

# ASPLIN & ASSOCIATES

30 October 2008

Jim Clare  
San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative  
3625 U.S. Highway 160W  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

Dear Jim,

At this month's Upper Rio Grande Economic Development Council meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> and at the Del Norte Economic Development Council meeting of October 21<sup>st</sup> you spoke about the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Coop System Improvement Project involving Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and its partner, Excel Energy. Thanks for the schedule of open houses for public involvement and the handouts giving the project overview, system load information, siting process, and the environmental process.

Bonnie and I both agree it is timely and necessary to expand the capacity of power transmission into the San Luis Valley. Our current capacity is far too limited and a collapse due to weather conditions or overloads would incapacitate the entire Valley. Just one of the uses of an additional 230-kilovolt line will provide is to assure us of future stability of electrical needs. In addition it will allow for the development and export of new generation resources, an industry which we hope will continue to grow here in the Valley. The Valley has tremendous potential for renewable electric production. Without this line to move the power out of the valley, no one will consider building in this location and a valuable national resource will go unused.

We are certainly in support of the planning for and implementation of the improvement project.

Let's hope it will lead to the installation of the much needed connection between Walsenburg substation and the San Luis Valley Substation.

Sincerely,



Marty and Bonnie Asplin