Energizing Pueblo’s Rocky Mountain Steel

One of Colorado’s largest solar projects will deliver 300 megawatts of clean, cost-effective energy to EVRAZ North America’s steel mill.
AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Bringing economic and environmental benefits to Colorado

In September 2019, Xcel Energy, EVRAZ North America, and Lightsource bp announced that they had formed a long-term partnership to develop a 300 megawatt solar farm in Pueblo, Colorado in order to power the EVRAZ Rocky Mountain Steel mill facility. When complete, Bighorn Solar will be the largest onsite solar project in the U.S. and the largest solar project east of the Rocky Mountains.

Xcel Energy provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. The utility company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices.

EVRAZ North America is a wholly owned subsidiary of EVRAZ plc, one of the largest vertically integrated steel and mining businesses in the world. The company is a leading North American producer of engineered steel products for rail, energy and industrial end markets.

Lightsource bp is a global leader in the development and management of solar energy projects. They are a 50:50 joint venture with bp plc, working together to help drive the world’s transition to low carbon energy through competitively priced and sustainable electricity.

“If you were wondering what a renewable energy future would look like, this is a great example.”
- Colorado Governor Jared Polis
Local Economic Development

Lightsource bp and project investors will invest an estimated $285 million into the solar facility. In addition to providing low cost energy and budget certainty for the EVRAZ steel mill, the project will create about 300 local jobs in construction, operations, maintenance and asset management.

The project will contribute over $22 million in property tax revenue over the project life, benefitting local schools, street maintenance fire stations, parks and other community public services.

EVRAZ North America is Xcel Energy’s largest retail electric customer in Colorado and one of Pueblo’s largest employers. With its 20-year, fixed rate structure, the project provides EVRAZ North America with predictable electricity prices and allows the mill, which employs about 1,000 workers, to stay in Pueblo and invest in its future.

Clean, Local Energy

The project supports the Colorado Energy Plan, helping Xcel Energy provide 55% renewable energy by 2026 and reduce carbon emissions by 60% in the state, as part of the company’s bold vision to deliver 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050. The Bighorn Solar project will enable Xcel Energy to abate 433,770 metric tons of CO2 emissions, the equivalent of taking 92,100 fuel burning cars off the road each year.

Philanthropic Commitments

Lightsource bp is committed to dedicating funds to philanthropic activities and charitable donations to local organizations.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Lightsource bp takes great pride in engaging with local communities, not just during solar planning and development, but throughout the 25+ year lifetime of their solar farms. They are focused on championing local economies and ecosystems, to truly become a home-grown asset that communities can be proud of.
**PROJECT DETAILS**

Lightsource bp will finance, build, own and operate the Bighorn Solar project and sell all the electricity it generates to Xcel Energy under a long-term power purchase agreement. It will be located on EVRAZ Rocky Mountain Steel property in Pueblo, making it the largest on-site solar facility dedicated to a single customer in the country.

- **Project capacity:** 300 megawatts (DC) 240 megawatts (AC)
- **Electricity production:** 613,400 megawatt-hours per year, offsetting about 90% of the EVRAZ Rocky Mountain Steel mill’s annual electricity demand
- **Owner and operator:** Lightsource bp
- **Power purchaser:** Xcel Energy
- **Capital investment:** $285 million by Lightsource bp and project investors
- **Total size:** More than 750,000 solar panels installed on approximately 1,800 acres of land
- **Technology:** Bifacial solar photovoltaic (PV) modules on single-axis trackers
- **Contract:** 20-year power purchase agreement with Xcel
- **Expected completion:** Q4 2021
- **Location:** Pueblo, Colorado

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Denver ✨
Bighorn Solar ●

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