

Decision No. R20-0483-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20AL-0049G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 961 FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO INCREASE RATES FOR ALL NATURAL GAS SALES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2020.

**INTERIM DECISION OF
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
STEVEN H. DENMAN
SCHEDULING REMOTE VIDEO PUBLIC COMMENT
HEARING AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION**

Mailed Date: July 2, 2020

I. STATEMENT

1. This Interim Decision schedules a remote public comment hearing in this proceeding by using the video platform GoToMeeting, consistent with the discussion below and the instructions in Attachment A.

A. Procedural History.

2. On February 5, 2020, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (Commission), Advice Letter No. 961-Gas, accompanying tariff sheets, and supporting direct testimony and attachments. This filing is a combined Phase I and Phase II natural gas rate proceeding.

3. The effective date of the tariff sheets filed with Advice Letter No. 961-Gas has been suspended for a total of 250 days until November 12, 2020, pursuant to § 40-6-111(1)(b), C.R.S. (2019).¹

¹ See Decision No. C20-0112 (mailed on February 20, 2020) and Decision No. R20-0145-I (mailed on March 5, 2020).

4. The procedural history of this Proceeding is set forth in previously issued Decisions and is repeated here as necessary to put this Decision into context.

5. The Parties to this Proceeding are Public Service, Trial Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel, the Colorado Energy Office, Atmos Energy Corporation, the Federal Executive Agencies, Energy Outreach Colorado, Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc., doing business as Black Hills Energy, WoodRiver Energy, LLC, Colorado Natural Gas, Inc., Climax Molybdenum Company, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 111, and AARP.²

6. Decision No. R20-0223-I (mailed on April 6, 2020) *inter alia* adopted a procedural schedule with certain filing dates and set an in-person evidentiary hearing for July 7 through 10 and 13 through 17, 2020 in a Commission Hearing Room.

7. Pursuant to Executive Orders issued by Governor Polis and the Emergency Remote-Workforce Plan issued by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) in response to the novel coronavirus COVID-19) pandemic, Commission personnel are required to work remotely and cannot return to the Commission's offices and hearing rooms until at least September 7, 2020. DORA may extend its Emergency Remote-Workforce Plan beyond that date. The building in which the DORA and Commission offices are located remains closed to the public. Presently, Commission personnel cannot travel to out-of-town locations for in-person hearings.

² See Decision No. R20-0145-I; Decision No. R20-0208-I, mailed on April 1, 2020); and Decision No. R20-0278-I (mailed on April 22, 2020).

B. Remote Public Comment Hearing.

8. Under these circumstances, the public comment hearing must be conducted as a remote hearing in which the participants will appear from remote locations, as provided below. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) finds that holding a remote hearing is consistent with current public health advisories to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The ALJ concludes that it is in the best interests of the parties and the public to hold the hearing in this proceeding as a remote hearing using a video conference platform.

9. The Commission uses the web-hosted video conferencing service GoToMeeting to hold remote video hearings. **Attachment A** to this Decision provides important requirements and technical information on participating in the remote public comment hearing using GoToMeeting. It is important that participants carefully review and follow all requirements in this Decision and in Attachment A.

10. **To Participate by Computer.** Any customer of Public Service who wishes to participate in the public comment hearing by computer must use a computer that is connected to the internet and has a microphone and a speaker. At the time of the hearing, please go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/875073349>. **When you are not speaking, please mute your microphone.**

11. **To Participate by Telephone.** Any customer of Public Service party who wishes to provide comments by telephone during the remote public hearing must call +1 (646) 749-3122 when the hearing takes place. When prompted, input the pin 875-073-349. You will then be placed into the public comment hearing. Please note that your session and participation will be controlled by the ALJ and or his Staff. **When you are not speaking, please mute your telephone.**

12. **To observe by Webcast.** The ALJ anticipates that the public comment hearing will be webcast, consistent with Commission practice. This means that those persons wishing to observe the public hearing may do so without needing to join the hearing online or by telephone. Please use the audio or video connection for Hearing Room A found at <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts>.

13. Members of the public should *not* attend the public comment hearing in-person.

II. **ORDER**

A. **It Is Ordered That:**

1. A remote public comment hearing is scheduled in this proceeding, as follows:

DATE: July 16, 2020

TIME: 4:00 p.m. until concluded, but no later than 6:00 p.m.

FOR WEBCASTS: Hearing Room A

METHOD: Join by video conference at the following link:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/875073349>; **OR**

Join by telephone: Dial the following telephone number:
+1 (646) 749-3122; when prompted, input the PIN
875-073-349.

2. At the above date and time, customers of Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) who wish to present oral comments on the rate case filing in this proceeding, will participate remotely by using the GoToMeeting video conference platform as described in Attachment A. To participate in the remote public hearing, participants shall follow the procedures set forth in **Attachment A** to this Decision.

3. The Administrative Law Judge will call upon persons who have indicated they wish to present oral comments. The length of time allotted to each speaker will depend on the number of persons have indicated they wish to speak.

4. An individual who is a representative of a Party in this proceeding, or who is employed by or affiliated with an intervenor, will not be permitted to present comments at the public comment hearing. Public Service may respond to public comments (written or oral) in a written pleading that shall be due on or before July 31, 2020.

5. This Interim Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

STEVEN H. DENMAN

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Dean".

Doug Dean,
Director