Annual Progress Report for Planning Coordination El Paso Electric Company 2026 Annual Progress Report

Date: January 26, 2026

To: The WECC Studies Subcommittee, Mr. Doug Tucker

From: David Tovar, EPE Principal Engineer

In accordance with the WECC *Progress Report Policies and Procedures*, El Paso Electric Company (EPE) is submitting its 2026 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 Solar & Battery Storage (Generation) 250 MW Maximum, 250 MW Solar, 250 MW Battery, December 2028**
- **Gas Combustion Turbine, 325 MW, May 2032**
- **Afton-Newman 345 kV In and Out into Vado 345 kV Substation Line Reconfiguration (Afton-Vado 345 kV line Portion)**
- **Afton North-Vado 345 kV Line (New)**
- **T_W1 345/115 kV Switching Station (New) & Related 345 kV Line Reconfiguration**
- **T_W1 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)**
- **Pine 345/115 kV Switching Station (New)**
- **Caliente-Pine 345 kV Line (New)**
- **Pine 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)**
- **Alamo – Pine 345 kV Line (New)**
- **Alamo 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)**

For the EPE projects outlined next, EPE study results have indicated that these next listed 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 345 kV Switching Station (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2022 as part of the heading "Afton North Projects")**

   This project involves the construction of a new Afton North 345 kV Switching Station. The Afton North 345 kV Bus will be used to connect multiple 345 kV Circuits in an effort to increase the reliability and strength of EPE's Transmission System.

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

2. **Airport 345/115/24 kV Substation (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2023 as part of the heading "Airport Projects")**

   This project involves the construction of a new Airport 345/115/24 KV Substation. The Airport 345 & 115 kV Buses will be used to connect multiple circuits at these voltage levels as an effort to increase the reliability of EPE's Transmission System. This substation will also be replacing the existing Airport 115/24 kV Substation.

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

3. **Vado Substation 345/115 kV (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2022 as part of the heading "Vado Projects")**

   The addition of Vado 345/115 kV Substation involves several elements. The project involves an in-and-out connection on the Afton to Newman 345 kV transmission line with terminations into Vado 345 kV resulting in the Afton to Vado 345 kV Line and the Vado to Newman 345 kV Line. It is also planned to add an additional Airport to Vado 345 kV Line and two new Vado 345/115 kV Autotransformers to connect the Vado 115 kV/345 kV system. With the addition of Vado Substation in 2028, there will also be an in-and-out connection on the Anthony to Salopek 115 kV Line resulting in the Anthony to Vado 115 kV and Vado to Salopek 115 kV Lines thereafter.

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

4. **Afton-Newman 345 kV In and Out into Vado 345 kV Substation Line Reconfiguration (Afton-Vado 345 kV line Portion) (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2022 for a portion of this project as part of the heading "Vado Projects" Waiver of "Significant Impact" being requested for another portion of this project)**

   The Afton to Newman 345 kV Line Reconfiguration consists of several elements. The reconfiguration will consist of cutting into the Afton to Newman 345 kV Line to connect to Vado 345 kV Bus. The new Path will consist of Afton to Vado to Newman 345 kV Circuits.

The request for waiver of "Significant Impact" for the Afton-Vado 345 kV portion of the reconfiguration is because the 2022 waiver that was granted was for a reconfiguration of EPE's Afton-Newman line to the Afton N-Vado 345 kV line and Vado-Newman 345 kV line. Given that the Waiver of "Significant Impact" was granted in 2022 as part of the heading "Afton North Projects" for the Vado-Newman 345 kV portion of the Afton-Newman 345 kV portion of the reconfiguration and that does not change in this EPE progress report, the portion that does change in this progress report is the Afton N-Vado 345 kV portion of the reconfiguration (2022 waiver granted) changes to the Afton-Vado 345 kV portion of the reconfiguration (waiver requested in this progress report).

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

5. **Afton North-Airport 345 kV Line (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2023 as part of the heading "Airport Projects")**

   A new 345 kV transmission line is planned to be built from Afton North Substation to Airport Substation. The Afton North to Airport connection will become one of the main serving points for the Airport Substation.

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

6. **Afton-Afton North 345 kV Line (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2022 as part of the heading "Afton North Projects")**

   A new 345 kV transmission line is planned to be built from Afton North Substation to Vado Substation. This 345 kV Circuit is part of a 345 kV Path that will increase the reliability and strength of EPE's Transmission System.

