

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PROCEEDING NO. 19M-0495E

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S IMPLEMENTATION OF §§ 40-2.3-101 AND 102, C.R.S., THE COLORADO TRANSMISSION COORDINATION ACT.

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**INTERIM DECISION DIRECTING STAFF  
TO FILE PERIODIC UPDATES ON THE  
QUANTITATIVE MODELING STUDY  
AND MAINTAIN A COMMUNICATIONS LOG**

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Mailed Date: September 28, 2020  
Adopted Date: September 23, 2020

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Discussion**

1. On September 17, 2019, in accordance with the Colorado Transmission Coordination Act of 2019, §§ 40-2.3-101 and 102, C.R.S., the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened this proceeding to investigate the potential costs and benefits to electric utilities, other generators, and Colorado electricity customers that would arise from electric utilities participating in a regional electricity market, and to aid the Commission in its determination of whether such participation is in the public interest. The Commission stated that through this proceeding, it would “collect comments and other information helpful in analyzing the potential advantages and disadvantages”<sup>1</sup> of Colorado’s electric utilities participating in a regional electricity market, and that the proceeding would serve as a “repository for the filing of

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<sup>1</sup> Decision No. C19-0756, issued September 17, 2019, at ¶ 1.

comments, studies and analyses, [and] a platform from which to conduct workshops, hold public hearings, pose questions, discuss processes, and issue orders.”<sup>2</sup>

2. Stakeholders were encouraged to submit initial comments on various topics by November 15, 2019, and to file responsive comments by December 15, 2019. The Commission appreciates the robust response received from stakeholders, and these comments have been reviewed by Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (Staff).

3. On March 23, 2020, the Commission issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for quantitative modeling and analysis in support of its investigation.<sup>3</sup> As discussed at the Commissioners’ Weekly Meeting on September 9, 2020, the RFP was awarded to Siemens Energy Business Advisory (Siemens) in June of 2020, and Staff has begun to work with Siemens to develop definitions of market constructs, modeling scenarios, and input assumptions.<sup>4</sup> We direct Staff to continue to provide periodic updates on the progress of the modeling study.

4. To complete the modeling study, Staff will work with Siemens to develop and validate various quantitative objectives, metrics, and models. Most of the inputs and data necessary for the modeling study will be provided by Siemens. However, we recognize that Staff will need to reach out to stakeholders and other entities to acquire or validate certain information for the modeling study.

5. Additionally, to further the Commission’s investigation and inform its decision determining whether electric utilities participating in an energy market is in the public interest, as required by § 40-2.3-102(3), C.R.S., the Commission finds it would be beneficial for Staff

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<sup>2</sup> Decision No. C19-0756, at ¶ 4.

<sup>3</sup> See Proceeding No. 19M-0495E, Notice of Request for Proposal (submitted March 23, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> See Proceeding No. 19M-0495E, Colorado Transmission Coordination Act Quantitative Modeling Update, (submitted September 9, 2020).

assigned to this proceeding to discuss topics related to the investigation with participants and other entities. Such discussions would be limited to furthering the Commission's understanding of issues related to this proceeding and would not encompass ongoing adjudicatory proceedings before the Commission. With those limitations, we allow Staff to reach out to stakeholders, participants, and other entities and discuss topics relevant to our investigation and this proceeding.

6. To provide appropriate transparency in this situation, we direct Staff to maintain a Communications Log listing or describing the following: (1) entities with which Staff discusses topics relevant to our investigation or through which Staff acquires or validates information for the quantitative modeling study, including stakeholders and participants in this proceeding; (2) dates and times of discussion, (3) the topics discussed; and (4) information learned during the discussion. These discussions may take place in person, over phone, or over email. Staff shall either file into this proceeding or include in reports filed in this proceeding any information it relies upon to form its recommendations and any information that is otherwise relevant to our investigation of the costs and benefits of Colorado's electric utilities participating in a regional electricity market and our determination of whether such participation is in the public interest. Additionally, we direct Staff to periodically file its Communications Log into this proceeding.

## **II. ORDER**

### **A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (Staff) shall periodically provide updates on the progress of the quantitative modeling study.

2. Staff shall maintain a Communications Log to track communications with stakeholders, participants, and other entities, and shall periodically file the Communications Log into this proceeding, consistent with the discussion above.

3. Staff shall file into this proceeding any information it relies upon to form its recommendations and any information that is otherwise relevant to this proceeding, consistent with the discussion above.

4. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
September 23, 2020.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

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JOHN GAVAN

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

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Commissioners