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Annual Progress Report for Planning Coordination El Paso Electric Company 2024 Annual Progress Report

Date: February 24, 2024

To: The WECC Studies Subcommittee,
Mr. Doug Tucker, Mr. Tom Carr

From: David Tovar, EPE Principal Engineer

In accordance with the WECC *Progress Report Policies and Procedures*, El Paso Electric Company (EPE) is submitting its 2024 Annual Progress Report, as presented below. The Annual Progress Report includes new requests for a Waiver of “Significant Impact” Status.

The following individual projects for which EPE requests a new individual Waiver of “Significant Impact” Status are:

- **Renewable Generation Standalone Battery Storage 2030 (Generation) (Change in Capacity from the 2023 WECC Annual Progress Report to the 2024 WECC Annual Progress Report)**

For the EPE projects outlined next, EPE study results have not indicated significant impact to the EPE system. These EPE projects do not have significant impact on the operation of the Western Interconnection. Also noted, is the granted waiver of “Significant Impact”, if applicable, next to the project name.

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

If you have any questions, please contact me at dav.tovar@epelectric.com

1. Afton North (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2022)

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 kV substation in southern New Mexico with an in-and-out connection on the Afton-Newman 345 kV Line resulting in the Afton-Afton North 345 kV Line and Afton North-Newman 345 kV Line. The Afton North 345 kV bus will be used to connect a 345 kV line from Afton North Substation into the proposed Vado Substation in 2028 as well as a 345 kV radial line from Afton North Substation to Airport Substation in 2026. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2028**.

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

A new half a mile, 345 kV 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 2028**.

2. Caliente 345/115 kV Autotransformer #3 (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2023)

A new additional third Caliente 345/115 kV autotransformer is planned. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

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

3. Arroyo Variable Line Shunt Reactor (50-100 MVAR) on the Arroyo end of the WestMesa-Arroyo 345 kV Line (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2023)

This project consists of a 50-100 MVAR variable line shunt reactor on the Arroyo end of the WestMesa-Arroyo 345 kV Line. This shunt reactor project is for the replacement of the existing line shunt reactor due to its condition. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

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



4. Airport (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2023)

Airport consists of multiple projects listed below:

Airport 345/115/24 kV Substation

This project consists of a new Airport 345/115/24 kV Substation that will replace the existing Airport 115 kV Substation. This project will provide increased system reliability.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2028**.

Airport 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)

This project consists of adding a new Airport 345/115 kV autotransformer to connect the Airport 345/115 kV system. This project will provide increased system reliability.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2028**.

Afton North-Airport 345 kV Transmission Line (New)

A new 345 kV transmission line is planned to be built from Afton North Substation to Airport Substation. This transmission line in conjunction with the, above, 345/115 kV autotransformer at Airport Substation will serve Airport Substation.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2028**.

5. New Amrad SVC/Statcom (Replacement for Existing Amrad SVC) (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2022)

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.

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

6. Vado (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2022 for Substation portion and single autotransformer and Waiver Granted in 2023 for second autotransformer)

Vado consists of multiple projects listed below:



Vado Substation 345/115 kV (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 2025, 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. The Afton North-Newman 345 kV line will then become the Afton North-Vado and Vado-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 2028**.

Two Vado 345/115 kV Autotransformers

This project consists of adding two new Vado 345/115 kV autotransformers to connect the Vado 345/115 kV system. This project will provide increased reliability within the area.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2028**.

7. New Eddy HVDC Tie Replacement (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2023)

The existing Eddy HVDC Tie may at times require legacy parts for maintenance. The existing HVDC Tie is at the end of its lifespan and the replacements parts are becoming difficult to acquire. Because of this, a new Eddy HVDC Tie replacement is being considered. A new HVDC Tie (replacement for existing Eddy HVDC Tie) will provide increased reliability within the area.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2028**.

8. Newman 6 GT5 (Generation) (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2022)

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 in service as of **December 27, 2023**.



9. Renewable Generation Standalone Solar 2030 (Generation) (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2023)

This project consists of installing a new photovoltaic unit, with a capacity of 250 MW. The purpose of this project is to install a new photovoltaic unit in order to serve anticipated area load growth and also to provide increased reliability within the area. This generation will wholly or partially offset potentially retiring generation.

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

10. Renewable Generation Standalone Battery Storage 2030 (Generation)

This project consists of installing a new battery storage unit, with a capacity of 283 MW. The purpose of this project is to install a new battery storage unit in order to serve anticipated area load growth and also to provide increased reliability within the area. This generation will wholly or partially offset potentially retiring generation. This generation project has been reduced from a max generation capacity of 333 MW to 283 MW from the EPE 2022 Plan to the EPE 2023 Plan, thus a change from the 2023 Annual Progress report to the 2024 Annual Progress report.

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

11. Renewable Generation Standalone Solar 2032 (Generation) (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2023)

This project consists of installing a new photovoltaic unit, with a capacity of 432 MW. The purpose of this project is to install a new photovoltaic unit in order to serve anticipated area load growth and also to provide increased reliability within the area. This generation will wholly or partially offset potentially retiring generation.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2032**.

12. Renewable Generation Standalone Battery Storage 2032 (Generation) (Waiver of “Significant Impact” Granted in 2023)

This project consists of installing a new battery storage unit, with a capacity of 381 MW. The purpose of this project is to install a new battery storage unit in order to serve anticipated area load growth and also to provide increased reliability within the area. This generation will wholly or partially offset potentially retiring generation.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2032**.