

For immediate release

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Town of Springfield Receives Microgrid Planning Grant

July 23, 2024, Springfield, Colo. – The Town of Springfield was awarded a Microgrid Planning Grant by the Department of Local Affairs in conjunction with the Colorado Energy Office. The town was awarded \$32,160 to evaluate backup power and microgrid options to increase its electric grid reliability and reduce outages. The total estimated cost of the project is \$48,000. The Arkansas River Power Authority is partnering with Springfield on the project and provided matching funds of \$15,840.

Currently Springfield is served by one transmission line that is subject to the extreme weather events that occur in and around Southeast Colorado. And as the Springfield community is well aware, the weather events trigger power outages that can stretch into hours at a time. This project will evaluate the options for providing a backup service for the town.

This is viewed as the first step towards constructing a microgrid or backup power supply that will increase the resiliency and reliability of electric service to all of Springfield. This includes service to its critical facilities such as its medical facilities, nursing home, and emergency services.

The Town of Springfield is a member of the Arkansas River Power Authority which is a Joint Action Agency that provides wholesale electricity to its member communities of Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Springfield and Trinidad, Colorado.