, the POI of the request is in Western Colorado, so the study analysis is based on the western Colorado study pocket analysis.

### 3.2 Study Criteria

The following steady state Criteria is used to identify violations on the PSCo system and the Affected Systems.

#### P0 - System Intact conditions:

Thermal Loading:  $\leq 100\%$  Normal facility rating  
Voltage range: 0.95 to 1.05 per unit

#### P1 & P2-1 – Single Contingencies:

Thermal Loading:  $\leq 100\%$  Normal facility rating  
Voltage range: 0.90 to 1.10 per unit  
Voltage deviation:  $\leq 8\%$

#### P2 (except P2-1), P4, P5 & P7 – Multiple Contingencies:

Thermal Loading:  $\leq 100\%$  Emergency facility rating  
Voltage range: 0.90 to 1.10 per unit  
Voltage deviation:  $\leq 8\%$

### 3.3 Study Methodology

The steady state assessment was performed using PSSE V34 and the TARA AC tool.

#### 3.3.1 Steady State Assessment methodology

Thermal violations are identified if a facility (i) resulted in a thermal loading  $>100\%$  in the Study Case after the study generator addition and (ii) contributed to an incremental loading increase of 1% or more to the benchmark case loading.

Voltage violations are identified if a bus voltage has a further variation of 0.1p.u.

### **3.4 Study Area**

The Study Area includes WECC designated zones 700, 703, 704, 705, 708, 709, 790 and 791. The neighboring utilities included in the analysis include Tri-State Generation and Transmission Inc. (TSGT) and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) systems in the study area.

## **4.0 Modeling Assumptions**

The study is performed using the WECC 2026HW2 case released on July 31, 2020.

### **4.1 Base Case Modeling**

The Base Case is created from the 2026HW2 case by making the following modifications. The following approved transmission projects in PSCo's 10-year transmission plan which are expected to be in-service before December 2025 are modeled:

- Cloverly 115kV Substation – ISD 2021
- Graham Creek 115kV Substation – ISD 2022
- Husky 230/115kV Substation – ISD 2022
- Ault – Husky 230kV line – ISD 2022
- Husky – Graham Creek – Cloverly 115kV line – ISD 2022
- Monument – Flying Horse 115kV Series Reactor – ISD 2022
- Avery Substation – ISD 2021
- Barker Substation (Bank 1: 2021, Bank 2: 2022) – ISD 2021/2022
- High Point Substation – ISD 2022
- Titan Substation – ISD 2022
- Gilman – Avon 115kV line – ISD 2022
- Upgrade Villa Grove – Poncha 69kV Line to 73MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Poncha – Sargent – San Luis Valley 115kV line to 120MVA – ISD 2021
- Climax – Robinson Rack – Gilman 115kV – ISD 2023
- Greenwood – Arapahoe - Denver Terminal 230kV line – ISD 2022
- Bluestone Valley Phase 2 – ISD 2023

Also, the following facility uprate projects are modeled at their planned future ratings:

- Upgrade Allison – SodaLakes 115kV line to 318MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Buckley34 – Smokyhill 230kV line to 506MVA – ISD 2021

- Upgrade Daniels Park – Priarie1 230kV line to 576MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Greenwood – Priarie1 230kV line to 576MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Daniels Park – Priarie3 230kV line to 576MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Greenwood – Priarie3 230kV line to 576MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Midway 230kV bus tie to 576MVA – ISD 2023
- Upgrade Waterton – Martin2 tap 115kV line to 189MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Daniels Park 345/230kV # T4 to 560MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Leetsdale – Monaco 230kV line to 560MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Greenwood – Monaco 230kV line to 560MVA – ISD 2021
- Upgrade Waterton – Martin1 tap 115kV line to 189MVA – ISD 2023

The following additional changes were made to the TSGT model in the Base Case per further review and comment from TSGT:

- Fuller – Vollmer – Black Squirrel 115kV line modeled at 173MVA – ISD 2022
- Fuller 230/115kV, 100MVA #2 transformer – ISD 2023

The following additional changes were made to the Black Hills Energy (BHE) model in the Base Case per further review and comment from BHE:

