

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24A-0296E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2025-2027 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN, WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADJUSTMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF PLAN, AND THE RECOVERY OF ITS 2023 WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN DEFERRAL.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION
SCHEDULING PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS
AND COMMISSIONERS' INFORMATION MEETING,
AND REQUIRING CERTAIN FILINGS**

Issued Date: December 17, 2024

Adopted Date: December 11, 2024

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I. BY THE COMMISSION**A. Statement**

1. By this Decision, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) schedules a Commissioners’ Information Meeting (“CIM”), three virtual public comment hearings, and directs certain other filings.

B. Procedural Background

2. On June 27, 2024, Public Service filed an Application (“Application”) for approval of its 2025-2027 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (“WMP”). Along with the 2025-2027 WMP, Public Service filed a Public Safety Power Shutoff (“PSPS”) Plan which defines proactive de-energization of portions of the distribution and/or transmission system in the event of imminent and severe weather conditions that can result in fires caused by Company equipment, the decision-making process and timelines for notification, as well as restoration protocols.

3. On August 12, 2024, the Commission issued Decision No. C24-0575-I, deeming the Application complete, setting it for hearing *en banc*, and granting interventions.

4. By Decision No. C24-0716-I, issued October 3, 2024, the Commission determined that extraordinary conditions exist in this Proceeding and extended the statutory deadline within which to issue a decision by an additional 130 days pursuant to § 40-6-109.5(4), C.R.S. The Commission made this finding in part given that the 2025-2027 WMP and PSPS Plan invoked questions about the roles of local, state, and federal entities in communications and cost recovery. The Commission found that additional time was imperative to ensure that individuals and entities with unique subject matter expertise—including federal and state agencies, offices of emergency management, first responders, local business leaders, and others—could participate.

5. By Decision No. C24-0761-I, issued October 23, 2024, the Commission adopted a procedural schedule, including an evidentiary hearing for May 5-15, 2025. It stated that it would address the scheduling of public comment hearings and additional procedures by separate orders.

C. Public Comment Hearings

6. In prior filings, parties provided helpful suggestions for the treatment of public comment hearings in this Proceeding. Having reviewed filings to date, we intend to schedule three virtual public comment hearings for 2025.

7. The first public comment hearing will be held from 11:00 a.m. to no later than 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2024. This hearing will be held in advance of Answer Testimony, which is to be filed on February 14, 2025.

8. The second virtual public comment hearing will be held from 9:00 a.m. to no later than 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025. This hearing will be held in advance of Rebuttal and Cross-Answer Testimony, which is to be filed on March 21, 2025.

9. The third and final virtual public comment hearing will be held from 4:00 to no later than 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. This hearing will be held in advance of the Evidentiary Hearing, which is to be held May 5-15, 2025.

10. We direct Staff to work with internal communications staff to ensure that information about public comment hearings can be sent out in a timely manner to potentially interested stakeholders, and to encourage preregistration for efficiency.

1. Suggested Topics for Comment

11. Public comment hearings are intended for entities or individuals who are potentially interested in Commission proceedings but who are not themselves parties. Public comments may be submitted on any issue related to the Application. However, we particularly encourage public

comments on two issues. First, public comments may reveal how to reach customers who use durable medical equipment and what information they may need to prepare for PSPSs or address the battery storage resilience customer programs that are targeted to Critical Customers, including their relationship to other offerings such as battery backups available through Medicaid. Second, early and frequent public comments from local offices of emergency management, for example, could be helpful to understand what questions the Commission could consider directing to state agencies or to respond to comments made by those state agencies.

2. Providing Public Comments

12. Staff will provide information about registering to provide public comments on the Commission's public calendar of events at:

<https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar>

13. When providing public comments, commenters should give their full name, and spell it, before they give their comments. In general, commenters will be called to speak in the order in which they sign up. The presiding officer may adopt procedures and time limits for comments as necessary to ensure that all members of the public have opportunity to comment, and the transcribed record is clear and understandable. Typical time limits range from one to three minutes for each commenter. To ensure the hearing time is used efficiently, commenters are requested to avoid repetitive comments that re-state filed written comments or repeat oral comments already provided at hearing.

14. Interested persons who do not wish to provide comments but wish to observe can review virtual public comment hearings on the Commission's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/>

15. Public comments can be filed at any time in the proceeding and will be afforded the same weight as oral comments. Public comments can be submitted as follows:

- Submitting written comments through the Commission’s Electronic Filing System (E-Filings) at: <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>.
- Submitting written comments using the Commission’s online form¹ or through email at: dora_puc_website@state.co.us. These comments will be posted in E-Filings for this Proceeding.
- Mailing comments to the Commission’s offices at: Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202.
- Calling (303) 869-3490 to leave oral comments (English and Spanish options).

16. Please include “Proceeding No. 24A-0269E” in comments. The Commission prefers submission of comments through its online form for efficiency.

D. Commissioners’ Information Meeting

17. In our prior decisions, we recognized the potentially significant interactions between the Company’s proposed infrastructure investments, PSPS Plan activities, and actions taken by federal, state, and local agencies. As we noted, Public Service testimony explained that there are over 400 entities addressing different aspects of wildfire mitigation in Colorado alone.² We further set a goal for this Proceeding around better understanding the interrelationships of these different entities and agencies around wildfire mitigation, emergency management preparedness and response, funding, among other issues.³ We stated that to do this, we intended to explore hosting a CIM to hear from state agencies with expertise in wildfire and emergency events.⁴

¹Available at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIWDDeNS2FCh0NdEijNU4igpUKqRZvTIYwZ8XSA2YYx3LF6qA/viewform>.

² Decision No. C24-0687-I, issued September 23, 2024, at ¶ 16.

³ *Id.* at ¶¶ 36-39.

