

Decision No. C23-0198

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20A-0528E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2020 ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN.

**COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING
MOTION TO AMEND SCHEDULE FOR PHASE II
VERIFICATION REPORT SUBMISSION**

Mailed Date: March 22, 2023

Adopted Date: March 22, 2023

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By this Decision, we grant the Unopposed Motion of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to Amend Schedule for Phase II Verification Report Submission (Verification Report Motion), filed on March 15, 2023, by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE or the Department).

B. Background

2. The entire procedural history of this Proceeding is provided in previous decisions and is repeated here only to the extent necessary to contextualize this Decision.

3. On December 1, 2020, pursuant to Rule 3605 of the Commission's Rules Regulating Electric Utilities, 4 Code of Colorado Regulations (CCR) 723-3 (Electric Rules), Tri-

State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., (Tri-State) filed its 2020 Electric Resource Plan (ERP) in two volumes along with six sets of Direct Testimony and other attachments.

4. On January 18, 2022, Tri-State filed a Joint Motion to Approve Unopposed Comprehensive Settlement (Joint Motion, and Settlement). Recommended Decision No. R22-0191, issued March 28, 2022, approved the Joint Motion and Settlement, and became the final decision of the Commission. Tri-State's 2020 ERP is currently in Phase II, and Tri-State filed its ERP Implementation Report on February 13, 2023.

5. On January 14, 2022, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) filed its Motion for Limited Participation. The Motion for Limited Participation requested that CDPHE be permitted to participate in a limited capacity as a neutral verifier of Tri-State's projected emissions reductions and as a technical resource to the Commission should any technical questions about the projected emissions reductions arise during the proceeding.¹ CDPHE's Motion for Limited Participation was granted by Recommended Decision No. R22-0109-I, issued February 23, 2022. The Settlement further stated that while Tri-State did not file a Clean Energy Plan, Tri-State's 2005 Baseline and 2030 Emissions Reduction Projection were verified by CDPHE for the Phase I Revised Preferred Plan, and made certain other commitments with regard to emissions reductions.²

6. On March 15, 2023, CDPHE filed its Verification Report Motion. CDPHE states that it was to submit its Phase II Verification Report to the Commission 30 days after Tri-State submitted its ERP Implementation Report, consistent with the approach set forth in the Motion for Limited Participation. Because Tri-State submitted its ERP Implementation Report on

¹ This is similar to the role CDPHE was granted in Public Service Company of Colorado's Clean Energy Plan in Proceeding No. 21A-0141E.

² Attachment A to Recommended Decision R22-0191 at para. 3.3.

February 13, 2023, CDPHE was to submit its report on March 15, 2023. Due to the press of other business and the large volume of workbooks needing verification, CDPHE states that it was unable to meet the March 15 deadline and requests an additional week to do so, through March 22, 2023. CDPHE represents this changed date will not prejudice any other party, and the Verification Report Motion does not request changes to any other procedural deadlines. CDPHE represents that it conferred with all parties to Proceeding No. 20A-0528E and none oppose its request. Specifically, its request is supported by the Colorado Energy Office and not opposed by the Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate; other parties took no position³ or did not respond⁴ to its request.

C. Findings and Conclusions

7. Given the Verification Report Motion is unopposed, and no parties will be prejudiced by the extension of time, we find good cause to grant the motion and extend the deadline for CDPHE to file workbooks to March 22, 2023.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Unopposed Motion of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to Amend Schedule for Phase II Verification Report Submission, filed March 15, 2023, is granted, consistent with the discussion above.

³ Parties that take no position include Trial Staff of the Commission, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., the Conservation Coalition, Interwest Energy Alliance, the Colorado Independent Energy Association, the Colorado Solar and Storage Association and Solar Energy Industries Association, Delta-Montrose Electric Association, K.C. Electric, Morgan County Rural Electric Association and Mountain View Electric Association, Inc., Western Resource Advocates, Southwestern Energy Efficiency Project, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local No. 111, and Vote Solar.

⁴ Parties that did not respond include Wyoming Cooperatives and the Joint Cooperative Movants (except for constituent members K.C. Electric, Morgan County REA, and Mountain View Electric). CDPHE also represents that the Office of Just Transition did not respond.

2. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 22, 2023.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Harris Adams".

G. Harris Adams,
Interim Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners