

Copy of letter sent to Xcel managers 12/18/2014

To:

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Area Manager, Denver

Todd Anderson

Area Manager, Northern Colorado and Mountain Region

Tom Henley

Area Manager, South Metro Area and I-76 Corridor

Fred Eggleston

Area Manager, Western Slope

Craig Eicher

Area Manager, Boulder County

Preston Gibson

Area Manager, West to Continental Divide & North Denver Metro

Kathy Worthington

Area Manager, Pueblo & San Luis Valley

Dear Xcel,

Xcel's plans for new above-ground lines next to Colorado's Poudre River will threaten the safety of passersby, deface the environment, and call into question Xcel's self-proclaimed values of ethics, respectful customer service, operational excellence and accountability. Xcel lays claim to some [awesome values](#). Please walk your talk and send the new utility lines underground on the [N. Shields St. Corridor Project](#).

Overhead lines fall down and are more dangerous to the public than underground lines. Last year alone, your overhead lines went down twice on our section of N. Shields St. With more than 9,500 vehicles currently traveling our street, the addition of bike trails and sidewalks on either side will generate even more traffic. I hate to think what would happen if one of the planned overhead lines goes down and crushes or electrocutes a passerby, perhaps a mother pushing a stroller with a baby in it. Opening the door to this horrific scenario does not live up to your value, "Ensure safety for ourselves, our coworkers and the public."

Xcel's plan for above-ground power lines completely ignores the aesthetics of the Poudre River corridor, and the [extremely historic nature of my](#)

[property](#) and surrounding properties. Overhead lines are also dangerous to birds. We witnessed [overhead power lines kill a wild duck recently](#), and [bald eagles frequent the neighborhood](#). Finally, [everybody is working hard to naturalize, beautify and add value to the Poudre River corridor](#). New above-ground power lines will stick out like a sore thumb in this pastoral setting and will make Xcel's value, "Protect the environment" laughable.

Safety and the environment alone should make underground lines the ethical thing to do on the N. Shields St. Corridor Project. Xcel cannot move ahead with the plan to put new lines above ground and still honor its value, "Conduct all our business in an honest and ethical manner".

You are probably not surprised by this letter. I and others have raised the issue of above-ground v. underground lines when working the last two years with the City of Fort Collins and Larimer County on the N. Shields St. Corridor Project, which is swallowing a long strip of my property. We even contacted your staff. Many agree that the lines should go underground. Furthermore, the City of Fort Collins has a policy of requiring new construction to include underground utilities. And while it is true that the N. Shields St. Project is on the county line, we are in the city's growth management area. Xcel is splitting legal hairs when it decides not to go underground on N. Shields St. You might also be interested to know that when we talk about Xceland N. Shields St., workers shake their heads and offer up some variation of: "Xcel does things its own way". If it is true that "Xcel does things its own way", in this case with disregard for fairness and ethics, then you might as well toss out two more of your values, "Treat all people with respect" and "Be accountable to each other for doing our best."

I have been a paying Xcel customer for more than 20 years, which adds up to at least tens of thousands of dollars spent on Xcel by me alone. I feel like you have completely ignored my needs and those of the other Xcel customers who own pastoral and historic properties here with your plan to build utility lines above ground. Please go underground with the lines and live up to your value, "Work together to serve our customers."

Xcel prides itself on operations. From an operations standpoint, the road and surrounding right-of-ways are already slated for demolition. Asking for underground lines is not asking Xcel to tear up the road by itself. The road demolition is already being done. Also, I am told that a duct bank is already under construction. New, underground Xcel lines would already have a home. Finally, above-ground utility lines fall down, not just threatening people's safety, but causing more power outages than underground lines. If you put the

planned N. Shields St. lines underground, you would have fewer service calls. If Xcel chooses to stick with above-ground lines on N. Shields St., then Xcel trashes yet another of its values, "Achieve operational excellence". Traveling this path, Xcel might as well remove all mention of values from its branding.

The good news is that Xcel can still prevent irreparable damage by changing course and sending the new lines underground. As we usher out December and welcome the New Year, please Xcel, in the spirit of peace, goodwill and all that you claim to believe, send the new utility lines on N. Shields St. underground.

Sincerely,

Karin Livingston