

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 25A-0069E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE BARKER SUBSTATION, 230 KV UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION LINE, AND ASSOCIATED FINDINGS REGARDING NOISE AND MAGNETIC FIELD REASONABLENESS.

**INTERIM DECISION
VACATING EVIDENTIARY HEARING
AND REMAINING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Issued Date: August 6, 2025

I. STATEMENT

1. On February 10, 2025, Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service” or the “Company”) filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CPCN”) for facilities associated with the Barker Substation (“Application”).

2. The Barker Substation (“the “Project”) is a new substation intended to increase capacity of the network distribution system serving downtown Denver. The Company explains in the Application that the Project is needed to satisfy growth in demand caused by population increases, high density demand, new all-electric residential buildings codes, and successful urban revitalization efforts.

3. The Project is located in Lower Downtown near Coors Field on property already owned by the Company from a 1990 purchase. It entails above-ground substation transmission facilities, distribution transformers and capacity banks, and a 2,000 ft. double-circuit 230 kV underground transmission line connecting to another existing substation. The Project is expected

to cost approximately \$213.6 million, with about \$100 million of that related to the transmission line and the transmission substation facilities.

4. Public Service intends to recover the costs associated with the transmission elements of the Project through its Transmission Cost Adjustment. The Company further anticipates to recover the distribution costs associated with the Project through its proposed Grid Modernization Adjustment Clause, approval of which is pending in Proceeding No. 24A-0547E.

5. On February 24, 2025, the Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (“UCA”) filed an Intervention as of Right and Request for Hearing. UCA seeks to examine whether: the distribution cost increase from \$18.1 million in 2017 versus \$213.6 million as set forth in the Application is reasonable; the use of higher-cost, gas-insulated switchgear is necessary and reasonable; the use of an underground, double circuit transmission line is reasonable; some equipment can be deferred until later to reduce initial costs; and the proposed cost recovery mechanisms are reasonable.

6. On March 21, 2025, Trial Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (“Staff”) filed an Intervention as of Right and Request for Hearing. Staff lists in its intervention some areas of inquiry it intends to examine.

7. On March 31, 2025, by Decision No. C25-0239-I, the proceeding was referred to an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”).

8. On April 29, 2025, by Decision No. R25-0329-I, a procedural schedule was adopted.

9. On May 23, 2025, Public Service filed its Motion for Extraordinary Protection of Highly Confidential Cost Information (“Motion for Extraordinary Protection”).

10. On June 4, 2025, by Decision No. R25-0428-I, the Motion for Extraordinary Protection was granted.

11. On July 31, 2025, Public Service filed its Unopposed and Comprehensive Settlement Agreement, Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement (“Joint Motion”) and settlement testimony.

12. On August 1, 2025, Staff filed settlement testimony.

II. EVIDENTIARY HEARING

13. In the Joint Motion the Parties request that the ALJ amend the procedural schedule to vacate the procedural dates for the evidentiary hearing and the filing of Statements of Position.

14. The evidentiary hearing in the above captioned proceeding is scheduled for August 11 & 12, 2025.

15. The undersigned ALJ does not believe an evidentiary hearing is necessary and shall vacate the scheduled hearing dates and date for Statements of Position.

16. Approval of the settlement or any questions about the settlement shall be addressed in a later decision.

III. ORDER

It is Ordered That:

1. The evidentiary hearing in the above captioned proceeding is vacated.
2. The remaining procedural schedule is vacated.
3. The Parties shall be held to the advisements in this Decision.

4. 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca E. White".

Rebecca E. White,
Director