- Pueblo West substation – ISD 4/13/2021
- Pueblo Reservoir – Burnt Mill 115kV Rebuild – ISD 8/31/2021
- Boone - South Fowler 115kV Project – ISD 10/1/2021
- North Penrose Substation – ISD 1/31/2022
- West Station – Pueblo Res 115kV Rebuild – ISD 1/31/2022

The following additional changes were made to the Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) model in the Base Case per further review and comment from CSU:

- The Cottonwood – Tesla 34.5kV line is modeled open and Kettle Creek – Tesla 34.5kV line is modeled closed on the CSU system – ISD 2023
- Briargate S 115/230kV transformer project tapping the Cottonwood – Fuller 230kV line – ISD 2023

The Base Case model includes the existing PSCo generation resources and future resources with approved Transmission Service, and, Affected System's existing resources and future resources with approved Transmission Service. In addition, the following additional generation were modeled per the modeling requirements specified by the Customer:

- GI-2014-13, GI-2014-6, GI-2014-7, GI-2014-9, GI-2016-15, GI-2017-12, Transitional Cluster, 1RSC-2020, DISIS-2020-001, 2RSC-2020 and DISIS-2020-002 in the PSCo queue
- TI-18-0809, TI-19-1016 in the TSGT queue
- BHCT-G29 in the BHE queue
- Victory Solar, Pioneer Solar, Hunter Solar and Kiowa Solar in the IREA system

The following upgrades identified in the PSCo Generation interconnection queue studies are also modeled:

- Upgrade Daniels Park – Prairie 230kV # 1 line to 756MVA (DISIS-2020-001)
- Upgrade Daniels Park – Prairie 230kV # 3 line to 756MVA (DISIS-2020-001)
- Install a second Waterton 345/230kV, 560MVA xfmr (DISIS-2020-002)
- Loop Comanche – Daniels Park 345kV line into GI-2020-12/GI-2020-14 345kV Switching Station (DISIS-2020-002)
- Upgrade Boone – GI-2020-13 Switching Station segment to 394MVA (DISIS-2020-002)

## 5.0 Study Analysis

The INFO-2020-5 is studied in the western Colorado study pocket.

### 5.1.1 Benchmark Case Modeling

The Western Colorado Study Pocket is typically performed with TOT5 at 1680MW which is achieved using the dispatch in Table 1 below. The Customer requested modeling Craig#1 offline which is expected to reduce the TOT5 flow. TOT5 flow in the absence of Craig#1 is not established by the owners. So, the Benchmark Case is created as described in the following two steps:

- the Base Case described in Section 4.1 is modified to reflect the TOT5 path at a maximum of 1,680MW by adopting the generation dispatch in Table 1.
- Per the study assumptions prescribed by the Customer, Craig#1 is modeled offline. The lost generation is balanced by increasing respective owner's generation. The TOT5 path flow in this case is at 1374MW.

**Table 1 – Generation Dispatch Used to Create 1680MW TOT5 Flow  
(MW is Gross Capacity)**

Generation	Pgen MW
Craig 1	470



Generation	Pgen MW
Craig 2	470
Craig 3	478
Hayden 1	202
Hayden 2	285
Bonanza	490
MBPP-1	221
MBPP-2	150
Cabincreek A	160
Cabincreek B	160
Blue Mesa 1	40
Blue Mesa 2	40
Morrow 1	72
Morrow 2	72
Elbert-1	90
Elbert-2	90

### 5.1.2 Study Case Modeling

A Study case was created from the Benchmark Case by modeling INFO-2020-5 on the Craig – Axial – Meeker 345kV line, by tapping the line at mid length, between Axial and Meeker substations. The 300MW output from the generator was sunk to Pawnee. The TOT5 path flow in the Study Case is at 1606MW.

