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Annual Progress Report for Planning Coordination
El Paso Electric Company 2022 Annual Progress Report

Date: February 2022

To: The WECC Studies Subcommittee
Mr. Doug Tucker, Mr. Philip Augustin

From: Alejandro Solis, EPE System Planner

In accordance with the WECC *Progress Report Policies and Procedures*, El Paso Electric Company (EPE) is submitting its 2022 Annual Progress Report, as presented below. The Annual Progress Report includes seven new requests for a Waiver of "Significant Impact" Status. Also, there is no path rating being sought with any of the projects described next.

For all seven EPE projects outlined next, EPE study results have not indicated significant impact to the EPE system. These seven EPE projects do not have significant impact on the operation of the Western Interconnection.

The seven EPE projects that follow do not involve seeking a path rating.

If you have any questions, please contact me at alejandro.solis@epelectric.com or at (915) 521-4486.

1. **In-and-Out into Picante 345 kV Substation from Caliente-Amrad 345 kV Line and Associated Line Reactor at Picante**

   This project consists of EPE's Caliente to Amrad 345 kV transmission line running adjacent to Picante Substation and will be reconfigured to connect to this substation's ring bus. EPE's existing Caliente-Amrad 345 kV will be reconfigured to be the Amrad-Picante 345 kV and the Picante-Caliente 345 kV lines. A new 345 kV line shunt reactor will be installed at the Picante end of what will become the Amrad-Picante 345 kV line. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

   The project is expected to be in service in **April 2022**.

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2. **Afton North**
   Afton North consists of multiple projects listed below:

   Afton North Substation 345 kV (New) and Afton-Newman 345 kV Line Reconfiguration

   Afton North Substation is a planned 345/115 kV substation in southern New Mexico that will enhance system reliability. The Afton North 115 kV bus will be used to connect future planned EPE 115 kV line additions. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

   The project is expected to be in service in **May 2023**.

   Afton-Afton North 345 kV Double Bundled Transmission Line (New)

   A new one-mile, double bundled transmission line is planned to connect the Afton Substation to the new Afton North Substation in southern New Mexico. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

   The project is expected to be in service in **May 2023**.

   Afton North (Two) 224 MVA 345/115 kV Autotransformers (New)

   Two new 224 MVA 345/115 kV autotransformers, planned for 2024, will be installed at Afton North Substation. These two autotransformers are part of a plan to bring a 115-kV feed from the Afton North 115 kV bus to other EPE substations. This project will provide increased reliability within the Las Cruces and West El Paso areas.

   The project is expected to be in service in **May 2024**.

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3. **New Amrad SVC/Statcom (Replacement for Existing Amrad SVC)**

   The existing Static Var Compensator (SVC) at Amrad Substation is reaching the end of its expected service life. This device provides dynamic MVAR reactive support throughout the Amrad area and supports stabilization of voltage fluctuations in the area. A new Amrad SVC/Statcom device (replacement for existing Amrad SVC) will provide increased reliability within the area.

   Studies have not indicated significant impact as this new SVC/Statcom device will replace the existing one.

   The project is expected to be in service in **May 2026**.

4. **In-and-Out into Vado 345 kV Substation from Afton North-Newman 345 kV Line**

   EPE has an existing 345 kV transmission line between Afton and Newman Substations which runs adjacent to the proposed Vado Substation. With the addition of the Afton North 345 kV Substation in 2023, the Afton-Newman 345 kV line will become the Afton North-Newman 345 kV transmission line. The purpose of this transmission line in-and-out is to improve reliability to Las Cruces and West El Paso area.

   The project is expected to be in service in **May 2030**.

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5. **Vado**

Vado consists of multiple projects listed below:

Vado Substation 345 kV Addition

This project consists of constructing a 345 kV side to Vado Substation with two 345 kV transmission lines connecting to the Afton North and Newman 345 kV Substations as well as a new Vado 345/115 kV 224 MVA autotransformer addition to connect to the Vado 115 kV Substation. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2030**.

In-and-Out into the 345 kV side of Vado Substation & Vado 224 MVA 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)

EPE has an existing 345 kV transmission line between Afton and Newman Substations and this line runs adjacent to the proposed Vado Substation; with the addition of the Afton North 345 kV Substation in 2023, the Afton-Newman 345 kV line will become the Afton North-Newman 345 kV line prior to this project. The plan is to cut the Afton North-Newman 345 kV line and connect it in-and-out to the Vado Substation 345 kV bus. It will be necessary to add a Vado 345 kV bus and a new Vado 345/115 kV 224 MVA autotransformer to connect to the Vado 115 kV system. The Afton North-Newman 345 kV line will then become the Afton North-Vado and Afton North-Newman 345 kV lines after the completion to this project. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2030**.

6. **Newman 6 GT5 (Generation)**

This project consists of installing a new gas combustion turbine (Newman 6 GT5), with a capacity of 228 MW. The purpose of this project is to install a new gas combustion turbine in order to serve anticipated area load growth and also to provide increased reliability within the area.

The project is expected to be in service in **January 2023**.

7. **Newman 8 (Generation)**

This project consists of installing a new gas combustion turbine (Newman 8), with a capacity of 228 MW. The purpose of this project is to install a new gas combustion turbine in order to serve anticipated area load growth and also to provide increased reliability within the area

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2027**.