Decision No. R24-0388-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24M-0060G

IN THE MATTER OF THE GAS INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN OF COLORADO NATURAL GAS, INC. FILED PURSUANT TO 4 CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS 723-4-4552 OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES REGULATING GAS UTILITIES.

INTERIM DECISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ROBERT I. GARVEY SETTING PUBLIC HERARING

Issued Date: June 5, 2024

I. STATEMENT

1. On March 1, 2024, Colorado Natural Gas, Inc. (CNG or the Company) filed its Initial 2024-2029 Gas Infrastructure Plan (GIP). CNG made the filing consistent with provisions in the Commission's Rules Regulating Gas Utilities, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-4-4550 to 4555 (Gas Infrastructure Planning Rules), that require the filing of Gas Infrastructure Plans (GIPs) as part of the Commission's updated regulatory framework for gas utilities adopted through Proceeding No. 21R-0449G (the Gas Rulemaking).

2. Rule 4552(c) allows utilities to file initial GIPs in miscellaneous proceedings that will not be fully adjudicatory, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 4552(b). This Proceeding is intended to provide opportunities for the refinement of future GIP filings from CNG, and it is anticipated there will be guidance for such filings, including future adjudicated filings, in the final decision in this Proceeding, as necessary. Notably, the Gas Infrastructure Rules allow CNG to file its next GIP in a miscellaneous proceeding that, like this Proceeding, will also not be fully adjudicatory but will instead be governed by the specific procedures set forth in Rule 4552(b).

3. CNG's initial GIP covers an informational plan for 2024-2029. The GIP details planned projects, their scope, purpose, budget, and other information related to the gas distribution systems in Colorado. Pursuant to 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-4-4551, reported projects have a cost estimate that exceeds $2 million.

4. CNG's GIP includes three planned projects, and CNG states that it hosted a stakeholder meeting in Pueblo, Colorado to discuss one of the projects in accordance with GIP requirements.

5. On April 22, 2024, through Decision No. C24-0258, the Commission opened the above-captioned proceeding and referred it to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for the limited purpose of conducting a public comment hearing.

6. The full procedural history is contained in pervious decisions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

7. The undersigned ALJ is scheduling remote public comment hearing on Monday, August 12 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm to best accommodate interested persons appearing from different locations throughout CNG's service territory and throughout the State.

8. The public comment hearing session will continue until concluded, meaning that the sessions will continue until all public comments are received, but will end no later than the designated end-time (4:00 p.m.). The hearing sessions will not be held open for public comments after all those who have appeared have provided public comment and therefore may conclude before the scheduled end time (4:00 p.m.). For example, if all those who appear at the session have provided public comment by 2:00 p.m. or earlier, that hearing session will be adjourned. This also means that anyone who chooses to join the public comment hearing sessions after the designated start times assumes the risk that the hearing will be concluded before they join. However,

regardless of how early registered participants conclude their comments, the session will continue until at least 2:00 p.m.

9. The public comment hearing will be held using the web-hosted video-conferencing service, Zoom. This means that members of the public who wish to participate in the public comment hearing should not appear in person at the Commission's offices but should instead appear remotely via Zoom.

A. Observing the Public Comment Hearing

10. Consistent with Commission practice, the public comment hearing will be webcast on the Commission's website. Persons wishing to observe but not provide comments in the hearing may do so by observing the webcast of the hearing and need not register through Zoom. To observe the hearing by webcast, enter this link in the web browser https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts and select the audio or video option for the assigned hearing room. The assigned hearing room will be identified on the Commission's public calendar for the date and time of the hearing, at the following link: https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar.

B. Participating in the Public Comment Hearing

11. Those interested in providing public comment during the hearing must register in advance using a link posted on the calendar of events on the PUC's website at https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar . Registrants will receive an email with a link to provide comment during the Zoom session. If an interested person cannot obtain the link and register, they can contact the PUC for assistance at 303-894-2000.

12. Those registered to provide comment during the hearing are strongly encouraged to prepare in advance and familiarize themselves with how to use the Zoom meeting platform. Attachment A to this Decision provides step-by-step technical instructions and requirements to

participate by video-conference using a computer. This is intended to ensure that the remote hearing proceeds efficiently. It is important that registered video-conference participants carefully review and follow all requirements in this Decision and Attachment A.

13. For those who wish to provide oral comments during the hearing, video-conference participation is preferred and encouraged because it allows for the hearing to be held in a manner most similar to in-person hearings. Nevertheless, interested persons have the option to participate by telephone.

14. The Commission strives to accommodate all members of the public at its hearings by providing services for foreign language users and persons with disabilities upon receipt of a reasonable accommodation request. Registrants requesting an interpreter during the public comment hearing should complete the Language Access Form at https://puc.colorado.gov/how-toparticipate at least one week prior to the event. Requests for accommodation can also be made directly by contacting Holly Bise at 303-894-2024 or holly.bise@state.co.us.

C. Other Methods to Submit Public Comment

15. Interested persons wishing to provide public comment need not participate in the public comment hearing to do so. In addition to accepting comments during the public comment hearing, the Commission makes available other means by which interested persons may provide written or oral comments. The Commission prefers written comments over oral comments but gives written and oral comments the same weight.

16. Interested persons are encouraged to submit written comments through either: (a) the Commission's Electronic Filing System at https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage in this Proceeding; or (b) the Commission's website at https://puc.colorado.gov/ by clicking on the

"FILE A COMMENT OR COMPLAINT" link. Anyone using the latter option should ensure that their comments include this Proceeding number (Proceeding No. 24M-0060G).

17. Oral comments will be accepted from any interested person who leaves a voice mail message at (303) 869-3490 or from registered commenters offering public comment during the scheduled public comment hearing. Those leaving voice mail public comments must include their name, the spelling of their name, and this Proceeding number (Proceeding No. 24M-0060G) in their message. Voice mail messages will be transcribed and placed in the record of this Proceeding.

18. The Commission will equally consider public comments, regardless of the format in which they are submitted (verbal or in writing).

III. ORDER

It is Ordered That:

1. A Public Comment Hearing is scheduled as follows:

Date:	August 12, 2024
Time:	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (or until concluded**)**
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.

2. All those who wish to provide comments in the public comment hearing must register for the hearing in order to receive the Zoom information to join the public comment hearing. Interested persons must register to participate in the public comment hearing by clicking on a link available on the Commission's calendar of events on its website for the date and time(s) of the hearing at https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar, and following the requirements in Attachment C hereto, which is incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

3. Participants may not appear in person at the Commission for the above-scheduled public comment hearings. Instead, they must participate in the hearing from remote locations, consistent with the requirements of this Decision.

4. Those wishing to observe but not provide comment in the above public comment hearing may do so by observing the Commission's webcast for the assigned hearing room at: https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts.

5. Members of the public who wish to provide written or oral comments outside of the public comment hearing may do so by following the instructions set out above.

6. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ROBERT I. GARVEY

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director