### 5.1.3 Steady State Analysis Results

The results of the single contingency analysis are given in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Overloads identified in Single Contingency Analysis**

Overloaded Facility	Type	Owner	Facility Normal Rating (MVA)	Facility Loading in Benchmark Case		Facility Loading in Study Case		% Change due to INFO-2020-5	Single Contingency Definition
				MVA Flow	% Line Loading	MVA Flow	% Line Loading		
Cabin Creek – Lookout 230kV # 1	Line	PSCo	478	456.0	95.4%	508.6	106.4%	11.06%	Cabin Creek – IdahoSprings 230kV # 1
Gorepass 230/138kV # T1	Xfmr	TSGT	129.5	128.1	98.9%	141.9	109.6%	10.74%	Blueriver - Gorepass 230kV #1
Climax – Leadville1 115kV # 1	Line	PSCo	57	63.0	110.6%	66.5	116.7%	6.09%	Malta – Leadville2 115kV # 1
Climax – Mayflower 115kV # 1	Line	PSCo	46	43.4	94.3%	51.2	111.4%	17.06%	Alma – Malta 230kV #1
Basalt - Hopkins 115kV # 1	Line	PSCo	83	141.7	170.7%	155.9	187.8%	17.08%	Hayden West - Foidel Creek 230kV # 1
Idaho Springs – Lookout 230kV # 1	Line	PSCo	473	433.7	91.7%	486.2	102.8%	11.01%	Cabin Creek – Lookout 230kV # 1
Mitchell Creek - Newcastle 69kV #1	Line	PSCo	55.9	47.5	85.00%	56.2	100.6%	15.58%	Hopkins - Rifle PS 230kV # 1
Newcastle - Silt 69kV #1	Line	PSCo	55.9	53.7	96.0%	61.8	110.6%	14.53%	Hopkins - Rifle PS 230kV # 1
Rifle CU - Silt 69kV #1	Line	PSCo	55.9	53.7	96.1%	61.8	110.6%	14.53%	Hopkins - Rifle PS 230kV # 1
Tarryall 230/115kV # T1	Xfmr	PSCo	100	96.1	96.1%	108.1	108.1%	11.95%	Tarryall – Waterton 230kV Line # 1

The facility overloads impacted by the addition of INFO-2020-5 are as follows:

- Cabin Creek - Lookout 230 KV#1 line loading increased from 95.4% to 106.4%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Gorepass 230/138kV#T1 transformer loading increased from 98.9% to 109.6%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Climax – Leadville1 115kV#1 line loading increased from 110.6% to 116.7%. This facility overload exists in the benchmark case and the benchmark case overload would be mitigated by PSCo. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Climax – Mayflower 115kV#1 line loading increased from 94.3% to 111.4%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Basalt – Hopkins 115kV#1 line loading increased from 170.7% to 187.8%. This facility overload exists in the benchmark case and the benchmark case overload would be mitigated by PSCo. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Idaho Springs - Lookout 230 KV#1 line loading increased from 91.7% to 102.8%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Mitchell Creek - Newcastle 69kV#1 line loading increased from 85% to 100.6%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Newcastle - Silt 69kV#1 line loading increased from 96% to 110.6%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.
- Rifle CU - Silt 69kV#1 line loading increased from 96.1% to 110.6%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.

- Tarryall 230/115kV#T1 transformer loading increased from 96.1% to 108.1%. The OPF identified a generation redispatch scenario which mitigated the Study Case overload, no Network Upgrades were identified to mitigate this overload.

As the Western Slope study analysis models very high TOT5 flow, running multiple contingency analysis on such a stressed case may result in unrealistic overloads. Hence, only single contingency analysis is performed.

The only Affected System overload identified in the study is the Gorepass 230/138kV xfmr. As stated above, this overload is mitigated by OPF, so there are no Affected System impacted facilities identified in the study.

## **6.0 Cost Estimates and Assumptions**

PSCo Engineering has developed cost estimates for Interconnection Facilities and Network/Infrastructure Upgrades required for the interconnection of INFO-2020-5 at the Craig – Meeker 345kV line. The cost estimates are in 2021 dollars with escalation and contingencies applied. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction (AFUDC) is not included. The estimated costs include all applicable labor and overheads associated with the siting, engineering, design, and construction of these new PSCo facilities. This estimate does not include the cost for any Customer owned equipment and associated design and engineering.

- Labor is estimated for straight time only – no overtime included.
- Lead times for materials were considered for the schedule.
- INFO-2020-5 Generating Facility is not in PSCo's retail service territory. Therefore, no costs for retail load metering are included in these estimates.
- Customer will install two (2) separate fiber optics circuits into the Transmission provider's substation as part of its interconnection facilities construction scope.
- Power Quality Metering (PQM) will be required on the Customer's generation tie-line terminating into Craig – Meeker 345kv line.
- The Customer will be required to design, procure, install, own, operate and maintain a Load Frequency/Automated Generation Control (LF/AGC) RTU at their Customer Substation. PSCo / Xcel will need indications, readings and data from the LFAGC RTU.
- PSCo (or it's Contractor) crews will perform all construction, wiring, testing and commissioning for PSCo owned and maintained facilities.

