

**Tri-State Montrose-Nucla-Cahone Transmission Line
Improvement Project**

Draft Plan of Development

Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, and Dolores Counties, Colorado

Appendix K

Draft Fire Plan

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The objective of this Draft Fire Plan is to detail practices designed to address potential impacts from construction of the Tri-State Montrose-Nucla-Cahone Transmission Improvement Project (Project). Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) has developed this plan as part of the Plan of Development (POD) that accompanies its application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Right of Way (ROW) grant. If the ROW grant is approved, the final POD and all appendices will be attached to the Decision Record. This plan provides guidance to construction and field personnel on measures identified by Tri-State, BLM and US Forest Service (FS) to minimize effects during construction activities associated with the Project. It will be the responsibility of Tri-State and its project contractors, working with designated environmental inspectors, to comply with measures identified in this plan.

This fire plan is generally accepted on all federal units within the State of Colorado. As the fire season progresses, each BLM or FS office may impose closures, for fire prevention reasons.

Tri-State and all contractors are advised to stay in touch with local fire dispatch offices, to be of service, and for personal safety.

Fire Prevention and Suppression Requirements for Operations on Bureau of Land Management and National Forest Lands

1. Tri-State (hereafter referred to as the operator) will do everything reasonable within its power and will require its employees, contractors and employees of contractors to do everything reasonable within their power, both independently and upon request of the BLM and FS to prevent and suppress fires on or near the lands to be occupied under this permit. In case of fire suppressed by the operator, the operator will report its occurrence to the BLM or FS within 24 hours. The operator is responsible for all suppression costs and resource damage for any fire resulting from its operations and practices.
2. The operator is responsible to insure that each employee, subcontractor, or any other individual or company working on the project site is aware of the provisions of this fire plan, is familiar with the location and proper use of firefighting equipment, and conducts themselves in a fire-safe manner.
3. No material will be disposed of by burning in open fires without a written permit from the BLM or FS.
4. Exhaust systems of vehicles shall have an acceptable muffler and shall be in proper working condition. All motorized equipment and machinery shall be equipped with spark arresters.
5. Fire extinguishers required:
 - Type ABC:
 - One 2 pound per pick up or
 - One 5 pound for trucks over 1 ton Gross Vehicle Weight
 - One 10 pound per dozer, motor patrol, scraper or other earthmoving equipment
6. A separate fire cache will be maintained at the site of operations, containing a minimum of one shovel per person, one backpack water pump, 4 or 5 gallon (“Indian” or equivalent), one axe or Pulaski. Tools must be kept sharp and handles smooth, ready for immediate use. Fire tools will not be used on the job for other purposes.

7. Vehicles will be parked only in cleared areas.
8. All smoking will be done only inside of vehicles or in areas cleared of flammable material.
9. Welding is herein used to mean electric arc welding; arc or gas cutting or heating; gas welding; grinding of metal; use of any flammable gas, carbon or hydrocarbon fuel for heating or forging metal.
10. Each welding crew will have immediately available a water tank of not less than 300 gallon capacity with a pump capable of pumping 20 gallons per minute at 100 pound-force per square inch (PSI) and not less than 100 feet of hose. Exception: hand held propane torches may be used without the above referenced water tank and pump; provided that all other requirements are met, and that a shovel and a full 4 or 5 gallon backpack type water pump are immediately available for use.
11. There will be no welding when winds over 15 miles per hour (mph) occur, or when the predicted fire danger for the day as determined by the FS or BLM is greater than “3+” (see item 11).
12. All welding will be done within an area cleared of all flammable vegetation and materials for a minimum radius of 30 feet from the welding operation.
13. Fuels and flammable materials may not be stored on BLM or National Forest System lands. They may be located in approved containers in a truck. For example, an approved diesel tank in the back of a truck, or dolmeyer with chainsaw fuel. No fuel or flammable substance will be stored in any glass container.
14. A fire watch person (lookout) will be at the site of any and all welding, fueling, tractor or other mechanized equipment operation, etc. This person will have no other duty than to watch for fire starts and be ready to take immediate fire suppression action. The fire watch person will remain on site observing for smoke or fire for a minimum of one half hour after cessation of operations requiring the fire watch person. The fire watch person will carry a shovel and have a 4 or 5 gallon backpack water pump (full and in good operating condition) immediately available. The fire watch person will be in good physical condition and able to fight fires.
15. Exception: A fire watch person(s) will not be required when the predicted fire danger for the day as determined by the FS or BLM is “3-“or less. A fire watch person(s) is required if the predicted fire danger is “3+” or more. It is the operator’s responsibility to contact the FS to determine what the predicted fire danger is. The predicted fire danger may be obtained by calling 970-963-2266 Monday through Friday at about 4:30 p.m.
16. Blasting: Use of explosives is authorized, subject to the following provisions:
 - Operator must have a valid, current Explosives Permit from the State of Colorado;
 - Overnight storage of explosives is not authorized on BLM or National Forest land;
 - There will be no blasting when winds over 15 mph occur, or when the predicted fire danger for the day as determined by the FS or BLM is greater than “3+”;
 - Adequate safety lookouts and traffic control will be provided to insure public safety during all blasting operations;
 - A shovel and full 4 or 5 gallon backpack type water pump must be immediately available for use.
17. Operations may be suspended if inspection by a BLM or FS representative reveals non-compliance with the provisions of these fire prevention and suppression requirements.