⁴ Decision No. C24-0716-I, issued October 3, 2024, at ¶ 25.

18. Accordingly, we schedule a virtual CIM to be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025. In the event of a large volume of speakers, we will also hold 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025.

19. The purpose of the CIM will be to hear from representatives of agencies and divisions within the State of Colorado on their perspectives regarding the Application. Based on what we currently know, we anticipate the CIM will be structured as follows.

20. A representative from each interested or impacted state agency will be provided up to 30 minutes to present. The presentation will begin with factual information about the agency's roles and anticipated interactions with elements of the Company's Application. The presentation can also include opinions regarding the Application, and presenters will be asked to clearly distinguish opinions and perspectives from factual information. After each presentation, the Commission, Advisors, and parties will have up to 30 minutes to ask clarifying questions of each speaker. Questions by parties are not intended to be treated as cross-examination, as representatives from other agencies presenting at the CIM are not represented by counsel. The Commission will obtain a court reporter for the CIM and enter the transcript into the record of the Proceeding.

21. We direct Staff to identify and invite agency representatives to attend the CIM. Staff should prioritize inviting representatives from agencies that have subject matter expertise related to emergency management preparedness and response, wildfire mitigation, forestry, insurance, and, if appropriate, public safety and health. We anticipate that Staff will provide potentially interested agencies with a background briefing on relevant Commission procedures, factual aspects of the Application, and how the CIM will be run, to ensure efficiency. For transparency, Staff should file invite lists, agendas, and any slides in this Proceeding at least

two weeks prior to the CIM. Staff shall also file a detailed agenda that identifies the presenters and their respective agencies at later than one week prior to the CIM. Under the structure we have set forth, we anticipate hearing from representatives of 3-6 state agencies.

22. The CIM will be conducted using the Zoom platform. Staff will distribute the link and meeting ID or access code to presenters and parties by email approximately one week before the CIM. Parties and participants are prohibited from distributing that information to anyone not participating in the CIM. While the CIM will be limited to invited presenters and parties, it will be streamed and recorded on the Commission's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/>

23. To the extent that the agenda or structure may need to shift from what we have laid out in scope or structure, Staff are to bring this issue to a Commission Weekly Meeting for further direction.

E. Other Required Filings

1. Technical Conference Rundown

24. By Decision No. C24-0761-I, the Commission approved a technical conference at which the Company shall demonstrate relevant software and tools, specifically the Technosylva software and the refined, public-facing outage map. The virtual technical conference shall be held on Monday, January 27, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

25. The technical conference will be conducted using the Zoom platform. Staff will distribute the link and meeting ID or access code to participants and parties by email approximately one week before the technical conference. Parties and participants are prohibited from distributing that information to anyone not participating in the technical conference. While the technical

conference will be limited to parties, it will be streamed and recorded on the Commission's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/>

26. To enable the Commission to prepare for the technical conference, Public Service is directed to file a rundown of the anticipated demonstration by January 10, 2025.⁵ The purpose of the rundown is to provide a rough agenda and timeline for the demonstration(s), and to generally describe which actions and functionalities will be demonstrated. At the technical conference, the Commissioners, Advisors, and parties will be permitted to ask limited factual, clarifying questions, and the schedule should include a reasonable amount of time to do so. The Commission will obtain a court reporter for the technical conference and enter the transcript into the record of the Proceeding.

2. Bimonthly Reports in Proceeding No. 24M-0173E

27. In Proceeding No. 24M-0173E, by Decision No. C24-0755, issued October 18, 2024, the Commission directed the Company to file reports on certain information every other month. On November 26, 2024, the Company filed its first bimonthly report, which included references to filings in this Proceeding and addressed ongoing communications improvements regarding the PSPS Plan and outreach to local offices of emergency management.

28. Given the significant potential for efforts the Company is reporting on in this Proceeding to inform ultimate proposals around topics like PSPS, we direct the Company to file its bimonthly reports in this Proceeding concurrent with filing in Proceeding No. 24M-0173E

⁵ Scheduling questions related to the technical conference can be directed to Kelly Crandall (kelly.crandall@state.co.us).

going forward. Public Service shall further file the November 26, 2024, bimonthly report in this Proceeding within ten days of the issuance of this Decision.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. Public Service Company of Colorado shall file its November 26, 2024, bimonthly report from Proceeding No. 24M-0173E in this Proceeding within ten days of the issuance of this Decision. The Company shall file future bimonthly reports in this Proceeding concurrently with filing in Proceeding No. 24M-0173E going forward.

2. Public Service Company of Colorado shall file a rundown of the anticipated agenda and functionalities to be demonstrated at the January 27, 2025, technical conference, by January 10, 2025, consistent with the discussion above.

3. We schedule a Commissioners' Information Meeting to hear from State agencies with subject matter expertise related to topics like emergency management preparedness and response, wildfire mitigation, as further described above:

DATE: February 20, 2025 (Day 1)

TIME: 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Available for viewing at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/>

DATE: February 21, 2025 (Optional Day 2)

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to no later than 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Available for viewing at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/>

4. A virtual public comment hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: February 6, 2025

TIME: 11:00 a.m. to no later than 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: By video conference or telephone using the zoom web conferencing platform at a link emailed to all those who register to participate in the public comment hearing.

5. A second virtual public comment hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: March 13, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to no later than 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: By video conference or telephone using the zoom web conferencing platform at a link emailed to all those who register to participate in the public comment hearing.

6. A third and final virtual public comment hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: April 29, 2025

TIME: 4:00 p.m. to no later than 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: By video conference or telephone using the zoom web conferencing platform at a link emailed to all those who register to participate in the public comment hearing.

7. This Decision is effective immediately upon its Issued Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
December 11, 2024.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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Commissioners