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NEWS RELEASE

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PUC TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON BLACK HILLS' GAS COMPRESSOR APPEAL

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will hold a public hearing in Woodland Park on Tuesday, Feb. 16, to receive comment concerning a disputed Black Hills' gas compressor station. The public hearing will begin at 4 p.m. at 220 W. South Ave. in Woodland Park.

Black Hills has filed an appeal with the PUC over a decision by the City of Woodland Park denying the company's application for a conditional use permit to install and operate a temporary compressor in the Stone Ridge Planned Unit Development. Black Hills asserts that the compressor is needed to provide a short-term solution to low pressure conditions on the company's gas transmission and distribution system during conditions of extreme cold weather. In its decision denying the permit, Woodland Park cited safety concerns and stated that other "operationally optimal" sites exist.

Under a law passed in 2001, public utilities may appeal to the PUC if a local government denies a permit or application that relates to the location, construction or improvement of major electrical or natural gas facilities, or imposes unreasonable conditions on such a permit or application.

In reviewing the appeal, the law requires the PUC to balance local government determinations with the broader statewide interest of meeting growing demands for electric and natural gas service.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

