

Decision No. C25-0577-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24A-0547E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2025-2029 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLAN AND THE GRID MODERNIZATION ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE.

PROCEEDING NO. 25A-0061E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO'S AGGREGATOR VIRTUAL POWER PLANT PROGRAM AND TARIFF, ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED PROGRAM BUDGET AND COST RECOVERY METHODOLOGY.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION SCHEDULING
PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE, PROVIDING HEARING
EFFICIENCY GUIDANCE, AND SOLICITING
COMMENTS FROM PARTIES ON SAME**

Issued Date: August 6, 2025

Adopted Date: July 30, 2025

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On December 16, 2024, Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service” or the “Company”) filed its Application for Approval of its 2025-2029 Distribution System Plan (“DSP”) and Grid Modernization Adjustment Clause (“Application”) in this Proceeding. On January 31, 2025, pursuant to Senate Bill (“SB”) 24-218, Public Service filed an Application for Approval of an Aggregator Virtual Power Plant in Proceeding No. 25A-0061E (Proceeding

No. 25A-0061E or “AVPP Application”). This Proceeding is the consolidated docket of the AVPP Application and the DSP Application.

2. By this Decision, the Commission schedules a pre-hearing conference for August 21, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

3. We also solicit comments on ways to improve hearing efficiency and provide guidance regarding the same below. Comments shall be filed no later than noon on August 12, 2025, regarding consideration of panels or topic-specific discussions at the evidentiary hearing.

B. Background

4. On December 16, 2024, Public Service filed its DSP Application. On January 31, 2025, Public Service filed its AVPP Application.

5. By Decision No. C25-0154-I, the Commission deemed the DSP Application complete and granted the requests for permissive intervention filed by Colorado Energy Consumers Group (“CEC”); the City and County of Denver (“Denver”); the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (“IREC”); Pivot Energy Inc. (“Pivot”); the Eastern Metro Area Business Coalition (the “Eastern Metro Area Business Coalition”); the City of Boulder (“Boulder”); Holy Cross Electric Association Inc. (“Holy Cross”); Western Resource Advocates (“WRA”); Tesla, Inc. (“Tesla”); the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project and Natural Resource Defense Counsel, jointly (“SWEEP/NRDC”); Mission:data Coalition, Inc. (“Mission:data”); and filing jointly, the Colorado Solar and Storage Association (“COSSA”), the Solar Energy Industries Association (“SEIA”); the Coalition for Community Solar Access (“CCSA”), and the Advanced Energy United (“AEU”) (jointly the “Associations for Clean Energy,” or “ACE”). The Commission acknowledged the notices of intervention of right filed by Trial Staff of the

Commission (“Staff”), the Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (“UCA”), and the Colorado Energy Office (“CEO”). By Decision No. C25-0155-I, the Commission deemed the AVPP Application complete and established the parties to the AVPP Proceeding, including CEC; Pivot; Boulder; WRA; AEU; COSSA/SEIA/CCSA; Colorado Renewable Energy Society; Mr. William Althouse; Solar United Neighbors; CEO; UCA; and Staff.

6. By Decision No. C25-0261-I, the Commission consolidated the DSP and AVPP Applications and scheduled an evidentiary hearing for August 25 through September 5, 2025. The Commission also stated that stated: “At a future date closer to the evidentiary hearing, the Commission will consider and provide additional guidance on hearing processes to ensure that the AVPP issues receive appropriate focus.”

C. Findings and Conclusions

7. This Proceeding encompasses many issues, dozens of parties, expansive testimony, in addition to the consolidation of two applications—the DSP and AVPP applications. As such, we are interested in improving hearing efficiency where possible. To that end, we schedule a pre-hearing conference, provide guidance for the hearing matrix, and solicit comments on proposals that may improve hearing flow and timing.

8. We find it appropriate to schedule a remote pre-hearing conference in this Proceeding on August 21, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The remote pre-hearing conference will be conducted over the Zoom videoconferencing platform. All parties must appear at the remote pre-hearing conference. Failure to attend or to participate in the remote pre-hearing conference is a waiver of any objection to the rulings made, to the procedural schedule established, and to the hearing dates scheduled during the remote pre-hearing conference. A member of Commission Staff will email the log-in information in advance of the hearing. The purpose of this

hearing is to address any motions prior to the hearing that can be addressed then instead of the first day of hearing, discuss areas of interest that commissioners seek to focus on at the hearing, and any other points of discussion related to hearing efficiency.

9. Pursuant to Decision No. C25-0261-I, a cross-examination matrix is due in this Proceeding no later than August 21, 2025. We order that such cross-examination matrix shall be designed to ensure that all AVPP-related Public Service witnesses are completed during the first week of scheduled hearing time. This will work best with commissioner availability and creates some additional clarity as to how AVPP issues will receive focus. Also, the commissioners highlight their interest in the capital budget and the total rate impact of this Proceeding and expect that the matrix highlights focus on that testimony earlier in the hearing schedule as well.

10. The Commission has flexibility in how it conducts its hearings. Recent hearings have effectively included panel discussions and appropriately flagged or delayed specific topics for a more efficient process. Given the large number of witnesses, materials and interrelated subject matters in the instant Proceeding, we see potential advantages of efficiency and subject resolution in a panel approach. Accordingly, we encourage the Company to confer with parties on whether a panel approach per party would be useful in this instance. While we are mindful that exact adherence to topic-by-topic approach may be difficult, we offer the following categories for panel consideration: (1) forecasting; (2) grid needs assessment; (3) non-capacity investment; (4) non-wires alternative, targeted demand area and AVPP solicitations for resources; (5) cost recovery; (6) cross-case interaction; and (7) next steps/remaining issues not in other categories.

11. We solicit comments from the parties as to whether such a model would work well for this Proceeding, and whether such categories are the appropriate way to organize panels.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. Parties shall provide any responsive comments to paragraph 11 above no later than noon on August 12, 2025.

2. A pre-hearing conference is scheduled for:

DATE: August 21, 2025

TIME: Commission Hearing Room A

PLACE: Join by video conference using zoom at the link to be provided in an email from Commission Administrative Staff

3. This Decision is effective immediately upon its Issued Date.

a. **ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
July 30, 2025.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

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Commissioners

Rebecca E. White,
Director