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

7. **Afton North-Vado 345 kV Line (New)**

   A new 345 kV transmission line is planned to be built from Afton North Substation to Vado. This 345 kV Circuit is part of a 345 kV Path that will increase the reliability and strength of EPE's Transmission System.

   Though a waiver of "Significant Impact" was Granted in 2022 as part of the heading "Vado Projects", that waiver was for the Afton N-Vado 345 portion of an existing 345 kV line that was to be reconfigured.

   For the request in this progress report for waiver of "Significant Impact" for the Afton N-Vado 345 kV line, this request is for a new non-existing line expected to be in service in 2028 that is not part of a reconfiguration.

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

8. **Airport 345/115 kV Autotransformer (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2023 as part of the heading "Airport Projects")**

   A new Airport 345/115 kV autotransformer will enhance system reliability. This autotransformer will serve as the connection point from the load at Airport to its serving point through the 345 kV Line from Airport to Afton North.

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

9. **Vado 345/115 kV Autotransformers T1 & T2 (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2022 for T1 and 2023 for T2 as part of the heading "Vado Projects")**

   It is planned to add two new Vado 345/115 kV Autotransformers to connect the Vado 345/115 kV system.

   The project is expected to be in service in **May 2029.**

10. **Mirage 345 kV Substation, Airport to Mirage 345 kV Line and Related 345 kV Line Reconfiguration (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2025)**

    This project involves the construction of a new Mirage 345 kV Switching Station. The 345 kV Line Reconfiguration consists of splitting the Macho Springs to Luna 345 kV circuit to introduce the Mirage 345 kV Substation. The new Path will consist of Luna to Mirage to Macho Springs 345 kV Circuits.

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

11. **T_W1 345/115 kV Switching Station (New) & Related 345 kV Line Reconfiguration**

    This project involves the construction of a new T_W1 345/115 kV Switching Station. The 345 kV Line Reconfiguration consists of splitting the Afton to Diablo 345 kV circuit to introduce the T_W1 345/115 kV Substation. The new Path will consist of Afton to T_W1 to Diablo 345 kV Circuits.

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

12. **Airport-Mirage 345 kV Line (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2025)**

    A new 345 kV transmission line is planned to be built from Airport Substation to Mirage. The Airport to Mirage connection will become one of the main serving points for the Airport Substation.

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

13. Luna-Diablo 345 kV Line Reconfiguration (In-and-Out at Afton 345 kV Substation) (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2025)

The Luna to Diablo 345 kV Line Reconfiguration consists of cutting into this line to connect to the Afton 345 kV Substation. This transmission line reconfiguration will improve system reliability and increase the El Paso Import Capability (EPIC).

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

14. T_W1 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)

This project identifies a new T_W1 345/115 kV autotransformer to connect the 345 kV & 115 kV Buses at T_W1 Substation.

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

15. Pine 345/115 kV Switching Station (New)

This project involves the construction of a new Pine 345/115 kV Switching Station that will be part of the East Side Loop Expansion Project. The Pine 345 & 115 kV Buses will be used to connect multiple circuits at these voltage levels as an effort to increase the reliability of EPE's Transmission System.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2031.**

16. Caliente-Pine 345 kV Line (New)

A new 345 kV transmission line is planned to be built from Caliente Substation to Pine Substation.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2031.**

17. HVDC Tie Replacement (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2023)

This project involves options for the replacement of the existing Eddy HVDC Tie.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2031.**

18. Amrad 345/115 kV Autotransformer (Waiver of "Significant Impact" Granted in 2025)

A new additional Amrad 345/115 kV autotransformer has been identified to enhance system reliability.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2031.**

19. Pine 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)

This project identifies a new Pine 345/115 kV autotransformer to connect the 345 kV & 115 kV Buses at Pine Substation.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2031.**

20. Alamo – Pine 345 kV Line (New)

A new 345 kV transmission line is planned to be built from Alamo Substation to Pine Substation.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2035.**

21. Alamo 345/115 kV Autotransformer (New)

This project identifies a new Alamo 345/115 kV autotransformer to connect the 345 kV & 115 kV Buses at Alamo Substation.

The project is expected to be in service in **May 2035.**