

Decision No. R24-0113-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22M-0171ALL

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL 21-272
REQUIRING IT TO PROMULGATE RULES IN WHICH IT CONSIDERS HOW BEST TO
PROVIDE EQUITY IN ALL OF ITS WORK.

**INTERIM DECISION OF HEARING COMMISSIONER
MEGAN M. GILMAN
SCHEDULING A COMMISSIONERS' INFORMATION
MEETING FOR MARCH 6, 2024**

Mailed Date: February 22, 2024

Adopted Date: February 14, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By this Decision, I schedule a Commissioners' Information Meeting (CIM) for March 6, 2024, to understand how other states' Public Utility Commissions and Colorado regulatory agencies are building an ecosystem for meaningful community engagement, assessing the effectiveness of community engagement, and considering the outcomes of community engagement in proceedings. As the Hearing Commissioner, I invite Chair Eric Blank and Commissioner Tom Plant to participate in the CIM.

B. Background

1. SB 21-272 calls upon the Commission to promulgate rules in which it will:

"...consider how best to provide equity, minimize impacts, and prioritize benefits to disproportionately impacted communities and address historical inequalities...in all of its work including its review of all filings and its determination of all adjudications [. . .]." § 40-2-108(3)(b), C.R.S.

2. On April 28, 2022, the Commission issued Decision No. C22-0239 opening this proceeding to collect comments and other information given statutory changes in Senate Bill (SB) 21-272 that revise § 40-2-108, C.R.S., set proceeding objectives, and direct the Commission to commence a rulemaking proceeding.¹

3. On September 29, 2022, the Commission issued Decision No. C22-0584-I referring this proceeding to me as the Hearing Commissioner for ongoing management.

4. On September 15, 2023, I issued Interim Decision R23-0625-I directing Staff of the Commission to file a work plan; schedule and host workshops; report on progress, including filing a capstone report; and otherwise take actions as needed to advance SB 21-272 implementation.

5. On October 16, 2023, Commission Staff published a Work Plan for Proceeding No. 22M-0171ALL, which outlined workshops and other public participation opportunities to inform the Commission's implementation of SB 21-272. The work plan identified a CIM on Community Engagement on March 6, 2024, as a potential activity within Workshop Series 3: Meaningful Outreach and Engagement.

C. Findings and Conclusions

6. The Meaningful Outreach and Engagement workshop series is meant to solicit input on how the Commission can ensure outreach is meaningful, results in improved equity outcomes,

¹ Decision No. C22-0239 set the following objectives: 1. To gather information that will help define the Commission's approach to considering how to provide equity in its proceedings, which may address among other concepts, definitions of equity, procedural equity, distributional equity, and recognition of historic contributors to inequity; 2. To understand how equity may appear differently for different industries or areas regulated by the Commission; 3. To gather information that will help shape the Commission's approach to defining disproportionately impacted communities, including the interactions between disproportionately impacted communities and income-qualified or low-income utility customers; 4. To understand the Commission's evolving role with regard to stakeholder engagement, generally and compared to other state agencies or to regulated industries, and to explore enhancements to engagement of parties, participants, the public, members of disproportionately impacted communities, and other potential stakeholders; 5. To gather information that will enable the Commission to propose changes to rules through future proceeding(s), as well as how such future proceeding(s) could be staged; 6. To gather information to determine what regulatory activities the Commission may need to undertake beyond rulemakings to implement legislative provisions related to equity, disproportionately impacted communities, and low income or income-qualified utility customers; 7. To identify information that could lead to changes to Commission policies and practices; and 8. To undertake any other actions needed to ensure compliance with SB 21-272 through a future rulemaking.

and is high quality. Amongst the series objectives, the Commission seeks to determine whether particular expectations could be set for regulated entities for outreach and engagement to promote equitable outcomes for communities and to assess how the Commission might evaluate the quality and value of utility community outreach in utility and intervenor filings.

7. By this Decision, I schedule a virtual CIM on community engagement to be held 4, from 2:00 p.m. to no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, to explore these topics.

8. Staff will post an agenda for the CIM in E-Filings in advance of the session.

9. The Commission strives to accommodate all members of the public at its hearings and meetings by providing services for foreign language users and persons with disabilities upon receipt of a reasonable accommodation request. Requests for such accommodations should be made by March 1, 2023, by completing the [Language Access Form](#). Requests can also be made directly by contacting Holly Bise at 303-894-2024 or by emailing holly.bise@state.co.us.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. A virtual Commissioners' Information Meeting (CIM) is scheduled as follows to discuss community engagement, as discussed above:

DATE: March 6, 2024

TIME: 2:00 p.m. to no later than 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: By video conference using Zoom in Hearing Room A.

2. Individuals wishing to view the CIM may view it using the webcast for Hearing Room A, available at:

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/pacific/Webcasts/a.html>

3. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MEGAN GILMAN

Hearing Commissioner

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca E. White".

Rebecca E. White,
Director