- PSCO anticipates that a CPCN will be required for the interconnection facilities construction. Project duration includes CPCN acquisition.
- The estimated time to permit, design, procure and construct the interconnection facilities is approximately 36 months after authorization to proceed has been obtained.

Figure 2 is a conceptual one-line of INFO-2020-5 POI on the Craig – Meeker 345kV line diagram.

The estimated total cost of the Transmission Provider's Interconnection Facilities and Station Network Upgrades are shown in Table 3 and Table 4 respectively. System improvements are subject to revision as a more detailed and refined design is produced.

**Table 3 – Transmission Provider's Interconnection Facilities**

Element	Description	Cost Est. (Millions)
PSCO's Proposed INFO-2020-5 345kV switching station	Interconnect Customer to tap the INFO-2020-5 345kV Switching Station. The new equipment includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One (1) 345kV deadend structures</li> <li>• Three (3) 345kV arresters</li> <li>• One (1) 345kV 3000A Switch</li> <li>• One set (of three) high side metering units</li> <li>• Fiber communication equipment</li> <li>• Station controls</li> <li>• Associated electrical equipment, bus, wiring and grounding</li> <li>• Associated foundations and structures</li> <li>• Associated transmission line communications, fiber, relaying and testing.</li> </ul>	\$1.472
	Transmission line tap into substation.	\$0.055
	Siting and Land Rights support for permitting and construction.	\$0.020
	<b>Total Cost Estimate for Transmission Providers Interconnection Facilities</b>	<b>\$1.547</b>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Site, design, procure and construct</b>	<b>36 Months</b>

**Table 4 – Station Network Upgrades**

Element	Description	Cost Est. (Millions)
PSCO's Proposed INFO-2020-5 345kV switching station	Construct INFO-2020-5 Switching Station tapping Craig – Meeker 345kV line. The new equipment includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight (8) 345 kV gang switches</li> <li>• Six (6) 345kV arresters</li> <li>• Three (3) 345kV 3000A Circuit Breakers</li> <li>• Associated bus, wiring and equipment</li> <li>• Associated foundations and structures</li> <li>• Associated transmission line communications, relaying and testing</li> </ul>	\$21.331

PSCo's Craig - Meeker 345kV Line	Tap 345kV Line	\$0.981
	Siting and Land Rights support for substation site acquisition, permitting, and construction	\$0.480
	<b>Total Cost Estimate for Network Upgrades for Interconnection</b>	<b>\$22.792</b>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Site, design, procure and construct</b>	<b>36 Months</b>

## 7.0 Summary of Informational Interconnection Study Results:

The Maximum Permissible Energy Resource Interconnection Service of INFO-2020-5 before Network Upgrades is 300MW.

Energy Resource Interconnection Service of INFO-2020-5 is 300MW.

The ERIS identified does not include an evaluation of the TOT5 capacity. The TOT5 West – East capacity is fully subscribed. The maximum available ERIS of INFO-2020-5 will also depend on the as-available capacity of TOT5 path during real-time operating conditions.

The total estimated cost of the transmission system improvements to interconnect INFO-2020-5 is \$24.339 Million (Tables 3 and 4).

The construction of a new 345kV Switching Station at the POI to accommodate the INFO-2020-5 interconnection on the Craig – Meeker 345kV line will require a CPCN. The total estimated time frame for regulatory activities (CPCN) and to site, design, procure and construct the switching station at the POI is approximately 36 months after authorization to proceed has been obtained. The COD of INFO-2020-5 is dependent on obtaining the CPCN.

The study did not identify any impacts to the Affected Systems.

Note – This report is an informational study and does not grant any Interconnection Service or Transmission Service. The results are based on the modeling assumptions and study scope specified by the Customer, which may or may not reflect the standard modeling assumptions followed for the LGIP studies.

**Figure 2 – Preliminary One-line of INFO-2020-5 Interconnecting on the Craig – Meeker 345kV line**

