

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES**  
**Public Utilities Commission**

**4 CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS (CCR) 723-3**

**PART 3**  
**RULES REGULATING ELECTRIC UTILITIES**

**3001. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply throughout this Part 3, except where a specific rule or statute provides otherwise. In addition to the definitions here, the definitions found in the Public Utilities Law and Part 1 apply to these rules. In the event of a conflict between these definitions and a statutory definition, the statutory definition shall apply. In the event of a conflict between these definitions and a definition in Part 1, these definitions shall apply.

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[indicates omission of unaffected rules]

- (aa) "Powerline trail" means a multimodal trail that is: eight feet in width or wider; made of hard service such as concrete or compacted gravel; used for recreational purposes or commuting in a manner that does not involve a motor vehicle; and located in an existing transmission or planned corridor.
- (bb) "Principal place of business" means the place, in or out of the State of Colorado, where the executive or managing principals who directly oversee the utility's operations in Colorado are located.
- (cc) "Property owner" means the legal owner of government record for a parcel of real property within the service territory of a utility. A utility may rely upon the records of a county clerk for the county within which a parcel of property is located to determine ownership of government record.
- (dd) "Reference standard" means suitable indicating electrical equipment permanently mounted in a utility's laboratory and used for no purpose other than testing rotating standards.
- (ee) "Regulated charges" means charges billed by a utility to a customer if such charges are approved by the Commission or contained in a tariff of the utility.
- (ff) "RFP" means request for proposals.
- (gg) "Rotating standard" means a portable meter used for testing service meters.
- (hh) "RUS" means the Rural Utilities Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, or its successor agencies.
- (ii) "Service connection" is the location on the customer's premises/facilities at which a point of delivery of power between the utility and the customer is established. For example, in the case of a typical residential customer served from overhead secondary supply, this is the location at which the utility's electric service drop conductors are physically connected to the customer's electric service entrance conductors.

- (jj) “Standard customer data” means customer data maintained by a utility in its systems in the ordinary course of business.
- (kk) “Third-party” means a person who is not the customer, an agent of the customer who has been designated by the customer with the utility and is acting of the customer’s behalf, a regulated utility serving the customer, or a contracted agent, of the utility.
- (ll) “Transmission corridor” means a tract of land owned, occupied, or leased by an electric utility, or covered by an easement or right-of-way held by an electric utility, where an electric transmission line is constructed, operated, or maintained or planned to be constructed, operated, or maintained at a voltage of 69 kilovolts or above.
- (mm) "Transmission facilities" are those lines and related substations designed and operating at voltage levels above the utility's voltages for distribution facilities, including but not limited to related substation facilities such as transformers, capacitor banks, or breakers that are integral to the circuitry of the utility’s transmission system.
- (nn) “Unique identifier” means a customer’s name, mailing address, telephone number, or email address that is displayed on a bill.
- (oo) "Unregulated charges" means charges that are billed by a utility to a customer and that are not regulated or approved by the Commission, are not contained in a tariff filed with the Commission, and are for service or merchandise not required as a condition of receiving regulated utility service.
- (pp) "Utility" means any public utility as defined in § 40-1-103, C.R.S., providing electric, steam, or associated services in the state of Colorado.
- (qq) "Utility service" or "service" means a service offering of a utility, which service offering is regulated by the Commission.
- (rr) “Whole building data” means the sum of the monthly electric use for either all meters at a building on a parcel or real property or all buildings on a parcel of real property.

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[indicates omission of unaffected rules]

## **TRANSMISSION PLANNING**

### **3625. Applicability.**

This rule shall apply to all electric utilities in the state of Colorado except municipally owned utilities and cooperative electric associations that have voted to exempt themselves from regulation pursuant to § 40 9.5-103, C.R.S.

### **3626. Overview and Purpose.**

The purpose of these rules is to establish a process to coordinate the planning for additional electric transmission in Colorado. The Commission endorses the concept that planning should be done on a comprehensive, transparent, state-wide basis and should take into account the needs of all stakeholders.

**3627. Transmission Planning.**

- (a) No later than February 1 of each even year, each electric utility shall file a ten-year transmission plan and supporting documentation pursuant to this rule.
  - (I) Each ten-year transmission plan shall meet the following goals:
    - (A) the proposed projects do not negatively impact the system of any other transmission provider or the overall transmission system in the near-term and long-term planning horizons;
    - (B) the proposed projects avoid duplication of facilities;
    - (C) the proposed projects reflect the development of joint projects where a proposed project services the mutual needs of more than one transmission provider and/or stakeholder; and
    - (D) the proposed projects are coordinated with all transmission providers in Colorado.
  - (II) The plan shall identify all proposed facilities 100kV or greater.
  - (III) If any of the information required to be filed pursuant to this rule is available on a utility or utility maintained website, then it is sufficient for purposes of this rule to include in the filing a web address that provides direct access to that specific piece of information. This address must remain active until the next biennial filing.
- (b) Each ten-year transmission plan shall demonstrate compliance with the following requirements.
  - (I) The efficient utilization of the transmission system on a best-cost basis, considering both the short-term and long-term needs of the system. The best-cost is defined as balancing cost, risk and uncertainty and includes proper consideration of societal and environmental concerns, operational and maintenance requirements, consistency with short-term and long-term planning opportunities, and initial construction cost.
  - (II) All applicable reliability criteria for selected demand levels over a range of forecast system demands, including summer peak load, winter peak load and reduced load when renewable generation is maximized.
  - (III) All legal and regulatory requirements, including renewable energy portfolio standards and resource adequacy requirements.
  - (IV) Consistency with applicable transmission planning requirements in the FERC Order 890.
- (c) Each ten-year transmission plan shall contain the following information.
  - (I) The methodology, criteria and assumptions used to develop the transmission plan. This includes the transmission facility rating methodology and established facility ratings; transmission base case data for all applicable power flows, short circuit and transient stability analyses; and utility specific reliability criteria.
  - (II) The load forecasts, load forecast reductions arising from net metered distributed generation and utility sponsored energy efficiency programs, and controllable demand -

side management data including the interruptible demands and direct load control management used to develop the transmission plan.

- (III) The generation assumptions and data used to develop the transmission plan.
- (IV) The methodology used to determine system operating limits, transfer capabilities, capacity benefit margin, and transmission reliability margin, with supporting data and corresponding established values.
- (V) The status of upgrades identified in the transmission plan, as well as changes, additions or deletions in the current plan when compared with the prior plan.
- (VI) The related studies and reports for each new transmission facility identified in the transmission plan including alternatives considered and the rationale for choosing the preferred alternative. The depth of the studies, reports, and consideration of alternatives shall be commensurate with the nature and timing of the new transmission facility.
- (VII) The expected in-service date for the facilities identified in the transmission plan and the entities responsible for constructing and financing each facility.
- (VIII) A summary of stakeholder participation and input and how this input was incorporated in the transmission plan.
- (IX) Each electric utility subject to rate regulation shall also include energy resource zone plans, designations, and applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity pursuant to § 40-2-126(2), C.R.S.
- (X) A list of planned transmission projects that have the potential for the construction of a powerline trail including those where the transmission line will be extended by more than one mile or where the transmission line capacity will be increased by more than ten percent.
- (XI) A list of planned transmission projects where powerline trails are actively being considered, planned, or developed.
- (XII) An active hyperlink or citation to where the powerline trail information required pursuant to § 33-45-103(2), C.R.S., may be found.